



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2010

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Compatriots,

At our February 13th regular meeting, the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 presented two new members with their SCV membership certificate and pin. We are very proud to have Rodney Lynn Skelton and David Keith Dyer as new members of our camp! See page 3 for photos. Chaplain Ed Furman also administered the oath, to the Reagan Camp's 2010 officers who were elected during the January meeting. We had a very good turn out of members and guest present at the meeting along with a great meal provided to us by the Ladies of the Reagan Camp. Thank you Ladies for your continued generosity and hard work in helping the John H. Reagan Camp with such an important task each month! Our guest speaker at the February meeting was Wayne Prouse, SCV Southeast Texas Brigade 10 Commander. He and his wife Andrea, who was also present, reside in Orange, Texas. Please see page 7 for a photo of Mr. Prouse and more information on his program. Also during the meeting, Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield volunteered to head up an educational committee to put together a program about the WBTS for area schools. We are very grateful Ronnie volunteered for this job as he has a world of experience in putting on excellent school programs. We appreciate, 1st Lt. Calvin Nicholson and Tom James of Camp #1012 getting us started by presented a school program in Fairfield on February 26th (see page 8 for details). Ronnie Hatfield constructed a very nice business card holder and presented it to the camp (see page 4). The Reagan Camp is preparing for our first marker dedication of the spring season on March 21st for Private D. T. Davis buried at the Pilgrim Cemetery, Elkhart, Texas. In preparation for the spring events, Ronnie and Leigh Ann Hatfield hosted a drill practice at their home on Saturday, February 27. Ronnie was assisted by another excellent instructor and new Reagan Camp member Dwan Schoppe. The practice went great. See page 7 to see more on this drill practice and page 3 for our next practice.

Lt. Cmdr. Nicholson has another great program in store for us at the March 13th meeting! Please see the events calendar on page 3 for the details.

Isn't it wonderful that we are experiencing steady growth in our camp and are able to begin doing even more to honor the memory of our beloved Confederate ancestors! Please keep up the great work of recruiting new members! I am so very proud and appreciative of all of you and your efforts to fulfill the Charge to the SCV with all of your hard diligent work and support.

I want to include Brigade Commander Holley's winter Brigade meeting report below to keep you informed as to what is happening on the brigade level.

Respectfully your obedient servant,
Marc Robinson

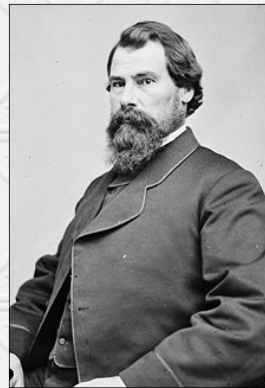
Cmdr. Holley began his report as follows:

The Brigade meeting went well although the attendance was low. That was probably due to my having to change the date and it fell on Palestine's meeting day so that caused a conflict. I want to thank all who came.

I will try to have another meeting before the SCV reunion in JUNE. From the work that is being done by the host Camp and the OCR, it looks like this should be an excellent reunion. The hotel is the Doubletree at Hwy75 and Campbell road. As soon as Div. gets out more info I will be sure to forward it.

The main topic of discussion was the Jeff Davis Award. This is new and I sent an info e mail out on this today earlier. If you do not get that or cannot open it let me know.

The second important topic was on the 150 Year anniversary of the WBTS. I asked all to look at any events that might have happened in your areas during the WBTS that can be reenacted or Honored. Since no battles took place here, look for unit formations, unit training sites or other things that can be



John H. Reagan

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

Chairman - Railroad Commission of Texas

A Founder and President of the Texas State Historical Association

used to commemorate the WBTS. A large prewar event will be held near Gilmer held in December and I will let you know what will be needed to make this a great success. There will be lectures from prominent historians and recreations of speeches and events leading up to Texas Session.

Keep up your good work and be ready to give a full effort during the 150 year celebration. I know that the East Texas Brigade will step up to help the Texas Division make this time something special in Texas. If we all work together, we can make it happen.

Long Live The South,

Johnnie Holley, Cmdr. East Texas Brigade

CAMP MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of Each Month
06:00 PM

Meal served at each meeting.
Museum for East Texas Culture
400 Micheaux Avenue
Palestine, Texas

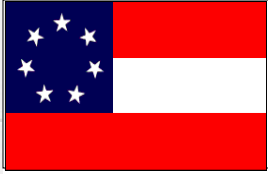
(Old John H. Reagan High School Building, Near State Hwy 19, five blocks east of courthouse)

Guests are welcome!
Bring the family.

