



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2015

LT. COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Compatriots,

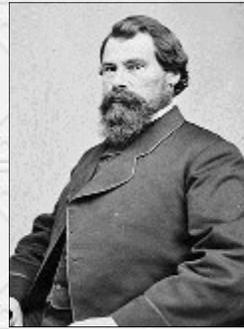
It was an honor and privilege to participate with y'all in our camp's recent Confederate Heroes Day Ceremony held at the Confederate Veteran Memorial Plaza in Palestine on January 17th.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander, Rev. David Franklin, presented us with a wonderful message honoring General Robert E. Lee, two days before the General's 208<sup>th</sup> birthday and the official state holiday of Confederate Heroes Day. Mrs. Dollye Jeffus, president of the Davis-Reagan Chapter 2292 UDC, and her officers and members, wonderfully honored our Confederate heroes by placing a wreath at the monument, reciting a beautiful UDC ritual and reading an eloquent quote written by Colonel A. T. Rainey, 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry, C.S.A. of Anderson County Texas. Camp Chaplain, Dwight Franklin, gave an inspirational Confederate invocation and benediction. Compatriot Doug Smith, whose voice I envy, always

does a great job reading the Charge, leading the singing of Dixie, or doing anything else we ask of him. Our detail commander for the event was our historian, Gary Williams, who did a great job leading the color guard and honor guard. And for all y'all who posted the colors and carried and fired a musket, outstanding job compatriots!

I must add that to have the opportunity to work with such good Southern men as those of the John H. Reagan Camp 2156 in fulfilling the Charge given to us by Lt. Gen. S. D. Lee, is truly an honor. Thank you all for your steady performance of duty over the years in honor of our beloved Confederate ancestors, who without question, crowned the South with a deathless glory.

The historical program for our camp's January meeting was excellent! Commander Jack Dyess of the Col. William H.



**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

Griffin SCV Camp #2235 presented a program that compared the Union POW Camp Douglass to the Confederate POW Camp Sumter, near Andersonville, Georgia. Even my fourteen year-old daughter's attention was focused on Jack throughout his program and she complimented him afterwards on how much she enjoyed his presentation. (cont.)

CAMP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of Each Month  
06:30 PM

Snacks and drinks served at each meeting.

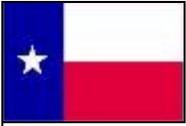
First Christian Church  
113 East Crawford Street  
Palestine, Texas

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 LT. COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Our February historical program will be presented by Norris White, Jr. of Palestine, who has a Master of Arts degree in History from Stephen F. Austin State University. Norris is almost finished writing a book about the Black Confederates from Texas who served the C.S.A. His topic for our February meeting will be military orders and actions by General E. Kirby Smith of the Trans-Mississippi Department and he offered the following words about his program, "Because of lack of attention paid to historical coverage of military affairs in the Confederacy's Trans-Mississippi Department, the significance of operations that took place in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas in the overall strategic picture is often over-looked or ignored. The purpose of this discussion is to examine strategic policy and actions rendered by Trans-Mississippi Commander General E. Kirby Smith in order to fully grasp his determination to prevent Union occupation of the Lone Star State. This story begins in the fateful year of 1864 with the fall of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, the last Confederate bastions on the Mississippi river. For many Texans, an invasion now seemed certain..." I feel that Norris' presentation will be another historical program you will not want to miss.

I would like to close this dispatch with a Bible verse that I feel is very relevant to our cause and very familiar to all of y'all. It is [John 8:32](#) from the NIV, "Then **you will** know the **truth**, and the **truth will set you free.**"

As we all know, God loves the truth, the truth about His Son as in this verse from the Bible, but he also loves the truth in general. In addition to us sharing the Lord's truth, let us also do the best we can educating ourselves to the facts and when given the opportunity, share the truth about our Confederate ancestor's wonderful and honorable history and heritage they left to us. Let us not change history or take away from it like the revisionist historians do. We should simply tell it like it was, and the TRUTH, about their way of life, causes of secession, and the War for Southern Independence, is on the side of the South. We are commanded by God to honor our fathers and our mothers. I feel y'all will agree, that includes our grandparents and great grandparents as well. Let us continue to work hard to be right by God and not trouble ourselves over what politically correct people think. Remember, it is not only our Confederate heritage that is being attacked today, but also our Christian faith, and on many fronts. Let us practice the example lived and stated by Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson when he said, "Duty is ours, consequences are God's."

We must all proudly, honorably and respectfully, continue to display the colors of the Confederate soldier at every opportunity and never ever apologize for the defense these men made in their very just and noble cause.

