



# SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

## THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

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

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

MAY 2010

### COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

#### Compatriots,

I hope everyone has enjoyed Confederate History Month as much as I have. Our camp has been very active during the month of April and I appreciate each and every one of you for your efforts in honoring our beloved Confederate soldiers.

I was extremely moved at the April 10th dedication of a monument at Mansfield State Park to honor all of the units from Louisiana who fought at the Battle of Mansfield. The ceremony was awesome to say the least. I wrote more about the ceremony and included photos on pages 9-10. The State of Texas erected a monument at this same location in 1964, the centennial of the battle, honoring the Texas troops who fought at the Battle of Mansfield, but Louisiana did not have a monument for their troops until now.

We had several camp members and associate members, including myself, present to re-enact as the Val Verde Battery on April 10 at the Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. The real Val Verde Battery was actually in the battle of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill April 8 and 9, 1864 respectively. Thank you to Reagan Camp members Calvin Nicholson, Dan Dyer, Kirby McCord, and Tom James for their part in a great re-enactment! Thanks also goes to Deborah Robinson and Donna McCord for dressing out in 1860 period dresses for the event and Mrs. Billie Dyer and her family for being there to support our efforts.

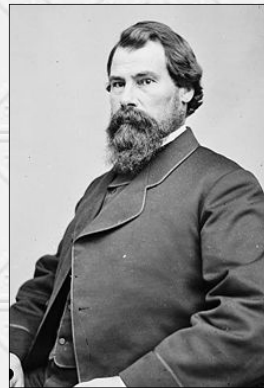
On April 24th Reagan Camp Sgt. Ronnie Hatfield was the emcee at the annual Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 UDC Confederate Memorial Day ceremony. The Reagan Camp, Cross of St. Andrews Camp, and the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp and the Ladies of those camps assisted the UDC in this ceremony with color guard, rifle squad, artillery battery,

and the placing of roses. I appreciate all those who took part and attended the ceremony and the UDC Ladies for a very nice covered dish meal afterwards! The ceremony was held at the historic East Hill Cemetery, Palestine, Texas. We also acquired and dedicated Confederate Military grave markers for Pvt. Charles Copeland and Pvt. William Love. The tribute read by Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield during the Confederate memorial day ceremony is still in my mind. These words are inscribed on the North side of the Confederate memorial monument at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia:

Not for fame or reward:  
Not for place or rank:  
Not lured by ambition,  
Or goaded by necessity;  
But in simple  
Obedience to duty.  
As they understood it,  
These men suffered all,  
Sacrificed all,  
Dared all — and died.

On April 27th, Reagan Camp Lt. Commander Calvin Nicholson organized a Civil War History education program for Ms. Daniel's history students from the Cayuga Middle School in Anderson County. The program was held at the Gus Engeling Wildlife refuge conference center near the Cayuga school. In addition to a great program and many questions answered, SCV members demonstrated the firing of replica pistols, muskets, and cannon. We appreciate Lt. Nicholson for his efforts for the second year in a row with Cayuga middle school and we appreciate Kirby McCord and Stanley Black of the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp for assisting. I might add that I was there too and enjoyed it very much. Please see page 4 for more details of this school program.

During the month of April several



**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

Reagan Camp members on the education committee which includes Chairman Ronnie Hatfield, Calvin Nicholson, Dan Dyer, Kirby McCord, Rod Skelton, Rudy Ray, and myself have been preparing for the May 14th school program we will be holding at the Museum for East Texas Culture. I wrote about this in my previous month's dispatch. I have no doubt that our Confederate ancestors would appreciate our efforts in putting together these school programs to educate the youth about their history. If you would like to participate, please contact Sgt. Ronnie Hatfield.

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

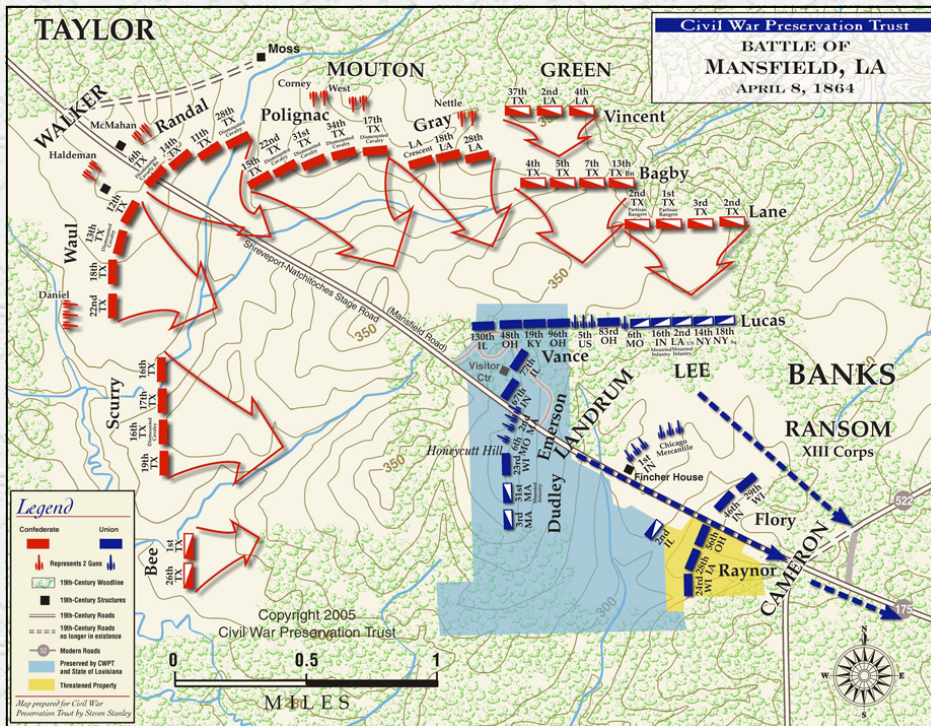
Turn north on N. Sycamore St. off of  
Spring St. (Hwy 19, 84, & 287) (across  
from UP train station) travel three  
blocks, turn right on Crawford St., go  
one block Church is on left

Guests are welcome!  
Bring the family.

