



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2010

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Greetings Compatriots,

I hope you are looking forward as much as I am to the **November 13th regular meeting of the John H. Reagan Camp. It is being held at the home of Rod and Nancy Skelton near Montalba, Texas.** Chaplain Skelton will be cooking out of his chuck wagon and Dr. William Rogers will present a historical program over "the Battle for Texas" or "the Red River Campaign." Please see the calendar on page 3 for more information about this program and other upcoming events.

I would like to personally thank all of the Reagan Camp members who participated in and attended the UDC's John H. Reagan Memorial Ceremony on October 9th. You men were outstanding as always!!! It is such a pleasure to work with all of you.

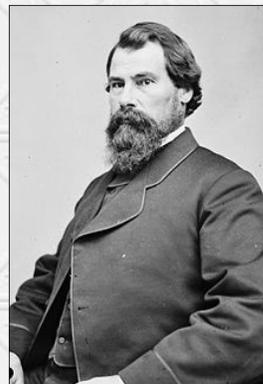
Saturday, November 6th begins a new annual event in Palestine. It is called Veterans Day in the Park, Reagan Park that is, and will include a ceremony honoring all of our veterans. The event will also have exhibit booths set up by non-profit organizations only. It is free to exhibitors and those who attend. Our camp's artillery battery has been asked to fire the opening cannon round at 11:00 AM to kick off the festivities. I want to thank the several Reagan camp members who met on November 1st to organize our efforts. These men volunteered to take part in the ceremony and set up the Reagan camp's exhibit display board and camp flags. These camp members will also be there by our exhibit to answer any questions

about the SCV and our Confederate heritage. We very much appreciate 1st Lt. Cmdr. Calvin Nicholson for heading up these Veterans Day in the Park efforts. I hope many of you can support our veterans and this event by your attendance.

The Texas Division's 2010 War Between the States Sesquicentennial event, "The Road to Secession," is hastily approaching. We at the Reagan Camp have the honor of two of our members submitting academic papers to this event's academic symposium. 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Gary Williams paper, [The Irrepressible Conflict: In the Words of John H. Reagan](#), and Compatriot Rudy Ray's paper, [Conflicting Ideologies: The Cause of Southern Secession](#), have both received accolades from Texas Division 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Mark Vogl, organizer of the event. Rudy Ray will also be honoring our camp and it's name sake by impersonating John H. Reagan during this event. Please make your plans to support your Confederate heritage, the Texas Division SCV and your fellow camp members efforts by attending at least one day of this event. The Road to Secession runs from December 1st to the 5th at Camp Gilmont near Gilmer, Texas. Please visit www.roadtosecession.com and make your plans to attend. I will see you there.

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. Rep. from Texas
 District Judge
 Texas State Representative
 First Chairman - Railroad Commission of Texas
 A Founder and President of the Texas State Historical Association

"BUT UNBRIDLED AMBITION, PREFERRING SELF TO COUNTRY, AND APPEALING TO THE FREE SOIL SENTIMENT OF THE NORTHERN WING OF THE PARTY, HAS DESTROYED ITS UNITY IF NOT ITS NATIONALITY, AND WITH IT, THERE IS BUT TOO MUCH REASON TO FEAR, PREPARED THE WAY FOR THE SEPARATION OF THE STATES."

JOHN H. REAGAN

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

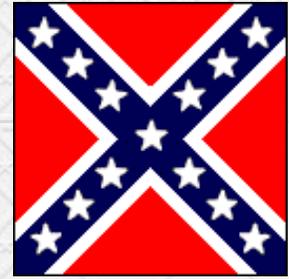
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“EVERYONE WHO WAS CONVERSANT WITH THE OPINIONS OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE SOUTHERN ARMY KNOWS THAT THEY DID NOT WAGE THAT TREMENDOUS CONFLICT FOR SLAVERY. THAT WAS A SUBJECT VERY LITTLE IN THEIR THOUGHTS OR ON THEIR LIPS. NOT ONE IN TWENTY OF THE GRIM VETERANS, WHO WERE SO TERRIBLE ON THE BATTLEFIELD, HAD ANY FINANCIAL INTEREST IN SLAVERY. NO, THEY WERE FIGHTING FOR LIBERTY, FOR THE RIGHT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT. THEY BELIEVED THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES WERE ASSAILING THAT RIGHT. . . . THEY MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT, OR THEY MAY HAVE BEEN WRONG, BUT THAT WAS THE ISSUE THEY MADE. ON THAT THEY STOOD. FOR THAT THEY DIED.”

-- *THE SOUL OF LEE*, 1918

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 United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 6th 11:00 AM– 4:00 PM–Veterans Day in the Park
Festivities at Reagan Park, Palestine

November 13th 06:00 PM–John H. Reagan Camp monthly meeting at the home of Rod and Nancy Skelton, Montalba, TX. Rod will be cooking some of great food from his chuck wagon. **Program:** Dr. William Rogers was born in Louisiana and reared (that’s “raised, y’all”) all over the world as an Air Force Brat. He is a graduate of Louisiana College and LSU Medical School. He studied psychiatry and then served for 12 years in the Navy. He came to Tyler in 1991 to be the director of the MHMR Mental Health Center there. In 2004 he formed a private practice where he enjoys spending much of his time working with combat veterans and their families.

