



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

# THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 9

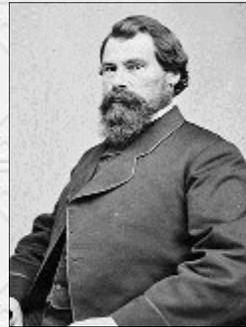
SEPTEMBER 2014

## COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

This month we continue our look at the issue of unity in the SCV. We have seen that our unity lies in our Charge and that things that are irrelevant to our Charge should not divide us and we have also seen that any so called unity that in any way is contrary to our Charge is an evil unity. Not all division is bad. Division over things that are insignificant in regards to our Charge is unhealthy for us. But any unity that in any way is contrary to our Charge is an unhealthy unity. The SCV is all about the fulfilling of the Charge given to us by the Confederate Veterans themselves. I recently heard a good friend of mine and a good SCV member state that "our strength is in numbers". I heartily disagree with such a statement and thinking! If that is true we are done for and we have no strength. But such is

not true and never has been for any worthwhile cause or organization. Indeed with all due respect to my SCV friend such thinking is yankee thinking! No, the strength of the SCV is the Charge of the SCV!

This yankee way of thinking can also enter into this issue of unity. There would be those who would say that our strength is in our unity. Now such a statement *may* indeed be true but only if and when our unity is in the truth! Only when our unity is in the understanding of, the dedication and devotion to, and the fulfilling of OUR CHARGE is our unity a healthy unity! Any unity that in any way takes away from or lessens our devotion to our Charge is an evil and damnable unity which is to be resisted and repudiated!



**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

Last month we looked at the blatant and undisputed fact that the heart of the Charge is "the vindication of the Cause" for which the Confederacy was formed for, stood for, and which the Confederate soldiers, leaders, and people suffered and in many instances died for.

(continued on pg 2)

## CAMP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of Each Month  
06:30 PM

Snacks and drinks served at each meeting.

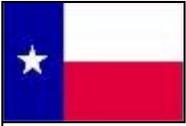
First Christian Church  
113 East Crawford Street  
Palestine, Texas

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



**Without the Cause the Charge is just sentimental squish. And our society has enough sentimental squish we do not need any more!**

Many tout loudly that we are an *Heritage* organization and that *Heritage* is what we are all about. We are indeed an *Heritage* organization. We like to use that word in describing what we are about and what we do. We, the SCV, are defenders of and preservers of our Southern Heritage, our Confederate Heritage. Well, what does that mean? What is our Southern Confederate Heritage? There could be a number of ways that we could address this question but a good and succinct way would be to say that our Confederate Heritage is defined and enumerated in our Charge! AND at the heart of our Charge is the Cause and thus our Confederate Heritage is defined by the Confederate Cause!

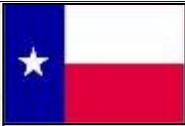
*To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish.*

So just what was (and still is) the Cause of the Southern Confederacy, the Cause for which our Southern Fathers fought for? Again the Cause could be addressed in a number of ways but here is a good way to answer that question. The Cause is found in the Charge. We will break it down a phrase at a time.

*...the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name...*

If the Confederate soldier indeed had a good name, a good reputation; if the Confederate soldier was indeed *good*; then the cause for which he went to war had to be a good cause. This idea that one can fight a good fight for a bad cause is a wrong and evil statement and mentality! War is a terrible and awful thing. It inflicts much misery and suffering upon participants (soldiers) and non-participants (civilians) alike. If one goes to war one better be damn certain that the cause for which he takes up arms to kill and maim others is indeed a good cause! ( continued on next pg )





