



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION
THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS
www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2010

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Greetings Compatriots,
 The Reagan camp has had a busy month during September as we get back into our Confederate heritage work after a short break during the hot summer.

I want to first mention that the October regular meeting has been moved forward one week due to a wedding at the First Christian Church. We will be meeting on the 3rd Saturday this month or on October 16th at 06:00PM. We will be having a **FISH FRY**, with the fish being provided by **Mrs. Dollye Jeffus** and fried by compatriot **John Barnhart**. We will also be entertained and educated by compatriot **Ronnie Hatfield as he acts out in first person**, the War history of his GG Grandfather, Pvt. William H. Foster, Co. H 1st Texas Infantry. Try to bring a fellow War Between the States friend or two to take in this great program and meal.

We appreciate very much **Dan Dyer, Calvin Nicholson, John Barnhart, and Johnny McVey** who met at the Reagan home site on September 24th to trim and haul off limbs and mow the grounds in preparation for the October 9th UDC Reagan memorial ceremony. Also, lets thank **Rod Skelton** for cleaning the Reagan home site Monument itself a few days later.

The Cannon School held at Fort Richardson in Jacksboro, Texas was well attended by members of our camp—page 6.

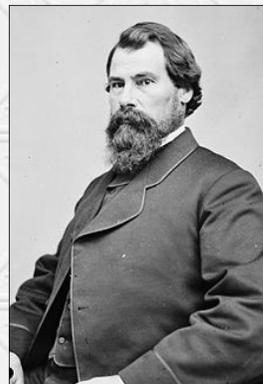
A historical marker honoring Co. E and G of the 15th Texas Infantry was dedicated on the Navarro College Campus, Cook Education Center on September 25th. Several of our camp members participated in this dedication—page 7. Compatriot John Barnhart made his debut as the detail commander for our color guard and honor guard at this marker dedication due to Sgt. Ronnie Hatfield having a prior planned engagement. I would like to say that John represented our camp and his Confederate ancestors well at this position.

Rod and Nancy Skelton have a **SCV Round-up planned** for the November regular meeting at their home near Montalba, Texas. Rod is planning a chuck wagon meal and a great Confederate history program presented by one of his friends who, as he states, "is a very talented speaker." Start planning to attend and round-up all the potential members and their families you can to attend this special meeting night at the Skelton's.

Several of our camp members will be in the Hallsville, Texas re-enactment—"Battle of Fort Crawford," on October 1-3 . If you would like more information and directions, go to their website at fortcrawford2010.com .

Respectfully your obedient servant,

Marc Robinson



John H. Reagan

About 1863

Oct 8, 1818 – March 6, 1905

Post Master General of the Confederate States of America

Secretary of the Treasury CSA

U. S. Senator from Texas

U. S. Representative from Texas

First Chairman - Railroad Commission of Texas

A Founder and President of the Texas State Historical Association

"THE FUTURE INHABITANTS OF [BOTH] THE ATLANTIC AND MISSISSIPPI STATES WILL BE OUR SONS. WE THINK WE SEE THEIR HAPPINESS IN THEIR UNION, AND WE WISH IT. EVENTS MAY PROVE OTHERWISE; AND IF THEY SEE THEIR INTEREST IN SEPARATING WHY SHOULD WE TAKE SIDES? GOD BLESS THEM BOTH, AND KEEP THEM IN UNION IF IT BE FOR THEIR GOOD, BUT SEPARATE THEM IF IT BE BETTER."

PRES. THOMAS JEFFERSON

CAMP MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of Each Month
 06:00 PM

Light meal served at each meeting.
 First Christian Church
 113 East Crawford Street
 Palestine, Texas

Turn north on N. Sycamore St. off of Spring St. (Hwy 19, 84, & 287)(across from UP train station) travel three blocks, turn right on Crawford St., go one block Church is on left

Guests are welcome!
 Bring the family.

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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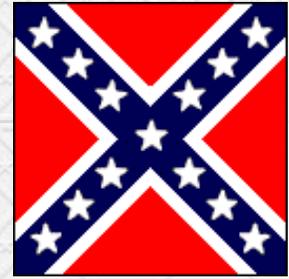
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THE SOUTHERN SOLDIER WAS FIGHTING TO REPEL INVASION. HE WAS REGARDED AS THE DEFENDER OF THE HOMES AND FIRESIDES OF THE PEOPLE. THE COMMON PERILS, THE COMMON HARDSHIPS, THE COMMON SACRIFICES OF THE WAR, WELDED THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE TOGETHER AS IF THEY WERE ALL OF THE SAME BLOOD, ALL OF ONE FAMILY. IN FACT, THERE WAS, INDEPENDENTLY OF THE WAR, A HOMOGENEITY IN THE SOUTH THAT THE NORTH KNEW NOTHING OF. BUT WHEN THE WAR CAME, THIS WAS GREATLY INTENSIFIED. . . .