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CAMP EVENTS AND NEW MEMBERS	2
CONF. VETERAN SERVES IN WWI	3
CONFEDERATE PRAYER—HATFIELD	3
CAYUGA MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM	4
CONFEDERATE ME- MORIAL DAY CERE- MONY	5-7
CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE	8
MON. DEDICATION LA UNITS AT BAT- TLE OF MANSFIELD	9-10
BATTLE OF PLEAS- ANT HILL RE-ENACT	11
DID SLAVERY CAUSE THE WAR? BY KIRBY MCCORD	12-15
MEMBERSHIP/ CONTACT INFO	16



Map from the Civil War Preservation Trust, a great organization dedicated to preserving these historic battle grounds. The Val Verde battery is identified as "Nettle" as in Capt. T.D. Nettles (Enlarge screen for best view.)



Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor Battle Flag

"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



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

**Program:** Muddy Waters, yes that is his name, is an SCV member of the James P. Douglas Camp #124, Tyler, Texas and a re-enactor for 10 to 12 years portrays a sharpshooter for the 1st Texas Infantry, CSA. Muddy is quite and interesting and unique individual that everyone loves and appreciates. He lives in Whitehouse, Texas where he is a stone mason. Muddy has been collecting firearms, as he states, "since I was a kid". He has done programs for schools, SCV camps, Boy Scouts, church groups and of course the general public for

years. We look forward to his program in May.

**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.

**May 23, 02:00 PM, UDC Medallion Dedication** for deceased and beloved Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 member **Mrs. Billie Averitte**, buried at Rose Lawn Cemetery, Palestine, Texas.

**June 5, Dyer Garage Sale** at the home of Dan and Billie Dyer. All proceeds will be donated to the John H. Reagan Camp #2156. Please contact Dan about contributing items for the garage sale and helping if possible.

**June 5-6, Texas Division Reunion**, the Doubletree Hotel at the corner of Campbell and Cental Expressway (Highway 75), Richardson, Texas

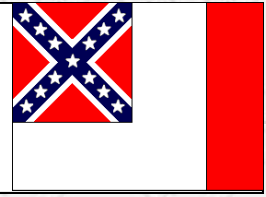
NOTHING FILLS ME WITH DEEPER SADNESS THAN TO SEE A SOUTHERN MAN APOLOGIZING FOR THE DEFENSE WE MADE OF OUR INHERITANCE. OUR CAUSE WAS SO JUST, SO SACRED, THAT HAD I KNOWN ALL THAT HAS COME TO PASS, HAD I KNOWN WHAT WAS TO BE INFLICTED UPON ME, ALL THAT MY COUNTRY WAS TO SUFFER, ALL THAT OUR POSTERITY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

-PRESEDENT  
JEFFERSON DAVIS-





## CONFEDERATE VETERAN SERVES IN WORLD WAR I BY FRANCIS DEVEREUX POLK, IV



It does seem very improbable that a captain in the CSA would volunteer for the United States Army in 1917. This is true and this is what happened between 1861 and 1917. William Mecklenburg Polk was a 17 year old cadet at Virginia Military Institute in April 1861. He and most of his classmates withdrew to defend their homeland. Cadet "Meck" followed his teacher Thomas Jackson to Richmond to enlist. He was in nine battles. One of these battles was the victory at Chickamauga and

his commanding officer was his father, Lieutenant-General Leonidas Polk. Meck survived the War and returned home to New Orleans to continue his education. He moved to New York City, graduated from medical school in 1869, and began a private practice. He later became Dean of Cornell Medical College. He held that position for 20 years. The United States entered the war in 1917. Doctor W.M. Polk volunteered to be an army physician. He was now 73 years old. The

army accepted him and gave him a commission of First Lieutenant. His "tour of duty" was probably limited to New York City. He wore the CSA uniform in 1865 and now 48 years later he was in uniform, again. He died one year later.

Editors note: Francis D. Polk, IV is the great-great-great grandson of General Leonidas Polk, CSA. See the January and March 2010 issues of our newsletter for more articles by Mr. Polk.



## BATTLE PRAYER BY RONNIE HATFIELD



Our most gracious Heavenly Father, we come to you today with gratitude for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us.

We thank you Lord, for the opportunity to come together as descendants of Confederate ancestors, wishing to acknowledge their sacrifices, and perpetuate the honor and glory of their deeds.

We thank you again Lord, for having the grace and wisdom to send our souls to Dixie Land, and for allowing us to grow and prosper with the love that we know you must share for our Southland.

We believe our intentions to be pure of heart Lord, and humbly beg that you instill in our hearts, the soul and spirit of those soldiers we so deeply admire and respect.

Give us courage Lord, to go forth from

this day and face with confidence, those who would denounce our heritage as profane. Courage to stand proudly as the veterans of old, where lesser men might shrink away.

Grant us also Lord, the fortitude, to withstand the onslaught of the uneducated. To take them prisoner Lord, and teach them truth, when it would be easier to retreat in the face of numerical superiority.

We humbly ask also Lord, that you give us wisdom. Wisdom to recognize those who are against us, as well as those who may be readily enlisted in the fight.

Wisdom Lord, to purvey to our children, who must carry on the fight when we ourselves are honored at the empty chair.

Finally Lord, we would ask you to forgive our enemies, and in so doing,

open their hearts and minds to truths long hidden by men who have dishonored the cause that our ancestors died for!

Wrap us in the armor of justice and honor Lord.

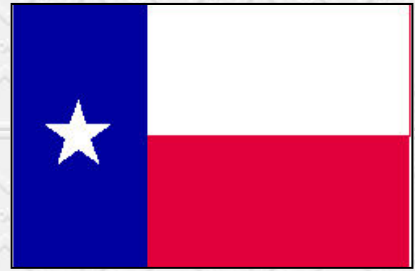
Grant us peace Lord, when once again, our ancestor's deeds are honored, and their symbols once again stand proudly for all to admire.

In your most holy and precious name Lord, we ask that these things be thy will.

