



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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APRIL 2012

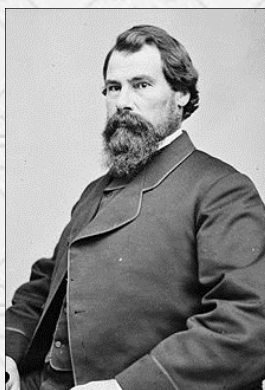
2ND LT. COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Compatriots,

April is Confederate History Month. At one time in Texas, and for that matter throughout Dixie, every month was Confederate History Month as Confederate History was and is an extremely significant part of our history. It has now been one hundred and fifty years since the War for Southern Independence. The shooting ended in 1865 but the conflict itself continues to this day. For the first one hundred years after the War the South tenaciously held to its heritage. The proud flying of the Battle Flag and the loud singing of Dixie were simply a part of everyday life. But alas the second and third wave of Yankee Reconstruction which began in the 1960s and continues to this day under the guise of Political Correctness has threatened to do away with all vestige of the old Southern Confederacy. In the shooting war of 1861-1865 the Yankees sought to conquer our arms, steal our property, and destroy our

land. Since then the northern horde has been and is out to steal and destroy our heritage and in doing so to steal and destroy our very soul. Recently, it is sad to report, that not only are the Yankees seeking to destroy our heritage but there are many southern scalawags among us who are in cahoots with the damn yankees. The recent refusal of the so-called Museum of the Confederacy in Virginia to fly the Confederate Flag reveals just how successful yankee reconstruction has been in the last fifty years.

BUT, The John H Reagan Camp along with other SCV Camps and many faithful UDC and OCR members have mounted a counterattack. For those involved in this counterattack and manning the front lines- DO NOT LOSE HEART! RALLY AROUND THE COLORS! FIX BAYONETS! The best defense remains a good offense. Let us in the days



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

ahead take the fight to them. Let us give them the cold steel of the Truth. The field can yet be won. Deo Vindice!

I am your
Unreconstructed fellow
compatriot,

Rudy Ray

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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Evening Under the Stars—DAV Van Fundraiser by Debbie Wesson

The John H. Reagan Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 2156 are one of the sponsors who deserve many thanks and applause for all the work they did for the **"Evening Under the Stars" DAV Van Fundraiser**. Though the crowd was not as big as we hoped for, they and the other sponsors worked as if there were hundreds there. It was a very hot day and much work to set up and take down the chuckwagon, bring in the cannon, and do the cooking outside over an open fire. Even purchased all the food for the cowboy stew! A nicer, sincerely dedicated to their ancestor's history and community, group of people, I do not know! Crown Home Health who not only baked cakes to add to the great cakes made by some of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church ladies, but, also, braved the heat to work the cake walk. They did a great job, appreciated very much. Everyone enjoyed the cake walk which could not have been done without you and Sacred Heart ladies! What can we say about the Kool Water band? If you have not heard this group, you don't know what you are missing. They are truly awesome and always help with veteran events. Thank You! Jordon Health could not do the hayride due to unforeseen circumstances BUT applause

to Ken Sheffield, VVA member, who offered the use of his trolley, and Steve Severn, VVA member, who picked it up for the event, and Vernon Holliman, SCV member, for providing the hay. The hayride was an anticipated fun part of the day for some of the residents of Dogwood Trails Assisted Living. Without Steve, Ken, and Vernon, this could not have happened! Thanks for making the day fun for the assisted living and memory care residents who, also, rode the trolley! You made their day! Things would not have gone so smooth without the help of Bobby Francis! He was there for everyone and everything, offering his help where ever he was needed. Rod Skelton, SCV member, could not have done all the work cooking if not for Bobby. Thank you, Bobby Francis, for all you do, all the time! The Vietnam Veterans of America #991, who were there to support the event, thank you! Gordon Brett, Commander of the DAV #63, and Dan Dudik, for being there to help. Last but not least, Ray Jenkins was the most interesting, fun, clown we all have been around! He brought much laughter with his balloons and stories! I assume if you know Ray, he is full of stories! Thanks, Ray, for being part of our day, and we look forward to seeing you more in the future with other events!

(Van will be used to take veterans to the VA hospital)



"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



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—Battle
Reenactment, 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

May 5, 2012, Confederate
Grave Marker
Dedications at three
Freestone County Cemeteries:
10:00 AM, Bonner Cemetery;
12:30 PM, Hopson Burleson
Memorial Cemetery; 04:00
PM, Rehoboth Cemetery.
POC Marc Robinson, 903-
676-6069

May 12, 2012, 06:00 PM—
John H. Reagan Camp 2156
Regular monthly meeting.

