



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

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2011

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Compatriots,

2nd Lt. Commander Rudy Ray has a great historical program in store for us at the October 8th regular camp meeting. Major General John T. Furlow, U.S.A. (Retired), CPA, CFE, will present a program on the 10th Texas Infantry. I understand that he has authored a book that will be published in the near future about the 10th Texas Infantry.

Last month's program by Jerry Don Watt of Tatum, Texas, on "Confederate Guerilla Warfare" was outstanding! I feel that I can speak for the whole camp in highly recommending Mr. Watt for a speaker on this subject. He is obviously an authority on Confederate Guerilla warfare and has spent a lifetime visiting various museums, libraries, battlefields, etc., researching this subject at every opportunity.

Quartermaster Frank Moore who is also chairman of the Reagan Camp monument committee has been diligently working on the memorial plaza with the help of Lt. Hatfield, Sgt. Barnhart, and Compatriot Newsum. Our camp is blessed to have Quartermaster Moore on staff as he is extremely knowledgeable in construction, is a very fine leader and at 70 years of age, can still work circles around any 20 year old young

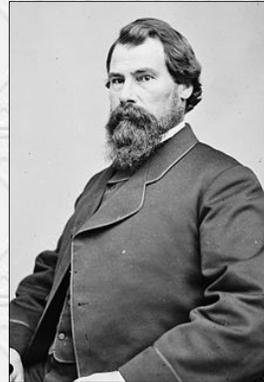
man all day long.

Most of you have read this January 2, 1864 quote by Major General Patrick R. Cleburne C.S.A. before, but whether you have or not, It is so good, I would like to close with its TRUTH:

"... every man should endeavor to understand the meaning of subjugation before it is too late. We can give but a faint idea when we say it means the loss of all we now hold most sacred ... personal property, lands, homesteads, liberty, justice, safety, pride, manhood. It means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the War, will be impressed by all influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, our maimed veterans as fit objects for their derision, it means the crushing of Southern manhood ... to establish sectional superiority and a more centralized form of government, and to deprive us of our rights and liberties."

Respectfully your obedient servant,

Marc Robinson



John H. Reagan

About 1863

Oct 8, 1818 – March 6, 1905

Post Master General of the Confederate States of America
 Secretary of the Treasury CSA
 U. S. Senator from Texas
 U. S. Rep. from Texas
 District Judge
 Texas State Representative
 First Chairman - Railroad Commission of Texas
 A Founder and President of the Texas State Historical Association

"Take your history and teach it to your children or others will teach their history!"

**General John B. Gordon
 C.S.A.**

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.

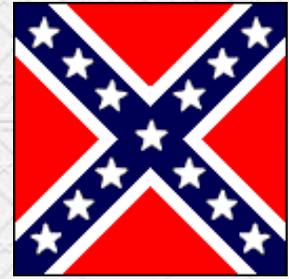
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Left: New members of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 reciting the pledge as they are being inducted into the SCV. Each new member also announces the name and unit of the Confederate ancestor in which they joined the SCV under. From left to right: Chaplain Rod Skelton, Compatriots Brice McDonald, Vernon Holliman, Bobby Francis, and Cmdr. Marc Robinson



“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



- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America
- Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Davis U.S. Army (Afghanistan). Son-in-law of Lt. Cmdr. Ronnie Hatfield
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans
- The United Daughters of the Confederacy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

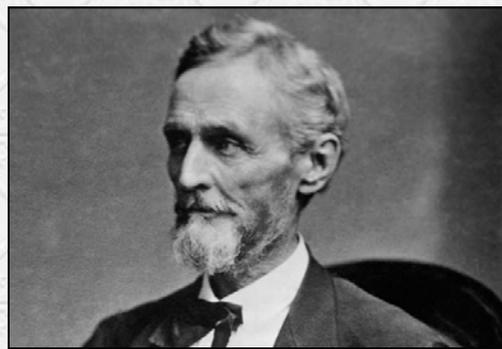
October 8, 2011, 06:00 PM—John H. Reagan Camp regular monthly meeting.

October Program:

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN T. FURLLOW, USA (Retired), CPA, CFE will present a program on the 10th Texas Cavalry (Dismounted)

October 8, 2011, 11:00 AM—Davis-Reagan Chapter of the UDC will host the annual John H. Reagan

Birthday ceremony. It will be held at the John H. Reagan home site on West Reagan Street outside the west loop this year.



President Jefferson F. Davis in later years.

“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-



FIRST LT. COMMANDER'S DISPATCH BY RONNIE HATFIELD



Compatriots,

As further evidence that our beloved John H. Reagan Camp is indeed not resting on its laurels, nor in full retreat after last April's mere "speed bump" of a setback at the County Courthouse, I have the honor to announce that we have been given the opportunity to again place the word CONFEDERATE on the Courthouse square!

At the time of our ceremony on April 1st, Commander Robinson had inquired of the Anderson County Historical Commission Chairman as to why there was no historical marker in the county, save that mentioning the Salt Works west of town, acknowledging the county's contribution to the WBTS and to the Confederacy in particular, in men and resources. The Chairman's reaction was one of concern, and interest in correcting the oversight.

Fast forward now to mid-September, and I am pleased to announce that the Commission has approached our camp with request that we write and present the Confederate history of the county, along with the impact post-war, of our local Confederate ancestors in the development and enrichment of Palestine and the county, into the community we all call home today.

The written overview will be presented to the Commission in story format, and will also include suggestions for the text inscription on the official marker. Some of the data offered for inclusion will contain the local units formed here in the county, and names of former local Confederates who served honorably both in the Cause and in our com-



munity post-war.

Upon approval by the State Historical Commission and receipt locally of the marker, we intend to place and dedicate it on the Courthouse square facing the site of the old Hunter Hotel, where many of our ancestors waved goodbye to Palestine and their families for the last time between 1861 - 1865.

I am extremely proud of this opportunity afforded our camp, and look forward to yet another long overdue acknowledgement of our county's Confederate heritage!

Forward the Colors!

Ronnie Hatfield

1Lt. Commander

John H. Reagan Camp 2156

SCV



THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—SEPTEMBER 10, 2011



Left: Three new members inducted into the John H. Reagan Camp 2156. From left to right, Chaplain Rod Skelton, Compatriot Brice McDonald, Compatriot Vernon Holliman, Compatriot Bobby Francis, and Commander Marc Robinson.