BELIEVING AS WE DID THAT THE WAR WAS A WAR OF SUBJUGATION, AND THAT IT MEANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR LIBERTIES, THE ISSUE IN OUR MINDS WAS CLEAR DRAWN . . . THE UNION WITHOUT LIBERTY, OR LIBERTY WITHOUT THE UNION.

-- *A SOLDIER'S RECOLLECTIONS: LEAVES FROM THE DIARY OF A YOUNG CONFEDERATE, 1910*

CONTRIBUTED BY KIRBY MCCORD



“DUTY IS THE MOST SUBLIME WORD IN OUR LANGUAGE. DO YOUR DUTY IN ALL THINGS. YOU CANNOT DO MORE. YOU SHOULD NEVER WISH TO DO LESS.”

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-



PRAYER LIST



- Mrs. Nelda Eppes
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans
- The State of Texas

- United States of America

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 4th 06:00 PM
Honor guard/color guard drill practice at the home of Ronnie Hatfield.

Remember October 8th, 1818—birthday of John H. Reagan

October 9th 10:00 AM Davis -Reagan UDC annual Reagan Memorial Ceremony. Held this year at the Reagan home site on W. Reagan Street, Palestine, TX

*****OCTOBER REGULAR MEETING NIGHT CHANGED TO 3rd Saturday** due to wedding at First Christian Church on 2nd Sat.

October 16th 06:00 PM-
John H. Reagan Camp monthly meeting at the First Christian Church, Palestine, Texas

CATFISH FRY at meeting on October 16th: Fish and hushuppies provided by Mrs. Dollye Jeffus and all the other sides provided by other Ladies of the Reagan Camp. John Barnhart cooking fish.

October 16th Program: Ronnie Hatfield presents his renown first person presentation of his GG Grandfather Pvt. William H. Foster, Co. H 1st Texas Infantry (see photo right)

November 13th 06:00 PM-
John H. Reagan Camp monthly meeting at the home of Rod and Nancy Skelton, Montalba, TX



“NOTHING FILLS ME WITH DEEPER SADNESS THAN TO SEE A SOUTHERN MAN APOLOGIZING FOR THE DEFENSE WE MADE OF OUR INHERITANCE. OUR CAUSE WAS SO JUST, SO SACRED, THAT HAD I KNOWN ALL THAT HAS COME TO PASS, HAD I KNOWN WHAT WAS TO BE INFLICTED UPON ME, ALL THAT MY COUNTRY WAS TO SUFFER, ALL THAT OUR POSTERITY WAS TO ENDURE, I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN.”

-PRESEDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS-



THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—SEPTEMBER 11, 2010



Left: Chaplain Rod Skelton received a certificate of appreciation from the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 for representing our camp at the National Sons of Confederate Veterans Reunion in Anderson, S.C. Rod and his wife Nancy are both highly appreciated by the camp! Pictured with Rod is Marc Robinson, Commander of the Reagan camp.



Right: Reagan Camp Member Richard Thompson donated a book titled, "More Forgotten Men—The Missouri State Guard", to our camp's library. 1st Lt. Cmdr. Calvin Nicholson gratefully accepts this gift from Mr. Thompson for our camp's library.

Below right: North East Texas Brigade Commander Thomas Clinkscales, of Canton, Texas presented an awesome program on the flags of the Confederacy. His presentation included a lot of history behind each flag and the men who they represented.



Above: The meeting was well attended by these ladies and gentlemen and many others this photo didn't capture.



I STOOD IN THE STEPS OF ROBERT E. LEE IN HOPES OF BECOMING A BETTER MAN

WRITTEN BY CURT STEGER AUTHOR OF "THE CHARACTER & FAITH OF ROBERT E. LEE"



I stood in the room where Robert E. Lee was born at Stratford Hall.

At Arlington, I stood in the room where he was married.

There too, I stood in the room where he decided "no" to Lincoln's offer to command the union troops.

I stood in The White House of the Confederacy in the room where he met with Davis and Jackson to prepare for battle.

I stood on the ground where he watched the return of Pickett's men at Gettysburg.

I stood in the room where with dignity he surrendered to Grant.