God save the South,

Marc Robinson  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander  
John H. Reagan Camp 2156  
Sons of Confederate Veterans



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Now thru Feb 15—Tyler Museum of Art “Between the States: Photographs of Civil War from the George Eastman House Collection” and “The American Civil War’s impact on Tyler”.

Jan 20—John H. Reagan 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 Meeting

May 2— Jefferson, Texas: Battle for Jefferson Civil War Reenactment

**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



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-

“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-



TEXAS DIVISION ANNOUNCEMENT  
STEPHEN D. LEE INSTITUTE  
FEBRUARY 6-7TH



*The Sons of Confederate Veterans presents the*  
**2015 Stephen Dill Lee Institute**

THE REAL  
RESULTS OF 1865

★ February 6-7, 2015 – Dallas, Texas ★



The 2015 Institute will be held at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel in Dallas, call 972-385-9000. Hosted by the Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

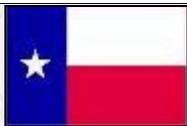
Registration: \$150 per person, \$125 for SCV members and family.  
Includes Saturday breakfast, lunch and banquet.

Register by calling 1-800-MY-DIXIE or visit our web site at

**[www.stephendleeinstitute.com](http://www.stephendleeinstitute.com)**

*~* Scholarships available for teachers and students *~*

For more information visit our web site at [www.stephendleeinstitute.com](http://www.stephendleeinstitute.com)  
or call Brag Bowling at (804) 389-3620



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



### Confederate Enfield from the collection of Andrew Harris CS-Import, 1861, "Barnett London" Rifle-Musket

No firearm used during the War Between the States better epitomizes the Southern infantryman than the .577 caliber British Pattern 1853 rifle-musket. Known as the "Enfield" (after the pattern's original place of production at the British government armory at Enfield Lock, Middlesex, England), the gun became the workhorse of the Confederate army. The largely agrarian South lacked a suitable industrial base to manufacture sufficient stocks of military arms, and thus turned to Europe to procure additional supplies. The Confederate War Department officially adopted the imported P53 as the standard infantry arm and it became the most prolific of all Southern long arms. It is estimated that nearly a quarter-million of these British arms were imported by the Confederacy.



*1861 Confederate .577 caliber Enfield rifle-musket*

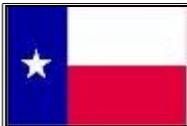
Likewise, these guns were also imported in the North and heavily utilized among the Federal armies as well. Altogether the Enfield was the second-most widely used infantry long arm of the American Civil War, second only to the domestically produced Springfield. Most surviving Enfield's lack any distinct markings that would indicate whether a particular musket was used by a Yankee or a Rebel; however some do, which permit a solid identification as Confederate veterans. The Enfield pictured here bears a partially visible "BARNETT LONDON" stamp in the wood on the opposite side of the lock plate, indicating that it was manufactured By J. E. Barnett & Sons, one of the most famous of London gun makers.



*Detail: "BARNETT LONDON" marking in the walnut stock; partially obscured by small gouge in the wood. London proof marks are also visible on barrel breech*



Barnett is known for having made the initial supply of Enfield's sent to the Confederacy in the crucial opening months of the war. The first shipments landed in Savannah, Georgia, in September 1861, aboard the blockade-runner *Bermuda*. Likewise, the gun pictured here is a very early 1861-dated Barnett specimen.



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



While early Barnett's are often construed as being Southern-used firearms, they were in fact also procured by the North. Therefore, it is another marking that gives this gun its definitive Southern pedigree. The underside of the stock is also marked with a supplier logo of Sinclair, Hamilton & Company. The small, "Crown-SHC" mark is located just behind the trigger-guard strap. Sinclair, Hamilton & Company was a prominent London firm that supplied arms exclusively to the Confederacy. Major Caleb Huse was the foremost Confederate arms procurement agent and purchasing specialist who negotiated and purchased the majority of the weapons imported to the Confederacy. Archibald Hamilton, who managed SH&C during the war years, was an ardent Southern sympathizer, and he developed a close relationship with Huse to provide a steady supply of quality arms to the Confederates. Thus, the mark of Sinclair, Hamilton & Company provides certain proof of Confederate purchase and use.



