



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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MAY 2013

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Compatriots,

As spring nears an end, the Reagan Camp continues to stay busy. On May 4, 2013, the John H. Reagan Camp preformed a ceremony at Mt. Zion Cemetery in Freestone County to honor eleven Confederate Veterans buried there. I would like to thank the Reagan Camp members that were in attendance to help with the ceremony. Members were Frank Moore, Gary Gibson, Dale Roberts, Tom James, Marc Robinson, John Barnhart, Rod Skelton, Bobby Francis, Phillip Dore and myself. As I have stated before, you do not have to have a uniform to help the camp setup and pack up after a cemetery service. The Davis/Reagan UDC chapter also helped us out with the ceremony, our thanks to Dollye Jeffus and Nancy Bundrick. The Mt. Zion Cemetery Association made a donation of \$200.00 to our camp which is greatly appreciated.

Our Sgt-at-arms, John Barnhart resigned as of Saturday May 4th due to the fact he will be working in South Texas. I have appointed Ronnie Hatfield to be the Sgt-at- Arms and detail Commander until our elections in December.

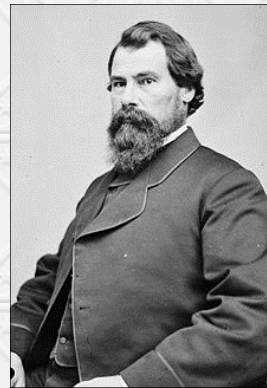
Military weekend at the Texas State Railroad will be on Saturday and Sunday May 25 and 26th. We will be setting up our Information table and hopefully a period tent. We will fire the cannon and muskets at different times of the day Saturday. I would like to encourage each of you to come out and participate with us.

June 7,8,2013 is the Texas Division Reunion. This year it will be at Tanglewood Resort on Lake Texoma, Our camp has 4 delegates going to the Reunion, Marc Robinson, Frank Moore, Doug Smith and Dan Dyer.

Due to our monthly meeting falling on the reunion weekend, our **next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday night, June 4th**. We will have a list of the ones that are running for Division offices, Texas Division Commander, 1st Lt.,2nd Lt.and 3rd Lt. The camp will need to vote on these at the June 4th meeting so we will know how to vote at the Reunion.

Again, the June Reagan Camp meeting will be on Tuesday the 4th. I hope to see you there.

Dan



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



CAMP MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of Each Month
06:00 PM

Snacks and drinks 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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Calendar of Events | 2 |
| May Reagan Camp Meeting | 3 |
| Mexia Reenactment Photos | 4 |
| Battle of Port Jefferson Photos | 5 |
| Reagan Camp Member Ancestor of the Month | 6-7 |
| Chaplain's Message | 8 |
| Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza Info | 9 |
| Reagan Camp Contact Information | 10 |



“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-

Black Confederates Why haven't we heard more about them? National Park Service historian, Ed Bearrs, stated, "I don't want to call it a conspiracy to ignore the role of Blacks both above and below the Mason-Dixon line, but it was definitely a tendency that began around 1910".

The article can be found at http://www.fold3.com/page/1201_confederate_african_americanscivil_war/

PRAYER LIST

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatriot Ed Furman • Past Cmdr. Ronnie Hatfield • Mrs. Dollye Jeffus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaplain Rod Skelton • ATM Chaplain Len Patterson • The Sons of Confederate Veterans • The United Daughters of the Confederacy |
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 16-18: Battle of Temple Junction, Temple, TX
- May 25: Armed forces Day at the Texas State Railroad Park.
- June 7-9: SCV Texas Division Annual Reunion. Tanglewood Resort, Pottsboro, TX
- June 22: 1pm -3:30pm Confederate monument Dedication in Gilmer, Tx
- July 27th: Marker Dedication for Tommy Gunnels' ancestor
- July 28– Aug 1: Sam Davis Youth Camp
- Nov 11: Veterans Day Memorial at East Texas Arboretum in Athens with Reagan Camp Color Guard @ 11am

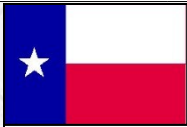


This flag flies in honor and memory of over 1,000 Confederate veterans from Anderson County who marched off to war, one third of whom never returned, and the over 500 Confederate veterans from all across the South who are buried in this county. They fought for liberty and independence from a tyrannical and oppressive government. Provided by the John H. Reagan Camp # 2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans. www.reagansvcv.org

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

“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 MAY MEETING



Pictured above are some of the members visiting prior to meeting. John Day and Terry Franklin attended the meeting as visitors. Both have ancestors who fought for the Confederacy



