



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION  
**THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS**  
[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

MAY 2011

## COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Greetings Compatriots,

Confederate History and Heritage Month was a great success for Reagan camp this year. We accomplished a lot in honor and memory of Confederate Veterans to be happy about during the month of April. From the flag ceremony held at the Anderson County Courthouse on April 1 where the First National Flag of the Confederacy was raised, to having camp members participate in Civil War battle re-enactments at Pleasant Hill and at the Confederate Reunion Grounds, to a very nice historical program presented at our Camp's April meeting on Fort Sumter by 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Rudy Ray, to assisting in a very nice Confederate Memorial Day ceremony hosted by the Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 of the UDC, to representing our Confederate veteran ancestors at the Veterans Rally held in Crockett, Texas, to the establishment of a major project of raising funds, buying property, and building a Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza in Anderson County, the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 had a great Confederate History and Heritage month in 2011.

The Bonnie Blue Flag was a song first heard by the Texas Brigade as they passed through New Orleans, on their way to Virginia, in September, 1861. Many of those men, as you know, were from Anderson County as well as surrounding counties. It is said that the song was so enjoyed by the men, that it became "their" song and is known

to have been sang up and down the line while on the march and in a line of battle. With the Texas Brigade's notoriety, and the songs jaunty air about it, the Bonnie Blue Flag would become the Confederacies unofficial anthem, known by all and sang from border to border. I would not begin to directly compare ourselves to these noble men, but when noting the comradery between the members of the Reagan Camp #2156 as we strive to fulfill the Charge to the SCV, I can't help but think about the Confederate blood we all have running through our veins and the first stanza of the Bonnie Blue flag that goes like this,

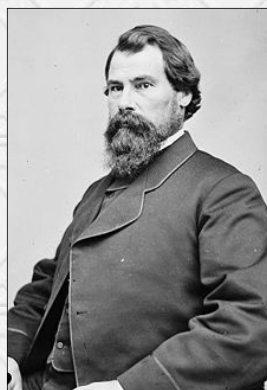
"We are a band of brothers and native to the soil,  
 Fighting for the property we gained by honest toil;  
 And when our rights were threatened, the cry rose near and far,  
 Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star!"

It is as always, a real pleasure to belong to such a wonderful group of Texas men, those who are members of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 SCV, Palestine, Texas.

May God bless each and every one of you and your families.

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CAMP EVENTS	2
CONF. MEMORIAL PLAZA FUND RAISER	3
APRIL CAMP MEETING NEWS	4
CONFEDERATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH RESOLUTION	5
FLAG CEREMONY AT ANDERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE	6-10
UDC CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY. & MARKER DEDICATION	11
CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE	12
GOD, COUNTRY, AND FAMILY VETERANS RALLY	13
IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN	14
MEMBERSHIP/ CONTACT INFO	15



Left: Anderson County Heritage Day Cemetery Walk in the Old City Cemetery, Palestine, Texas found Reagan Camp #2156 member, Calvin Nicholson, as one of the programs impersonators. Calvin impersonated Pvt. Calvin Columbus Castle, King's Brigade, Georgia Cavalry, C.S.A. who was a scout for General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson then after he died, was a scout for General Joe Wheeler until the end of the War. Calvin Nicholson stood by the former soldiers grave and spoke in first person, about the life of Pvt. Castle as several different organized tours of visitors stopped by.



"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 Sons of Confederate Veterans
- The United Daughters of the Confederacy

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 7, 2011, 09:30 AM—03:30 PM,** Neches Heritage Day Festival, Neches, Texas. The Reagan Camp will participate in the parade and have a recruiting booth set up.

**May 14, 2011, 06:00 PM—**John H. Reagan Camp regular monthly meeting.

**May 14 Program: East Texas Brigade Cmdr. Johnnie Holley** will present a PowerPoint program on WBTS artillery and he will bring shells, and other artifacts, etc. Cmdr. Holley is a 10 year Life member of the SCV. His has been a Brigade Officer 6 years, and served 6 years Division Executive Board (DEC); 7 years Camp Officer Capt. James P. Douglas Camp #124 in Tyler. Cmdr. Holley's wife, Norma, is a State Director of the Order of Confederate Rose; Mrs. Holley is also Chapter President of

the Marshall UDC, the Texas Division Chairman of Marshals and Pages, and Chairman of the Meritorious Service Awards.

