



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

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2011

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Greetings Compatriots,

With the sesquicentennial of the War Between the States upon us, isn't it amazing to see and/or read about events that took place 150 years ago being re-enacted and discussed across the South. This will continue as the sesquicentennial unfolds over the next four years. The Road to Secession event held in Texas, the Secession Convention and Ball in South Carolina and General Twiggs surrender of the U.S. Armory in Texas which was re-enacted at the Alamo on February 12th were all great successes. Our own Reagan Camp Historian, Gary Williams, has submitted an article about Colonel Lee and General Twiggs that is included in this issue.

With the onset of the War, thousands of good Southern men joined the Confederate Army. One of these men, whose name is very familiar to many, was Patrick Ronayne Cleburne. He was born in Ireland, served three years in the British Army and rose to the rank of corporal. Pat Cleburne lived in Helena, Arkansas. In Helena, he worked originally as a pharmacist and then as an attorney at the time of his enlistment. He rose in rank from private in the local militia, to Major General commanding an entire Division in the Confederate Army. On May 7, 1861, the day after Arkansas seceded from the Union, Pat Cleburne wrote to his brother about his feelings: *"I am with the South in life or in death, in victory or defeat. I never owned a negro and care nothing for them, but these people have been my friends and have stood up to me on all occasions. In addition to this, I believe the North is about to wage a brutal and unholy war on a people who have done them no wrong, in violation of the constitution and the fundamental principals of the government. They no longer acknowledge that all government derives its validity from the consent of the governed. They are about to invade our peaceful homes, destroy our property, and inaugurate servile insurrection, murder our men and dishonor our women. We propose no invasion of the North, no attack on them, and only ask to be let alone."* General Cleburne in addition to being a very wise man, was also very brave. He died leading his men beyond the Union line during the battle of Franklin, Tennessee on November 30, 1864. He was 36 years of

age and had recently been engaged to be married. Because his leadership skills and style were very similar to those of General Stonewall Jackson, General Cleburne was nicknamed "the Stonewall of the West."

History is made up of ordinary men who did extraordinary things and someone took the time to write the information down. There is a lot written down about General Cleburne, his soldiers and many other great Confederate men just like them. They did some very extraordinary things!

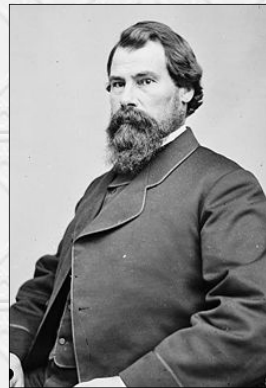
Let us strive to do some extraordinary things in honoring our Confederate ancestors who sacrificed so much for their families and beloved Southland.

For us, it has always been and will always be, a privilege and an honor to be a descendant of a Confederate soldier, although, there is something extra special about the sesquicentennial of the War period we are now in. Let us savor every moment and ask God to guide and direct us as we strive to honor and preserve the true history of these great men and women of the Confederacy.

We are very happy to have Compatriot Barry Swinney of Neches, Texas inducted into our camp this past month. At that meeting, we also had the privilege of presenting Compatriot Dwain Schoppe with a SCV War Service Medal. Please see the photos and article about Compatriot Schoppe in this edition. We appreciate Compatriot Schoppe sharing a few personal words with us after he received his medal.

I want to extend my heartfelt thank you to the members of the Reagan Camp for presenting me with a wonderful Confederate pocket watch at our last camp meeting. I don't feel deserving of such a fine gift, but greatly appreciate it. I can't thank all of you enough for what you do to support our camp and the Charge to the SCV.

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

"Any society which suppresses the heritage of its conquered minorities, prevents their history, and denies them their symbols, has sewn the seed of its own destruction."

**Sir William Wallace
 1281 AD**

CAMP MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of Each Month
 06:00 PM

Light meal served at each meeting.
 First Christian Church
 113 East Crawford Street
 Palestine, Texas

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

Guests are welcome!
 Bring the family.

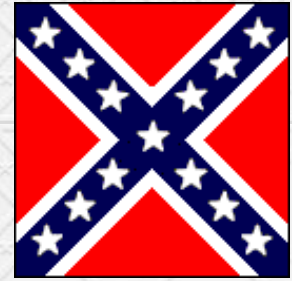
www.reaganscvcamp.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CAMP EVENTS	2
THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT: IN THE WORDS OF JOHN H. REAGAN BY WILLIAMS, PART 2 OF 2	3-6
CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE	7
FEBRUARY CAMP MEETING NEWS	8
DWAIN SCHOPPE, - SCV WAR SERVICE MEDAL	9
IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN	10
COLONEL LEE AND GENERAL TWIGGS SURRENDER	11-12
CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS, MEXIA, TEXAS	13
MEMBERSHIP/ CONTACT INFO	14



Left: Photo taken by Compatriot Dwain Schoppe, John H. Reagan Camp #2156. This is the Gen. Taylor battle flag that flies in his front yard. Photo taken on Friday, February 4, 2011. Dwain stated the following in his email, "I have had numerous inquires about my flag and cannon at my driveway. None have been negative."



Editors note:

"THANK YOU Compatriot Schoppe FOR FLYING A CONFEDERATE FLAG FOR ALL TO SEE ON A DAILY BASIS! THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT COMPATRIOT SCHOPPE UNDERSTANDS HOW MUCH OUR CONFEDERATE ANCESTORS WOULD APPRECIATE THE HONOR THEY RECEIVE FROM THEIR DESCENDANTS FLYING THEIR FLAG."

