



# SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

## THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2010

### COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Compatriots,

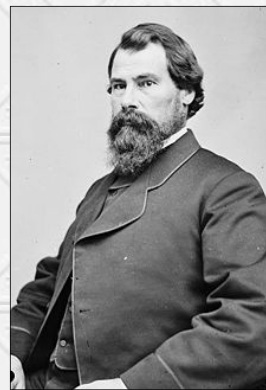
It seems as we get older the months fly by faster and faster and it was just yesterday that I was writing the dispatch for the last newsletter. I feel for certain, those young and old **Confederate soldiers** alike who fought four years defending our beloved South and the Constitution of our founding fathers probably would not say that those years went by fast. The hardships they endured for those four long years are possibly difficult for us modern day Southern boys to imagine. But with that said, we do know and understand enough about them from recorded history to have a very strong desire to honor and preserve the memory of the Confederate soldier's faith in God, devotion to family and country, his noble cause, his bravery and chivalry, his persevering through many major hardships, and the resolve to fight to the end for what he believed was right. It is this understanding of our Confederate ancestors that motivate us to want to work as hard as we can to uphold the charge given to us by Lt. General Stephen D. Lee, CSA.

The month of March was a fairly busy month for the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 as you know or will see from reading this newsletter and April will be an even busier month for our camp as it should be. Texas Senate Resolution 526 designating **April as Confederate History month** gives us all an

added opportunity to share our Confederate heritage with others. As you can see from the calendar of events on page 2, we will have a fairly solid schedule of events in the month of April. Thank you men and ladies for your dedication and hard work!

I know the camp appreciates very much **Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield** for heading up the Reagan Camp **Confederate Education Committee**. He is organizing a wonderful Confederate history school program along with the help of several other dedicated camp members. This program will be presented to 5th and 6th graders this year in the auditorium of the Museum for East Texas Culture on May 14. Several of the men will be presenting first person historical programs. We will also have a cannon and musket salute for the students immediately after the inside program. To accomplish this in a professional manner, we have had two meetings so far and have our next one scheduled for April 12th at 06:00 PM at the museum. It is not too late to get involved in the school program if you would like to help.

The John H. Reagan Camp also appreciates very much, **Cheril Vernon**, community section editor for the Palestine Herald-Press. We have had excellent newspaper coverage on all of our events since we chartered last year. The latest was on Wednesday, March 31, we had a full page covering our marker dedi-



**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

cation ceremony for Pvt. D. T. Davis at the Pilgrim Cemetery near Elkhart. Please let Ms. Vernon and others at the Herald-Press know how much we appreciate them when you get the opportunity.

I wish everyone a Happy Easter in remembrance of our Lord and his great sacrifice for all of mankind.

Respectfully your obedient servant,

Marc Robinson

### 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](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

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



**Allen Dwain Schoppe**, center, receives his SCV certificate of membership and SCV pin from Commander Marc Robinson, right, and Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield, left. Dwain joined under his GGG Grandfather, **Private Louis Luke Rawlinson**, Co. B 12th Texas Volunteer Infantry (also known as the 8th Texas). We warmly welcome he 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-

## 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

**April 3, Palestine Heritage Day**, part of Dogwood Trails, will have a **Heritage Cemetery Walk** in East Hill Cemetery beginning at 5:00PM. Tours every 30 minutes and each tour will consist of about 15 guests each, and each ticket will cost \$5. Profit from this walk will go toward upkeep and repair of some of the grave-markers as well as the cemetery itself. Tickets will be sold at the Library building, the Historical Commission office, and at the Dogwood Festival.

Our own **Ronnie Hatfield** will be **impersonating Capt. John Texas Smith**, Co. B, 13th Texas dismounted Cavalry buried in East Hill Cemetery. Ronnie stated, “I

picked him cause I liked the name, and also because he served in the same outfit as two of my local ancestors.”

**April 10-11, Pleasant Hill re-enactment**, Pleasant Hill, LA, also memorial monument dedication at Battle of Mansfield Park

**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.

**May 8th 06:00 PM**-John H. Reagan Camp monthly meeting at the First Christian Church, Palestine, Texas **Program: To be announced**

**May 22, 10:00 AM-Confederate grave marker dedications** for **Pvt. G.W. Milner**, Co. E 37th Texas Cavalry Regiment, Terrell’s Cav. Reg. and **Pvt. James Loflin**, Co. H 1st Texas Infantry Regiment at Foster Cemetery in North Anderson County off of FM 315.

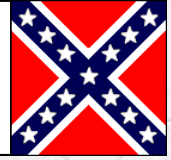
NOTHING FILLS ME WITH DEEPER SADNESS THAN TO SEE A SOUTHERN MAN APOLOGIZING FOR THE DEFENSE WE MADE OF OUR INHERITANCE. OUR CAUSE WAS SO JUST, SO SACRED, THAT HAD I KNOWN ALL THAT HAS COME TO PASS, HAD I KNOWN WHAT WAS TO BE INFLICTED UPON ME, ALL THAT MY COUNTRY WAS TO SUFFER, ALL THAT OUR POSTERITY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

-PRESEDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS-



## IT'S FAITH!

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



I have on occasion heard people refer to their "Christian walk." I'm not sure what that means. I suppose it means, whatever it means, to the person who said it. However, the Bible does tell us what the Christian's "walk" should be. In 2 Corinthians 5: 7, we read, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." And again in Romans 1: 17, "The just shall live by faith." So, we are to walk by faith, and we are to live by faith. But, what does that mean?

