

## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP DECEMBER 2014



### Merry Christmas from the John H. Reagan Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans



Above: One of the cannons from the Valverde Battery, which is located on the Courthouse Square in Freestone County, is decorated for Christmas.





SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

## THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2014

## COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Christmas In DixieDecember 1864 Dixie

*Silent night, Holy night.  
All is calm, all is bright.*

So our Southern Fathers and Mothers sang one hundred and fifty years ago. But as they sang this Christmas Hymn and celebrated as best they could, the truth was that there was nothing silent, holy, calm, or bright about their homeland. In December of 1864 Dixie was under siege on every hand. In the West what was left of Hood's Army was about to be destroyed at Nashville. Sherman who had just destroyed Atlanta was now laying siege to Savannah and he then would turn up to South Carolina to rape and pillage that State. And Lee's noble Army of Northern Virginia was under terrible siege at Petersburg. So as our ancestors celebrated

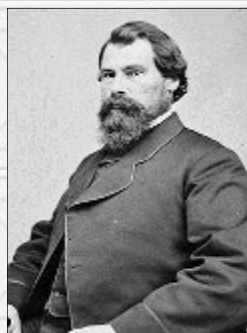
Christmas in 1864 and sang their carols they could hear the shells of yankee cannons exploding all around them.

Finally, the following spring of 1865 the Confederate armies surrendered. They stacked their arms and furled their colors. They gave up the military effort to obtain independence.

December 2014 Dixie

*Silent night, Holy night. All is calm, all is bright.*

As we celebrate Christmas and sing our hymns we too can hear the yankee guns raining their shot and shells down upon us. Listen to the thunder of the guns that have and are coming down in Lexington, Virginia; Memphis, Tennessee; Oxford,

**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

**Mississippi, and right here in Texas. Our Fathers surrendered their arms and ceased to resist the Yankees military machine but they utterly, almost to a man, refused to surrender their Cause with its values, beliefs, and way of life.**

*Continued on page 3*

**CAMP MEETINGS**

3rd Tuesday of Each Month  
06:30 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.

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## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

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Thus because of Southern men and women from 1861 on continuing to fight for their ideas, beliefs, and way of life; continuing to advocate, propagate, and vindicate the Cause, we today here in Dixie still have a fight to fight. Do we understand this December of 2014 that Dixie remains under siege? Do we realize, do we in the SCV and UDC realize and believe that the war rages on? And not only do we have the sound of the enemies guns in our ears but we also have the terrible grief of compromise and betrayal such as we saw and see in Richmond, Virginia with the sellout of the Museum of the Confederacy wrought by scalawags, traitors, and those with divided loyalties who dilly dally with the Yankees and scalawags, who in various ways attempt to make our Heritage palatable and acceptable to the PC crowd, who are more concerned with PR than they are with vindicating the Cause. Indeed in many instances our leaders in the SCV, who through either ignorance or cowardice or self interest compromise with our enemies by being not only members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans but also members of the Sons of the Union. Somebody please tell me how one can vindicate the Cause and support the very people who stand for those who fought against our Cause?

Let me be very frank. I enjoy being in the SCV. I enjoy the society, the friendships. I enjoy the ceremonies and reenactments and parades and balls etc, etc. I do (for the most part) have fun in the SCV. But, BUT, that is not why I am in the SCV! NO! NO! NO! I am in the SCV to fight!!!! To fight the enemies of Dixie! To fight and never stack arms and furl our colors. Whether those enemies of the Cause are from within- turncoats, traitors, cowards, compromisers, scalawags, etc; or from without- yankees, progressives, liberals, neo-cons, etc. The day I quit or refuse to fight, to advocate, propagate, and vindicate the Cause, I am not worthy of being in the SCV. The day the SCV, be it camp, division, national, or whatever, quits or refuses to fight the fight will be the day that I quit the SCV.

Let me be even more blunt. Every SCV member should be in the SCV to fight! In the early 1980s in one of the Texas Prison Units there was a war going on between the developing gangs and the Administration. There was fighting, serious fighting every day. At that time whenever someone was interviewed as a possible Security Officer he was taken into a room and was made to fight a chosen inmate. If that prospect would not or could not fight he was not hired. When we recruit members into the SCV we should make sure that they understand the fight we are in and we need to make as sure as we can that they will and can fight our fight. We have been very loose on who we recruit into the SCV. This needs to stop. As a result we have many SCV members who do not help us in the fight. Now, I am aware that I cannot attempt to go around and cull out the cowards and slackers among us and so I will not even attempt to do so. But I will make this appeal- if you do not want to fight please do not join the SCV and if you are in the SCV and you do not want to fight please get out and if you will not do that than at the very least get out of the way of those of us are in the fight.