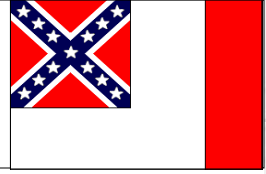
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THE ROAD TO SECESSION
A Civil War Sesquicentennial Event
December 1—5, 2010



POC: Mark K. Vogl, 903-725-3175 johnyreb43@yahoo.com

THE ROAD TO SECESSION is one of the first national events of the American Civil War Sesquicentennial. It will be held in early December at Camp Gilmont, in northeast Upshur County, Texas. The event will feature both an academic symposium and a Living History event and will address the question: "Why did the good and Christian people of the South chose Secession in 1860-61?"

THE ROAD TO SECESSION is being organized by the Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Army of the Trans Mississippi, Sons of Confederate Veterans. It is our intention to invite school children from the Ark-La-Tex to attend the event on December 2 and 3, and open to the general public on December 4 and 5.

THE ROAD TO SECESSION COMMITTEE is working hard to attract qualified and proven re-enactors to perform the roles of as many of the key personalities in ante-bellum period as possible. We hope to have John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, Col. Robert E. Lee, Stephen Douglas, Dred Scott, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Horace Greeley Rafael Semmes and as many more. Our belief is that if people can see and hear the arguments and news of the day, they will be more informed as to why Secession was chosen by the people of the South. Our goal is to provide an open forum for all sides so that attendees can gain an appreciation for the views of all.

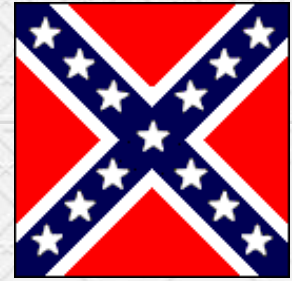
THE ROAD TO SECESSION Academic Symposium will provide a venue for college professors, authors, historians and students to once again consider the history of our nation during this most crucial period. If you wish to participate and submit a paper please contact us.

THE ROAD TO SECESSION COMMITTEE believes that the broader the range of attendees the better. Crisis and conflict, violence and social forces combined to lead our nation down a road which eventually led to secession. President Lincoln chose war as the northern response. To truly understand the period and the decisions of the people involved, one must explore the many sides of the times.

THE ROAD TO SECESSION COMMITTEE seeks contributors. We need to raise funds, to attract qualified academicians, and qualified and practiced re-enactors. We need to promote and advertise the event across the nation. If you feel you can be of any help, make checks payable to Upshur County Patriots, RTS. All donations are tax deductible and we can provide a tax ID No..

Send checks to: Upshur County Patriots, 7082 Fm 1795, Big Sandy, TX 75755

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED INTO THE SCV AND THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156



Rodney Lynn Skelton, center, receives his SCV certificate of membership and SCV pin from Commander Marc Robinson, right, and Chaplain Ed Furman, left. Rod joined under his G Grandfather, Pvt. Thaddeus Sobeskie Skelton, Co. F 5th Regiment Georgia Infantry. We warmly welcome Rod and his wife Nancy into our camp!



David Keith Dyer, center, receives his SCV certificate of membership and SCV pin from Commander Marc Robinson, right, and Chaplain Ed Furman, left. David joined under his GGG Grandfather, Pvt. William Henderson Dyer, Co. K 34th Mississippi Infantry. We warmly welcome David and his family into our camp!

“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-

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-



PRAYER LIST



- **Nelda Eppes**
- **Our Country**
- **Sons of Confederate Veterans**
- **Please email or call Marc Robinson to add/remove people to/from this list.**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



March 13th 04:30 PM-Reagan Camp Honor/Color Guard Drill Practice at Museum for ETC.

March 13th 06:00 PM-John H. Reagan Camp monthly meeting at the Museum for East Texas Culture.

Program: Rick Williams, past Lt. Cmdr.—2 yrs. and past Commander—2 yrs. Walter P. Lane Camp #1455, Longview, Texas. Rick said, “I will present a program on the Battle of Port Hudson, which was fought simultaneously with Vicksburg. Only, the rebs down there were outnumbered approx. 7,000 to 35,000

and never quit fighting until the river was lost upstream.” Rick’s Great Grandfather was in this battle.

March 21, 02:00 PM—Marker Dedication for Pvt. D. T. Davis, Pilgrim Cemetery, Elkhart, Texas

April 10-11, Pleasant Hill re-enactment, Pleasant Hill, LA

April Regular Meeting Is CANCELLED due to many Reagan Camp events and obligations during the month of April. We will resume our regular meetings on May 8.