**May 20, 2011 09:00 AM,** School program for Elkhart 5th grade at the Museum for East Texas Culture.

**May 21, 2011, 10:30 AM—**Confederate Grave Marker Dedication for four soldiers buried at the Day Cemetery east of Fairfield off of Hwy 84. POC Marc Robinson

**June 3-4, 2011—** Texas Division SCV Reunion—Bryan, Texas

**June 5, 2011, 10:00 AM—**Confederate Grave Marker Dedications for seven soldiers at the Augusta Cemetery in Houston County near Grapeland, Texas. POC Marc Robinson



Above: Flag Ceremony hosted by the John H. Reagan Camp #2292 SCV at the Anderson County Texas Courthouse on April 1, 2011

"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-

## Attention Proud Southern Heritage Supporters!

### Anderson County Confederate Memorial Plaza

The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 - Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Palestine, Texas

Is pleased to announce the commencement of plans to procure, develop, and maintain a permanent memorial park worthy of the Confederate veterans of our county who so proudly served in the War Between the States, 1861-1865!

We will begin with the purchase of a prominent tract within the county, then develop the property with flagpoles, lighting, benches, and interpretive markers denoting the historical contributions, both during and post war, of the men who helped form our county and city. We foresee a spot wherein we would be able to honor and individually name each veteran with the purchase and sale of pavers similar to those in the city's Veterans Park. We also look forward to the opportunity to offer on site educational programs to the public on a regular basis, and give the thousands of descendants of those veterans who now reside in the county, a place to go, to pause, to honor and remember! A place to proudly fly the sacred symbols of those veterans, thus once and for all reclaiming those symbols from the parties who have abused and misrepresented the true and honorable meaning of them!

### We Need Your Help!

Land is not cheap. As of the end of April, (Confederate History and Heritage Month) we have our eyes on two prospective locations, both ideal and bearing historical significance. We have begun accepting donations towards procurement and development of one of these locations, and wish to enlist the aid of our neighbors to reach this goal, as our Confederate ancestors enlisted beside their neighbors to achieve their goal of independence. We have a long way to go yet!

If you'd like to have something in trade for your donation, we offer, upon request and with your minimum \$15.00 donation, a nylon 3ft. x 5ft. First National flag of the Confederacy, like the one that flew at the Anderson County courthouse, shipped to you free of postage and handling costs.

We accept donations of all amounts however, and because we are a non-profit organization, your donations are tax deductible.



### I'd Love To Help! What Do I Do Now?

Donors may contact Dan Dyer, Adjutant/Treasurer of the Reagan SCV Camp by phone @ (903) 391-2224, or mail their donation to John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Heritage account, c/o Dan Dyer, P.O. Box 913, Palestine, Texas 75802. All donations will be used entirely to fund this project. Let us know if you want the flag in return for your generosity, if you need a receipt for your donation, or if you'd just like to give to this worthy cause and want nothing more in return than to see this dream come true. We thank you in advance for your dedication and your generous gift!



The photo at left is of a Memorial Plaza similar but not identical to the one we have planned. This one is in Anderson, Grimes County, Texas.



## THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—APRIL 9, 2011



Above: Ronnie Hatfield (Right) being promoted to 1st Lt. Commander of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 by Commander Marc Robinson to fill a vacancy in that office.



Above: John Barnhart (Right) being promoted to Sgt.-at-Arms of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 by Commander Marc Robinson to fill a vacancy in that office.



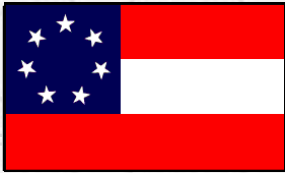
Above: 2nd Lt. Commander Rudy Ray presented an excellent historical program on Fort Sumter at the April regular monthly meeting.



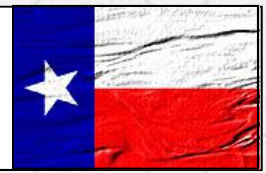
Above from L-R: Newest member Doug Smith with Toni and Rudy Ray entertained us with some 1860 period music that was outstanding. What great voices they all have and good guitar picking by Toni.

Right: Mrs. Nancy Hilton crocheted a beautiful Confederate battle flag with the camp's name stitched in to its border design. She said that it took 167,000 stitches and that every stitch was in love. Mrs. Hilton presented this flag as a gift to the John H. Reagan Camp at the April meeting. Her husband, Mack, is standing immediately behind her. There are loops crocheted around the flag's border that will be used to secure it with a frame.