Confederate ancestors of these three compatriots are:

Brice McDonald: Pvt. Francis Marion Freeman, Co. C, 24th Texas Cavalry

Vernon D. Holliman: Pvt. Green T. Morgan, Co. I, 32nd Georgia Infantry

Robert Tucker Thurman Francis: Corporal Lewis Sherwood Camp, Co. A, Georgia 40th Infantry



Above left and right: **Mr. Jerry Don Watt presents a program on 1861-1865 Confederate Guerrilla Warfare**

Mr. Watt was born and raised in Tatum, Texas. All of the branches of his family moved to Rusk County in the 1840s and 1850s. He has over 100 relatives who were in the Confederate Army. Most of them were from Rusk County. One ancestor was in the Union Army.

He graduated from Tatum High School and received his bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University and a master's degree in history from Stephen F. Austin State University. Mr. Watt's master's thesis was titled *An Exercise in Futility: Federal Counter-Insurgency 1861-1865*.



He is a retired public school teacher/coach with 35 years experience. Mr. Watt's wife is also a retired teacher/librarian with 35 years experience. They have two sons. Their oldest son has 19 years in the Army. He is now serving in South Korea. Their youngest son is on the athletic staff at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

Mr. Watt is currently completing a 3-volume study of guerrilla warfare 1861-1865 after 35 years of research. He has given over 30 programs in the last 10 years to 11 SCV camps in Texas.

Mr. Watt's program was EXCELLENT!!! He had so much knowledge to share and it was our loss that we had to hold him to a little over 30 minutes.



MR. AND MRS. JOE COLEMAN HONORED AT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—SEPTEMBER 10, 2011



Above: **Joe and Anne Coleman**, center, holding a plaque and surrounded by the Reagan Camp officers are honored at our September monthly meeting for their generous donation of a lot to build the Anderson County Confederate Memorial Plaza. The plaque presented to Mr. and Mrs. Coleman has a SCV logo at the top and his engraved with the following:

The
John H. Reagan Camp #2156
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Acknowledges and expresses it's eternal and profound gratitude to

Joe and Ann Coleman

In recognition of their boundless generosity and dedicated assistance in the creation of the

Anderson County Confederate Memorial Plaza.

Presented this day, 10 September 2011, by the members of Camp 2156 in remembrance of the Confederate Veterans this plaza will honor.

Charles Marc Robinson
Commander, Camp 2156



Above: The very nice lot donated to the Reagan Camp #2156 SCV for use as a Confederate Veteran Memorial Plaza in Anderson County Texas.

The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 cannot begin to express the gratitude and appreciation we feel toward Mr. and Mrs. Joe Coleman. Their generous donation will honor Confederate Veterans for many, many years.



CHEAP WHISKEY!

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



There's a line from a movie I saw some years ago that I will never forget. The man who had been sheriff as long as anyone could remember was in a heated contest for reelection. But, he had helped a man avoid the F.B.I. and continue on his mission. Now the old sheriff found himself locked in his own jail charged with Obstruction of Justice. His deputy came to visit him with a bottle of whiskey, and as they sat in a cell drinking, the deputy asked, "Why'd you do it?" The old sheriff answered, "Because the man told me the truth." Then he looked down at his glass of amber liquid and continued, "And when you've heard the truth, everything else is cheap whiskey."

As an elected official, the old sheriff displayed a rare and all but extinct quality. Instead of being politically correct and self-serving, he chose to do what was right. He had the courage to take the moral high ground and the strength to stand by his convictions regardless of the consequences. Unlike so many politicians and would-be leaders today, his actions were a result of hearing the truth, and not cheap whiskey.

Of course, the rotgut (or better, rot-brain) the sheriff was referring to doesn't come in a bottle. It's not bought in liquor stores or poured in bars, and it wasn't affected by prohibition during the early twentieth century. It's promoted from Washington in great quantities. It's continually served to our children and young people in schools. It's blasted out from televisions. And yes, it's proclaimed from

many pulpits by self-serving clergy every Sunday. It's called deceit. It's called lies. It's called going along to get along. It's called looking out for number one regardless of what is true and right. But, the sheriff simply called it, cheap whiskey.

In Revelation 22: 14, we are told that if we are obedient to Christ we may enter the gate of the city and have right to the tree of life. The next verse warns, "For without are dogs (not the animal), and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

As Christians, we love and seek truth. As loyal Southerners and members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, we study and promote truth. And Jesus said, in John 8: 32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Then in verse 36, He continues, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Free! Free of sin. Free of fear and death. Free of lies and deception. Free of cheap whiskey.

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."

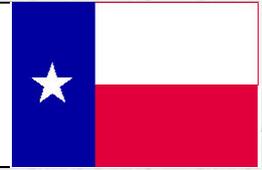
-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-



Governor Pendleton Murrah of Texas

By Jeffrey D. Murrah

Delivered to the Houston Civil War Roundtable 15 February 2007



Early Life

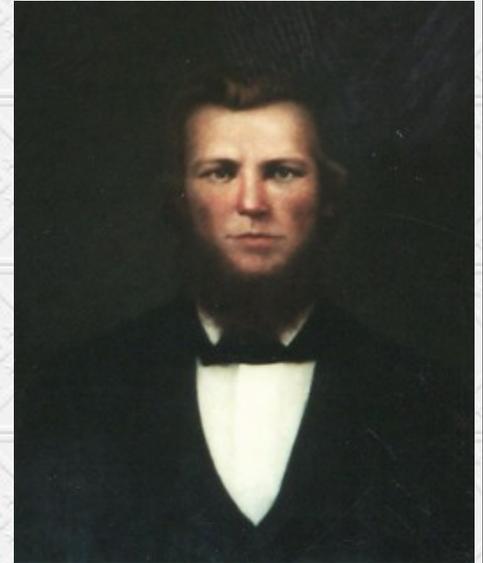
Some of the stands for the Confederate cause were not fought with guns, but with words and laws. Governor Pendleton Murrah of Texas was one who fought with words and laws. Pendleton was probably born in South Carolina in 1827. The Murrah family story is that one of the young Murrah girls came up pregnant. Since that is not proper Christian behavior for someone of Scottish Presbyterian beliefs, she gave the child up for adoption to avoid bringing dishonor on the family, which was attempting to establish itself in South Carolina. Keep in mind that orphanages were used for orphans and for illegitimate births. These immigrants from Scotland still fervently held to reformed Christian beliefs and looked down on illegitimacy. The young child was placed in an orphanage with a name tag attached to him, identifying his name as Pendleton Murrah. Although initially in the orphanage, he maintained associations with the Murrah family and kept the family name.