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

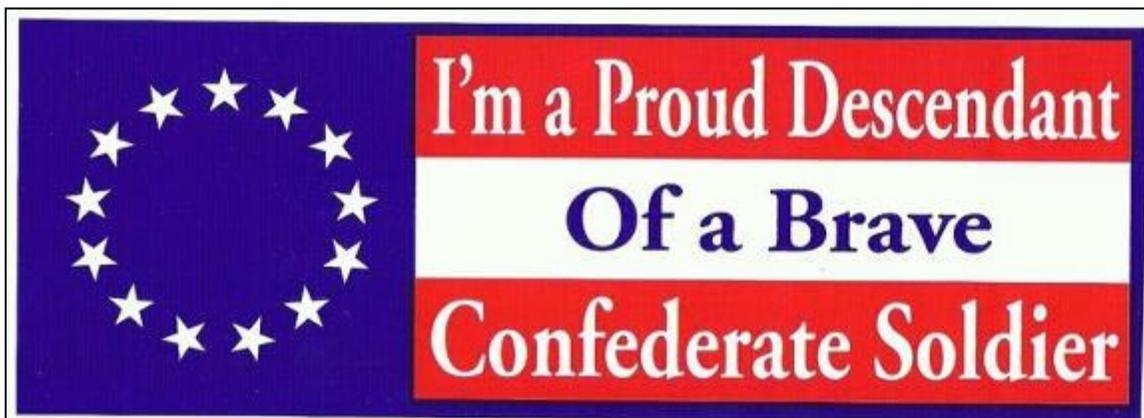


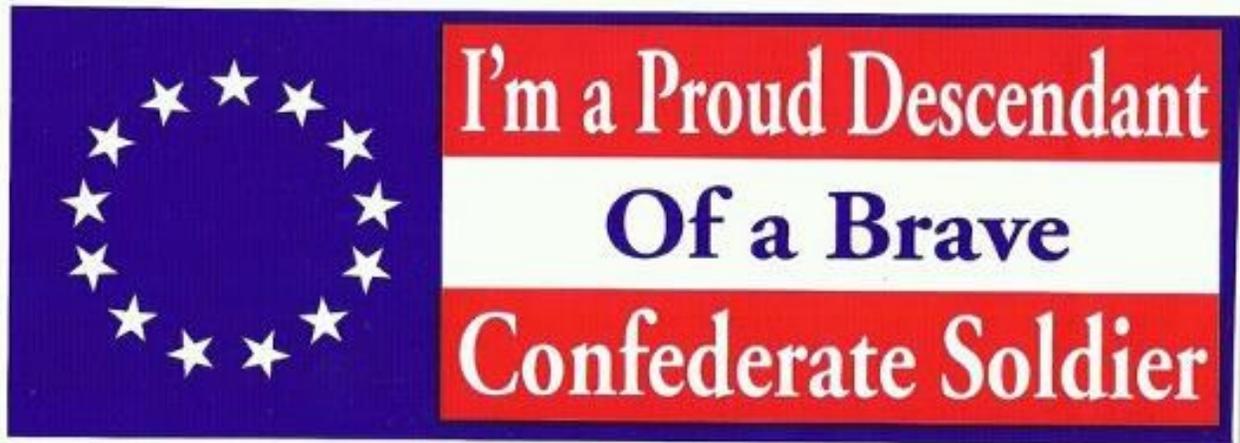
**THIS is why I utterly refuse to honor any Union soldier- period! He had a bad cause and he participated in the murdering and maiming of a people that merely wanted to be left alone!!! Our enemies today attack our Cause and in doing so they denigrate the Confederate soldier's good name and there is no way at all for us to defend our Fathers' good name without defending their Cause! In Lincoln's War of Progressivism, according to who you listen to, between 600,000 and one million Americans died- North and South (though mainly South) men, women, children; whites, blacks, Hispanics, and American Indians. Tens of thousands of others were maimed in and by that war. It was NOT just a little misunderstanding! It was NOT just a little squabble which is now over and we can all just shake hands and become friends again! Such a mentality is a pipe dream at best.**

**The Confederate soldier's good name is tied to the Confederate soldier's good cause! PERIOD. End of discussion! And our enemies, the intelligent ones (intelligent like the devil), know this. That is why they care not a lick about our "defense of our Heritage" as long as we are only defending the idea that the Confederate soldier fought a good fight for a bad cause. It is the Cause that our enemies hate and want to utterly rid this continent and indeed the entire planet of such. Again, our true enemies, not the mere dupes who often do their bidding, but our true enemies, know what that crossed Battle Flag stands for and they hate it because they hate what it stands for. It is high time that we in the SCV had as clear an understanding of the Cause of the Southern Confederacy as our enemies do!**

**Well I have run out of space and my reader's patience and still have not really addressed just what that Cause is. I will have to do this next month God willing. I will again give my readers a hint- the *meaning* of the Cause is found in our Charge.**

**Deo Vindice! 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**

- Sep 30 — Reagan Guard Drill 6pm at Rudy Ray’s house
- Oct 04 — Reagan Birthday Ceremony at Reagan Statue 10am (Reagan Camp members meet at statue at 9am to get ready)
- Oct 11 — Athens SCV Camp Marker Dedication 10am
- Oct 11 — Historical Period Dance Practice fund raiser @ Brushy Creek Methodist Church @ 6:30 pm (\$3 per person)
- Oct 21 — Reagan Camp Meeting
- Oct 25 — Hot Pepper Festival Parade (Line up at 9am at N/E corner of courthouse)
- Nov 8 — 8th Brigade Max effort for Lufkin’s Veteran Day Parade
- Nov 18 — Reagan Camp Meeting
- Jan 10 — Sam Davis Youth Ball at Museum of East Texas Culture



“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.”