**REAGAN CAMP #2156 SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING  
CONFEDERATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH  
RESOLUTION THROUGH COMMISSIONERS COURT**



**ANDERSON COUNTY RESOLUTION R-7-2011**

***PREPARED BY RONNIE HATFIELD OF THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 SCV AND  
PASSED ON MARCH 28, 2011 BY THE ANDERSON COUNTY TEXAS COMMISSIONERS  
COURT IN PALESTINE, TEXAS***

**Whereas**, the Senate of the State of Texas, 76th Legislature, adopted Senate Resolution 526 on March 30th, 1999, recognizing the month of April as Confederate History and Heritage Month; and

**Whereas**, that resolution encouraged the schools and citizens of the State of Texas to join in efforts to become more knowledgeable of the role of the Confederate States of America in the history of our country; and

**Whereas**, April 2011 commemorates the sesquicentennial of the onset of the War Between the States; and

**Whereas**, Anderson County voters voiced their support of secession by a margin of 865 to 14; and

**Whereas**, almost 1,000 men from Anderson County elected to serve in the Confederate armed forces, filling out the ranks of 10 companies of Infantry and Cavalry; and

**Whereas**, Companies G and H of the 1st Texas Infantry Regiment were made up of men solely from Anderson County, and by written accounts were among General Robert E. Lee's favorites; and

**Whereas**, almost a third of Anderson County's finest gave their lives on battlefields and in POW camps while serving in the defense of Texas, Anderson County, and their families; and

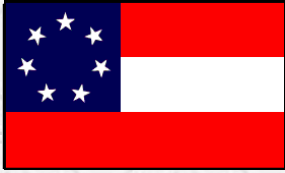
**Whereas**, the cemeteries of Anderson County hold the remains of almost 500 Confederate veterans; and

**Whereas**, many of the descendants of those 1,000 Anderson County Confederates still reside in the county today, and are still proud of the heritage bequeathed to them from their ancestors; and

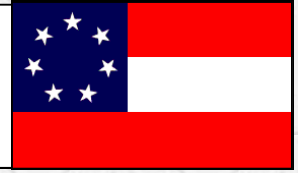
**Whereas**, Anderson County contributed not only her civilian soldiers, but material goods as well, in the form of the Iron Works near Plentitude, the Salt Works, west of Palestine, and the arms and munitions factory near Mound Prairie; and

**Whereas**, the Honorable John H. Reagan served as Postmaster General in the Confederate Cabinet, and U.S. Senator post-war, and called Palestine his home; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Commissioner's Court, of and for the County of Anderson, State of Texas, henceforth recognizes the month of April as Confederate History and Heritage Month, and pays honor to its Confederate veterans and their legacy by adding the 1st National flag of the Confederacy, below and along with the U.S. and Texas flags, at the county courthouse during and throughout the month of April. The Court encourages the citizens of Anderson County to honor and remember those veterans, their sacrifices, and their contributions to the rich and colorful history of Anderson County and the State of Texas.



## REAGAN CAMP RAISES CONFEDERATE FIRST NATIONAL FLAG APRIL 1 ANDERSON COUNTY TEXAS COURTHOUSE



The flag ceremony held at the Anderson County Courthouse at 08:00 AM on April 1 began with Commander Marc Robinson of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 SCV welcoming all in attendance. Reagan Camp Chaplain Rod Skelton then offered an opening prayer. After the prayer, Robinson recognized the dignitaries and other supporters who helped in the effort to have Confederate History and Heritage Month recognized specifically in Anderson County and have the Confederate First National flag flown during the month of April at the courthouse. Robinson then delivered the following speech:

Let us begin by reading a verse of God's Holy Word. It is one of the Ten Commandments and found in Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." I am so thankful to God that we live in this country where we have an opportunity to honor all of our fathers and mothers including those who are veterans.

Bennett H. Young was the Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans, when he spoke at the unveiling of the Confederate Memorial on June 4, 1914 at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. where so many of our nation's soldiers and sailors are buried. At that ceremony, President Woodrow Wilson was also one of the speakers, and the crowd included many veterans from both the Confederate Army and the Union Army. I would like to begin by quoting him when he said the following during his speech, "At this hour I represent the survivors of the Southern army. Though this Confederate monument is erected on Federal ground, which makes it unusual and remarkable, yet the men from whom I hold commission would only have me come without apologies or regrets from the past. Those for whom I speak gave the best they had to their land and country. They spared no sacrifice and no privation to win for the Southland national independ-

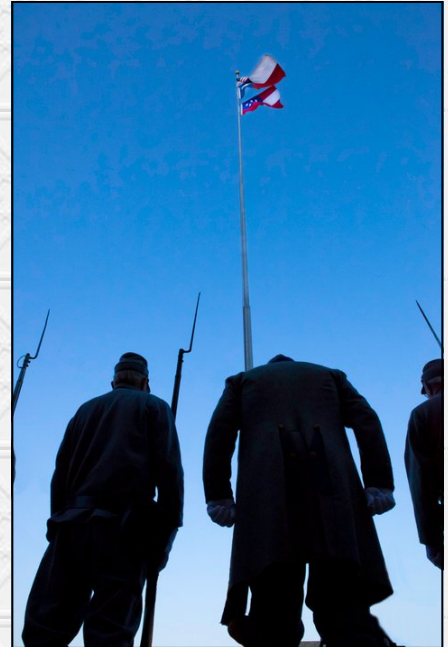
ence.