After growing up in the orphanage, he moved to Alabama. As a young man, he lived there for a period of time, becoming a Christian and joining the Ebenezer Church (which was a Baptist Church) of Bibb County, Alabama in 1841 (Joining a church back then was

synonymous with the current views of salvation. In those days church membership was a serious matter.) After joining, he was baptized. He was later educated by a Baptist charitable society. The society saw his potential and paid for his education. He began attending the University of Alabama and eventually graduated from Brown University in 1848 (an Ivy League school, behind Harvard and Yale). After graduating, he returned to Alabama. In Alabama, he studied for and passed the bar. After a bout with tuberculosis (aka Consumption) he moved to Texas in 1850. He believed that the move would improve his health.

After moving to Texas, he opened a law office in Marshall, Texas. Marshall was a new city, founded in 1841. The city was named by Isaac Van Zandt after Justice John Marshall. [Van Zandt admired Marshall, who was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at that time]. By 1850, it was already the seventh largest city in the State. There he met **Sue Ellen Taylor**, daughter of a prosperous local cotton planter. The two were soon married, on October 16, 1850. They shared the legacy of both hailing from South Carolina.

Murrah ran for office in 1855 as a State legislator. In that election, he



The portrait of Pendleton Murrah that hangs in the Texas Capitol

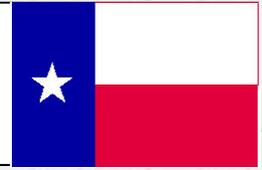
was defeated by the Know-Nothing candidate. During this time period, the Know-Nothings and associated 'Unionism' were at the height of their influence, playing on the fears of Irish Catholics taking over American politics. (The Know Nothings often used the saying "I Know nothing but my country, my whole country and nothing but my country".) The Know-Nothings spread a fear of outsiders changing the nature of America. In response to that fear, they were against immigrants and strongly supported the Union.

Undaunted, Murrah ran again in 1857 and won, representing Marshall and Harrison county in the State Legisla-



Governor Pendleton Murrah of Texas

By J. D. Murrah



ture. By that time, the city of Marshall continued growing as a social, cultural and economic hub in the State. By 1860, it was the fourth largest city in Texas, along with being a port and the major entry point for Texas from the United States. Marshall was the county seat of the richest county in Texas. With the economic boom, the city became a center of secessionist politics with notable lawyers and politicians. Part of the reason for the secessionist policies was as a backlash against the Unionism driven by the Know-Nothings. When the vote for secession occurred, the city voted unanimously for the measure.

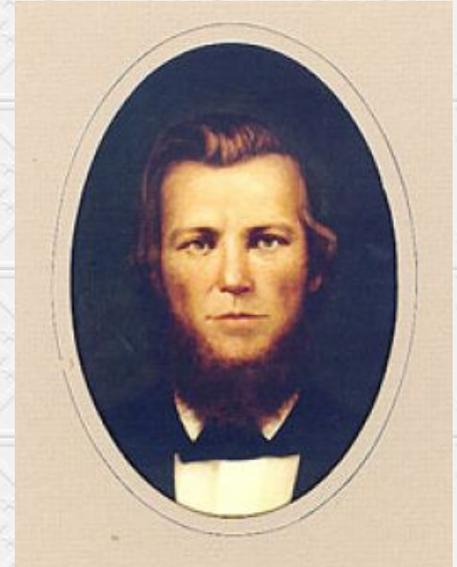
Standing on Confederate Principles

Murrah believed in the Confederate ideals and vision. Among these were the preservation of State authority and local control. He believed that Texans knew best how to run Texas rather than politicians miles away in Richmond, Virginia.

Once the Confederate government formed in Montgomery he announced his candidacy for the Confederate Congress. Although he was willing, his health interfered. He withdrew before the election due to a relapse with his TB. (TB often effects many body organs, sapping one's energy.) Murrah was not one to sit idle. After recover-

ing his health, he served briefly as a quartermaster officer in the Fourteenth Texas Infantry in 1862. The regiment was attached to a new division commanded by **General John George Walker** being organized in Arkansas. Walker's division later gained notoriety as "Walker's Greyhounds" due to their swift marching abilities. The 14th Texas Infantry soon distinguished itself in battles around Little Rock, Arkansas. Murrah's continued health problems forced him to resign his commission. After resigning, he returned to Marshall. His former compatriots in Walker's Greyhounds went on to distinguish themselves in the Vicksburg and the Red River campaigns.

The next year, 1863 Pendleton recovered enough to allow him to run for governor that summer. Murrah, like Vice-President Alexander Stevens persevered despite poor health (At that time people looked at a candidates' ideas, and convictions rather than their health or attractiveness). Several candidates entered the race. In a strange turn, several candidates withdrew, leaving Murrah and **Thomas Jefferson Chambers**. Newspaper editors and party leaders endorsed Murrah. Chambers was an experienced politician, with the political connections of having three previ-



Pendleton Murrah, Confederate Governor of Texas. Photo courtesy of Texas State Library

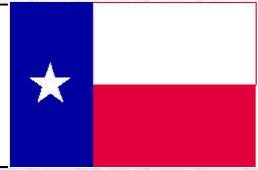
ous runs for Governor.

Pendleton won that summer's election by a large number of votes, which provided him the public support for his policies. He won by more than **5,000** votes. (The previous Governor won with a margin of **125** votes). As with all elections, the political pundits claim that the vote was a squeaker and more of a rejection of Chambers than an endorsement of Murrah. Chambers received less votes in this election than he had in the previous election of 1861. Given the endorsements he received, I am inclined to see the victory as an endorsement of Murrah. Winning an election at that time, before



Governor Pendleton Murrah of Texas

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electronic voting machines or chits with 5,000 votes (17,511 total). This was quite an accomplishment, especially in view of the total 31,036 votes cast for Governor. Percentage wise his victory was the same percentage (56%) that Sam Houston had in 1859 and that Elisha Pease had won with in 1855. It was not the squeaker that some political revisionists make it appear.