June 1-2, 2012, Texas
Division Reunion 2012



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-

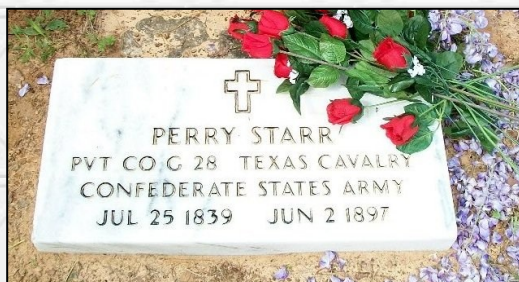


**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156
ASSISTS UDC WITH GRAVE MARKER DEDICATION
PERRY STARR CEMETERY, ANDERSON COUNTY, TEXAS**



Photo left: March 17, 2012 Confederate Grave Marker Dedication for Pvt. Perry Starr, Co. G 28th Texas Cavalry. From left to right is Davis-Reagan Chapter #2292 UDC members Nancy Bundrick, Jean Stokes, and Dollye Jeffus. Reagan Camp members Billy Newsom, Gary Williams, Rod Skelton, Rudy Ray, Dale Roberts, Jace Wilson, Frank Moore, Bobby Francis, and Alan Starr (Great grandson of veteran and a Terry's Texas Ranger re-enactor) with his

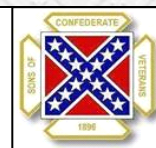
Photo right: Great grandson, Mr. Ray Camp, receives the folded Confederate flag that was covering the new grave marker of Pvt. Perry Starr, from Color Guard Cmdr. and MC, Rudy Ray, while Billy Newsom, Frank Moore, and Gary Williams prepare to salute the flag with Cmdr. Ray once Mr. Camp receives the flag.





“WORTHY OF HONOR”

BY RUDY RAY, 2ND LT. CMDR., JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156
CEREMONY AT PERRY STARR CEMETERY, ANDERSON COUNTY, TEXAS



The following was delivered March 17, 2012 during the Pvt. Perry Starr grave marker dedication ceremony by Rudy Ray.

God tells us in Romans, Chapter 13 and Verse 7, to honor those to whom honor is due. The State of Texas in Senate Resolution No. 526 has declared April as Confederate History Month in honor of those who fought for the Southern Confederacy some one hundred and fifty years ago.

War is a terrible thing- a thing of death, suffering, and misery. And yet, as terrible a thing as war is, there are some things worth fighting for, worth suffering for, and even worth dying for. In view of this we believe that soldiers are worthy of honor. At least some soldiers are worthy of such. Some soldiers indeed are worthy of shame and scorn. Hitler's jackbooted storm troopers and SS men who invaded and murdered both soldiers and civilians for the sake of subjugating them to Nazism are certainly to be scorned and shamed. Their Cause was unjust. On the other hand, honor is due to those who fought, suffered, and even died fighting against the horrific atrocities and brutality of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

But what about the Southern soldier and his War For Southern Independence? His defense against an invading horde? What about the soldier who fought under the Flags of Dixie?

According to the seemingly popular sentiment in many parts of this nation the Southern soldier like Hitler's Storm Trooper is not to be honored. Indeed many believe that he should be shamed and scorned or at the very least ignored. Indeed according to the Politically Correct gurus and their followers and adherents, the Texas Senate was either ignorant or wicked for honoring the Southern Confederate soldier. A few who would not go along with the PC crowd in their condemnation of the Southern soldier and would declare that said soldier is to be honored because even though the Cause he fought for was wrong and perhaps even evil, yet he is to be honored because he fought a noble and courageous fight.

But is this really honoring a soldier? A soldier, any and every soldier, is worthy of no more honor than his cause for fighting is honorable. A worthy, just, and honorable cause is what makes a worthy, just, and honorable soldier! And without stuttering or apologizing I declare to you that the American soldier that has been the most dishonored of all American soldiers is indeed the American soldier (for indeed he was an American soldier) who in truth is worthy of the most honor of any and all American soldiers- the Southern Confederate soldier! He is due such honor because no other American soldier fought for as worthy a cause as he did. HE DID NOT JUST FIGHT A NOBLE AND GOOD FIGHT BUT HE FOUGHT FOR A NOBLE AND GOOD CAUSE! Indeed the

Photo right:
2nd Lt.
Commander
Rudy Ray
serving as Detail
Commander
and MC at Pvt.
Perry Starr's
grave marker
dedication,
delivering the
address.



main reason he fought such a worthy fight is because he had such a worthy cause! It was his cause and his belief in his cause that enabled him to continue a fight against overwhelming odds. His cause is what kept him in the fight long after he should have been vanquished by the Imperial North with its unlimited resources to wage war. The Southern Confederate Soldier fought for Faith, Family, and Freedom. He defended his religious beliefs and practices, his family and home, and his liberty- an ordered liberty based upon the Word of God first of all and secondly upon the US Constitution. His Flags, which have been maligned along with those who waved and fought under them, represented not just his noble fighting spirit and abilities but they represented, and still do, his noble and good cause.

When the invading, pillaging, and murdering yankee soldier came home in 1865, he came home to speeches, parades, toasts, military honors, and accolades. When the Southern soldier came home in 1865 he came home to no speeches, no parades, no military honors, no toasts, and no accolades. Often he came back without a limb or two. Many if not most came back to a country side ravaged and pillaged; their homes and property burned or stolen. Many came home only to find that while they survived the War their wife and/or children did not.