*Detail: Sinclair, Hamilton & Company mark;  
just behind trigger guard*



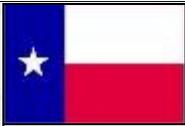
*Detail: Lock plate marked with a British Crown and "1861/TOWER". "Tower" was a quality inspection mark used by the British government facility at the Tower of London*

It has been said that surviving Confederate arms are generally found in two conditions: truly fine and used to death. The example shown here falls toward the latter end of the spectrum. This gun shows extensive evidence of a firearm that was actually used in the field, but was also one that was well cared for and not abused. It is structurally sound with no major damage and the mechanics are still functional, yet it bears the expected wear and tear - nicks, dings, scratches, etc. - from four years of combat service. Of particular note is the tell-tale pitting to the breech and bolster area of the gun, due to the use of corrosive mercuric percussion caps and the firing of hundreds of rounds against the hated foe

in blue. The long-range rear sight is also missing. Sometimes these were inadvertently knocked off and then there are also documented instances of them being deliberately removed to simplify the soldier's aim under varying firing distances on the battlefield. Overall, this is a great example of the Southern warrior's most prized possession; one that was carried through many battles and campaigns to defend his Rights, his Cause, and his home. It is a tangible reminder of finest light infantry this nation has ever produced.

Sources: Knott, Steven W. *The Confederate Enfield*. 2013.

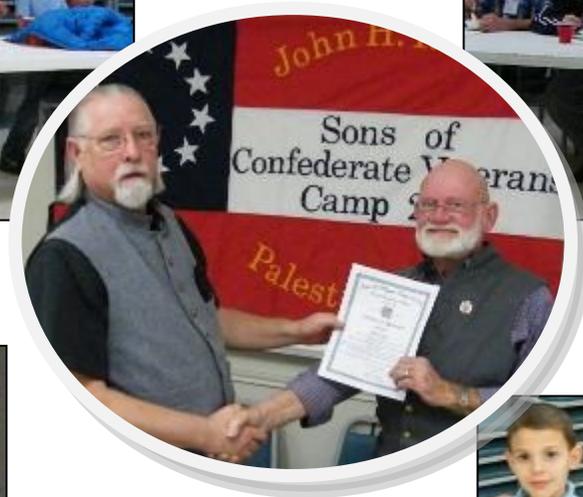
*Barnett Model 1853 Enfield Percussion Rifle Musket*. (2015, January 10). Retrieved from <http://www.nramuseum.org/guns/the-galleries/a-nation-asunder-1861-to-1865/>

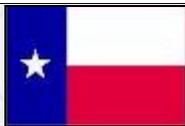


## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP JANUARY MEETING PICTURES



There were 25 in attendance for the John H. Reagan Camp January meeting. The meeting started off with a meal of goulash, chicken, enchiladas, chili, collard greens and rice, blue bell ice cream and more! It was a great meal and plenty of food was left over. So if you missed this meeting, please make plans to attend in February. Bring an appetite, & bring a friend.





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP JANUARY HISTORICAL PROGRAM CAMP DOUGLAS & ANDERSONVILLE PRISON



The January Historical Program was presented by Jack G. Dyess, who is Commander of the William H. Griffin Camp #2235 in Haltom City. His presentation compared Camp Douglas (Union P.O.W. Camp in Chicago) to Camp Sumter (Confederate P.O.W. Camp near Andersonville, Georgia).

Jack started out by showing pictures of the Andersonville Prison and the 12,912 white headstones and monuments that were erected by different states and the U.S. The park is well kept and is a very nice place for descendants of the Northern soldiers to come to honor those that died there. He pointed out that there are no pictures to show of Camp Douglas. It was not preserved so that Southern descendants could go there and honor their ancestors. The only thing that serves as a memorial to those who died there is a lone Memorial Marker with some of the names of those who died. (See picture at right). The marker is not located where they died. It is located 5 miles from where Camp Douglas was located.



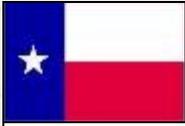
Although both prisons had a large amount of deaths, Commander Dyess pointed out many facts about the two. The South had little food

to feed their own soldiers or prisoners, but they both ate the same thing. The North had an abundance of food and clothing, but they withheld both from the Confederate Prisoners deliberately. The North even refused to send clothing to cloth their Union soldiers. Former Union Lt James Madison Page said the following about his treatment in Andersonville Prison, "Touching my treatment as a whole, I cannot recall a solitary instance, during the fourteen months while I was a prisoner, of being insulted, browbeaten, robbed, or being insulted in any manner by a Confederate officer or soldier." This could not be said of the treatment of Confederate soldiers in Camp Douglas. Many died in both P.O.W. camps, but the difference in the two was the attitude and intent. Many of those who died in the southern run Andersonville Prison did so because the south had no resources to prevent it. Many of those who died in Camp Douglas died in deaths that could have been prevented.