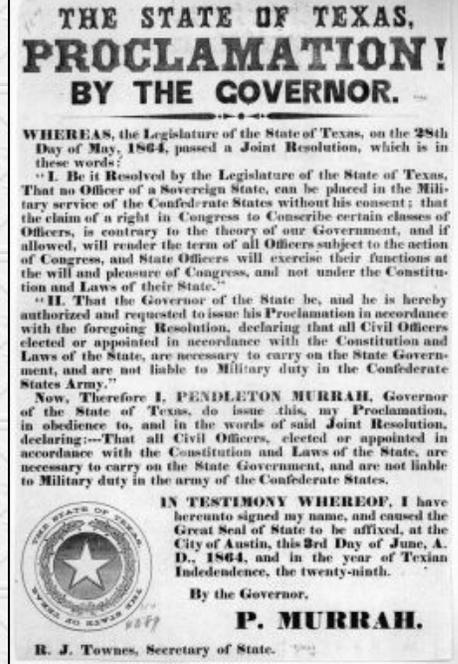
As Governor elect, he attended the second Marshall meeting in August of 1863. After the fall of Vicksburg, the city became a vital hub, and State Capitol of Missouri. The Marshall meeting decided what would be done in the Trans-Mississippi, since Vicksburg's fall cut Texas, Arkansas and Eastern Louisiana off from the rest of the Confederacy. The Confederacy also sought reassurances from Texas leadership that Texas would remain supportive of their cause. Since Texas had nullified annexation, they were a free political agent in many regards. Former President Houston and other politicians knew this at that time and attempted political gambits related to it.

By the time of the conference, the city was designated the civil capitol of the Confederacy west of the Mississippi. Murrah was chosen to head the committee authorized to negotiate with

international relations with French and Mexican authorities. At that time France and Mexico were fighting for control of Mexico. Since France was a major player, whose recognition was sought by the Confederacy, the negotiations had political ramifications. This was a touchy assignment considering that some French politicians were advising Texas to leave the Confederacy and 'go it alone'. Murrah was well aware that Texas retained its rights of sovereignty as a nation and chose to join with the Confederate States. [France maintained a consul in Richmond, Virginia-The capitol of the Confederacy and vice-consuls in Galveston, Texas and Matamoros, Mexico. Although the French government adamantly denied any plans on formally recognizing the Confederacy or trying to lure Texas away from the US or the South, their actions of maintaining these offices suggest otherwise.]

Murrah's Administration

Murrah was progressive, selecting **Colonel James Kemp Holland** for a member on his staff. Holland was half black, which made his position unique. Although some sources claim the highest ranking black was a sergeant, Holland's status raises questions about scholarship on this issue. Murrah also attended his November 1863



Proclamation by Governor Murrah

inauguration wearing a homespun suit. For the inauguration dinner, cornmeal cakes were served rather than the usual white flour ones. Such actions sent a message to the people that we are in this together.

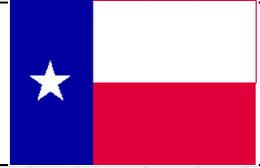
Murrah also appointed his brother-in-law by marriage (**John Burke**) as adjutant general of Texas. Burke had served in Hood's Texas brigade and as a Confederate spy in New York City prior to his appointment.

As governor, Murrah inherited a financial train wreck from **Francis Lubbock**. Lubbock was in tight with the Davis administration, and upon



Governor Pendleton Murrah of Texas

By J. D. Murrah



leaving office joined General John B. ("Prince John") Magruder. Initially he served on Magruder's staff and later went to Richmond to serve as an advisor for President Davis. The taxes were extremely high, and the State was in debt. Pendleton believed that Texas should be on solid financial footing, and he began turning around previous policies.

Before taking office, General **John B. Magruder** tested Murrah's authority by issuing an appeal to Texas farmers and planters to use their slave labor in constructing fortifications without compensation in December 1863. Murrah responded quickly, insisting that he was not going to allow the military to have a free hand in matters of impressments. Magruder and Murrah had differing opinions on whose authority took precedence. Murrah believed that it was essential that civil authority needed preservation, especially in the light of the Confederate principles of government. He did not want to replace the tyrants in Washington with the ones in Richmond. Rather than the allowing the central government to override the States, it was essential, if the Confederacy was going to survive for local and State authority to be respected. Murrah not only talked States Rights, he put them into practice. Governor Murrah used

the laws and courts to preserve local power, while Magruder used his military rank and position to force policies on the people.

On taking office Murrah implemented limitations on the impressment. Murrah insisted that there be limits on impressment and that the military would have to contract for the labor rather than impress it. The impressment was not limited to slave labor. Magruder also sought impressment of men (known as conscription) to fill ranks in the army. Murrah quickly responded to Magruder's actions by pushing legislation (**Frontier Defence Act**) through that exempted from regular conscription all Texans serving in the state in efforts against the Indians.

His actions put him on a collision course with the military commanders. The situation could be termed a showdown between civil and military law. His stand on impressment began a series of complicated conflicts with Gen. John B. Magruder. Magruder was then the Confederate military commander of the Texas district. Magruder's star was on the rise again subsequent to his victory in the Battle of Galveston that January. Magruder's boss was Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, commander of the Trans-Mississippi



General John Bankhead Magruder, the commander who had many conflicts with Governor Murrah

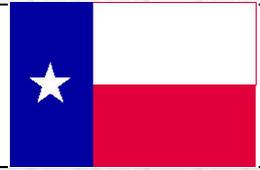
Department.

Kirby Smith's controlling behaviors led the Department of the Trans-Mississippi to be called "Kirby-Smithdom". In the early days of the war, he refused surrendering to Texas State troops to serve under the authority of Texan, **Benjamin McCulloch**. Kirby Smith was a 'by the book' West Point graduate who often took the approach that only West Point graduates were capable of commanding and conducting a war. Officers who had not graduated from West Point were inferior in his mind. Kirby's attitudes had changed little since that time, firmly believing in central-



Governor Pendleton Murrah of Texas

By J. D. Murrah



ized military authority. Murrah believed in the sovereignty of Texas and de-centralized confederated government. Magruder and Smith believed in highly centralized government, and that military authority trumped civil authority. The differences of opinion led to several show downs between the military commanders and the civilian authorities. Murrah was resolute in preserving civilian rule in Texas.

