



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2011

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Greetings Compatriots,

We have a great meeting and program in store for everyone on February 12th. And before I write anything else, please make note that this regular meeting's location has been changed to the **First United Methodist Church, Palestine.** We will resume our meetings being held at the First Christian Church in March. Please see the calendar of events on page 2 for more information. Our guest speaker will be the Texas Division 2nd Lt. Commander, Mark Vogl. I hope everyone can attend. January is a month full of many of our Confederate Heroes birthdays and January 19th was the day selected in Texas to celebrate Confederate Heroes Day in Texas. I hope everyone read the article written by Ronnie Hatfield, titled, "Lest we forget..." that I emailed out and which also appeared in the Palestine Herald-Press on January 19th thanks to the help of Cheril Vernon, Community editor of the Herald-Press. If you did not receive this article and would like for me to email it to you, let me know. It was great!

Sergeant Hatfield also put together a very good humorous pictorial report of the work he put into refurbishing as well as building a new cannon trail for one of the mountain howitzer's or cannons our camp leases from camp #1012. I will be emailing that out separately from the newsletter. We appreciate Ronnie very much for the awesome work on the cannon as well as all he does for our Confederate forefathers and our camp.

As you know, at the Texas Division's Road to Secession sesquicentennial event, we had two members of the Reagan Camp write academic papers for the academic symposium. I am including the first of two parts of Gary Williams' paper, titled, "The Irrepressible Conflict: In the Words of John H. Reagan," in this issue and will print part two next month. I will also be printing Rudy Ray's academic paper in the issues fol-

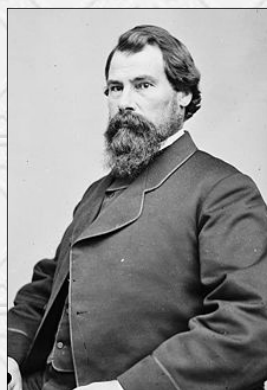
lowing that.

I recently attended a meeting of the J. P. Douglas Camp #124 in Tyler at their regular meeting place of Sweet Sue's Restaurant. I enjoyed the meeting very much as all they were all very friendly, hospitable, and if you could imagine, very like minded. During that meeting I also enjoyed our own Rudy Ray and his wife Toni, present in first person, Private William Ray and his wife, Sarah Ray. I recorded their presentation on a video recorder. Those of you who would like a copy on DVD can order one from me at our next meeting. We all appreciate having this dedicated couple affiliated with the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 as they are both very passionate about defending our Confederate forefathers honor and true history.

My wife, Deborah, and I attended the J. L. Halbert Camp's Moonlight and Magnolia Antebellum Ball in Corsicana with Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Ray this past month. We truly had a wonderful time. I hope many of you can attend with us next year.

Have any of you ever had a dog named after you? If you have, you will be happy to know that you are in very good company! Thomas Forehand, Jr. included in his book, "Robert E. Lee's Lighter Side," the following. "One day General Robert E. Lee called on the wife of General A. P. Hill. Their little girl met him at the door and exclaimed with that familiarity which the kind-hearted old hero had taught her: 'O General Lee, here is 'Bobby Lee' (holding up a puppy); 'do kiss him.' The general pretended to do so, and the little creature was delighted."

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

FRANCIS BARTOW
(DIED 1861)
CS BRIGADIER GENERAL

"THEY HAVE KILLED ME,
BOYS, BUT NEVER GIVE
UP THE FIGHT."

-- LAST WORDS SPOKEN,
MANASSAS, VA,
JULY 21, 1861

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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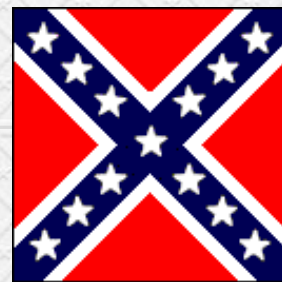
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The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 wants to extend our utmost appreciation to these two gentlemen above!!! See the supplement to the newsletter, sent separate, for more information and photos on the refurbishing of this cannon.

Left: Ronnie Hatfield, left, and Frank Moore, right, pictured with one of the Val Verde Battery Howitzers that was out of commission due to the trail being broken in half and the cheek pieces being rotten. Ronnie built another trail and two cheek pieces from rough cut pin oak lumber from George Pinkerton's saw mill in north Anderson County. Frank Moore assisted Ronnie and also had the cannon tube sand blasted and painted as well as honed the inside of the cannon tube.



"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 Sons of Confederate Veterans
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The United States of America



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



February 12, 2011, 06:00 PM— John H. Reagan Camp regular monthly meeting.

We will meet at the **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Palestine**, this month due to a Valentines day party at our regular meeting place. The FUMC address is 422 South Magnolia, Palestine, Texas. Go to Reagan park and turn west on West Reagan Street. Travel about 4 blocks and you will see the church on your right at Magnolia Street. The meeting will be in the fellowship hall which is on the north side of the church.

