



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2012

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Greetings fellow Compatriots!

At last the incessant shelling of medical travesty has abated, at least for the moment, allowing me to address you, and I am thankful for the opportunity. Also count me thankful for the many prayers, well wishes, visits, and voiced concerns over the last month or so. I have no doubt that the Almighty must have at least one more duty assignment for me to complete, otherwise, and without your recent words to Him on my behalf, I would have been called to HQ by now.

I also wish to express my sincere pride, respect, and admiration in the officers and men of our camp who have stepped forward in my absence and kept our camp pointed in the right direction. As General Armistead reportedly stated at Gettysburg, "These men do not need and officer to lead them!" "They already know what is expected of them!" I hope to rejoin you on the field of battle as soon as possible, to continue the reach for completion of our plaza, and to remember our honored dead.

I have three requests of our membership in the meanwhile. The first beng to adhere as brothers in perpetuation and attainment of our goals and Cause. Secondly, to continue to

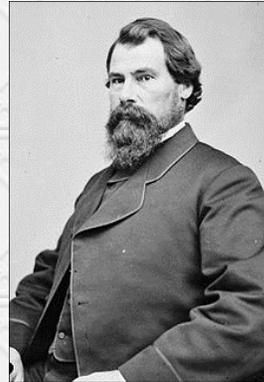
remember our members in need of prayer. Among them, Rod Skelton, Ed Furman, and of course, John Barnhart. Add those we are unaware of to that list, and our camp as a whole. Third and finally, I ask each of you to consider joining and expanding our current headstone procurement committee. I would like to see a few needed training sessions, then barrage the VA for the needed and earned markers for our vets. In closing, please accept my apologies for my absence, and I pray that God keep and bless you all until we can meet on the field again!

Your Obedient Servant,

Ronnie Hatfield - Cmdr.
Reagan Camp

"I am with the South in life or in death, in victory or in defeat..... 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 principles of government.

They no longer acknowledge that all government derives its validity from the consent of the



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

governed. They are about to invade our peaceful homes, destroy our property, and inaugurate a 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 left alone."

**Major General
Patrick R. Cleburne, CSA
March 16, 1828—
Nov. 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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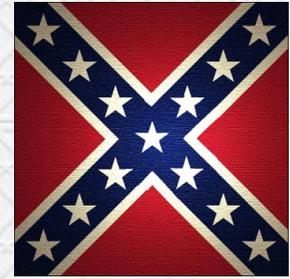
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E. B. Sledge, (deceased) Professor of Biology at the University of Monterallo in Alabama, Author, and a former U.S. Marine who fought on the islands of Pelelin and Okinawa wrote his Memoirs and titled it, **“With the Old Breed at Pelelin and Okinawa.”**

A friend of mine who was reading this book brought the below excerpt from page 275 to my attention and I wanted to share this bit of World War II history with you.

“About midmorning on 29 May, 3/5 attached Shuri with Company L in the lead and Companies K and I followed closely. Earlier in the morning Company A 1st Battalion, 5th Marines had attacked eastward into the ruins of Shuri Castle and had raised the Confederate flag. When we learned that the flag of the Confederacy had been hoisted over

the very heart and soul of Japanese resistance, all of us Southerners cheered loudly. The Yankees among us grumbled, and the Westerners didn’t know what to do. Later we learned that the Stars and Stripes that had flown over Guadalcanal were raised over Shuri Castle, a fitting tribute to the men of the 1st Marine Division who had the honor of being the first into the Japanese citadel.”



Left: E. B. Sledge, Above: Marine firing on Japanese position during an advance on Okinawa in 1945.

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

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-

PRAYER LIST

- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America
- Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Davis U.S. Army (Afghanistan).
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans

- The United Daughters of the Confederacy
- Chaplain Ed Furman
- Cmdr. Ronnie Hatfield
- 1st Lt. Cmdr. and Chaplain Rod Skelton
- Sgt.-at-Arms John Barnhart

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 17, 2012, 11:00 AM— Confederate Grave Marker Dedication, Perry Starr Cemetery, near Elkhart, Texas for Private Perry Starr, Co. G, 28th Texas Cavalry

April 14, 2012, 06:00 PM—John H. Reagan Camp 2156 Regular monthly meeting

April 14, 2012 Meeting Program: The Hunley Experience, Part II

April 20-22, 2012, Confederate Reunion Grounds, Mexia, Texas
www.visitconfederatereuniongrounds.com/

April 28, 2012, 11:00 AM— UDC Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony and Grave Marker Dedication for two Confederate Veterans, Old City Cemetery, Palestine, Texas



Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of

“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-



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 HOSTS GRAVE MARKER DEDICATIONS DABBS CEMETERY AND ELMTOWN CEMETERY



Left: Confederate Grave Marker Dedication held in the Dabbs Cemetery, Anderson County Texas on February 25, 2012 at 01:00 PM to honor Pvt. William F. Freeman, Co. A, 20th Regiment Texas Cavalry, CSA.

