



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2015

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

It is hard to be a Texan and not feel April is a special month. April began darkly. The Alamo had just fallen; the massacre at Goliad was complete. Dead were Davy Crockett, Travis, Jim Bowie, Fannin, so many heroes. The Runaway Scrape was in full swing, the government was in flight for its very survival. Days were dark indeed. Then, on April 21st, in a swampy area in what is now Houston, the Texans finally made a stand and the world still remembers. San Jacinto Day is a state holiday in Texas and many of us pause, reflect, and say a prayer of thanksgiving for those brave men who attacked Santa Anna and his minions and won a glorious victory.

The names of many heroes of the Texas Revolution are recalled often through the names of towns and counties throughout Texas like Crockett, Austin, Houston, Lamar, Rusk, Navarro, and Seguin. Another county I like to remember is Tom Green in West Texas.

Tom Green was one of several Texans who fought at San Jacinto as well as during the next war. A native of Virginia, Tom Came to Nacogdoches in December 1835 and joined the Texas Army one month later.

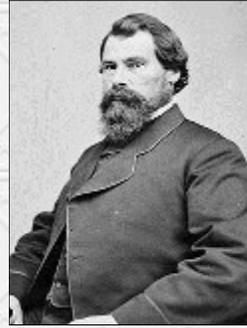
At San Jacinto Tom helped man the famed Twin Sisters cannons, the only artillery available to the Texans. For gallantry in battle, Sam Houston commissioned Tom a lieutenant following the victory. In May, he was promoted to

major and served as aide-de-camp to General Thomas Rusk.

Eventually Tom became clerk of the Texas House then was elected to the Texas Congress in 1839. From 1841 to 1861 he served as clerk of the Texas Supreme Court, both during the Republic of Texas days and also when Texas joined the United States.

Between legislative sessions Tom Green joined Texas Rangers in forays against Comanches as well as several other military exploits. Time does not allow me to tell of other aspects of Tom Green such as his experiences during the war between the US and Mexico and other actions during both the days of the Republic of Texas and the antebellum state of Texas.

When war came again to Texas in 1861, Tom Green was elected Colonel of the 5th Texas Cavalry. He led many men from Anderson and Houston Counties in an invasion of New Mexico with General Sibley in the battles of Glorieta, Val Verde, and Mesilla. Promoted to Brigadier General May 20, 1863, Green was one of the shining stars of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi. He was prized by General Richard Taylor and all who knew him. Killed while leading a charge against Union gunboats at Blair's Landing, Louisiana, April 12, 1864, the South mourned him. Renowned US Admiral



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

David Dixon Porter said of Green: "He was one in whom the rebels place more confidence than anyone else. He led his men to the very edge of the bank, they shouting and yelling like madmen—losing General Green has paralyzed them; he was worth 5000 men to them.

Almost 28 years to the day of the great victory at San Jacinto, Texas lost a hero—Tom Green. Born in Virginia, raised in Tennessee, he gave his all to Texas. This San Jacinto Day I remember our Texas heroes, especially Tom Green. David Franklin

CAMP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of Each Month  
06:30 PM  
Meal 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
- Compatriot Tom James
- Historian Gary Williams
- 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

- May 2— Jefferson, Texas: Battle for Jefferson Civil War Reenactment
- May 5 — Sesquicentennial Event Confederate Heritage Rally Shreveport, La
- May 8,9,10—Chatfield, Tx Sesquicentennial Confederate Symposium (see page 3 for details)
- June 5-7—Texas Division 2015 Reunion: Temple, Tx
- June 9-12—Hood’s Texas Brigade 2015 Tour: Petersburg & Appomattox, Virginia
- Sept 7-8 — Civil War Re-enactment:  
Dick Dowling Days Sesquicentennial:  
The 150 Anniversary of the battle of Sabine Pass, Tx
- Sept 17-20—Major Battles War reenactment in Hallsville, Tx



Picture above was taken at the Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza in Palestine, Texas



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)

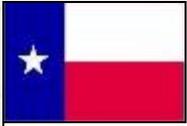
Above: Reagan Camp’s battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

“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-



**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP**  
**SESQUICENTENNIAL CONFEDERATE SYMPOSIUM**  
**MAY 8, 9, & 10**



This is just a reminder to you that the time for the Sesquicentennial Confederate Symposium will soon be here. Please mark your calendar for the weekend May 8, 9, and 10, 2015 and send in your registration as soon as possible to guarantee your spot!