I am sure I shall not offend the proprieties of either the hour or the occasion when I say that we still glory in the records of our beloved and immortal dead. The dead, for whom this monument stands... died for what they believed to be right. Their surviving comrades and their children still believe that that for which they suffered and laid down their lives was just; that their premises in the Civil War were according to our Constitution."

The truth of our history is so very important, whatever it may be. It is who we are and to a very large part who we will be as individuals and as a nation as we learn from the past.

There are many false teachings out there about the War Between the States and the men who fought in it. I listened to a local Anderson County Historian speak the other evening at our SCV camp's regular monthly meeting. He reminded us that if we stop telling the story about our history, about our heritage, then someday it may be said that it never even happened. It is very sad that in this day in time, there are many who do not want to even mention the brave soldiers and sailors of the Confederacy let alone honor them for doing the same thing our other honorable veterans have done. They answered the call to arms and duty to protect their families, their county, their state and their nation. If we were to stop honoring our Confederate veterans today, who is to say that 150 years from now, the same thing could happen to our beloved World War II and Vietnam veterans or others? Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very thankful to the citizens of Anderson County Texas that this is not the case here.

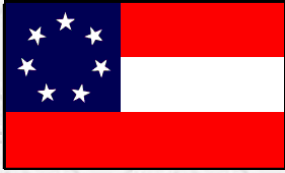
Anderson County with its rich patriotic history has proclaimed with the passing of the resolution designating April as Confederate History and Heritage month that all of veterans who have or will in the future serve our citizens will



John H. Reagan Camp Honor Guard posted under the Anderson County Courthouse flag pole on April 1, 2011 where the camp's color guard just raised the Confederate First National Flag to commemorate Confederate History and Heritage Month in Texas and the County. Photo by Stuart Whitaker



Reagan Camp member, Calvin Nicholson, raising the Confederate First National Flag on April 1, 2011. Photo by Stuart Whitaker



## REAGAN CAMP RAISES CONFEDERATE FIRST NATIONAL FLAG APRIL 1 ANDERSON COUNTY TEXAS COURTHOUSE



be remembered for their sacrifices. It also says to me that the citizens who supported our veterans from the home front will be remembered too.

For its size, the citizens of Anderson County supplied a very large amount of materials needed by the Confederate States, like ginned cotton, manufactured cloth, ammunition, gun parts, and salt. Women at home sewed uniforms, knitted socks, and made blankets. In 1862 when Granbury's 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry was passing through Palestine, they had twenty-five very sick Confederate soldiers. The brigade had to march on and left the sick soldiers to the care of a group of local women and some men who stopped everything they were doing to organize and nurse them back to health. They moved them to the Hunter House or Hunter Hotel where the north wing with four rooms had been made into a hospital. These women would also read to the sick soldiers and write letters for them. Some of the names of those who helped included, Mrs. Joseph Stalcup, Mrs. J. D. Gooch, Mrs. John G. Stuart, Dr. H.H. Link, Dr. E. J. DeBard, Judge Perry and his wife, and Aunt Bee Small as superintendent at the hospital. Out of these twenty-five men, nine of them died and were buried at the old city cemetery the others rejoined their regiment. The identities of these dead soldiers were lost over time. They have been called the unknown Confederate soldiers and the old John H. Reagan United Confederate Veterans Camp placed concrete markers for them years ago and in more recent years the Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 of the UDC and the 12<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry, a re-enactment group, ordered upright VA markers and placed them at the soldiers grave sites. Also, in recent years, one of our Reagan SCV Camp members, Gary Williams, did some extensive research and was able to identify the unit being the 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry and also the identity of several of the

unknown Confederate soldiers.

Most of the men who wore the gray were from very rural areas, they had not been exposed to very many people and thus common childhood diseases that were found in more heavily populated areas. You put them with several thousand other men and the inevitable happened. More so than in the Union Army, many Southerners died from disease. Confederate medical regulations printed early in the War listed 130 diseases under the main heading of "fevers."

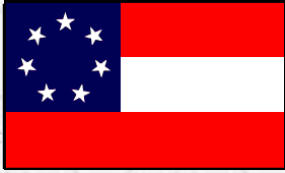
The most common ailments for the southern fighting men were measles, malaria, yellow fever, small pox, scarlet fever, pneumonia, consumption or tuberculosis, bronchitis, rheumatism, mumps, and typhoid fever.