The Texas Senate may indeed be ignorant and wicked in and for many things; but, it was not ignorant or wicked for declaring April as Confederate History Month but rather they were merely giving honor to those to whom honor is due and indeed which was and is long *overdue*.

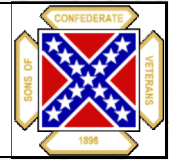
Deo Vindice! For God, for family, for home, for freedom, for Texas, for Dixie! May our brave Southern soldier's memory long live and teach us that there are indeed some things worth fighting and even worth dying for.

Rudy Ray



TURNING TO FABLES

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



It is something of a mystery to me why so many people, including Southerners, believe the lies they've been told about the War for/against Southern Independence, when the truth is so readily available. Perhaps the answer is found in the words of Russian revolutionary leader, and first premier of the Soviet Union, Vladimir Lenin. He said, "If a lie is told often enough, it will become accepted as truth."

We know the Union had to perpetrate demonic lies in order to explain it's illegal invasion of the sovereign states of the Confederacy. They have demonized our honorable Confederate forefathers, and have made our noble Southern heritage a legacy of shame. And how did they do it? With lies. Lies that have been taught constantly and continually for almost a hundred and fifty years. And many people have become believers.

In his last letter from a Roman prison, the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, the leader of the Ephesian Church. He warned that, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (2 Tim. 3:13) Then he tells us, "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables." (2 Tim. 4:4) This Scriptural Truth is a reality today. Not only in the Church and the world at large, but in this country. We are a people "Turning to Fables."

We must overcome the lies with truth. Just as Jesus commissioned the church to spread the truth to the world, General S.D. Lee commissioned the Sons of Confederate Veterans with the Charge. It is our duty to spread the truth about our forefathers and our heritage. We

can boldly tell our friends, neighbors, and relatives: Our Confederate ancestors were not fighting for slavery. They were fighting to defend their country against an invasion. Yes, they failed, and our country was lost at the point of a sword. But, we can and should be proud of them for their service, and honor their sacrifice.

We say that this country is "The land of the free, and home of the brave." But, when the leaders of a state that asked our forefathers to leave their homes and go to war to suffer and die in it's defence, refuse to honor their memory for fear of being politically incorrect, that is not "brave." And, when we accept lies as truth, either out of ignorance or indifference, that is not being "free." Just ask Vladimir Lenin.

Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." My prayer today is for truth. May the Lord grant us the knowledge of truth, and the conviction to speak the truth to others.

Brother 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, 2012



Left: Compatriot Kenneth Dwight Franklin was inducted into the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 by 2nd Lt. Commander Rudy Ray. Compatriot Franklin joined the SCV under his ancestor Pvt. William Coleman Franklin, Co. D, 12th Battalion Arkansas Sharpshooters, CSA. From Left to Right in photo at left, Past Commander Marc Robinson, Compatriot David Franklin (Life member in the SCV since 1991 and Cousin to Dwight Franklin), Compatriot Dwight Franklin, and 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Rudy Ray



Above: Program for the monthly meeting was to watch the first 30 minutes of the approximate one hour long documentary on the Hunley produced by the South Carolina Division, SCV on DVD. The second half will be shown during next month's meeting.



Above: 2nd Lt. Rudy Ray successfully presided over the meeting during the absence of our Commander and 1st Lt. Commander due to their health issues.



THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE

BY DALE ROBERTS



Dear fellow Southerners:

As April has been designated Confederate History and Heritage Month in the state of Texas, I thought it would be helpful to remind our citizens of our great heritage. To give a briefing on the War for Southern Independence and direct our attention to some points of interest that does not seem to appear in our *politically correct* history books anymore.

But before that I need to tell you where I am coming from. I am a Southerner, born and bred. All my ancestors came from England and Germany to the Southland and I am steeped in the lore and traditions of the South.

So--If you think I am biased in favor of the South I would have to say "Your cottonpickin' right I am, and no apologies. I do not say this to offend anyone; it is just a statement of fact.

If your roots run back to some other section of the country---I have a great deal of pity and sympathy for you and bless your heart I will pray for you---I am joking of course.

But I ask you where else can you find catfish and hushpuppies, cornbread and beans, barbeque and cold slaw, biscuits and gravy, real chicken fried steak and other gourmet foods? Also, the nation's best football players come from the South.

Now that is settled--On to the war. This war has many titles. The people of the North usually refer to it as the "Civil War" or the "War of the Rebellion."

Most sons and daughters of the South

reject these because all civil wars in history were fought by two or more factions trying to take over the same government. The South had no interest what so ever in taking over the U.S. government.

Southern people refer to the war as, "The War between the States," "The War for Southern Independence", "The War of Northern Aggression", "Mr. Lincoln's War", and other more descriptive but politically incorrect titles.

The Southern States claimed the right to secede from the union if they viewed the Central government as harmful to them. Mr. Lincoln and many in the North disputed their right to do so.

Actually several of the Northern states contemplated doing this themselves at various times in history.

Five times combinations of New England states demonstrated their belief in the constitutionality of secession by threatening to do just

That. Did you ever hear this from a modern day history teacher?