Dr. Rogers became interested in studies of the War for Southern Independence after seeing the movie “Gettysburg” and then going to Pennsylvania to walk the ground. He joined a group called the Blue and Gray Educational Society where he was privileged to do field work with Ed Bearrs, who many of you may know is the historian emeritus for the National Park Service and the Civil War Battlefields. Several years ago, Dr. Rogers joined Mr. Bearrs in a comprehensive study of the Red River Campaign of 1864. Dr. Rogers will talk to us about some of the political, strategic and tactical issues involved in that series of battles which is also known as the “Battle for Texas.”

November 29th 06:00 PM–Reagan Camp Honor/Color Guard drill practice at home of Ronnie Hat-

field

December 11th 06:00 PM– John H. Reagan Camp Christmas party at the First Christian Church Palestine, TX

December 18th 01:30 PM– Tennessee Colony Cemetery, Tennessee Colony Texas, Confederate Grave Marker Dedication for Pvt. Lloyd T. Holmes, 13th Alabama Infantry .



Above: Chaplain Rod Skelton at the Foster Cemetery Marker dedication in May of this year.

“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—OCTOBER 16, 2010



FISH FRY: Special thanks to Mrs. Dollye Jeffus for providing the catfish and her son, John Barnhart, for cooking lots of delicious fish for the meal. And thanks to the Ladies of the Reagan Camp for provided wonderful side dishes and desserts. The meal was fabulous!!!



Above left: Sgt. Ronnie Hatfield as his GG Grandfather, Pvt. William H. Foster, Co. H 1st Texas Infantry, C.S.A. provided the camp with another awesome historical program! **Above right:** Sgt. Hatfield depicted Pvt. Foster as his brother Carrie Hatfield, played his guitar softly and beautifully. Sgt. Hatfield had given his first person program many, many times over the years, but due to his brother living in Arizona, this was the first time they have been able to present Pvt. William H. Foster together. In addition, Carrie played a slow version of Dixie at the end of Ronnie's presentation. The whole program was simply outstanding!!!



Above: Palestine resident and guest of the Reagan camp, presented original documents and information on his GGG Grandfather, Dr. E. P. Becton, Surgeon, 22nd Texas Infantry, Walker's Div. C.S.A.



Above: On behalf of the John H. Reagan Camp 2156, Commander Robinson, presented his daughter, Channa Robinson, with a Certificate of Appreciation for making a very nice presentation of her experiences at the SCV Sam Davis Youth Camp this past summer, to the camp at the July regular meeting.



THE NEW SALEM INVINCIBLE CAMP #2107 DONATES PICNIC TABLE TO THE JOHN H. REAGAN HOME SITE



The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 appreciates the **New Salem Invincibles Camp #2107, their Commander, Mark Bassett, and their Past Commander, Mr. Jay**, for their generous donation of a picnic table to be placed at the home site of John H. Reagan. The home site is located outside of Loop 256 on West Reagan Street at Industrial Street in Palestine. John H. Reagan named his home, Fort Houston, after the old Republic of Texas fort that was located very near his home and on his property.



Photo above: Thanks goes out to Reagan Camp members Frank Moore (seated on table), John Barnhart, and Dan Dyer for picking this table up from Cmdr. Bassett and setting it in concrete at the Reagan Home site.



GETTYSBURG

BY RONNIE HATFIELD

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I have trod the fields of Gettysburg, in
the heat of mid July,
where my beloved Southern brethren bled,
but "The Cause" refused to die!
For many years I've waited, just to touch
with trembling hand,
the ground where Lee and Longstreet
walked, on consecrated land.
To walk where Southern soldiers walked,
with their spirits as my guide,
is cause to make me kneel in awe, and my
chest to swell with pride.
A host of names are called to mind, yet
each could stand alone,
as a monument unto itself, etched deep
in bronze or stone.
I gaze toward Little Round, from
where my Granpa Foster stood,
as he was urged to "Take those heights",
by General John Bell Hood.
To cross that field, and take those rocks
in the hell called "Devil's Den",
took a devotion and raw courage, unknown
to modern men.

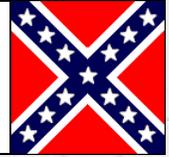
There's where Barksdale's Mississippi boys
took "The Wheatfield", and "Troastle's Farm".
They've earned a place of honor, rest in
peace boys, safe from harm.
At the monument to Virginia's sons, a
tear escaped my eye,
as I turned to look across the field,
where so many men had died.
They died for Old Virginia, for "The Cause",
and Bobby Lee,
and they died there at "The Angle", neath
that hallowed "Corpse of Trees".
"Pickett's Charge", or "Little Round Top",
"The Angle", or "Devil's Den",
are all reverent testimonials, to the
valor of Southern men!
And though time erased their footsteps,
and the sounds of war are gone,
the heritage they left for me, will
forever linger on!



The body of a young Confederate soldier probably from the First Texas Regiment lies in a sharpshooter's nest stop "Devil's Den". The photographer had the body dragged here for dramatic effect, from the "Triangular Field", 40 yards away.