April 17-18, Confederate Reunion Grounds re-enactment, Mexia, TX

April 24, 10:00 AM— Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292, UDC, **Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony and Marker Dedication for Pvt. Charles Cope-land**, East Hill Cemetery, Palestine.

April 24, 01:30 PM, Hogg Camp Confederate Memorial Service at Confederate Memorial, Bullard, TX, Cmdr. James Campbell (903-521-3844) requested help, especially with muskets and/or cannon.



HATFIELD PRESENTS BUSINESS CARD HOLDER TO REAGAN CAMP

Photo Left: Sergeant-at-Arms Ronnie Hatfield, of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, hand crafted a Confederate business card holder to go along with the camp's display board (in background and also crafted by Hatfield) for recruiting efforts. He presented his gift to the camp during the February regular meeting. We knew Ronnie was coming up with something very nice, but we didn't expect such a work of art as what you see him holding in the photo. The card holder is a Fort Houston replica (Early 1800's Anderson County Fort) with Confederate Soldiers defending it. As you can see, our business cards fit into this fort very neatly. Thank you Ronnie Hatfield for yet another job well done.



TWO SOLDIERS AT THE WALL BY RONNIE HATFIELD, COPYRIGHT 1997

On an old stone wall at Fredericksburg,
a cherished banner lay.
Unfurled by men who can't forget,
what happened there one day.

Two soldiers knelt beside the wall,
with thoughts profound and deep.
And as one's trembling hands played "Dixie",
they both began to weep.

Unashamed, the tears ran down their cheeks,
at thoughts of long ago.
When good and brave men gave their all,
and died beside this wall of stone.

Both men still heard the cannon's roar,
and felt the storm of yankee lead.
As they knelt there in that sunken road,
where Southern boys had bled.

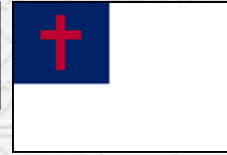
And when the song was over,
they rose and gently touched the wall.
And each man knew the other's thoughts,
though neither spoke at all.

Then with banner furl'd and folded,
they turned and slowly walked away,
Just two old soldiers still remembering,
what happened there one day.



THE FIGHTING BISHOP, PART II

BY FRANCIS DEVEREUX POLK, IV



From the January issue of the John H. Reagan Camp News, page 4 Part I of this two part article, Francis D. Polk, IV writes: "I visited the Museum for East Texas Culture in October. My wife, son and I were vacationing in the Flint/Tyler area. We drove to Palestine to specifically visit the museum. While we were in the main floor hallway, Mr Dan Dyer greeted us. We began a pleasant conversation with Dan. After five minutes or so, I inquired about any Confederate history. It was then that Dan told me about John Reagan. He also mentioned his CSA ancestry. I thought that my great-great-great grandfather probably met John Reagan. I told Dan that I should have recognized Reagan because I have read much about the War and the government of the CSA. I then mentioned that I am a direct descendent of Lieutenant-General Leonidas Polk. Dan said that he knew of Leonidas (Leon' a dis). I told Dan that my grandfather was unique in American history. He is the only man to be both a general who was a field commander and a bishop. At that point in our now lengthy conversation, Dan invited me to write an article for the Reagan Camp Newsletter."

Part I of this article ended with the mention of the letter written Bishop Polk to his West Point friend in May 1861. This letter to President Davis was about Bishop Polk's concern that the Mississippi Valley was very vulnerable to invasion from the Union army. Polk was very familiar with this area because he traveled so much throughout Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana when he was Bishop of the Southwest. His knowledge of the geography of the Valley and his military training alerted him to the probable invasion and the realization that more troops were needed in the West.

Davis responded immediately to Polk's letter and invited him to come to Richmond to meet with him, his cabinet and five generals. John Reagan was probably at that meeting. Leonidas left New Orleans and arrived in Richmond on June 10. Polk was surprised when Davis offered him a command in the army. This commission of Major-General of the West had the approval

of the generals. Leonidas did not accept. He had been a priest and bishop for the past 34 years. He graduated from West Point as a Second Lieutenant but never saw military action. Polk stayed in Richmond for about nine days. He visited the troops at several areas in northern Virginia. While there, he held religious services. During this time Davis made a second request, this time in writing.