1. In 1803 they threatened because of their opposition to Thomas Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase.

2. In 1807 several New England states again threatened secession over the Embargo Act.

3. In 1812 the same states threatened to leave the Union over the admission of Louisiana to the Union.

4. In 1812 again they threatened to leave over the war with England of that year.

5. In 1814 same thing the



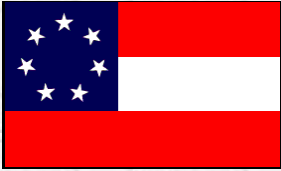
Dale Roberts

people of Connecticut called a convention to consider secession.

Hundreds if not thousands of books have been written about this period of our history. The causes of the war---and there were many---are still hotly debated in some quarters. Its battles have been studied and analyzed without end.

It was a fascinating time of dramatic clashes of ideas as well as military forces, dashing heroes, romantic encounters, thrilling victories and dreadful losses. It still captures the imagination of book writers, of movie and television producers.

The Ken Burns television series of recent times was highly acclaimed and widely viewed. *Gone with the Wind* was an all-time classic novel and movie. The Movies *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*, strike a resounding cord in the American soul. Others you may have seen such as *Cold*



THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE BY DALE ROBERTS (CONTINUED)



Mountain, Ride with the Devil, Wicked Spring and many others as well.

When the war began neither side thought it would last more than a few months if that long. No one had a clue that the War would be the bloodiest war in American history. It accounted for 620,000 *battle casualties*. Compare this to other wars we have fought, the American Revolution--approximately 4000 casualties, the War of 1812--2000, the Mexican War---13000, World War 1--116,000, World War 2 ---406,000, Korea--55,000, Vietnam--109,000 casualties. I don't have the numbers on the Iraq thing.

Just because they used black powder and muzzle loading, one shot rifles, bayonets, swords and horse drawn cannon does not mean that the battles were not lethal.

At the second battle of Cold Harbor Virginia, General R.E. Lee's forces were well entrenched and prepared for an attack. General U.S. Grant launched a frontal assault and within the first 20 minutes over 6000 of his men were casualties. The ground ran red with blood.

The battle of Antietam creek in Maryland (The Rebels called it Sharpsburg) was the bloodiest day in American history. It has not been equaled for casualties even in modern warfare. (Here is a strange as Paul Harvey sez--Before this battle occurred two Yankee soldiers were on patrol in no-mans-land and one picked up a couple of cigars in a packet lying on the ground. As they smoked the cigars they noticed some folded papers in the packet as well and began looking at

them. They decided that their colonel needed to see them. He in turn took them to General McClellan, the Federal commander. He immediately realized it was the battle plan of General Lee. It was probably dropped by a Confederate courier. This gave the Yanks a great advantage and they didn't waste any time in capitalizing on it.

If this little incident had not happened the battle would not have gone as well for the Yanks. As it happened the battle was a draw with each side holding the same ground that they started with that morning. The Federals called it a narrow win because Lee gave up his plan to capture Washington.

The war brought death, devastation and disease to the civilian population, mostly in the South. (Only a few battles were fought on Northern soil) No accurate records of civilian deaths are available but there were untold thousands. Many of the effects of this war are still being felt even today. I don't have time to list them.

This War was unique in many respects. It tore families apart, brother fighting against brother, father against son, cousin against cousin.

Many of the officers of one side knew well the officers of the other side. They had gone to military school together and had fought side by side in the Mexican war. Some were the closest of friends. As class mates at West Point they were instructed by officers that later became their opponents in a life and death struggle.

Some examples:



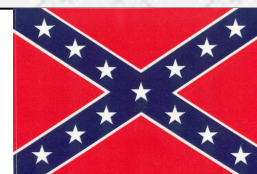
(a) When the war began the officer in Charge of the bombardment of Fort Sumter was General Pierre Gustave Beauregard. At West Point his artillery instructor was Major Robert Anderson, the same Major Anderson who was now in charge of the Yanks at Fort Sumter. Major Anderson got to observe his students work first hand. Incidentally no one was killed in this bombardment and when Major Anderson surrendered the Fort he was allowed to leave with dignity under his own colors.

(b) Another example: James Longstreet later to be known as Confederate General Longstreet, was best man at his friend wedding. This friend was later known as General Ulysses S. Grant. They would meet in battle on several occasions.

West Point cadets A.P. Hill and George McClellan courted the same young lady, Miss Nellie Marcy. George won the hand of this beautiful Miss. Later these two Cadets would meet in battle as Confederate General A.P. Hill and Union General George McClellan. It was told that McClellan's troops would blame the ferocious attacks of A.P. Hill's men as



THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE BY DALE ROBERTS (CONTINUED)



vengeance being wrought on his courtship rival. The Union troops growing weary of these heavy attacks began to growl "Nellie why didn't you marry that Johnny Reb?"

(d) When Galveston Texas was taken by the Federal forces in a sea born attack, the Texas Confederates converted some civilian cargo boats to gunboats using cotton bales for armor and attacked the Yanks and retook the Island. In the process captured a Federal warship tied up at the docks. When the Confederate officer in charge, a Captain Lea, boarded the Federal ship there on the deck he found his own son a young officer in the Federal Navy dying of his wounds, wounds that were inflicted by his father's troops.