Rudy Ray



### Prayer List

- Adjutant Dan Dyer
- Former Chaplain Ed Furman
- Past Cmdr. Ronnie Hatfield
- Former Chaplain Rod Skelton
- Compatriot Tom James
- Historian Gary Williams

### Prayer List

- Davis/Reagan UDC Pres. Dollye Jeffus
- Jean Stokes
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 10 — Sam Davis New Year's Ball at Museum of East Texas Culture proceeds to benefit the youth attending the Sam Davis Youth Camp

Jan 20—John H. Reagan Camp Meeting

Feb 6-7 — Stephen Dill Lee Institute in Dallas. More info can be found at [www.StephenDLeeInstitute.com](http://www.StephenDLeeInstitute.com)

Feb 14 — Sweetheart Soiree' in Gainesville, Tx

Feb 17 — John H. Reagan Camp Meeting

"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."

-PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS-



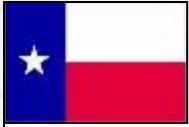
This flag flies in honor and memory of over 1,000 Confederate veterans from Anderson County who marched off to war, one third of whom never returned, and the over 500 Confederate veterans from all across the South who are buried in this county. They fought for liberty and independence from a tyrannical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

"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-





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP WHO WAS SELINA NORRIS GRAY? CONTRIBUTED BY REAGAN CAMP HISTORIAN GARY WILLIAMS



When Robert E. Lee's wife, Mary, fled [Arlington House](#) at the start of the Civil War, she gave her personal slave, Selina Norris Gray, the keys to the mansion and responsibility for the grand house the Lees had lived in for 30 years.

Gray fulfilled her duties. She is famously credited with saving from marauding Union soldiers numerous heirlooms belonging to George Washington that were stored in the house.

Now the National Park Service, which administers Arlington House, has acquired what it says is a rare and previously unknown photograph of Gray and, apparently, two of her eight children.

The photograph was spotted last month on the Internet auction site eBay by Park Service volunteer Dean DeRosa. The seller, in England, had found the photo in a box of "unwanted" pictures at a British version of a yard sale.

A Park Service statement said that its nonprofit partner, Save Historic Arlington House, bid on the photograph and, "against stiff competition," won.

"This is a big deal," National Park Service spokeswoman Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles said Thursday.

"It's in-cred-ibly rare to have photos of slaves that we can identify," she said. "Since slaves were property, it's really hard to identify the people in images like this. This is a priceless item to add to our collection."

She said the Park Service is sure the double image, which is identified on the back only as "Gen Lees Slaves Arlington Va," depicts Gray, the older woman in the picture, and probably her children.

The Park Service was able to compare the new photo with an identified photo of Gray already in its collection. Anzelmo-Sarles said the new photo is believed to have been taken outside Gray's slave quarters at Arlington.

Arlington House had Washington heirlooms because Mary Lee was the great-granddaughter of Martha Washington, the president's wife. And Mary Lee's father, George Washington Parke Custis, had been raised by the Washingtons.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP WHO WAS SELINA NORRIS GRAY?

PAGE 2 OF 2



The Union army took over Arlington on May 24, 1861, after Robert E. Lee joined the Confederacy and his family left the mansion, which contained Washington china, furniture, and art work.

Gray tried to keep track of Washington and Lee valuables in the house.

When Gray found that some of the heirlooms had been stolen, she confronted the soldiers and told them not to touch any of “Mrs. Lee’s things,” according to the Park Service.

Gray, whose parents had also been slaves, then complained to Union Gen. Irvin McDowell, and the remaining heirlooms were sent to the Patent Office for safekeeping and posterity.

“She had incredible courage,” Anzelmo-Sarles said. “So we owe a lot to being able to tell the story of our first president to this enslaved woman.”

Gray was freed in December 1862, according to the will of Custis, who ordered that his slaves be freed five years after his death, Anzelmo-Sarles said. He died in 1857.

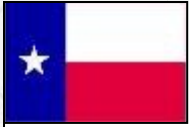
Gray and her family bought land near Arlington and grew and sold vegetables. She died in 1907.