AMEN

Editors note: The above prayer was offered by Ronnie Hatfield for the invocation at the Davis-Reagan UDC Confederate Memorial Ceremony held on April 24, 2010 at East Hill Cemetery in Palestine, Texas

## SCV LEADS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR CAYUGA MIDDLE SCHOOL, By Kirby McCord



Above—8th grade American History students of Ms. Alicia Daniel's Cayuga Middle School class crowd around a Civil War era 12 pounder mountain howitzer and uniformed crew while the "Richard Taylor" battle flag flutters overhead. In the background is the outstanding conference facility at the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area.

On Tuesday, April 27th, forty-six 8th grade American History Students from Cayuga Middle School attended a Civil War Living History Demonstration put on by the Sons of Confederate Veterans at the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area. The Wildlife Management Area, situated on U.S. 287 between Palestine and Cayuga, is an ideal location for such demonstrations, with outstanding facilities and professional and hospitable staff, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans proved themselves a superlative source for Living History Demonstrations, with period-correct uniforms and armaments and an unsurpassed bank of knowledge on the War Between the States.

Four members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, representing the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp in Fairfield and the John H. Reagan Camp in Palestine, provided educational information and hands-on demonstrations for the students of Ms. Alicia Daniel. The presentations ranged from whimsical (Civil War trivia) to tragic (horrendous casualty rates and rudimentary medical treatment), from scholarly (comparison of the characters of Robert E. Lee and Abraham Lincoln) to conversational (informal questions-and-answer sessions), and from day-to-day tedium (uniforms and accoutrements) to terrifying exhilaration (demonstrations of pistol, rifle, and cannon fire).

The dialogue and demonstrations apparently interested the young scholars, who posed some complex questions for the expert Living History Demonstrators, but the highlight of the presentation was undoubtedly the three cannon shots fired by the well-trained SCV gun crew. Imitating battle conditions, the soldiers "suffered" a casualty and were forced to recruit a replacement. Ms. Daniels bravely stepped in and, yanking on the lanyard like a veteran, fired the final shot.



Left top—Intrigued Cayuga History Students surround Calvin Nicholson of the John H. Reagan Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Palestine as he demonstrates how a Civil War era muzzle-loading musket is fired.



Left bottom—While her students look on, and with supervision from the uniformed Sons of Confederate Veterans, Cayuga M.S. History teacher Alicia Daniel pulls the lanyard to fire the Civil War era 12 pounder mountain howitzer





## DAVIS-REAGAN CHAPTER #2292 UDC CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY BY MARC ROBINSON



The Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 of the Daughters of the Confederacy of Palestine hosted a Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony during Confederate Heritage/History Month on April 24, 2010. The ceremony included the dedication of two military grave markers honoring Private Charles M. Copeland, Co. A, 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry Regiment, CSA, and Private William Wilson Love, Co. E. 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina Infantry Regiment, CSA.

The Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 UDC was assisted in this ceremony by three Sons of Confederate Veterans Camps that included the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 of Palestine, the Cross of Saint Andrews Camp #2009 of Alto, and the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp #1012 of Teague. The Ladies of these SCV Camps also helped in the ceremony by attending in period dresses and placing roses on the graves of the soldiers in which markers were dedicated. There were approximately 26 re-enactors and over 50 family and guests present.

A clear and pleasant spring morning set the stage for this ceremony held on the beautiful grounds of the historic East Hill Cemetery, Palestine, Texas located approximately 6 blocks east of the Anderson County Courthouse on East Lacy Street. In honor of the veterans and adding to the ceremony, a small Confederate battle flag was placed on the grave of each of the fifty-three Confederate Army Veterans buried in the East Hill section of the city cemetery by Reagan Camp Sergeant, Ronnie Hatfield the day before the ceremony.

Acting as the event coordinator was Ronnie Hatfield, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Reagan Camp who also offered a special prayer he wrote, titled, "Battle Prayer," for the invocation.

Giving opening remarks and welcoming everyone was Mrs. Jane Biddle, President of the Davis-Reagan Chapter UDC. The United States flag, Texas flag, First National Confederate flag, and a Confederate battle flag were posted by the Reagan Camp color guard.

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.

Tributes to the Confederate soldiers were read

by Ken McClure, Commander of the Cross of St. Andrews Camp and by Ronnie Hatfield, Sergeant of the John H. Reagan Camp.

A roll call of all fifty-three Confederate veterans buried in the East Hill section of the Palestine City Cemetery was called by Ronnie Hatfield. As Hatfield called the roll of veterans, a Confederate soldier re-enactor would answer for each veteran, "Present on the field of honor, Sir", until every name was called and answer returned.

A biography of Charles M. Copeland written by Eleanor Browder of Huntsville, Texas, great-grand daughter of Pvt. Copeland, and a biography of William Wilson Love written by John Robinson of Teague, Texas, cousin of Pvt. Love, was read by Marc Robinson.

After the biographies were read, the color guard marched to the flag draped markers one at a time where they were unveiled and the Confederate flag ceremonially folded. Sergeant Hatfield, taking the flag from the color guard, marched over and presented the flag to the eldest descendant of Pvt. Charles Copeland present at the ceremony which was Mr. Gene Copeland, Pvt. Copeland's great grandson. Mr. Gene Copeland who was raised near Elmwood in Anderson County has resided in McPherson, Kansas since the 1950's. Hatfield stated to Mr. Copeland, "On behalf of President Jefferson Davis, and a grateful nation, I present you with this token of appreciation."

John Robinson of Teague, Pvt. Love's cousin, was unable to attend due to a lengthy illness and no other descendants were able to attend either. When it came time to present the flag that was covering Pvt. Love's marker, Hatfield had noticed a fourteen year old young man who had been very attentive during the earlier part of the ceremony especially when reading Pvt. Love's biography as Pvt. Love had went into Confederate service before he turned fifteen years of age. Hatfield, who is known for his successful impromptu abilities, at this time marched to this young man followed by the Reagan Camp color guard and said to him, "On behalf of President Jefferson Davis and a grateful nation, and as Pvt. Wilson represented the youth of his generation, and as you are charged

to represent the youth of your generation, I present you with this token of respect and appreciation." "Keep this flag near and dear to your heart, and never forget what it stands for!" I must say that Jace Wilson, who I later found out lives in Anderson County and very much enjoys studying the history of the War Between the States, was a very appreciative and proud young man to have received Pvt. Love's flag.