(e) Texas' own Sam Houston who was against secession and was removed from the office of governor had a son Sam Jr. who fought for the South as an officer. His mother gave her son a bible to carry with him. This bible twice saved his life. At the battle of Shiloh he had it in his knapsack. A bullet penetrated the bible as far as where Psalm 70 read, "Oh God thou art my help and deliverer. The next day another bullet nearly killed the young Houston, but when a Yankee chaplain found the boy and his bible, he realized that the boy's father Sam Houston had supported the chaplain years before in a ministerial endeavor. The Yankee chaplain went to great lengths to see that the boy received the medical aid that saved his life. He did spend some

time in the infamous Camp Douglas federal prison camp. He eventually made it home after a prisoner exchange. He stood so emaciated on his crutches that his own mother didn't recognize him...

5. This war was unique in many other ways. It was said to be the last of the gentlemen's wars. To illustrate this I give the following examples.

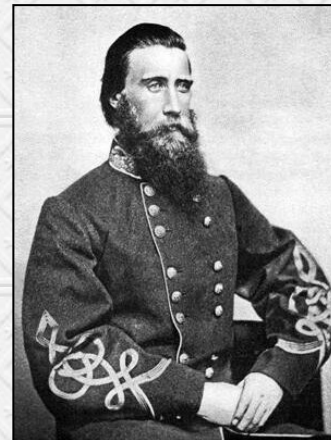
In the early years of the conflict if you were taken prisoner you might be paroled which meant you signed a statement that you would not fight anymore until you were legally exchanged. After signing the statement you were free to go home or where ever you wanted. It was a system based on your word of honor.'

If two forces met in battle and there were a lot of wounded lying on the field the commanding officers might agree to stop the fighting so the wounded could be removed from the battlefield and the dead buried.

After a battle captured officers were treated with respect and many times given the run of the camp if they gave their word not to escape. They might even be invited to the officer's mess.

It is recorded that General John Bell Hood when about to commence a bombardment of a Federal works would gallantly tell his gunners "Fire a round over their heads so they can take cover.

When Federal and Confederate troops were dug-in on opposite sides of the Rappahannock



John B. Hood

Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood

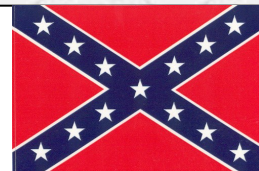
River during a winter lull they would call across the river to each other and trade tobacco which the Rebs had for coffee which the Yanks had. Both armies had musical bands and would call across the river to request songs or tunes to their liking.

6. As the war dragged on year after weary year the bitterness grew and many protocols of honor were dropped. This was brought about by General Grant's order to stop exchanging prisoners and no more cease fires to retrieve the wounded from the field.

The most extreme example of the change in attitude was General William Tecumseh Sherman's infamous march to the sea. Sherman came to the conclusion that it was foolish to fight just the soldiers and declared war on the general populace. Sherman made the pronouncement that "War is Hell," he then set about to demonstrate it.



THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE BY DALE ROBERTS (CONTINUED)



No man woman or child was exempt as he laid waste to the Southland. It was the beginning of the scorched earth policy that would be adopted in the 20th century wars.

Here is one example of his ruthless barbaric methods:

When Federal cavalry sent by Sherman arrived at the textile mill towns north of Atlanta, he order the commander, General Kenner Garrard to burn the mills since they produced clothing, canvas, rope and other goods that could be useful in the Southern war effort. This of course was legitimate in a war but his orders concerned the mill workers as well. They were to be arrested. This is a direct quote from the military records.

"I repeat my orders that you arrest all the people, male and female, connected with these factories, no matter the clamor and let them foot it, under guard to Marietta, whence I will send them by cars to the North. Useful labors are as much prisoners as if armed. The women will make a howl. Let them take along their children and clothing provided they have the means of hauling them."

The Federals held hundreds of women, children and a few old men for five days in the open town square under a broiling summer sun, the invaders had already confiscated most of their property, including wedding rings and other personal effects They then burned most of their homes.

Finally Sherman exclaimed "Send them to Indiana and turn them loose." The town of New Manchester lost so many of its people and property that it simply vanished from existence. According to

historian David Evans in the book "Sherman's Horsemen" most of the *traitors* as Sherman called them, were women and young girls. On the evening of July 8th the Federals began moving these 2000 terrified, heartbroken civilians. The soldiers packed them in the railroad cars like cattle and sent them North. The vast majority of these women and children were never to see their loved ones again. Tearful mothers were forced to watch as children, who worked in the mills were dragged away and almost none of them ever to be heard from again. Some of these scenes were reported by a reporter for the Cincinnati Daily Newspaper.

The irony is that Lincoln not only did not rein him in but commended him for his vigorous prosecution of the war.

Sherman's dastardly deeds are well documented and will live in infamy so I will move on.

