



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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DECEMBER 2015

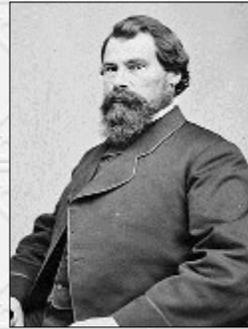
COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

As I reflect on the past year I am very appreciative of all the hard work our camp members have provided. I believe we have a great spirit in our camp and will continue to improve. We have so many quality camp members and many are relatively new. I am honored to have served as Commander of the Reagan Camp and will always treasure this time. I hesitate to single out anyone for praise but I feel several of you know how much I appreciate the constant words of encouragement and willingness to help in any and all endeavors. I tried to lead our camp in a positive manner while always holding in the highest regard our Confederate heritage. I know Charles Steen will be an outstanding leader for our camp and if you are there for him as you have been for me his tenure will be a pleasant experience.

Our country seems to deteriorate each day in many ways. Our Confederate heritage is attacked more than at any other time since Reconstruction. Lest we

feel we are alone, I think it is appropriate to note that attacks on all things Confederate has coincided with similar attacks on Biblical Christianity and traditional Western morals. This lets me know we are in pretty good company. I think the answer is not better politicians or even more resistance to political correctness; I believe the only hope for America is spiritual renewal. I am not willing to surrender my faith, my standards of personal conduct, nor my pride in my Confederate heritage. The late, great humorist Lewis Grizzard said years ago that he was a member of the "last great unprotected class, the SSWM - Straight Southern White Male." It seemed funny at the time. It no longer is nearly so funny.

So, in closing my final Dispatch as your Commander, once again, thanks for your trust in me, your support, and your tireless assistance. Be of good cheer, our Confederate



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

heritage will survive because of people like you who are not willing to let it die. Educate your family and friends, especially the young ones. Encourage the young Confederate enthusiasts you encounter. Never give up. Greater is He that is within us than he that is in the world.

David Franklin

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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### Prayer List

- Adjutant Dan Dyer
- Former Chaplain Ed Furman
- Past Cmdr. Ronnie Hatfield
- Former Chaplain Rod Skelton & his wife, Nancy
- Historian Gary Williams
- Davis/Reagan UDC Pres. Dollye Jeffus
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Jan 2, 2016 - Sam David Youth New Year's Ball 7pm**  
Museum for East Texas Culture - Palestine

**Jan 19th - January Reagan Camp Meeting**

**Feb 16th - February Reagan Camp Meeting**

**March 15th - March Reagan Camp Meeting**

**April 19th - April Reagan Camp Meeting**



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.reaganstvcamp.org](http://www.reaganstvcamp.org)

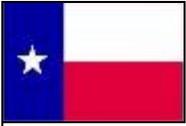
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

"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-

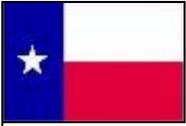


# JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP DECEMBER MEETING



The December Meeting/Christmas Party was a lot of fun as the men were encouraged to bring their wives to the meeting. We had 31 in attendance and there was a lot of laughing and good times had by all. We had a Christmas feast which consisted of fried chicken, chicken & dressing with giblet gravy, green bean casserole, sweet potato casserole, seasoned rice, purple hull peas, five different kinds of pizzas with garlic bread, chocolate chip cookies, pumpkin pie, lemon meringue pie, strawberry cake, white cake and Blue Bell Ice Cream! Dan Manuel provided entertainment with a musical program. If you missed this meeting, you really missed out. It was a great meal, and it was a great meeting.





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP DECEMBER MEETING SPECIAL REAGAN CAMP AWARDS PRESENTED

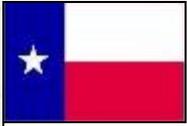


(Picture at Left) Dan Dyer received a standing ovation as he was presented an award for being selected as the **“Outstanding Member of the Year”** of the John H. Reagan Camp. Dan is the camp adjutant/treasurer and does an excellent job as such. The adjutant is one of the most important positions in the camp, and it is a demanding job. Dan not only does the adjutant duties, but he does many other things behind the scenes. He represented the Reagan Camp at the National SCV Reunion in Richmond, Va, and he always shows up in Confederate uniform at the camp’s ceremonies as well as representing our camp at marker ceremonies held by our neighboring camp in Athens. He is an asset to the not only the John H. Reagan Camp, but also to the community. We were very happy to be able to present him with this token of our appreciation. From everyone at the Reagan Camp, Thanks Dan. We appreciate all that you do for us, for the Reagan Camp, and for our Confederate ancestors.