February 12 Program: Mark Vogl, Texas Division 2nd Lt Commander, will present a program titled, "American Governance Southern Style," which describes

the major differences in the U. S. and Confederate Constitutions.

2nd Lt. Cmdr. Vogl is a member of the Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109 in Gilmer, Texas. He is a Past Commander of the Patriots and was the Texas Division Confederate of Year Award recipient in 2009.

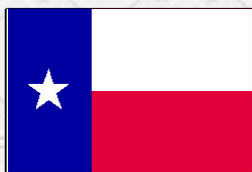
Cmdr. Vogl earned a BS degree in Education from THE CITADEL, Charleston, SC and has completed graduate work at a number of universities in three fields: International Relations, National Security, and Education.



Above: 2011 John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Officers

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

-PRESEDENT
JEFFERSON DAVIS-



THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT: IN THE WORDS OF JOHN H. REAGAN—PART 1 OF 2

BY GARY WILLIAMS, HISTORIAN, JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2156

In 1857, John H. Reagan, a Democrat, resigned his judicial position in Anderson County, Texas and once again took up the campaign trail. Reagan, barely forty years of age, was powerfully built and heavily muscled, stocky, sun-tanned with broad high cheek bones. He was symbolic of the frontier that seemed to mark his spirit and strong convictions as reflected in his belief in the states rights and a strict interpretation of the Constitution. Before him were months of sleepless nights, exhaustive travel, and countless hours of speeches and debates. Reagan was a man of great physical strength and endurance and a powerful orator of considerable ability. After making his first speech on June 6, 1857 in Palestine, Reagan debated Lemuel D. Evans of the Know-Nothing party through thirty-six counties and forty-eight joint sessions, presenting their views to the people of East Texas. 1

Their speeches were long and their arguments bitter. Crowds flocked to hear them. During the debate at Jefferson, Texas the political conflict became dangerously close to gun play. Evans, taking offense to being exposed as a liar, jumped to his feet and drew his revolver. Reagan faced him squarely with his own pistol in hand said "Let us put up our six-shooters. I do not wish to kill you, nor do I wish to be killed. I intend to go to Congress and I am going there." On August 3, 1857, the people of the Eastern District of Texas elected Reagan to the US House of Representatives by an overwhelming majority. 2

Washington City was a sprawling, rambling community along the Potomac River and was cold and damp in December of 1857. Northerners and Southerners, believing in strength of numbers, were determined to give added support to their representatives in the fierce struggle over slavery as the 35th Congress assembled. 3 Reagan arrived in Washington to take his seat in Congress amidst uncertainty, tension and turmoil within the nation. During the first few months of the session, he listened

instead of talking. He needed to know the procedural rules of the House. Most controversial was the request of Kansas for admission to the Union and, if admitted, whether it should be a free state or a slave state.

Abolitionist-minded industrialists formed the Emigrant Aid Society in Massachusetts to encourage antislavery settlers to relocate in Kansas. Boxes of Sharp's breech loading rifles, known as Beecher's Bibles, were sent by Henry Ward Beecher's church in Brooklyn, New York to arm these new settlers. Beecher was the father of the little lady, Harriet Beecher Stowe, who wrote the book, Uncle Tom's Cabin, that started the big war as Lincoln is quoted as saying. At the same time, pro-slavery factions flooded into the territory. Several thousand "Border Ruffians" came from neighboring Missouri and crossed into the Kansas territory to influence the voting. 4

Through the winter of 1855-1856, the Kansas controversy went back and forth between Free-Soilers and Slaveholders. Violent lashes became commonplace. Lynchings, murder and burnings replaced popular sovereignty. Lawrence, Kansas was heavily settled by Free-Soilers who harbored abolitionists, fugitive slaves and newspaper editors who were anti-slavery. On May 21, 1856 a mob of 300 border ruffians, calling itself a posse, killed a man, wrecked the newspaper offices and burned homes. Four days later, John Brown and four of his sons dragged five pro-slavery settlers from their homes and shot and butchered them to death in front of their families. 5 These actions simply provoked further retaliation, whereas over two hundred people died over "Bleeding Kansas." Kansas had become the violent epicenter of the slavery issue.

On March 10, 1858, Congressman Reagan made a speech in the House of Representatives defending the rights of Kansas as a territory. It was Reagan's contention that it was the right of the territory

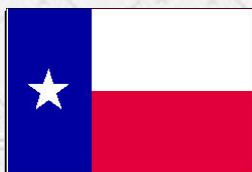
of Kansas—not the right of Congress—to determine whether slaves could be brought into the territory. 6

Almost every member of Congress was armed with at least one pistol and a Bowie knife. The atmosphere was caustic and laden with violence. Fights between members of Congress were commonplace and disputes threatened to engulf the House in blood. 7 Charles Sumner, a Senator from Massachusetts and a firm abolitionist, made a speech in Congress called "The Crime Against Kansas" in which he attacked slavery's supporters in the Senate. He personally singled out Senator Andrew Butler of South Carolina. Representative Preston Brooks, Butler's nephew, beat Sumner with a cane until he lay bloody and unconscious on the Senate floor.