The UDC wreath was laid by Mrs. Jane Biddle and the Confederate markers were dedicated by Mrs. Dollye Jeffus as she read the UDC tribute: "Nothing is ended until it is forgotten. That which is held in memory still endures and is real. We are grateful for the records of the past which bring inspiration and courage. We are appreciative of the lessons taught by Memorials to events and deeds of long ago. We pray that our lives may always be patterned to give such devotion and service as did our forefathers of this great Southland. We the members of the Davis-Reagan Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, now dedicate these markers in grateful recognition of the noble service of Pvt. William Wilson Love and Pvt. Charles Martin Copeland, Confederate Heroes." Ms. Jeffus continued, "May these markers be blessed. May they remind all who pause not only of the noble deeds of these Confederate Heroes but of the continuing need for unselfish service. From this moment of dedication, we trust there may come inspiration for broader vision and finer service."

At this time the Ladies of the John H. Reagan and the Cross of Saint Andrews Camps and other ladies present each escorted by a soldier, placed a red rose on the graves of Pvt. Copeland and Pvt. Love.

A three round rifle and cannon salute was given by the Reagan Camp and Cross of St. Andrew Rifle Squads and the Val Verde Artillery Battery of the Reagan and Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camps.

The colors were retired.

After receiving the benediction from Reagan Camp Chaplain, Ed Furman, all present joined in the singing of Dixie to conclude the ceremony.





## DAVIS-REAGAN CHAPTER #2292 UDC CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY EAST HILL CEMETERY, PALESTINE, TEXAS



Left—Reagan Camp members who participated in ceremony stand around the Confederate military marker dedicated for Pvt. Charles Martin Copeland, Co. A 17th Texas Infantry, CSA who is buried in the historic East Hill Cemetery. Standing from left to right: Ed Furman, Dan Dyer, Johnny McVey, Forrest Bradberry, Jr., Ronnie Hatfield, Gary Williams, John Barnhart. Kneeling from left to right: Marc Robinson, Kirby McCord, Josh Pullin, Frank Moore, Calvin Nicholson, Stanley Black—Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp, and Billy Newsom. Photo by Geri Lynn



Above—Reagan Camp and Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp's Val Verde Battery prepares to fire one of three salutes. From left to right: Kirby McCord, Calvin Nicholson, Stanley Black, Billy Newsom, and Marc Robinson. Photo by Geri Lynn Wright



Above: Mrs. Dollye Jeffus of the Davis-Reagan UDC, escorted by her son, John Barnhart, places a rose on the grave of Pvt. Charles Copeland. Photo by Geri Lynn Wright



Left—the Cross of St. Andrews Camp and Reagan Camp rifle squads team up for three volleys of rifle fire when saluting the 53 known Confederate veterans buried at East Hill Cemetery. Photo by Dorothy Bruce (Continued on following page)





## DAVIS-REAGAN CHAPTER #2292 UDC CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY EAST HILL CEMETERY, PALESTINE, TEXAS



Left—Mr. Gene Copeland, eldest son of the four Copeland siblings in attendance, proudly receives the Confederate battle flag that was covering Pvt. Charles Copeland's marker from Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156.  
Photo by Geri Lynn Wright



Left: Reagan Camp Color Guard folds flag covering Pvt. William Wilson Love's marker, photo by Geri Lynn Wright



Right two photos of the two markers dedicated at the Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony, Photo by Geri Lynn Wright



Photo on far left—Ronnie Hatfield reading roll call of all 53 known veterans buried in East Hill Cemetery.

Top left: Commander Ken McClure of the Cross of Saint Andrews Camp reading a tribute to the Confederate Soldiers.

Lower left: Mrs. Jane Biddle, president of the Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 UDC addresses the crowd

(Continued: Article that appeared in the Palestine Herald-Press on April 28th, 2010 on following page)



## WHAT IS TRUTH?

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



According to John 18: 37, when Jesus was brought before Pilate, He told him that He came into the world to "bear witness unto the truth." Then said, "Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. To this Pilate asked. "What is truth?" Then immediately walked out. He wasn't interested in hearing an answer. (Verse 38)

In the Gospel according to Matthew 24: 4, Jesus states, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Here, in what is known as the "Olivet Discourse," our Lord is warning us to be on guard against deception and deceivers. The Devil is the father of deception, just as God is the author of truth. In fact, the Bible tells us that the devil "is a liar, and the father of it" (Jn. 8: 44), and that God cannot lie. (see Tit. 1: 2 & Heb. 6: 18) It is amazing to me that so many people will reject the truth and except a lie just because it suits their purposes or interests.

The Scripture also states, "If God be for us, who can be against us." (Rom. 8: 31) So, is God for us? That is, the SCV and our Cause. We need only ask, who are the deceivers? Who has been lying about the War for Southern Independence? Who has been lying about our proud Southern heritage, our honorable forefathers, the Confederate Cause, and yes, even Christ and all things Christian?

In referring to the last days, the Apostle Paul writes, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." (2 Tim. 3: 13) We are certainly in those days. The two things that the liars and deceivers can't stand is the Cross of Christ and our honored Confederate Battle Flag. Why? Because they both represent the one thing they fear and the Devil hates. TRUTH!

All truth is God's Truth. If we stand for the truth,

then yes, God is for us, and there are none that can prevail against us. As he continues speaking of the last days, Apostle Paul writes, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." Then he tells us, "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Tim. 4: 3&4) So, what is truth? It is absolute truth that the Sons of Confederate Veterans cannot succeed in it's mission without the guidance, strength, and blessings of Almighty God. To think otherwise is to turn to fables.

It is also truth that all men are sinners bound for eternal destruction and in desperate need of Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. To believe that men can live and die without the saving grace of our Lord is the Devil's biggest lie, and the greatest fable of all.