And I stood on the steps in Richmond where he dismounted Traveler three

days later when he returned home after the war to his wife.

I stood at Mulberry Hill where he first stayed upon his arrival in Lexington, Virginia to start a new life.

I stood at the place where Lee stood over the grave of "Stonewall" Jackson.

At Washington College I stood in the building where he was sworn in as president.

I stood where he worshiped there in The Chapel.

I sat where he sat and I prayed where he prayed.

I stood in his office where he worked as an example of all things good for young men to see.

I stood where he stayed at what is now known as "The Lee Cottage" at The Greenbrier.

I stood in the room in the house where he died.

I stood over where he was first laid to rest and I stood where he rests now.

I traveled great distances to stand in the footsteps of Robert E. Lee in hopes of becoming a better man.

But the longest journey to travel it has been said is "the journey within."

It was only there-when I stood in "the lengthening shadow" of Robert E.

Lee's character and faith that I was forever changed as a man.

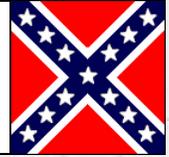


Above: General Robert E. Lee's headquarters flag with thirteen stars representing the states of the Confederacy positioned into a shape representing the Ark of the Covenant. This was one of the flags presented by NE Texas Brigade Cmdr. Thomas Clinkscales at the September regular meeting.



DO YOU KNOW?

BY BRO. L.E. "LEN" PATTERSON, THD.
SCV CHAPLAIN, ARMY OF TRANS-MISSISSIPPI



It has been said that, "Ignorance is bliss." Some have even proposed that, "What you don't know won't hurt you." There may be cases where these statements are true, but most people will disagree. Given a choice we would prefer not to be ignorant or kept in the dark. Yet, the level of ignorance and misconception in a society that claims to be so enlightened is monumental.

In 2 Peter 3: 5, the Scripture refers to those that are willingly ignorant. To be willingly ignorant is to ignore what is true because it is inconvenient, politically incorrect, or doesn't fit some mold that we have been led to believe. They choose to be ignorant, although the truth is readily available, because it suits them to be ignorant. In other words, their mind is made up, don't confuse them with facts.

Speaking to the woman at the well, Jesus said, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He wouldest have given thee living water." (John 4: 10) This woman of Samaria was ignorant, and it was not bliss. She did not know who she was speaking to, and it was hurting. It was standing between her and the "Gift of God." And, the gift of God of which Jesus spoke, was everlasting life. (Vs. 14)

But fortunately, she was not willingly ignorant. In spite of what she had been taught all her life (Vs. 20), she was prepared to accept the truth when she heard it. Additionally, many others also changed their thinking, and received the "living water" when they heard Jesus speak. (Vs. 39-42)

Many, and probably most, people today accept as truth whatever they were brought up to believe, and in a lot of cases, whatever they see as being in their best interest to believe. We can't help what we were taught as we were growing up. But as adults, we should not be willingly ignorant. We must question and test what we were fed as children. We must ask, "Is what I believe supported by the facts and truth?"

As members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, we have tested and questioned. We have studied the facts and know the truth. Robert E. Lee was not a traitor, but a patriotic citizen. Our Confederate forefathers were not criminals, but brave and honorable men fighting to defend their homeland against an illegal invasion. We know the war for Southern independence was not about slavery, but states rights and the preservation of the Constitution as presented by our founding fathers. We also know that Abraham Lincoln was not a great man worthy of honor, but a criminal and scallywag. All this, and much more we all know, but do we all know the truth about Jesus Christ?

It is my continuing prayer that every member of the SCV, their families, friends, and all others, would commit their lives to Jesus Christ, and come to know Him as Savior, Lord, and coming King. He is the answer to every question and the power behind every endeavor. Amen.

Bro. Len Patterson (ThD)
Army of Trans-Mississippi Chaplain

"IN ALL MY PERPLEXITIES AND DISTRESSES,
THE BIBLE HAS NEVER FAILED TO GIVE ME
LIGHT AND STRENGTH."