(Picture to the right) Charles Steen was presented an award for being the **“Outstanding New Member of the Year”**. Charles joined the John H. Reagan Camp during 2015, and has hit the ground running. He presented the camp with an excellent historical program in August as he presented a detailed account of three Palestine, Texas citizens whose life was forever changed by the War Between the States. (You can see excerpts of his presentation online in the August newsletter) Charles has agreed to take the reins as the Reagan Camp Commander for the year 2016. We are very proud to have Charles in the Reagan Camp and were proud to present him with this award. We look forward to his leadership in the coming year.



(Pictured at Left) Gary Gibson was presented with the **“Commander’s Appreciation Award”** by Commander David Franklin at the December meeting. David told of how Gary has always been willing to go “above and beyond” anytime he is asked to do something for the Reagan Camp. Many times, he has taken on duties that no one else wanted to do. Commander Franklin told how several things might not have been accomplished if not for Gary. We appreciate Gary and all that he does. Congratulations



# JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP DECEMBER MEETING AWARDS PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR THE YEAR 2015



Left: Marc Robinson receives his award for Perfect Attendance from Commander David Franklin. Marc has received a perfect attendance award every year since the camp's first organizational meeting in 2009. That is dependability and dedication! Way to go Marc!



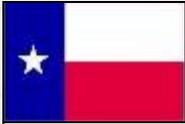
At Right: Cmdr Franklin presents Doug Smith with his Perfect Attendance award.



At left: Gary Gibson receives an award for Perfect Attendance from Commander David Franklin



At Right: Cmdr Franklin presents Dwight Franklin with a Perfect Attendance award.



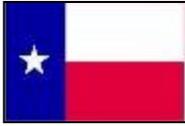
## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEW MEMBER STUART WHITAKER SWORN IN



The John H. Reagan Camp is proud to introduce Stuart Whitaker as our newest member of the John H. Reagan Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Stuart is a lawyer in Palestine and also an accomplished photographer. His photography is well known to those in the Palestine area as well as his hundreds of followers on facebook. Welcome to the Reagan Camp Stuart. We are glad to have you join us in defending our Confederate Ancestors good names.



At right: Stuart Whitaker is sworn into the Sons of Confederate Veterans by Reagan Camp Chaplain Dwight Franklin.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP COMMANDER FRANKLIN APPRECIATION GIFT NEW OFFICERS SWORN IN



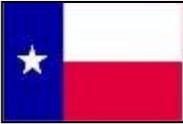
The John H. Reagan Camp presented David Franklin, outgoing Camp Commander, with a limited edition, framed, triple-matted, signed print of Don Stivers "Silent Tribute" as a token of appreciation for his leadership during the past year. (see description of print on next page) Commander Franklin has provided the Reagan Camp with leadership that has been beneficial to the camp in many ways. We have experienced growth this past year with not only new members, but with a closer bond between everyone in the camp. Thank you, David, for your love for the Reagan Camp and your love for our Confederate ancestors.

At left: Gary Williams makes presentation to David Franklin on behalf of the John H. Reagan Camp SCV. This limited edition print is #95 of only 2500 made.

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The John H. Reagan Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans elected officers for 2016 at the December meeting. The officers are pictured above. Listed left to right, they are: Gary Gibson— Sgt. at Arms; Dwight Franklin— Chaplain; Dan Dyer—Adjutant/Treasurer; Gary Williams—1st Lieutenant; Charles Steen—Camp Commander; Frank Moore—Quartermaster; Martin Lawrence—2nd Lieutenant; David Franklin—Chaplain (Andrew Harris— Camp Historian, was not available for the group picture but is pictured on the far right)



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP “SILENT TRIBUTE” PRINT BY DON STIVERS



Silent Tribute by Don Stivers

It is one of the great mysteries of war, the unexplainable bond between men who march to their deaths and those who order them there.