Please register for Saturday, May 9 and Sunday, May 10. Friday May 8 is reserved for area schools.

Saturday, May 9 will have speakers throughout the day.

Sunday, May 10, Ed Bearss will speak and lead the tour of the Shelby site beginning at 9:00 AM.

I am very pleased with the quality of our speakers.

- the incomparable ED BEARSS
- University of North Texas' RICK McCASLIN
- Handbook of Texas' former editor TOM CUTRER
- Texas Military Forces Museum Director JEFF HUNT

They will gather for the Sesquicentennial Confederate Symposium to speak about Texas in 1865. For one last time, you will have the opportunity to learn, take part, and commemorate the events of 150 years ago as the curtain falls on the Sesquicentennial.

The attached flyer and registration provides the details. Here is the summary:

**WHAT:** Sesquicentennial Confederate Symposium. Taken from a quote of Gov. Pendleton Murrah, it is entitled "Successful War, Honorable Peace, and Texas: The End of the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy."

**WHERE:** Chatfield, Texas\* at the Community Center on FM 1603, 55 miles south of Dallas, just east of I-45

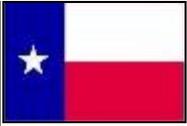
**WHEN:** Friday, May 8 - School Day - Reserved for area schools  
 Sat., May 9 - Symposium, Lunch, Dinner, All Day  
 Sun., May 10 - "Breakfast with Bearss" - Tour Shelby Site

One Low Price: \$65.00

If you know any full time teachers or full time students, please pass this information along to them. The Humanities Texas Foundation is underwriting the cost of full time teachers and students to attend all activities of the Symposium FREE OF CHARGE (first come, first served up to our capacity). They will need to register using the attached form so we can know of their plans to attend.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you there!

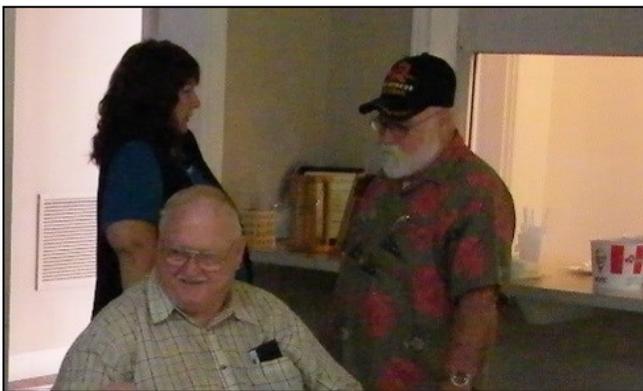
Rob Jones (903) 654-2066  
[shadows1865@msn.com](mailto:shadows1865@msn.com)

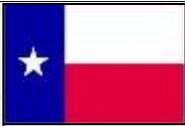


## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP APRIL MEETING PICTURES



The April meeting was another well attended meeting. We had 27 in attendance for the meal and the program to follow. Things started off with some good eating as we had lasagna, pizza, fried chicken and Italian bread for the meal. For dessert we had a Bundt cake, ice cream and home made coconut cream pie. Everyone had a good time as we were able to visit with each other and bond together as descendants of Confederate Veterans. Below are a few pictures taken at the meeting. Historian Gary Williams gave an excellent program on Nathan Bedford Forrest.