The Park Service said the photograph will be unveiled to the public at 2 p.m. Saturday as part of a special program on African American history at Arlington House.



Article copied from website: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/rare-photo-of-robert-e-lees-slaves-shows-hero-of-arlington-selena-gray/2014/10/09/2af85a62-4fc7-11e4-8c24-487e92bc997b\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/rare-photo-of-robert-e-lees-slaves-shows-hero-of-arlington-selena-gray/2014/10/09/2af85a62-4fc7-11e4-8c24-487e92bc997b_story.html)

The photograph to the left was spotted on eBay. It shows Selina Norris Gray, right, who had responsibility for the Arlington House the Lees had lived in for 30 years. (National Park Service) Those pictured with her are thought to be two of her children.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP CONFEDERATE ARTIFACT BY ANDREW HARRIS



### **Southern Gold Confederate Two-Piece Tongue & Wreath Belt Buckle**

Our featured artifact this month is a beautiful Confederate belt buckle. This two-piece interlocking style of belt buckle was a favorite in the Confederate Army, particularly among mounted cavalymen and officers as these were primarily utilized on sword belts. Also known as a “tongue and wreath” buckle, it features a prominent “CS” on the face of the tongue, surrounded by a wreath of laurel leaves. The buckle pictured here is a pristine, non-excavated example that retains a rich bronze patina.

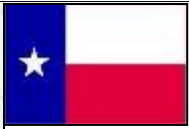


Numerous variations or patterns of the “CS” tongue and wreath buckle exist; the buckles differ with respect to their details and design characteristics. The style of lettering on the face is one common difference used to categorize these buckles and also to identify the origins of their manufacture. The buckle shown here is commonly referred to as the “Virginia” pattern. These are believed to have been made exclusively in the Richmond area of the Old Dominion State, during the war. Thus, it is probable that this particular buckle saw service within the ranks of the Army of Northern Virginia.



Though it is a beautiful and finely crafted accoutrement, the buckle shows numerous imperfections and casting flaws inherent in the manner in which it was made. These two-piece buckles were individually cast from solid brass using a sand mold. The manufacturing quality of cast Confederate buckles varies considerably from one casting to the next. Therefore, each buckle, while similar to other examples made from the same master, is unique in its own right. Original Confederate belt buckles are quite rare and convincing fakes are prevalent in the collecting field today; great care should be taken to authenticate wartime buckles through close comparison to genuine examples as well as known forgeries.





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP DECEMBER MEETING PICTURES



The December meeting was attended by 24 members and guests. We all had a wonderful meal of Ham, Dressing, Sweet Potato Casserole, Pinto Beans, Scalloped Potatoes, Cowboy Brownies, Pizza, Blue Bell Ice Cream, and a Merry Christmas Cake. The meal was great!

The meeting started off with Marc Robinson welcoming everyone and introducing our special guests, 2nd Lt. Commander of Texas 8th Brigade Roger Doyle and his wife Judy.



Following the introduction of the special guests, everyone enjoyed a great meal. The meal was prepared and brought by the members of the Reagan Camp and the Reagan Davis Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy.







## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP DECEMBER MEETING PICTURES



At Left: J.D. Mason was sworn in at the December meeting.

At Right: L to R— Rudy Ray, J.D. Mason, and Dwight Franklin pose for a picture after J.D. receives his membership certificate.



At left: Adjutant Dan Dyer gives a Perfect Attendance award to Camp Commander Rudy Ray.

At right: Sgt at Arms Gary Gibson receives a perfect attendance award from Dan Dyer.



At left: 1st Lt. Commander Marc Robinson receives a Perfect Attendance award from Adjutant Dan Dyer.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP DECEMBER MEETING PICTURES



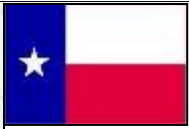
At left: Adjutant Dan Dyer gives Reagan Camp Chaplain Dwight Franklin an award for Outstanding Member of the Year 2014.

Roger Doyle, 2nd Lt Cmdr of the Texas 8th Brigade swears in the 2015 Reagan Camp officers.



At left: Rudy Ray, Toni Ray & Doug Smith provided the entertainment by singing Christmas songs for everyone. They did a great job and we really appreciate them.