"DUTY IS THE MOST SUBLIME WORD IN OUR LANGUAGE. DO YOUR DUTY IN ALL THINGS. YOU CANNOT DO MORE. YOU SHOULD NEVER WISH TO DO LESS."

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-

PRAYER LIST

- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America
- The Family of Brad Jeffus
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans
- The United Daughters of the Confederacy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 12, 2011, 06:00 PM—John H. Reagan Camp regular monthly meeting.
March 12 Program: Norris White, Jr. (Anderson County Historian), "The Forgotten Confederate Soldiers."
 Bio: Graduate of the University of Texas at Tyler. Earned a Bachelor of Science History degree /minor in Anthropology with honors. Currently enrolled in the Graduate History Program at Stephen F. Austin State University. Core area of study is in Texas History: Native American and African American topics. A Preservation Fellows with the Texas Historical Commission and currently serving on the Board of Directors with the Museum for East Texan Culture; where he created the Native American exhibit. This summer, he will conduct historical/archeological research as a member of the Mayan Research Program at Blue Ridge, Belize. He also actively presents papers and topics for

the Texas State Historical Association as well as for the East Texas Archeological Conference.

March 19, 2011, 10:30 AM—Confederate Marker Dedication for Pvt. G. W. Barrs, Old Magnolia Cemetery, Anderson County Texas.

March 19, 2011, 01:30 PM—UDC Medallion Ceremony for Mrs. Eppes, Land of Memory Cemetery, Anderson County Texas

March 26 & 27, 2011, - Camp Ford Living History, Tyler, Texas

April 9, 2011, 06:00 PM— John H. Reagan Camp regular monthly meeting.

April 9 Program: Fort Sumpter: the Onset of the War, by "To be Announced?"

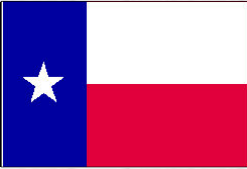
April 15-16, Confederate Reunion Grounds, Mexia, Texas, Annual battle re-enactment and living history.



Above L-R: Compatriots Swinney, Skelton, and Furman (all Vietnam Veterans), saluting fellow Vietnam Veteran, Dwain Schoppe as he received his SCV War Service Medal from the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 (see page 8)

"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 INFLECTED 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 2 OF 2

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

Continued from Volume 3, Issue 2, Feb.2011:

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:

“Mr. Chairman, we stand in the presence of great events. When Congress assembled some weeks ago, the control of the condition of the country was in its hands. I came here with a full knowledge of the deep discontent that prevailed in a portion of the states, and I felt then satisfied - as all must be satisfied now - that they intended to insist unconditionally and unalterably upon being secured in their constitutional rights in the Union, or on going out of it for the sake of self preservation.

In view of the fact that Republican members of Congress have held sullenly back, and have neither proposed nor accepted any compromise, but have declared that they have none to make, and four States are now out of the Union; and others are in rapid motion to go out. I cannot say now that it is possible to arrest the movement. It is certainly all but impossible now to arrest it. It is my duty to speak on this occasion as I would speak in the presence of the future.

No men on the face of the earth, at any period of the world's history, were ever charged with a more solemn responsibility than that which rests today on the American Congress.

If, fifteen States come here - minority as they may be in Congress, in the popular masses, in wealth and power - telling you of their discontents, and the cause of them, and if you tender no olive branch, no conciliation, but sternly deny them their constitu-

tional rights, and tender to them on the one hand submission to ruin, and on the other hand powder and ball, who is it that does not know what their decision will be, whatever may be the consequences?

For twenty years the antislavery strength has been growing in the free States of this Confederacy. In recent years it has become aggressive. The question tendered to the people of the South is well expressed in the language of the President elect - that this agitation must go on until the northern mind shall rest in the belief that slavery is put in a condition of ultimate extinction. That was his sentiment.

I need hardly to say that, on the date of the Declaration of Independence, each of the thirteen colonies was slaveholding. At the date of the formation of the Federal Constitution, twelve years after, twelve of the thirteen States of the Union were slaveholding States.

The interests of a portion of the States were found not to require African slavery; and these States disposed of their negroes, not so numerous then, it is true, as they were in some of the more Southern States. Then they made their States what they called free States. The Southern States raised no objection, and had no right to raise any objection, that these States had chosen for themselves to exclude negro slavery; but they had rights under the Federal Constitution - the right to protection and security - which it was their duty to insist upon.

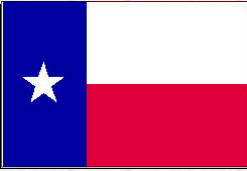
We have for years back heard of what is termed the irrepressible conflict. It has emanated from men who have been eulogized for their statesmanship and their learning. It rested on the idea of irrepressible hostility between the interests and institutions of the States of the Union. It has been invoked for partisan success and for sectional prejudice. And, here today, behold the fruits of the irrepressible

conflict. Every man who looks forward with an eye to the interests and hopes of the country has foreseen what the irrepressible conflict meant. We have reached now its logical end.

I ask Republicans today. Suppose these slaves were liberated; suppose the people of the South would today voluntarily consent to surrender \$3,000,000,000 of slave property, and send the slaves at their own expense into the free States; would you accept them as freemen and citizens in your States? [No! from the Republican side of the House.] You dare not answer me that you would. You would fight us with all the energy and power of your States for twenty years, before you would submit to it. And yet you demand of us to liberate them, to surrender this \$3,000,000,000 of slave property, to dissolve society, to break up social order, to ruin our commercial and political prospects for the future, and still to retain such an element among us.