I would like to mention here that there were a lot of slaves who accompanied the soldiers to war throughout the South. They were assigned to support duties like cooking, teamster, building defensive positions like breastworks, etc. which were vital to the war effort. Many of them also shouldered muskets. These men were exposed to the same hardships as any other man in the Confederate Army including cold, heat, lack of food, and disease. Also, it has been estimated that a large number of these men as well as free men of color saw the elephant, in other words, fought in battle for the Confederacy. Many of these men, who served in various capacities, drew Confederate pensions from their respective states and were appreciated dearly by their fellow veterans. This has been documented from records and photographs taken at numerous United Confederate Veterans reunions after the War. These men deserve to be greatly honored. There is no way I can speak here today without noting some of the contributions of the honorable John H. Reagan from Palestine who had been a local district judge and at the time of secession, a U.S. Representative from East Texas. He accepted a position in the newly

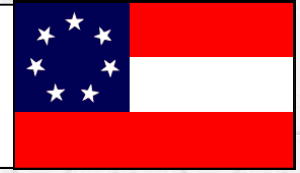


The Confederate First National Flag flying at the Anderson County Courthouse on April 1, 2011. Photo by Sheryl Gooch

formed Confederate States of America, that of Postmaster General in President Davis' Cabinet. The Confederate Postal Service was the only CSA department that did not lose money during the nation's four year existence. After the war, John H. Reagan was elected as a U.S. Senator from Texas and later served as the first Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission and first Chairman of the Texas Historical Commission. Ben Procter, Professor of History at Texas Christian University and Reagan biographer, included John H. Reagan in his list of the "four greatest Texans of the 19 century", along with Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin and Jim Stephen Hogg. Reagan County, Texas was named in his honor. Approximately 1000 of the men who mustered into Confederate military service, marched off to war from the other side of this very county courthouse. They marched off to defend their families and homeland from what they felt was an invasion of an army of Northern aggression.



## REAGAN CAMP RAISES CONFEDERATE FIRST NATIONAL FLAG APRIL 1 ANDERSON COUNTY TEXAS COURTHOUSE



They went off to war to defend States Rights and the Constitution. These men would form up in front of the Old Hunter Hotel, listen to speeches by dignitaries, and receive flag presentations from the ladies of the city and county, before marching eastward on Lacy Street. At that time, Lacy Street was the main road to Rusk and beyond. Many other Texas Confederate units from west of Palestine also marched through this city and down Lacy Street on their way to War. Prior to the day of departing for war these Anderson County soldiers would drill in a field further down Lacey Street that is located just inside the loop and now occupied by railroad tracks. These men were mostly farmers with some being merchants and attorneys, but they were certainly not just any ordinary men. Palestine had only been in existence for thirteen years when the war began and these men as well as their entire families were use to the hardship of the frontier. These men who marched off to fight were either the original settlers or their sons and had grown up fighting the wilderness and the Indians.

Companies G and H of the famous 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry in General Hood's Brigade, were made up entirely of Anderson County men. Company G was known as the Reagan Guards and Company H as he Texas Guards. Local Historian Bonnie Woolverton has done extensive research on both of these units and you can find her papers which list the Anderson County men who served in these companies on the Internet. One of these men, who attained the rank of Colonel in January 1862, was local attorney, Alexis T. Rainey. He held the rank of captain when he organized and commanded company H of the first Texas Infantry. The men from the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry fought under General Longstreet's Corps which was first under General Johnston and later under General Lee in the Army of Northern Virginia and



Reagan Camp Honor Guard members Rudy Ray, Dan Dyer, Frank Moore, Sgt. Ronnie Hatfield and Billy Newsom. Reagan Camp Color members at flag pole are Calvin Nicholson and John Barnhart. Photo by Stuart Whitaker

early in the war took part in the battles of Second Manassas, West Point, Seven Pines, Gaines' Mill, Sharpsburg and Fredericksburg. In June of 1862 at the battle of Gaines' Mill, these Texans achieved immediate fame when they overtook a part of the Federal forces that occupied a very strong position on a hill on the east side of Gaines' Mill Creek losing many men and continuing the fight. Colonel Rainey was seriously wounded at this battle. According to John H. Reagan, who visited the Texas Brigade at every opportunity when they were near Richmond, Virginia, "the Federals had three lines of infantry; one was stationed about a third of the distance from the foot of the hill, the second about half way up, and the third between that one and the top of the hill, which was probably 300 or 400 feet high. Their lines were protected by fallen trees, with a swamp and abattis one or two hundred yards wide in their front. The crown of the hill was occupied by the field batteries of the enemy. In

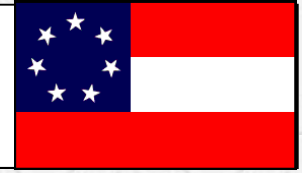
order to attack this position the Confederate soldiers had to advance through a gradually descending open field. Two assaults had been repulsed, when, in the general movement of the forces, Hood's brigade was brought to its front. General Lee inquired of him whether he thought he could take it. Hood's answer was in the affirmative."