Even the most casual Bible student could tell us that Hebrews Chapter eleven, verse one gives the definition of faith as, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." But, we still might ask, what does that mean, exactly?

Consider this illustration. You are walking an unfamiliar path through a dense jungle, when you come upon a very deep canyon blocking your way. There is a rope bridge across the canyon, but the rope is frayed, the wood is rotten, and it appears ready to collapse. The Lord says, "Go ahead, it'll hold you." Then you might say, "Lord, why don't you build something a bit sturdier, like something made of steel and concrete?" Or you may ask, "Lord send something heavy across it first, so I can see that it will hold me. But, the Scripture tells us, we are to "walk by faith, not by sight." The Lord says, "Trust me!"

The first thing we learn about walking by faith is, it can be very scary: at least at first. But, you believe God, walk by faith, and very carefully ease across the frail bridge. When you reach the other side, you breath a sigh of relief, and thank Him for seeing you safely across. Then you come to another canyon and another rotten rope bridge. Then another and another. And, each time you come upon obstacles and difficulties in your travel through life, God says, "Trust me and walk by faith!" And each time it becomes easier, as your faith grows, and becomes

stronger and stronger. Then you can bounce across those rotten, scary bridges of life without hesitation or doubt, until one day you reach the final canyon.

This is the scariest canyon of all. There is no other side. There is no bottom. There isn't even a rotten rope bridge. But, you have lived by faith. You have walked by faith. Faith has become your substance and your evidence. Now, as you lay your head down for the last time and take that final step, you know that your Lord will be there to see you safely to the other side, just as He always has.

In Hebrews 11: 6, we read, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." This lesson applies to you. It applies to me. It applies to our country. And, it applies to our Confederation. If we want to move forward and be victorious over that which would hinder us, then there's one thing we must have and exercise. It's faith!

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-





## SCV WAR SERVICE MEDAL Presented to and in honor of Forrest E. Bradberry, Sr.



Left to Right—Adjutant Forrest Bradberry, Jr., SCV War Service Medal Recipient Forrest Bradberry, Sr., Commander Marc Robinson, Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield. Adj. Bradberry read a biography of his Dad's war service, Ronnie Hatfield read the SCV War Service Medal award presentation, Cmdr. Robinson humbly presented the award to Mr. Bradberry. All in attendance at the March regular camp meeting were very proud and honored to have been a part of this most worthy presentation to one of our honored camp members.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans  
War Service Medal  
By  
Ronnie Hatfield

The Sons of Confederate Veterans takes pride in honoring the military service of its members with the awarding of its War Service Medal. Given only to its members in good standing who have not only honored their Confederate ancestor's service and memory, but who have also given of themselves with dedicated service to their country in time of war.

The War Service Medal is not available for simple purchase at any member's request, but instead is held in high esteem and is only granted by means of application of the member, and is only granted to those who were honorable discharged from military service from WWI to the present.

It is no mere coincidence that the need for this award came to the attention of the SCV. Considering the source of Confederate Veterans who served honorably during the great struggle for independence, it stands to reason that the bloodline of those warriors should produce proud honorable soldiers worthy of recognition with Confederate ancestry.

Of the medals presented by the SCV, the War Service Medal has the unique traits of evoking pride on the part of the presenter as well as the recipient, in that it recognizes the service to country by the member, and perpetuates the honor of the member's Confederate heritage as well.

The John H. Reagan Camp # 2156 is honored and privileged to count many veterans among its rolls, and honors its 1<sup>st</sup> recipient with great pride, dignity, and celebration.

**Forrest E. Bradberry**, Sergeant,  
United States Army Air Force,  
World War II.

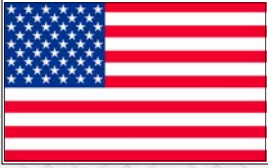
Confederate Ancestors

Corporal Jesse B. Daniels,  
Co I, 29<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry

Corporal William Postell Ziegler,  
Co A, 39<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry

War Service Medal Presented  
Saturday, March 13, 2010  
Commander Marc Robinson

We wish to gratefully acknowledge Dollye Jeffus of the Reagan-Davis Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy for so graciously donating the funds necessary to acquire this medal.



## SCV WAR SERVICE MEDAL

### Biography of Forrest E. Bradberry, Sr.

By Forrest E. Bradberry, Jr.



March 13, 2010

Forrest E. Bradberry was born Oct 21, 1921 in Palestine, Texas to Jordon Dodd and Lela Postell Daniels Bradberry. He grew up a typical small East Texas town boy with his three brothers, JW, Emmett and Howard and his sister Annie. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and all the typical young boy's activities. He often went with his father to deliver ice in the summer and cord wood in the winter.

He attended Palestine Schools, the original Alamo School over on West Reagan long ago torn down. In High School he was active in sports and while there, met a young lady by the name of Evenell Curd who attended St Mary's Academy and as with most young people growing up in the 40's, the future looked bright and full of promises regardless of how the situation in the rest of the world reflected unrest and aggressive actions by the future Axis powers of Germany, Japan and Italy.

After attending services at the First Christian Church on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, Brad and Evenell had taken a short drive to Wagoner's Drug Store on the corner of West Main and Howard. Parked outside of Wagoner's in his Model A Ford and enjoying a soda while listening to the radio when the announcement of the bombing of Pearl Harbor came over the airwaves and changed the lives of every American alive in an instant.