Murrah experienced difficulties with both men, especially when they double teamed him. One of his opponents was a male prima donna, the other an overly controlled West Point military type who did not respect State authority or non-West Point commanders. Pendleton Murrah knew that Freedoms are won both on the battlefield and legislative arenas. Murrah soon had to fight for what he believed in. It was one thing to talk about States Rights and quite another to fight the central authority for them, since fighting for them carried a high price tag.

He believed in the Confederate cause (States Rights and de-centralized authority) and fought for those beliefs. Had the Confederate States of America maintained its integrity, his policies would have been viewed as foundational in preserving the rights of the

States in the State Courts and policies existing in Texas.

The next serious disagreement concerned the conscription of troops and using Texas State troops outside the state. Murrah argued that those men enrolled in the state militia, particularly in frontier counties, were not subject to conscription by Confederate government. He believed they were under the authority of the Texas. He claimed "Texas called these troops into being under the sovereign will of the state; as such, the militia should be seen as a volunteer aid to the Confederacy and Magruder had not right to assume command over them unless the government of Texas gave him that right". Pendleton believed that the troops on the frontier were needed to maintain peace against bandits and Indians. Confederate troops from Texas followed the news concerning this issue with intense interest since many of them came from 59 'frontier' counties.

Since Texas still had a frontier, he believed it had unique needs not understood by the Confederate authorities. Confederate authorities in Richmond maintained that one cavalry regiment was all that was needed to maintain order and protect the frontier. Richmond believed the remaining

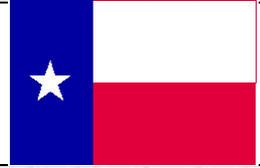
men were subject to conscription. The Comanche tribes in the Llano Estacado area alone had thousands of men led by the renegade chief Little Buffalo. The Cheyenne, Kiowa and Kiowa Apache were also both threats at that time. Murrah was well aware that the Indian raids had been increasing in frequency and number of warriors as the war continued. The violent brutality of the Indian fighting made it a concern with the Murrah administration.

Magruder believed that Confederate laws had superiority over state legislation. It was if 'Prince John' and Gen. Smith were practicing a "same government different flag" approach by applying Unionist views to Confederate governments. The very principles of the Confederacy and States Rights were under fire, and Murrah stood his ground. Murrah believed that if States rights were to mean anything, he needed to stand on them, otherwise they become mere words. Even the high power lawyer, **William Pitt Ballinger** opposed him in this matter [1]. (Ballinger had been a US Attorney and staunch Unionist until the start of the war. Ballinger was also the person who received seized enemy property and sold it). Murrah and Smith eventually met face to face in dealing with the matter. In February, Murrah, Smith and Magruder met face to face



Governor Pendleton Murrah of Texas

By J. D. Murrah



to work out a compromise. The military commanders allowed Texas to control its militia, with the proviso that in an emergency, the military could step in. The State troops would continue being designated State troops rather than being considered Confederate troops used to fill the ranks throughout the Confederacy.

[1] The law practice began by Ballinger is still in operation as Mills Shirley, LLP in Galveston.

Black History Trivia

Colonel James Kemp Holland was the highest ranking black serving in the Confederate military forces. He also served as a Captain during the Mexican War, and as a US Marshall for East Texas prior to the war. He also made the first report to the Texas Legislature concerning the University of Texas at Austin. His actions were the first in a long line of innovations of the University of Texas at Austin.

Texas Trivia

Governor Pendleton Murrah is the only Governor of Texas whose grave location is unknown.

Fighting with Military Commanders over Principles

Magruder disliked the compromise and circumvented Murrah. He attempted enrolling all eligible men in Confederate service. Murrah openly criticized Magruder's tactics. He stood

by his principles, insisting that Confederate authorities had to give ground. When Magruder persisted, Murrah authorized the State courts to go lax on prosecuting men impressed into Confederate service, since the central government did not have the legitimate power to force men to volunteer against their wishes. Many of the Texans stood behind Governor Murrah, including lawyer and General, Thomas Harrison of Terry's Texas Rangers. (Ironically, James Love, and Thomas McKinney Jack of the Rangers were related to Ballinger). Magruder countered the Governor by frequently expressing alarm and concern over potential invasions. Every potential threat was met with a letter filled with alarm concerning possible invasions. Magruder's alarms were also sent to other Confederate leaders. In one letter Magruder wrote "**If the Governor's chasm cannot be bridged, I will leap it.**" Smith ordered the troops into service, Murrah countermanded that order. Murrah's firm resolve proved fruitful. His order that no State troops be allowed to cross the Sabine held firm. General Smith finally backed down on his hard line stance, allowing the State to keep control of many of its men. Murrah dealt with the question of who has the authority of Texas State troops with

Texas winning.

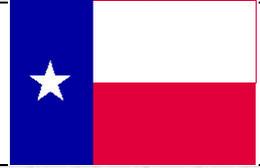
The situation changed when Gen. Nathaniel Banks invaded up the Red River in the spring of 1864. This time, it was not a matter of crying 'wolf', the wolf was at the back door of Texas. Magruder became frantic that April when Yankee troops were 60 miles from Texas. Marshall, then a military center, major port and capitol of Missouri was threatened by this invasion. The military commanders discovered that many of the men were reluctant to serve outside of the State without orders from the Governor.

Gen. Kirby Smith sought and enlisted Pendleton's help by asking him to order the Texas troops to Louisiana. Since an invasion was imminent, the impressment of men was finally allowed by the Governor, provided they were commanded by Texans and served only in their Texas units. (Recall that a similar situation occurred with Governor Brown in Georgia with the use of State troops) . Murrah saw the danger and reluctantly yielded to Magruder's requests. He responded, "I shall be forced, in view of the dangers surrounding the State and country, to co-operate with you in organizing [the militia] under the recent law of Congress. I shall take upon myself the responsibility ...of calling



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upon the State troops to look no longer to an organization under State laws." Murrah's agreement led to seventy-five companies of troops temporarily transferring to Confederate service, which made a significant impact at the Battle of Sabine Pass (Masfield).

The Texas troops soon returned to Texas after the battle. The three most vocal States rights governors were **Governor Joseph Brown of Georgia, Governor Zebulon Vance of North Carolina** and Governor Murrah of Texas.

