



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2011

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Greetings Compatriots,

I must begin by expressing my heart felt thank you to all of you for your dedication to the cause of honoring and preserving the true history of our Confederate ancestors. They need us now more than ever. From those of you who can only be a member in the camp and SCV, to those of you who participate at every ceremony, meeting, and event our camp is involved in, I appreciate you for what you do. Our camp had an extremely busy May 2011 and I can say with confidence that our beloved Confederate ancestors received much honor that they deserve during this month. I hope you enjoy reading about these events in this newsletter.

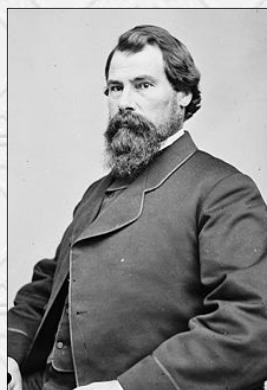
Five Reagan Camp members including myself attended the Texas Division SCV Reunion held in Bryan, Texas this past weekend. It was well attended and our five members enjoyed it very much. I will give you a full report in the July newsletter, but something very interesting happened that I would like to share at this time.

During the opening ceremony of the Texas Division SCV Reunion we all experienced something very special. We were welcomed to Bryan and Brazos County by Precinct 4 County Commissioner Irma Cauley. She was introduced by the Commander of the Sul Ross Camp and received a long standing ovation from all SCV members in the room. She welcomed all of us with very hospitable remarks and greetings, but she also said something very true and a welcomed message by the SCV members. Commissioner Cauley said that Brazos county is filled with history and that she embraces history as the past is intertwined with today and with the future and that this history is also intertwined with the black community. Commissioner Irma

Cauley, a woman of African descent, who filled her deceased husband's County Commissioner's seat, went on to be elected to that same seat in November 2010. Commissioner Cauley also mentioned that she believes in our motto, "*Deo Vindice*" interpreted from Latin as "God Will Vindicate" or "Under God, our Vindicator." She closed by again welcoming all of us to Brazos County and again, received a long standing ovation from everyone there. It was an awesome experience for me. I couldn't help, but wish that other county leaders from across the state had been there to see and hear a true public servant of Texas receive all of those applause from very appreciative fellow Texans and SCV members.

We will always be faced with those who oppose the honor we give our Confederate ancestors as they refuse to read the true history of the time and see it for what it was at that time. They prefer to listen to half truths, revisionist historians, or simply what others have told them for many years. We must not waste too much time on those people, but look for and help those who are interested enough about the truth, to listen and take the time to read primary sources to find out for themselves. It is all the more refreshing to see these uninformed, but interested people become one of us who really understands the motives of the Confederacy and highly respect the men who served to protect their homes and country from an army of northern aggression.

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

"If this cause that is so dear to my heart is doomed to fail, I pray heaven may let me fall with it, while my face is toward the enemy and my arm battling for that which I know to be right."

Major General Patrick R. Cleburne
C.S.A.
March 17, 1828 –
November 30, 1864

CAMP MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of Each Month
06:00 PM

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

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

Guests are welcome!
Bring the family.

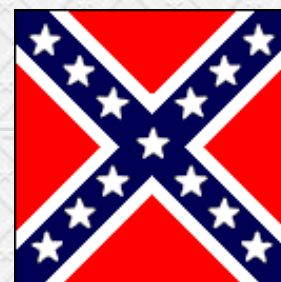
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Above: On Sunday May 15, 2011 at the First United Methodist Church in Palestine, the Robinson's and the McCord's were asked to dress in 1860 period clothing to help with a historical moment presentation on clothing during church service. This was part of the monthly historical moment presentations given once a month during the centennial year the current Church building was built. Left to right: Marc and Deborah Robinson and Donna and Kirby McCord.



"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



June 3-4, 2011, Texas Division Reunion, Bryan, Texas

June 5, 2011, 10:00 AM— Confederate Grave Marker Dedications for seven soldiers at the Augusta Cemetery in Houston County 9 miles East of Grapeland, Texas. POC Marc Robinson

June 11, 2011, 06:00 PM— John H. Reagan Camp regular monthly meeting.

June 11 Program: Calvin Nicholson will present a first person program of Dr. Henry J. Hunter, Asst. Surgeon, 7th Texas Cavalry, Green's Division, C.S.A. Dr. Hunter was from Palestine. His father owned the famous Hunter Hotel.



Above: 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Rudy Ray reading the Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans at the Miles-Day Cemetery 4 Marker Dedication Ceremony on May 21.