A few days later, Dad enlisted here in Palestine. On January 7, 1942, he traveled by bus to Houston where the next day, he was inducted into the United States Army Air Forces. He first went to Sheppard Field in Wichita Falls for basic training and upon completion he came home for 2 weeks before reporting to Bear Field in Fort Wayne Indiana to await school assignment.

While at Bear Field, he was with the Military Police and after almost a year, he was able to come home on leave and on January 4<sup>th</sup> 1943, he and Evenell were married at her mother's house in the little

rock house, still standing, on the East side of Crockett Road across from the old surplus store. Her maid of honor was our own Gary William's mother. Dad's best man was Jack Beard. Mr. Beard was later killed in action in the European Theatre of Operations (ETO).

The newlyweds returned by train to Fort Wayne. The train was, as to be expected, extremely overcrowded with military personnel and females were few and far between but Dad remembers that the soldiers and sailors would always give them their seats and a place to sit down together.

While at Fort Wayne, Evenell worked in the Headquarters of the Nabisco Company and it was not unusual for Dad to find that his duties as a Military Policeman would sometimes take him down town where, by chance, he was able to fill his pocket with free cookies.

Finally, he received orders to report to Keesler Field in Biloxi MS to attend mechanic's school. There, he trained on B-24 Liberator and B-26 Marauder bombers. Because of his aptitude and mechanical abilities, he was selected as a student instructor, a position he excelled in. They found a little place on Back Bay and enjoyed what little time they had together.

Following his training, Dad, once again, was tapped to return to Bear Field at Fort Wayne and he and Mom packed up and headed back up there. He was disappointed because he thought he was going to be stuck working on C-47 cargo planes rather than the bombers upon which he had been trained, but instead, he was again assigned to the Military Police. Little did he know that he was under consideration for training on one of the top secret weapons of the war and in no time, it seemed, he received orders for Salina KS and was advised his wife could not go with him and so they parted, not to be reunited for over two years. Mom returned to Palestine and he arrived at Salina where he was first introduced to

the planes he would serve until the end of the war. The Boeing B-29 Super Fortress.

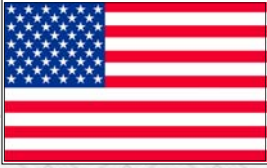
The B-29 was the largest and most advanced bomber of it's era and remaining in service from 1942 to 1960 in different variations and configurations from bomber to tanker and as early research platform for space and other government and civil projects, but it was it's role as bomber, ultimately dropping the bombs which would force Japan into surrender, which forever will be associated with this aircraft. Over 3,970 would ultimately be built and because of its size and bomb weight capacity it was designated as very heavy rather than heavy such as the famous B-17 used primarily in the ETO.

The B-29 project had been a top secret, high priority weapon during development. This continued during the training of the flight and mechanical crews. Everywhere personnel assigned to B-29 training, went on base, they were isolated. If they went to the theatre, dining hall, commissary or PX, they went in groups, escorted and separated from the "rank and file" and remained this way all through training.

Hurriedly rushed into production, the B-29 suffered from many mechanical problems with engine fires being a major problem. Most were ironed out and corrected: however, not completely and in early 1944, Dad was notified he would be going overseas to help fix these problems. And so on Feb 27; 1944 he departed from San Francisco, by ship. Dad remembers it was a huge ocean liner from the pre-war years and was possibly the Queen Mary.

They sailed a zigzag course to avoid Japanese submarines, with stops in Alaska, Hawaii (where he witnessed the destruction that was still visible from the Dec 7, 1941 attack), Australia, Bombay, and finally Calcutta, India arriving Apr 1, 1944 in the China, Burma, India Theater of Operations...

Assigned to the 793<sup>rd</sup> Bombing Squadron,  
(continued on page 5)



## SCV WAR SERVICE MEDAL

Presented to and in honor of  
Forrest E. Bradberry, Sr.



(continued from page 4)

468<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), 58<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing (VH), 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force. The 468<sup>th</sup> was known as the "Billy Mitchell Group" after the famous Air Force general which was an early proponent of the concept of air power. Leaving Calcutta, personnel traveled by truck to their base which had literally been carved out of the wilderness. It was from this base the planes would fly over the Himalayas, or as known to the airman that had to fly over these dangerous peaks, The Hump and then over Japanese held Burma, to their forward base in China. If the Indian base could be described as "bare bones" then the China base could only be called something that only resembled a skeleton of a base and lacking most of the basic necessities and had been built by hand by thousands of Chinese peasants.

From these forward bases, bombing operations against Japanese targets were flown and for every bombing run on these targets, aircrews would have to make up to 7 trips to stock up on bombs, gasoline and all the items necessary to carry out their mission. It was not unusual to spot the wreckage of a B-29 which had become lost in the mountain passes or by the blinding snow or fallen victim to the violent winds or Japanese anti-aircraft fire or aircraft out of Burma.

Dad's plane was called Lassie and made 29 bombing runs without an abort and as a result. The crew was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation and Meritorious Service Award...

As noted earlier, for every bomb run, there were the multiple resupply runs over the Hump and Burma. In preparation for their 30<sup>th</sup> mission to Sumatra, a friend of Dad's asked him if he would trade being that it was Dad's turn to fly the resupply missions and this friend wanted to go instead. They received approval.

After making several trips, the Lassie was returning from the forward Chinese base

and as it passed over Burma received anti-aircraft fire and the aircraft was heavily damaged but the pilot was able to make it back to India with several wounded crew members and one dead, the man that had swapped with Dad.