And, yet, in religion's name, in God's name, in the name of justice and humanity, you are invoking every feeling that can stir the hearts of the people to press on with your irrepressible conflict; never halting, never stopping to consider, as all statesmen must consider, the relative condition and capacities of the races; and what is to be the end of the conflict which you invoke, with the certainty on your part that it must result in breaking up this Republic or in the subjugation and the infliction upon the South of the worst despotism that can be forced upon any country.

If I wanted experience to prove the truth of my supposition that such would be the calamitous effect of carrying your principles to their ultimate results, the history of the past furnishes that experience. In 1793, when red republicanism assumed its reign in France and the wild delusion of unrestrained liberty seized upon the minds of the masses, there were wretched
(Continued on following page)



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

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

fanatics who undertook to proclaim the equality of every human being, and they proposed the liberation of the slaves in the French West India colonies. The idea chimed with the popular delusions of the day, and a decree was passed that all the slaves would be free. The colonies would not accept the decree, and did not until the army of France was brought into requisition, and the slaves were set at liberty. Great Britain, catching the contagion from France, determined upon the policy of liberating her slaves in her West India colonies; but she was a little more humane and liberal. She did make compensation to the owners of slaves liberated, to the amount perhaps of one-eighth of their value. But what was the fruit of those decrees to the colonies interested? What was the result of conferring the boon of freedom upon the African race in these colonies? What was the condition of these colonies prior to the execution of these decrees? They were the homes of civilization, contentment, prosperity, and happiness; their farms were cultivated, their cities were alive with business; their ports were covered with the canvas of the fleets of all nations, bearing to and fro the commerce of the world. Those decrees were passed. What followed? The white race was to a considerable extent exterminated. The fields then growing under the hand of industry soon went back into the jungle, inhabited by the wild beasts of the forest; grass grew in the streets of their cities, and ships departed from their ports. And they have gone on in this experiment of liberty from revolution to revolution, carnage relapsed into and present a spectacle of savage African barbarism. Gentlemen of the Republican party, are you now prepared to go on in your aggressions until you have inaugurated the same scenes for your Southern brethren? Are you prepared to inaugurate a system which can only end in such a result? Are you prepared to attempt to force us by fire and sword to submit to such a fate as this?

I wish to call your attention to another point. What is to be the effect upon the material prosperity, not of the South alone, but upon the North, upon Great Britain, and upon the whole of continental Europe, from the success of your policy? During the last year the foreign exports from the Southern States amounted to \$250,000,000. Of this amount \$200,000,000 consists in the exportation of the single article of cotton. That cotton supplies the material for your Northern manufacturers of cotton goods. It employs the millions of capital engaged in that business. It employs the time and services of hundreds of thousands of operatives who work there. It employs the investments made in your Northern cities in the shipping in our coast-wise trade and foreign commerce. It employs the untold millions of English capital engaged in the manufactured and unmanufactured. It supplies with bread the hundreds of thousands of operatives employed in the manufacture of these goods in England.

Now suppose you succeed in striking down African slavery in the United States; you strike down not only our prosperity in the South, and inaugurate instead all the horrors of Africanized barbarism under which the French and British West India colonies now suffer; you strike down all the investments made in the manufacture of cotton goods; you bankrupt your capitalists; you beggar your operatives; you bankrupt Great Britain; you beggar millions there; you inaugurate starvation and famine in Great Britain to an extent ten-fold beyond that which will be suffered here. You require of us unconditional submission; and if that is not rendered, you propose to employ all the force of the Army and Navy to subjugate us.

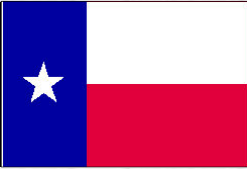
I was going on to say that you contemplate as a part of the means of your operations the blockade of our ports. Well, I grant that you have the ships, and you could blockade our

ports if none but ourselves were concerned. But let me warn you in advance, that like a distinguished general of a former war, you will find a fire in the rear as well as in the front when you undertake to do it. Your own people will not permit you to do it. Your commercial cities will not permit you to do it. Your manufacturers will not permit you to do it. But suppose your people should be so demented as to allow you to destroy their interests, do you think Great Britain would permit it.

If your own interests, and all the duties of humanity and justice, will not induce you to forbear from the madness and folly which must produce such results, Great Britain and continental Europe will promptly require you to raise the blockade of our ports. Gentlemen, I mention these things, and you can consider them if you think they are worth considering. We are dealing with questions which involve not only our own interest, but the interests of all the civilized and commercial world.

You are not content with the vast millions of tribute we pay you annually under the operation of our revenue laws, our navigation laws, your fishing bounties, and by making your people our manufacturers, our merchants, our shippers. You are not satisfied with the vast tribute we pay you to build up your great cities, your railroads, your canals. You are not satisfied with the millions of tribute we have been paying on account of the balance of exchange which you hold against us. You are not satisfied that we of the South are almost reduced to the conditions of overseers for Northern capitalists. You are not satisfied with all this; but you must wage a relentless crusade against our rights and institutions.

We do not intend that you shall reduce us to such a condition. But I can tell you what your folly and injustice will compel us to do. It will compel us to be free from your domination, (Continued on following page)



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

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

and more self-reliant than we have been. It will compel us to assert and maintain our separate independence. It will compel us to manufacture for ourselves, to build up our own commerce, our own great cities, our own railroads and canals; and to use the tribute money we now pay you for these things to the support of a government which will be friendly to all our interests, hostile to none of them. Let me tell you to beware lest your abolitionism and irrepressible-conflict statesmanship produce these results to us, and calamities to you of which you dream not now.