Now Leonidas consulted his wife Frances, other Southern bishops, "New Orleans people" who were in Richmond, and with a "delegation from the Mississippi Valley". Leonidas wrote to Frances: "I cannot ignore what I know, I cannot forget what I learned. Nor can I forget that I have been educated by my country for its service in certain contingences."

He knew his service was needed and "it seems to be a call of Providence". He also wrote, "I feel like a man whose house is on fire, and left his business to put it out. As soon as the war is over I shall return to my proper calling". Then after much prayer and deliberation he knew that the Southern cause was righteous and never doubted that military service in defense of the South was consistent with his vows to the church. Polk had recommended that Albert Sidney Johnston be appointed as the commander of the West. However, at this time Johnston was in California. Davis and Polk met again. Davis asked for the third time and Polk accepted. Both men knew that Polk saw this as a temporary emergence. Polk expected to resign when Johnston took command. Word spread quickly that the Bishop was now a Major-General and the commander of the Western theater. The new general was leaving the Confederate Capitol building after this final meeting with President Davis and a friend greeted him. Polk was descending the steps and his friend congratulated him on "his promotion". Polk replied, "Pardon me I do not consider it a promotion. The highest office on earth is that of a bishop in the Church of Christ". Later, another friend said to Leonidas, "What! You a bishop, throw off the gown for the sword". Polk then replied, "N sir, I buckle the sward over the gown". Leonidas left Richmond and arrived in Memphis on

July 13 to assume command of Department Number 2.

He received an enthusiastic reception from the troops and the general public. He said, "We are here not by choice, but by necessity". His first task was to integrate the Tennessee militia into the army. More than 22,000 volunteers were in the militia. Then he developed plans for defense of the Valley and strategies for invasion of southeastern Missouri and Kentucky. If the Missouri campaign went well the Confederates would be in Saint Louis. Missouri would then enter the CSA. However, the plans did not materialize because the expected troops from Virginia never arrived. Leonidas' first actual battlefield experience was in early November when he faced General Ulysses S. Grant across the Mississippi River at Belmont, Missouri near Columbus, Kentucky. Both generals claimed victory. The fact is that the Federals did not enter Tennessee. The Confederate Congress sent congratulations to Polk. After the battle, Polk and Grant met to discuss the exchange of wounded and dead soldiers. Polk hosted this luncheon meeting. Several officers from both armies attended. A Union Colonel Buford proposed a toast. He said to "George Washington, the Father of his Country". Polk suggested that his services were no longer essential. Davis disagreed. Polk accepted the Commander-in-Chief's decision.

Leonidas stayed in Columbus until March, 1862. He called Columbus the "Gibraltar of the West". However, in February the army was retreating from such posts as: Fort Donelson, Fort Henry and Bowling Green. Polk and A. S. Johnston repeatedly requested additional troops which never came. Polk offered to retire but Davis told him that his services were still needed. Polk obeyed his Commander-in-Chief. He knew that Columbus had served its purpose for the past six months, but retreat was now necessary. Columbus was evacuated in March, 1862. This was the beginning of the end of the advances into Missouri. Actually for Leonidas Polk this began a 27 month period of retreating that (Continued on page 6)

THE FIGHTING BISHOP, PART II

BY FRANCIS DEVEREUX POLK, IV

ended on June 14, 1864 with his death in Georgia.

Polk went on to command troops at Shiloh, Tennessee and Corinth, Mississippi. In the Summer of 1862, General Braxton Bragg became Leonidas' senior officer. Bragg and General Kirby Smith caught Kentucky fever". They believed the CSA could "liberate" Kentucky so it would join the Confederacy. Polk and his corps fought at Bardstown and Perryville. By October 10, the 60,000 Confederate soldiers were leaving Kentucky to return to Tennessee. Polk was sent to Knoxville. Polk then fought at Murfreesboro, Stone River and Shelbyville. In May 1863, he baptized General Bragg and a year later baptized Generals Hood and Joe Johnston. Polk was promoted to Lieutenant General in 1863. E was fighting skirmishes in southeastern Tennessee. Then came the battles at Chattanooga and Chickamauga. After the short lived victory at Chickamauga, Polk was transferred to a newly created Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana. The headquarters was at Meridian. Then in April, 1864, he was needed in Georgia to what would become the defense of Atlanta. The Union army was marching south of Chickamauga. In June, Polk's Corps were at the western edge of Kennesaw Mountains. This was just west of Marietta. By June 11th, Polk's troops were occupying a hill known as Pine Mountain. On the morning of the 12th, he conducted religious services for his staff. It rained most of that day and the next day. On the 14th, General Joe Johnston requested that Polk and General William Hardee join him to have an inspection tour and view Sherman's army below. The three generals and staff members rode to the crest of Pine Mountain and dismounted. General Sherman himself spotted the men on the hill and ordered artillery fire. The third shot killed Polk. His body was taken to Marietta and then to Atlanta for a public viewing and funeral. Thousands paid their respects and filed past the open casket. The body was then moved to Augusta. There the body was taken to City Hall for two days of public viewing. On June 29 a funeral procession of hundreds marched to Saint Paul's Church for an elaborate funeral Mass and burial at

the church cemetery.