No longer flyable, Lassie became useful for obtaining parts. The replacement plane was named Lassie II by her crew and the 468<sup>th</sup> remained in India to Jan 1945 when they transferred to Tinian in the Marshall Islands and where they would remain until wars end participating in the air war against the main islands of Japan. They took part in mining operations, incendiary raids and high-altitude missions against strategic objectives.

When the war ended the 468<sup>th</sup> dropped food and supplies to Allied prisoners of war and participated in show-of-force missions over Japan.

Dad had enough points to come home. He left on Sept 29, 1945 flying from Tinian to Kwajalein and from there, a 10 hour trip to Hawaii. Not quite half way out, an engine caught fire and they had to return to Kwajalein. They finally arrived in the US on Oct 3 1945 at Mather Field California. Traveling down to Sheppard where he was discharged October 12, 1945. He traveled home by bus where his family met him at the Old Bus Station in down town Palestine.

Dad had gone overseas thinking he would be gone only 6 months, tops, to help work out the kinks in the engines of the B-29. He was overseas 1 year, 7 months and 7 days. He participated in the following campaigns: Air Offensive Japan, China Campaign, Eastern Mandates Campaign, Central Burma Campaign, India – Burma Campaign and Air Combat Palembang Sumatra.

He came back as a Sergeant earning the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal with 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Battle Star (which notes a total of 7 battle stars), Distinguished Unit Badge (3 oak leave), Presidential Unit Citation and Good Conduct Medal.

He returned home, as most of our veterans, trying to forget the war and get on and settle down to work, quietly raise a family and enjoy life. He has been active in the community and served as a Master Sgt in the Army Guard during the early 50's. He was active in scouting. He opened Brad's Grocery after the war, worked on the railroad, in the oil fields. He worked at L&L Shoe Store and owned the old Elk Theatre in Elkhart. He later became the Conoco Distributor and local dealer for the old Houston Post and then Chronicle. He owned Cooper Transfer and Moving Company and later he worked for TDCJ retiring from there in 1985.

During his life he and Mom found time to raise three children: my-self, my brother Bob and my sister Becky. Mom passed away in October 1996 following years working for the Railroad General Offices and Palestine Independent School District (PISD). Becky was a teacher for many years also with the PISD and passed on December 31, 2004. I retired from the Air Force in 1989 and Bob retired from the railroad just a few years ago.

We often hear the phrase The Greatest Generation when we talk of these men and women who sacrificed and contributed so much during this violent and terrible period to bring us the ultimate Victory in a world at war. I do not know anyone who would deny this title to them, which was so rightfully won and at such a horrendous price. Thus, it is with grateful acknowledgement of your service and with a deep heartfelt honor that I ask my Dad, who has always been my hero, to come up and be recognized by the John H. Reagan Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans for his sacrifice and service in the defense of this country during World War II.

Forrest E. Bradberry, Jr

Adjutant, John H. Reagan Camp #2156





**DAVIS-REAGAN  
CHAPTER #2292 UDC  
PRESENTS CONFEDERATE  
SECOND NATIONAL  
FLAG TO JOHN H.  
REAGAN CAMP #2156**

**Photo above—Mrs. Dollye Jeffus**, center, presents the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 with a silk Confederate Second National flag also known as the “Stainless Banner” on behalf of the Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 United Daughters of the Confederacy, Palestine, Texas. This flag was present to the camp at the March meeting. Also pictured is Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield, left, and Commander Marc Robinson, right. Mrs. Jeffus, stated, “The flag was presented to me at the grave marker dedication of Lt. Colonel Philpott in the city cemetery at Fairfield. Our chapter has no flag poles and we thought you all would enjoy it. It was made by Preston Furlow, and SCV member. He has a reputation for his Confederate flags. We want you all to have it and fly it proudly.” On behalf of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Commander Robinson, humbly accepted this honored gift.



**THE STAINLESS BANNER  
BY RONNIE HATFIELD, COPYRIGHT 1993**



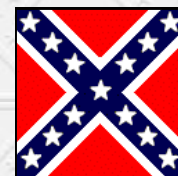
Unfurl the Stainless Banner, Southern breezes set it free,  
as I salute again, the veterans, who followed General Lee.

To the men who fought at Gettysburg, the Crater, and Bloody Lane,  
I bow my head in reverence, and recite again their names.

May they never be forgotten, their heroic deeds be told,  
although their blood on sacred fields, is generations old.

This flag is my reminder, their honor to defend,  
as once again I watch it rise, and dance upon the wind.

And heritage, not hatred, is what she means to me,  
when I unfurl The Stainless Banner, and Southern breezes set it free!



The Confederate Second National Flag  
“The Stainless Banner”

## BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR CONFEDERATE ANCESTORS

### Biography of Private William Austin Collier 2nd Company B, 6th Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers

By Calvin Nicholson

William Austin (W. A.) Collier was born October 12, 1845 in Fort Mill, South Carolina. He enlisted in the Confederate Army October 14, 1863 in York District South Carolina, and was placed in 2nd Company B, 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers also known as the Catawba Guards. He was eighteen years of age. A Private throughout his time of service he saw enough fighting to be wounded twice, once at Campbell's Station, Tennessee 1863 and at the siege of Petersburg in 1864 but was around to surrender under Lee at Appomattox Court House in 1865.