Reagan was not in support of Southern fanaticism or of reopening the African slave trade. He was looking to the Union as his anchor and was remaining loyal to the federal Constitution. He denounced abolitionists and southern firebrands alike as revolutionary doctrines because both claimed "rights superior" to the Constitution and the laws of the land. 8

In November of 1858 Washington was a turbulent scene and Congress was overcast with bitterness, fear and distrust. Sectional passions pervaded the halls and a wide range of opinion about American slavery was becoming more extreme. Standing at these opposite extremes were the uncompromising foes and supporters of slavery. Between them ranged those who desperately sought compromise, which were the vast majority of citizens, including John H. Reagan. Could the voices of moderation drown out the tirades of violent hostility? 9

In March of 1859 and after months of wrangling over every issue and sharp invectives and caustic remarks hurled between Northern and Southern legislators, any chance of compromise was at a standstill. The nation was headed toward a more feverish pitch. (Continued on next page)



THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT: IN THE WORDS OF JOHN H. REAGAN—PART 1 OF 2

BY GARY WILLIAMS, HISTORIAN, JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2156

With very little accomplished, the 35th Congress adjourned, having moved the nation a step closer to secession and war. Reagan feared that the end of the great experiment in democracy was near, and that he would witness an irrepressible conflict between two civilizations: North and South. When Reagan returned to Texas he spoke of the grave perils confronting the nation. In speeches through his district he warned the people of troubled years ahead. 10

On the night of October 10, 1859 John Brown, backed with the clandestine support of Northern abolitionists called the "Secret Six," raided the government armory and arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Western Virginia. One of the secret supporters who had sent money and weapons was Samuel G. Howe, a wealthy physician, whose wife, Julia Ward Howe, would later write "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Brown's plan was to arm freed slaves and to lead an uprising throughout the South, put an end to slavery and set up a free black state in the Appalachians. Ironically, the first civilian killed by Brown's men was a free black man. 11

In Washington, the rumors flew that thousands of men were involved in a slave uprising. It was over quickly. Wounded by a sword, Brown and his remaining men were captured and later charged with murder, treason and inciting insurrection. A company of US marines under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Lee and accompanied by his student at West Point, cavalry officer James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart, were in charge of capturing John Brown and stopping his terroristic plan. The trial began ten days after the raid and John Brown and his men would hang. Brown was executed December 2, 1859. Witnesses to the hanging included a group of students from Virginia Military Institute and their instructor, Thomas Jackson, a West Point graduate and Mexican War veteran; Virginia secessionist Edmund Ruffin, and an actor named John Wilkes Booth. 12

John Brown viewed himself as a martyr or even a saint. (What would Mr. Brown have done with a U-Haul truck and explosives or a road side bomb?) He was a fanatic bent on death and destruction. His death would only harden battle lines between abolitionist and slaveholder. Fears of massive conspiracies and slave revolts and the adulation given to Brown's death by the North was another nail in the coffin of moderation and further moved the South down the road to secession.

The Northern people, instead of condemning the dreadful crimes of Brown, in a number of instances draped their churches in mourning and spoke of him in reverence, showing their approval of this treasonable and revolutionary invasion of the South. That could only mean that the agitation must go on until the people of the non-slave holding states could secure the abolition of slavery by unconstitutional means; there was no other way by which their purposes could be accomplished. 13 Abraham Lincoln, who in time would become President, declared that the "country could not remain half free and half slave."

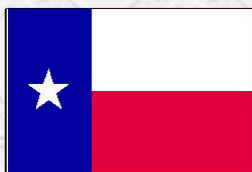
According to John H. Reagan's memoirs published in 1906, he believes the foremost cause of secession and war was slavery. He clearly states his views and history of slavery in the United States. He was certain that the institution of slavery had legal status under the Constitution prior to the War Between the States. Reagan portrays the North as deadly hostile to the rights, property and citizens of the South. He represents the estimated value of slaves before the war to be worth Three Thousand Million Dollars (\$3,000,000,000.00). Now combine their worth with the value of their labor and it was an enormous economic situation. John H. Reagan never owned a slave but would defend the rights of others to do so under the protection of the Constitution.

As stated by Reagan, slavery was introduced into the American colonies long

before the American Revolution by the people and crowned heads of Great Britain, France, and Spain and by the Dutch merchants. At the date of the Declaration of Independence, African slavery existed in all the colonies; and at the adoption of the Constitution, in all the states except Massachusetts. 14 Also, there was a provision under the law to give sanction to the right of the owner of slaves to recapture them if they escaped and to control their persons and labor. Reagan stated that the institution of African slavery was recognized by the Constitution as lawful and was protected, especially by its terms. If slavery was a sin, it was a national sin and the entire nation was responsible for its existence. If the Constitution had permitted it to be abolished, it should have been done at the cost of the nation. But, in fact, the Congress had no power under the Constitution to abolish slavery. It had always been treated as a domestic and local situation, which the States might abolish or retain, independently of the power of Congress and, in fact, had been abolished by a number of states. 15 Reagan further states that he is not judging whether slavery is right or wrong but was giving consideration as to the legal status and how that is essential to the fair understanding of the causes of the great struggle