May God in His love and mercy guide, strengthen, and bless the Sons of Confederate Veterans and each member as they seek to serve Him and our most worthy Confederate Cause.

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-





## LOUISIANA UNITS AT THE BATTLE OF MANSFIELD MONUMENT DEDICATION APRIL 10, 2010 AT MANSFIELD STATE PARK BY MARC ROBINSON



On April 10, 2010, a monument honoring the Louisiana Confederate Army Units who fought at the Battle of Mansfield April 8, 1864. Although more Texas troops fought on the Confederate side, many Louisiana troops, in which many were from the surrounding area, fought courageously. Lt. General Richard Taylor rode his horse out in front of the troops before the battle and said that since this was the soil of the Louisiana troops, he wanted them to have the honor of drawing first blood. General Mouton successfully led his Louisiana infantry right up the middle of the Union line right over the spot where this new monument is located, losing many men, including his own life. This battle was the last victory of the Confederate Army and was won with a much smaller force than that of the Union army.

Commander Bobby Herring of the Lt. Richard Taylor Camp #1308 SCV in Shreveport was instrumental in obtaining the Louisiana Units monument. I wrote to him and asked if he would send me a little information about their efforts in getting the monument. Commander Herring stated, "From the very beginning we were hopeful to get approval for the monument, but we really knew the odds were against us. The State of Louisiana is very opposed to the placement of new monuments on battlefields and has turned down all such requests in recent years. Somehow we slipped our proposal through and were given permission to go forward, so I immediately ordered the monument that day. Within a week the State came back and wanted us to make some changes. They wanted us to take the battleflag off of the monument and they wanted us to list any Union troops from Louisiana that may have fought at Mansfield. We told them that it was too late to make such changes and that we would have never agreed to those stipulations from the beginning, and they basically conceded."

Herring continued, "I have told our camp members that this was just 'meant to be'. First we miraculously got approval from the state. Then we were able to get the monument ordered just in time to coincide with the anniversary weekend of the battle. The monument stone did not arrive from Georgia until three days before the ceremony. The stone was then inscribed and was installed about 24 hours



before the ceremony. If it had rained the week of the ceremony we would have never been able to get the 3 ½ ton stone erected, and even though this was during the rainy season we had over a week of sunshine to dry everything out. We were just blessed that everything fell into place for us."

The very first person who spoke at the dedication ceremony was Steve Bounds who is a Park Ranger at the Battle Park, and he introduced the "Master of Ceremonies" who was Louisiana Division Commander Charles Lauret. Commander Lauret spoke briefly and then introduced the keynote speaker Dr. Gary Joiner. Dr. Joiner is a professor at LSU Shreveport and has written many books on the Red River Campaign, and the Battles of Mansfield & Pleasant Hill. Dr. Joiner was a very good speaker. He stated during his talk that "the ground we all stood on could not be more hallowed."

Commander Herring presented SCV Certificates of Appreciation to Mayor Curtis McCoy of Mansfield, and Mayor Katherine Freeman of Logansport, for their support in getting approval for the Monument.

Commander Porter Dowling of the James Beard Camp in Logansport read the "Charge", and then Commander Lauret introduced Commander in Chief Chuck McMichael who led in the dedication of the Monument. I might add that Commander McMichael was instrumental in the tears running down the face of many folks who

took part in the dedication as well as giving many of us chills including myself. He said that he could not dedicate such a monument by himself. He asked for a show of hands from the infantry unit if their ancestor had fought in a Louisiana unit at the Battle of Mansfield and asked that these men to take three steps forward then hold hands. They did this immediately with impressive military formation. He then asked all others present who had Louisiana Confederate ancestors who fought at Mansfield to hold hands and make a big circle beginning with the last soldier in the infantry line and ending with himself. This included a lot of folks. Commander McMichael then laid one hand on the monument and asked those holding hands to repeat after him. As the words he read in phrases and repeated by the descendants of these men honored by the monument were read, the tears and the chills were flowing. The dedication words these Confederate descendants read were powerful to say the least.

The ceremony ended with Vernon Love of the Marks Camp in Shreveport playing Amazing Grace on bagpipes and John Long of the Taylor Camp in Shreveport playing Taps on the bugle.

Dixie was sung. I have to say that I was extremely honored to have been there. (Continued on page 10)





## LOUISIANA UNITS AT THE BATTLE OF MANSFIELD MONUMENT DEDICATION APRIL 10, 2010 AT MANSFIELD STATE PARK PROVIDED BY MARC ROBINSON



Photo to left: Mayor Curtis W. McCoy of Mansfield, Louisiana, receives a certificate of appreciation from Commander Bobby G. Herring, Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor Camp #1308. Commander Herring stated that there were a lot of obstacles to overcome with the officials of the office of Louisiana State Parks before a monument could be erected. He went on to say that Mayor McCoy was extremely supportive of this monument for the Louisiana units being erected as those men were soldiers, as he had been a soldier, and deserved to be honored.

We owe all of these men and women a great deal of appreciation for their efforts in achieving this honor for the brave Confederate soldiers from Louisiana who fought at the Battle of Mansfield.

Photo by Billie Dyer



Photo right: The U.S. flag, State of Louisiana flag, and the flag of General Richard Taylor flying over Mansfield State Park and Museum near Mansfield, Louisiana. Photo by Billie Dyer



Photo above: from left to right—SCV Commander-in-Chief Chuck McMichael with members of the Val Verde Battery re-enactment unit which include Reagan Camp Commander Marc Robinson, Dan Dyer, Halbert Camp Commander Ronnie Matthews, Kirby McCord, Bradley Ford, Tom James, Brandon Ford, and Calvin Nicholson. Photo by Stephanie Ford



Photo left: The Trans-Mississippi Volunteer Infantry fire a three round salute at the monument dedication. These re-enactors were extremely well trained, very authentically dressed, and marched and moved with precision! Many of these soldiers were barefooted. Photo by Billie Dyer

Photo below: 4<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Artillery, Cameron's Battery, fires three salutes to the Confederate Soldiers at the monument dedication. They alternated rounds with the infantry. Photo by Billie Dyer







# **BATTLE OF PLEASANT HILL RE-ENACTMENT APRIL 10-11, 2010** **AT MANSFIELD STATE PARK** **PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE FORD**



Photo left: 12th Texas Artillery, Val Verde Battery Re-enactment group photo at the Battle of Pleasant Hill. Photo and re-enactment are on the actual battlefield. This re-enactment is held on the actual grounds where the battle took place about 20 miles south of Mansfield at the town of Pleasant Hill. Reagan Camp members represented in this group were Kirby McCord, Calvin Nicholson, Dan Dyer, Tom James, and Marc Robinson



Photo right : New Val Verde Battery Battle flag with Battle honors. The flag is a General Richard Taylor flag handmade by Stephanie Ford. The battle honors of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill are not on this flag due to the battery re-enacting at Pleasant Hill each year and it not looking realistic that those battle honors would already be on the flag at or before those battles. Photo Left: Val Verde Cannons near camp.