Arriving too late for the Battle of Chickamauga, the 6<sup>th</sup> South Carolina took up position on Lookout Mountain in preparation of the siege of Chattanooga, Tennessee, where the Federal Army under General George Thomas had retreated. When Federal troops captured Brown's Ferry making it easier to get supplies it was decided by General Bragg to attack the rear guard of a supply train moving through the Lookout Valley and the 6<sup>th</sup> South Carolina and the Palmetto Sharpshooters were selected for the job, this night battle became known as the Battle of Wauhatchie Station.

In November of 1863 Longstreet was ordered by General Bragg to capture Knoxville, Tennessee that Federal General Ambrose Burnside also wished to occupy. After arriving in Sweetwater, Hood's division under General Micah Jenkins and Jenkins Brigade including the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and the Palmetto Sharpshooters of South Carolina effected a river crossing of the Tennessee River and once over got into a running fight with Burnside's federals as

they fell back along the north bank of the river toward Knoxville about thirty miles away. The confederates pursued the federals to Lenoir's Station where night overtook them. The next morning Jenkins advanced only to find the federals gone and the pursuit continued to Campbell's Station where the federals fought a delaying action and retreated. In the scattered confused fighting W. A. Collier caught a shell fragment in the neck. He was sent to Hospital No. 1 in Richmond from which he was furloughed home to recover. While there the shell fragment was removed (on the kitchen table, according to family history) by his future wife, Mary Lou Mitchell. Collier missed some time recovering but returned in time to fight in the trenches of Petersburg.

On September 30, 1864 the 6<sup>th</sup> (Collier's brigade) was part of an operation to recapture Fort Harrison on the Petersburg line. The assault was planned for September 29<sup>th</sup> but was postponed till September 30. Due to a piece meal assault the fort was not recaptured. In the confused fighting that ensued Collier received his second wound of the war as the 6<sup>th</sup> was caught in a crossfire from the fort. This time he was in Jackson Hospital in Richmond Virginia. Collier was back on duty February of 1865 and served until the confederate withdrawal from Richmond. He surrendered with the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. From Appomattox he and twelve other men walked home. They spent nights at various farms along the way. Farmers gave them food such as they had. One farmer had a big patch of turnip greens. He gave them all they could eat and threw in the salt jowl for seasoning and the wash pot in which to cook them. The soldiers ate heartily as it was the only food they had had in some days. Afterward Great Grandpa remarked that he never was real fond of greens and hardly ever ate them



The Bonnie Blue Flag

after that.

Great Grandpa's favorite story of the war was that one time during the heat of battle, a pig strayed up through the lines into a Georgia company, a ruckus ensued as the Georgia boys tried in vain to catch the pig before he cleared their lines. It wasn't quite so lucky when it invaded the South Carolina lines. Mr. Pig was thrown and trussed in short order and after the fight was over, cleaned, cooked and then divided with the Georgia boys that had let him get away. After the war W. A. and Mary Lou were married January 3, 1876 at Fort Mill, South Carolina and lived there till late 1881 when they moved to Texas. They arrived in November of 1881 and farmed the Field's farm 1882-1884. They then moved to the Cooper farm 1885 and back to the Field's farm in 1886 before settling their home place in 1887.

Years after the war, Billy as he was now called got a pension. He saved all of this and made a return trip to South Carolina for a soldier's reunion. The shell fragment removed from his neck is a treasured memento of the Collier family to this day. Every year in Palestine on the fourth Sunday of September W. A. Collier is remembered at the W.A. Collier Reunion which has been held without fail except for WW I and WW II years. It was held after 911 and after our recent hurricanes when only two people showed up, I know because I was one of them.

Editors note: Calvin Nicholson is the 1st Lt. Commander of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans





**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156  
MARCH MEETING  
MUSEUM FOR EAST TEXAS CULTURE, PALESTINE**



**Photo to left**—Guest Speaker for our March meeting, **Rick Williams**, past Lt. Cmdr.—2 yrs. and past Commander—2 yrs. Walter P. Lane Camp #1455, Longview, Texas. Rick presented a program on the Battle of Port Hudson, which was fought simultaneously with Vicksburg. Rich stated, “only, the rebs down there were out numbered approximately 7,000 to 35,000 and never quit fighting until the river was lost upstream.” Rick’s Great Grandfather was in this battle and others including the Battle of Mansfield. Mr. Williams presented an extremely good program in which everyone thoroughly enjoyed!

**Photo on Right**—Guest, **Brice McDonald**, left, and Reagan Camp member Rod Skelton, right, show the original bayonet used by Cpl. Francis M. Freeman, Co. C 24th Texas Cavalry C.S.A. to the members and guests at the Reagan Camp meeting on March 13. Cpl. Freeman was Mr. McDonald’s Great Grandfather.



**Photo on Left:** Close up view of Mr. Brice McDonald’s Confederate bayonet passed down to him from Cpl. Francis M. Freeman, his Great Grandfather.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 CONF. MARKER DEDICATION FOR PVT. D. T. DAVIS PILGRIM CEMETERY, ELKHART, TEXAS



### Confederate Marker Dedication Ceremony for Pvt. D. T. Davis March 21, 2010 by Marc Robinson

The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Sons of Confederate Veterans of Palestine honored Private D. T. Davis, Company I, 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry Regiment, CSA, Sunday afternoon in a military grave marker dedication ceremony that included, cannon and musket salutes from Confederate soldier re-enactors.

The Reagan Camp was assisted in this ceremony by the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp #1012 of Teague, the Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 United Daughters of the Confederacy of Palestine, the J. L. Halbert Camp #359 of Corsicana, and the Ladies of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156.