The question again recurs, what has brought the perilous condition of the country? Why, sir, to hear the taunts that are made to the South, to hear the epithets of “treason,” “rebellion,” “revolt,” and to hear the declarations and pretensions made in the North, one would think that the people of the South were a reckless, wayward people, seeking only to do wrong. How? In what? Let the questions be echoed and reechoed all over the Union – all over the civilized world. How? In what have the South done wrong? Have they sought to violate the Federal Constitution? Have they sought to violate the laws? Have they asked you to sacrifice any material interest? Have they asked you to sacrifice any principle that is not in conflict with the Federal Constitution and laws? In what way have we done wrong? History is to answer the question; and it is to answer it in the face of the consequences which must follow.

I stand here today to say that if there be a Southern State, or a Southern man even, who would demand, as a condition for remaining in this Union, anything beyond the clearly specified guarantees of the Constitution of the United States as they are I do not know it. They are, however, unalterably determined never to submit to less than their constitutional rights. Never; Never; sir! You can rely on that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I was going on to say that we demand nothing but what are our clear constitutional rights. We will submit sir, to nothing less. We ask no concessions as a mere favor to us. We demand our constitutional rights. That, sir, is the language of freedom. We demand them and we intend to have them, in the Union or out of it.

We do rightly estimate the value of the Union. We do rightly estimate the failure of the blessings of the Government. We have loved and cherished the Union. Nobody has a better right than I have, although I say so myself, to make that declaration. I have loved the Union with an almost extravagant devotion. I have fought its battles whenever they were to be fought in my section of the country. I have met every sectional issue, at home in my section, and in my State particularly, which was attempted to be forced upon the public mind, and which I thought would mar the harmony of the Democratic party. I have fought the battles of the Union without looking forward to the consequences. If I could believe we could have security of our rights within the Union, I would go home and fight the battle of the Union in the future with the same earnestness and energy that I have done in time past.

Deny us our rights, and we will face your messengers of death, and show you how freeman can die, or, living, how they can maintain their rights. Mark that sir!

We want to avert civil war if we can. Yet no effort has been made to give us what, under the Constitution, we ought to have. No such proposition can be made and sustained; because, to give us our rights is to disband the Republican party. The existence of that party depends upon violating the Federal Constitution, and in making war upon the institutions of the South. There is now an irrepressible conflict; and either the Federal Government or the Republican party must end. You all

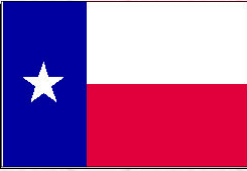
know that we cannot and dare not live in the Union with our rights denied by the Republican party.

All I want to say is this, that our interest is peace, and our hopes are for peace. War is in opposition to all of our interests and our hopes. We want no war; and we intend to give no just cause for war, unless the attempt to separate ourselves peaceably from despotism, and to take care of our rights under a friendly Government – and they would be destroyed under a hostile Government – is a cause for war. We declare in advance that we will not interfere with your navigation of the Mississippi River. We know that is necessary for you; but we cannot, because there may possibly be some conflict of interest between us, consent to surrender our liberties rather than assume the responsibility of organizing a government which will cover the lower part of that river and the capes of Florida.

I live far to the South. We have a long Mexican boundary, and a large Indian frontier, infested by hostile savages throughout its whole extent; and yet this Government has refused for years to defend us against them.

Texas cost this Government not one cent. She vindicated her liberty by her arms; and redeemed to civil and religious liberty a country as large as the six New England States, and New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, and Indiana, all put together. She redeemed it from Catholic priest-craft and military despotism, and has covered it over with five hundred thousand freemen, a prosperous and happy people; and they are prepared to vindicate their liberties when they are encroached upon again by a despotism of one or of many men.

Mr. Chairman, there are other subjects which I had hoped to discuss this morning, but I will not trespass on the patience of the House by discussing them now. I have to say in the end, that
(Continued on following page)



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

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

yet, almost hopeless as it seems, I would be glad to see an effort made toward conciliation. Above all things I stand here to invoke members to look upon this question as one which involves the interest and destiny of States, to warn the that they are making advances against fifteen States, with thirteen million people, and with more than two-thirds of the exports of the country; against a people who understand all these questions, and who are not to be misled or deceived by special pleading; a people who never intended or wished to raise their voice against the Federal Government, and who never would have done so if they had been let alone. Remember that we only ask you to let us alone- nothing else. Give us security in the Union. Respect our rights in the common Territories. So act among yourselves as to let us know that we need no longer live under continual fear of the consequences of your actions.

I must say that the very State from which I come, the very district which I represent, has had some painful experience during the last summer, growing out of the doctrines of abolitionism. We found, for the last two or three years, the members of the Methodist Church North, and others, living in Texas, were propagating abolition doctrines there. We warned them not to carry on their schemes of producing disaffection among our negroes; but they persisted, and did not cease until they had organized a society called the Mystic Red. Under its auspices, the night before the last of August election the towns were to be burned and the people murdered. There now lie in ashes, a number of towns and villages in my district. Four of them were county seats, and two of them the best towns in the district. The poisonings were only arrested by information which came to light before the plan could be carried into execution. The citizens were forced to stand guard for months, so that no man could have passed through the towns between dark and daylight

without making himself known. A portion of them paid the penalty of their crimes. Others were driven out of the country. These things had their effect on the public mind. They were the results of abolition teaching, a part of the irrepressible conflict; a part of the legitimate fruits of Republicanism.” 30

Afterward, John H. Reagan returned to Texas as he could no longer agree to such a Union and was determined to join any measure which might defeat it. Upon his arrival in Austin, he was informed that he had been elected a delegate from Texas to the Southern convention in Montgomery, Alabama. In February 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected President of the Confederate States of America. Davis asked Reagan to serve as Postmaster General and he accepted March 6, 1861.