By 8:00 a.m. July 3, 1863 the men of Pickett's Division knew what was going to be asked of them: fresh from guarding wagon trains, it was as if fate placed them in the very center of the Confederate lines just outside of the small Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg, where everyone—including the Yankees—knew the next attack would come. A broad, open, undulating field lay between them and the enemy—a killing ground if there ever was one.

They had been ordered to lie in the lee of Seminary Ridge behind the tree line; ordered not to cheer or otherwise attract attention. And so they had plenty of time to ponder their fate and the future of wives, children, mothers, and fathers soon to be left without them.

Suddenly, along the lines ride the men who could be sending them to their doom—Pickett, Longstreet and Lee. Knowing full well what is being asked of them and who is doing the asking, the ragged Confederates cannot help themselves. Mindful of orders, yet unrestrainable in their emotion for their commanding general, they stand as a man and quietly remove their hats in silent tribute to their own beloved Robert E. Lee.



## DECEMBER PROGRAM ENTERTAINMENT BY DAN MANUEL



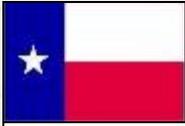
The program for the December meeting was provided by Dan Manuel. Dan has been producer and an entertainer of the Dogwood Jamboree since it began 12 years ago. He has been the minister at Crockett Road Church of Christ for the past 44 years and has been the host of the acclaimed show, "Give Me the Bible" for the 26 years that it has been in production.



Dan provided everyone with a wonderful musical program in which he sang and told jokes. His songs included those made popular by Willie Nelson, Sam Cook, B.B. King, Marty Robins, and Elvis Presley as well as other artists. Dan's final song was "Silent Night", and everyone joined in and sang along with him. It was a wonderful program, and we really appreciate Dan for the excellent program.



Dan gave away two of his cd's that he has recorded. The Christmas CD was given to the oldest person in attendance. We won't tell her age, but Ms. Dollye Jeffus won the Christmas CD. It couldn't have gone to a better person.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN DECEMBER

From the Texas State Historical Association



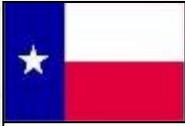
**December 2, 1862:** The Confederate government issued \$100 notes bearing a portrait of the renowned Southern beauty Lucy Pickens. Lucy Holcombe was born in 1832 in Tennessee. Between 1848 and 1850, the Holcombes moved to Wyalucing plantation in Marshall, Texas. Lucy became highly acclaimed throughout the South for her “classic features, titian hair, pansy eyes, and graceful figure.” In the summer of 1856, she met Francis Wilkinson Pickens, twice a widower and 27 years her senior. Her acceptance of his marriage proposal, it is said, hinged on his acceptance of a diplomatic post abroad. President James Buchanan appointed him ambassador to Russia, and Pickens and Lucy were wed in 1858 at Wyalucing. Lucy was a favorite at the Russian court, but Pickens resigned his diplomatic post in the fall of 1860 in anticipation of the outbreak of the Civil War. Upon his return home he was elected governor of South Carolina. By selling the jewels that had been given her in Russia, Lucy helped outfit the Confederate Army unit that bore her name, the Lucy Holcombe Legion. Her portrait was also used on the one-dollar Confederate notes issued on June 2, 1862. She died in 1899.

**December 6, 1889:** On this day in 1889, Jefferson Davis, former president of the Confederate States of America, died in New Orleans. Davis, born in Kentucky in 1808 but later a senator from Mississippi, was first in Texas as an army officer during the Mexican War in 1847 with Zachary Taylor’s force on the Rio Grande. In 1854, while Davis was United States secretary of war, he recommended the Texas or thirty-second-parallel route for construction of a railroad to the Pacific Ocean, and in 1856 he sent camels to Camp Verde to test the animals’ suitability as military transportation. After Reconstruction, a movement was launched in Dallas to purchase a homestead for Davis and invite him to move to Texas. In 1875, he was offered the presidency of the newly established Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. In declining the appointment, he wrote of his hopes of revisiting Texas, but he never did so.