Confederate soldiers who were held at Camp Douglas were severely mistreated. One of the punishment devices that was used was the "dungeon". This was a 5X4 foot hole in the ground where prisoners would be locked up for days. They would urinate, defecate and live in it for days at a time. At times, as many as seven confederate soldiers would be placed in this small dungeon together. The picture at the left shows how confining it was to have seven men in this small dungeon together.

We appreciate Mr. Dyess for the wonderful historical lesson on the comparisons between these two prisons. It was very interesting and very informative.



# JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP CONFEDERATE HEROES DAY MEMORIAL CEREMONY JANUARY 17, 2015



Above L to R: Gary Gibson, Dan Dyer, Frank Moore, Rudy Ray, Marc Robinson, Calvin Nicholson, Gary Williams, & Ryan Tarrant



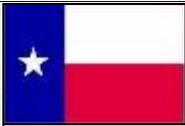
Ladies of the Davis-Reagan Chapter 2292 United Daughters of the Confederacy pose for a picture at the Ceremony



Gary Williams leads the colors in to start the Confederate Heroes Day Memorial Ceremony.



L to R: Gary Williams, Dan Dyer, Frank Moore, Ryan Tarrant, Gary Gibson, Rudy Ray, Calvin Nicholson.



# JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP CONFEDERATE HEROES DAY MEMORIAL CEREMONY JANUARY 17, 2015



Compatriots salute the flags of the Confederacy



Marc Robinson welcomes guests at the ceremony



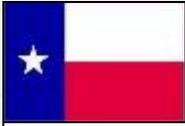
Dollye Jeffus reads a letter written by her confederate ancestor as other ladies of the Davis-Reagan UDC stand in unity with her.



Doug Smith reads the charge.



Compatriots Firing a volley from their muskets



## CONFEDERATE HEROES DAY MEMORIAL CEREMONY DAVID FRANKLIN'S ADDRESS "ROBERT E. LEE"



The Reagan Camp's Confederate Heroes Day Memorial Ceremony was held on January 17, 2015 at the Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza in Palestine. 2nd Lt. David Franklin, delivered the address for those in attendance. Below is a copy of that address.

### Robert E. Lee Address

Robert E. Lee passed away on October 12, 1870, at the age of 63. He never travelled abroad, leaving the US only in service in the US Army in the Mexican War. He never resided permanently in Texas nor ever expressed a desire to move his family to Texas. He only lived here when his job transferred him, and then returned to his home in Virginia.



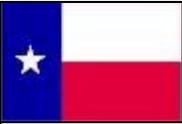
Why then does Texas celebrate a day honoring this man? Why is there a 9000 student community college in Baytown named after Lee? Why are the college's athletic teams called the Running Rebels (and how do they get away with that today?)? Why are there priceless statues of Lee in outdoor public areas today in Austin and in Dallas? Why did a sitting President of the United States, Franklin Roosevelt, dedicate the Dallas statue? I know it wasn't because Roosevelt was a conservative Southerner who clung to the past.

By Federal law, each state in the United States can choose two statues to be placed in the US Capitol in Statuary Hall, and the states are allowed to replace the statues if they change their minds later. In Texas, our choice is pretty obvious to most of us: Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston. Virginia chose George Washington as one of theirs, pretty obvious. The next? Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence? James Madison, the primary architect of the US Constitution? US Presidents James Monroe or Woodrow Wilson? John Marshall, most famous US Chief Justice? No, they chose Robert E. Lee.

In the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, there is a panel of stained glass windows depicting the life of Robert E. Lee. In 1975, the US House and Senate passed a bill, and President Gerald Ford signed it, restoring Lee's citizenship 105 years after he died.

What did this man accomplish to account for this nationwide acclaim? Was it because he was such a great military leader? General Winfield Scott, leading commander of the US War with Mexico (and the man who the Duke of Wellington said was "the greatest living general"), said of Lee that "he was the finest soldier I've ever seen." Winston Churchill said that Lee was "one of the greatest commanders known to the annals of war." Yet, although he was an amazing military leader, today he is remembered by most Americans as the leader of an army that lost its war. In fact, Lee is quoted as having said his greatest regret in life was taking a military education.

-continued on next page-



## CONFEDERATE HEROES DAY MEMORIAL CEREMONY DAVID FRANKLIN'S ADDRESS "ROBERT E. LEE" PG 2



Why is he so fondly remembered, by both the North and South? I say it is not because of what he accomplished, but who he was – the kind of person he was.

Lee is loved and remembered throughout the US primarily for his actions following the defeat of the South. Rather than be bitter, he chose reconciliation. Since he was so loved and admired, many former Confederates did the same. He applied for a pardon, even though it was unnecessary for him. He led. President Grant invited him to the White House in 1869. He went. You think the South didn't notice that??