Endnotes:

- 1 Procter, Ben H., Not Without Honor, p. 96
- 2 *ibid*, p. 98
- 3 *ibid*, p. 99
- 4 Davis, Kenneth C., Don't Know Much About the Civil War, p. 119
- 5 *ibid*, p. 120
- 6 Brandt, Jo, John H. Reagan, Program, Texas Historical Marker Dedication, p.2
- 7 Procter, Ben H., Not Without Honor, p. 116
- 8 Reagan, John H., Memoirs, p. 75
- 9 Procter, Ben H., Not Without Honor, p. 108
- 10 *ibid*, p. 109
- 11 Davis, Kenneth C., Don't Know Much About the Civil War, p. 136
- 12 *ibid*, p. 138
- 13 Reagan, John H., Memoirs, p. 90
- 14 *ibid*, p. 83
- 15 *ibid*, p. 84
- 16 *ibid*, p. 85
- 17 *ibid*, p. 93

18 Davis, Kenneth C., Don't Know Much About the Civil War, p. 122

19 *ibid*, p. 123

20 *ibid*, p. 123

21 Reagan, John H., Memoirs, p. 89

22 *ibid*, p. 91

23 Procter, Ben H., Not Without Honor, p. 118

24 Reagan, John H., Memoirs, p. 91

25 Procter, Ben H., Not Without Honor, p. 115

26 Davis, Kenneth C., Don't Know Much About the Civil War, p. 137

27 *ibid*, p. 137

28 *ibid*, p. 138

29 *ibid*, p. 138

30 Reagan, John H., Memoirs, pages 253-270

Bibliography:

Davis, Kenneth C, Don't know Much About the Civil War, William Morrow and Company Inc., New York, 1996

Anderson County Historical Commission, Texas Historical Marker Program, Jo Brandt, Pittman Graphics, 1995

Procter, Ben H., Not Without Honor, The Life of John H. Reagan, The University of Texas, Press, Austin, Texas, 1962

Reagan, John H., Memoirs, The Neale Publishing Co., 1906.

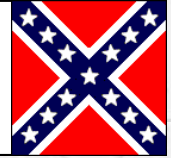


Original Confederate Cabinet



WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

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



Some years ago I was talking with a young man about his spiritual well being, when he suddenly stated, "I can't do it! I just can't do it!" "Can't do what?" I asked. His answer was, "I can't give up drinking, smoking, dancing, and all the things I like to do." And, my response was, "I didn't ask you to." Of course, he had no idea what I was talking about, and I was totally unsuccessful in changing his long and well established mindset. How can we talk to people about Christianity when they don't know what a Christian is?

If we were to ask someone if they are a Christian, their answer will often betray the fact that they don't understand the question. They may answer, "I try to be" or "In some ways." They might even say, "Sort of." These types of answers would be amusing, if they weren't so serious. It is obvious that they don't know what a Christian is. Someone once said that being a Christian is like being pregnant. There's no such thing as "sort of" or "in some ways." They either are or they're not. And of course, if they're "trying to be," then they're not.

Then if we were to ask them, "What is a Christian?" Again, they would not know how to answer. They may answer that a Christian is someone who believes certain things, or does certain things, or doesn't do certain things. And, while there may be some truth to what they say, it does not answer the question. The question was not, what does a Christian believe, or what does a Christian do or not do. The question was, "What is a Christian?"

The fact is, Jesus did not suffer and die on a Roman cross to change our lifestyle, improve our morality, or give us a new religion and something to do on Sunday. Because of His great love for us, He died to save us from death, and give us a glorious eternal

life. We need do nothing but commit ourselves to Him, and accept Him as our Savior and Lord. Then, by an act of God, we are reborn of God's Spirit and become a new creation in Christ. The Bible says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17) So, "What is a Christian?" A Christian is someone who has been reborn of God's Spirit and recreated into a new creature in Christ.

I am not a Christian because of anything I have done, do, or don't do. I am not a Christian because I decided to accept a certain set of rules and doctrines, or unite with a particular church. I am a Christian because of what God has done and continues to do in my life. All I did was commit my life to Christ and accept His forgiveness and free gift of eternal salvation.

My prayer for the Sons of Confederate Veterans is that every member of the SCV be a Christian and experience the greatness of God for themselves in their own life. May our God richly bless each of you as you have need.

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-



THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—FEBRUARY 12, 2011



Above: Compatriot Barry Thomas Swinney, second from right, took the new member pledge and received his SCV certificate of membership and SCV pin from Commander Marc Robinson, far right, Chaplain Ed Furman and Chaplain Rod Skelton, far left. Compatriot Swinney joined under his Great Grandfather, Pvt. Thomas Troup Swinney, Co. A, 13th Battalion, Louisiana Partisan Rangers. We warmly welcome Barry into our camp!



Above: Vernon Holliman, left, presented a very nice Battle Flag to the John H. Reagan Camp #2156.



Above: Texas Division 2nd Lt. Commander Mark Vogl presented a program on the U. S. and Confederate Constitutions. Although very similar, there were some major differences that made the CSA Constitution better.



Above: Dwain Schoppe, second from right, was presented the SCV War Service Medal for his honorable service to our country during the Vietnam War. From left to right, Reagan Camp members Barry Swinney, Rod Skelton, and Ed Furman who are also Vietnam Veterans, Cmdr. Marc Robinson, Dwain Schoppe, and Sgt. Ronnie Hatfield who composed and read a very nice war service history of Compatriot Schoppe. (see following page for more details on his war service history)



Above: On behalf of the Reagan Camp, Adjutant Dyer, left, presented Cmdr. Robinson, right, with a very nice CSA pocket watch. Cmdr. Robinson was very surprised and appreciative of the beautiful gift.