7. The War Between the States saw many new innovations of warfare. Such as the extensive use of entrenchments, indirect cannon fire, extensive use of railroads for transporting troops, the use of pontoon bridges although not new was used often to cross the rivers. The telegraph was used for communications for the first time in war. Observer balloons were introduced during the war. The South developed the first submarine that actually sank a Federal warship. Of course everyone has heard of the battle of the Monitor and the Virginia which ended in a draw but also ended the era of wooden warships forever.



Above: Southern Refugees leaving home.

Late in the war the Federals began using repeating rifles causing the Rebs to complain that the Yanks could load their guns on Sunday and shoot all week.

The use of land mines and floating mines were used by both sides.

Battle tactics developed and used by Nathan Bedford Forrest R.E. Lee and T.J. Jackson and others are still studied in the war colleges of today throughout the world.

8. The war saw the beginning of Clara Barton's efforts in starting a female organization that would later be known as the Red Cross.

Many lives were saved because of the work of this compassionate and energetic young woman. It is recorded that as soon as the women were allowed to go into the hospitals things changed radically for the better. Up until then the hospitals were unbelievably dirty and disorganized. Being sent to one was almost a death sentence. Sanitation was practically unknown and germs had not been



THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE BY DALE ROBERTS (CONTINUED)



discovered yet. The women saw the hideous conditions and began to clean things up. It is said that the mortality rate among the wounded and sick soldiers almost immediately began to decline with these changes.

Incidentally women were not allowed in the military forces but some daring and determined women disguised themselves as men and managed to see combat before they were discovered. Some were never discovered, which is hard to believe.

9. Our nation was changed forever by this bloody conflict. States' rights proponents were forced at the point of the bayonet to recognize that the Federal government was all powerful. Our people saw the horror and devastation when American fought American. The country saw much bitterness among our people that only in present times is beginning to subside.

One of the good things that came out of the war however was a great revival of religious fervor. It started among the Southern troops and was seen also in a lesser degree among the Federals. A good many of the Officers were devout Christians. General Robert E. Lee, General T. J. Jackson--better known as Stonewall, General Jeb Stuart, General John Gordon, General Leonidas Polk, General D.H. Hill, General Albert Sidney Johnston, General Sterling Price all were strong Christian men and many of the lesser officers as well.

Stonewall Jackson was almost as famous for his strict Christian beliefs and practices as he was his action in

Warfare. He asked his Presbyterian Assembly to send him as many men for Chaplains as they possible could spare.

One night one of his subordinate Brigadiers, general Richard Ewell, after having ridden long hours through a storm angrily burst into Jackson's tent and found him on his knees, deep in prayer for his men. The profane, non-believing Ewell finding Jackson thus said, "If that is religion, I must have it." Very soon after this incident he became a devoted Christian himself.

The Great revival among the Southern troops stayed with them after the war and helped create what we call today the Bible belt.

As we look back and study this period of our history one thing stands out in my opinion. That is the determination, perseverance, endurance and unquestioned courage and valor of the Southern Soldier.

He fought four long bloody years against unbelievable odds for what he believed was right. He was almost always outnumbered. The Federals had more and better weapons and usually had plenty of food, clothing and ammunition. Johnny Reb was almost always short of these necessary items. His clothes many times were rags; good shoes were a luxury he seldom enjoyed. In the later stages of the war he was almost always cold, wet and hungry in the winter. Disease and malnutrition was ever with him. More troops were lost to these killers than Yankee shot and shell.

Nowhere in military history in this country or any other has soldiers given a better account of themselves in



T. J. Jackson

Lt. General Thomas J. "Stonewall"
Jackson

battle. That is why we their Sons and Daughters still remember and honor them.

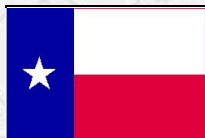
As Southerners we have a great heritage. We are proud of it and wish to preserve it and hand it off to our children no matter how politically incorrect it may seem to some.

That is why some of us participate in reenactments and living history events and some of us even write books about this great upheaval.

Dale Roberts

(Dale Roberts is a long time Civil War reenactor and living history entertainer and author of a Civil War Historical novel. He is also a member of the John H. Reagan Camp 2156, a local chapter of the International organization, the Sons of Confederate Veterans.)

Editors note: This article and photo of the author appeared in two parts in the Sunday April 1 and Sunday April 8 issues of the Palestine Herald Press newspaper.



BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN SHERIDAN

BY DOLLYE SHERIDAN JEFFUS

READ AT TEXAS RANGER IRON CROSS DEDICATION CEREMONY
MARCH 24, 2012, AUGUSTA CEMETERY, HOUSTON COUNTY TEXAS



John Sheridan was born on April 5, 1796 in Moore County, North Carolina and died, May 10, 1837. His parents were Henry and Christiana Hench Sheridan. Henry immigrated to Texas from Louisiana with his wife and five children. They located on the Trinity River at a villa called Santissima Trinidad de Salcedo. An account of books kept by Juan Magee at the Bexar Archives lists purchases made by Henry Sheridan and his son, John in 1810. When the Spanish ordered all foreigners out of Texas, he made a claim for land on Bayou Chacom in the Neutral Strip Land claims. He died in Nachitoches, LA in 1825. His son, John and John's brother-in-law, Daniel McLean were among the first permanent settlers of Augusta, Houston County, Texas. They came to this area in 1821. They crossed the area with the Gutierrez-Magee expedition. John Sheridan settled on Silver Creek. In 1826 John was returning to his farm on Silver Creek with his young wife, Lucinda Caroline Nugent Sheridan, who was expecting their first child. By the time the young couple covered long arduous miles to bring them to western Louisiana near the Texas border, it became obvious that Lucinda could not safely travel any further. Fortunately they had friends or relatives in the area and she remained while John Sheridan returned to his farm – always fearing depredations of the Indians. On June 27, William Nugent