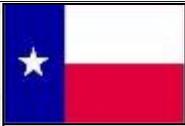
-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-

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.

“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-



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP HISTORICAL PROGRAM BY TOM RIDENOUR



Tom Ridenour presented the John H. Reagan Camp with a program on “The Confederate Constitution” during the September meeting.

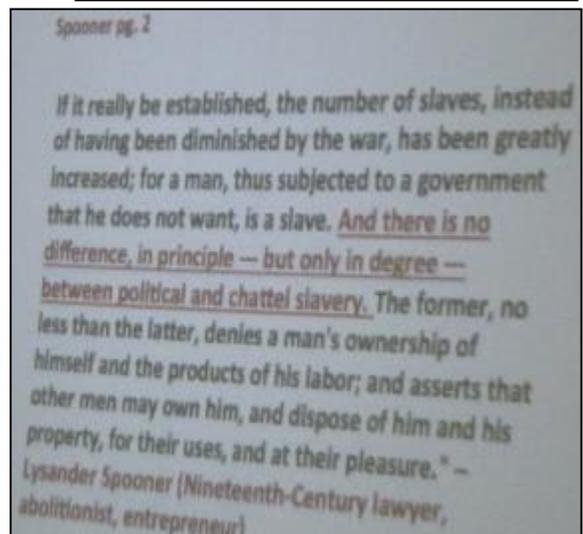
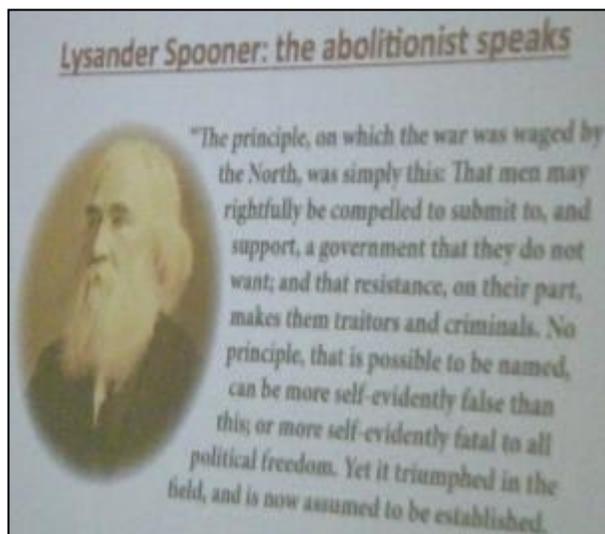
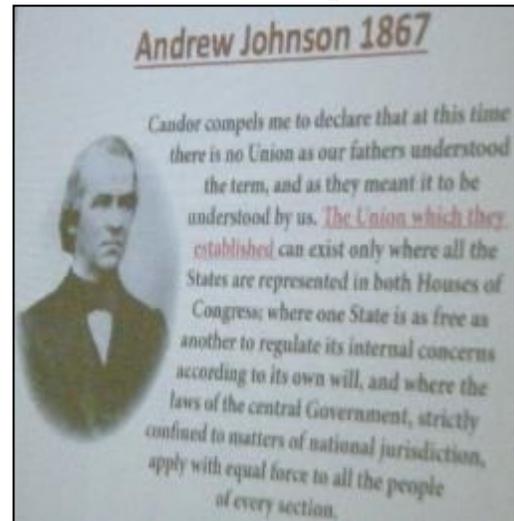
Tom explained how the confederate constitution protected the liberties of the citizens better than the U.S. Constitution. The core of the Confederate Constitution was States rights.

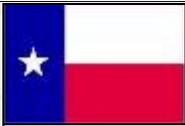
Tom explained how the U.S. Constitution was written to limit the power of the federal government, and the south tried to act upon this. The north changed the interpretation.

The Confederate Constitution was not an act of rebellion but of restoration. Specifically, it was seen as a restoration of the original framing of the Constitution of 1787, and a shoring up of the vague language and “consolidating loop holes” by which the forces of centralized power had begun their reign of imperial tyranny upon the people and the states.

We appreciate Tom for such a good lesson and for taking the time to speak to the Reagan SCV camp.

*Pictures at right and below were from slides that Tom had in his presentation.*





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP SEPTEMBER MEETING PICTURES



Reagan Camp Commander, Rudy Ray, was awarded with a Commendation Medal at the National Reunion in recognition of meritorious service at the Camp, Brigade and Division Level.