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-

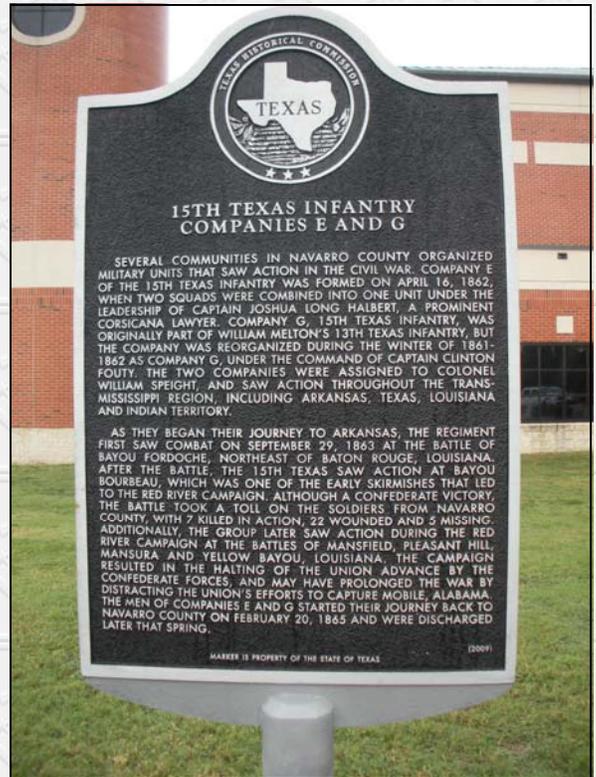


REAGAN CAMP MEMBERS ATTEND CANNON SCHOOL BY THE LOYAL TRAIN OF ARTILLERY CHAPTER OF THE U.S. FIELD ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION AT FORT RICHARDSON STATE PARK ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2010



John H. Reagan Camp #2156 members and friends attending cannon school and receiving certification at 6 different artillery positions were: Calvin Nicholson, John Barnhart, Dan Dyer, Kirby McCord, Frank Moore, Billy Newsom, and Marc Robinson. We all enjoyed riding together in Dan Dyer's van to Jacksboro, Texas where Ft. Richardson is located. We learned a lot and are better prepared to honor our beloved Confederate Veterans at future ceremonies and re-enactments.

**TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION FOR
THE 15TH TEXAS INFANTRY CO. E AND CO. G
COOK EDUCATION CENTER, CORSICANA, TEXAS**



The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 was asked by the J.L. Halbert Camp #359 (Host camp) to provide the color guard, four riflemen and the detail commander (John Barnhart) for this dedication ceremony. Photo below: members of the Halbert and Reagan Camps with spouses and Mrs. Bobbie Young, the representative from the Navarro County Historical Commission (center of group). * Many thanks go out to Frank Moore, Dan Dyer, Johnny McVey, Billy Newsom, John Barnhart, Calvin Nicholson, and Marc Robinson who represented the Reagan Camp and our ancestors extremely well on the Navarro College Campus at this marker dedication.





QUOTES FROM THE PAST

PROVIDED BY MARC ROBINSON



ALEXANDER STEPHENS

(FEBRUARY 11, 1812 – MARCH 4, 1883)
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE
STATES OF AMERICA

“IF CENTRALISM IS ULTIMATELY TO PREVAIL; IF OUR ENTIRE SYSTEM OF FREE INSTITUTIONS AS ESTABLISHED BY OUR COMMON ANCESTORS IS TO BE SUBVERTED, AND AN EMPIRE IS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THEIR STEAD; IF THAT IS TO BE THE LAST SCENE OF THE GREAT TRAGIC DRAMA NOW BEING ENACTED: THEN, BE ASSURED, THAT WE OF THE SOUTH WILL BE ACQUITTED, NOT ONLY IN OUR OWN CONSCIENCES, BUT IN THE JUDGMENT OF MANKIND, OF ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SO TERRIBLE A CATASTROPHE, AND FROM ALL GUILT OF SO GREAT A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.”

LORD ACTON

(JANUARY 10, 1834 – JUNE 19, 1902)
BRITISH HISTORIAN
(IN A LETTER TO ROBERT E. LEE
RIGHT AFTER THE WAR)

“I SAW IN STATES’ RIGHTS THE ONLY AVAILING CHECK UPON THE ABSOLUTISM OF THE SOVEREIGN WILL, AND SECESSION FILLED ME WITH HOPE, NOT AS THE DESTRUCTION BUT AS THE REDEMPTION OF DEMOCRACY.... THEREFORE I DEEMED THAT YOU WERE FIGHTING THE BATTLES OF OUR LIBERTY, OUR PROGRESS, AND OUR CIVILIZATION, AND I MOURN FOR THE STAKE WHICH WAS LOST AT RICHMOND MORE DEEPLY THAN I REJOICE OVER THAT WHICH WAS SAVED AT WATERLOO.”