"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."

-PRESIDENT
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. Not to imply that only Anderson County Veterans are to be honored. Even if your ancestor never saw the beauty of east Texas, we still invite you to honor his memory with a personalized paver. 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—MAY 14, 2011



Above: East Texas Brigade Commander Johnnie Holley presented a PowerPoint program on WBTS artillery and brought several authentic cannon shells to use in his program and for those who wanted to handle and examine them (see background on table). 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.



Above from left to right: East Texas Brigade Commander Johnnie Holley and his wife Norma, 1st Lt. Cmdr. of the Capt. James P. Douglas Camp #124 Dennis Brand and his wife Rita. The John H. Reagan Camp welcomed them to our May meeting. The camp appreciates their visit and support very much!

Right: The John H. Reagan Camp's newest member is Compatriot **Guy Douglas Smith, III**. He goes by "Doug." The name and unit of the Confederate ancestor he joined under is **Sgt. John A. Buchanan** Co. A 27th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. Sgt. Buchanan is buried in Jones County Mississippi at Bynum Cemetery. Compatriot Smith was inducted into our camp at the March 2011 meeting and was immediately called upon to help in a very large way. His experience as one of the public relations officers for the Texas Patriot Guard Riders for the past 6 years came in very helpful to our camp as the media came to Palestine from all over during the first week of April. Doug was instrumental in the Patriot Guard Riders being present at our camp's flag ceremony held on April 1. Doug has recently set up a Facebook page for the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 and is serving as the primary administrator for the site. The URL for this site is www.facebook.com/reagansvcamp. Compatriot Smith didn't ask for a slow warm up period before getting involved in camp matters, he charged forward immediately when asked and is holding his position in the line extremely well. "We are all excited about Doug joining and being involved in our camp. We welcome him to our ranks," said Reagan Camp Commander Marc Robinson.

Photo from left to right: 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Rudy Ray, Compatriot Doug Smith, and Cmdr. Marc Robinson





WHAT DID THEY SAY... "WELCOME TO HISTORIC ANDERSON COUNTY?" A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Editors note: The following letter was submitted to the Palestine-Herald Press by Gary Williams, but was respectfully declined because there is a 500 word limit for letters to the editor.)

Dear Editor,

In the summer of 2009, on his return from a business trip, Henry Louis Gates Jr., an otherwise renowned African-American professor at Harvard University, was unable to open the door to his Cambridge, Mass. house. His taxi driver, also a black man, sought to help him force open his front door. Such "suspicious" actions by two black men caught the attention of an apparently attentive neighbor, who called the police. Soon Sgt. James Crowley, a white police detective, arrived on the scene to investigate what at first appeared to be a suspected break-in of a well-to-do person's house. Crowley didn't think the neatly dressed man in front of him looked like a burglar, but at the same time homeowner Gates might have been unaware of an intruder's presence in his home. Crowley also didn't know the professor, who was tired after a long business trip to China.

For their mutual safety, Crowley asked Gates (black) to step outside, but the professor misunderstood his request. Gates assumed Crowley (white) was guilty of racial profiling - of viewing Gates as a suspect sim-

ply because he's black. Within moments, white police officer Crowley and black professor Gates were in the midst of a personal confrontation that led to Gates arrest. Charges of racial profiling were quickly leveled against the police officer. Before too many days had passed, President Obama had offered his own opinion that the police had acted stupidly in arresting Mr. Gates(black) in his own home. That made the touchy situation between these two men that much more ridiculous. Eventually, it took a presidential invitation for the three men to sit down and share beers at the White House to put the matter to rest.

The Cambridge incident, just as many other episodes of the like kind, raises familiar questions about race relations - and human relations in general. People who don't know much about each other, who don't seek to understand and learn more about one another, who make assumptions and show disrespect for the other party, can quickly find themselves in emotional and angry entanglements that can easily escalate.

With all the problems arising out of racial conflicts and profiling today, we should not be too surprised that men and women of different historical or cultural groups could be guilty of similar behavior and perceive a simple effort to raise a symbol of a long ago conflict in American history as a racial target. The symbol I



Gary Williams, Historian
John H. Reagan Camp #2156
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Palestine, Texas



Members of the John H. Reagan Camp
#2156 SCV, April 1, 2011, standing in
front of the flag pole where they had just
raised the First National Flag of the Con-
federacy at the Anderson County Texas
Courthouse.