When Leonidas died on the 14th General Joe Johnston issued this General Field Order:

Comrades: You are called to mourn your first captain, your oldest companion in arms. Lieutenant-General Polk fell today at the outpost of his army, the army he raised and commanded in all of whose trials he shared to all of whose victories he contributed.

In this distinguished leader we have lost the most courteous of gentlemen, the most gallant of soldiers. The Christian patriot, soldier has neither lived or died in vain. His example is before you; his mantle rests with you.

In 1881, Jefferson Davis wrote in his Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government:

Our army, our country and mankind at large sustained an irreparable loss in the death of that noble Christian and soldier, Lieutenant-General Leonidas Polk.... Since the calamitous fall of General Albert Sidney Johnston at Shiloh and of General Thomas J. Jackson at Chancellorsville, the country sustained no heavier blow than in the death of General Polk.

Leonidas Polk and his wife, Frances Devereux Polk are now interred in Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans.

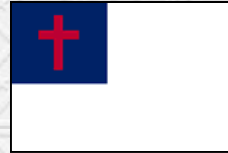
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Polk, William M., Leonidas Polk: Bishop and General. 2 volumes, New York, Longmans, Green and Company, 1915.

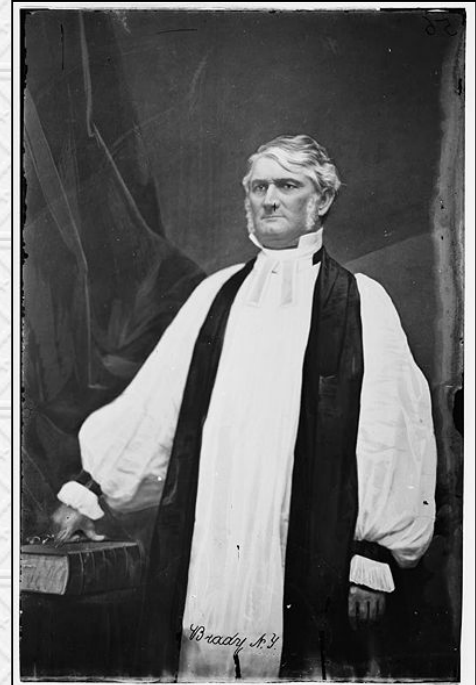
Robins, Glenn, The Bishop of the Old South, Macon, Georgia, Mercer University Press, 2006.

Editors note: The Reagan Camp greatly appreciates Mr. Fran Polk for contributing to our newsletter and honoring the history of his Confederate ancestor. Also, he spoke of meeting Dan Dyer at the Museum for East Texas Culture. Dan is the Historian officer for the John H. Reagan Camp #2156.



Above photo: Major General Leonidas Polk

Below: Leonidas Polk - The Fighting Bishop





JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156
FEBRUARY MEETING GUEST SPEAKER—UPPER PAGE
FEBRUARY DRILL PRACTICE—LOWER PAGE



Photo to Left: Guest speaker for the February 13, 2010 Reagan Camp #2156 regular meeting, held at the Museum for East Texas Culture, was SCV Southeast Texas Brigade 10 Commander, Wayne Prouse. He and his wife Andrea, reside in Orange, Texas. Commander Prouse is a retired educator, with 35 years in the classroom. He is also in charge of the SCV Texas Division Gravesite Registry and his wife, Andrea, who was also present at the meeting, is the SCV Texas Division Gravesite Registrar. The Prouse's told us that more than 10,000 Confederate Soldier gravesites in Texas have been entered into the Texas Division's database so far and that you can go to the Texas division website to see if your ancestor's gravesite has been recorded and if not, enter him on this website (www.texas-scv.org). Mrs. Prouse emailed a tutorial on how to use the online database to Commander Robinson. If you didn't receive this tutorial and would like to have a copy, email the commander at (mrobinson@tvcc.edu).