Pendleton went so far as to grant exemptions from conscription to men in those 59 counties threatened by Indian activity along with having some of the frontier battalions provide services to indigent soldiers and their families. The soldiers of Texas cared for their own back then. There was no Veteran's Administration to assist anyone. General Smith pulled rank, taking the matter to President Davis. The granting of exemptions alarmed President Davis, who intervened by writing to Governor Murrah regarding the matter.

President Davis's re-authorization of the suspension of habeas corpus, created further resistance to conscription. The attitude of "Texas First" permeat-

ed the state. The people believed that Texas had given its fair share and then some. The courts reflected this by going lax on prosecutions. The Davis administration complained and wanted Murrah to step in and take action against the courts. Murrah refused, insisting that "An independent judiciary was the only hope of freedom in times of passion and violence." Murrah even enlisted a Texas Supreme Court justice in stating the opinion that it was "Sheer nonsense to say that Congress can use force or require the Executive Department to use force to compel a citizen voluntarily to enlist".

A newspaper editorial at the time stated that "*a watchful eye must be kept on the military, especially during wartime, for an army can be as dangerous as it is useful*". There were rumors that the military was considering the overthrow of civilian authority. The military authorities distrusted Republican institutions (e.g. elected officials).

Governor Murrah and Confederate authorities soon clashed on other issues concerning taxes and duties. Kirby Smith established a **Cotton Bureau** at the 1863 Marshall meeting. This was a form of central control. The bureau bought and sold cotton along the border, at times using force

to obtain their goods by impressing the cotton. Smith had been cut off from other supplies and monies so he was going to control the cotton. Being cut off, he had to create opportunities to keep the military alive. The original plan was that Texas would transport the cotton to the border, and the Confederacy would be allowed to purchase some of it (under law, cotton in transit belonged to Texas and could not be impressed). With Murrah's plan, the farmers were paid a fair market price payable in State bonds.

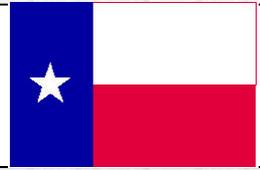
Once the cotton reached the border, the owners could sell up to half of it as he wished, with the remaining half going to either the Confederate government or Texas. The rub came when the farmers preferred State bonds, paying 7% interest rather than Confederate cash. The farmers had more faith in the ability to Texas to pay than the ability of Richmond to pay them. By March of 1864, half of all the cotton on the border was being purchased by Texas. By May of 1864 the currency situation was so bad, Governor Murrah proposed an act for the withdrawal of Confederate money from Texas.

(In 1863, cotton went for .70/pound, by 1864 it was **\$1.90/pound**. With the average bale being



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500 pounds, this was from \$350/bale to \$950/bale. Currently cotton goes for **\$48.00 a bale**. A 500 lb bale now goes for \$24,000).

It was 5 cents to the gold dollar. Given the amount of gold in the dollar, it worked out to about \$500 confederate dollars pre ounce. Inflation had grown so bad that gold went for **\$500.00 for an ounce**. (Consider that in 2007 USD it is was **\$651.00 for an ounce of gold**).

On May 11, 1864 he spoke on the money issue.. **“Congress owned the fact that the confederate currency was almost worthless, and provided for its withdrawal from circulation. The act was bold, if not approved by wisdom and good faith. It was an act of financial destruction, if not of financial skill. They created, they destroyed. I have no comments to make. I shall deal with the legislation of congress as it affects the finances of the State.”** Later in the same speech, he added, **“The State, so soon as the necessary measures can be put in operation, should cease to pay out this currency. After the first of July, if it can be avoided, no payment should be made with it. Whether the old can be ex-**

changed for the new issue, and taxes gathered in the new, with sufficient expedition to meet the wants of the government, is a matter for your immediate inquiry.”

Murrah’s cotton action, like conscription, began a series of threatening letters between Texas and the central authorities of the Confederate States government. Although Confederate authorities in Richmond were cut off from Texas, like current congress critics, they persisted in meddling (in this case, micro managing) in Texas affairs, passing a measure stating that all cotton sales had to be approved by President Davis. Here again Murrah dealt with the question of “who has the final authority over Texas agricultural products, Texas or the Central Confederate government?” The sentiment in Texas was one of “Texas First”.

By mid-1864, French authorities had seized control of Matamoras. Although controlled by the French, Yankee agents, and military recruiters filled the streets of the border town.

Smith soon began impressing cotton again after the Confederate Congress approved a measure, prohibiting the sale of cotton or tobacco without President Davis’ approval in February of 1864. As can be seen by the sales



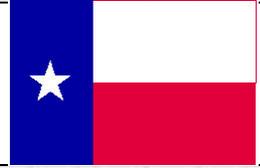
Governor Murrah fought with the military leaders on how Texas troops fighting under many different flags should be used.

figures (Texans sold about \$2 million worth for their own purposes), Richmond’s actions had little effect on Texas. Murrah was angered by the action of the “Richmond usurpers”, responding by authorizing the State to pass penalties against the cotton bureau. He passed legislation authorizing, the suspension of its operations, along with fining those complying with the old Bureau and confiscate their cotton. Smith became enraged, referring to Murrah’s actions as “duplicity and betrayal”. Murrah was persuaded to relent to Confederate pressures and the men finally met. In



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July, the two men met in Hempstead and worked out their differences. On July 19, 1864, Murrah appealed to Texans rather than using force to sell their cotton to the government agents. The ironic twist is that the government agents representing the US always outbid the Europeans for the cotton that was sold in Mexico. Since the CSA/Texas farmers and Texas agents all wanted the top dollar for their cotton, the US became the major purchaser of Southern cotton. President Davis was often livid over this situation, since he wished the US be totally deprived of Southern cotton.

Even though he fought with Confederate authorities, Murrah supported Magruder and Smith in their efforts at continuing the war. In an address to the people on January 14, 1865, Murrah urged Texans to put aside personal ambitions and make sacrifices in defense of their liberty. During this time, the **Hampton Roads Peace Conference** occurred, where the two governments considered how they could make a peace with each other. The peace conference addressed Southern states rejoining the Union, maintaining many of their rights and the cancellation of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Texas Trivia

The Texas Governor's mansion is reported to be haunted by the nephew of Governor Murrah who killed himself at the residence in Austin. The nephew killed himself after being rebuffed by a female who he proposed to.