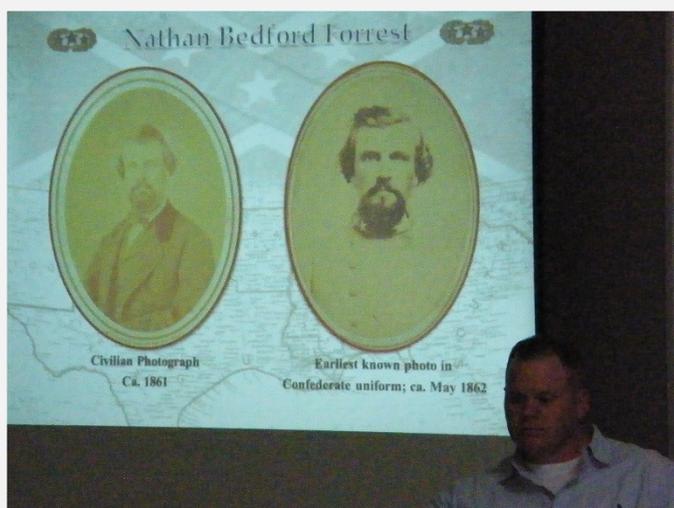
## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP APRIL HISTORICAL PROGRAM BY GARY WILLIAMS



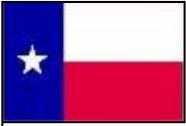
The Reagan Camp was treated with a wonderful presentation by Camp Historian/2nd Lt. Gary Williams. Gary presented a wonderful program on the life of General Nathan Bedford Forrest. He provided the camp with many details of Nathan Forrest both before, during and after the war between the states. As Gary said, "If you want a heated discussion, you can either praise Forrest or talk bad about Forrest." There are a lot of people who love him or despised him. Forrest grew up on the frontier with little education. He enlisted as a private but had promoted all the way to Lt General by the time the war was over. He was called many things, but he definitely lived up to his nickname "Wizard of the saddle" as he proved over and over again that he was



brilliant in battle. General Forrest knew that war was a terrible thing. As he put it, "War means fighting, and fighting means killing". After the war, Jefferson Davis and General Robert E. Lee both said that they had failed to use the abilities of Forrest to its full potential. General Forrest was unlike other volunteers who fought for the confederacy. While most men's average height was about 5'6", he stood 6'2" tall and weighed over 200 pounds. He was also a self-made millionaire when he enlisted having been a riverboat captain, a gambler, a planter, a slave trader/owner among other things. When he enlisted in the war, he took 45 of his own slaves with him into battle. He promised to set them free after the war whether the south won or lost. In 1863, he had freedom papers drawn up for them, even though the war was not yet over. But they continued to stay and fight with him until the end of the war. He also used his riches to help supply the confederacy with horses and equipment after seeing how poorly they were supplied. General Forrest was such a thorn in the side of Union General Ulysses S. Grant that Grant said it didn't matter if it cost 10,000 lives and broke the United States treasury, Forrest needed to be killed. That alone shows how much the Union leaders feared General Nathan B. Forrest. One quote remembered from Forrest is, "No man kills me and lives". He was a man of determination. Although some said he was a member of the KKK, he denied those allegations. Many still argue whether he was or not, but one thing is certain; after the war, General



Forrest became a leader in the civil rights movement. There is no one that fought with greater enthusiasm or greater determination than Nathan Bedford Forrest. But once the war was over, he realized that the United States needed to once again be united. Later in life, when it appeared that the United States might take arms up against another country, he offered his services to General Sherman. General Sherman replied that it would be an honor and a privilege to serve with him. Although he was not to fight again, he had a sincere love for his country and was willing to do whatever he could to serve his country and to see it prosper. His farewell address can be found on the next page.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP FORREST'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

CONTRIBUTED BY GARY WILLIAMS



### Forrest's farewell address to his troops, May 9, 1865

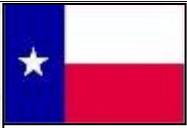
The following text is excerpted from Forrest's farewell address to his troops:

Civil war, such as you have just passed through naturally engenders feelings of animosity, hatred, and revenge. It is our duty to divest ourselves of all such feelings; and as far as it is in our power to do so, to cultivate friendly feelings towards those with whom we have so long contended, and heretofore so widely, but honestly, differed. Neighborhood feuds, personal animosities, and private differences should be blotted out; and, when you return home, a manly, straightforward course of conduct will secure the respect of your enemies. Whatever your responsibilities may be to Government, to society, or to individuals meet them like men.