NEW YORK TRIBUNE DECEMBER 17, 1860

“IF [THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE] JUSTIFIES THE SECESSION FROM THE BRITISH EMPIRE OF 3,000,000 OF COLONISTS IN 1776, WE DO NOT SEE WHY IT WOULD NOT JUSTIFY THE SECESSION OF 5,000,000 OF SOUTHRONS FROM THE FEDERAL UNION IN 1861.”

LEWIS A. ARMISTEAD (1817-1863) CS BRIGADIER GENERAL

“I HAVE BEEN A SOLDIER ALL MY LIFE—I WAS AN OFFICER IN THE ARMY OF THE U.S., WHICH SERVICE I LEFT TO FIGHT FOR MY OWN COUNTRY, AND FOR, AND WITH, MY OWN PEOPLE—AND BECAUSE THEY WERE RIGHT, AND OPPRESSED.”

--LETTER TO SAMUEL COOPER
DATED DECEMBER 12, 1861

PATRICK R. CLEBURNE

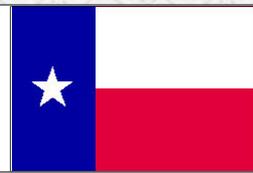
(MARCH 16, 1828 – NOVEMBER 30, 1864)
CS MAJOR GENERAL

“SURRENDER MEANS THAT THE HISTORY OF THIS HEROIC STRUGGLE WILL BE WRITTEN BY THE ENEMY; THAT OUR YOUTH WILL BE TRAINED BY NORTHERN SCHOOL TEACHERS; WILL LEARN FROM NORTHERN SCHOOL BOOKS THEIR VERSION OF THE WAR; WILL BE IMPRESSED BY ALL THE INFLUENCES OF HISTORY AND EDUCATION TO REGARD OUR GALLANT DEAD AS TRAITORS, AND OUR MAIMED VETERANS AS FIT SUBJECTS FOR DERISION.”

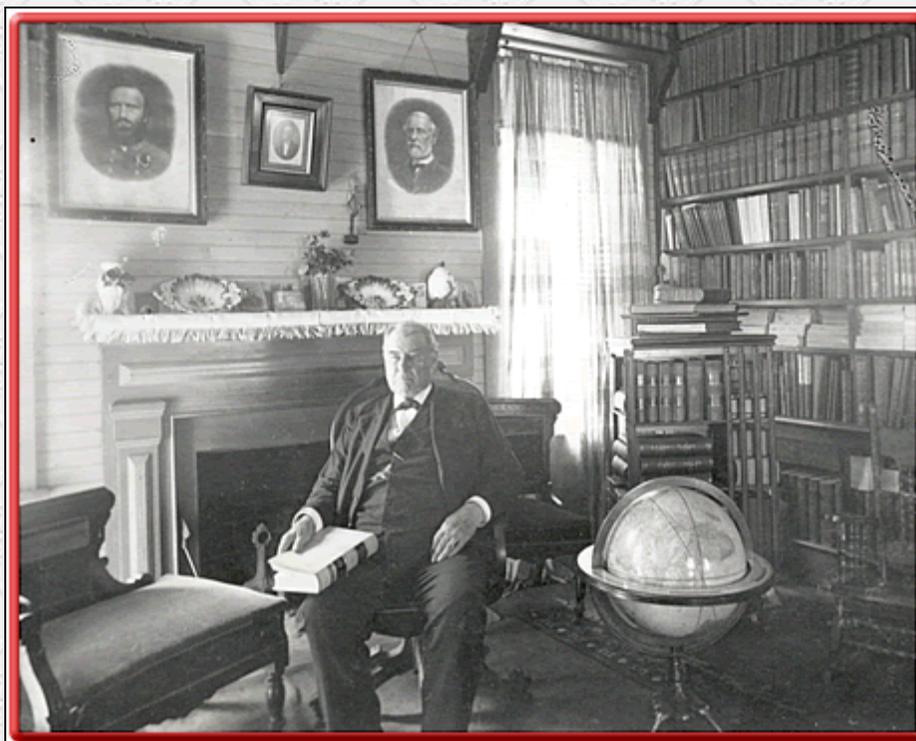


IMPORTANT OCTOBER DATES IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN

by Dan Dyer



- Oct. 8, 1818** **Birth of John H. Reagan in Sevierville, Sevier County, Tennessee**
- Oct. 12, 1865** **John H. Reagan paroled from Federal Prison in Boston Harbor.**
- Oct. 29, 1877** **John H. Reagan appointed Chairman of Committee on Commerce in US House of Representatives**
- Oct. 8, 1903** **United Daughters of the Confederacy, Anderson County Texas, hosted a celebration of John H. Reagan's birthday by bestowing Southern Crosses of Honor on Confederate veterans.**
- Oct. 8, 1908** **Statue of John H. Reagan & Roman figure in Reagan City Park, Palestine, Texas unveiled.**



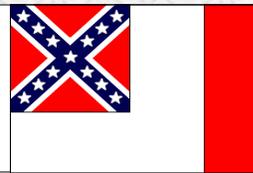
John H. Reagan sitting in his study at Fort Houston, his home west of Palestine, Texas.



ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

October

by Kirby McCord



1859:

October 16, 1859: Abolitionist John Brown and twenty-one men seize the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Their plan is to distribute the weapons and ammunition among slaves, create a slave army, and remake Southern society. Taken completely by surprise, the military is unprepared. A hastily assembled 86-man unit composed primarily of U.S. Marines led by U.S. Army Colonel Robert E. Lee besieges the insurrectionists in the Armory Engine House. Two days later, at dawn, a squad of Marines led by U.S. Army Lieutenant J.E.B. Stuart batters down the door to the engine house. Wounded, Brown surrenders; he and eight others are tried, convicted of treason and hung. Eight of the revolutionaries are killed, but five manage to escape.

1860

October 21, 1860: The looming presidential election breaks down as a purely sectional contest. Democratic Party nominee Stephen Douglas of Illinois is the only candidate to even try to appear on ballots in all states. Southern Democratic nominee John Breckinridge of Kentucky only appears on Southern ballots; Republican nominee Abraham Lincoln's name only appears on Northern ballots. On this day, promises of secession are published in newspapers around the South-- if Lincoln is elected.

1861

October 1, 1861: Six weeks after their victory at Bull Run, General Joseph Johnston and General P.G.T. Beauregard meet with Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Centerville, Virginia, to plan strategy. Although Southern public opinion is demanding an offensive against the Northern capital, the three men decide on an exclusively defensive strategy: they will launch no attack in the North.

October 3, 1861: Louisiana Governor Thomas O. Moore, like most Southerners, is disappointed that European nations have refused to recognize Southern independence. In an attempt to coerce such diplomatic recognition, Moore declares the export of cotton to foreign nations from his state illegal. Moore believes that European textile mills, starving for cotton, will compel their governments to support the Confederacy. Moore has miscalculated, as Indian and Egyptian cotton replace American cotton in Europe.

October 4, 1861: Treaties of alliance are signed by the Confederacy with the Cherokee, Shawnee, and Seneca Nations in Indian Territory. Native Americans flock to the Confederate Army.

October 21, 1861: Union troops under the command of Colonel Edward Baker, attempt to occupy high ground on the south side of the Potomac River at Ball's Bluff, near Leesburg, Virginia. Baker's troop placements are incompetent, and a sharp Confederate advance ordered by General Nathan Evans easily dislodges the invaders. The retreat turns into a rout when panicked Federal troops overload boats, dumping soldiers into the river. Federal losses are severe, with 49 killed (including Colonel Baker), 158 wounded, and 714 missing and presumed drowned. The Confederate force loses only 165 total casualties, three-fourths of which are wounded. Baker, being a prominent Republican, is deemed a martyr in the North; his immediate superior, General Charles Stone is saddled with the blame for the disastrous defeat, and in response, the U.S. Congress will create the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War to investigate and prosecute the commanders of unsuccessful military actions. This wholly political entity will meddle in military matters the rest of the war, hampering Northern military effectiveness as generals, fearful of any error, will pass responsibility to others whenever possible.

1862

October 4, 1862: Confederate Earl Van Dorn, merging units from the Trans-Mississippi Theater, Army of Tennessee, and Army of Mississippi, attacks the Federal Army at the vital railroad junction of Corinth, Mississippi. The Union Army, under the command of General William Rosecrans, although isolated and outnumbered, has a strong defensive position. Eschewing flanking movements and even artillery support, Van Dorn sends his troops on a suicidal frontal attack. Confederate losses are extremely heavy: 4,233, while the men in blue lose 2,520.