The Grave Location Mystery

One of the mysteries surrounding Governor Murrah has been identifying the location of his grave. The graves of all the other governors have been located, with the exception of Pendleton Murrah. Murrah died in a local hotel in Monterrey and was interred in the city cemetery. During one of the times of unrest, the locations of the graves were scrambled. When the decision was made to move all the former inhabitants of the city cemetery, they were collected and mixed together into an "Osario" and relocated to the Monterrey Civil Cemetery.

The Last Days of Murrah's Administration

The Confederate position weakened with their armies being pushed back in the 1865 campaign. With the weakening of the central government, many believed that a stand could be made in Texas and began traveling for it. It was during this time that Murrah addressed the people of Texas.

Murrah considered the situation: Lincoln had recently been assassinated;

The ANV surrendered. The armies under Joseph Johnston and Richard Taylor remained in the field. Several Confederate raiders are still at large on the high seas. Galveston remained opened as a port, and trade continued along large portions of the border. The office of Governor brought many heartaches with his 19-year old nephew committing suicide in the northwest bedroom of the Governor's mansion after being rebuffed by his wife's niece on a Sunday afternoon, a fire destroying portions of the mansion, his health worsening and with he and Sue Ellen remaining childless. He had given his all to the cause he believed in. During these dark times, he addressed the People of Texas.

Executive Department Austin April 27th 1865

My countrymen --

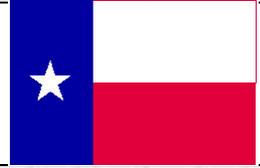
Disaster has befallen our arms in Virginia. Our chosen chieftan Robert E. Lee, victorious on so many glorious fields is a prisoner of war and a portion of his army has surrendered.

These unforeseen calamities impose additional responsibilities on the state of Texas. My object now is briefly to point you to the path of duty, to exhort you by all the considerations which make life desirable or existence tolerable to pursue that path



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without faltering or flinching. Your faith, your honor and your manhood are pledged to your brethren east of the Mississippi. For four years they have fought your battles and stood, a wall of fire, between you and the invader. Their cause is your cause.

Their fate is inseparably yours. They look now with eager eyes and anxious hearts to the people and armies of this department for rescue and deliverance.

They will not -- they must not look in vain.

With God's blessing it may yet be the proud privilege of Texas, the youngest of the Confederate sisters to redeem the cause of the Confederacy from its present perils. In extent and resources Texas constitutes an empire in herself. Favored of nature, she is inaccessible to her enemies her soil is unsullied by the fear of an invading army. Her great resources, if prudently husbanded and wisely applied are equal to any emergency.

Accepting in their full significance the facts of our situation there is no reason for yielding even to a momentary panic, still less for giving way to unmanly despair. Be firm and true to yourselves, above all things be united. Drive with scorn and contempt, from your midst the crawling demagogue who would array one class of the community against another. He is your worst enemy who would sow dissensions and divisions among you and of those resources and to

rendering them available for our defence.

"Freedom's battle once begun" "Be greater from bleeding son to son" "Though baffled oft is ever won"

I again urge the importance of our people remaining a unit. Without this we can neither make successful war nor honorable peace. I have attempted to point out the path in which duty and patriotism would lead us. Rugged and thorny though it be I shall follow it with you fearlessly to the end.

I believe with God's blessing we are able to defend our own state and to render glorious service to the Confederacy such service as history will gladly record for the encouragement of the friends of freedom and humanity in all time to come.

It behooves us to ponder and meditate on the words of Governor Murrah. In the light of his circumstances, these were true words. These were an expression of what he believed and lived. In many ways, he was the embodiment of the Confederate cause. Despite poor health, financial problems, personal tragedies and conflicts with others, he stayed true to the cause. Can we, in the 21st century do the same?

Two weeks after that proclamation, the Governors of Arkansas, Louisiana

and Missouri met at Marshall a second time to discuss the situation with General Smith. Murrah was ill as his TB continued worsening, so a representative went in his stead. In the meeting, when Smith exhibited some hesitancy, **General Jo Shelby** threatened him with arrest if he did not continue the war.

Pendleton and Magruder cooperated on one of their last acts, the appointment of commissioners to represent Texas in negotiating a peace. The two agreed on **Ashbel Smith** and **William Pitt Ballinger** as the commissioners. Ballinger was a premier lawyer and Smith was an expert international negotiator (and later President of the **University of Texas**). The two men attempted obtaining a cessation of hostilities between the United States and Texas.

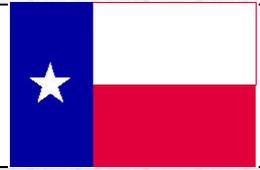
Holding true to his principles and beliefs that government derived its power from the people. He called a special session of the Texas legislature to confer all the Confederate property in terms of food and clothing supplies back to the citizens of Texas. His action illustrates the true source of power.

When it was obvious that Union forces would occupy the state, he vacated his office, leaving Lieutenant Gover-



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nor Fletcher Stockdale in charge on June 17. The pattern of Yankee occupation had already burned several state capitols to the ground. General Granger was en route to Texas at that time backed up by 50,000 troops (contrast with 133,000 American troops in Iraq and 19,000 in Afghanistan). Reports of what the Yankee troops had done to other State Governors and their capitols concerned Murrah. He joined other Confederate leaders including Shelby traveling to Mexico. The men had secured an ample amount of Confederate supplies, including the gold and silver in the treasury in Austin, which was rumored to be about \$30,000 dollars.

They assembled at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio. He was joined by Generals Magruder and General Kirby Smith. (At that time, Smith was traveling under an alias) He was also joined by his brother-in-law, John Burke, whom Robert E. Lee termed his "favorite spy". On this final march, the three were finally in agreement. Another member of the military joining the party was his former commander, from his days in the military service, General John George Walker.

The party hoped to offer their services to Emperor Maximilian and establish the Confederate colony of Carlota (the

name of Maximilian's wife). Included in the group were Governor Henry Allen of Louisiana and Governor Thomas Reynolds of Missouri. In the aftermath of the party's departure, some ruffians broke into the Texas treasury and stole an unspecified amount of monies that were left prior to being discovered.