Sheridan was born and when he was about six weeks of age, his father came and took his wife and child home. The long journey to their new home was over. John Sheridan and Lucinda Nugent had the following children (All sons served as soldiers in the CSA; their units are noted)–

*William Nugent Sheridan (Co. C, 6th Battallion Texas Cavalry, CSA)

*Jacob L. Sheridan (Co. I, 1st Regiment Texas Infantry, CSA, wounded at Cold Harbor, Virginia on June 27, 1862 in right foot and left shoulder, later served as sheriff of Houston County)

*John H. Sheridan (Co. I, 1st Regiment Texas Infantry, CSA, wounded at Sharpsburg, captured, listed on prisoner of war records at Ft. McHenry: paroled out and sent to Fortress Monroe)

*Licurgus Edmond "Ike" Sheridan (Co. I, 1st Regiment Texas Infantry, CSA)

*Comilete Sheridan

*Eliza Sheridan

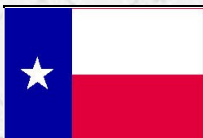
John Sheridan was obviously a very courageous, adventurous, and patriotic citizen. He fought at the Siege of Bexar which was the longest battle fought for Texas independence. It started in October 1835 and ended at daybreak on December 9, 1835. Within a few months, the Mexicans would return to retake the town during the



Above: Mrs. Dollye Sheridan Jeffus, GG Granddaughter of John Sheridan

bloody Siege and Battle of the Alamo. Texas has had its share of lawlessness. Since the 1820's the chief deterrent to crime in the multi-million acre territory has been the Texas Rangers. Stephen F. Austin organized two companies in 1823 "for the common defense". The provisional government in 1835 authorized a "ranging company" of 25 Rangers, later increased to three companies of 56 men each.

John Sheridan became a member of Captain Costley's Rangers on September 11, 1836 and served the required 3 month term, ending on December 11, 1836. He then served as one of Captain Haggard's Fort Houston Rangers during the early months of 1837. Hostile Indians moved through present Houston County and stole as many as 100 horses from the settlements near San Pedro Bayou. Since the last Ranger Company on duty in this



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READ AT TEXAS RANGER IRON CROSS DEDICATION CEREMONY

MARCH 24, 2012, AUGUSTA CEMETERY, HOUSTON COUNTY TEXAS (CONTINUED)



area had disbanded two months previously, the settlers organized their own volunteer pursuit party. John Sheridan and Daniel McLean helped organize the posse. Both Sheridan and McLean were considered expert Indian fighters and were employed at times by area settlers as guides and protectors. In preparation for the battle he expected, John Sheridan took care of papers pertaining to previous military service. His audited claims included one dated May 10, 1837 in Nacogdoches County from which Houston County was carved within weeks. Sheridan appeared before Justice of the Peace William H. McDonald to present service documents for authentication for payment.

The number of men turning out to pursue the Indians is unknown. What is known is that this small party was ambushed by the Indians soon after heading northward in pursuit. During the main charge, Sheridan and McLean were killed. Due to overwhelming numbers, the few surviving men of the posse were forced to retreat. According to what little information is available on this skirmish, Sheridan and McLean sacrificed their own lives holding the Indians in check while other settlers escaped.

The following was taken from an article written about my father William Ernest Sheridan in the book "Centennial History of Anderson

County". Quote – as a small boy, he thrilled to the tale of his grandfather's hair raising experiences: for Ernest is the great-grandson of John Sheridan, who was one of the two men scalped by the Indians near the present day Houston-Anderson County line. Ernest's grandfather was the lad who had so tragic an experience following the Indian raid. W.N.'s mother, Lucinda, knowing that the Indians were on the "war path", and that her husband and McLean had probably been killed, tried, in vain, to persuade some of the other settlers to accompany her to search for the bodies. The dangers of the forest were too great. No one would risk his life to go. Finally, in desperation, the distracted wife induced an old Mexican to accompany her. Taking, also, her boy, William Nugent, then a boy of eleven, the bereft widow started out on her sad mission with an oxcart, to return the next day, bringing the lifeless bodies she had set out to seek.

There is a historical marker erected at the site of the massacre. It is about 8 miles south of Palestine, via FM 2419 to East CR 185.

Parts of this history came from the books "Taming Texas" and "Savage Frontier" by Stephen L. Moore.

I will conclude this history of John Sheridan with a quote from L.E. Landon—



Photo above: State of Texas historical monument erected at the site of the massacre. Located about 8 miles south of Palestine, via FM 2419 to East CR 185.