From left to right: Dan Dyer, Caleb Estrada (bugler), Norman Stubbs (kneeling), Billy Newsom, Craig Robinson, Frank Moore, Gary Williams, Marc Robinson (kneeling), Deborah Robinson, and Rod Skelton. Rudy Ray not pictured.

Right: Confederate Grave Marker Dedication held in the Elmtown/Cox Cemetery, Anderson County Texas on February 25, 2012 at 04:00 PM to honor Pvt. Francis M. Freeman, Co. C, 24th Regiment Texas Cavalry, CSA.

From left to right: Rod Skelton, Billy Newsom, Dan Dyer, Caleb Estrada, Rudy Ray, Frank Moore, Gary Williams, Craig Robinson, Deborah Robinson, Marc Robinson, and Norman Stubbs.





ENEMIES!

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



Enemies!

The enemies of Christ are hard at work to remove any and all Christian influence from our country, which was founded on Christian principles and a reliance on Jesus Christ.

School children are being taught that George Washington crossed the Delaware and chopped down a cherry tree, but not that he was a Christian. They are not being told what he had to say about God, Jesus Christ, or the Bible. This is not only true of George Washington, but of nearly all of the founders and early leaders of our country. Most were Christians who put their trust and faith in God. We know that, because they said so. However, this is not being taught to our children even though it's true. And, why? Because it isn't politically correct and some non-Christian might claim to be offended.

For generations we've been taught that Abraham Lincoln was a great man who saved the country and freed the slaves. Scores of people, misled by erroneous teaching, have visited his statue in Washington, D.C. to pay homage to his image as if he were some god in a Greek temple. Of course, we know him to have been a tyrant who's inflated ego, poor judgment, and illegal acts caused the death of over six hundred thousand Americans and immeasurable suffering.

At the same time, honorable, Christian men like Robert E. Lee, T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson, and all of our Confederate generals, who fought to save the country and its constitution, have been vilified and called traitors. Our brave and noble Confederate forefathers are being called a "racist army." Our proud Southern heritage is being mocked and our

legacy shamed by those whose only interest is self promotion. They pick fights and find fault in what is true and right in order to increase the audience of their radio or television programs, or add to the readership of their newspaper columns or websites. They criticize and attack what is honorable and true, while they have no honor and care nothing for truth.

Southern states who asked their young men to leave their homes and families to go to war to defend it against a terrorist invasion, and now refuse to honor their sacrifice because it isn't politically correct are a disgrace. Southerners who have bought in to the Union lies and will not seek or accept the truth even when it's presented to them, because of what someone might think, are a shame and unworthy of their own heritage.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans has been given the "defense of the Confederate soldier's good name," and "the guardianship of his history." As such we may get mad and upset at these self-serving hypocritical bigots that attack our noble Southern heritage and brave Confederate forefathers, but I firmly believe God is for us, and the Bible tells us in Romans 8:31, "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

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

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

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-



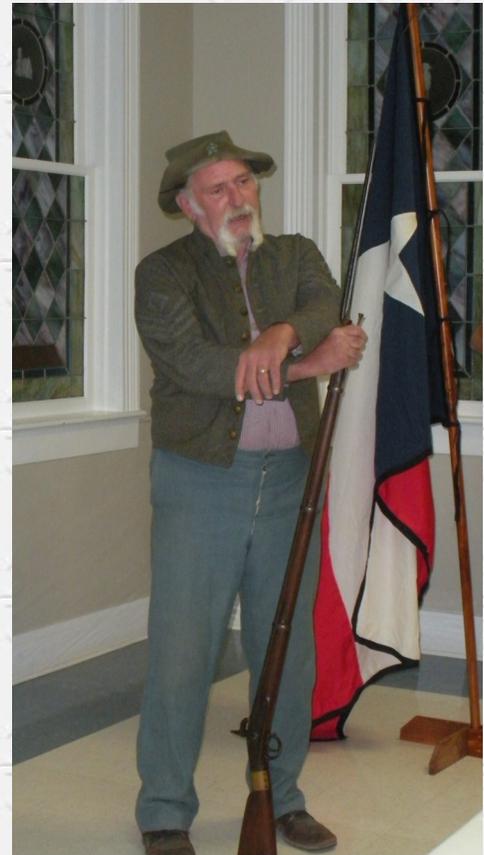
THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 MONTHLY MEETING —MARCH 10, 2011



Left: 1st Lt. Cmdr./Chaplain Rod Skelton conducted the meeting in the absence of our Commander Ronnie Hatfield who was in the hospital due to complications with his heart.