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



Grand Ole Opry star, Little Jimmy Dickens sang, "Like a Banty (Bantam) rooster: I'm little short and puny, but I'm proud." I can't imagine anyone not being proud of what they are, and especially of what they choose to be. Or, to say it in another way, I can't imagine anyone not choosing to be what they can be proud of.

In Romans chapter one, verse sixteen, Paul writes, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ." Paul was not a Jew when he was with the Jews, a Roman when he was with Romans, and a Christian when he was in church. Paul was a Christian at all times and believed everyone else should be a Christian also. And he didn't mind saying so. In speaking to King Agrippa in Acts 26: 29, Paul says, "I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am." The Apostle Paul was a Christian . . . and proud of it.

I can't imagine any member of the SCV not wanting to tell all who will listen, "I am a proud member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I am the proud descendant of a brave Confederate Soldier who deserves to be remembered with honor. I am proud of President Jeff Davis, and Generals Lee, Jackson, Forest, and all those who fought for our Confederate Cause. This is where I stand, this is what I am . . . and proud of it."

Paul also wrote, "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are in Rome also." (Rom. 1:15) Those who opposed Paul's message could ridicule him, and they did. They could beat him, and they did. They could imprison him, and they did. They could stone him, and they did. They could cut off his head, and they did. But Paul knew where he stood, and he wasn't going to compromise what he believed in. And, neither should we.

The more we compromise our message as the Sons of

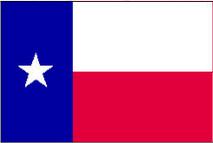
Confederate Veterans, the more we compromise the honor due our Confederate forefathers. The more we concede to those who oppose our Cause, the more we concede of our Southern heritage. The more respect we show to the enemies of truth, the more respect we lose. If we are to serve the Charge. If we are to recruit and retain. If we are to preserve our heritage. If we are to be successful in the mission handed down to us by our Confederate forefathers, we must draw a line in the sand, and like the Apostle Paul, proclaim who we are and where we stand.

Every Christian should be a missionary, reaching out to a lost and dying world with the life saving message of Jesus Christ. And every member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans should be a recruiter, reaching out to every son of the South with the truth of our Confederate Cause. Why? Because we are the Sons of Confederate soldiers who so honorably and bravely defended our beloved homeland . . . and proud of it!

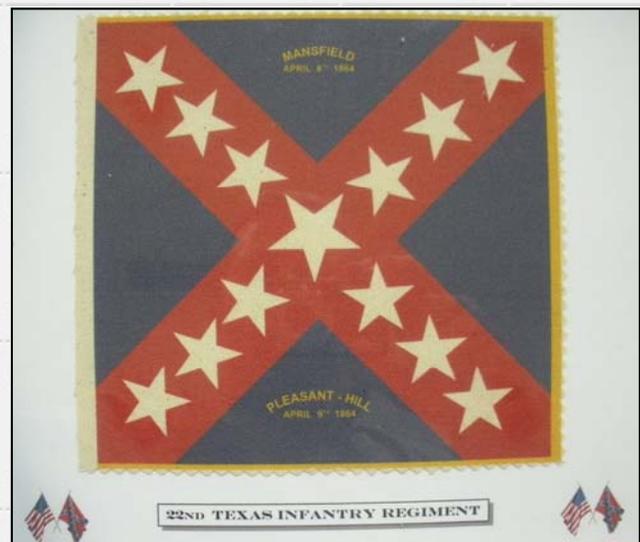
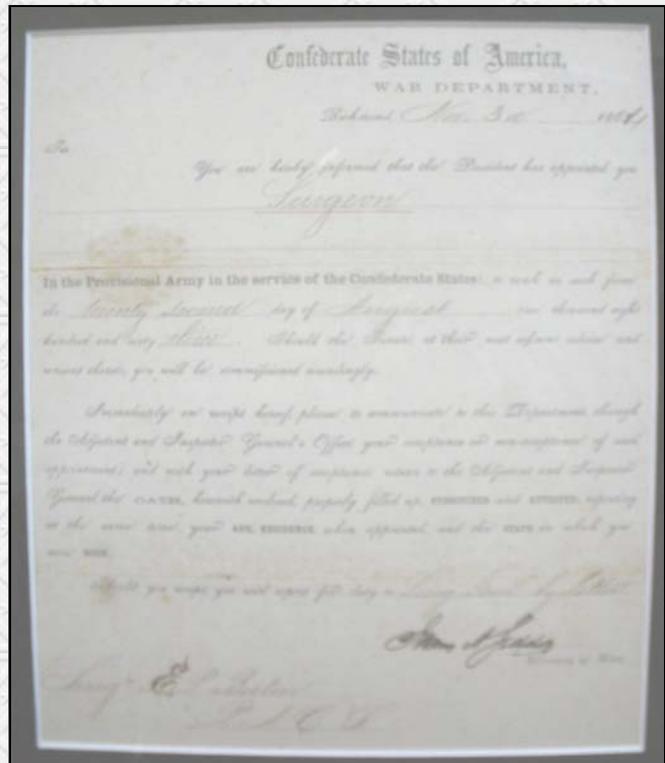
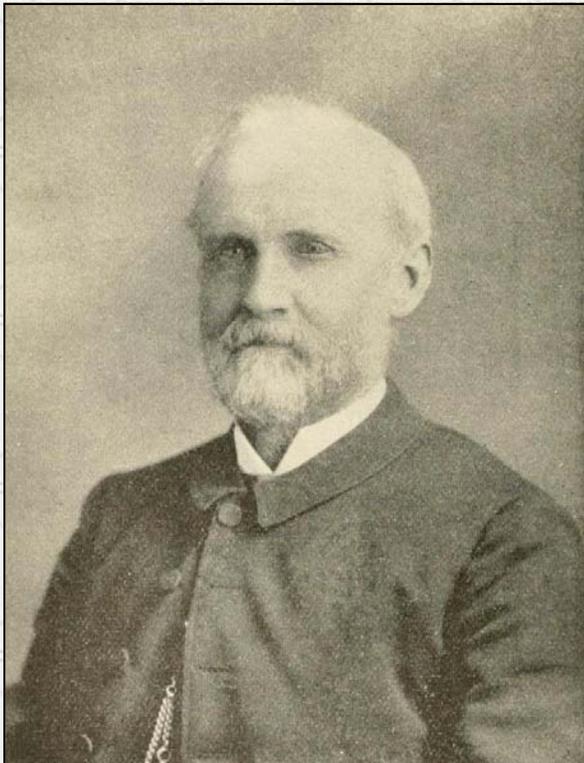
Bro. Len Patterson, Th.D
 Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi

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

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-

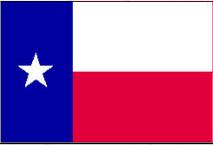


**DR. E. P. BECTON, SURGEON 22ND TEXAS INFANTRY C.S.A.
BY ANDREW BECTON, DR. BECTON'S GGG GRANDSON
AND PALESTINE RESIDENT**



Dr. Edwin Pinckney Becton was a man beyond measure.

Perhaps this bold statement is being made by the naivety of a proud descendent; nevertheless his contribution to society is one that fills me with pride. E.P. Becton took his first breath on June 24, 1834 in Gibson County, Tennessee. The son of a traveling Presbyterian preacher, Becton found himself moving wherever his father's convictions took him. In 1841, those convictions would lead the Bectons to east Texas, where John May Becton organized 7 churches including those in the towns of San Augustine, Kilgore, Henderson and Palestine. (cont.)



**DR. E. P. BECTON, SURGEON 22ND TEXAS INFANTRY C.S.A.
BY ANDREW BECTON, DR. BECTON'S GGG GRANDSON
AND PALESTINE RESIDENT**



(Continued from page 7) After attending private schools and taking courses at Austin College, (at its original location in Huntsville, Texas), Becton would find himself back in Tennessee, enrolled in the medical department of the University of Nashville, where he graduated in the class of 1857, (with highest of class scores in anatomy). That same year he would marry his first wife, Mary Eliza Dickson, (1841-1866), of Henderson, Texas. They would have three children.

It was again in the year 1857 that Becton would open his first practice, this time settling in New Danville, Texas. He continued his practice until April 1862, when he entered the Provisional Army of the Confederate States as rank of "private in Captain J.A. Pegues' company, Walterhouse's regiment; was appointed Assistant Surgeon of Fitzhugh's regiment, McCullough's brigade, Walker's Division; recommended for promotion Chief Surgeon of Division, Beall, examined by the Army Medical Board and passed to the rank of Surgeon; assigned to duty with the 22nd Regiment of Texas Infantry, commanded by Colonel, (and future Texas governor), Richard B. Hubbard, in Walker's Division."

E.P. was not the only Becton to serve the Gray. His brother, Joseph, would serve in the 10th Calvary, Company G, as 1st Sergeant.

Becton's "regiment saw action in Arkansas and Louisiana including the battle at Young's Point on June 7, 1863. Young's Point served as a vital supply depot for the Union army. As the Texans advanced across the fields, they saw Federal reinforcements arrive by transports supported by gunboats. Confederate efforts at Young's Point ended in failure. In March 1864, the 22nd Texas Infantry participated in the operations against the advance of the Federal Army, under General Banks, from Franklin, Louisiana. The 22nd Infantry also participated in the battles at Natchitoches, Louisiana on March 31, 1864 and Wilson's Farm, Louisiana on April 7, 1864. On April 8, 1864, arriving near Mansfield, General Walker formed his division in line of battle and awaited the advance of the enemy. They participated in the Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana on April 9, 1864 against 35,000 Federal soldiers. The Confederate force was under 16,000. The Texans captured 21 pieces of artillery, over 3,000 prisoners and more than 200 wagons. The 22nd Infantry also participated in engagements at Marks' Mills, Arkansas on April 15, 1864 and the Battle of Jenkins Ferry, Arkansas on April 30, 1864."

Though missing his home and family, Becton never strayed from his duties, and in his own personal correspondence to his wife, he made this notion very clear. In an excerpt from a letter dated December 14, 1862:

I am pleased with the life I lead. If I were a single man I never would become a citizen again but remain a soldier the rest of my days... I owe my country a debt and I must perform my part. I have a good deal of pride in being in this war. I hope you have the same feeling.

Again, from a letter dated February 24, 1863

I try to do my duty and if I succeed I am glad.