WHAT DID YOU THEY... “WELCOME TO HISTORIC ANDERSON COUNTY?” A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

speak of is the 1st National Flag of the Confederate States of America. This government existed from 1861-1865. A program was held on the grounds of the Anderson County Courthouse on April 1, 2011 to commemorate and recognize the 150th anniversary of the War Between The States.

The "Stars & Bars," not the so called "Rebel Flag" was raised below the Texas flag and the US flag on the flag pole on the West side of the courthouse. The only purpose of this flag and the ceremony that day was to honor and create awareness that men from Anderson County marched off to the call of duty to protect their neighbors, families and property from Lincoln's army.

These men were notable citizens, who only 15 years earlier had built the town of Palestine out of the wilderness of the piney woods of East Texas. These brave men left hearth and home to serve their country, which in their minds, was Texas. Many of these men had never traveled out of Anderson County until then. They were to embark on the most remarkable life changing journey of their generation. On to battlefields such as Antietam & Gettysburg as many other boys and men from Georgia, Alabama, Illinois, Ohio and New York and the like would do. They would have no idea what was awaiting them down those dusty roads and across those deadly fields of combat. Many would die of disease and exposure from the weather. Some would lose

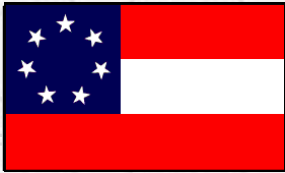
life, others arms or legs and forever carry the vivid memory of their horrible experiences of war to the grave. Those returning home would become pillars of the community and help build Palestine into a great railroad town of the late 1870's and lead this city into the 20th century.

Feelings and emotions surrounding flying a "Confederate Flag" in the 21st century range from "A to Z". This flag was only to fly at the Anderson County Courthouse for 30 days to honor Confederate Heritage month as approved by a vote of the Anderson County Commissioner's Court. I suppose it is still debatable whether flying this flag, which represented Anderson County in 1861, was the right thing to do in this age when political correctness rules or whether this flag should have been on County property. The ceremony, the living history, the men in period uniforms and the program all pertained to Anderson County and the first military veterans to march off to "War" from this courthouse square. No matter how their cause may be judged by a generation of citizens 150 years removed, these men left our town because in their minds it was the "right thing to do." Honoring these old soldiers on the courthouse square was the "right thing to do."

It is sad and unjust that people who honor their southern ancestors are thought of as uneducated red-neck



white trash by the media from Dallas and Tyler who covered this historical event and by a hand full of other protesters with their own agenda. However because of the intolerance of some and the ignorance of others along with biased media influences and pressure from city officials, this flag would only fly for 4 days instead of the entire month of April as voted by local county government. It should be known by all that the decision to remove this "Historical" flag was Not done to appease any particular person or organization or offended group. Judge Johnston informed our camp that the flag would have to be taken down either by our camp or by the court. We were given the opportunity to retire the colors ourselves or wait and have the flag removed in a dishonorable fashion. The John H. Reagan Camp



WHAT DID THEY SAY... “WELCOME TO HISTORIC ANDERSON COUNTY?” A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#2156 decided, after taking a vote, to remove the "colors" by our own hand and we retired the flag with the same dignity that it was raised.

To further clarify the reason we were granted permission to fly this short lived flag was to remember the founders of this county. Had it not been for the courage and hardships of these men from a time we know not of, we might all be living our lives out somewhere else. The flying of the flag was Not about the John H. Reagan Camp, or of the approval of slavery or to further the cause of the Confederate States of America, rather only to remind our great Anderson County citizens of the sacrifices made by these citizen soldiers from a by gone time. Plain & Simple. As John H. Reagan said before resigning his seat in congress because as to what he referred to as "The Irrepressible Conflict", he said "When everybody is talking and nobody is listening it will usually lead to bad results".

As this statement applies to the events of April 1, 2011, You can please some of the people all the time, You can please all the people some of the time, but you can't please all the people all of the time said Abe Lincoln. We are very aware of that today. Sadly, this "historical event", that began on Friday April 1 and ended Monday April 4, 2011 was twisted into a three ring circus by the out of town



media, local protest groups and a County Commissioner who can't abide by a vote when he is on the losing side.

There is of course two sides to every story, but this was not intended to be a racial statement in any way. If any cultural group expects to be shown tolerance to their history, they need to understand that tolerance is a two way street, with give and take along the way.