It so happened that the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas was the regiment launched first. And after taking that hill and having only a captain left alive to lead them, they went on to take out a battery on another hill. But on the way with only a small remainder of troops, was caught in a clearing and charged by a Union Cavalry Brigade. Col. Jerome Robertson of the 5<sup>th</sup> Texas had broken through the Union line too and could see the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas. He said that when he saw General McCook's Union cavalry moving rapidly to the attack of the First Texas Regiment, it made his heart ache, as it seemed out of the question for





## REAGAN CAMP RAISES CONFEDERATE FIRST NATIONAL FLAG APRIL 1 ANDERSON COUNTY TEXAS COURTHOUSE



them successfully to resist such a force. But he said the men quickly aligned and patiently awaited the attack, and that when the brigade got within range he never saw saddles emptied so fast. Immediately after the fight with the cavalry and taking the next hill, the First Texas had spotted another battery a mile ahead and were headed that way, when General T. J. Chambers who had been following them galloped to them and got them to stop and turn back before they were captured as they were getting far behind enemy lines.

The First Texas Regiment went into the battle of Gaines' Mill with more than eight hundred men; but came out of it, after their brilliant demonstration of courage and determination, with a roll call of a little over two hundred. After that on different occasions, John H. Reagan said General Lee urged him to assist in getting a whole division of Texans for his command, remarking that with such a force he would engage to break any line of battle on earth in an open field.

The Texas Brigade was the only Texas troops that fought under Robert E. Lee in the Army of Northern Virginia. The Texas Brigade, which consisted of the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas, 4<sup>th</sup> Texas, 5<sup>th</sup> Texas and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arkansas Regiments continuously lost troops during the war, more men were recruited at various times from Texas including Anderson County.

The Texas Brigade was admired for having some of the best riflemen in the Army and they experienced an almost matchless and unsurpassed march across the pages of history. The First Texas Infantry, nicknamed the "Ragged Old First," experience its day of glory in the cornfield at Sharpsburg, Maryland. At the battle of Sharpsburg and early on the morning of September 17, 1862, the Texas Brigade was at Miller's Cornfield and helped blunt the attack of elements of Mansfield's Union Corps. Almost alone during this powerful Federal



Above: Sgt. Ronnie Hatfield left, and Commander Marc Robinson right, hold up an authentic replica of the 1st Texas Infantry Regiment's battle flag near the front steps to the Anderson County Texas Courthouse as Robinson talks to the audience about the flag.

onslaught the Texas Brigade sealed a threatening gap in the Confederate line. In so doing the First Texas Infantry Regiment suffered a casualty rate of 82.3 percent, the greatest loss suffered by any infantry regiment, North or South, during the war. They lost 8 flag bearers that day.

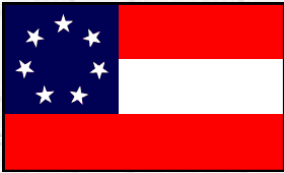
[At this time Robinson and Hatfield held up a 4 ft. by 6ft. authentic replica of the 1st Texas Infantry Regiment's battle flag and explained it's history: The Texas Brigade's original battle flag which was made by their first Colonel's daughter, Mrs. Louis T. Wigfall by using some material from her wedding dress, was lost at the battle of Sharpsburg and returned to Texas in 1905 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Notice the Lone Texas star on the flag and how it is slightly tilted or leaning toward the fly end

of the flag. That implied that the regiment would move, "always forward." This flag is now located in the State of Texas Library in Austin. It is one of many Confederate battle flags.]

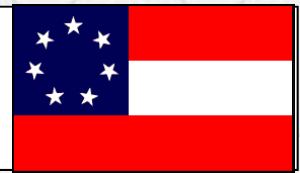
On May 20, 1863, Private West penned a letter to his wife in Texas and remarked, "We cannot be whipped, though they may kill us all."

Remember that many of the men in the First Texas were from Anderson County.

It is no surprise why General Lee responded to a criticism by British Colonel Fremantle on the way to Gettysburg concerning how the Texans were uniformed. General Lee said, "Never mind their raggedness, Colonel. The enemy never sees the back of my Texans." They were definitely some of General Lee's favorite



## REAGAN CAMP RAISES CONFEDERATE FIRST NATIONAL FLAG APRIL 1 ANDERSON COUNTY TEXAS COURTHOUSE



troops.

The Texas brigade's most famous action probably took place on the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg, during its fight for Devil's Den. Though the Confederacy ultimately lost that battle, the 1st Texas, 4th Texas, 5th Texas, and 3rd Arkansas distinguished themselves in taking Devil's Den despite being greatly outnumbered and suffering heavy casualties. This was where Pvt. William H. Foster from Anderson County, who had been with the 1st Texas Brigade since mustering in at Palestine early in the war, was captured and later died in a POW camp called Fort Delaware. Pvt. Foster's Great Grandson is standing right here with us. In fact Ronnie Hatfield has five Confederate ancestors who marched away from in front of the Hunter Hotel. Only three of them returned.