The Reagan Camp enjoyed a good meal of fried chicken, pinto beans, cowboy cornbread, cake & Blue Bell Ice Cream before the September meeting.

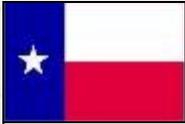


To the left and right are a some pictures of those that attended.



There were a total of 17 people in attendance this month.





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP HISTORIAN FORREST BRADBERRY ARTICLE FROM PALESTINE HERALD PRESS



By MARY RAINWATER

Don't worry... it's not loaded.

Cleburne resident and avid gun collector Charles D. Lummus recently obtained a Civil War era pistol from a seller in the Waco area. And as much as the gun itself intrigued him, the words inscribed upon it have done so as well — leading him on a journey to Anderson County to discover the gun's origins.

Those words, “Billups & Hassell, Plentitude, Texas” and “1863.” Lummus made the trek to Palestine on Tuesday to continue his research of the weapon and meet up with local history buff Forrest Bradberry, who was instrumental in obtaining many of the county's historical markers during the late 1960s.

“I got in contact with (local historian) Jack Selden, who referred me to Forrest,” Lummus said, explaining that the two would be visiting an area cemetery, the Museum for East Texas Culture and the Anderson County Historical Commission office during his visit.

According to Lummus' research so far, Billups & Hassell (a.k.a. Billings & Hassell or Billups & Son) was a machinist operation in the Anderson County community of Plentitude (and/or Mound Prairie), located eight miles northwest of Palestine.

MARY RAINWATER

### Historic Shooter

Charles D. Lummus of Cleburne, left, and local historian Forrest Bradberry, right, display a Civil War era pistol that was manufactured at a munitions plant in the Anderson County community of Plentitude (also known as Mound Prairie).

The firm, which originally manufactured cotton gins, converted to a munitions factory during the Civil War and secured a contract with the Confederacy to produce 700 Mississippi Rifles at a unit price of \$30.

After seven months of production, the firm had delivered 600 of the contracted weapons. They later secured a contract with the Texas Military Board to provide 1,200 rifles for Texas troops, but were unable to complete that contract due to the scarcity of materials.

During its existence, the firm manufactured over 1,000 weapons, and after the war, returned to manufacturing cotton gins.

“Plentitude was located near a quartermaster depot, so we feel like the two had close ties,” Bradberry said.

The gun itself, Lummus said, began as a flint-lock pistol — likely with French or Belgian military origins — that was converted into a cap-and-ball,” style weapon.

“Converting guns in that manner was very common during that time period,” he explained.

As to the gun's ownership, Lummus traced it back to 1988, when it was purchased by a Waco doctor at at Texas Ranger Museum auction. The numerical tags and stickers from that auction are still attached to the pistol.

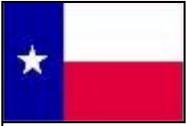
Lummus is hoping to find out as much as he can about the gun's history and origins, and requests help from the public in obtaining any information they have about Billups & Hassell (a.k.a. Billings & Hassell or Billups & Son) and the Plentitude/ Mound Prairie areas.

To contact Lummus, call (817) 999-0293.

The original article can be found at the following link:

[http://www.palestineherald.com/news/article\\_ba82c4a8-331e-11e4-b662-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.palestineherald.com/news/article_ba82c4a8-331e-11e4-b662-0019bb2963f4.html)

The Reagan camp would like to thank Mary Rainwater for the article in the Palestine Herald Press and for allowing us to reprint it in our newsletter.



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



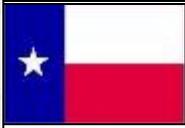
Photograph by Todd Shelton

**MULBERRY HILL—LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA**

Home where Lee slept upon his arrival in Lexington on September 18, 1865, is the new home of the Kappa Alpha Order

Mulberry Hill, the new home of Kappa Alpha Order and the Kappa alpha Order Educational Foundation is located in Lexington, Virginia. Robert E. Lee is believed by most to have spent his first night in Lexington at Mulberry Hill.

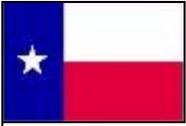
Kappa Alpha Order, founded in 1865 at Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, is among the oldest collegiate fraternal organizations in the United States. KA has modeled itself upon the character of the chivalric knight and Robert E. Lee, its self-designated “Spiritual Founder.” Reverence, duty, honor, and gentlemanly conduct are the pillars of its lifetime experience. Today, the fraternity has 134 active chapters and over 100 alumni chapters across the Unites States. KA has in excess of 125,000 initiated members.