E.P. Becton would continue his duty faithfully throughout the duration of the war. He would sign a Parole of Honor to no longer serve in the Armies of the Confederate States on June 23, 1865, (just one day prior to his 31st birthday).

Unfortunately, not all of the Bectons would live to see the end of the war. Joseph Becton would be killed at the Battle of Spanish Fort in Baldwin County, Alabama, on April 9, 1865, (the same day General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House).

After the war's end, Becton would relocate his medical practice to Hopkins County, later representing this county in the Texas Legislature from 1870 to 1871. He would also serve as President of the Texas State Medical Association, (now the Texas Medical Association), from 1885-1886. As a respected man in his locale, he was often referred to as a great speaker, and "on the occasion of the burial of Jefferson Davis, when memorial services were being held throughout the South, he was chosen by his fellow citizens of Hopkins county, to deliver the oration; this he did, in a thrillingly eloquent and touching manner."

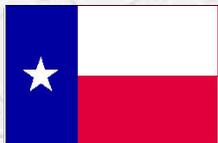
As a writer, Becton would be published in the Nashville Medical and Surgical Journal and the Texas Courier-Record of Medicine. He was an Odd Fellow and a Royal Arch Mason and a Southern Democrat. His last occupation was an appointment by the Governor as the Superintendent of the Texas School for the Blind in 1895. He would hold this position until his death.

E.P. Becton passed away on January 14, 1901. Upon hearing of his death, Texas Governor Joseph Sayers issued a statement, referring to his life's work and his, "great sympathy for the unfortunates... and unvarying treatment of them... No other man in the state was more fitted for the place."

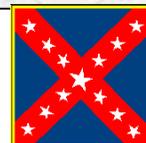
Perhaps no other man was more fitted to be called my great-great-grandfather.

Sources:

1. *Types of Successful Men in Texas*. By Lewis E. Daniell. Published by the author. Austin, Texas 1890. pp 224.
2. Randall Howald. *Texans in the Civil War: 22nd Texas Infantry*. <http://www.angelfire.com/tx/RandysTexas/page49.html>
3. E.P. Becton letter to Mary Becton. 14 Dec. 1862. "E.P. Becton Letters 1862-1864." Briscoe Center for American History. Austin, Texas.
4. E.P. Becton letter to Mary Becton. 24 Feb. 1863. "E.P. Becton Letters 1862-1864." Briscoe Center for American History. Austin, Texas.
5. *Types of Successful Men in Texas*. By Lewis E. Daniell. Published by the author. Austin, Texas 1890. pp 225.
6. *The Arlington Journal*. 17, January 1901. Arlington, Texas.



**DR. E. P. BECTON, SURGEON 22ND TEXAS INFANTRY C.S.A.
BY ANDREW BECTON, DR. BECTON'S GGG GRANDSON
AND PALESTINE RESIDENT—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8**



Reprinted From an Original Letter to his Wife, Mary

In Camps – June 7th 1864

My dear Mary

Your kind letter of May 23rd came to hand last evening. I need not say I was glad for you know I am always glad and more than glad to hear from you. I am rejoiced to hear that Ma is up again I was uneasy about her. I hated to leave her in the condition she was in, but stern necessity forced me to do so.

Tell Dought that I am exceedingly proud of her success at school and hope she will continue to learn well and if she does by and by I will send her something nice. I sent her a ring a few days ago, also several other articles by Capt. Jones, all of which I hope you will receive in a few days.

This letter will be taken by Mr. Farmer of Van Zandt Co. and mailed in Henderson. I also send you by him two bunches of envelopes to be mailed in Henderson and a box for Dr. Hamelton to be left with the post Master in Henderson. It is a small tin box of blistering ointment for you. This I hope will not be needed but as we never know what is going to happen it is well enough to prepare in time.

I am truly sorry to hear of Col. Smiths misfortune, he has always been a true and faithful friend of mine and I take a deep interest in whatever effects his happiness. Remember me to him when you see him.

I will have you a ring made as soon as I can but as we are on the march now I do not suppose there will be an opportunity during this month. I intend to have one made for Dought if she continues to learn well.

We left our camp near Alexandria day before yesterday we are going in the direction of Marksville, are now in about nine or ten miles of the place. We are resting today in two miles of Red River waiting for the pontoon bridge to be fixed. I do not know where we are going. If we stop near Marksville, Dave or I one will go to see our kin. I do not expect I can go, my Hospital Stewart and Asst. Surgeon are both at home – one on furlough of 60 days, the other a leave of absence of 54 days. So you see I am Hospital Stewart, Asst. Surgeon and Surgeon of the 22nd in addition to all this the Brigade Surgeon is at home on a 52 days leave and the duties of that officer devolves on me. So you may well imagine that I have but few idle moments. Today an order came organizing an examining board to examine Conscripts sent here from Texas and I was placed at the head of it. The Conscript Board in Texas is doing things up in magnificent style. They are sending us men who are totally unfit for any kind of duty. Six have been rejected and sent back home from this Brigade in the last week. We discharged a man from this Regt. On the 26th of last March for Consumption. They conscripted him and sent him back to us. The Board met at my tent this evening and we sent him home again. If they would let the blind, the halt, the lame, the deaf and dumb stay at home and sent those fat rascals around town, who are eternally hunting up details they would do much better.