As time wore on, the people of the Northern states found slavery to be unprofitable and sold their Negroes to the planters of the South, where they could be used on the cotton, tobacco, and sugar plantations. Prior to the American and French Revolutions, the opinions of Western Europe and Great Britain changed on the subject of slavery. France, for example, freed its slaves in the West Indies, and these island nations have ever since remained in a chronic condition of revolution, poverty and have been unable to govern themselves. 16

According to Reagan, the controversy of the slavery question assumed a sectional (Continued on next page)



THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT: IN THE WORDS OF JOHN H. REAGAN—PART 1 OF 2

BY GARY WILLIAMS, HISTORIAN, JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2156

character and brought about a more or less violent agitation. This caused Northern politicians to seize upon it as a means of obtaining popular favor and caused the people of the South to cease the discussion of the question except to defend it. John H. Reagan made this historical point about slavery in his memoirs as follows:

“General George Washington, who commanded the armies during the war which separated this country from Great Britain, was president of the convention which formed the Constitution of the United States; he was chosen by the people as the first President, and served in that office for two terms, eight years; and he was understood to be the largest owner of slaves in the United States. Mr. Jefferson, who was President eight years; Mr. Madison who served as President for two terms; Mr. Monroe, who filled the office two terms; General Andrew Jackson, who served as President for eight years; Mr. Polk for four years and General Taylor, who was elected President and died during his term of office, were all slaveholders. Many Senators and Representatives in Congress, many governors of States, many justices of the Supreme Court, circuit and district courts of the United States, many high officials, including legislative and judicial officers, were slaveholders. Thousands of Christian men and women, as devout and sincere as any on earth, including ministers of the gospel, were slaveholders. The more fanatical of those who were engaged in the crusade against slavery denounced slavery as a wicked sin as the sum of all villainies, and must therefore have held that all the great and good men and women I have just referred to were wicked, sinful and villains. Is this just and reasonable?” 17

Reagan says in his post-war writ-

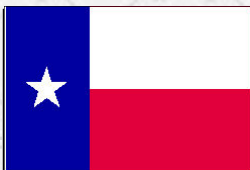
ings that he believes that the Dred Scott case contributed to Northern acts of non-compliance with the Constitution. Dred Scott was the slave of John Emerson, an army doctor from Missouri. Scott had been taken to many different army posts in the United States and the western territories and spent two years in the free territory of Minnesota. Scott claimed he was no longer a slave under the Missouri Compromise. Backed by abolitionists, Scott sued for his freedom in 1846 after failing to purchase his freedom from Emerson's widow. The case turned into an eleven year legal battle and went through many lower courts, with a ruling against Scott in 1855 when it reached the Supreme Court. The case was decided by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, who was appointed by Andrew Jackson. Taney had freed his own slaves in 1818 but believed passionately that slavery was necessary. He ruled that no black man was a citizen of the United States and, therefore, had no right to sue in federal court. Speaking for the Court, Taney ruled that Congress never had the right to ban slavery in the territories because the Constitution protected people from being deprived of life, liberty or property. 18 Slave owners rejoiced and felt relief and vindication. Abolitionists and moderate “nonextensionists” like Abraham Lincoln were outraged. Nonextensionists opposed slavery to spread beyond its current boundaries, thinking that it would gradually die out, echoing the same hope that Jefferson and Washington had voiced some seventy years earlier. 19

Ironically, the decision actually aided the antislavery movement because the new Republican party gained strength from many fence-sitters. The Dred Scott case results went a long way toward building the foundation for a Republican victory in 1860. Dred Scott and his family were freed by his abolitionist owner after the ruling. Scott died the following year. 20 The Republican party made it clear that it would not comply with the provision of the Constitution requiring the rendition of fugitive slaves. 21 Can one conceive of a more

dangerous and startling excuse for violating the fundamental law, and destroying the social and economic system of southern states and the sacrifice of three thousand million dollars of property in slaves? There was a compromise proposed to Congress that the government pay for the freed slaves. The Congress that preceded the election of Lincoln as President would not consent even to discuss or consider the question of paying for the liberation of slaves. Reagan then viewed the Republicans from the North as trying to destroy the Democratic party and degrading the South instead of working for the nation's betterment or meeting in a spirit of compromise.