**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP  
ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR PICTURE  
DECEMBER**



Photograph by Linda Doane

**RE-ENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE OF PERRYVILLE—PERRYVILLE KENTUCKY**

There are many reenactment groups who represent both Northern and Southern Civil War units that provide us with a “living history.” The travel great distances with the goal of participating in a wide variety of battle re-enactments, often on the original battlefield itself. One such group represents Company D of the 1st Regiment Virginia Volunteers, Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, Confederate States of America. The original regiment was formed from pre-Civil War militia units around Richmond, Virginia and fought through the entire Civil War, from the opening battle at Blackburn’s Ford (Manassas, Virginia) July 18, 1861, across the stone wall at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, and to Saylor’s Creek, Virginia on April 6, 1865, just outside of Appomattox where Lee surrendered his army.

There are many websites that you can obtain more information about re-enactors activities, and for more than 600 coming events listed yearly you can visit [www.civilwarnews.com](http://www.civilwarnews.com)

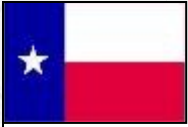


# JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR DECEMBER



	1 Dec, 1866— To Markie Our communication with the world beyond the Mountains is reduced to one stage a day & the tri-weekly packet boat.	2 Dec, 1862 - to wife I tremble for my country when I hear of confidence expressed in me. I know too well my weakness & that our only hope is in God.	3 Dec, 1860 - to Rooney As an American citizen I prize the Union very highly & know of no personal sacrifice that I would not make to preserve it, save that of honour.	4 Dec, 1863 -  I believe a kind God has ordered all things for our good.	5 Dec, 1860 - to Custis The education of a man or woman is never completed till they die. There is always before them much to lean & more to do.	6 Dec, 1846 - To Wife I am one of those silly persons when I have anything to do I can't rest satisfied till it has been accomplished.
7 undated - To Wife It is satisfactory always to have facts to go on; they restrain supposition & conjecture, confirm faith, & bring contentment.	8 undated -  With a grateful heart I thank him for his preservation of you thus far & trust to his mercy and kindness for the future.	9 Dec, 1869 -  While moderation & temperance in all things are commendable & beneficial, abstinence from spirituous liquors is the best safeguard of morals and health.	10 undated -  I shall think of you & my grandson very often during the season when families are united & though absent from you in person, you will always be present in mind.	11 undated - to S.G. Miller Practice habitual temperance, so that you may form the habit in youth & not feel the inclination to depart from it in manhood.	12 Dec, 1851 - To Custis Do your best, and I shall be satisfied.	13 Dec, 1862 - at Marye's Heights It is well that war is so terrible; we should grow too fond of it.
14 Dec, 1860 - to Custis Pay all your debts as soon as possible	15 Dec, 1866 - to Fitzhugh I know of no fitter resting place for a soldier than the field on which he has nobly laid down his life.	16 undated - to wife I expect to die a pauper & I see no way of preventing it. So that I can get enough for you & the girls I am content.	17 undated - to a friend  If I could only have my children around me, I could be happy	18 Dec, 1869 - to son I must begin by wishing you a pleasant Christmas & many Happy New Years, & may each succeeding year bring to you & yours increasing happiness.	19 undated - to Mildred I trust many of you will be assembled around the family hearth at dear Arlington for another Christmas. Though absent, my heart will be in the midst of you.	20 undated - to Mildred I hope you will find time to read & improve your mind. Read history, works of truth. Get correct views of life & learn to see the world in its true light.
21 Dec, 1866 - to daughter Mildred Experience will teach you that you will never receive such a love as is felt for you by your father and mother.	22 Dec, 1866 - If I was an artist I would draw a true picture of Traveller. Such a picture would inspire a poet. But I am no artist & can therefore only say he is a Confederate grey.	23 undated - I shall think of you on that holy day & shall pray to the God of heaven to shower his blessings upon you in this world & to unite you all in his courts in the world to come.	24 Dec, 1846 - to sons I hope Santa Claus will fill Rob's stocking tonight; that Mildred's, Agnes's & Anna's may break down with good things. If he only leaves for you one half of what I wish, you will want for nothing.	25 Dec, 1862 - to Mildred You must study hard, gain knowledge & learn your duty to God & your neighbor; that is the great object of life.	26 undated - Occupy yourself in aiding those more helpless than yourself.	27 Dec, 1863 - to M. Stuart Thus is link by link the strong chain broken that binds us to earth & our passage soothed to another world.
28 undated - to Custis There is nothing so military as labour & nothing so important to an army as to save the lives of its soldiers	29 Dec, 1863 - The object of this life is to prepare for a better and brighter world.	30 Dec, 1864 - to Wife I pray daily & almost hourly to our Heavenly Father to come to the relief of you & our afflicted country.	31 undated - to a student We cannot undo the past; that is forever gone; but the future is in our hands.			