The ceremony was held on the beautiful grounds of the Pilgrim Cemetery, approximately 1.5 miles SW of Elkhart, Texas on FM 861. The graveyard adjoins the Old Pilgrim Church, the oldest protestant church in Texas, established in 1833. Before the ceremony began, ladies served coffee and gingerbread by a log fire in the Old Pilgrim Church building which was appreciated by all.

It was a cold day, snowing all morning just prior to the ceremony. Sergeant Hatfield set the tone for all of us prior to the ceremony as he gathered the Confederate soldier re-enactors together and spoke the following words to them, "As we gather here today I am so proud of each one of you who could attend. It is cold, it's snowing, and we're all pretty miserable I'm sure. To put things in perspective, I am reminded of the 1st Texas Infantry Regiment, spending its first winter of 1861-'62 in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

The records and firsthand accounts of that winter say the suffering those boys endured was horrible. They lost about 100 men due to disease, exposure, etc.," Hatfield said. "The official records of that first winter show that many of those Texans had no blankets or shoes to ward off the harshest winter many of them had ever experienced. One account from a soldier of Co. H said he remembered" It being real easy to track your way to a picket post in the snow, just by following the bloody, bare footprints of some poor soul who hadn't owned shoes in probably six months...

With that in mind, whatever we will endure for the next hour or so is nothing. Thanks for your dedication to what we do, and for being here to share this opportunity..."

Hatfield served as the event coordinator and gave the opening remarks.

The United States flag, Texas flag, and a Confederate battle flag were posted by the Reagan Camp color guard. All 13 Confederate soldier re-enactors marched into the ceremony area with the color guard.

The invocation and benediction was offered by Calvin Nicholson, Lt. Commander of the Reagan Camp.

Pledges to the United States and Texas flag and the salute to the Confederate flag were led by Marc Robinson, Commander of the John H. Reagan Camp. Kirby McCord, of the John H. Reagan Camp read the charge given to the SCV by Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, at New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 25, 1906.

A biography written by Keith Meredith, great-great grandson of Pvt. Davis, was read by Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield as follows:

D.T Davis was born on January 14, 1845. With the outbreak of the war in 1861, he and roughly 1000 others from Anderson County accepted the duty to serve, and in October he joined a newly formed Cavalry company in Palestine, at the age of "18," under the command of Capt. James W. Gardiner, known as the "Anderson County Buckhunters" or "Texas Buckhunters".

He and the other new recruits from Palestine made the 300 mile trip to San Antonio, and upon arrival, were officially mustered into Confederate Service on November 1, 1861, for the "Duration of the war." They became Company I, of the Seventh Texas Cavalry.

He and his unit fought in the battles of Glorieta, Socorro, Ft. Craig, Mesilla, and Val Verde, in the New Mexico territory, and was under the jurisdiction of the Army of New Mexico. In October 1862, they were ordered back to Texas, where 3 of the 4 regiments which had made up the Army of New Mexico formed a new brigade at Hempstead Texas. The 7th was assigned to Green's and Harde-

man's Brigade in the Trans-Mississippi Department commanded by Lt. General Edmund Kirby Smith and Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor.

D. T. then participated in the recapture of Galveston on January 1, 1863. He was listed as being slightly wounded at Donaldsonville, Louisiana on June 28, 1863. Later in the war in April of 1864, he fought in the Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. His unit reported 6 killed, 35 wounded, and 34 missing at Cox's Plantation, and 2 wounded at Bayou Bourbeau, and was included in the surrender on June 2, 1865.

Making his way back to east Texas, he married Patsey Parker and lived in Elkhart, Texas until his death on May 16, 1902. She later filed for, and was granted, a Confederate pension #14521, copies of which are available from the state archives in Austin.

After the biography was read, the color guard marched to the flag draped marker where they militarily unveiled the marker and folded the Confederate flag. Sergeant Hatfield, taking the flag from the color guard, marched over and presented the flag to the eldest descendant present at the ceremony which was Mr. Jack P. Meredith of Teague, great grandson of D.T. Davis. Hatfield stated to Mr. Meredith, "On behalf of President Jefferson Davis, and a grateful nation, I present you with a token of appreciation." Handing Mr. Meredith the flag, he saluted the flag then held by the descendant before returning to his post.

A wreath was laid and the Confederate marker dedicated by the Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 UDC by Mrs. Dollye Jeffus of Palestine. Deborah Robinson of the Ladies of the John H. Reagan Camp, escorted by a soldier, and wearing an 1860 period dress placed red roses on the grave of Pvt. Davis.

A three round rifle and cannon salute was given by the Reagan Camp Honor Guard and the Val Verde Artillery Battery of the Reagan, Johnson-Sayers-Nettles, and the J. L. Halbert Camps.

The colors were retired.

After receiving the benediction, Dixie was sung to close the ceremony.

(Photos appear on the following 2 pages)





**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156  
CONF. MARKER DEDICATION FOR PVT. D. T. DAVIS  
PILGRIM CEMETERY, ELKHART, TEXAS**



Photo Left: Re-enactors standing behind the recently dedicated Confederate military service marker for D. T. Davis is from left to right: Keil Meredith, Calvin Nicholson, Deborah Robinson, Commander Marc Robinson of the Reagan Camp #1012, Ronnie Hatfield, Billy Newsom, John Barnhart, Stephanie Ford, Johnny McVey, Bradley Ford, kneeling is Commander Stanley Black of the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp #1012 and Commander Ronnie Matthews of the Halbert Camp #359, Dan Dyer, Billy Ford, and Kirby McCord.