COMPATRIOT DWAIN SCHOPPE—SCV WAR SERVICE MEDAL RECIPIENT, FEBRUARY 12, 2011

BY RONNIE HATFIELD, SGT.-AT-ARMS JHR CAMP #2156



There are times in life when I wonder just exactly what it is I'm supposed to accomplish with the time God has given me. Raise a family, make and support friends, and try to leave this place in a little better shape than when I got here.

Occasionally, there are special times, when I get a chance to make something right, or make someone else feel good about their accomplishments. I thank God for those days, and that today is one of those days. Today I can right a wrong, and make a friend feel good about his accomplishments.

In the late 1960's a skinny country boy from around Cushing Texas felt the desire to do more with his life than just learn his father's cabinet making business. He loved the trade, was and is still good at it, but that wasn't enough. As he was finishing high school, he said it seemed like each day the voice over the loudspeaker in class sadly announced the name of a former classmate who had just lost his life in the increasingly grim conflict in Vietnam. As he sat in class during his senior year, having decided on an optional path, he wondered if a year later, someone would hear his name called out on that loudspeaker. Even with a war going on, my buddy figured his place was in the United States Army. John Wayne once said, "Bein brave ain't nothin more than bein scared to death and saddlin' up anyway."

Allen Dwain Schoppe enlisted on September 8th, 1969, and after helicopter training at Ft. Eustis, Virginia, a red-eye flight landed him smack in the middle of Southeast Asia. Dwain told me that the first sight he had of Vietnam was when daylight came around, and he was able to read a sign that said "Can Tho Airbase, Welcome to Vietnam." He rose quickly through the ranks, attaining the rank of Sergeant on February 24th, 1971, and served as flight engineer on the CH-47 helicopters servicing the troops and firebases throughout the theatre.

Dwain learned why you wear one flak jacket and sit on another when in flight. With the noise level and flight helmet, he couldn't hear enemy small arms fire ripping

into the aircraft, but he could see the jagged dots of light opening up in the roof, floor, and walls. He learned the cold, hard knot in his stomach when a sentry reported a breach in the perimeter fence, with possible intruders near the flight line, and it was his job as S-O-G to approach each bird on the flight line and inspect it's dark interior knowing that any possible enemy inside sure had the upper hand.

He knew also that an enemy on two feet wasn't all that could kill you. Once, while hovering in a holding pattern for their bird's turn to land, he watched in horror as a 25 foot python swam lazily through a perimeter moat at the same spot he had waded through a few nights before. He knew the irony of 12 safe months in country in a helicopter, and then crashing in one on his way out. He did his job. He was a good soldier, and he came home. That's when it went wrong.

As my buddy was processed through the myriad of different stations before heading home, we was shuttled from one line to another, returning this item, or receiving this document, he responded to "NEXT" at the current line he was in, and received his country's recognition of his service presented like so many milk duds, popcorn, and sodas at a theater concession.

The National Defense Service Medal, The Vietnam Service Medal with 2 bronze Service Stars, The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, The Aircraft Crewman's Badge, The Army Commendation Medal, The Sharpshooter's Badge (rifle), and The Air Medal were all slid across a counter from a young soldier who didn't even make eye contact, and had no more respect for the medals or the man who earned them than the cashier at that theater concession. He read from a list, filled the lists contents, and without even a nod said "NEXT!"

Landing back in the States at San Francisco, he was greeted with disrespect for him and the uniform he wore. Cursed and spit on, my buddy waited for the flight that would at least get him back to Texas. At Houston airport his reception was much better and



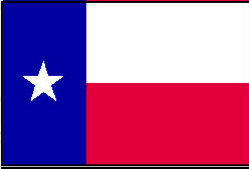
Top photo- Dwain Schoppe 1971, on guard duty while on tour in South Vietnam.
Lower photo- Dwain Schoppe 1971, Can Tho Airbase, South Vietnam in background.

made the last few hours drive more comfortable. He finished out his enlistment term at Ft Hood as a tank commander in the 1st Cavalry Division.

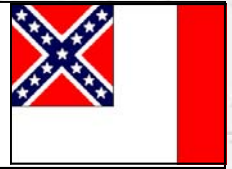
Many years, a great marriage, beautiful kids and grandkids later, Dwain began reenacting the War Between the States, and ironically, the recognition of that 1st years service was recognized by his CO as an afterthought, and he was tossed his service star out a car window on the CO's way out of the event parking lot.

He is a proud unreconstructed Confederate descendant who honors his ancestors at every opportunity in word and deed.

Today, we make things right. Today, with this presentation, Dwain gets the recognition and respect that he and all the others deserved, Thanks for going, thanks for serving, and welcome home soldier! Well Done! As he was leaving Vietnam, he and others were given the following letter, addressed to those of us back here in the "World."



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

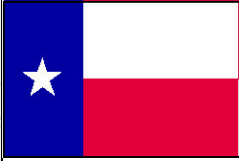


- March 6, 1861 - John H. Reagan accepted post of Postmaster General for CSA.
- March 6, 1905 - Death of John H. Reagan in Palestine, buried in East Hill Cemetery, Palestine, Texas.
- March 8, 1905 - Funeral of John H. Reagan; The State Legislature attended in mass; They arrived by special train.
- March 19, 1862 - John H. Reagan delivered speech in U.S. Congress on Kansas State admittance and slavery.
- March 20, 1862 - John H. Reagan officially appointed Postmaster General of CSA.
- March 22, 23, 27 and 29, 1872 -
Gave speeches around Anderson County on the Houston and Great Northern Rail Road building tracks through the County

Photo to right:

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





**COLONEL LEE AND
GENERAL TWIGGS SURRENDER IN TEXAS
COMPILED BY GARY WILLIAMS, HISTORIAN OF
THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156**



As lieutenant colonel of the 2nd regular cavalry, Robert E. Lee was stationed at Fort Mason, Texas. The commander of the Department of Texas, Brigadier General David Emanuel Twiggs, had passed along orders just received from the War Department: Lieutenant Colonel Lee was detached from his command and was to report to the general-in-chief, in Washington, for orders. On February 13, 1861, Lee put himself and his worldly goods in an army ambulance and set out on the first leg of the trip, heading for San Antonio, site of department headquarters.