**THE ARTICLE BELOW IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK  
“LEE THE LAST YEARS”**

**BY CHARLES BRACELEN FLOOD PG 1 OF 2**



Lee had been opposed to war as a means of bringing the practice of slavery to an end. Far from being a military man who in some corner of his heart hopes for a war, Lee wrote, as North and South came to the precipice, “War is a terrible alternative and should be the very, very last resort.”

Now, having had their war, millions of Northerners and Southerners would agree with him. Ten months after Appomattox, Lee was back in the city that had been the enemy capital. Although many friends came to see him at his hotel — among those who called at a moment when he was out was Amanda Parks, one of the former Arlington house slaves, who wanted to see him and to hear the news of the family — he was aware of the anger that the mere mention of his name created in much of the city. Lee decided not to call at the houses of old friends, for fear of causing them difficulty. To Markie Williams, sister of Orton and Lawrence, he wrote, “I am now considered such a monster, that I hesitate to darken with my shadow, the doors of those I love lest I should bring upon them misfortune.”

The day after he arrived in Washington, wearing a grey suit that had been one of his uniforms, Lee entered a large, high-ceilinged room that was crowded with spectators. Reporters were present. He was called forward, asked to place his hand upon a Bible, and swear that he would tell the truth. It was indicated to him that he should sit in a chair facing those who were to question him.

Not since the guns stopped firing had Lee faced the enemy in such hostile form. The room was silent. Here was the chief military officer of the rebellion, dressed in grey. This was not a trial, but in effect Lee was on trial, brought here by the Republican majority as part of its effort to demonstrate that the South was not ready for readmission to the Union. Lee’s testimony would not be protected by any form of immunity; every word was to be transcribed, and if the government chose to reopen its treason case against him, this record could be a principal source of potentially damning statements by Lee about his activities in opposition to the United States government.

The tension felt by Lee and the spectators was fully shared by the congressmen who were about to question him. Thousands of their constituents had died at the hands of soldiers led by the man who faced them. Their desks were heaped with letters from widows asking for pensions. They knew little girls and boys who were growing up without fathers.

When the questioning began, it was a fencing match. Lee was asked if the South would submit to the taxes that would pay off the costs of the war that had destroyed the South. Lee answered that the South would pay the taxes levied upon it. He was asked if Southerners were willing to mix socially with Northerners who had come to live among them. Lee answered that most would prefer not to do so.

Soon the committee got something they wanted. Asked the opinion of the Southern white population concerning President Johnson’s program, Lee replied, “So far as I know the desire of the people of the south, it is for the restoration of their civil government, and they look upon the policy of President Johnson as the one which would most clearly and surely re-establish it.” Since the Radical Republicans were even now laying the groundwork for accusations against Andrew Johnson as a traitor to the best interests of the nation as a whole, nothing suited them better than an endorsement of his policy by the South, in the person of General Robert E. Lee.

**Question:** How would an amendment to the Constitution be received by the secessionists, or by the people at large, allowing the colored people or certain classes of them to exercise the right of voting at elections?

**Answer:** I think, so far as I can form an opinion, they would object.

**Question:** They would object to such an amendment?

**Answer:** Yes, sir.

**Question:** Suppose an amendment should, nevertheless, be adopted, conferring on the blacks the right of suffrage, would that, in your opinion, lead to scenes of violence and breaches of the peace between the two races in Virginia?

**Answer:** I think it would excite unfriendly relations between the two races. I cannot pretend to say to what extent it would go, but that would be the result.

Now the committee made a mistake. They tried to link Lee with the sufferings and deaths of Union soldiers in Confederate prisons.

-Continued on next page-



**THE ARTICLE BELOW IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK  
“LEE THE LAST YEARS”**

**BY CHARLES BRACELEN FLOOD PG 2 OF 2**



With this first in this new line of questions, Lee went on the offensive. In the original indictment of Major Henry Wirz, the commandant of Georgia's Andersonville prison, where twelve thousand captives had died, Lee and Jefferson Davis had both been named as co-conspirators in an effort to murder Northern prisoners by abuse and neglect. President Johnson had stricken the names of Lee and Davis from that indictment, as being far too removed for that matter. Wirz had been hanged in Washington; Davis was behind bars on other counts; Lee was not going to let this committee smear him on a matter of professional military honor.