The John H. Reagan Camp welcomes new compatriot Phillip Dore. Pictured left to right are Commander Dan Dyer, Compatriot Phillip Dore and Chaplain Rod Skelton

Camp Member David Franklin presented the John H. Reagan Camp with an Historical Program on Lee at Gettysburg. He gave a breakdown on the memoirs of Generals Longstreet, Mosby, and Early in which he explained the differences of what they wrote. David is the past Central Texas Brigade Commander, Past Chaplain of the Army of Trans-Mississippi (twice) and Past Chaplain of the Texas Division (twice). David was also the founding commander of the J.L. Halbert Camp, #359. We are very fortunate to have David as a member of the John H. Reagan Camp.





REAGAN CAMP MEMBERS ATTEND MEXIA REENACTMENT





WE ARE PROUD OF OUR YOUTH REAGAN CAMP "YOUNGEST MEMBER" GENE WHITE IN BATTLE OF PORT JEFFERSON



Parade at the Battle of Port Jefferson, 5-4-2013



Reagan Camp member Gene White at the Battle of Port Jefferson, 5-4-2013



Reagan Camp member Gene White at far right. Battle of Port Jefferson

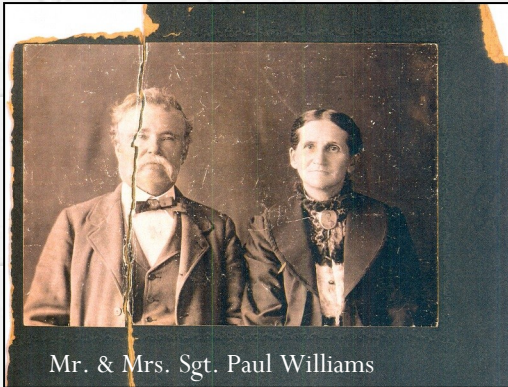


Battle of Port Jefferson. Gene White is fourth from left.





ANCESTOR OF THE MONTH SGT. PAUL WILLIAMS (ANCESTOR OF COMPATRIOT GARY WILLIAMS)



Mr. & Mrs. Sgt. Paul Williams

Paul Elisha Alexander Williams was born in Pickens District, South Carolina, on March 15, 1841. He was the youngest of sixteen children and a grandson of a soldier of the American Revolution. His father was Jeremiah Williams, a South Carolina planter. He was educated at an academy in the county and began the study of medicine at the age of nineteen. He left the college in Charleston, South Carolina, in March, and in April of 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate Army. He was mustered into Company I of the 4th South Carolina Infantry. In 1862, his unit was reorganized into the Palmetto South Carolina Sharpshooters, and he continued service with unit until the final surrender. Williams served as a private, a corporal, and then toward the end of the war was promoted to sergeant.

Williams served as a private and a corporal in the 4th South Carolina Infantry under Colonel J.E.B. Sloan. During the Battle of Manassas on July 21, 1861, his regiment held the position near the stone bridge along with Wheat's Louisiana Tigers. They were the first unit to encounter the Union Army. They held back the superior number of Yankees for over an hour and prevented the Union Army from crossing the Bull Run River. This action was praised by General Irvin McDowell's adjutant as "one of the best pieces of soldiership on either side." The 4th South Carolina held their position until "Stonewall" Jackson's brigade arrived. In a letter dated July 23, 1861, Colonel J.E.B. Sloan cited many of his officers and soldiers for bravery during the battle. Among the names listed was Private Williams of Company I. (Official Records, Series 1 Volume 2, Page 469).

Williams served with the 4th South Carolina during the Battles of Gaines' Mill and Seven Pines (Fair Oaks). Under Colonel Micah Jenkins the 4th South Carolina broke through the center of the Federal lines and delivered a decisive blow to the enemy.

During the Battle of Seven Pines, Virginia, Williams received a gun shot wound through the elbow and lost two months of active duty. Williams was also present during the Battles of Second Manassas, South Mountain, and Sharpsburg.

During service with the Palmetto South Carolina Sharpshooters, Williams' regiment and brigade were attached to the divisions of D.R. Jones, John B. Hood, George E. Pickett and John Bratton, all part of Gen. James Longstreet's Corps. During this service Williams fought in the Battles of Fredericksburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor. During the Petersburg Campaign/Siege Williams was wounded in the head on June 21, 1864. A burial detail found young Williams on the field with a rifle bullet the size of a grape embedded in his upper left forehead. After the bullet and skull fragments were removed, he remained unconscious for three days.