Photo Left: Reagan Color guard along with all of the Confederate soldier re-enactors march into the ceremony area of the Pilgrim Cemetery.



Photo Right: D.T. Davis and his wife Patsey Parker Davis, both are buried in the Pilgrim Cemetery, near Elkhart, Texas.



Photo above left: Pvt. Davis's Confederate Military Grave Marker that was dedicated on March 21, 2010. Note Southern Cross of honor emblem at top.



Photo Left: Mr. Jack P. Meredith of Teague, Texas, accepting the Confederate Battle flag after the unveiling of the military grave marker for his Great Grandfather, Pvt. D.T. Davis, from Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156. Mr. Meredith was accompanied by his son, Keith Meredith, and grandson, Keil Meredith (Keil is a member of the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp #1012 and reenacts with the Val Verde Battery).





# JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 CONF. MARKER DEDICATION FOR PVT. D. T. DAVIS PILGRIM CEMETERY, ELKHART, TEXAS



Photo above: Reagan Camp Honor Guard firing their rifles. L-R, Dan Dyer, John Barnhart, and Johnny McVey



Photo above: Val Verde Battery prepares to fire the cannon. L-R, Bradley Ford, Kirby McCord, Stanley Black, and Keil Meredith



Photo Left: Dollye Jeffus of the Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 lays the UDC wreath while Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield looks on.



Photo Right: D.T. Davis descendants. L-R, Keith Meredith, gg grandson, Keil Meredith, ggg grandson, and Jack P. Meredith, great grandson.



Photo Left: Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield and Commander Marc Robinson furling the Confederate battle flag during the retiring of the colors portion of the ceremony.

Right: Reagan Camp programs and donation table







## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 PARTICIPATED IN THE CAMP FORD LIVING HISTORY MARCH 27-28, TYLER, TEXAS



Photo above: Reagan Camp member, Rudy Ray, was set up at a booth promoting the SCV Mechanized Cavalry. Any SCV member is allowed to join this group.



Photo above: Val Verde Battery prepares to fire the cannon. L-R, Stephanie Ford, Johnny McVey-Reagan Camp, Bradley Ford-Halbert Camp, Ronnie Matthews-Halbert Camp, Calvin Nicholson-Reagan Camp, and Don Babbs-Wells Camp



Photo Left: L-R, Douglas Camp SCV member explains to folks about the Flag retirement ceremony held on Saturday at 3:00 PM.

The Captain James P. Douglas Camp #124, Tyler, Texas, hosts the Camp Ford Living History annually.

Photo Right: Camp Ford prisoner of war compound historical marker. Enlarge and read the story.



Photo Left: R-L, Deborah Robinson, wife of Reagan Camp's Cmdr. and their daughter Caraline, study this nice lady's exhibit of 1860 period children's toys.

Right: Information sign explains that the running spring was reason for low death rate at Camp Ford. One of many kiosk in park.

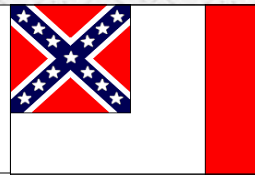




## ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

April

by Kirby McCord



**April 1, 1865:** Union Generals Philip Sheridan and Gouverneur Warren converge on Confederate General George Pickett's encircled troops at Five Forks, Virginia. Less than half of Pickett's men escape the pincer movement. The next day, the entire Petersburg line is shattered in a massive Union assault launched by U.S. Grant. R.E. Lee begins his retreat toward Appomattox, while Union troops enter Richmond.

**April 2, 1863:** In Richmond, Virginia, a mob of hungry citizens demanding bread from a bakery wagon evolves into a full-scale "bread riot." President Jefferson Davis courageously faces down the angry crowd, telling them, "We do not desire to injure anyone, but this lawlessness must stop. I will give you five minutes to disperse; otherwise, you will be fired upon." The crowd responds favorably and no blood is shed.

**April 6, 1862:** General Albert S. Johnston's Confederate Army launches a surprise attack on General U.S. Grant's Federal Army at Pittsburgh Landing (Shiloh), Tennessee. While wildly successful initially, the Confederate assault breaks down due to the rough terrain, the lack of experience of their troops, a spirited Union defense at the Hornet's Nest, and the death of General Johnston himself. Reinforced the next day by over 23,000 fresh troops, Grant retakes the lost ground but is unable to pursue the retreating Confederates. The world is stunned at the high casualties: Union losses are 13,047 out of 63,000 engaged, Confederate losses are almost as high: 10,694 out of 47,000 engaged.

**April 7, 1863:** Federal naval forces, attempting to close the vital Southern port of Charleston, South Carolina, attack. Confederate fire from Forts Sumter and Moultrie severely damage five Federal warships and sink one other in repulsing the assault.

**April 8, 1864:** Union General Nathaniel P. Banks' advance up the Red River is completely stymied by Confederate General Richard Taylor's devastating attack at Mansfield, Louisiana. The Northerner's are completely routed, losing more than 2,200 out of 12,000 men engaged in battle. Southern losses are also high: 1,000 out of 8,800 engaged.