His task, Lee pointed to the committee, had been to send captured prisoners to the rear, to Richmond, where they passed out of his control. Nonetheless, he thought that they might suffer because of the shortages of food and blankets and tents that his own men were experiencing, so he had “urged the establishment of the cartel which was established” — the mechanism for the exchange of prisoners.

The committee stirred uneasily; they saw what was coming. “I offered to General Grant, around Richmond, that we should exchange all the prisoners in our hands.” Lee cited another case, when, during the long Union siege of Petersburg, even the Southern civilians were close to starving, and he had offered to send all prisoners back to the North, “provided they returned an equal number, man for man.”

There was the rub; these senators and representatives knew that the policy determined in Washington during the war had been to drain the South of its lesser manpower by allowing few Confederates to return to their army in prisoner exchanges. Inevitably, this had meant that Union soldiers had languished in prisons, where the Federal authorities knew they might die because the South was starving.

Senator Henry T. Blow of Missouri abandoned this line of questioning after nine increasingly embarrassing answers. The committee decided to concentrate on its most politically potent topic. Blacks, prisoners of war, Lee's opinion of President Johnson's policy — all these were secondary to the question of the South's current loyalty to the Union. If it could be shown that white Southerners were less than loyal to the Federal government, then the committee had their answer to “whether they or any of them are entitled to be represented in either house of Congress.”

Lee was not going to tell the committee that the South was pleased with its ever-more-severe treatment. “The feeling, so far as I know, now is that there is not that equality extended to the southern States as is enjoyed by the north.”

That was an immense, politely worded understatement. Three weeks before this, Lee had written to Senator Reverdy Johnson, one of the South's few friends in Congress: “To pursue a policy which will continue the prostration of one-half the country, alienate the affections of its inhabitants from the Government, and which must eventually result in injury to the country and to the American people, appears to me so manifestly injudicious that I do not see how those responsible can tolerate it.”

Much as Lee had just scaled down his feelings in giving his answer, the committee were not pleased with it.

**Question:** You do not feel down there that while you accept the result, we are as generous as we ought to be under the circumstances?

Lee answered drily, “They think that the north can afford to be generous.”

Senator Howard now got down to brass tacks. There was still the fear that somehow the South might again attack the North, and here was the leader who had done so much with so little.

**Question:** I understood you to say, generally, that you had no apprehension of any combination among the leading secessionist to renew the war, or anything of the kind”

**Answer:** I have no reason in the world to think so.

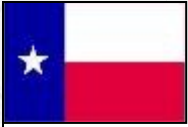
**Question:** Have you heard that subject talked over among any of the politicians?

**Answer:** No, sir: I have not. I have not heard that matter ever suggested.

The committee began wishing that they had left Lee in Lexington. If the object was to exhibit to the nation an example of threatening rebel mentality, this calm, reasonable man was not the right choice.

-Continued on next page-





THE ARTICLE BELOW IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK  
“LEE THE LAST YEARS”

BY CHARLES BRACELEN FLOOD PG 2 OF 3



Failing to get an ominous syllable out of Lee, Senator Howard began hypothesizing. If there should be a chance of renewing the war, of seceding, of attacking the North with the help of some powerful foreign ally, “what in such an event, might be your own choice?”

**Answer:** I have no disposition to do it now, and I never have had.

At this moment Lee and his questioners were looking at each other across a gulf of misunderstanding. In saying that “I never have had” a disposition to attack the United States, Lee was thinking of his repeated prewar statements against secession, and the fact that it was not some hypothetical foreign alliance, but the certainty that the North was going to march into his native Virginia, that had led him to resign his Federal commission and put on Confederate grey.

The committee, on the other hand, were looking at a man who had sworn to defend the United States, who had been taught his profession at the United States Military Academy, who as cadet and officer had worn the uniform of the United States Army and been paid by it for thirty-five years, and who had then accepted the command of Confederate forces that killed hundreds of thousands of men wearing the uniform of that army. The legislators were finally ready to call him a traitor guilty of treason, but they went at it obliquely.

**Question:** You understand my question? Suppose a jury was empanelled in your neighborhood, taken by lot, would it be possible to convict, for example, Jefferson Davis, for having levied war against the United States, and this having committed the crime of treason?