During the 36th session of Congress, which immediately preceded the war, thirty-odd compromise measures were presented in two Houses of Congress, all of them offered by Southern men or Northern Democrats, for the purposes of trying to get some plan adopted by which war and secession could be avoided and the rights of the states preserved. For every one introduced in the House of Representatives was received with hooting, belittling and derision by the Republicans. When Southern members appealed to those from the North to aid them in some measure of peace, they were answered by this statement from the Northern Republicans, “We are in the majority and you will have to submit.” The Southern members only sought the protection which was due them under the Constitution. 22

Over the next five months of Congress and as the session came to its gloomy close on June 25th, 1860, the Republican House passed protective tariff and homestead bills, while slashing Southern appropriations from the supply bills altogether. The Republicans added insult to injury by proposing the organization of five new territories without mention of slavery and voting to admit Kansas as a free state. Reagan said that his requests for frontier protection for Texas, which was suffering (Continued on next page)



THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT: IN THE WORDS OF JOHN H. REAGAN—PART 1 OF 2

BY GARY WILLIAMS, HISTORIAN, JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2156

Mexican and Indian raids, were disregarded and rejected. Reagan firmly believed that the Republicans intended to continue their campaign of hatred and discord and that once in the majority would attempt to crush the South regardless of the Constitution, and that if Lincoln were to be elected, Southerners must seek security and freedom outside of the Union. 23

In his memoirs, Reagan said the following, "It has been assumed and is assumed by those who were our adversaries that the war was unnecessary and it was brought about by political leaders in the South. I have gone through with these statements of some of the facts of history, in order to do my part in dealing with what were the opinions and practices of the whole world as to slavery; and to fix the responsibility for the great war and the enormous destruction of life and property where it belongs. Secession and the war was forced on the South by a revolutionary movement for the purposes of overthrowing so much of the Constitution as protected slavery." 24

The Texas home front prior to the November 1860 election of Lincoln was one of turbulence and terror on the frontier, with Comanche and Apache raids and waves of destructive fires, poisonings and abortive slave insurrections believed to be instigated by abolitionist agents and terrorists groups such as "Mystic Red."

Hundreds of thousands of copies of The Impending Crisis of the South written by Hinton Rowan Helper (a book that argues that slavery is impoverishing many southern whites) were shipped, distributed and funded by Republican and Northern interests to further promote discord in the South during Lincoln's presidential campaign. It also preaches revolution to the non-slaveholders in the South and insurrection to the slaves. 25 These outside influences would cause many Southerners to believe that Northern interests were waging a war of propaganda to stir up rebellion and

suspicion.

The political situation in 1860 needs to be addressed and explained—basically concerning who ran against Lincoln. The Democrats offered Senator Stephen Douglas on a platform of popular sovereignty and also John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky on a platform of protecting the rights and property in the territories and wherever else its Constitutional authority extended. President Buchanan and former presidents Tyler and Pierce all supported Breckinridge. 26

Republicans met in Chicago opposing the extension of slavery and upholding the Union. They supported tariffs and a transcontinental railroad to hold their strength among northern business and western farming interests. New York's William H. Seward, former governor of New York and US Senator as a Whig and Republican, was viewed as too radical on the abolition issue. Other candidates were Salmon P. Chase of Ohio and Edward Cameron of Pennsylvania, a power broker with a reputation for corruption. 27

John Bell of Tennessee ran for the Constitutional Union party which was a small faction of former Whigs. They were widely ridiculed as "Do-Nothings" and called the "Old Man's party." 28 The election of 1860 ultimately came down to two races: Lincoln against Douglas in the North, and Bell versus Breckinridge in the South. The deep split in the Democratic ranks guaranteed Abraham Lincoln's election. 29

The days between Lincoln's election in November of 1860 and inauguration in March of 1861 were momentous times, dark and tense. Before Lincoln entered office, the first states of the Confederacy had left the Union. Eleven federal arsenals and forts in the South had been seized by state militias. In the White House, lame duck President James Buchanan in his final address says the states have no right to secede but that the federal government can do

nothing to prevent such an action. On December 26, 1860, Major Robert Anderson, commanding the federal forts in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, moved his forces into the stronger of the two, Fort Sumter. The next day, South Carolina troops seized Fort Moultrie and took over the federal arsenal in Charleston. On December 31, 1860, Buchanan announced that Fort Sumter will be defended against attack and ordered "The Star of the West" to sail there with supplies. In January 1861 following Lincoln's election, the first and most hawkish of the Southern states, South Carolina, seceded from the Union, followed by Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana.

In his speech to Congress on January 15, 1861, John H. Reagan delivered his words and clearly stated the reasons why he could not remain in the Union. We now follow with excerpts of this speech, after which Mr. Reagan resigned his seat in Congress and left Washington. Whatever his future would be, his allegiance was to Texas, his destiny with the South.

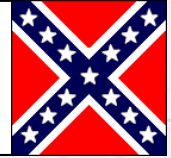
Speech:

(Editors note: We will continued with the excerpts from Mr. Reagan's speech in next and final part of this two part series. The author's end notes and bibliography will be included at the end of Part 2)



REKINDLE THAT OLD FLAME!

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



Occasionally we hear of a couple, after many years of marriage, renewing their wedding vows, or taking a second honeymoon. Of course they love each other as much as ever, and probably more. But, as they say, the thrill is gone. The excitement they once felt at just being together has faded, and they want to rekindle that old flame.