By the war's end, the Texas Brigade had fought in all the battles engaged in by the Army of Northern Virginia except Chancellorsville.

They later fought with the Army of Tennessee at Chickamauga and during the Knoxville Campaign, as well as with Longstreet at Suffolk. Of the estimated 5,353 men who enlisted in the three Texas and one Arkansas regiments, only 617 remained to surrender at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. At sunrise on April 12, 1865 near Appomattox only 149 men of the 1st Texas Infantry Regiment remained to surrender their well-used Enfield's and bullet riddled flag to the Union troops. .... One Company had no survivors at all.

I know there are many of you here today that have the blood of some of these men or other brave Confederate soldiers running through your veins. You should be very, very proud of that.

As I call our camp's sergeant Ronnie Hatfield to the podium for him to read the Anderson County Resolution that declares April as Confederate History and Heritage Month and then



John H. Reagan Camp #2156 members participating in the ceremony are from left to right: Frank Moore, Dwain Schoppe, Qtr. Master John Barnhart, Sgt.-at-Arms Ronnie Hatfield, Commander Marc Robinson, 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Rudy Ray, Billy Newsom, Adjutant/Treasurer Dan Dyer, Chaplain Rod Skelton, Chaplain Ed Furman, and 1st Lt. Cmdr. Calvin Nicholson. Photo by Stuart Whitaker

raise the First National Flag, I humbly encourage you to be thinking about your Confederate ancestor and the 1000 who left this county to fight, the one third who never returned, and the 500 from across the Confederacy who rest here in cemeteries under our watchful eyes. The Confederate soldier was on the average, a very young man when he left, had most likely never been more than 20 or so miles from home, and strongly believed in God, Family, and Country. He was European-American, African-American, Hispanic-American, and Native-American. He was not white, black, brown or red... he was Confederate gray. All stood shoulder to shoulder on the field of battle and all have more than earned the right to be honored and truthfully remembered in our history by this and future generations. It is that gray-clad warrior that we seek to honor with this resolution and along with their families and fellow citizens who supported them.

Sgt. Ronnie Hatfield then read the Anderson County Resolution R-7-2011 designating April as Confederate History and Heritage Month. After the reading of the resolution, Sgt. Hatfield took command of the Reagan Guards, and they all did an excellent job presenting and raising the Confederate First National Flag under the U.S. and Texas Flag.

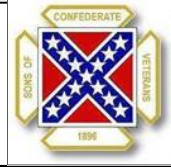
Anne Coleman, founder of the Veterans Historic Education Center, played the proper tunes as the U.S. and Texas flags were lowered and as they were raised along with the Confederate First National flag.

Chaplain Ed Furman offered the closing prayer. Commander Robinson announced that the program was concluded and thanked everyone again for attending.





**CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY  
PVT. THOMAS M. BUTLER CO. H 1ST TEXAS INF. HONORED  
HOSTED BY THE DAVIS-REAGAN CHAPTER #2292 UDC**



The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 SCV assisted the Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 UDC at their annual Confederate Memorial Day ceremony held on April 23, 2011. A grave marker that was acquired from the U. S. Veterans Administration was dedicated during the ceremony for Pvt. Thomas M. Butler, Co. H, 1<sup>st</sup> Reg. Texas Infantry C.S.A. in the Old City Cemetery, Palestine, Texas. Reagan Camp members pictured from left to right are Adjutant Dan Dyer, Sgt. John Barnhart, Billy Newsom, Calvin Nicholson, Historian Gary Williams, Vernon Holliman, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. Ronnie Hatfield, Chaplain Rod Skelton, Jace Wilson, Commander Marc Robinson, Dwain Schoppe, and Frank Moore. The flag in the photo is an authentic silk reproduction of the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry's battle flag. The original flag was made by the regiment's first Colonel Louis T. Wigfall's daughter, Lula. Companies G and H of the famous 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry Regiment were all from Anderson County Texas. Photo by Geri Lynn Wright.



Left: The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Honor Guard and Color Guard marching in to begin the ceremony. Photo by Geri Lynn Wright

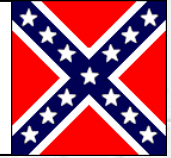


Above: Reagan Camp Chaplain Rod Skelton stands at attention in front of the "Reagan Guards" after they had stacked their arms. Photo by Geri Lynn Wright



## KNOW YOUR ENEMY!

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



For over a hundred and forty years, there has been a concerted effort by the "Unionists" to destroy our Southern heritage and the deny the honor due our noble Confederate forefathers. Today, the Sons of Confederate Veterans are engaged in a battle to stave off the lies, misconceptions, and the pure ignorance of those who seek to discredit those brave Confederates who fought with such determination to defend our homeland against an illegal invasion. Of course, there are those who oppose us and the truth of our Cause. We have many enemies, and we are well aware of those about us who work against our efforts. But, we also have an enemy who has infiltrated our ranks. We must recognize this worst of all enemies and remove him from amongst us, or surely our Cause will be lost.