**Answer:** I think it is very probable that they would not consider that he had committed treason.

**Question:** They do not generally suppose that it was treason against the United States, do they?

**Answer:** I do not think that they so consider it.

No more hypotheses; Senator Howard was talking about actions taken by Jefferson Davis, by Robert E. Lee, by every Southerner who had carried a gun or driven a wagon or knitted socks for soldiers, and the point he was making was that a people who still did not think they had committed treason had no right to be represented in Washington.

Senator Howard finally asked the question about succession that could hang Lee if he were tried for treason. In effect, it was: What did you think you were doing? Howard realized that he might be leading Lee into fatal self-incrimination & he gave him a way out.

**Question:** State, if you please—and if you are disinclined to answer the question, you need not do so – what your own personal views on that question were?

Lee would not take the proffered retreat. His answer came from a view of states’ rights and state citizenship that had died at Appomattox.

**Answer:** That was my view; that the act of Virginia, in withdrawing from the United States, carried me along as a citizen of Virginia, and that her laws and acts were binding on me.

The legislators were through with Lee, but he was not quite through with them. He had never cared for politicians, including Confederate congressmen,; clarifying an answer, he let go with this quiet condemnation of the role that elected officials of both North and South had played in bringing on the war.

I may have said and I may have believed that the position of the two sections which they held to each other was brought about by the politicians of the country; that the great mass of the people, if they had understood the really question would have avoided it...I did believe at the time that it was an unnecessary condition of affairs and might have been avoided, if forbearance and wisdom had been practiced on both sides.

Lee had been on the stand for two hours. A frustrated and disappointed committee excused him, and he headed for home.



## TEXAS DIVISION CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE

### A MESSAGE FROM REV. DON MAJORS

### CHRISTMAS IS COSTLY (PG 1 OF 2)



Christmas is costly.

It cost Mary and Joseph the comforts of home during a long period of exile in Egypt to protect the little Babe. It cost mothers in and around Bethlehem the massacre of their babies by the cruel order of Herod. It cost the shepherds the complacency of their lives as shepherds with the call to the manger and to tell the good news. It cost the wise men a long journey and expensive gifts and changed lives. It cost the disciples and apostles, and the early church persecution and death. It cost Christian martyrs in all ages their lives for His sake. It is still costing believers their lives. For this creed Christians live, and for this creed Christians die. More than all this, it cost the Father His own Son, as He sent Him to the earth to save mankind (John 3:16). It cost Yeshua (Jesus) a life of sacrifice and service, and a death cruel and unmatched in history.

Christmas is costly.

December 25, 1776 was a costly Christmas.

Our freedom, like our Messiah, was born in the cold and makeshift cradle of hardship, poverty, and obscurity. Our cities were in the hands of the British and their mercenaries. December 25, 1776, Trenton, New Jersey, was filled with German troops, all inside with warmth and merriment with their cozy fires. Our men, lead in the freezing cold by the Virginia Fox himself, George Washington, were ragged, tattered, starving, and dying in the frozen element. At 6:00 p.m., on December 25, 1776, the despised Virginian, George Washington, and his men wearing burlap for shoes, left a bloody trail in the snow as they gathered at the river. There was no thought of sacrifice at this Christmas time. This setting would be a major turning of the war. Whether or not the colonials realized right then or not, this Christmas Day of 1776 would be the beginning of the end for the oppressor.

Christmas is costly.

December 1861, was a time of burdensome trials and tribulations for the family of General Robert E. Lee, as well as all the families of the Southland and Confederation. General Lee wrote his wife on December 2, 1861, "With a grateful heart, I thank Him for His preservation thus far, and trust in His mercy and kindness for the future." Then on Christmas Day of 1861, he wrote a letter to his daughter expressing the heaviness of his heart in the loss of their home at Arlington. He said, "I pray for a better spirit, and that the hearts of our enemies may be changed." Of course, that would not be the case.

Christmas is costly.

On Christmas Day, John Bell Hood's shattered Army of Tennessee was hurrying as well as it could to get out of Tennessee, struggling with numerous skirmishes such as at Petersburg, Virginia. They were under tight siege by the Yankee forces commanded by General Grant. The Southern forces were in retreat. Our beloved Confederacy was shrinking in size and spirit day by day. On the thought of every Confederate soldier, I am sure was this thought, "What will next Christmas Day hold for us?"





## TEXAS DIVISION CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE A MESSAGE FROM REV. DON MAJORS TEXAS DIVISION CHAPLAIN PG 2



Christmas is costly.