My health was never better. Dave is also in good health. I have told him several times to write to his Daddy but you know how he is.

From this letter I imagine there are others on the way from you. I hope they will come in a few days. Continue to direct to Nacogdoches. Your letter came in 14 days. Hyde has got in. I was glad to see him. He tells me that you are in fine health. Have you got entirely well? Give me the particulars of your condition. How is John on the war question? What does he think of the year of Carn and the Jenkins Ferry frolic? I forgot to tell you that the Yankees shot a kind of explosive ball and it was really funny (minus the danger) to see John Miller raise his head and jump as they would burst over him. My love to Ma and John. Kiss our dear little ones for me.

May heavens best blessings rest on you all.

Yours only

E.P. Becton

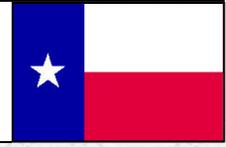
Howdy to Jack-

I haven't time this evening to write much. Send the not to Dr. Hamelton.

Let me hear from Jr and Phad every chance. We have cheering news from Va. God grant that we may all meet again.



**JOHN H. REAGAN MEMORIAL CEREMONY
HOSTED BY THE DAVIS-REAGAN CHAPTER 2292 UDC
ASSISTED BY JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2192 SCV**



Above: The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Color and Honor Guard preparing to post colors at the annual UDC John H. Reagan Memorial ceremony. From left to right: Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield, John Barnhart, Dan Dyer, Calvin Nicholson, Billy Newsom, Marc Robinson, Gary Williams, and Frank Moore.



Above left: The John H. Reagan Camp #2156, "Val Verde Battery" fires one of three cannon rounds at the John H. Reagan Memorial ceremony. Members were Calvin Nicholson, Billy Newsom, Kirby McCord, and Marc Robinson.



Above right photo by Dorothy Bruce: The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Honor Guard fires one of three volleys. Members were Frank Moore, Gary Williams, John Barnhart, Dan Dyer and Ronnie Hatfield.



Above from left to right: From the John H. Reagan Chapter #325 UDC, Gatesville, Texas is Angelina Burluson, president, and Dr. James Burluson, Reagan Camp #2156 members Marc Robinson, Billy Newsom, John Barnhart, Frank Moore, Gary Williams, Dan Dyer, Ronnie Hatfield, Kirby McCord, Calvin Nicholson, and Jane Pitts, Historian, UDC Chapter #325

Right from top down are photos by Dorothy Bruce: County Judge Linda Ray welcomes everyone and reads a letter from the 1863 Elkhart Newspaper. The writer was a Confederate Veterans who was writing home from his camp in Tennessee.



TVCC History Professor Robert Risko delivers the address about John H. Reagan.



Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 UDC past president, Mrs. Dollye Jeffus leads everyone in the pledges to the U.S., Texas, and Con-





QUOTES FROM THE PAST

PROVIDED BY MARC ROBINSON



REV. JAMES POWER SMITH

LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF GEN.
STONEWALL JACKSON'S STAFF, 1907

"THERE WAS NO SURRENDER AT APPOMATTOX, AND NO WITHDRAWAL FROM THE FIELD WHICH COMMITTED OUR PEOPLE AND THEIR CHILDREN TO A HERITAGE OF SHAME AND DISHONOR...NO COWARDICE ON ANY BATTLEFIELD COULD BE AS BASE AND SHAMEFUL AS THE SILENT ACQUIESCENCE IN THE SCHEME WHICH WAS TEACHING THE CHILDREN IN THEIR HOMES AND SCHOOLS THAT THE COMMERCIAL VALUE OF SLAVERY WAS THE CAUSE OF THE WAR...AND THAT THE YOUNG MEN WHO LEFT EVERYTHING TO RESIST INVASION, WHO CLIMBED THE SLOPES OF GETTYSBURG AND DIED WILLINGLY ON A HUNDRED FIELDS WERE REBELS AGAINST A RIGHTEOUS GOVERNMENT."

PRES. JEFFERSON F. DAVIS

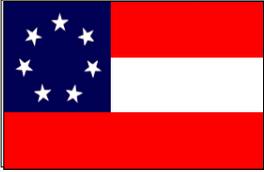
"OUR GOVERNMENT IS AN AGENCY OF DELEGATED AND STRICTLY LIMITED POWERS. ITS FOUNDERS DID NOT LOOK TO ITS PRESERVATION BY FORCE; BUT THE CHAIN THEY WOVE TO BIND THESE STATES TOGETHER WAS ONE OF LOVE AND MUTUAL GOOD OFFICES ..."