**December 16, 1863:** On this day in 1863, Confederate colonel Sul Ross assumed command of a brigade formed from the Third, Sixth, Ninth, and Twenty-seventh Texas Cavalry regiments, and the men in these units thereafter fought together as Ross’s Brigade. Lawrence Sullivan Ross was born in Iowa in 1838; his family moved to Texas a year later. He realized his early ambition to become an Indian fighter like his father, Shapley Ross, when he served in campaigns with the Texas Rangers against the Comanches in 1858 and 1860; in the latter year he led the raid that resulted in the recapture of Cynthia Ann Parker. With the coming of the Civil War he joined the Confederate forces and rose to command the Sixth Texas Cavalry. He was promoted to the rank of general soon after taking command of Ross’s Brigade. Under his able leadership, his brigade saw action in the Atlanta and Franklin-Nashville campaigns, although Ross was in Texas on furlough when his men surrendered at Jackson, Mississippi, in May 1865. After the war, he served Texas as a state senator and then as governor from 1886 to 1891.

**December 21, 1861:** On this day in 1864, the state legislature established the Frontier Regiment to patrol west of the line of settlements from the Red River to the Rio Grande. Less than a month later, the Confederate Congress authorized the secretary of war to receive the regiment into Confederate service for the protection of the Indian frontier of Texas. President Jefferson Davis vetoed the bill, however, because it withheld the control of the executive of the Confederate States over the troops. In early 1863, after James E. McCord replaced James M. Norris as commander. State authorities finally transferred the regiment to Confederate control in 1864, but only after the legislature approved the establishment of the Frontier Organization to ensure the continued protection of the frontier. During the last eighteen months of the Civil War, the regiment increasingly devoted itself to enforcing Confederate conscription laws, arresting deserters, and tracking down renegades and outlaws.

( Information provide by Texas State Historical Association’s “Day By Day” website. You can see other events listed for each day of December on their calendar online at <https://texasdaybyday.com/> )



## TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY

[HTTP://THOMASLEGION.NET/AMERICANCIVILWAR/  
TEXASCIVILWARHISTORY.HTML](http://thomaslegion.net/AmericanCivilWar/TEXASCIVILWARHISTORY.HTML)



The Republic of Texas was admitted to the Union as the 28th U.S. state on December 29, 1845. Texas shares an international border with the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León and Tamaulipas to the south, and borders the US states of New Mexico to the west, Oklahoma to the north, Arkansas to the northeast and Louisiana to the east.

Spanish conquistadors (conquerors) first arrived in the region now known as Texas in 1519, finding the region populated by various Native American tribes. During the period from 1519 to 1848, all or parts of Texas were claimed by six countries: France, Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the United States of America, as well as the Confederate States of America in 1861–65. (See also [Texas History Homepage](#).)

No single culture was dominant in the present-day Texas region and many different peoples inhabited the area. Native American tribes that lived inside the boundaries of present-day Texas include the Alabama, Apache, Atakapan, Bidai, Caddo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Cherokee, Choctaw, Coushatta, Hasinai, Jumano, Karankawa, Kickapoo, Kiowa, Tonkawa, and Wichita.

During the nineteenth century, as part of the Cotton Kingdom, planters in parts of Texas depended on slave labor. In 1860, according to the US census, Texas had a total population of 604,215, of which 182,566 were enslaved. In the statewide election on the secession ordinance, Texans voted to secede from the Union by a vote of 46,129 to 14,697 (a 76% majority). The Secession Convention immediately organized a government, replacing Sam Houston when he refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy.

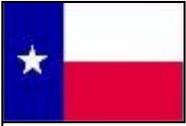
Texas declared its secession from the United States on February 1, 1861, and joined the Confederate States of America on March 2, 1861. On February 16, 1861, U.S. General David E. Twiggs, commander of Federal forces in Texas, surrendered the United States arsenal in San Antonio to secessionist volunteers led by the famed Texas Ranger Ben McCulloch, along with all additional army posts and property in Texas. Twiggs ordered all 3000 Army troops stationed in Texas – mostly in defense of the Indian frontier – to march to the coast to be evacuated. Texas, now firmly in Confederate control, also took possession of thousands of U.S. Army muskets and ammunition. Twiggs, deemed a traitor by Washington, soon joined the Confederate Army.

During the American Civil War (1861-1865), Texas excelled at supplying soldiers and cavalry units for the Confederacy. The Lone Star State was mainly a "supply state" for the Confederate forces until mid-1863. Subsequently, Union forces captured various points of the Mississippi River, thus making large movements of men, horses or cattle impossible. Some cotton was sold in Mexico, but most of the crop became useless because of the Federal naval blockade of Galveston and other ports.