The attempt made to establish a separate and independent Confederation has failed; but the consciousness of having done your duty faithfully, and to the end, will, in some measure, repay for the hardships you have undergone. In bidding you farewell, rest assured that you carry with you my best wishes for your future welfare and happiness. Without, in any way, referring to the merits of the Cause in which we have been engaged, your courage and determination, as exhibited on many hard-fought fields, has elicited the respect and admiration of friend and foe. And I now cheerfully and gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the officers and men of my command whose zeal, fidelity and unflinching bravery have been the great source of my past success in arms.

I have never, on the field of battle, sent you where I was unwilling to go myself; nor would I now advise you to a course which I felt myself unwilling to pursue. You have been good soldiers, you can be good citizens. Obey the laws, preserve your honor, and the Government to which you have surrendered can afford to be, and will be, magnanimous.

— *N.B. Forrest, Lieut.-General*  
*Headquarters, Forrest's Cavalry Corps*  
*Gainesville, Alabama*  
*May 9, 1865<sup>[42]</sup>*



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP BLOODY CARNAGE IN THE WILDERNESS

TAKEN FROM 1992 CIVIL WAR CALENDAR (CONTRIBUTED BY GARY WILLIAMS)



By the spring of 1864 virtually no one in America could foresee an end to the Civil War. Weary and disheartened by what appeared to be an endless string of incompetent generals, northerners were sick of the whole affair. Bloodied and at least partially aware that winning or losing might kill the South's entire civilization, southerners were tired and fearful. At this critical juncture, the spring thaw of 1864, Abraham Lincoln needed decisive victories. An election loomed large in the coming autumn, and if success be achieved the north need to unify. Lincoln made Ulysses S. Grand General-in-Chief of all the U.S. forces and gave him the breathing room he needed to run the war himself.

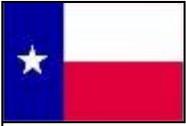
Grant wasted little time. On May 4 the Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan River at Germanna Ford and moved southeastward toward the right flank of his opponent's army. Unlike some of his timid western counterparts, Grant now faced an eastern counterpart named Robert E. Lee, in command of the Army of Northern Virginia. Grant had the unenviable task of attacking; Lee could defend ground well known to his troops and hope to beat Grant's men into exhaustion. Grant's army numbered 115,000; Lee's army 60,000.

Within thirty-six hours of the Rapidan crossing the two armies clashed in battle. On May 5 the armies maneuvered into an impenetrable tangle of swamp and wooded thickets known as the Wilderness, along the Orange plank Road and the Orange Turnpike. At 7:30 a.m. Major General George G. Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, ordered Major General Gouverneur K. Warren to attack the Confederates under Lieutenant General Richard S. Ewell. The battle washed back and forth across the marshy woods, continuing until nightfall with horrendous casualties on both sides. Grant's numerical advantage meant little in a heavily wooded, swampy area, especially because the Federal commanders relied on often-flawed maps.

On May 6 the fighting continued with an early morning attack by the Federals. Particularly notable were actions involving Union Brigadier General James S. Wadsworth and the Confederate Lieutenant Colonel G. Moxley Sorrel. Wadsworth was a much-liked political general who had served on Irvin McDowell's staff at First Bull Run. On May 6, as he was leading a charge to repel a Confederate attack, Wadsworth was shot in the back of the head. He never regained consciousness, dying in a Confederate hospital two days later. Sorrel, who would become a Brigadier General the following autumn, gallantly led an attack that demolished the left line of the Union II Corps.

After fierce fighting on the evening of the 6th, both armies lay low and licked their wounds on the 7th, separated by only 3/4 of a mile. At 8:30 p.m., Grant began to turn his army southward down the Brock Road toward the little crossroads of Spotsylvania Court House. There the armies would meet the following day, beginning another episode in what became a race toward Petersburg.