Photo top left: Val Verde Battery in action during re-enactment. Photo below left: Confederate infantry during re-enactment along with the Douglas Camp out of Tyler's flying artillery battery re-enacting for the Union at this event. Photo below right: Reagan Camp Lt. Calvin Nicholson wearing red kepis rolling charges for the Val Verde Battery prior to battle.





## WAS SLAVERY THE CAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR?

### ONE MAN'S OPINION

by  
Kirby McCord



In the wake of the firestorm over Virginia Governor McDonnell's proclamation of April as Confederate History month, I believe it is salient to discuss the principal criticism leveled at Governor McDonnell, namely, the fact that he initially ignored the matter of slavery. Many people, spurred on by the Civil Rights Movement and educated by revisionist history textbooks in the last thirty years, have concluded that slavery was THE cause of the War Between the States. These people look to the language contained in the Ordinances of Secession (Declarations of Independence) adopted by the various States, speeches of prominent Southerners, and the Confederate Constitution itself as what they deem absolute proof that the South was fighting for slavery. I disagree.

Before I proceed, let me say that I am opposed to slavery. No human should ever have the right to own another human being, nor should any human being be subjected to the degradation of being owned. The practice, no matter how scrupulously monitored, and no matter how benevolently exercised, is abhorrent to me. Thus, none of my statements below should be seen as a vindication or approval of slavery. My point here is merely to say that, in my humble opinion, slavery, while probably one of several underlying causes to the War Between the States, was not the sole or even the principal cause of the War.

In the first place, I believe there are other logical interpretations for the prominent mention of slavery in the Southern writings mentioned above, which I will outline briefly below. In the second place, a series of logical arguments exist for Southerners NOT to fight over slavery, some of which I will list later in this explanation. In the third place, nowhere do the proponents of the "slavery was the sole cause of the war" theory show how the Northerners (i.e., the Federal government) were fighting against slavery; they lay the entire onus of the war on the South's apparent love of slavery, ignoring the cause(s) that motivated the North. An analysis of such motivations reveals that Northerners were not fighting to free the slaves; they were fighting to preserve the Union. Simple logic reveals therefore, that even if the South was fighting for slavery (an idea I will contest below), while the North was not fighting to eradicate slavery—then slavery was not the sole cause of the war. Thus, if Party A wants X, and Party B wants Y, and Y is not the opposite of X, then we at the very least have TWO issues in contention, not one! Since North and South fought for different (and not opposing) reasons, at least two causes of the war exist.

An interesting bit of historical research is provided by Professor James McPherson, a noted Civil War Historian and no friend of the SCV. In his analysis of letters written home by more than 5,000 Union and Confederate soldiers, he discov-

ered that more than 6 in 10 Northern soldiers never even mentioned freeing the slaves as a reason for going to war, and of those who did mention it, the vast majority only listed it as a secondary reason behind their principal reason, which was to save the Union. As for the Confederates in Professor McPherson's analysis, less than three in ten even mentioned having positive feelings about slavery, let alone being willing to fight and die to preserve the peculiar institution. He also noted that about the same number of Confederate soldiers who wrote home with kind words about the institution of slavery wrote condemnatory letters of that practice (Robert E. Lee being a prominent opponent of slavery not included in McPherson's study). Thus, an actual analysis of Northern as well as Southern sentiments regarding why they fought, reveals that slavery was not a principal cause of the war.

Other interesting elements that motivated 19<sup>th</sup> century Americans to wage Civil War involve perception, pride, and Constitutional interpretation. For some reason, these very obvious factors tend to be ignored by the "slavery caused the war" mob.

First off, it is important to note the perception that many Southerners had of Northern Republican intentions. Southerners generally perceived that Northerners wished to use the power of the Federal government to abolish slavery. But was that perception accurate? Was Lincoln's intention to abolish slavery in the Southern States? I don't think so. To begin with, the 1860 Republican Party platform supported a State's inviolable right to establish or abolish slavery within her own borders; however, since the Federal government ruled over the territories (those western lands not yet organized into states, such as Indian Territory, Nebraska Territory, Dakota Territory, etc.), it had the right to establish or abolish slavery in those jurisdictions, and Lincoln wanted the government to abolish slavery only in those jurisdictions over which it had control, namely, the Territories, while leaving slavery alone in the States. On numerous occasions, Lincoln specified that as President he would not and could not interfere in a State's right to maintain slavery. This was based apparently on two factors: (1) his own interpretation of Constitutional law (more on this later), and (2) his understanding that the North was not willing to go to war to abolish slavery. Regarding this second matter, the fact that riots across the North ensued when the Emancipation Proclamation was issued proved that many Northerners objected to the idea of fighting and dying to free blacks down South. Please remember that elements of the Army of the Potomac were hustled off the battlefield at Gettysburg in July of 1863, to quell a three-week long riot in New York City that killed more than a thousand civilians and whose stated cause was opposition to being conscripted into the army





## WAS SLAVERY THE CAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR?

ONE MAN'S OPINION

By Kirby McCord

(Continued from page 12)



to free African Americans. As for the altruism of freeing the slaves, Lincoln himself, and the vast majority of Northerners, even those intent on abolition, considered African Americans morally and intellectually inferior to whites-- they simply disagreed with the principle of ownership of human beings. Lincoln and most Northerners did not believe in interracial marriage, in blacks holding public office or even voting, nor did they think blacks should serve on juries. While this view would be considered racist in the 21st century, it was quite common in 1861. Contrary to the "slavery as the sole cause of the war" supporters' conclusions, social equality was absolutely not an object most Northerners sought. However, most Southerners, even those opposed to slavery, fooled by the fire-eating newspapers, believing social equality was exactly what the Northerners wanted, and they saw the only way to prevent such social upheaval was to secede and preserve the practice of slavery. In this sense, many Southerners perceived the issue of slavery to be critical, when in fact it was not, and even though opposing it on moral grounds, staunchly opposed its government mandated abolition on social (and Constitutional) grounds.