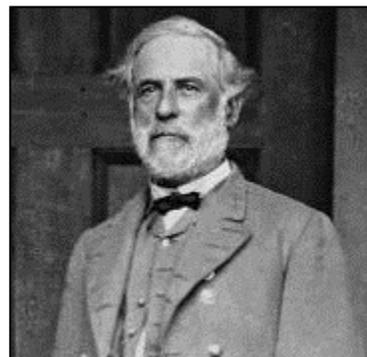
After Lee's death a professor at tiny George Washington College remembered Lee as College President: "the students fairly worshipped him and deeply dreaded his displeasure; yet so kind, affable, and gentle was he toward them that all loved to approach him. If any student would have dared to violate General Lee's expressed wish or appeal, the students themselves would have driven that student from the college."

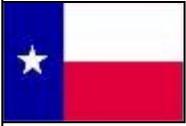
As President of Washington College, Lee said, "We have but one rule here, and it is that every student be a gentleman." To speed up reconciliation Lee recruited students from the North, and insisted they be treated well on campus and in town. When I think disparagingly of Northerners, perhaps I should remember the example of Lee.

Churchill, as I mentioned, commented on Lee's military genius; however, the first thing he said about Lee was "he was one of the noblest Americans who ever lived." This sentiment, I believe, is why Lee is so fondly remembered and admired today. It is why there is a holiday in Texas for his birthday. It is why he is worthy for us to pause and remember him today. To close, I would like to quote a small portion of a letter from Dwight D. Eisenhower. Eisenhower, a native Texan, who knew something about military leadership, was criticized for having a photograph of Lee, a traitor and enemy of the US, on his office wall in the White House. In response, in the last few months of his second term as President, Eisenhower wrote: "From deep conviction I simply say this: a nation of men of Lee's caliber would be unconquerable in spirit and soul.... Such are the reasons that I proudly display the picture of this great American on my office wall.

Sincerely, Dwight D. Eisenhower."

Amen Ike, amen!



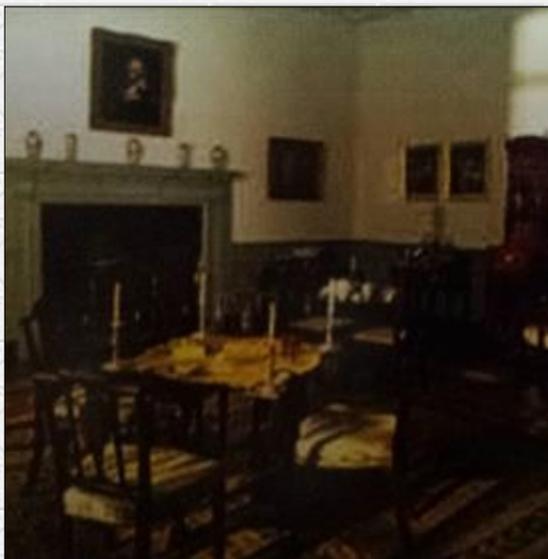


**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP  
ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR  
JANUARY—STRATFORD HALL**



Photograph: Richard Cheek

**Stratford Hall—Stratford, Virginia  
Robert Edward Lee's Birthplace—January 19, 1807**



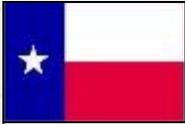
One of the beautiful rooms of the Great House

Stratford Hall is one of the great houses of American history. Its magnificent setting on a high bluff above the Potomac River and its bold architectural style set it apart from any other colonial house, but its highest distinction is in the family of patriots who lived there. The Plantation is still managed as a farm today on 1,670 of its original acres. Thomas Lee (1690-1750), a prominent Virginia planter, built Stratford in the late 1730s.

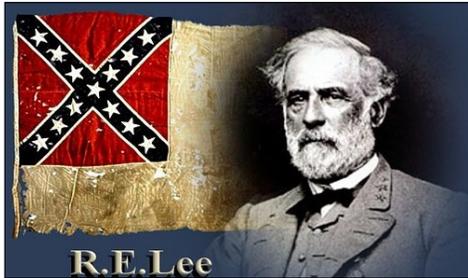
Stratford was the home of Thomas Lee's eight children: his sons, Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee were the only brothers to sign the Declaration of Independence. Their cousin, "Light Horse Harry" Lee, the dashing Revolutionary leader and friend of George Washington, made Stratford his home for over twenty years.

Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870) is the most prominent of the distinguished members of the Lee family born in the big sunlit bedroom on Stratford's upper floor. Destined to become the General in Chief of the Confederate Armies, young Robert slept in the graceful crib still in its place.