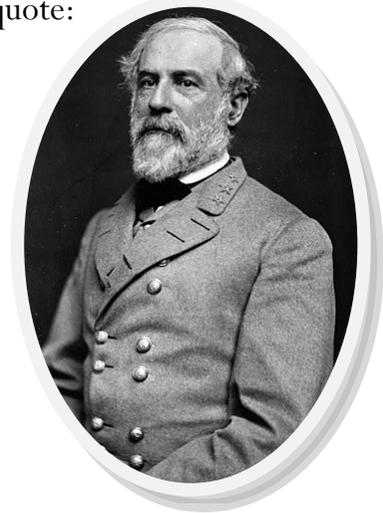


THE ARTICLE BELOW IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK  
**“LEE THE LAST YEARS”**  
**TWO QUOTES ABOUT ROBERT E. LEE**  
 BY CHARLES BRACELEN FLOOD



The New York Herald actions spoke volumes for the special place that Lee was coming to hold among his former enemies. The New York Herald warmed to its endorsement of Lee as the Democratic candidate for the President of the United States with the following quote:

**“With one quarter the men Grant had, this soldier fought magnificently across the territory of his native state, and fought his army to a stump. There never was such an army or such a campaign, or such a General for illustrating the military genius and possibilities of our people; and this General is the best of all for a Democratic candidate. It is certain that with half as many men as Grant he would have beaten him from the field in Virginia, and he affords the best promise of any soldier for beating him again.”**

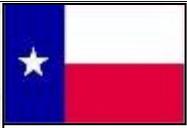


Edward Clifford Gordon was Robert E. Lee’s invaluable young assistant. What was the essence of Robert E. Lee according to Edward Clifford Gordon?



**“Intellectually he was cast in a gigantic mold. Naturally he was possessed of strong passions. He loved excitement, particularly the excitement of war. He loved grandeur. But all these appetites and powers were brought under the control of his judgment and made subservient to his Christian faith. This made him habitually unselfish and ever willing to sacrifice himself to the altar of duty and in the service of his fellows... He is an epistle, written of God and designed by God to teach the people of this country that earthly success is not the criterion of merit, nor the measure of true greatness.”**

That summed it up for Gordon; Lee had a simpler explanation of how he, or anyone, could meet terrible trials and disappointments, and pray for one’s enemies all the while. He believed that all people should do their best according to their lights, and recognize that what they wanted might not be what God intended. In odd moments during the busy days at his desk, Lee jotted down on slips of paper thoughts that came to him. After his death a stack of these maxims was discovered in a drawer. The shortest of them read, “God disposes. This ought to satisfy us.”



## TEXAS IN THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE CONTRIBUTED BY REAGAN CAMP HISTORIAN

GARY WILLIAMS PG 1 OF 2



### Texas in the War for Southern Independence

Texas had been part of the United States just 15 years when secessionists prevailed in the state wide election to leave the union. The State of Texas formally seceded on March 2, 1861 to become the 7<sup>th</sup> state of the new confederacy. Most southerners including Texans, considered their native state to be their country, more so than, these United States whose power was located up North in Washington City.

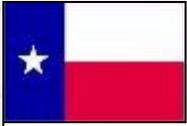
And so it began, many patriotic sons of Texas enlisted to defend their home-land. Amidst the excitement and fanfare of war, men gathered weapons and supplies, said goodbye to sweethearts, wives, and families. Among these men was Dr. John R. Woodard of Palestine who had removed himself from Alabama and recently settled in Anderson County, Texas. Woodard would organize a company of men from Palestine and later be named Capt. of Company G. They would become part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry and the end of the war be known as one of the most storied and elite combat units from Texas. These soon to be heroes, chose sacrifice over safety.

These 2,500 new citizen soldiers who mustered in to the confederate army in 1861 statewide, like others throughout the south, joined to defend their homes, lands, and family from a invading horde of blue coats sent by Lincoln to punish the South. During the course of the war nearly 90,000 Texans served in the confederate military.