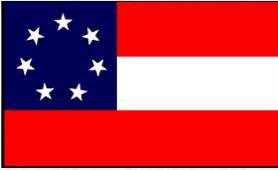


Above: An excellent program for the monthly meeting was given by Lt. Cmdr./Chaplain Rod Skelton over the biographical history of three of his Confederate ancestors.



Above: A photo from October 2010 of Reagan Camp Commander Ronnie Hatfield depicting one of his Confederate ancestors, Pvt. William H. Foster, who served in Company H, 1st Texas Infantry, CSA.

The Reagan Camp is keeping him in our prayers and wish him a very speedy recovery.



THE YANKEE'S WAR AGAINST THE SOUTH'S CIVILIANS



"The Yankee's war against the South's civilians"

"In war there is unwritten rule that civilians are to be left alone, unless they are actively engaging in combat against the opposing army. This rule, was broken by the Union Army on several occasions. The Civilian population of the Southern Confederacy were targeted by the Union Army, as a way to demoralize the South. This history is not well known, because the Victor, (the North) rewrote the history of the war. But we in the Southern parties of the Southwest.

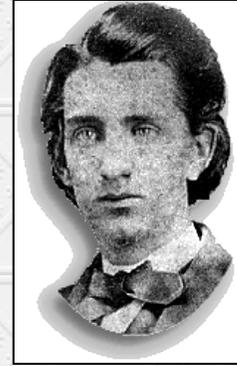
Nothing makes the heart of a Yankee liberal beat with more profound sorrow and grief than the thought of the misuse of a rope down South. Dime-store novels, cheap tabloids, television documentaries, and movies find a ready audience for such trash. Of course, the liberals are interested only if Southerners are portrayed as the villains. Perhaps that is why they refuse to publish anything that shows that no one during the War for Southern Independence committed more such crimes than the Yankee invaders.

In Marion County, Missouri, one of the most hideous of such crimes took place. After Missouri attempted to secede from the Union, the state was quickly overrun by Yankee troops. Anyone who expressed Southern sympathies was quickly persecuted by the "loyal" Missouri (Yankee-backed) government officials. In the little town of Palmyra, Missouri, the war was very personal and ugly. After a certain Union informer in town came up missing, it was presumed by the Federal authorities that he had been abducted. The general of the

"loyal" Missouri troops at that time demanded the return of his informer; otherwise he would execute ten Southerners whom he held in jail."

The men Gen. John McNeil held in jail were not criminals; they had been thrown into jail for expressing a pro-Southern point of view. We would call that an expression of free speech, but Yankee invaders obviously didn't believe in constitutional freedoms or they would not have been invading the South. It should be noted that the Yankees claimed that the Union informer had been captured by Confederate military forces. The Southern hostages held by the Yankees had no connection with said military forces! Let us emphasize this fact: They were civilians.

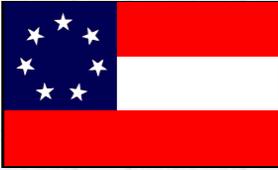
When the Union informer did not return, Yankee general McNeil ordered ten men to be chosen for execution. The ten were not selected by a lottery. No, General McNeil had a more sinister design for the deaths of these men. He gave orders that only those of high social, military, educational, and professional background were to be chosen. Those selected ranged from nineteen to sixty years of age. With one exception, all were active in their churches and most were family men. The two who did not have a wife or children were Hiram Smith and Thomas A. Sidenor. Hiram Smith was twenty-two years of age and was chosen to die after the others had received their death sentence. He had spent much time in tears trying to assist those who had been given the death sentence, not knowing that his name was to be added to the list. When the jailer called him to the cell door and informed him that he too



Sam Davis

would die the next day, he ceased his crying and never shed another tear. Those in jail noted that this young hero could weep for others but remained strong and resolute in the face of his own fate. Thomas A. Sidenor was a former captain in the Confederate army. His unit had been destroyed in battle and thereafter disbanded. He had taken up the life of a civilian and was engaged to be married. The new suit of clothes he was wearing had been chosen carefully by himself to serve as his wedding garment. It would become his burial shroud.