Stratford is open from 9:00AM to 4:00 PM every day except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

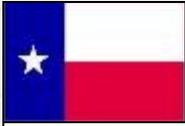


## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR JANUARY



<p>1 Jan 1859 — to “Rooney” Hold on to your purity and virtue. They will proudly sustain you in all trials and difficulties.</p>	<p>2 Jan, 1851 — to wife We must not for our own pleasure lose sight of the interest of our children.</p>	<p>3 Jan, 1866 — to Agnes When a young woman makes up her mind to get married, you might as well let her alone.</p>
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<p>4 undated— to “Markie” I try to keep my eyes and thoughts fixed on those eternal shores to which I am fast hastening.</p>	<p>5 undated — Lay nothing too much to heart.</p>	<p>6 undated - to Eliza Stiles A man’s wife &amp; children have some claims upon him.</p>	<p>7 Jan, 1857 — to wife Do not worry yourself about things you can not help.</p>	<p>8 undated — to Mildred Try hard to be truly good, as well as wise and rigidly obey your parents.</p>	<p>9 Jan, 1857 — to Edward Childre I know no other Country, no Government, than the United States and their Constitution.</p>	<p>10 undated -- to wife A soldier has a hard life &amp; but little consideration.</p>
<p>11 undated — to wife I daily pray to the Giver of all victories.</p>	<p>12 undated — to wife You must endeavor to enjoy the pleasure of doing good. That is all that makes life valuable.</p>	<p>13 undated - It is to men of high integrity &amp; commanding intellect that the country must look to give character to her councils.</p>	<p>14 Jan, 1869 - to Robert My Dear Rob: Drive all your work with judgment and energy</p>	<p>15 Jan, 1864 — to wife I would rather be in a hut with my own family than in a palace with others.</p>	<p>16 undated - I cannot consent to receive pay for services I do not render!</p>	<p>17 undated — to daughter Plainness &amp; simplicity of dress, early hours, &amp; rational amusements, I wish you to practice.</p>
<p>18 Jan, 1862 — to wife I am truly grateful for all the mercies we enjoy, notwithstanding the miseries of war.</p>	<p>19 Jan, 1862 — to son Custis We must aid our friends all we can.</p>	<p>20 undated — May the blessings of kind Heaven accompany you throughout your course on earth, &amp; may a merciful Providence shield you from all evil.</p>	<p>21 Jan, 1867 — to Mrs Coleman Time brings a cure to all things</p>	<p>22 Jan, 1861 — to “Markie” God alone can save us from our folly, selfishness &amp; short sightedness.</p>	<p>23 Jan, 1861 — I am willing to sacrifice everything but honor for its preservation. [the Union]</p>	<p>24 undated — to Annie I hope you will endeavor to improve &amp; so conduct yourself as to make you happy &amp; me joyful all our lives.</p>
<p>25 Jan, 1865 — To the patriotic I need make no other appeal than the wants of the service [army]</p>	<p>26 undated — to wife Desire nothing too eagerly, nor think that all things can be perfectly accomplished according to our own notions.</p>	<p>27 Jan, 1867 — to daughter Do not go out to many parties, preserve your simple tastes &amp; manners, &amp; you will enjoy more pleasure.</p>	<p>28 undated — I fear we have not been grateful enough &amp; our heavenly Father has found it necessary to deprive us of what He has given us.</p>	<p>29 Jan, 1861 — to “Rooney” May God rescue us from the folly of our acts.</p>	<p>30 undated — to John Minor Obedience is the first requisite in family training.</p>	<p>31 Jan, 1857 — to wife [The exercise of self-denial &amp; self-control] is the true means of establishing a virtuous character.</p>



THE ARTICLE BELOW IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK  
“LEE THE LAST YEARS”  
BY CHARLES BRACELEN FLOOD PG 1

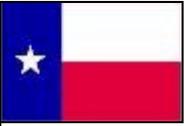


With the year 1867, all the events that white Southerners had been fearing began to unfold. On January 7, the Congress passed a resolution directing the house Judiciary Committee to inquire into President Johnson’s conduct of office to see whether he could be tried for “high crimes and misdemeanors.” While it was true that Johnson had been abrasive, inconsistent, and ill-advised, his great offense was that his policy toward the South was not the one the Radicals wished to impose.