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



	<p><b>1 Sept, 1856</b> - to wife We are all in the hands of a kind God, who will do for us what is best, &amp; more than we deserve &amp; we have only to endeavor to deserve more &amp; to do our duty to him.</p>	<p><b>2 Sept, 1864</b> - to Jeff Davis Our ranks are constantly diminishing by battle &amp; disease, &amp; few recruits are received.</p>	<p><b>3 Sept, 1861</b> - to Custis know that wherever you may be placed you will do your duty. That is all the pleasure, all the comfort, all the glory we can enjoy in this world.</p>	<p><b>4 Sept, 1865</b> - to A.M. Keiley It should be the object of all to avoid controversy.</p>	<p><b>5 Sept, 1857</b> - to Agnes It is persuasion and not force... Cultivate the powers of pleasing.</p>	<p><b>6 undated</b> - to A.M. Keiley Encouraging our citizens to engage in the duties of life with all their heart &amp; mind our country will not only be restored but will be advanced in science, virtue, &amp; religion.</p>
<p><b>7 Sept, 1865</b> - to Capt. Tatnall I believe it to be the duty of every one to unite in the restoration of the country &amp; the reestablishment of peace &amp; harmony.</p>	<p><b>8 undated</b> - to J. Gordon The thorough education of all classes of the people is the most efficacious means, in my opinion, of promoting prosperity.</p>	<p><b>9 Sept, 1861</b> - to his wife Everybody is slandered, even the good</p>	<p><b>10 Sept, 1863</b> - to Mildred You have only always to do what is right. It will become easier by practice.</p>	<p><b>11 undated</b> - I shall, however, endeavor to do my duty and fight to the last.</p>	<p><b>12 undated</b> - to wife Feeling lonesome, as the saying is, and out of sorts, I got on a horse &amp; took a ride.</p>	<p><b>13 undated</b> - to Capt. Tatnall I have since the cessation of hostilities advised all with whom come within the terms of the President's proclamation to take the oath of allegiance.</p>
<p><b>14 Sept, 1869</b> - to Col. Duncan As individuals prosper, communities will become rich.</p>	<p><b>15 undated</b> - Study human nature, more by experience than by precept.</p>	<p><b>16 Sept, 1853</b> - to his wife Young men must not expect to escape contact with evil, but must learn not to be contaminated by it.</p>	<p><b>17 Sept 1861</b> - to wife I had taken every precaution to insure success, &amp; counted on it; but the Ruler of the Universe willed otherwise.</p>	<p><b>18 Sept, 1864</b> - to wife It is from no desire of exposure or hazard that I live in a tent, but from necessity. I must be where I can speedily attend to the duties of my position.</p>	<p><b>19 undated</b> - to Markie Action in this World goes farther than Sentiment.</p>	<p><b>20 undated</b> - to wife I have been offered rooms in the houses of our citizens, but I could not turn turn the dwellings of my kind hosts into a barrack.</p>
<p><b>21 undated</b> - to Capt Maury I look forward to better days, &amp; trust that time &amp; experience, the great teachers of men, under the guidance of an ever-merciful God, save us from destruction.</p>	<p><b>22 undated</b> - to Capt Maury The thought of abandoning the country is abhorrent to my feelings &amp; I prefer to struggle for its restoration &amp; share its fate, rather than give up all as lost.</p>	<p><b>23 undated</b> - to Mildred The more you know, the more you find there is to know in this grand &amp; beautiful world.</p>	<p><b>24 undated</b> - The more you learn the more you are conscious of your ignorance.</p>	<p><b>25 undated</b> - to Mildred You will find all the days of your life that there is much to learn &amp; much to do. Learn all you can.</p>	<p><b>26 Sept, 1861</b> - to wife It is raining. The men are exposed on the mountain without tents. Today my tent came up &amp; I am in it. Yet I fear I shall not sleep for thinking of the men.</p>	<p><b>27 undated</b> - to Mildred The struggle which you describe you experience between doing what you ought &amp; what you desire is common to all.</p>
<p><b>28 undated</b> - As long as virtue was dominant in the republic, so long was the happiness of the people secure.</p>	<p><b>29 Sept, 1862</b> - to Mary If God spares me to the end of the war, I trust to be with you all at least, for the few remnant years of life.</p>	<p><b>30 Sept (no yr)</b> My Beautiful daughters:... May good angels guard you &amp; bright visions cheer you.</p>				



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

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



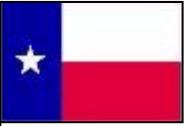
As classes got under way in October, Lee made a point of meeting every student in the college. Only fifty had been on hand when he was inaugurated; drawn by the knowledge that he was in Lexington, a few more arrived each day from different parts of the South, until a hundred and forty were enrolled. The Lexington Gazette made a point of stating that there was still plenty of room so that qualified applicants would not think all places filled, but in the desperate condition of the South, a hundred and forty young men able to pay their way in one form or another was a sizable number.