Before the war, Galveston was the only major business center in Texas. Enjoying a luxurious lifestyle compared with the rest of frontier Texas, the city was the export point for most of the cotton in Texas along with other products like sugar and molasses. But by 1862, the federal navy had blockaded the Texas coast. Galveston was withering. The city's residents were ordered to evacuate in May 1862, along with their livestock and supplies. Many crowded into refugee camps in Houston along with hundreds who had fled the war in Louisiana.

Federal attacks on Corpus Christi, Sabine Pass, and Beaumont set the stage for the events of October 4, 1862, when Federal warships sailed into Galveston Harbor and seized control of the defenseless city. By Christmas Day, when 260 Massachusetts infantrymen began an occupation of the waterfront, Galveston was all but a ghost town. In a dramatic reversal of fortunes, however, Confederate forces staged a surprise invasion on New Year's Day, 1863, leading thousands of troops into town over the abandoned railroad bridge to the mainland. In a coordinated operation, two Confederate gunboats fought to an unlikely victory over six Union ships in Galveston Harbor. The audacious recapture of Galveston exhilarated Texas and made heroes of the men who participated. From the Federal perspective, it was one of the great debacles of the war.

Texas regiments fought in every major battle throughout the war. The last battle of the American Civil War, the Battle of Palmito Ranch, was fought in Texas on May 12, 1865.



## UPCOMING HISTORICAL PROGRAM BY ED DOMINGUE M.D.



Ed Domingue MD will bring the January Historical Program to the Reagan Camp. Ed is a native of Breaux Bridge, La. His undergraduate studies were at Baylor University and University of Southwestern Louisiana (now University of Louisiana, Lafayette). He is a graduate of LSU School of Medicine and practiced orthopaedic surgery in Lufkin for more than 33 years. He is also a member of the Texas Medical Association and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Retired from medicine, he is a member of Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lone Star Defender Camp # 2234 in Lufkin.

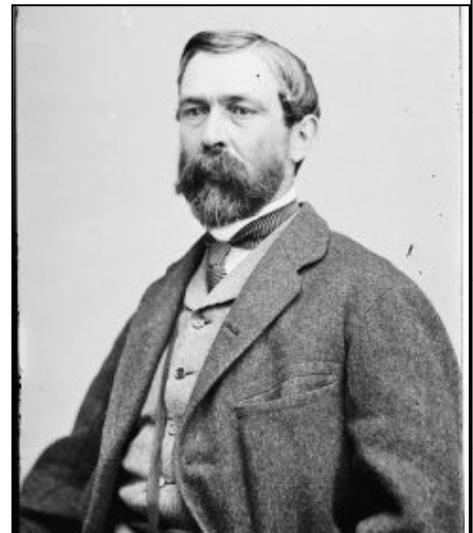
Dr. Domingue said that following about his upcoming program:

“This talk will cover the Red River Campaign of 1864 in Louisiana. We will discuss the commanders on both sides, their backgrounds and their military decisions that influenced the pivotal battle. The focus will be on the critical Confederate victory at Mansfield and the follow-up battle at Pleasant Hill the next day. We will follow the armies as they traveled south until the Yankee army could evacuate on transport ships by way of the Red River. Attention will be directed on how these Confederate victories spared Texas from the depredations of a rampaging Union army. “

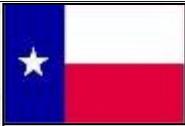


Lt. Gen Edmund Kirby Smith  
(Library of Congress)

We hope you will  
make plans to join  
us for the January  
historical program.



Lt. General Richard Taylor  
(Library of Congress)



## CIVIL WAR CALENDAR THE DEAD OF ANTIETAM



Photo & article are from 2007 Civil War Calendar

“Every blade of grass, every leaf, every stone here at Antietam has meaning. You can touch and you can feel it,” Antietam National Battlefield superintendent John Howard once told a group of Civil War enthusiasts who were visiting the Sharpsburg, Maryland, site.

Antietam speaks to me like no other battlefield, whether I come as a student of history, a photographer, or a spiritual pilgrim. It is my favorite place on Earth and I am still searching for the reason this is so.