On March 2 came a thunderous echo of the deliberations begun the year before by the Joint Committee on Reconstruction, at whose hearing Lee had testified. Spurred by the refusal of Southern legislatures to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment, with its provisions protecting blacks and restricting the rights of former Confederates to hold office, the Congress passed the first of four bills known as the Reconstruction Acts. “Whereas, no legal governments exist...in the rebel states... said rebel States shall be divided into five military districts.” On March 13, Virginia ceased officially to be a state, and became Military District Number One. Any civil government that did exist in the state was deemed to be purely provisional in nature, existing at the sufferance of Washington. The Congress declared that it had the right to abolish or change any aspect of local government throughout the South, at any time and without previous notice. With the exception of Tennessee, which had been brought back into the Union under special circumstances near the end of the war, the South was now formally and unequivocally a zone of military occupation, with no other status in the eyes of the Federal government. The lock was on.

Having finally made a reality of the “conquered provinces” view of the South, the Congress restated the price for readmission to the Union. Once again it combined political ostracism of Confederates and voting rights for the blacks. Under close Federal supervision, with blacks voting and many Confederates excluded, any former Confederate state could elect delegates to a state constitutional convention, as long as it included no Confederate officers or officials among those delegates. Then, if the convention adopted the Fourteenth Amendment and present to the Congress a state constitution modeled on the united States Constitution, the Congress would let any such state back into the Union.

From the Northern point of view, this seemed a reasonable compromise between the South having representation in Congress, and continuing to have no representation. For the South, it was the final bad dream. The vote would confer on the blacks a status and power that Southern whites were unwilling for them to have and did not believe they could handle. With the disfranchising of so many Confederates — initially one out of every four white men was barred from voting or holding office — there would be more black voters than white in five southern states. (continued on next page)



THE ARTICLE BELOW IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK  
"LEE THE LAST YEARS"  
BY CHARLES BRACELEN FLOOD PG 2



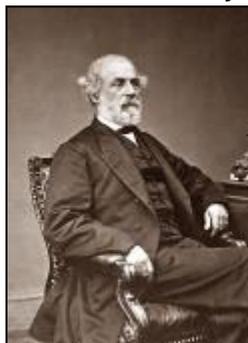
The Federally supervised state legislatures were certain to be coalitions of blacks and of white whose essential qualification was that they had not fought for the Confederacy or held office under it. Opportunistic Northern whites would soon flock south; the real carpetbagger era was opening. Northerners would be elected to Southern legislatures by black voting majorities. Soon, the Federally appointed governor of Virginia would be a New Yorker.

For the next century, there would be differing views on how inefficient and corrupt these new state governments were or were not, and how much good for the blacks they did or did not accomplish, but one thing was instantly clear. The overwhelming majority of the eight million whites in the South felt no identification with the entire process and thought that it was being rammed down their throats with bayonets.

Mary Lee was beside herself with rage at all this. "It is bad enough to be the victims of tyranny," she wrote, "but when it is wielded by such cowards and base men... it is indeed intolerable. The country that allows such scum to rule them must be fast going to destruction."

Another letter complained, "They still desire to grind to dust & wish to effect this purpose by working on the feelings of the low & ignorant negroes many of whom do not even comprehend what a vote means. My indignation cannot be controlled, and I wonder our people, helpless and disarmed as they are can bear it. Oh God how long?"

Ninety yards from where Mary sat writing this, Lee was at his desk immediately coming to grips with the new political reality. "I look upon the Southern people as acting under compulsion," he wrote General Dabney H. Maury in New Orleans, but added that they should not leave the political arena. To Judge Robert Ould in Richmond he wrote, "I think all persons entitled to vote should attend the polls and endeavor to elect the best possible men to represent them in the convention, to whose decision every one should submit." It was what he had said on the road from Appomattox to Richmond, and he would say it again and again. Get back into the political process any way that you can. And with it was always this corollary, repeated now to Judge Ould: "The preservation of harmony and kind feelings is of the utmost importance."





## TEXAS DIVISION CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE

### A MESSAGE FROM REV. DON MAJORS

### "KEEP PUMPING" PAGE 1 OF 2



A woman was walking down the street when she heard a voice yell, "Stop! If you take another step you will be killed!" She froze in her tracks. Seconds later bricks fell from a building right in front of her. She was pretty rattled and shaken up, but she kept walking. She was getting ready to cross the street when (would you believe it!) the same voice spoke again. "Stop, don't cross the street now!" All of a sudden an out-of-control truck came flying around the corner. Shaken even more the woman asked out loud, "Who are you?!!" The voice spoke back, "I am your guardian angel. Do you have a question for me?" The woman replied, "Yes, I do! Where were you on my wedding night?"

We must stay alert? Yes? This 2015 is not the time to be asleep. Remember, someone slept when Hitler launched his blitzkrieg. That war of 1939 ended in a bloodbath for the allies. Someone dozed when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and when civilian airliners crashed into the World Trade towers. This is not the time to be asleep.