The effects of this wound would render him unable for duty for six months — in fact it never healed until after the war. About three days before the close of the war Williams was captured; but several hours later he was retaken, and some Federals were also taken. At the time of the Confederate surrender, Williams was at the Appomattox Court House.



SGT PAUL WILLIAMS (ANCESTOR OF COMPATRIOT GARY WILLIAMS)



PAGE TWO

The Palmetto South Carolina Sharpshooters was the largest regiment to surrender. Records show that it contained slightly less than four hundred officers and men when it finally laid down its arms. Williams claimed that he never signed the surrender — research bears this claim to be true. Williams was one of six brothers to have served the Confederate States of America; five of the six survived the war.

Williams returned to his home and completed his medical studies. He graduated in the winter of 1865. He married Charity Elizabeth Pickle and left for Texas in May of 1865. Dr. Williams settled in Montalba, Anderson County, Texas, where he practiced medicine and farmed 960 acres with his family of eight children. Dr. Williams rode a Tennessee walking horse to call on the sick. It is said that many times the cold gray hours of the morning twilight would find the doctor sitting erect in the saddle, sound asleep. At about the age of sixty, his health began to give away. He died of pneumonia on June 4, 1915, at the age of 74. Dr. Paul Elisha Alexander Williams is buried in Liberty Cemetery near Palestine, Texas.



Pictured above are Reggie Williams (left) and Sgt. Paul Williams (right). The picture was taken while the two brothers were in New Orleans at the 1906 Confederate Veterans Reunion. They were there when General S.D. Lee read the “Charge” that we recite at our Reagan Camp SCV Meetings.



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE
BY BROTHER LEN PATTERSON, TH.D
CHAPLAIN, ARMY OF TRANS-MISSISSIPPI



In the past forty or so years I have stood before dozens of congregations, as either a pastor, evangelist, or visiting minister, and preached thousands of sermons. However, of all the messages I've delivered, there are no more than six or so that I have preached more than once. One such message is titled, "An Old Man and a Stick." During this message, I recount various Bible stories of how greatly God used simple, small, and seemingly weak people to accomplish monumental tasks. Then after each account, I would remind the congregation of how God used an old man and a stick.

The old man and a stick is, of course, Moses. God used Moses to confound the most powerful man on earth, and defeat the greatest empire in the world. Moses then led a nation of millions in a desert wilderness for forty years. It was Moses who received God's Law, and wrote the first five books of the Old Testament. When God called Moses and sent him to Egypt to begin this great work, he was just an eighty-year-old man with a walking stick.

Under the inspiration of God's Spirit, the Apostle Paul writes, "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought the things that are: that no flesh should glory in His presence." (1 Cor. 1:27-29)

These verses tell us that if God uses foolish things, weak things, base things, things which are despised, and things which are not, then He can use you and me. God doesn't need our money, our strength, our youth, or even our courage. He just needs us. He needs us to be faithful and committed to Him, and the work He has called us to do. I believe that our Lord has a plan and a purpose for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and that plan includes those who are faithful and true to our Cause. Simply, God will use you!

But, we also need God. Moses would not have succeeded, or even attempted the work God called him to, without God's help. My prayer for each member of our honorable Confederation is that we seek God's will and guidance in the work committed to us by Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, which is as it should be.....our defining characteristic.

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



CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza had the official opening and dedication on April 13, 2013. It is a beautiful Memorial to the Confederate Veterans. Although it is open for visitors, there is still room along the sidewalks for folks to make a donation for a brick paver in the name of their Confederate ancestor. This will ensure that their ancestor's service to the Confederacy will not be forgotten, but will be remembered for years to come. If you would like to purchase a paver, please contact Dan Dyer at E-mail: danielyder@embarqmail.com or Phone: (903) 391-2224

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| WILLIAM C FRANKLIN CO D 12-BTTN ARK SHARP SHOOTERS | JOHN DANIEL LILES PVT DIED 4/25/1865 POW | WILLIAM J. CHAFFIN CO H 5 TEX CAV CSA 1829 - 1908 |
| JASPER N. CARNES CO B 8 REGIMENT TEXAS INFANTRY | RICHARD A. HODGES CO K 22 TX INF CSA 1833 - 1905 | ANDREW J BEAUCHAMP CO F 13 TEX INF 12-9-1834 9-1-1894 |

Would you like to honor you ancestor? There is still room in the plaza for you to have a paver with your ancestor's name and military information.





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

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-in-Chief

United Confederate Veterans

New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 2nd Saturday of
Each Month - 06:00 PM
Snacks 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)