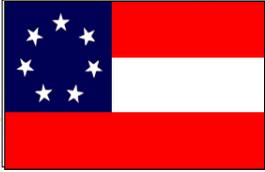
October 8, 1862: The third prong of the Confederacy's fall offensive (Lee's invasion of Maryland-- stymied at Antietam/Sharpsburg in September, and Van Dorn's attack at Corinth being the other coordinated attacks) ends dismally. Confederate General Braxton Bragg has lured Union General Don Carlos Buell out of his fortifications at Nashville and brought him to battle at Perryville, Kentucky. Although outfighting the numerically superior Unionists, Bragg is compelled to retreat to prevent the encirclement of his army. He has lost 3,396 men out of 16,000, while inflicting 3,696 casualties on Buell's force of over 36,000. All three offensives have enjoyed minimal success, seizing the initiative for a month and outfighting their opponents, but ultimately succumbing to logistical and organizational failures.

October 9, 1862: Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart begins his raid around the Federal Army of the Potomac, completely befuddling the Union high command and outriding and outfighting the Northern cavalry. In three days, he will take his 1800 troopers 126 miles, capturing 500 horses and 125 Federal soldiers while destroying dozens of wagons and tons of military supplies.

1863

October 13, 1863: Ohio Democratic Party gubernatorial candidate Clement Laird Vallandigham, although garnering a substantial vote, loses to John Brough. Vallandigham had been arrested for treason in May (he had called the war "cruel" and "wicked") and exiled from the country in a sham trial. His shabby treatment by the federal government had resulted in his nomination for governor *in absentia*. Campaigning from Windsor, Ontario, Vallandigham had asked, "Shall there be free speech, a free press, peaceable assemblages of the people, and a free ballot any longer in Ohio?" His platform called for withdrawal from the Union if "King Abraham" refused to reconcile with the Confederacy. Drawing from Vallandigham's passion, Edward Everett Hale writes a short story, "The Man Without a Country" in December, that becomes an instant classic.

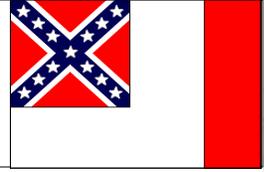
October 24, 1863: Following the Confederate victory at Chickamauga in September, C.S.A. General Bragg has besieged the Federal Army of the Cumberland in Chattanooga. The Northerners are starving to death. A mere week before, Union General U.S. Grant is named Department head and determined to relieve Chattanooga. Preceding his reinforcing army, Grant has slipped into Chattanooga to review the situation. He and General George Thomas find themselves within a hundred yards of the Confederate lines while reconnoitering. But the Confederate pickets, apparently considering the general staff no threat, refuse to fire on them. A golden opportunity is missed, as these two generals will that night devise a supply line to feed



ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

October

by Kirby McCord



the marooned Federals in Chattanooga, and within a month lift the siege with dramatic attacks at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. The South may have missed its one great chance to destroy a Federal Army and perhaps win the war.

1864

October 1, 1864: The *Condor*, a blockade runner, is fleeing from the gunboat *USS Niphon* near Fort Fisher, North Carolina. The *Niphon* is gaining fast. On board the *Condor* is the famous Confederate spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow, who, as a Washington, D.C. socialite, has sent coded messages South, resulting in intelligence that allowed Confederate Generals Beauregard and Johnston to combine and win the first battle of Manassas. Mrs. Greenhow has been arrested and imprisoned (twice) for her espionage activities, but Union authorities can not bring themselves to execute a woman. She has been exiled to Europe, where much to the chagrin of the United States government, she garners much support for the Confederacy with her charm and wit, and is now delivering dispatches to the Confederate government, together with a large sum of gold. Desperate to avoid capture, she slips off the *Condor* in a rowboat and makes for shore. But the waves and rain are too much and the little boat capsizes. Mrs. Greenhow, now known internationally as the Wild Southern Rose, is dragged to the bottom of the sea by the weight of the gold she carries. When her body is recovered, she is given full military honors and interred at Oakdale Cemetery in nearby Wilmington.

October 2, 1864: A Union cavalry raid intent on destroying salt mines near Saltville, in southwestern Virginia, is repulsed. Union casualties are 348, Confederate losses are 110. The skirmish is notable for the fact that the Union cavalry brigade includes the 5th U.S. Colored Cavalry, one of the few black cavalry regiments. The defeated U.S. troopers contend that at least 46 black soldiers were captured and executed, and although the accusation is never proven, it casts a cloud over this Confederate victory.

October 7, 1864: Union General Philip Sheridan continues his destructive march through the Shenandoah Valley. Today he writes to Grant that he has "burned 2,000 barns filled with wheat, hay, and farm implements, destroyed in excess of 70 flour mills, driven off 4,000 head of livestock, and killed over 3,000 sheep." The area between Winchester and Staunton, he brags, "will have little in it for man or beast . . . a crow flying across (the Valley) must carry his own rations."