Many of these young men were veterans of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia; some had been wounded on battlefields only a few yards from Lee. The war had made some into libertines and some into serious sober men, but it had left its mark on all of them. Givens B. Strickler, coming back as a sophomore, had joined the Liberty Hall Volunteers at the end of his freshman year and had risen to be its twice-wounded captain before being captured when he led a charge into the Union lines at Gettysburg. Strickler was the soul of responsibility; it was shocking to think of all that he had experienced between his freshman and sophomore years, an interval usually bridged by one pleasant summer.

Most of the veterans were serious about their studies, but some found the saloons and billiard parlors of Lexington more congenial than the classroom; others, used to sleeping on the ground and walking endless miles, spent their days hunting foxes afoot, with hounds. Many had shotguns for bird shooting; others had pistols with them because their travels to Lexington had taken them through parts of the South where gangs of highwaymen were robbing travelers. A student said, "At times we were a wild and excitable bunch of youths. War and race prejudice still ran high, and more than once some of our number were guilty of indiscretions."

In their meetings with Lee in his office, these bearded veterans did not always know whether they were talking to the college president or the general. Speaking freely to Lee of his plans, one of them said, "I am so impatient to make up for the time I lost in the army —"

He got no further, because Lee turned red and his deep voice said loudly, "Mister Humphreys! However long you live and whatever you accomplish, you will find that the time you spent in the Confederate army was the most profitably spent portion of your life. Never again speak of having lost time in the army."



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

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



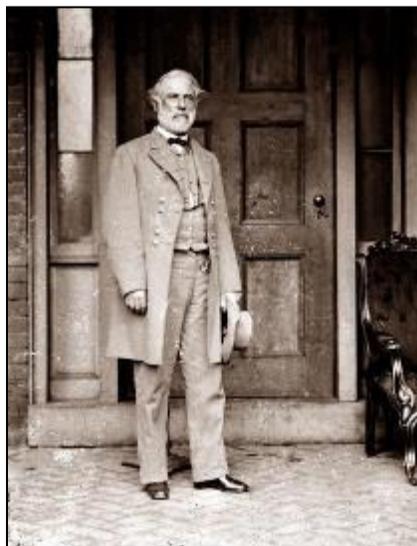
“And,” recalled the veteran, who went on to take a doctorate at Leipzig and have a long career as a classics professor at three American universities, “I never did.”

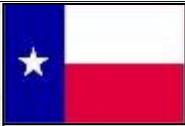
With the boys who had been too young for the war, Lee took a gentler tone. One of these “yearlings,” as the nonveterans came to be known, fearfully approached Lee’s office for his first meeting. “My heart cut all kinds of capers, and my knuckles could make but a very gentle rap on the office door. I was not sure what would happen when I really stood face to face with the General... But I did at last timidly rap, and the voice which told me to come in seemed to bring with it a sort of strengthening and sustaining power. Within two minutes, I was seated in a chair, talking to the General as if I had known him and played at this feet since childhood.”

One of these incoming younger students was so taken aback by Lee’s gentleness that he thought he was in the wrong office and that this was not the recent Confederate commander: “He was so gentle, kind, and almost motherly, that I thought there must be some mistake about it.” Once this boy was convinced that he was indeed talking with Robert E. Lee, he saw something more. “It looked as if the sorrow of a whole nation had been collected in his countenance, and as if he were bearing the grief of his whole people. It never left his face, but was ever there to keep company with the kindly smile.”

Lee met all of his students individually in his office, and to their astonishment he was able to remember their names from then on. “If he met one or two students walking on the street,” an undergraduate from South Carolina recalled, “it was his custom to call each by name. If he had had no other gift for the college presidency, this would have gone far towards qualifying him.”

Even as the students settled into their classroom work, they were thinking of their president as something more than an educator. “It was a general belief in all the Southern States,” a young man from Maryland said, “as expressed by the students therefrom, that the example of General Lee would weigh far more in the restoration of normal conditions and true peace than any other factor in a war-torn country.”





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



### Rebel Revolver Rig Bacon Pocket Revolver on a Southern Roller Buckle Belt

In 1849 Samuel Colt introduced a .31 caliber percussion revolver that was much smaller than the heavy dragoon-type pistols of the era. The Colt Model 1849 was groundbreaking as the first civilian side arm that could be practically carried in a holster, coat pocket or belt. The gun was extremely popular and became the best-selling Colt revolver of the 19th century. However, by the eve of the War for Southern Independence, Colt wasn't the only brand of gun on the market. Colt's patent for the revolver expired in 1857, which opened the door for several competitors who would use the M1849 as a template to produce their own "pocket" pistols, just in time for the coming conflict.