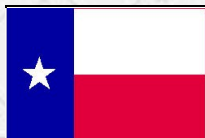
"The pride of blood has a most important and beneficial influence. It is much to feel that the high and honorable belong to a name that is pledged to the present by the recollections of the past."

Thank you.

DOLLYE SHERIDAN JEFFUS

3-24-2012

(Find more photos from the Texas Ranger Iron Cross Ceremony are on the following page.)



JOHN SHERIDAN, 5 APRIL 1796—11 MAY 1837 TEXAS RANGER IRON CROSS DEDICATION AUGUSTA CEMETERY, HOUSTON COUNTY TEXAS



Photo above: The descendants of John Sheridan present at the dedication ceremony.



Above: GGG Grandchildren of John Sheridan are John Barnhart escorting his sister, Melissa Johnston, as she places the dedication wreath.

Photo below: The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Color Guard members unveiled, folded, and presented the flag to the oldest descendant present, Mrs. Dollye Sheridan Jeffus, who is standing with us in this photo. (Color guard members not pictured are Ronnie Hatfield and Dwain Schoppe.) Reagan Camp members Dwight Franklin and Sam Hanks were also in attendance.

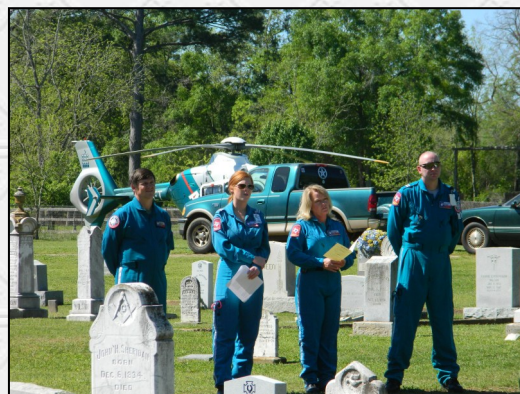


Photo Above: East Texas Medical Center's Life Flight Helicopter and crew, flew in immediately upon the opening of the ceremony to honor Texas Ranger John Sheridan. The EMS tech 2nd from left is his GGGG grand daughter. The helicopter made a tight circle over the cemetery, then tipped to salute Ranger Sheridan just prior to landing.



SHILOH, BLOODY SHILOH

PUBLISHED IN "MORE POEMS" BY RONNIE HATFIELD
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Shiloh, in the springtime,
the peach trees were in bloom,
The cool, gray damp of morning,
and a sudden cannon's boom!

Forty thousand screamin' Rebels,
took Grant's army by surprise!
Hell bent for Pittsburgh Landing,
with murder in their eyes!

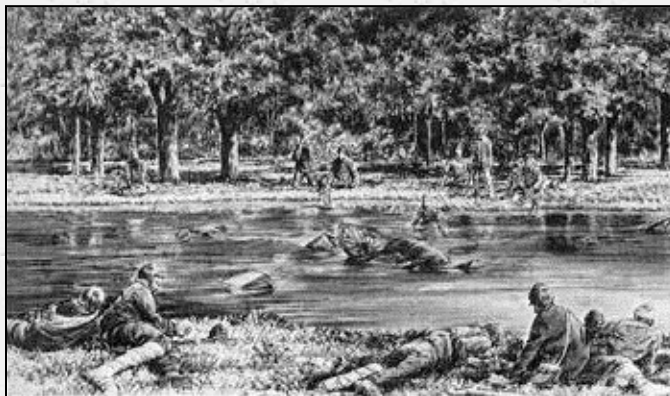
A surging gray-clad tidal wave,
across Frayley's Field they rolled!
While Yankees fell like sycled grain,
as their lines began to fold!

Like banshees on a devil's wind,
the Rebel yell rose higher,
as they swept through rows of yankee camps,
with breakfast cooking on the fires!

Momentum stalled, as hungry Rebs,
snatched food and coffee on the run,
then renewed the fight in earnest,
on Grant's reformed and loaded guns!

Past the church and in the orchard,
and from the Hornet's Nest beyond,
the wounded, dead, and dieing,
lay in heaps at Bloody Pond!

A well-aimed ball hit General Johnston,
and he bled to death beside a tree.
And Braxton Bragg then urged them forward,
till it was just too dark to see!



Above: Bloody Pond, where both wounded
Confederate and Union soldiers drug themselves to
obtain water after being wounded during the Battle
of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862

Through the darkness and the rain that fell,
Grant's reinforcements came ashore.
And at daylight on the seventh,
he counted twenty thousand more!

Attack! He said, and pushed them back,
to Fallen Timbers, and Corinth.
And then silence once again returned,
where yesterday the war had been.

Shiloh, Bloody Shiloh,
where peach blossoms fell like snow.
When the churchyard wasn't peaceful.
When Bloody Pond once overflowed!

(The Battle of Shiloh, 150th anniversary of one
of the War's most bloodiest battles April 6-7,
2012.)



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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Newsletter Editor
(Editor this issue—Marc Robinson)

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.



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