PRES. JEFFERSON F. DAVIS

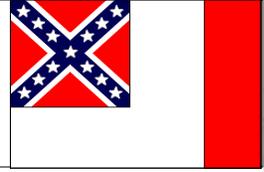
DECEMBER 17, 1860

HE ADDRESSED THE CONFEDERATE NATION IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS WITH THESE THOUGHTS WHICH STILL RING POWERFULLY RELEVANT TODAY:

"WHEN A LONG COURSE OF CLASS LEGISLATION, DIRECTED NOT TO THE GENERAL WELFARE BUT TO THE AGGRANDIZEMENT OF THE NORTHERN SECTION OF THE UNION - WHEN THE DOGMAS OF A SECTIONAL PARTY, SUBSTITUTED FOR THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMPACT THREATENED TO DESTROY THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE STATES - SIX OF THOSE STATES... CONFEDERATED TOGETHER TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT AND PERFORM THE DUTY OF INSTITUTING A GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BETTER SECURE THE LIBERTIES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WHICH THAT UNION WAS ESTABLISHED. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATES NOW CONFEDERATED BECAME CONVINCED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAD FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF A SECTIONAL MAJORITY, WHO WOULD PERVERT THAT MOST SACRED OF ALL TRUSTS TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE RIGHTS WHICH IT WAS PLEDGED TO PROTECT. THE TYRANNY OF AN UNBRIDLED MAJORITY...HAS DENIED US BOTH THE RIGHTS AND THE REMEDY. THEREFORE WE ARE IN ARMS TO RENEW SUCH SACRIFICES AS OUR FATHERS MADE TO THE HOLY CAUSE OF CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTY."



ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY
November
 by Kirby McCord

**1860**

November 6, 1860: Abraham Lincoln wins the presidential election with a clear majority of electoral votes (180 out of 303), but the smallest plurality in the popular vote in American presidential history (39.8%). A clever politician, Lincoln is surprisingly inexperienced. Born in Kentucky a year after and just a few miles from future Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Lincoln had practiced law the majority of his career, serving as a state senator for Illinois for seven years and U.S. Congressman for that state for two; although his last public office was 1848, Lincoln's greatest claim to fame was his losing campaign for the U.S. Senate in 1858, in which he famously debated Democrat Stephen Douglas. Still, due to his masterful manipulation of the Republican convention in Chicago, Lincoln secured the nomination. Based on the sectionalism rampant in the country at that time, the split of the Democratic Party, and the rise of the Constitutional Union Party, Lincoln's election was perceived by pundits of the time as a foregone conclusion. Within days of Lincoln's electoral victory, Southern leaders are speaking of secession as an inevitable necessity.

1861

November 1, 1861: 75-year old Union General-in-Chief Winfield Scott voluntarily retires, allowing 34-year old George B. McClellan to assume that post.

November 6, 1861: Jefferson Davis is elected to a six year term as President of the Confederate States of America. Previously, he had held his office only provisionally. Davis had never sought the presidency, and in fact was a latecomer to secession, reluctantly embracing that course of action only after President-elect Lincoln had declared his opposition to expansion of slavery into the territories in January, 1861. Davis withdrew as Senator from Mississippi on January 21. Having graduated from West Point in 1828, serving as Colonel in the Mexican War and Secretary of War under U.S. President Franklin Pierce, he hoped to receive a military command. Instead, he was named provisional President of the Confederacy. Considering himself inadequate to the task of Chief Executive, Davis attempted to refuse the appointment, but was inaugurated over his objections February 18, 1861. The election this day confirms Davis' worst fears, but honor compels him to serve.

November 8, 1861: Confederate commissioners James Mason and John Slidell board the British packet, *Trent* in Havana, Cuba, en route to their postings in Europe. U.S. Captain Charles Wilkes, commanding the *USS San Jacinto*, threatening the smaller vessel with a broadside, boards the *Trent* in international waters, seizing Slidell and Mason. The British government protests. Recalling that such activities by British warships led directly to the War of 1812, U.S. Secretary of State William Seward apologizes to Great Britain and releases the commissioners to the British on December 30, 1861. For his illegal acts, Wilkes is feted throughout the North as a hero.

November 18, 1861: The chaotic nature of secession is revealed today. A convention of pro-Union delegates convenes at Hatteras, North Carolina, repudiating the May secession of that state from the Union; they appoint a provisional government. Meanwhile, invading Confederate soldiers convene in Russellville, Kentucky, adopt a secession ordinance, and appoint a pro-secession government. Kentucky and North Carolina now find themselves with two separate state governments.

November 25, 1861: Armor plating is attached to the *USS Merrimack*, beginning the process of turning the former US Navy ship into the first ironclad, the *CSS Virginia*.

1862

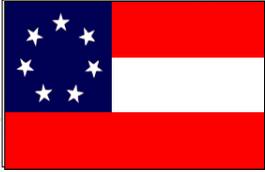
November 5, 1862: US President Abraham Lincoln dismisses General George B. McClellan as head of the Army of the Potomac saying, "sending reinforcements to McClellan is like shoveling flies across a barn."

November 18, 1862: US General Ambrose Burnside steals a march on Confederate General Robert E. Lee, positioning his men across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg, Virginia. The auspicious beginning of Burnside's campaign is quickly wasted, as the Federals fail to ford the River before the arrival of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Northern foul-ups continue as Burnside demands that the mayor surrender the town, then promises the town will not be fired upon so long as no hostile demonstrations come from the town. Alas, the mayor has no control over the situation as Lee posts sharpshooters in the city to harass Union pontoon bridge engineers. In response, Union guns begin shelling the city, causing massive destruction but failing to diminish Confederate resistance.