If you sit upon one of the snake rail fences that meander about the battlefield around the Sunken Road, with little trouble you can transport yourself back to that terrible September 17 in 1862, when two American armies killed each other from dawn to dusk. If you snap your fingers once ever second for

twelve hours, that would be how many Americans were killed or wounded that late summer day. Those deaths make this place haunting.

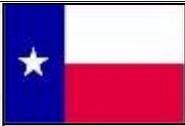
The Antietam battlefield is a small wedge of land that perfectly fits like a piece of jigsaw puzzle into the western Maryland landscape. My favorite place on the battlefield is the Dunker Church, a worship home to the pacifist sect of German Baptist Brethren who lived in this area at the time of the battle. Its simple design, whitewashed brick with no steeple, is unpretentious and humble.

Antietam is a native American word that means “the swift current,” but it has come to mean so much more. Antietam was a true stalemate, but this battle changed the American landscape by setting the stage for the Emancipation Proclamation - Lincoln’s tool to crush the Southern economy. The words “Forever Free” had never been uttered in America to African-Americans before Antietam. Though all men were created equal, never had they lived equally. We still don’t. And so Antietam matters.

Mathew Brady and his legion of photographers came to Antietam just after the battle to shoot the battlefield. Never before had someone tried to make art out of death. When Brady opened his New York gallery with his exhibit, “The Dead of Antietam,” thousands lined up to see the powerful photos. “Mr. Brady has done something to bring home to us the terrible reality and earnestness of war,” a New York Times reporter wrote. “If he has not brought bodies and laid them in our door-yards and our streets, he has done something very like it. But there is a side of the picture that... has escaped photographic skill. It is the background of widows and orphans... homes made desolate and the light of life in thousands of hearts has been quenched forever. All this desolation imagination must paint—broken hearts cannot be photographed.”



(photo at right is of The Sunken Road, Antietam National Battlefield, Maryland. Taken from the 2007 Civil War Calendar)



## A MINORITY VIEW BLACK CONFEDERATES

BY WALTER E. WILLIAMS  
ORIGINALLY RELEASED WEDNESDAY JAN 21, 2000



During our War of 1861, ex-slave Frederick Douglass observed, "There are at the present moment, many colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants and laborers, but as real soldiers, having muskets on their shoulders and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down . . . and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government."

Dr. Lewis Steiner, a Union Sanitary Commission employee who lived through the Confederate occupation of Frederick, Maryland said, "Most of the Negroes . . . were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederacy Army." Erwin L. Jordan's book Black Confederates and Afro-Yankees in Civil War Virginia cites eyewitness accounts of the Antietam campaign of "armed blacks in rebel columns bearing rifles, sabers, and knives and carrying knapsacks and haversacks." After the Battle of Seven Pines in June 1862, Union soldiers said that "two black Confederate regiments not only fought but showed no mercy to the Yankee dead or wounded whom they mutilated, murdered and robbed."

In April 1861, a Petersburg, Virginia newspaper proposed "three cheers for the patriotic free Negroes of Lynchburg" after 70 blacks offered "to act in whatever capacity may be assigned to them" in defense of Virginia. Erwin L. Jordan cites one case where a captured group of white slave owners and blacks were offered freedom if they would take an oath of allegiance to the United States. One free black indignantly replied, "I can't take no such oaf as dat. I'm a secesh nigger." A slave in the group upon learning that his master refused to take the oath said, "I can't take no oath dat Massa won't take." A second slave said, "I ain't going out here on no dishonorable terms." One of the slave owners took the oath but his slave, who didn't take the oath, returning to Virginia under a flag of truce, expressed disgust at his master's disloyalty saying, "Massa had no principles."

Horace Greeley, in pointing out some differences between the two warring armies said, "For more than two years, Negroes have been extensively employed in belligerent operations by the Confederacy. They have been embodied and drilled as rebel soldiers and had paraded with white troops at a time when this would not have been tolerated in the armies of the Union." General Nathan Bedford Forrest had both slaves and freemen serving in units under his command. After the war, General Forrest said of the black men who served under him "[T]hese boys stayed with me . . . and better Confederates did not live." Southern generals owned slaves but northern generals owned them as well. General Ulysses Grant's slaves had to await for the Thirteenth Amendment for freedom. When asked why he didn't free his slaves earlier, General Grant said, "Good help is so hard to come by these days."