These noble men from Texas would travel east on dusty roads, wade or ferry across creeks and rivers to travel to the seat of war. Many would perish along the way from sickness and disease most would follow paths and roads that led to places known as Second Manassas, Pea Ridge, Shiloh, Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, The Wilderness, Glorietta Pass, Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, and Franklin. The brave Texans would follow legendary figures like Albert Sidney Johnston, Ben McCulloch, Patrick Cleburne, James Longstreet, Richard Taylor, and John B. Hood.

John Bell Hood of Kentucky would leave his native state after becoming dissatisfied with the neutral stance of Kentucky. Hood came to Texas to join the Confederate cause. He became a cavalry captain but by late 1861 was promoted to Colonel of the 4th Texas Infantry. Later in February of 1862, Hood became the brigade commander of the unit that was hence forth known as "Hood's Texas Brigade". Hood's brigade first distinguished themselves by quickly gaining a reputation as one of the army's elite fighting units at the Battle of Elltham's Landing. Situated below Richmond near James River, Hood's men were instrumental in stopping an amphibious landing by a Union division. Commanding General Joseph E. Johnston reflected upon the success of Hood's Texans in executing his order "To feel the enemy gently and then fall back". Johnston humorously asked Hood, "What would your Texans have done Sir, if I had ordered them to charge and drive back the enemy?" Hood replied, "I suppose, General, they would have driven them into the river and tried to swim out and capture the gun boats."

Continued on next page



## TEXAS IN THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE CONTRIBUTED BY REAGAN CAMP HISTORIAN

GARY WILLIAMS PG 2 OF 2



At the Battle of Gaines Mill, Hood led his brigade in a charge that broke the union line, which was the most "successful confederate performance" in the Seven Days Battles, while Hood escaped the battle without injury, every other field officer in his brigade was killed or wounded.

On July 26, 1862 Hood became commander of a division under General Longstreet in the 1st Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. Hood's Texans became known as the "Shock Troops" or spearhead of Lee's attack troops and added to their reputation during Longstreet's massive assault on Union General John Pope's flank at the 2nd Battle of Manassas. This attack nearly destroyed the federal army.

The Battle of Antietam, also known as, The Battle of Sharpsburg was fought on September 17, 1862. It is the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, with a combined tally of dead, wounded and missing at 22,717. At dawn, Major General Joseph Hooker's corps mounted a powerful assault on Lee's left flank. Attacks and counterattacks swept across Miller's Cornfield and fighting settled around the Dunker Church.

As the first union soldiers emerged from the North Woods and into the Cornfield, an artillery duel erupted. The conflagration caused heavy casualties on both sides and was described by Col. Stephen D. Lee as "Artillery Hell". All at once, the Cornfield exploded into chaos as a savage battle raged through the area. Men beat each other over the head with rifle butts and stabbed each other with bayonets. Rifles became hot and fouled from too much firing.

At 7am Hood's division of 2,300 men advanced through the West Woods and pushed the Union troops back through the Cornfield again. The Texans attacked with particular ferocity because as they were called from their reserve position. They were forced to interrupt the first "hot breakfast" they had had in weeks.

Hood's men squared off against the Union "Iron Brigade" and bore the brunt of the fighting, and paid a heavy price- 60% casualties, but they were able to prevent the defensive line from crumbling and held off the Union 1st Corps. The Cornfield, an area about 250 yards deep and 400 yards wide, was a scene of indescribable destruction. It was estimated that the Cornfield changed hands no fewer than 15 times in the northern and greater part of the field was cut closely as could have been done with a knife, and the slain confederates lay in rows precisely as they had stood in their ranks a few moments before.

"They always take the Texans to the hottest part of the field." H. Watters Berryman of Co. I. 1st Texas in a letter to his mother after the battle.

"The flags, the flags! Where are the flags? All the color bearers are shot down." Captain John R. Woodard, Co. G. 1st Texas to Col. Work as the 1st Texas retreats out of the Cornfield.

"Dead on the field", John B. Hood's reply when asked where his division was after the attack into the Cornfield.