A secondary element completely ignored by the "slavery is the sole cause of the war" group involves Southern pride. Absolutely no one enjoys being told they are wrong (myself included). But for thirty years, Northern abolitionists had called Southern slave owners every despicable name in the book because of the nature of their "property." I believe that the very natural reaction of objecting to being told they were moral reprobates (whether accurate or not) led Southerners to search for defenses to the practice of slavery. Many actually fooled themselves (starting with John Calhoun and peaking with the "Cornerstone" speech of CSA VP Alexander Stephens), that the ownership of other (inferior) human beings was morally acceptable, and approved by God. Many more pointed to the hypocrisy of Northern factory owners (who compelled workers to "slave" away for six-day-work-weeks, sixteen hour shifts, in deplorable conditions) being critical of slavery in the South. What I'm saying is that "slavery" became a buzzword, whether Southerners actually supported it or not, or Northerners actually opposed it or not, for the differences between the North and the South and the rising animosity between the two sections of the country. Further, many Southerners (notably Jefferson Davis) indicated that it was essential that a Southerner should be able to take his property anywhere in the country without having his property stolen from him. Clearly this was Davis' pride speaking-- he wanted to prove that it was morally and legally right to own slaves. He had no intention of taking his slaves to New England or Minnesota, but it was a matter of pride that he should be able to do so if he wanted to-- because it would prove him right and abolitionists

wrong. Therefore, it is only natural that pride would lead the Southerners to include slavery prominently in their Declarations of Independence/ Ordinances of Secession, and the Confederate Constitution-- but that does not mean unequivocally that slavery was THE cause of secession.

As for the Constitutional issue, many people in 1860 quite correctly interpreted the Constitution to read that the federal government had no authority to interfere in a state's internal practices, such as slavery. Lincoln himself adhered to this view, and admitted that his Emancipation Proclamation that came more than a year and a half into the war was exclusively a declaration by the commander-in-chief on a military matter, and nothing more, as he had no authority otherwise.

Another Constitutional perspective is also salient to this. Remember that by the time Lincoln took office, seven States had already seceded, and as detailed in their Declarations of Independence/Ordinances of Secession, the wish to preserve slavery was a very strong factor. But was maintaining slavery in and of itself THE determining factor, or was naming it merely the illustration that the Southern States were looking for regarding the Federal system established by the U.S. Constitution? Remember that the U.S. Declaration of Independence specifically outlined the acts and attempted acts of the British government that Americans believed were tyrannical; would it not be natural that a perceived attempt by the Federal government to encroach on the sovereignty of the individual States to deal with their own internal affairs to be listed in a Declaration of Independence (or Ordinance of Secession) and to be specifically named and protected in any new Confederation? I do believe that some Southerners just wanted to preserve slavery. But most were incensed that the Federal government would try to interfere in Southern domestic matters, and the three decade-long battle over slavery was an easily identifiable issue that illustrated the State sovereignty issue very clearly to them.

There were other factors that were very prominent reasons for Southern secession (and please note that the legal -- not moral-- argument of secession was the actual direct cause of the war, slavery can only be called an underlying reason leading to secession). I'm not talking about the economic reasons that many Southerners allude to; In my eyes, the South's "economic" reasons were often tied to slavery (which was another reason Lincoln recognized that neither he nor the Federal government could manumit Southern slaves, because the Constitution required compensation for confiscating property, and no Northerner, whether an abolitionist or not, was willing to take their tax dollars and free the slaves). I think the issue of the unequal distribution of tariffs was at best a minor point of contention; even though Southerners paid 87% of tariffs, the



## WAS SLAVERY THE CAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR?

ONE MAN'S OPINION

By Kirby McCord

(Continued from page 13)



amount was still so miniscule (less than 2% of GDP) as to be one of principle, not practice. No, the biggest issue in Southern minds leading up to secession was about the whole democratic process: the election of Lincoln. Many Southerners felt that since an entire section of the country representing 40% of the country's population had not cast one single electoral vote for Lincoln, it was proof that they no longer had participation in meaningful representative government. This quite naturally led them to contemplate the reasons for the American Revolution, namely: "Taxation without representation is tyranny!" Since the South had no say in the government, as demonstrated by their irrelevance in the 1860 election, the Federal government was by its very nature every bit as tyrannical as the British government of 85 years before, thus justifying revolution.

It is interesting that many, many Confederates used the word "slavery" in pejorative terms when they discussed the relationship between Southern and Northern States. They asserted that they would rather die than be a slave to the North, and other such phrases. Now why would they talk this way if they were principally interested in preserving slavery? Well, I see two reasons: one, that they were just hypocritical, or two, they weren't principally interested in preserving slavery-- slavery was a peripheral issue. As to the first, it is generally prudent to analyze other elements of a person's or society's actions to conclude whether they are hypocrites or not, and while some Southerners (like all people) were indeed hypocrites, I think an analysis of the writings and actions of the vast majority of leaders of the Confederacy would reveal their character and integrity, not their hypocrisy. The main issues to the secessionists were clearly State sovereignty and meaningful representative government. Most Southerners saw they had no role in the Federal government any more, This would be tolerable (but useless) if not for the fact that they saw the Northern-dominated Federal Government encroaching on their domestic policies in clear violation of the precepts of the Constitution.