It seemed probable that the general-in-chief had a special assignment for Lee, and this would almost certainly have something to do with the government's military plans regarding the Southern Confederacy. Lee frankly told a brother officer that is this were the case he would resign. Under no circumstances could he draw his sword against Virginia and her sons. To another officer who asked bluntly what Lee proposed to do, he replied: "I shall never bear arms against the Union, but it may be necessary for me to carry a musket in defense of my native state, Virginia, in which case I shall not prove recreant to my duty." How he could bear arms in Virginia's defense without bearing arms against the Union was not clear, but the situation itself was not clear either. Earlier, Lee had coldly written that "secession is nothing but revolution," but he had felt obliged to add that he saw no charms in "a Union that can only be maintained by swords and bayonets".

If Virginia had not yet seceded, Texas had and when Lee entered San Antonio, the revolution that he disliked so much was visible all over town in the form of marching men, excited crowds, and an unmistakable air of general hostility to the government of the United States. Lee discovered, in fact, that he might be a prisoner of war before he left San Antonio, even though no war existed. General Twiggs had surrendered his entire department to the recently seceded state of Texas.

Twiggs was seventy, Georgia-born, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. Twiggs was on the side of the South and he made no bones about it, and he had been trying for many weeks to get a clear set of policy instructions from the War Department. In this effort he had had no more luck than Major Anderson had had, in a faraway fort Sumter, but he lacked Anderson's uncompromising sense of duty, and when armed Southerners invited him to give up, he obeyed without demur. In Twigg's behalf it must be said that he had done his best to give Washington fair warning.

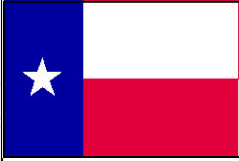
Early in December he had told the War Department that Texas would unquestionably secede before the winter ended, and he asked: "What is to be done with the public property in charge of the Army?" He got no reply, except for a vague statement that the administration had confidence that his "discretion, firmness and patriotism" would state the test. (Continued on following page)



Left:
Brigadier General
David E. Twiggs



Left:
General
Robert E. Lee



**COLONEL LEE AND
GENERAL TWIGGS SURRENDER IN TEXAS
COMPILED BY GARY WILLIAMS, HISTORIAN OF
THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156**



January, Twiggs bluntly told Washington that since he did not think that anyone wanted him to “carry on a civil war against Texas” he would, once the state seceded, surrender government property to the state authorities if the state authorities asked him to do so. He pointed out that he had asked four times for instructions without getting any answer.

A state convention on February 1 had voted Texas out of the Union, but the action was subject to ratification by a vote of the people in a referendum to be held on February 23. On the night of February 15—on muleback and on horseback and on foot, devoid of uniforms but armed and waving the Lone Star flag—Texas state troops began marching into San Antonio, converging on the plaza, orderly but determined; their commander was Colonel Ben McCulloch, a redoubtable frontiersman who had been friend and neighbor to Davy Crockett and who had fought brilliantly in the Mexican War. By morning of February 16 a thousand of those troops were in town ready to underline the state commissioners’ demands on Twiggs. Twiggs surveyed the situation, found armed Texans surrounding government installations, then with his staff went back into conference with the commissioners, who demanded that he give up all military posts and public property forthwith.

Twiggs made only a token resistance. He had been given no instructions, he was heart and soul with the South, to reject the demand would have meant bloody fighting in the streets of San Antonio, and in any case he was seventy and in poor health, not ideally fitted to become a martyr for a cause in which he did not believe. By the middle of the day he gave up, signing an agreement under which his troops would collect their weapons, clothing, and camp equipment and march out of Texas unharmed. Orders were prepared and sent out along the 1200-mile line where the army’s frontier posts and forts were scattered—there were more than 2600 Federal soldiers in Texas, dispersed in small detachments all along the frontier — and the troops in San Antonio got under way at once, moving out of their quarters with flag flying and band playing, to make their first camp at evening on the edge of town.

In the midst of all of this excitement the ambulance containing Colonel Lee came into town and pulled up in front of the Read House, where Lee was to stop. As Lee got out of the wagon he noticed that the street was full of armed men, some of them wearing strips of red flannel on their shoulders to show that they were officers. A friend met him, the Unionist-mined Mrs. Caroline Darrow, whose husband was a clerk in the army department headquarters. Lee asked her who these men might be.

“They are McCulloch’s,” she said. “General Twiggs surrendered everything to the state this morning and we are all prisoners of war.” Lee stared at her, and she wrote afterwards that his lips

trembled and his eyes filled with tears as he exclaimed: “Has it come so soon as this?”

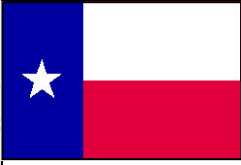
Lee’s position was embarrassing. If Mrs. Darrow’s story was right, he himself might at this moment be some sort of prisoner, although technically, since he had been detached from his command and ordered to Washington, he was no longer on duty in Texas, and hence should not be included in any list of officers who had been surrendered. He entered the hotel, changed his uniform for unobtrusive civilian clothing, and went to department headquarters.