Hood's Texans had saved Lee from a calamitous defeat. Once again, Hood's men paid a high price for their success. The 1st Texas lost 186 of 226 men, The 18th Georgia 101 of its 176 and the 4th Texas lost 107 out of 200 soldiers.

The result of the battle was tactically inconclusive; however the North claimed victory for political reasons.



*Hood*



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



### STAND.

In the Apostle Paul's writings in the Book of Ephesians, he makes some profound statements in chapter six. Please take note of verse 13 and 14 when it says....

"Take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand, stand therefore having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness."

The word "withstand" in the original language is "anthistemi." Today, it can be compared to the word we call "antihistamine." From "anti" or "against" and "histemi" meaning "to cause to stand." The verb suggests "vigorously opposing, bravely resisting, standing face-to-face against an adversary, standing your ground."

In my humble opinion, there are many applications that could be made regarding this passage of Scripture, especially in a pastoral setting on a Sunday morning behind the pulpit, but this is not that setting. With that said, my heartfelt belief is that we are living in an "evil day" as the apostle suggests. Today, right is considered wrong, and wrong is considered right. Granted, history will teach us that there has always been "evil days" that humanity has had to live through, and certainly 1861 was a difficult time for our ancestors. However, I must say, "This is an evil day in which we live." We are living in a humanistic-secularist society that no longer wants to adhere to ethical and moral boundaries, and those that do hold to spiritual, ethical, and moral absolutes are slandered within this society. Can we not say that America is on a downward slide?

A great Southern gentleman by the name of Thomas Jefferson made a profound statement one day when he said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." Please take note of that word "eternal," and perhaps it would be wise to make note of the word "vigilance" as well from President Jefferson's quote.

In other words, we are engaged in an eternal struggle, and we better be vigilant about it. So where do we let up? When do we give up? When do we say, "Oh, what's the use?" Eternal vigilance calls for effort if we love our heritage, if we love our country, if we love our Southland. Then perhaps we must continue on in eternal vigilance by standing our ground.

Again, the word "withstand" (verb) means 1) to cause to stand; 2) vigorously oppose; 3) bravely resist; 4) stand face-to-face against an adversary; 5) stand your ground.

Military instructions are given in this chapter (Ephesians 6). We are to suit up in military readiness, and our strategy is in one word, "stand." Stand in the day of evil or "when things are at their worst." Stand means to hold the line of defense, even against the most determined and severe attack



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

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of the enemy. "Having done all to stand" (v13) means when the battle is over we have not surrendered one inch of territory. In the truest sense-of-the-word, the battle is not over. We have our wives to protect, our children to defend, as well as our friends and loved ones. We have the things we hold sacred to defend as well. Our Judeo-Christian faith needs to be defended. Our faith is under attack today more than ever. Our nation is under attack more today than ever. I submit that they both need defending. Southerners were always the first when the call-to-arms were given. The good Southerner ordered us to "eternal vigilance." If that call could be given by Mr. Jefferson that long ago, how much more important is that call for today?

"Stand" also means to pursue the battle, not just defend the position. We are also called upon to stand in unity. One of the ways that Satan was able to get the upper hand against Adam and Eve was that he separated them in his attack. He came to Eve with his temptation. She in return went to Adam. "Divide and conquer" has always been the strategy against families. Galatians 5:15, "If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." I would suggest that the best way to "withstand" the onslaught against our Southern heritage would be for us to stand together as the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Lastly, perhaps this is the most critical element of all that has been stated. We must stand in prayer (Ephesians 6:18). General Lemay appeared before a congressional debriefing after World War II, and he was asked what he needed for the military to protect us from Communist aggression, and he said, "Give me men who know God. Give me men who know how to pray."

This message is a nutshell is then...

Eternal vigilance, withstand, vigorously oppose, bravely resist, stand face-to-face against our adversary, and stand our ground.

Also, remember the words of Winston Churchill the great Prime Minister of England...

"Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never!"

This is our clarion call.

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.



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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  
Meal 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)