Now, as an aside, six Confederate Generals were killed at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee. One was named States Rights Gist. That's correct, his first and middle names were States Rights! Now I don't know about you, but it is my belief that when people name their children, they name them for things that they value very highly (many Southerners were also named after Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and other Founding Fathers). However, I don't see a single Southerner named "Slaveowner" or any other such sobriquet. For that matter, Northerners (particularly New England Puritans) often gave names to their children based on high faluting principles, like Faith, Charity, Temperance, Prudence, etc. Following the American Revolution, several notables were named Freedom and Liberty. Interestingly enough, I haven't found

any called "Emancipator" or "Manumitter" or "Slave Freer." So it seems that some people thought enough of State sovereignty to actually name their kids after such principles, but no one was interested enough to name their offspring after the noble purpose of freeing slaves. I don't know, but I think seemingly minor details such as this play an important role in determining the general intentions of people and societies, don't you?

The "slave as the sole cause of the war" thinkers also tend to ignore some irrefutable logic stated by former Confederate General John B. Gordon when confronted after the war with accusations that the Southern cause was all about slavery. Gordon said essentially that since Lincoln and the Constitution both said the federal government could not and would not interfere with the domestic institutions of the South, the South's slaves were absolutely sacrosanct so long as the South remained in the Union-- if the South were only or even primarily concerned with keeping her slaves, they would never have seceded, because secession served only to threaten the right to own slaves, whereas remaining in the Union would have guaranteed the practice. He adds further that when Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation in September of 1862, it did two things: (1) it only freed slaves in areas "under rebellion," and thus Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, most of Tennessee, most of Louisiana, and parts of Mississippi, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Virginia" still retained their slaves--proving Lincoln and the North were not fighting to free the slaves; and (2) it gave the seceding States 100 days, until January 1, 1863, to come back into the Union and still retain their slaves. Thus, according to Gordon's flawless logic, if the Southern States were so adamant about slavery, and it was the one and only, or even principal reason for secession, the Southern States would have abandoned the war effort and returned to the Union. The fact that the Southern States seceded at all, and that they refused to return to the Union with impunity when it was offered, proves that maintaining slavery was not the principal cause for secession.

Now, none of the above information is revisionist history. It is using the same primary sources that the "slavery was the sole cause of the war" theorists use, plus some additional primary information from 5,000 Union and Confederate soldiers actually in the ranks, as well the written statements of several notable leaders, North and South, such as Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and John B. Gordon-- sources conveniently ignored by the "slavery was the sole cause of the war" supporters, who usually only focus on those who were clearly firebrands and even then often selectively editing their known writings, and I think reaching incorrect conclusions on the public documents by omitting their context and seeing them





## WAS SLAVERY THE CAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR?

### ONE MAN'S OPINION

By Kirby McCord

(Continued from page 14)



only through 21st century eyes.

Lastly, to contend that slavery was the sole cause of the war ignores many facts regarding slavery. For instance, less than a third of Southern families actually owned slaves. The vast majority of slave owners held three or fewer humans in bondage, and only 1,700 plantations across the entire nation held 100 or more slaves. Why would anyone who did not own a slave, and who therefore had no vested interest in slavery, choose to fight, and maybe die over the right of someone else to own a slave? It makes no sense. Also, an analysis of the 1860 census for Charleston, South Carolina, the hotbed of secession, reveals some very interesting facts: About 48,000 people resided there, 28,000 white and 20,000 black. Of the whites, about 12,000 were considered working class, and only 2,731 whites (less than 10%) owned slaves. Of the blacks, more than 3,200 were free, and a substantial number actually owned slaves. These last facts probably come as a surprise to students of the War Between the States who have only heard "slavery was the sole cause of the war" trumpeted. But they also reveal the diversity of Southern society, and in all likelihood, the diversity of opinion regarding the cause of the War Between the States.

The causes of wars are a web of interweaving reasons, perceptions, realities, emotions, economic issues, political philosophies, and social practices, and Civil Wars are even more complicated than most. Was slavery a contributing cause to the War Between the States? Absolutely, as proven by simple logic, as it served to illustrate (and even emphasize) some of the differences between the Northern and Southern societies. However, to list it as the sole, or even a primary cause is, I think, disingenuous and does a disservice to the three and a half million men who fought and the 658,000 men who died in the War Between the States.

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**Editor's note:** I very much appreciate Mr. Kirby McCord for the time he put in to researching and writing this article. It came out of a very good rebuttal to an article written by David Barton of the Wall Builders organization (see bibliography) that I forwarded to several people including Mr. McCord. David Barton, in his article titled, "Confronting Civil War Revisionism: Why the South Went to War," did his best to explain that THE cause of the War Between the States was slavery. If anyone would like a copy of the actual rebuttal of the article cited, simply send an email to myself requesting it.

I asked Mr. McCord to provide a little background information about himself to include with his article. Below is what he shared:

I was born on December 27, 1955, in Waco, Texas, the first of my line born in the South (even my brother, only two years older than me, was born in Kansas, as were both my parents, and all of their parents. My mother's paternal grandparents immigrated to America from France in 1893; her maternal grandparents trace their American heritage to a Welsh-English immigrant to Boston in 1712. My father's people fought for the North in the Late Unpleasantness, having descended from Revolutionary War veterans and survivors of an Indian massacre during the French and Indian War in Pennsylvania; true Scots-Irish, they emigrated from Northern Ireland (Stewartstown) in the early 18th century after leaving Scotland behind them when my oldest known ancestor was killed fighting the English at the Battle of Killiecrankie Pass, Perthshire, Scotland.

I grew up in Dallas, Texas, graduating from W.T. White H.S. in 1974. From there I matriculated to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK, graduating with a B.A. in History (with a Minor in Political Science) in 1978. I then attended University of Texas School of Law in Austin, TX, obtaining my J.D. in 1981. In 1982, I was married to the most wonderful woman in the world, Donna Kay Hardin, of Nederland, TX, who had just graduated from University of Texas at Dallas. We have two terrific kids, Briana (b. 1990), and Connor (b. 1994). In 2002, we moved from Dallas to Palestine.



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

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

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

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

## CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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

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



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

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