The John H. Reagan Camp members were clearly victims of racial profiling by certain segments of the Palestine community who were intolerant or ignorant of a historical gesture to honor this county's Confederate citizen soldiers for only one month. There must be a misapprehension and prejudice (pre judgment with-

out due examination) on a part of the black community toward anything Confederate in relation to this matter and as to the flag. Otherwise their constant interference would not have occurred. Many folks hold views based on what they have been told or led to believe, have seen on television or at the movies. If opinions were formed by researching primary materials and reviewing historical facts – fewer people would be offended by the "Confederate Flag".

Sincerely,

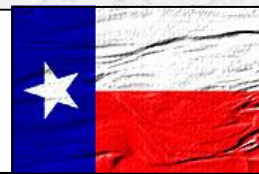
Gary Williams
 Historian
 John H. Reagan Camp #2156
 Sons of Confederate Veterans
 Palestine, Texas



BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR ANCESTORS

PVT. JOHN HENRY SHERIDAN

CO. I, FIRST TEXAS INFANTRY, C.S.A.



Pvt. John Henry Sheridan
Co. I, First Texas Infantry Regiment,
C.S.A.

By Shirley Cutler

John Henry Sheridan was born Dec. 6, 1834 to John Sheridan and Lucinda Nugent Sheridan. His parents came to Texas in the early 1820's with Austin's Colony but moved on to Houston County and acquired a Spanish land grant June 11, 1835 located on the northern border of the Augusta Community joining the G. W. Wilson league.

Private John Henry Sheridan enlisted at Crockett May 1, 1862 in Company I, First Regiment Texas Infantry. This unit saw heavy fighting in Virginia and Maryland. Mr. Sheridan took part in the battles at Seven Pines, Va. on June 1, 1862, at Malvern Hill, Va. on July 1, 1862 and again at Sharpsburg, Md. on Sep. 17, 1862. He received wounds to his right foot and his left shoulder during the Battle of Sharpsburg. The Battle of Sharpsburg was one of the bloodiest days in American military history. He was captured during the battle and sent to Fort McHenry, Md.. He spent Oct. through Dec. 1862 in a hospital in Maryland. He was confined to a prisoner of war camp in Fortress Monroe Dec. 29, 1862. He was paroled March 15, 1863 but spent most of the next eight months in the hospitals in and around Petersburg, Va. He was sent home in December 1863 permanently disabled from the wounds he received at Sharpsburg.

Private Sheridan's father, John Sheridan, served as a Texas Ranger in Captain Michael Costley's Company of mounted rangers, which mustered into service Sept 11, 1836. Mr. Sheridan was killed May 10, 1837 near the town of Slocum with his brother-in-law, Daniel McLean, trying to retrieve horses stolen by a band of hostile Indians. He left his wife and six children as survivors with the oldest son being 11 years old and the youngest 5 months old.

Mrs. Lucinda Sheridan traveled by ox cart to the site and brought back the



This Texas Flag was the actual Confederate battle flag carried by the 1st Texas Infantry into the Cornfield at Sharpsburg. After 20 minutes of savage fighting, 82.3% of the regiment was dead or wounded, the highest casualty rate suffered by any unit during the war. Seven color bearers were killed carrying the flag that day. It was found by a Union private on the field after the battle, surrounded by dead Texans. The star leaning toward the fly end of the flag implies always forward and this unit's history proves they did just that. It was returned to Texas by the Federal Government in 1905, and is currently undergoing conservation. Texas State Library Archives

bodies of her husband and brother-in-law to be buried on each of their leagues of land near their home place. Mrs. Sheridan later married, Martin Murchison, another widower whose wife and family were killed by Indians at the Eden-Madden Massacre in October 1838. Mrs. Sheridan gave land to the community to be used as a cemetery back in the early 1850s, which is the old section of the Augusta cemetery.

Pvt. John H. Sheridan married Laura Dent Wingfield around 1860. The couple had six children, William L., Lucinda C. "Lucy", John Henry Jr., Jacob M., Laura Dent, and Ney Sheridan. John Henry Sheridan Jr. died at the age of 2, but all the other children married and raised large families in the community. Many of the Sheridan ancestors are buried in the Augusta Cemetery. The family is well represented in the com-

munity today with a large number of descendants still active in the community, in the church, and in the cemetery.

After the war Pvt. John H. Sheridan returned to the Augusta Community where he spent the remainder of his life. He died Jan. 22, 1875 and was buried in the Augusta Cemetery. His wife was left with five children ranging from ages 1 to 14. She died Oct. 16, 1908 and was buried beside her husband in the Augusta Cemetery.