Assisted by the Reagan Camp's 1st Lt. Commander Nicholson just prior to the program, Commander Prouse poured everyone present a small cup of grape juice, and then, with a single candle being the only light in the room, read a very moving poem. He followed the poem by asking each one present to offer a toast to their WBTS ancestor, to the South, or anything related to the WBTS. As we went from one side of the room to the other, many wonderful remarks were made that evening. Commander Prouse and his wife stayed for the remainder of the meeting and contributed some great ideas as we discussed plans for our camp to provide an educational program for area schools about the WBTS. He also joined our camp as an associate member. He mentioned that he and his wife had owned some land north of Palestine on Anderson Cty Rd 441 and had once planned to retire to Palestine, when life events forced them to change those plans. The camp warmly welcomes the Prouse's back anytime they are in the Palestine area.

Photo to Right: The Reagan Camp Honor and Color guard held a drill practice at the home of Ronnie and Leigh Ann Hatfield on Saturday, February 27 to, as Ronnie put it, "knock the rust off of our performance to be prepared for the Confederate memorial ceremonies coming up this spring." Here Ronnie is having a polite discussion with his soldiers: L-R, Dan Dyer, Gary Williams, John Barnhart, Johnny McVey, Calvin Nicholson, Dwain Schoppe (who also was a very good instructor!) and not pictured and operating the camera, Marc Robinson. In addition to some great practice and Confederate fellowship, the coffee was excellent. Thank you Ronnie for your instruction and hospitality!





JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 AND JOHNSON-SAYERS-NETTLES CAMP #1012 MEMBERS WBTS PROGRAM—FAIRFIELD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Photo Left: Left—Right, Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp member-Reagan Camp associate member, Tom James along with John H. Reagan Camp member-Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp associate member Calvin Nicholson present an educational program to several Fairfield ISD 7th grade Junior High classes on Friday February 26th.



Photo Above: Reagan Camp 1st Lt. Commander Calvin Nicholson, explains to students the use and history of small arms weaponry during the War Between the States as Tom James of the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp looks on.

Photo Right: Reagan Camp 1st Lt. Commander Calvin Nicholson, right, and Tom James, left, of the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp explain some of the various uniforms and small arms used by Confederate soldiers during the War Between the States to Fairfield ISD students.

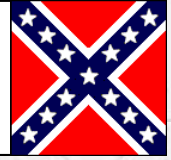


Lt. Calvin Nicholson stated, "The program was a general one covering the food and utensils, the way to identify the various military branches, i.e. red for artillery etc., the weapons used and the damage they could do and how they improved during the war. We touched some on the home front, including doctors and medical practices and we even got to women's makeup etc.. At the first of the program we told the kids to stop us at any time during the program to ask questions and got some good ones, this method got us off the track some but got the kids involved and we talked about what they wanted to know more about. Each class was handled pretty much the same way with pretty much the same information but they varied a little here and there. We had a ball and a lot of the kids stayed as long as they could after class and talked some more and got to handle the weapons and uniforms. We found that some of the kids knew some of their family history and actually had period stuff that belonged their great great grandpa's. A couple of the students were interested in reenactments and referred them to Tom as they were in his camp's area.



CONTENDERS

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



It is a fact that growing a garden and reaping a good harvest takes a lot of work. There's plowing, planting, fertilizing, watering, and more. However, it doesn't take any effort at all to grow weeds. Neglect is destructive! This is not only true of gardens, but our homes, vehicles, jobs, families, and faith. Simply put, if we want things to turn out well, we're just going to have to do some work.

The same can be said of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. If we are to have a strong, healthy, growing, and effective organization, we must work for it. But, it must be the right work. There's the story of a mother whose baby became ill. She grabbed up the infant, ran out the door, and started running for the hospital as fast as she could. She was certainly sincere in her efforts, but the hospital was in the other direction. Every step took her further away from the help she needed.

What is the right work for the SCV? Jude writes, "That ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the Saints." (Jude 3b) The Church needs to remember the purpose for which it was founded. The country needs to be restored to the concepts of our founding fathers. And, the Sons of Confederate Veterans need to be contenders for the work it was conceived for and Charged to do. That is the right work.

We must remember that the work of the SCV is not about us. We did not suffer, bleed, and die fighting the Union invaders. Our work is about our Confederate forefathers who did. It is not our honor that is at stake, but theirs. And, it is their proud heritage that has been passed on to us, that is being undermined.

Brothers, we are at war. Our just and worthy Cause is under attack by unrighteous foes. We are being oppressed and ridiculed by those who fear us and resent

our proud Southern heritage. We are being opposed by forces of darkness who will stop at nothing to stamp out the honor due our Confederate ancestors.