October 8, 1864: The *Sea King*, later commissioned the *C.S.S. Shenandoah*, sails out of London to begin its career as a Confederate commerce raider. Under the command of Captain James Waddell, she sails south, around the tip of Africa, across the Indian Ocean to Victoria, Australia, through the Pacific Ocean to the Bering Sea. Along the way, she takes thirty-eight prizes, mostly whalers, captures over 1,000 men, and doesn't lose a man, before learning that the Confederate government has been captured. Realizing they will be prosecuted as pirates, the crew of the *Shenandoah* is determined not to surrender to Americans; they sail down the Pacific coast of the Americas, around Cape Horn, and up the Atlantic to Liverpool, where they surrender to British authorities on November 6, 1865. Her 44,000 mile circumnavigation is takes the Confederate flag around the world.

October 19, 1864: Confederate Lieutenant Bennet H. Young leads a group of escaped Confederate prisoners from Canada into St. Albans, Vermont. They rob three local banks of over \$200,000 before fleeing back across the border. Following U.S. government protests, the band of eleven raiders are arrested by the Canadian authorities, but are later released when a pro-Confederate magistrate determines they have no jurisdiction.

October 19, 1864: Confederate General Jubal Early launches a surprise dawn attack against his numerically superior opponent, Union General Philip Sheridan, at Cedar Creek, in the Shenandoah Valley. Achieving initial success, the attack breaks down when Early's starving men begin to loot the captured Federal camps. This allows the retreating Federals to reform and counterattack, driving the Confederates from the field. Early loses 2,910 men, but inflicts 5,665 casualties on the Northerners.

October 24, 1864: Confederate General Sterling Price has led a daring raid into Missouri. At the head of 12,000 cavalrymen and assisted by Generals John Marmaduke and Jo Shelby, Price has captured a dozen cities and several thousand Union soldiers, while threatening St. Louis. But now, pursued by 20,000 Union cavalrymen under Generals Samuel Curtis, Alfred Pleasonton, and Alfred Smith in converging columns, Price attempts to engage the enemy piecemeal at Westport, Missouri. Marmaduke's line is broken, and the Confederates are driven from the field. Each side suffers about 1,500 casualties. Two days later, Curtis attacks Price again at Marais de Cygnes, Kansas, capturing 1,000 men. Price returns to Arkansas with only about half of his men.

October 27, 1864: Union General U.S. Grant, believing he has stretched Confederate General Robert E. Lee's lines to the breaking point at Petersburg, launches an attack against an isolated portion of the rebel line. Confederate General A.P. Hill's 20,000 man division withstands the attack of 40,000 Federals, inflicting 1,758 casualties while suffering half that many losses themselves.

October 31, 1864: With the war stalemated in the east, President Lincoln is concerned with the upcoming presidential election. Sherman has captured Atlanta, and Sheridan has razed the Shenandoah Valley, but otherwise, there seems to be little to show for the war effort but hundreds of thousands of casualties. Grant is closer to Richmond, but seems unable to wrestle Lee to the ground, despite an overwhelming manpower advantage. It seems possible that the Democratic candidate, former general George B. McClellan, and his peace platform may win, which would mean the successful independence of the South. To boost his political future, Lincoln has engineered the secession of West Virginia from Virginia and its annexation to the Union as the 35th state in June. Today, he admits the state of Nevada to the Union. These two additions, with their seven electoral votes, allay Lincoln's fears of a Democratic victory, giving him a projected electoral victory of 118 to 115 (in the end, the election would not be that close, as Ohio and New York, totaling 54 electoral votes, will surprisingly side with the Republicans).

"THE PRINCIPLE FOR WHICH WE CONTEND IS BOUND TO REASSERT ITSELF, THOUGH IT MAY BE AT ANOTHER TIME AND IN ANOTHER FORM." PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS, C.S.A.



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The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the *Second American Revolution*. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.

Membership in the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. Membership can be obtained through either **lineal or collateral** family lines and kinship to a veteran must be **documented genealogically**. The minimum age for full membership is 12, but there is no minimum for Cadet membership. **Friends of the SCV** memberships are available as well to those who are committed to upholding our charge, but do not have the Confederate ancestry.

CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,
United Confederate Veterans,
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 2nd Saturday of Each
Month - 06:00 PM
Light meal served at each meeting.
First Christian Church
113 East Crawford Street
Palestine, Texas

Turn north on N. Sycamore St. off of
Spring St. (Hwy 19, 84, & 287) travel
three blocks, turn right on Crawford
St., go one block Church is on left