Editors Note: Pvt. John Henry Sheridan is the great great uncle of Kerry D. Barnhart, John B. Barnhart, and William S. Barnhart who are members of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Palestine, Anderson Co., Texas



**NECHES HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL
MAY 7, 2011
NECHES, ANDERSON COUNTY TEXAS**



The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 set up a recruiting booth (background) and displayed authentic rifles, pistols, and ammunition on a table (foreground) used during the War to Prevent Southern Independence at the Neches Heritage Day on May 7, 2011.



The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 SCV participated in the Neches, Texas Heritage Day Festival Parade on May 7, 2011. Above camp members and helpers are pictured in the cannon trailer (can't see the cannon real well) preparing for the parade through downtown.





**MILES-DAY CEMETERY 4 GRAVE MARKER DEDICATION
HOSTED BY THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS**



Above: The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 SCV of Palestine, Texas hosted a four Confederate grave marker dedication ceremony at the Day Cemetery about 4 miles east of Fairfield on May 21, 2011. The ceremony honored the sons and grandson-in-law of William Wiley Day: Pvt. William Jackson Day, Pvt. James J. Day, 2 D Corp. Francis M. Day, and Pvt. Albert Thomas Miles. The Reagan Camp was assisted by the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp #1012 SCV of Teague, Texas and the Colonel Roger Q. Mills, Chapter #2466 United Daughters of the Confederacy of Corsicana, Texas. Left to Right: Billy Newsom, Nancy Rula (UDC), Caleb Estrada (bugler), Jace Wilson, 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Rudy Ray, Frank Moore, Chaplain Rod Skelton, Cmdr. Marc Robinson, Norman Stubbs (Camp #1012), Sgt. John Barnhart, 1st Lt. Cmdr. Ronnie Hatfield, Dana Stubbs (UDC), and Calvin Nicholson.



Above: The Reagan Guards firing one of three rifle volleys during the ceremony. Left to Right: Sgt. John Barnhart, Jace Wilson, 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Rudy Ray, and 1st Lt. Cmdr. Ronnie Hatfield. Photo by Linda Mullen



Above: Miles-Day Cemetery is located in Freestone County about 4 miles west of Fairfield, Texas. Photo by Linda Mullen



Left: Calvin Nicholson, Frank Moore, Billy Newsom, and Norman Stubbs firing the John H. Reagan Camp's, Val Verde Battery howitzer during the military salute. Photo by Linda Mullen

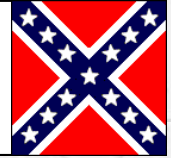


Above: Commander Marc Robinson giving the opening remarks. Photo by Paula Snider



IT WORKS!

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



I have on occasion heard people refer to their "Christian walk." I'm not sure what that means to many people. I suppose it means, whatever it means, to the person who said it. However, the Bible does tell us what the Christian's "walk" should be. In 2 Corinthians 5: 7, we read, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." And again in Romans 1: 17, "The just shall live by faith." So, we are to walk by faith, and we are to live by faith. But, what does that mean?

Even the most casual Bible student could tell us that Hebrews Chapter eleven, verse one gives the definition of faith as, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." But, we still might ask, what does that mean, exactly?

Consider this illustration. I've used it many times in the past, and I think it explains what walking and living by faith really means. You are walking an unfamiliar path through a dense jungle, when you come upon a very deep canyon blocking your way. There is a rope bridge across the canyon, but the rope is frayed, the wood is rotten, and it appears ready to collapse. The Lord says, "Go ahead, it'll hold you." Then you might say, "Lord, why don't you build something a bit sturdier, like something made of steel and concrete?" Or you may ask, "Lord send something heavy across it first, so I can see that it will hold me. But, the Scripture tells us, we are to "walk by faith, not by sight." The Lord says, "Trust me!"

The first thing we learn about walking by faith is, it can be very scary: at least at first. But, you believe God, walk by faith, and very carefully ease across the frail bridge. When you reach the other side, you breath a sigh of relief, and thank Him for seeing you safely across. Then you come to another canyon and another rotten rope bridge. Then another and another. And, each time you come upon obstacles and difficulties in your travel through life, God says, "Trust me and walk by faith!" And each time it becomes easier, as your faith grows, and becomes stronger and stronger. Then you can bounce across those rotten, scary bridges of life without hesitation or doubt, until one day you reach the final canyon.