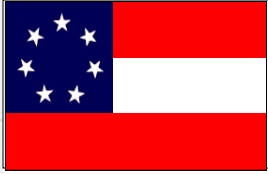
**April 9, 1864:** Flushed with the previous day's success, Taylor attacks what he believes is Banks' demoralized force at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. His assault is repelled with heavy losses and his hope of annihilating the Union forces evaporates. Banks, for his part, is thoroughly rattled, and although he outnumbered his opponent by more than two to one, retreats down the Red River.

**April 9, 1865:** Wilbur McLean had fled his home in Manassas, northern Virginia following its destruction in the first Battle of Bull Run. He had settled in rural western Virginia at peaceful Appomattox Courthouse. Today, his parlor is the scene of General Robert E. Lee's surrender to General U.S. Grant. Lee's magnificent Army of Northern Virginia, decimated by disease, malnutrition, and casualties, unreinforced and unsupplied, has shrunk to a mere 26,000 men. Grant magnanimously offers to immediately begin feeding Lee's army and accepts Lee's suggestion that his men keep their sidearms and mounts. Lee's men, led by General John B. Gordon, officially surrender their arms three days later; they are saluted by Union General Joshua L. Chamberlain as they proudly stack their arms one last time. As for Wilbur McLean, it is still said of him that the war began on his front lawn and ended in his parlor.

**April 12, 1861:** The War Between the States begins in Charleston, South Carolina, when the bombardment of Fort Sumter begins at 4:30 in the morning. The previous day, Captain Stephen Dill Lee had delivered General P.G.T. Beauregard's demand for surrender to US Major Robert Anderson. Anderson had responded that he would capitulate at midnight, April 15, unless he had received reinforcements or new orders by then. With a relief force in sight, Beauregard commences firing. After thirty-four hours and 40,000 artillery shells have been fired, Anderson surrenders. Neither side suffers any fatalities.

**April 12, 1862:** Northern spy James Andrews and 21 others seize the Confederate locomotive *General*. Confederate soldiers pursue in the locomotive *Texas*, ultimately capturing them. Andrews and seven others are executed for espionage.

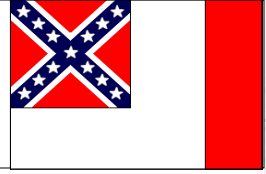




## ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

April

by Kirby McCord



**April 12, 1864:** Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest attacks Union Fort Pillow, Tennessee. Of the 557 Union troops, 231 are killed, 100 wounded, and the rest captured. The real story is that the Federal garrison contained more than 200 black troops, only 58 of whom survived, raising questions of an intentional massacre of blacks.

**April 14, 1865:** In a Byzantine plot of uncertain origins, famous actor John Wilkes Booth shoots President Abraham Lincoln while the latter watches the play *Our American Cousin* in Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. After firing the single shot into Lincoln's skull, Booth stabs Lincoln's companion and leaps from the private box to the stage, shouting, "*Sic semper tyrannus!*" ("Thus always to tyrants!" which happens to be Virginia's state motto and is spoken by the character Brutus in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* in a role played by Booth). Simultaneously, Booth's co-conspirator George Atzerodt, assigned the task of assassinating Vice President Andrew Johnson, loses his nerve and skulks away; the behemoth Lewis Powell (aka Payne) attempts to stab Secretary of State William Seward while Seward lies bedridden recovering from a carriage accident, but is defeated by a metal brace and three strong men. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, who has eulogized Lincoln with the words, "Now he belongs to the ages," declares martial law. In the assassination hysteria that follows, Booth refuses to be taken alive and is shot and killed at the Garrett Farm in Virginia, and four accomplices are executed, including the widow who owned the boarding house where Booth resided. Even Dr. Samuel Mudd, a physician who merely repairs Booth's broken leg, unaware of Booth's actions, is convicted of conspiracy.

**April 17, 1861:** In response to President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to quell the rebellion in South Carolina, delegates from non-seceding states meet in Baltimore, Maryland. Missouri and Tennessee angrily refuse to comply with Lincoln's demand for troops, and Virginia goes one step further: the State Convention in Richmond passes a secession ordinance 88-55 allying herself with her Southern brethren. Virginia's citizenry will ratify the ordinance on May 23: 97,000 to 32,000. Arkansas Governor H.M. Rector supports Tennessee's and Missouri's stance and refuses to send troops to assist the Union.

**April 17, 1864:** Lieutenant General U.S. Grant, now in charge of all US troops, in an attempt to exacerbate the Southern manpower shortage, declares that there will be no more prisoner exchanges with the South. At this time, the North holds 146,634 Southern prisoners.

**April 19, 1861:** The 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts marches through Baltimore, Maryland toward Washington, D.C. Rioters carrying Confederate flags block their passage. In the ensuing melee, nine civilians and four soldiers are killed.

**April 20, 1861:** Deeply conflicted, Robert E. Lee resigns his commission with the Federal army.

**April 26, 1865:** Union General William T. Sherman accepts the surrender of Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston in North Carolina. This follows an aborted surrender on April 18, in which Sherman granted amnesty to all Southerners, a term rejected by authorities in Washington, D.C.

**April 28, 1865:** 50,000 citizens view President Lincoln's body as his funeral train reaches Cleveland, Ohio.

**April 29, 1861:** The State Legislature of Maryland defeats an ordinance of secession by a vote of 53-13. Some wag that the legislators feared for their freedom, as President Lincoln had suspended the writ of habeas corpus in the State of Maryland only two days earlier.

**April 30, 1864:** President Jefferson Davis's son Joe dies in a fall off the Confederate White House balcony in Richmond, Virginia.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2156

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[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://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