Shown here is a rare first production model of the .31 caliber pocket revolver made by Bacon Manufacturing Company, of Norwich, CT. This model, called the "Excelsior", was produced by Bacon from 1858 until 1862 or '63; it was a trusty, sturdy sidearm that was a favorite of officers and enlisted men, both Union and Confederate, during the American Civil War. Fewer than 1,000 of these pistols are estimated to have been made. This particular gun bears a low serial number of "57", which dates its manufacture to the first year of production (1858). As with other northern-made firearms, Confederate use is often considered more plausible with earlier, pre-war manufactured examples like this one.

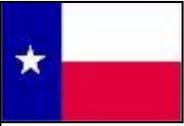


*.31 Caliber Pocket Revolver from the Collection of Andrew Harris;  
Inset: Detail from Top of Barrel: "BACON MANUF'G CO. NORWICH, CT."*

The Bacon Excelsior is categorized as a single-action percussion revolver utilizing "cap and ball" ammunition. This gun has a four-inch long octagonal barrel and a five-shot cylinder. Ammunition was loaded from the front of the rotating cylinder, one cartridge at a time using the loading lever hinged below the barrel. The revolver pictured here shows typical wear of a gun that was used but not abused. Overall it is still in good condition with much of the factory engraving on the metal frame and around the cylinder still prominent.

The .31 caliber cartridge was a man-stopper to be sure, but the firepower inherent in these smaller pistols was often regarded as less-than-acceptable for military engagements which usually began at distance. As a result, these were not standard government-issue military guns. However, the pocket pistol could prove a most accurate weapon in close-quarters where a long gun with bayonet became unwieldy. Thus, pocket revolvers saw widespread use as a secondary weapon of choice. Private purchases of handguns during the war

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## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP CONFEDERATE ARTIFACT PG 2 CONTRIBUTED BY ANDREW HARRIS



were twice the number of sales to government agencies, and the prevalence of these pistols among the ranks is attributable to the large number of the guns in civilian hands and the ease with which they could be carried. Many volunteers carried their own personal pistols with them when they went off to fight, and soldiers were always on the lookout for secondary weapons of most any kind – single-shot derringers, pocket revolvers, and bowie knives were among the Southern soldiers' favorites.

The revolver featured here is accompanied by all of the original leather accoutrements needed to carry the gun and ammunition, including a well-fitting holster, a pistol cartridge box and a percussion cap box, all supported on a plain, one-inch wide leather waist belt fastened with a roller buckle.



*Complete Leather Belt Rig with Revolver from the Collection of Andrew Harris*

In the absence of more ornate brass belt plates, which many Confederate soldiers simply did not have, roller buckles were commonly used. The widespread use of these simple belt buckles in the Southern armies is evidenced by numerous period photos and countless specimens that have been excavated out of Confederate camp sites in recent years. In fact, the roller buckle belt shown here is very similar to a known and fully intact example found in one of the hospitals used by Pickett's division after the Battle of Gettysburg. The plain roller buckle belt is typical Confederate; a style borne of necessity, emphasizing function-over-form. Not surprisingly, most of these belts were re-purposed in the post-war years and used up as horse harness material, etc., making them scarce as a war-period artifact.

Other notable features of this set include the completely hand-stitched holster that is characteristic of Southern-made leather goods, and the unique latch tab configuration on the percussion cap box, which appears to be a very well-executed field repair by the soldier who once carried it. A single leather strap now replaces the original outer flap and latch tab used to keep the cap box securely closed. The well-worn improvised strap suggests that the box saw plenty of additional use, long after the original parts were presumably damaged or torn off. Altogether, this ensemble is a great example of an original Confederate pistol rig. This early production pocket revolver, on a simple leather belt with hand stitched holster and frugally repaired cap box bears all the iconic traits of historic Southern weaponry.



## TEXAS DIVISION CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE A MESSAGE FROM REV. DON MAJORS THOSE GALILEAN REBELS



The Apostle Paul in his writings to the Galatians presents a theme to his listeners that all can be free, no one has to stay in bondage. Man can live right or man can live wrong.

Acts 5:17-20 tells us about these Galilean Rebels who refused to be "reconstructed." They would choose to follow their great Leader even though most of their First Century counterparts were walking a different path. They would choose to walk the true path instead of the popular path everyone else was on. We all know that it is easier to follow the crowd instead of following a true path, the unpopular path, and the difficult path.