Allow me to say, we do not need politicians with a country club air to lead us. We need Generals! Generals after the order of Lee and Jackson. Generals who are not only competent and capable, but who are men of God. Generals who believe in the power of prayer. Generals who will seek the guidance of our Lord, and follow Him. Generals who are Confederate to the core, and will bravely face an evil and uncompromising enemy. Generals who will forcefully and defiantly lead us in contending for the Charge once delivered to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

And we as members need to unite as Confederate Brothers and resolve to follow their leadership, as our forefathers followed Generals Lee and Jackson. Only in so doing, can we hope to defeat those who seek our destruction, accomplish the task set before us, and fulfill the mission with which we are charged. For this, I pray.

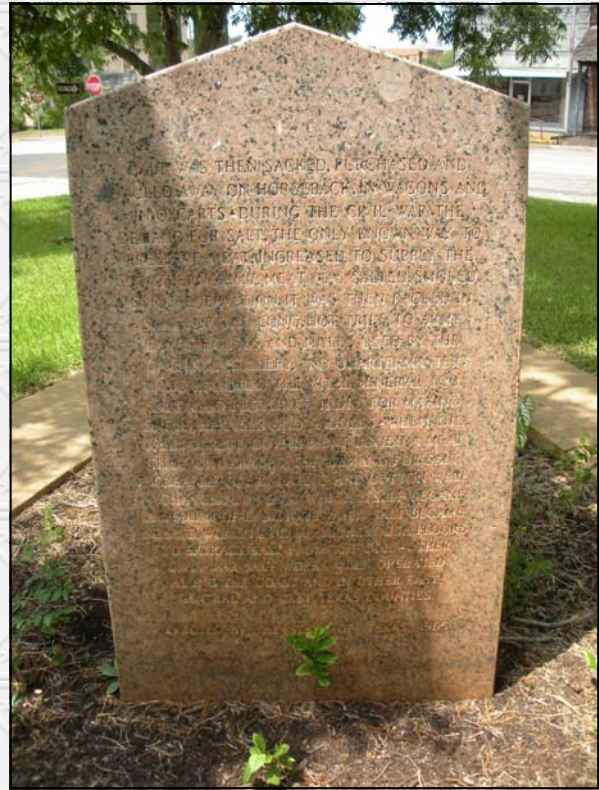
Bro. Len Patterson, Th.D
Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi

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

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-



PALESTINE SALT WORKS C.S.A. MONUMENT PROVIDED BY MARC ROBINSON



This nice C.S.A. monument is located on the southwest corner of the Anderson County Texas Courthouse lawn.

Inscribed on front and southwest side: Located 6.5 miles southwest during the Civil War this salt works was assigned to produce salt for the Confederacy at a fixed price of eight dollars for a hundred-pound sack. Private customers from East Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana often paid twenty dollars for a sack. Producing salt was slow, tedious work. Salt water was taken from wells spread over a distance of three-fourths of a mile. A pump operated by a slave was placed in each well. Gum logs hollowed out and joined together, formed a pipeline from the wells to large cast iron boiling kettles which were kept fired. Heated water was then transferred to smaller kettles for quick evaporation.

(see other side)

Inscribed on back and northeast side:

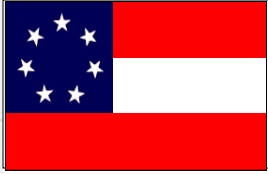
Salt was then sacked, purchased and hauled away on horseback, in wagons and in oxcarts. During the Civil War the demand for salt, the only known way to preserve meat, increased to supply the southern army. Meat was salted, smoked for preservation. It was then packed in salt for the long, hot trips to army camps. Horses and mules used by the cavalry, artillery, and quartermaster units required the vital mineral too. Salt also preserved hides for making shoes, harness and saddles. When the confederate government levied a meat tithe on farmers, the demand for salt increased. Often cattle and cotton were exchanged for salt which itself became a medium of exchange when salt became scarce, women dug up smokehouse floors to extract salt from the soil. Other Civil War salt works were operated along the coast and in other East, Central and West Texas counties.

Erected by the State of Texas 1965

Photo below: Anderson County Texas Courthouse located in Palestine, Texas viewed from the south. If you enlarge this page, the Salt Works monument can be seen in the lower left of the photo.