We are admonished to, "Never underestimate the power of our enemy." But, to do this we must first recognize our enemy. The enemy within our ranks that is causing the most harm to our just and worthy Cause, is the Devil. The Bible says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Pet. 5:8) The devil is the enemy of all truth, and he is an enemy within our Confederation.

The devil's primary method of operation, whether it's a church, a country, or our Cause, is to create strife, dissension, and division. Whenever you hear of members finding fault with, or criticizing other members, or nit-picking, and complaining about what other members do, don't do, think, or say, you can be sure the devil is at work to create discord among us, and disable our efforts to serve the Charge. There's another old admonishment, "The devil's going to get you if you don't watch out."

The fact that the devil is attacking the SCV is not a

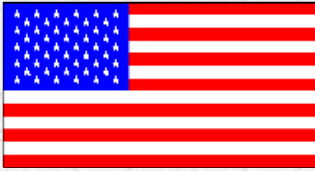
cause for sadness, but joy and excitement. A pastor friend went to a Pastor's Conference, and as a speaker was reminding the visiting ministers about the wiles of the devil, another pastor leaned over to my friend and said, "The Devil don't bother me." To this my friend replied, "I'd hate to think I was so useless that the devil wasn't worried about what I was doing." The devil is worried about the Sons of Confederate Veterans and he's on the attack. So, we must be doing something right. But, we must not let the devil have his way among the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The Scripture tells us how to deal with the devil. In James 4:7, we are told to, "Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." My prayer this morning is for every member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to submit themselves to God, that He may bless our work, and resist the efforts of the enemy within. May we be in one accord, and united in one Cause. Because, our Confederate forefathers are counting on us. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

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-



**GOD, COUNTRY, AND FAMILY VETERANS RALLY  
PORTH ARENA, CROCKETT, TEXAS, APRIL 30  
HOSTED BY TERRY AND JUDY CAYWOOD**



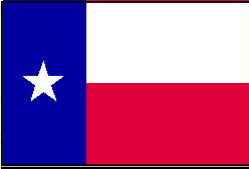
The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 SCV color guard marched in to the veterans rally at Porth arena, Crockett, Texas with a Confederate battle flag honoring our ancestors. We were very well received and Honor Guard Commander Ken Sheffield of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Dogwood Chapter, gave our ancestors some very special recognition for their service to their country while we stood at attention. The crowd responded with loud applause. Reagan Camp Color Guard members from left to right: Commander Marc Robinson, Sgt. John Barnhart, Chaplain Rod Skelton, and Compatriot Dale Roberts. Many veterans were honored that day, including WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, Afghanistan, etc.



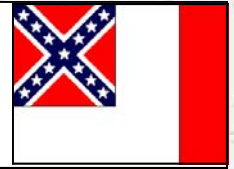
Left: The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 recruiting display and members from left to right, John Barnhart, Marc Robinson, Rod Skelton, and Dale Roberts. We also fired two rounds from the cannon for demonstration that day to an appreciative crowd.



Above: The Dogwood Chapter Honor and Color guard of the Vietnam Veterans of America posted the U.S. and Texas Flags and were followed by the Reagan Camp Color Guard. The VVA honor guard fired three volleys with their M1-Garrand rifles.



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



**MAY**

May 2, 1849 John H. Reagan wrote letter to Rusk Pioneer complaining of misapportionment of State Representatives.

May 2, 1859 John H. Reagan nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> term as US Representative at Henderson Co. Convention

May 8, 1878 John H. Reagan delivered speech in US Congress on his Interstate Commerce Bill.

May 10, 1865 John H. Reagan captured with Jefferson Davis and imprisoned in Fort Warren, Boston Harbor.

May 13, 1857 John H. Reagan nominated for Congress by Eastern District Dem. Convention in Tyler.

May 13, 1861 John H. Reagan issued proclamation to assume control of Southern mail delivery for CSA.

May 17, 1849 John H. Reagan announced candidacy for State Senate; only defeat of career.

May 19, 1876 John H. Reagan delivered speech in US Congress to deter abandonment of Navy Yard, Pensacola, Fla.

May 29, 1839 John H. Reagan arrived in Texas at age 20.

May 31, 1866 John H. Reagan married Mollie Ford Taylor.

Photo to right:

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





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Please visit our website @  
[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

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

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

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

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

## CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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

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



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

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