By Christmas Day of 1865, there was little joy, and the heart-rending war was over. It had been over for months, but its images of hurt, pain, and genocide against our ancestors and beloved homeland would linger and haunt us Southerners for generations. Truthfully, it still does to some degree. True Southerners will never forget our fallen Confederacy. We will never forget the tragic injustice committed upon our President Jefferson Davis, or the injustice served upon Henry Wirz, commandant of Andersonville, or the hanging of Mary Surratt. Yes, Christmas is costly.

Christmas is costly.

What is the common denominator in all these costly Christmases?

They all hold something in common. They all sacrificed that we might be free. Jesus paid the ultimate cost that we might be free. Our Colonial ancestors paid the ultimate sacrifice that we might live in a free land. Our Southern ancestors gave their lives and their blood that we might know and experience the freedom of our soul and our Southern spirit.

Christmas is costly. Christmas is very special.

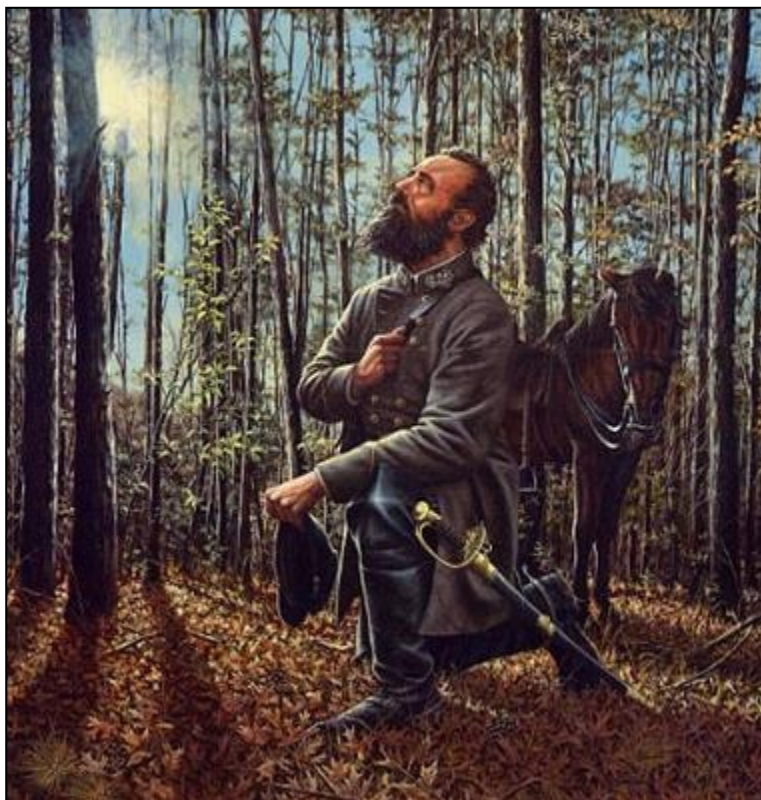
Have a Dixie Christmas!

Deo Vindice,

Reverend Don Majors,

Texas Division Chaplain

Sons of Confederate Veterans

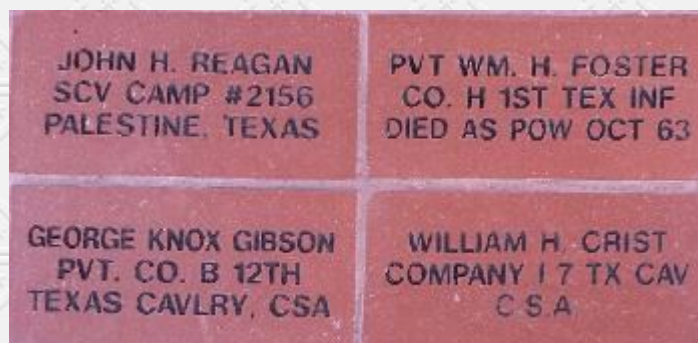




## CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



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 you to purchase a brick paver in the name of your confederate ancestor. This will ensure that your ancestor's service to the confederacy will not be forgotten, but will be remembered for years to come. If you would like to make a donation for a paver, please contact Dan Dyer at E-mail: [danieldyer497@yahoo.com](mailto:danieldyer497@yahoo.com) or Phone: (903) 391-2224



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. You can also acquire a paver in the name of your SCV Camp.





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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

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

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

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

## 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: 3rd Tuesday of Each  
Month - 06:30 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)