We see a similar thing happen in church. Some members have been Christians and tireless workers for a long time. They have taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, visited the sick, helped the needy, and been a faithful witness to the lost. But it has all become routine, and the fire that once burned in their heart has lost its heat. This, by the way, is a major pitfall to many ministers. They continue to fulfill their responsibilities, but their preaching has lost its sense of urgency. It's time for them to rekindle that old flame.

In Matthew 24:12, Jesus warns, "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." When the flame is not rekindled, the fire goes out and the ashes turn cold. We call it being "burnt out." That's when marriages fail, church members fall, and ministers return to secular work or build mega-churches where everyone has fun and leave unconvinced, unconverted, and unrepentant, but feeling good about their condition.

People often lose interest in their jobs, hobbies, activities, and even relationships. Things they once found exciting become dull, boring, and a chore to continue doing. Then they look for something else, someone else, or some place else to peak their interest. Of course, they'll soon burn out on that and move on to whatever is next. They have failed to rekindle that old flame.

The same thing happens within the ranks of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Every year we have mem-

bers who don't renew their membership, and I don't believe the reason is financial. Certainly our brave Confederate forefathers are worthy of the small amount of our membership dues, even if it requires some sacrifice.

So, why do marriages fail, Christians fall, and SCV members not renew? Jesus answers this question in Revelation 2:4, where He says, "Because thou hast left thy first love." Simply, people lose interest in their jobs, Christianity, marriages, or the SCV because they have forgotten what it was that interested them in the first place. They need to rekindle that old flame.

We are married because we met someone whom we loved and wanted to share our life with. We are Christians because we have a relationship with Jesus Christ who died that we might live. And, we are members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans because we wish to honor our brave Confederate forefathers, defend their worthy Cause, and preserve our noble Southern heritage.

In Revelation 2:5, Jesus continued by saying, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen." That's how we rekindle that old flame.

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

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

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-



THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

ANNUAL MEETING—JANUARY 8, 2011



Above: Newly elected 2011 John H. Reagan Camp 2156 officers from left to right: Commander Marc Robinson, Sergeant-at-Arms Ronnie Hatfield, Chaplain Rod Skelton, Quartermaster John Barnhart, Adjutant/Treasurer Dan Dyer, Historian Gary Williams, 2nd Lt. Commander Rudy Ray, and Chaplain Ed Furman. Not pictured is 1st Lt. Commander Calvin Nicholson.



Above: Chaplain Ed Furman administering the oath of office to the newly elected 2011 camp officers.



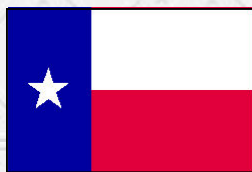
Above: Cmdr. Robinson presents a new member SCV certificate and pin for Karl Boedeker to camp member Willis Boedeker, Jr., Karl's father. Karl is currently living in Washington, D.C.



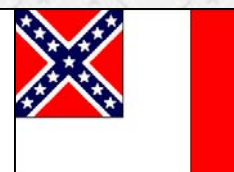
Above: John H. Reagan was impersonated by our own 2nd Lt. Commander, Rudy Ray, for our monthly historical program. Rudy did an exceptional job!!! If you would like to order a DVD of his performance, contact Marc Robinson.



Above: Historian Gary Williams reading the Charge to the SCV.



IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN
COMPILED BY DANIEL DYER, ADJUTANT/TREASURER
OF THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156



- Feb. 4, 1861 John H. Reagan was among 7 men elected to represent Texas at the Secession Convention in Montgomery, Alabama
- Feb. 7, 1857 John H. Reagan took seat as U.S. Rep. in the 35th Congress
- Feb. 14, 1858 John H. Reagan elected Secretary of Democrat Caucus in Washington to attempt alignment on Kansas State Admittance bill
- Feb. 14, 1951 Marker honoring John H. Reagan placed at Reagan home site in Palestine, Texas by the Texas Society of the Daughters of American Colonists
- Feb. 22, 1911 State Treasurer Sam Sparks issued \$10,000 check to Mrs. John H. Reagan for Reagan's letters and state papers, approved by State Legislature and Governor Colquitt