The passing of that military escort was the last organized Confederate force as it departed Texas at Eagle Pass. The men buried a Confederate banner in the Rio Grande, which has been called the "Grave of the Confederacy Incident" on July 4, 1865. The long trip was too much for Murrah, who continued suffering from tuberculosis. He was confined to bed upon reaching Monterrey. He died there on August 4, 1865. The remainder of the party continued to Mexico City. [Rumors around the Governor's mansion in Austin are that the building is haunted by Murrah's nephew's ghost and his as well.] The expeditions' leaders finally met with Maximilian who did not accept their military offers. The members then attempted establishing Confederate colonies in Mexico at Carlota, Veracruz, where Sterling Price presided or continued on into South America.

It behooves us to ponder and meditate

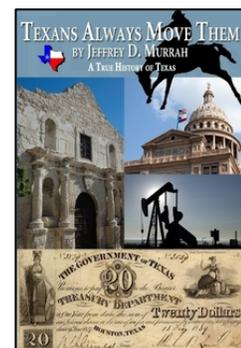
on the words of Governor Murrah. In the light of his circumstances, these were true words. These were an expression of what he believed and lived. In many ways, he was the embodiment of the Confederate cause. He did not bow to every whim of Davis, but rather held firm to Confederate principles concerning the authority of the State. Despite poor health, financial problems, personal tragedies and conflicts with others, he stayed true to the cause. Can we, in the 21st century do the same?

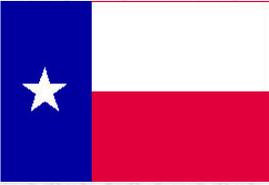
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More information can be found at:
<http://jdmurrah.hubpages.com/hub/Governor-Pendleton-Murrah-of-Texas>

***Editors note: Mr. Jeffrey Dixon Murrah has written an excellent book on Texas History titled, "Texans Always Move Them," A True History of Texas.

www.texansalwaymovethem.com





CAPTAIN REFUGIO BENAVIDES

33rd Texas Cavalry, C.S.A.

One of many Hispanic Confederate soldiers that do not need to be forgotten...

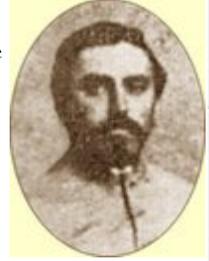
BENAVIDES, REFUGIO (1821–1899). José del Refugio Benavides, politician and Confederate officer, was born on July 6, 1821, at Laredo, Texas, the oldest child of José Jesús and Margarita (Ramón) Benavides. He was also the great-great-grandson of Tomás Sánchez de la Barrera y Garza, who had founded Laredo in 1755. Benavides first rose to political prominence in Laredo politics in the decade following the Mexican War. In one of the first municipal elections under American rule, on June 28, 1850, he was elected alderman. The Benavides family also played an important role in secession and the Civil War in South Texas. John S. (Rip) Ford wrote that the Benavides family "broke ground in favor of secession" and "did the Confederacy an immense favor by declaring for her." During the war on the border, Refugio Benavides rose to the rank of captain in command of a company in the Thirty-third Texas Cavalry. Later, a regiment raised by Col. Santos Benavides was simply known as Benavides' Regiment.

Refugio Benavides first saw action in the battle of Carrizo (at the site of modern-day Zapata) on May 22, 1861, when he joined Santos in an attack on the forces of the Mexican revolutionary Juan Cortina. Benavides had raced sixty miles through the night down the Mexican side of the river and was able to avoid Cortina's pickets at the crossing near Carrizo and to tell Santos that reinforcements were on the way from Laredo. After the arrival of the Laredo reinforcements, the Benavides brothers led an attack on Cortina that drove the revolutionaries across the river into Mexico. In April 1862 Benavides mustered into the Confederate States Army an eighty-five-man company of Mexican Texans. In December 1862 three of his men were killed by Mexican revolutionaries near Roma. Other raiders attacked a Confederate wagontrain near Rio Grande City and even raided into Zapata County, where they hanged the county judge, Ysidro Vela. With fifty-five men, Benavides went in pursuit of the Mexican

raiders. They crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico and tracked them to Mesquital Leal, near Camargo, where they were camped in a large corral. Without hesitation, the captain ordered an attack. With Benavides in front, the Tejanos were said to have "boldly stormed" the enclosure, "tearing down the gate amid a hail of bullets, in the midst of which three horses were killed and two men wounded." In the fight eighteen of the raiders were killed, fourteen were wounded, and several were taken captive. Benavides lost two of his men. He and Santos Benavides helped defend Laredo on March 19, 1864, from a Union cotton raid in what became known as the battle of Laredo. A federal expedition from the lower Rio Grande valley had pushed upriver to Laredo hoping to burn the 5,000 bales of cotton stacked in St. Augustine Plaza. After three hours of fighting, the bluecoats were "repulsed by the vigorous fire of my gallant men," Santos Benavides wrote. Refugio Benavides next saw action with Rip Ford in the Confederate Rio Grande expedition. Moving downriver from Laredo, Benavides's company was utilized on a number of occasions by Ford for scouting purposes because of the Tejanos' familiarity with South Texas. On June 25, 1864, Benavides was in the battle at Las Rucias, upriver from Brownsville. Ford, by using an "obscure trail through the chaparral" was able to "get within a few hundred yards of the enemy before being discovered." Benavides was sent in a flanking movement to attack the federal force but was stopped twice by a small lagoon. He was able, however, to join Ford for a final attack that overran the federals. In his report of the battle, Ford singled out Benavides for his gallant conduct during the battle.

On December 8, 1873, Refugio was elected mayor of Laredo once again. His administration provided one of the first public schools, the Escuela Amarilla, constructed the first sewers in the city, established a number of ordinances in an effort to maintain law and order, and helped rewrite the

Laredo city charter. He easily led an entire slate of candidates to victory in the next year's election and was elected for a third time in 1875, although this last election was unsuccessfully contested in



court. In 1876 Benavides decided not to seek reelection. In 1874 he raised a company of rangers at Laredo to combat the growing bandit and Kickapoo Indian threat on the border. When he was given authority to cross the Rio Grande into Mexico, if necessary, the Mexican government filed a formal protest with Washington. Although it remains unclear whether Benavides did cross into Mexico, the matter was never successfully resolved.

Benavides was married twice, to Teresa Pizaña, with whom he had five children, and to Anastacia García, with whom he had one son. He died of chronic diarrhea at the home of his son in the Heights section of Laredo on June 29, 1899, and was buried in the Old Catholic Cemetery. During World War II his remains were moved to the Herrera family plot in the newer Catholic Cemetery.

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Source: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbe76>



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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