The state of Texas was in control, and its representatives intimated that Lee might not be given transportation to get out of Texas unless he immediately resigned his commission and joined the Confederacy. This proposal he instantly rejected. He was an officer in the army, his orders were to report to Washington, and those orders he would obey — and, on consideration, the Texans decided not to try to stop him.

A fascinating “What if” develops at this point. A few months earlier, in Twiggs’s absence, Lee had been acting commander of the Department of Texas. If the secession crisis had come to a head then, or if Twiggs’s return had been delayed past mid-winter, it would have been Lee and not Twiggs on whom the Texas commissioners would have made their demand for the surrender of government property. Without any question, Lee with his devout sense of duty would have given them a flat refusal — in which case it might easily have been Lee, and not Major Robert Anderson, who first received and returned the fire of the secessionists, with San Antonio, rather than Fort Sumter, as the scene of the fight that began a great war. Subsequent history could have been substantially different.

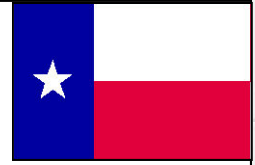
It is mildly interesting to note that Federal government actually had much more at stake in Texas than it had at Fort Sumter; 2600 soldiers and a whole chain of army installations, as opposed to seventy soldiers and one unfinished fort. Logically, it would seem that if a stand were to be made, San Antonio rather than Charleston would be the place to make it. But Washington was marking time. It consented to the loss of Texas, and the Federal government did no more than issue, on March 1, a formal order stating that by direction of the President, General Twiggs was dismissed from the army “for his treachery to the flag of his country.”

On the day Twiggs was dismissed from the army, Robert E. Lee reached his home in Arlington.



CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE—MEXIA, TEXAS

By Laurie E. Jasinski



Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site is located at the junction of Farm roads 2705 and 1633 about six miles southwest of Mexia in north central Limestone County. The park consists of approximately seventy-seven acres and was the site of the annual reunions held by Confederate veterans of the region from the 1880s until the 1930s. In 1888 Limestone County veterans held their first reunion at a local camp meeting grounds on the wooded banks where Jack's Creek flowed into the Navasota River. In 1889 the veterans officially established their own group as an affiliate of the United Confederate Veterans organization and were designated the Joseph E. Johnston Camp Number 94, United Confederate Veterans. The camp included an elected commander and some dozen officer positions. In June 1892 the group purchased the first of a series of tracts that would eventually comprise their reunion grounds at the verdant spot by Jack's Creek and the Navasota. In order to pay for the acreage, they parceled out more than 100 camping lots which were sold to veterans and their families for five dollars each. Construction of an octagonal dance pavilion began in 1893 and accommodated musical bands and dances at the encampment.

Held during the full moon each July or August, the reunions were grand affairs when veterans and their families gathered to reminisce and celebrate. Highlights of the events included speeches, bountiful meals, games, a carnival midway, and the firing of the Val Verde cannon—one of the spoils of the old Val Verde Battery. During their heyday of the late 1890s to early 1900s, the reunions attracted several thousand participants. With the coming of the Mexia oil boom in the early 1920s, the reunion grounds saw a flurry of increased social activity. Wildcatter A. E. Humphreys took an interest in the grounds and secured water rights from the Joseph Johnston Camp. He constructed a pumphouse there along with several small houses for oil company employees. Humphreys also built a bathhouse and a clubhouse for the camp. Dignitaries entertained at this POCO club, short for Pure Oil Company clubhouse, included Gen. John J. Pershing.

By the 1940s the reunions had faded with the passing of the last of the Confederate veterans of Limestone County. The camp became inactive until a group of concerned citizens spearheaded a drive to save the reunion grounds in the 1960s. In July 1965 a new and permanent charter was secured for the Joseph E. Johnston Camp No. 94. The Confederate Reunion Grounds were honored with a Texas Historical Marker dedicated in 1966 and a listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. On September 1, 1983, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officially assumed control of the property. Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site was operated as a day-use park and was overseen by the personnel of nearby Fort Parker State Park. Operational control of the site was officially transferred from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the Texas Historical Commission by the Eightieth Texas Legislature on January 1, 2008. Facilities include the dance pavilion, play-

ground, picnic areas, restrooms, footbridges, and a hiking trail. Other special features include the Val Verde cannon, a natural spring known as the Colonel's spring, the pumphouse, and other remnants of the oil boom days. Picnicking, swimming, and fishing remain popular activities. The Confederate Reunion Grounds State Park Historical Society hosts an annual bluegrass festival as well as a living history day at the grounds.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Laurie E. Jasinski, "The Fire of Memory: A History of Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site" (unpublished report, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Cultural Resources Program, Austin, 2002). Joseph Johnston Camp No. 94 Collection, Gibbs Memorial Library, Mexia, Texas. Texas historical marker files, Texas Historical Commission, Austin (Joseph E. Johnston Reunion Grounds).

Laurie E. Jasinski

Citation

The following, adapted from the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition, is the preferred citation for this article.

Laurie E. Jasinski, "CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE," *Handbook of Texas Online*
<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/gkc07>

Editors note: Plan on attending the annual Civil War Battle re-enactment on April 16-17, 2011 at the Confederate Reunion Grounds. You will enjoy it!





JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

c/o Daniel Dyer, Adjutant
P.O. Box 913
Palestine, Texas 75802
E-mail: danielyer@embarqmail.com
Phone: (903)391-2224

Charles "Marc" Robinson, Commander
6720 AN CO RD 448
Palestine, Texas 75803
E-mail: mrobinson@tvcc.edu
Phone: (903) 676-6069
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