I have been told by older Anderson County residents that Lady Liberty, on top of the courthouse dome, was purposely faced to the South during the construction of the present day courthouse (1913-14) to honor the South and so her back was to the North. As we know and understand, post war Federal reconstruction policies caused much bitterness toward the north for many years.

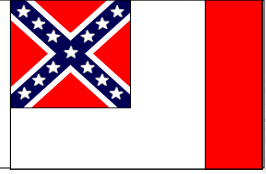




ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

March

by Kirby McCord



March 2, 1861: The Texas Secession Convention approved an ordinance accepting Confederate statehood. Previously, on February 1, 1861, the Secession Convention had voted 166 to 8 for secession from the Union.

March 2, 1864: One-legged Union Colonel Ulric Dahlgren, participating in a daring Union cavalry raid toward Richmond, is killed. On his body is found an unsigned order for Dahlgren and his men to burn Richmond and kill Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet. Confederate General Robert E. Lee demands to know who issued such an infamous order. Union General Meade declares no such order was issued.

March 4, 1861: On the same day that Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated President of the United States, the people of Texas voted to ratify the ordinance of secession: 46,129 for secession, 14,697 against. Trying to lay the blame for dissolution of the nation on the South, Lincoln's inaugural address promises not to interfere with slavery in states where it currently exists, then intones: "in your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war."

March 7, 1862: 17,000 Confederates led by Earl Van Dorn, including Missouri state guards under Sterling Price, a division of Texas troops under Ben McCulloch, and three regiments of Indians under Albert Pike attack the Union army under Samuel Curtis at Pea Ridge/Elkhorn Tavern. Although initially successful, the attack fails to destroy the Union army when McCulloch is killed and the Indians inexplicably leave the battlefield. The next day, although inflicting more casualties on the Union than suffering themselves (1384 to 800), the Confederates withdraw, essentially leaving Arkansas in Union hands.

March 8, 1862: At Hampton Roads, Virginia, the ironclad *CSS Virginia* (formerly the wooden *USS Merrimack*) attacks a squadron of Union wooden-hulled vessels, heavily damaging *USS Minnesota* and putting *USS Cumberland* and *USS Roanoke* out of commission. The next day, *Virginia* sallies forth to do more damage and is surprised to find the ironclad *USS Monitor*, (the "cheese box on a raft") awaiting her. They duel for several hours and are unable to inflict significant damage on each other. *Virginia* withdraws to the safety of the harbor and never sails again.

March 13, 1863: The Confederate Ordnance Laboratory at Brown's Island, near Richmond, Virginia, is virtually destroyed by an accidental detonation of an explosive device by a worker. 69 factory workers are killed, 62 of whom are women, revealing the increasing role women are taking in industrial, as well as clerical and even farm service.

March 13, 1865: The Confederate Congress passes a bill calling for the arming of black slaves for use in the Southern armies. President Davis immediately signs the bill into law.

March 16, 1861: The territory of Arizona, in convention at Mesilla, votes to leave the Union and join the Confederacy. The Confederate government later establishes a territorial government for Arizona.

March 19, 1865: In the last offensive action of his Confederate army, General Joseph Johnston with 21,000 troops attacks an isolated wing (30,000 men) of General William Sherman's army (100,000) near Bentonville, North Carolina. After three days of fighting, Johnston retreats, having suffered 2,606 casualties to 1,646 for the Union, before Sherman can envelop Johnston's tiny force.

March 25, 1865: In the last offensive action of his Confederate army, General Robert E. Lee attempts to break the Union siege at Petersburg., sending General John B. Gordon's men against Fort Steedman. Although initially successful, the Union army just has too many troops, and is able to counter attack and surround the Confederate attackers, resulting in 4,000 Confederate casualties to only 1,150 Union losses.

March 28, 1862: After advancing up the Rio Grande River, winning a victory at Valverde, and capturing Albuquerque and Santa Fe, General Henry Hopkins Sibley's Confederate troops are turned back at the stalemated Battle of Glorieta Pass when Sibley's supply train is destroyed. Without supplies, Sibley is forced to retreat all the way back to Texas.

March 31, 1861: The Union army surrenders Fort Bliss to Texas state troops.

March 31, 1865: Although outnumbered five to one, Confederate General George Pickett successfully defends Five Forks, allowing the Confederate government to evacuate Richmond, Virginia.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2156

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Please visit our website @
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
Meal served at each meeting.
Guests are welcome!
Museum for East Texas Culture
400 Micheaux Ave.
Palestine, Texas
(Old John H. Reagan High School bldg.
Near State Hwy 19, five blocks east of