Imagine with me a person traveling out across a barren, burning, sandy desert. He is dehydrated and in desperate need of water. It is obvious that he cannot go on much farther. Suddenly, that person staggers upon a rusty water pump. Tied to the water pump is an old can. The person opens it and finds a note in it that reads something like this: "It is October 31, 1938. I fixed this pump, cleaned it out real good, and made all necessary repairs to it. It should be good for at least five years. Under the white rock is a bottle of water. I put it there to keep it from evaporating. Get it and pour one-fourth of it into the pump. Let it set five minutes so that it may soak in real good then pour the rest of the water into the pump, and then pump like crazy. There will be plenty of water for you to drink. Refill the bottle and put it under the white rock, and leave it for the next person who passes this way." Signed.....

What would we do if we were that "next person" walking in that sandy desert, and so happened upon that old rusty pump. What would we do? A choice would have to be made. What an understatement! 1. You could just drink the water from the bottle and go your merry way. 2. You could prime the pump and get all excited about having plenty of water to drink, and then you could just toss the empty bottle away and finish your journey. 3. Or you could refill the bottle as instructed for the next traveler.

If you were the traveler who found the note what would you do? Would it be plan number one? Would you just drink the water from the bottle and go your way? Sadly, many have followed the path of plan one. In the Sons of Confederate Veterans, we have seen many come and many go. Many have stopped for a period-of-time. They have drank from the bottle, and fellowshipped with us for a season of time. But, they went their way, because unfortunately, it didn't stick.

Thought to ponder. If you are that traveler out in the desert, and you come upon that old rusty pump and read the note by the person who left it before, then there has to be an element of faith on your part. You have to believe that if you pour that bottle of water into that pump then you have to believe in the person who has passed this way before you. You are taking a tremendous risk by pouring that water into the pump. Obviously, it is a case of life and death. Putting your faith and confidence in that man who came along before you takes faith.



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



As we come upon the month of January 2015, and our Confederate Heroes Day celebrations, we have to have faith in those Confederate ancestors who came before us. Our Grandpa's and our Confederate heroes have walked the desert experiences of life. They have walked through difficulties and the trials of life. They have been there at that pump. They have us a note at the well. What will we do about it? Will we simply take plan one. Will we just drink all the water from the bottle and go our way? So many today have a flippant attitude toward our heritage. It should break our hearts. I don't expect the rest of the world to care, but we certainly should. Many are not following the instructions on the pump. They are simply drinking the bottled water all up and going on their way.

Then there is plan two. We can prime the pump and get all excited about having plenty of water to drink. There's two parts to plan two. There's a positive and a negative. Sweet and sour if you will. "Prime the pump" calls for work and involvement. Those who fall into category number one do not understand the work ethic of plan two. Thank goodness for all those who have primed the pump for the Sons of Confederate Veterans down through the years. They have primed the pump for the Texas Division, and they have primed the pump for Camp Douglas. You simply could not make it without those faithful souls who have primed the pump for the Southern Cause. Sadly, there's a second part to plan two. There are some who have been faithful to prime the pump for a period of time. You come to lean on them and to depend on this, but for whatever reason they decide to toss the empty bottle away and finish the journey. It becomes like a death in your camp when you realize that a gigantic hole is missing. You will always remember when they got so excited watching the water pour out of the pump. When neat things happened in the camp - positive things like new members, great events and other things going on in the Confederation.

Then there is plan three. It's the best! It's the most important. At plan three, you refill the bottle as instructed for the next traveler. Plan three leaves you acutely aware of something very important. "Refill" is a word that implies "continuous action." To continue refilling the water bottle, someone will have to continue to prime the pump, because there are plenty that are coming after us that desperately need the water in that bottle.

The SCV will die, and the Charge will die, IF someone does not keep pumping and priming the well. We will die if we do not continue to give "water" (knowledge, education, and understanding) to our children and grandchildren. Someone must carry on. Sadly, too many are living, existing, and following plan number one. We must have those who will continue to fight the good fight of faith. The Holy Book warns those who take their hands off the plow and look back. The Word says that they are unworthy of the Kingdom.

There's a work to be done. We must keep our hands on the plow. We must keep priming the pump. There's no place to lay down and hang up our hats. We must press on as long as the good Lord gives us the strength, because there are those coming after us that need the water. Press on to 2015. God bless ya'll.

Deo Vindice!

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 make a donation for a paver, please contact Dan Dyer at E-mail: [danielyer497@yahoo.com](mailto:danielyer497@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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[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://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 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)