More on these First Century rebels later.

Those on the popular path are content to drift. They walk away from Biblical truths that were given to them by their forefathers. They have drifted from the principles that were laid down by those before them. They have drifted from "boundaries" that were ingrained into them by their parents and grandparents. Right and wrong are no longer righteous concepts. There is no longer a clear clarion call to virtuous living. In their minds, these are archaic and no longer viable in today's society. Besides, what's "right" and what's "wrong?" If you set your own boundaries, provided you set them, you can establish your own guidelines no matter how far off base they are from the foundations established by our ancestors. Remember when you got your mouth washed out with soap by your Momma when you said that inappropriate word? I can remember in the second grade when my teacher took a kid out of class and into the boys' bathroom and washed his mouth out with soap for saying a cuss word. The teacher! That would be child abuse today. May I add a word of admonition to my fellow Southerners and Compatriots-in-the-Cause, we can and we will drift as well if we do not uphold our charge given to us by General Stephen Dill Lee. This is why it is so important that we sound out that charge at everyone of our meetings. It needs to be a somber and sober moment. It needs to be a reverent moment, and a quiet moment as we ponder the words of that famous charge. We must not take it lightly. If we do, we will drift like the rest of society.

"Another generation grew up who did not know the God of their fathers." Judges 2:10

In my humble opinion, our society has drifted. I do not want to offend or sound harsh, but honestly, we are naïve to think otherwise. It is real hard to look into a mirror and evaluate ourselves. It is always easier to evaluate our neighbor than it is ourselves. It is always easier to see our neighbor's weaknesses and flaws rather than our own. To be real honest, it seems like in every direction you can imagine, this society has drifted. To be real candid, our society has drifted morally, and we have drifted spiritually. We have drifted in our standards, and we have drifted in our ethics. Consequently, as stated earlier, our boundaries have disappeared as well. Seemingly, the word "sin" no longer exists in this humanistic society of ours. Yes, I used the "S" word. My generation called it "shacking up." Now it is "co-habitation." We use to call it "homosexuality." We now call it, "alternative lifestyle." The things we held with such deep respect are no longer. In my generation, the police officer, the pastor-minister, the teacher and principal, as well as the elderly were held in positions of authority and respect.

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



I can remember when my dad would stop in the middle of his sermon and call down kids for talking in service. Interestingly, the parents didn't get mad at the preacher and leave the church. The kids got a good Southern whipping when they got home. Then they had to come back and apologize.

We must evaluate where we are today. For the survival of this society it has become imperative. Where are we today?

A teenage Tennessee girl the other day got expelled from school for saying "bless you" to a classmate who had just sneezed. I'm sure you have heard of this incident. What if she would have said, "God bless you?" God help us all. In my sister-in-law's church in Houston, Texas, a young 18-year-old just committed suicide the other day by hanging herself in her bedroom. The Mom had refused to allow her to have a nose piercing. This is where we are today.

In closing, like many of you, my Southern ancestors also fought in the American Revolution against England. It is my conviction that my "Grandpa's" were fighting in 1776 for the same things that their children and grandchildren were fighting for in 1861.

We have drifted. America has returned to the bondages that our ancestors fought to deliver us out of in 1776. They fought to deliver us from the bondages of an oppressive government. They fought for the right of the individual. They fought for liberty and freedom. They fought to establish the Judeo-Christian values, faith, and principles that they so strongly believed in.

Where are we today?

We have drifted right back into what they fought to deliver us from. Is the blood of our ancestors going to be in vain? What about the faith, the honor, and the integrity of those patriots? What about the integrity of great men like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Robert E. Lee, and Jefferson Davis? Have we failed them? Will we fail them? Will we drift? Will we carry on the good fight of faith handed down to us from our forefathers?

Southern blessings to you all.

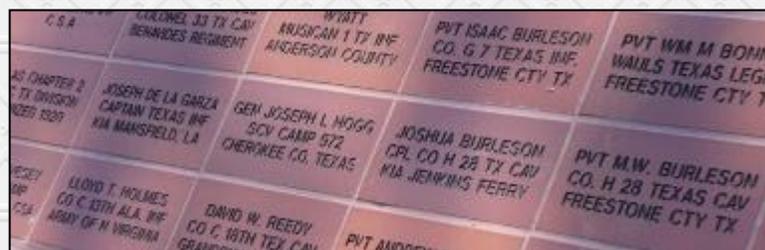
Reverend Don Majors, Chaplain  
Texas Division  
Sons of Confederate Veterans



## 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 purchase 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.



## 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)