These are but a few examples of the important role that blacks served, both as slaves and freemen in the Confederacy during the War Between the States. The flap over the Confederate Flag is not quite as simple as the nation's race experts make it. They want us to believe the flag is a symbol of racism. Yes, racists have used the Confederate Flag, but racists have also used the Bible and the U.S. Flag. Should we get rid of the Bible and lower the U.S. Flag? Black civil rights activists and their white liberal supporters who're attacking the Confederate Flag have committed a deep, despicable dishonor to our patriotic black ancestors who marched, fought and died to protect their homeland from what they saw as Northern aggression. They don't deserve the dishonor.

*Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University. To find out more about Walter E. Williams, go online to <http://econfaculty.gmu.edu/wew>*

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## TEXAS DIVISION CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE A MESSAGE FROM REV. DON MAJORS FOR THIS CAUSE (PART ONE)



An innocent man stood in front of a judge, facing a barrage of questions that would ultimately determine his future. This was to be one of the greatest trials in recorded history, but he didn't have a vast legal team of attorneys or lawyers advising him what to say or how to plead. He answered the questions directed at him with dignity and conviction, declaring a truth so absolute that it confounded those present. The governor of the state then asked a probing question, "Are you a king then?" He received a powerful definitive answer: "For you say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world." - John 18:37. **FOR THIS CAUSE.** It is a statement of certainty and conviction. Jesus Christ knew who He was, and what the purpose of His life was. He also knew why He would die. He had spoken of His death, declaring, "but for this cause, I came to this hour." -- John 12:27. His entire life was encapsulated in that one powerful phrase - "**FOR THIS CAUSE.**" I love His boldness and certainty. He carried no doubt and He knew the answers to the significant questions that every human being also asks: why He was born, why He was on earth, and why He would die. These are the same three questions the Cause will answer in your life. Personally speaking, deep down inside I know I was born for His Cause, and nothing can change that.

The shepherd boy, David, as he gathered around his brothers and the other Israelite men who were hiding behind the rocks from Goliath's slander and profanity, the Cause rose up within this teenage boy and righteous indignation came flooding out of him when he said to those older men around him, "IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?"

I know I have not depicted the Christmas scene with shepherds, wise men, donkeys and cows, but I desire to express the true purpose of why He came. "For this Cause I was born, and for this Cause I have come into the world." -- John 18:37. You don't get much more "Christmas" than that statement. I may add, for this Cause He would die. His statement, "For this Cause," was a statement of certainty and conviction. In my humble opinion, we were born for the Cause of the King, and that is what Christmas is all about.

Speaking of Causes.....

In the 1950's, there was an actor by the name of James Dean who became real popular from a movie he starred in. The movie was called, "Rebel Without A Cause." Compatriots, that movie does not describe us. We are "Rebels With A Cause," and proud of it!

Jesus was captivated and consumed by the Cause. It affected and directed every aspect of His earthly life. It wasn't something He possessed, but the Cause possessed Him.

When you are committed to a cause, it takes hold of you and begins to influence everything you do. I am committed to the Cause of Christ, but there is another Cause that holds my heart. I believe I was born for this Cause as well. It is the Southern Cause. Fellow compatriots, it is in our blood, our DNA. "For this Cause we were born." Our ancestors passed their Southern Cause down to us. We were born for the Cause, and we shouldn't have it any other way.

Last evening as we ate our Thanksgiving Supper with our family, my little ten-year-old granddaughter asked me, "Da, what are you thankful for?" I have given all of my six grandchildren Southern nicknames that they know very well. So I told Jada, "Well Miss Grits, I am thankful for thousands of things, but mostly, for Jesus, your grandmother, and General Robert E. Lee." You gotta train 'em right.

Gentlemen, we live for the Southern Cause.

God bless Dixie! Ya'll have a great Christmas.

Southernly Yours,

Reverend M. 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

JACOB L. SHERIDAN CAPT CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	JOHN H. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	COL. A.T. RAINEY CO. H 1 TEX. INF. HOOD'S TEX. BRIG
L. E. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	PVT WM. N SHERIDAN CO C 6 BATTALION TEXAS CALVARY	STEPHEN D. RAINEY CAPTAIN 1ST BATT. TEX CAV

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)