Both pro-Southern and pro-Northern citizens made pleas on behalf of the innocent men. Those who thought they had some influence with the Yankee government and who had a sense of decency implored the military authorities not to commit this act. But the order had the highest backing from all levels of the Yankee government. At 1:00 P.M. on October 18, 1862, the ten men were loaded on wagons, seated on newly made coffins, and taken to the Palmyra fairgrounds where the hideous act was to be carried out. No one doubted the resolve of the Yankee. For after all, this was not the first time such an act had taken place. In Kirksville, some seventy miles from Palmyra, Confederate colonel McCullough and



THE YANKEE'S WAR AGAINST THE SOUTH'S CIVILIANS (CONTINUED)



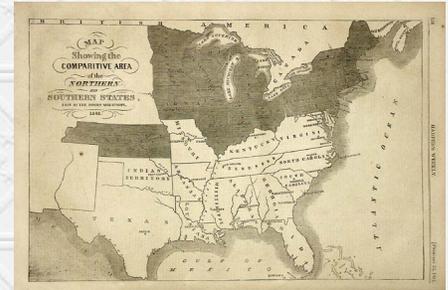
fifteen of his men had been murdered by the invader.³ No help could be expected from the Yankee high command because Union general Merrill nearby had ordered the execution of ten Southerners himself.⁴ No, the time had come for this group of men to pay the supreme price for believing in State's Rights and their Southern homeland.

On reaching the fairgrounds, the men were placed in a row and seated on their coffins. A few feet away stood thirty United States soldiers. Behind the thirty soldiers were an equal number of reserve troops. At the command "ready, aim, fire," the order was carried out. The only problem was that only three of the men were killed instantly. One was not even hit. The others were lying in pools of their own blood. Not to be outdone, the reserve troops were called into action. Walking among the wounded men, they took their time, and with their pistols shot each hostage until he stopped moaning. Poor Mr. Baxler was the one who had not been hit by the first volley. Sitting on the ground, he had to watch as the reserve troops moved in and shot his friends at point blank range, with each shot moving him closer to eternity.⁵

This incident did not pass without some protest. Not only in the South, but also in London and even in the North, decent people made loud protests about such a barbaric act. Twice in Lincoln's Cabinet meetings the issue was brought up about how to put the best face on this atrocity. But finally the incident was just ignored, because the South had its hands full and could not pursue the matter. But what about General McNeil? Surely the noble men of Yankeedom would censure this man for

such acts. Not really. Shortly after the Palmyra massacre, he was given a promotion to the rank of Brigadier General of United States Volunteers. The promotion was made, of course, by none other than the all-loving and tender-hearted Abe Lincoln.¹⁶ Who says that crime does not pay! (The reader is directed to Addendum XI, "I Am Condemned to Be Shot," a previously unpublished letter from a Confederate POW writing home on the eve of his execution. He had been chosen at random to die in retaliation for Confederate military activity in the area surrounding the POW camp in which he was being held.)

In Tennessee, the Yankee invaders laid their foul hands on a young Confederate soldier by the name of Sam Davis who had entered Confederate service at the age of nineteen. He had fought under some of the most noted Confederate generals. In 1863 he was selected as a member of "Coleman's Scouts," an elite group from Tennessee who entered Yankee-controlled territory to gather information. Sam was captured in his Confederate uniform when he visited his home during one of these raids. Regardless of this fact, he was condemned to be hanged as a spy. The commanding general of the Yankees kept young Sam in jail awaiting his execution, during which time Sam was offered his life, freedom, and many rewards if he would betray his commander and other friends in the Scouts. Over and over he was reminded of his impending death by the Yankees. Over and over he was reminded that he was young and had only begun to live



his life. Over and over the Yankees tempted him to sell out his country and friends. Over and over he refused to break. finally the Yankee commander told young Sam that all he had to do to gain his life and freedom was to give the Yankees the name of the man who was the leader of the Scouts. Young Sam's reply was, "You may hang me a thousand times but I would not betray my friends."

To make matters worse for Sam, his commander (Capt. Henry B. Shaw) was already in the hands of the Yankees. Shaw was being held in the next jail cell but the Yankees did not know whom they had captured. All young Sam had to do to gain all that was promised him was to point a finger toward the next jail cell. He did not. He stood by his country and friends, and, as a result, the invader took a rope and placed it around the young man's neck. Courageous Sam Davis, Confederate hero, was hanged by the neck until dead".

Source: <http://southernpartysw.tripod.com/southernpartiesofthesouthwestssecondsite/id24.html>



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

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.



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Each Month - 06:00 PM
Light meal served at each meeting.
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