Confederate Dates In February

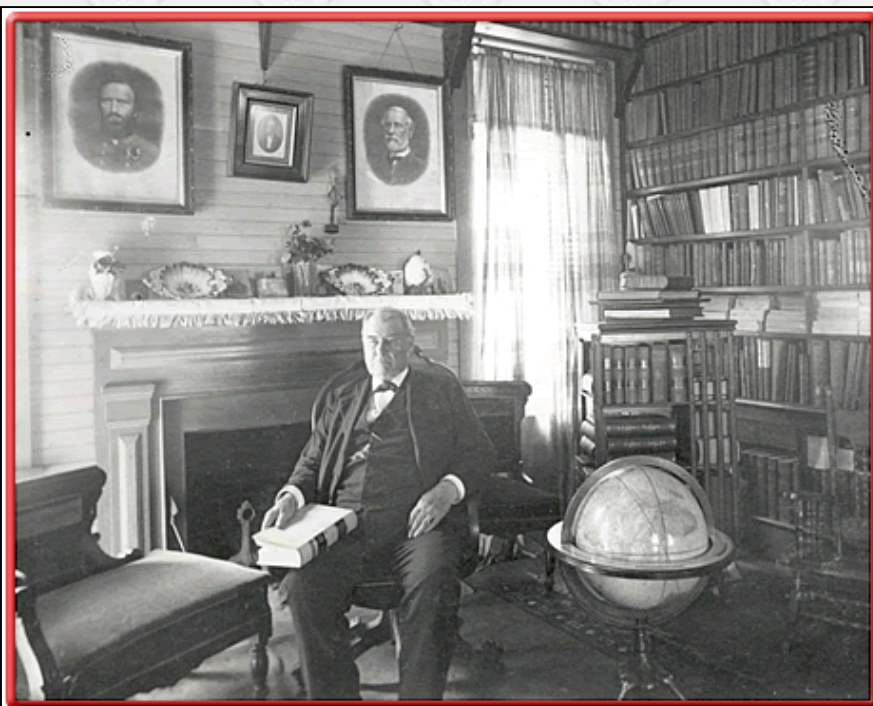
Feb. 9, 1861 Jefferson Davis and Alexander Stephens elected President and VP of the Southern States

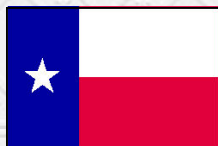
Feb. 22, 1862 Jefferson Davis inaugurated as President of the Confederate States of America

ANDERSON COUNTY VOTED 870 TO 15 TO RATIFY ORDINANCE OF SECESSION

Photo to right:

John H. Reagan in his study at his home he called Fort Houston near Palestine, Texas





**PRIVATE WILLIAM RAY, CO. I, 16TH TEXAS INFANTRY AND
HIS WIFE SARAH RAY
IMPERSONATED BY HIS GG GRANDSON, RUDY RAY & WIFE TONI RAY**



Above: 2nd Lt. Commander Rudy Ray of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, accompanied by his wife, Toni Ray, entertained the J. P. Douglas Camp #124 at their regular monthly meeting on January 20, 2011 at Sweet Sues Restaurant in Tyler, Texas. Rudy impersonated his Great Great Grandfather, Pvt. William Ray, who was asked by some foreign visitors, why he fought the yankees? Rudy's wife, Toni, impersonated Pvt. Ray's wife Sarah, by playing the guitar as they sang a duet at the beginning of the program. She came back on stage at the end of Rudy's program to play her guitar again while Pvt. Ray sang an Army of the Trans-Mississippi version of "I'm a Good Ole Rebel."



Above: Private William Ray holding his General Richard Taylor or Army of the Trans-Mississippi CSA Battle flag. He unfurled his flag during the program and let out an authentic Rebel Yell that got everyone's attention.

Right:
Actual
Walker's
Texas Division
Battle
flag with
battle honors
of Mansfield
and Pleasant
Hill, Louisiana. This
flag is at the
Texas State
Library.





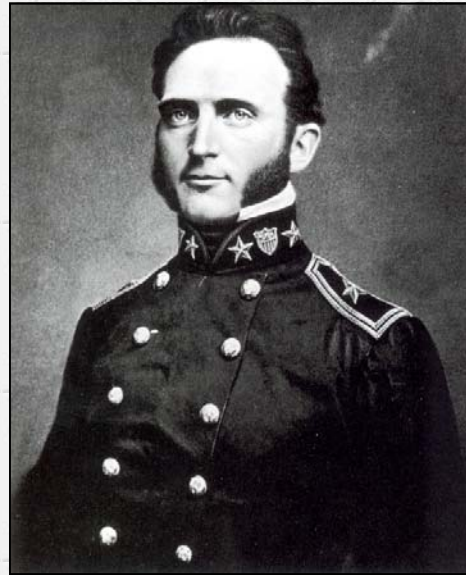
**LT. GEN. THOMAS J. "STONEWALL" JACKSON:
"KILL THEM, SIR! KILL EVERY MAN!"
PROVIDED BY GARY WILLIAMS, HISTORIAN OF
THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2156**