This is the scariest canyon of all. There is no other side. There is no bottom. There isn't even a rotten rope bridge. But, you have lived by faith. You have walked by faith. Faith has become your substance and your evidence. Now, as you lay your head down for the last time and take that final step, you know that your Lord will be there to see you safely to the other side, just as He always has. That is walking by faith!

It's an undeniable fact that the further this country moves from the abiding faith of our founding fathers, the closer it comes to destruction. And, it's obviously well on it's way. Likewise, the further we, the Sons of Confederate Veterans move from the faith of our Confederate forefathers, the closer we come to our own demise. If we are to be successful in fulfilling our responsibility; if we are to grow in strength and numbers; if we are to carry out the Charge to which we are committed; we must walk by faith.

That may sound like "preacher-talk," but it's not. It's Bible-talk . . . It's God-talk, and we need to listen and pay heed to what God is saying. In Hebrews 11: 6, we read, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." This lesson applies to you. It applies to me. It applies to our country. And, it applies to our Confederation. If we want to move forward and be victorious over that which would hinder us, as individuals or as a Confederation, then there's one thing we must have and exercise. It's faith. And, it works!

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-



**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 PRESENTS A WBTS
SCHOOL PROGRAM AT MUSEUM FOR EAST TEXAS CULTURE
ELKHART 5TH GRADE CLASS, MAY 20, 2011**



Above: The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Val Verde Artillery Battery demonstrates the firing of a howitzer cannon to the Elkhart 5th graders in Reagan Park, just outside of the Museum for East Texas Culture.



Above: Calvin Nicholson talks to students about small weaponry of the War. Here he is demonstrating the firing of a 58 caliber 1853 model Enfield Rifle.



Above: Historian, Norris White, Jr., who is from Palestine, made one of the four presentations given to the Elkhart ISD 5th grade students. Mr. White's presentation was over the Forgotten Confederates (Confederate Soldiers and Sailors of African, Native American, and Hispanic descent).



**TEXAS DIVISION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
JEFFERSON DAVIS LEADERSHIP AWARD, 2011
PRESENTED TO JOSH FACKLAM OF ELKHART**

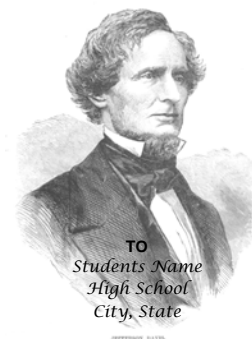


Above: John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Adjutant/Treasurer Dan Dyer, presenting **Josh Facklam**, Elkhardt High School Senior the Texas Division SCV Jefferson Davis Leadership Award on May 27, 2011 at the Palestine Civic Center. This award included a certificate (below to right), a medal, and a financial gift.



Above: Adjutant/Treasurer Dan Dyer speaking to the Elkhardt Senior students and audience about the Jefferson Davis Leadership Award.

**THE TEXAS DIVISION
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
PROUDLY PRESENTS**



IN RECOGNITION OF EXCEPTIONAL CHARACTER
AND DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT

"We feel that our cause is just and holy; we protest solemnly in the face of mankind that we desire peace at any sacrifice save that of honor and independence; we ask no conquest, no aggrandizement, no concession of any kind from the States with which we were lately confederated; all we ask is to be let alone; that those who never held power over us shall not now attempt our subjugation by arms."



April 15, 2011

DATE

Ray W. James P.E., Ph.D.

TEXAS DIVISION COMMANDER



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 PARTICIPATES IN MILITARY WEEKEND AT THE TEXAS STATE RAILROAD MAY 28-29, 2011



Above: The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Val Verde Artillery Battery demonstrates the firing of a howitzer cannon at the Texas State Railroad on May 28 as a Vietnam era Huey helicopter passes over head to land in nearby field. Anyone could purchase a ride on the helicopter owned by a foundation based in Houston who preserves Vietnam era aircraft and keeps them flying. Photo by Stuart Whitaker



Above: The Reagan Camp's Val Verde Battery fires a round from their 12 pound mountain howitzer. This photo was taken by Stuart Whitaker, picked up by the Associated Press and used in several newspapers in the country as well as by CBS News on their website in a slide show of photos taken across the country at various Memorial Day ceremonies.



Top above: Chaplain Rod Skelton at one of two recruiting tables set up. Middle cannon photo by Stuart Whitaker: Reagan Camp members who participated at the Military Weekend event are from left to right: John Barnhart, Jace Wilson, Frank Moore, Marc Robinson, Rod Skelton, and Billy Newsom (not pictured). Bottom: If you enlarge page and look close, Frank Moore is about to take a helicopter ride.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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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