1863

November 4, 1863: Confederate General James Longstreet's 20,000 man corps had been instrumental in achieving victory for Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee at Chickamauga in September. However, Longstreet and Bragg do not get along. In an attempt to smooth over differences, President Davis detaches Longstreet from Bragg's army besieging Chattanooga, assigning Longstreet an independent command to attack Knoxville. It is a foolish strategic move: Longstreet fails to take Knoxville, and Bragg's army is weakened in the face of two Federal armies under Grant: Sherman's Army of the Tennessee and Thomas' Army of the Cumberland.

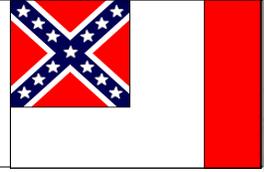
November 19, 1863: The National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania is dedicated today. Massachusetts abolitionist Edward Everett gives the almost three hour presentation. He is followed by US President Abraham Lincoln, who is scheduled to make "a few



ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

November

by Kirby McCord



appropriate remarks.” Lincoln’s ten sentence Gettysburg Address receives polite compliments over the next few days, but is now widely regarded as one of the greatest orations in American history.

November 24, 1863: Confederate General Braxton Bragg believes his army to be in an impregnable position. His left is anchored on Lookout Mountain, and Missionary Ridge, a high promontory, overlooking the city of Chattanooga, Tennessee protects his right and center. He considers the departure of the contentious Longstreet a positive good, until he is attacked today. His left on Lookout Mountain is lightly defended and taken with surprising ease by Federal troops in the “Battle Above the Clouds.” Bragg’s troops are more successful repelling Federal attacks on their right flank. The next day, the Union General Grant orders a “demonstration” on the center of Missionary Ridge to divert Confederates from Bragg’s right where Grant intends the main assault to be. But the Union troops storm up the steep slope of Missionary Ridge without orders. The attack seems suicidal, but Bragg has positioned his troops badly, and they are unable to support one another and when the day is done, Missionary Ridge has fallen to the Federals. The Union attackers have lost 5,824 men out of 56,000 engaged; the Confederates 6,667 out of 64,000. More importantly, Bragg’s army has been dislodged, the siege of Chattanooga lifted, and the South’s best chance at destroying a Federal Army has slipped away.

November 30, 1863: Confederate President Davis accepts the resignation of General Braxton Bragg.
1864

November 6, 1864: U.S. Colonel Benjamin Sweet arrests 100 men in Chicago on charges of plotting against the United States. Confederate agents and Copperhead sympathizers, according to the alleged plans, were to engineer a massive prison escape from the notorious Camp Douglas in Chicago on Election Day. The escaped rebels, it is charged, were then to stuff the ballot boxes, causing the U.S. Presidential Election to be either tainted or to give the election to McClellan. Following the political skullduggery, the now free soldiers were alleged to be charged with burning Chicago to the ground. The plot is never substantiated, and all but a few of those arrested are released without charges ever being filed. Still, Sweet has apparently obtained his immediate objectives: garnering much attention to himself, and demonizing anyone who might support an independent South.

November 8, 1864: With help from absentee ballots allowing soldiers the vote, incumbent Republican Abraham Lincoln soundly defeats Democrat General George McClellan for the U.S. Presidency. Only three states vote for McClellan and the peace platform his party has engineered. Southerners had hoped that the bloody stalemate in Virginia would turn public support from Lincoln, but Sherman’s capture of Atlanta ices Lincoln’s re-election and dooms the South. The Northern military juggernaut will now bludgeon the Confederacy into submission.

November 16, 1864: Ignoring Confederate General John Bell Hood’s 38,000 man Army of Tennessee, now located in Florence, Alabama, Union General William T. Sherman sets out from Atlanta on his infamous March to the Sea. His 62,000 man army is instructed to forage and live off the land, and should they meet any resistance to such scavenging, relentlessly devastate the surrounding area. Sherman’s Gorilla’s happily comply. The only Confederate opposition is Joe Wheeler’s 10,000 man cavalry force, and about 3,000 Georgia militia under George W. Smith. They are easily brushed aside.

November 21, 1864: In an attempt to divert Union General Sherman from his destructive march through Georgia, Confederate General Hood marches into Tennessee, threatening Union General Schofield’s smaller force, which retreats toward Franklin.

November 27, 1864: Southern saboteurs blow up the *USS Greyhound*, Union General Benjamin Butler’s floating headquarters on the James River. Butler escapes harm.

November 29, 1864: Stealing a march on Union General Schofield, Hood’s Confederates nearly surround Schofield’s force near Spring Hill, Tennessee. But fatigue and botched communication among the Confederates allow Schofield’s army to escape. Hood is enraged at his subordinates for their apparent incompetence. He demands an immediate pursuit, even though his army of 40,000 is near exhaustion.

November 30, 1864: Schofield has been reinforced and entrenches at Franklin, Tennessee. Hood’s weary Confederates arrive, the constant forced marches having reduced their numbers to 27,000. Still fuming over the Federal escape at Spring Hill, Hood orders an immediate attack on the now numerically superior Union force of 28,000. Charging across a mile and a half of open ground, the Army of Tennessee is shot to pieces, losing 6,252 men, including six generals killed, among them the great Patrick Cleburne. Schofield loses 2,326 men, but retires to Nashville that night. Stubbornly, Hood follows.

”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.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2156

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www.reaganscvcamp.org

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