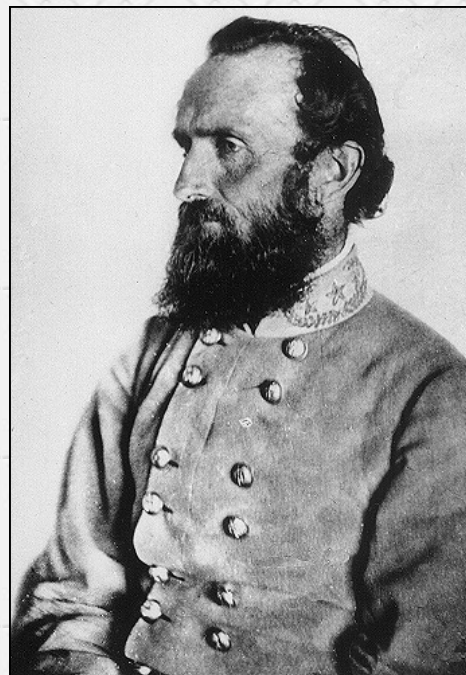
Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson is arguably the South's most revered soldier. Born on a freezing cold January 21, 1824, in the foothills of western Virginia, the eccentric Confederate general seems to have been destined to die a hero's death somewhere in the heart of Virginia. Just after the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, General Jackson received word that one of his brigadier generals, Maxcy Gregg, was mortally wounded. Like many of his subordinates, Gregg had run afoul with the exceedingly secretive Jackson who expected his command to follow his orders without questioning or reasoning. To question Jackson was to invite his censure. General Maxcy Gregg had done so in the autumn of 1862, and the Old Testament Jackson had little mercy on his underling. As Gregg lay dying at 4:00 a.m., Jackson received word that the dying general warned to see him one last time. Jackson quickly dressed, and with Dr. Hunter McGuire the two sped off to see Gregg at Thomas Erby's beautiful home of Belvoir. As Gregg stammered an apology, Jackson took his hand and said, "The doctors tell me that you have not long to live. Let me ask you to dismiss this matter from your mind and turn your thoughts to God and to the world to which you go."

Tears welled up in Gregg's eyes as he said, "I thank you. Thank you very much." Shortly after, the general died. As Doctor McGuire and Jackson rode off into the night the doctor turned to Jackson and asked him how they were going to cope with the expected Union counterattack sure to come. Jackson snapped, "Kill them, sir! Kill every man!" Five months later in the wilderness surrounding Chancellorsville, it was Jackson who would be mortally wounded along the Orange Plank Road near Hazel Crewe. Hit by friendly fire - three smoothbore rounds fired by the 18th North Carolina -- Jackson died a week later not of the wounds but rather pneumonia.

It can be argued that Thomas Jonathan Jackson was arguably the most famous American at the point of his death. Known to all in America for sure, he was quite renowned in Europe where he was known as "a great general." "I rejoice at Stonewall Jackson's death as gain to our cause," Union General Gouverneur K. Warren wrote, "and yet in my soldier's heart I cannot but see him the best soldier of all this war, and grieve at his untimely death."



Left: Thomas J. Jackson, U.S.A. Brevet Major, 1851



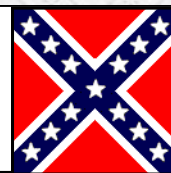
Left: The last portrait of Jackson, taken at a Spotsylvania County farm, about ten days before his mortal wounding. Mrs. Jackson regretted that the image showed "a seriousness to his countenance that was not natural." Gen. Jackson was only 39 years of age when he died.

(Source: National Park Service)

T. J. Jackson



HONOR AND GLORY TO ROBERT E. LEE BY KIRBY MCCORD, COPYRIGHT 2011



Honor and Glory to Robert E. Lee
He's won it and earned it
And with bended knee
We offer it gladly
To old Bobby Lee.

As a young lad he held no advantage:
No money nor pow'r, just honor and courage.
The Lord he loved most, then home and then hearth
Himself he ranked last, of lowliest worth.

A servant was he, the lowest and least,
His humble spirit uplifted as yeast
In the eyes of all his stature did grow:
A leader who serves, a slave to follow.

As a leader of men, he had no peer,
Soldiers served him in love, and never with fear.
But foes they did tremble at the sound of his name,
And bluecoats oft cowered in abject shame.

His triumphs were many, his losses but few,
Until limitless numbers of men in blue
Told him in the end he never could win;
And to waste more men's lives it would be a sin.

So he surrendered his arms but not honor
And strove to rebuild what was torn asunder,
The land suffered much, as did people aplenty
But Lee anguished more, though to all it seemed gently,

A Man full of courage, grit, sand, and nerve,
He never retreated—lived but to serve.
His nation, his country, and home heart he gave
Every ounce of his being from birth to the grave.

"Strike the tent!" he called at age sixty-three;
And God brought him home and set his soul free.
Never forget, and if ever you doubt,
Lee guards us still, so let out the shout:

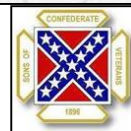
Honor and Glory to Robert E. Lee
He lived it and bled it.
For you and for me,
Sing of old Dixie,
For our Bobby Lee!





MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIA ANTEBELLUM BALL

HOSTED BY THE J. L. HALBERT CAMP #359
COOK CENTER, NAVARRO COLLEGE CAMPUS, CORSICANA, TX



Above: Reagan Camp members and spouses who attended the ball are from left to right: Cmdr. Marc and Deborah Robinson and Toni and 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Rudy Ray.



Above: The Ball sold out at 150. Next year they will have room for many more as the ball room is being enlarged.



Above: The food was wonderful as well as the company.



Above and below: The Halbert Camp members and their ladies did an excellent job decorating for this event!



Photos by Mrs. Toni Ray and
by Brandon Ford



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2156

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Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Please visit our website @
www.reaganscvcamp.org

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

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

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

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

CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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

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



Camp meetings: 2nd Saturday of Each
Month - 06:00 PM
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