



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 5

MAY 2015

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

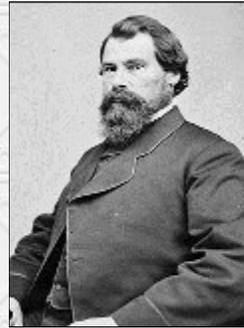
My memories of learning history in Slocum schools are very pleasant ones. I loved history and we had very good teachers. We studied the Civil War, but most of what I learned about the Confederate side I obtained on my own by reading library books. In class, we were required to memorize the Gettysburg Address, learn some basic facts about the war, and draw maps and charts. I do remember, however, that much of our actual study was focused on what happened in Texas.

Not much of note happened within the borders of our great state, but two were highlighted in my studies growing up. One was the Battle of Sabine Pass, which absolutely enthralled me. The other fond memory of my history studies was an action which occurred in the month of May, so it now comes to my mind.

By May 1865, it was plain the Confederate States of America was doomed. General Lee had surrendered, General Joseph Johnston soon followed, and most armies in the field began to disband. May 10, President Jefferson Davis was captured by Union cavalry while attempting to flee to keep the resistance alive.

Here is where the story gets a little muddled. Most historians agree the last battle of the war was fought in Texas, May 12 and 13, 1865, near Palmito Ranch, Texas, but the knowledge of the Texans is disputed. I was always told in history class that the Texans didn't realize the war was over and didn't know until after they had won the victory and was told by their Union prisoners. Recent research, however, seems to indicate the Texans were well aware the war was virtually over, but the Trans-Mississippi was n't officially surrendered. Confederates and Yankee leaders had met since March about ceasing hostilities in Texas, but an agreement was never reached. So, when Union Colonel Theodore Barrett attacked Fort Brown, Texas, Colonel John S. "Rip" Ford responded with a counter attack at Palmito Ranch.

Gist of the story is, we won! It is believed that Union Private John Williams of the 34th Indiana was the last man killed in combat during the war. He died a long way from home, fighting with a foreign invader trying to subjugate Texans. After the victory, many 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

leaders, including General E. Kirby-Smith formally surrendered The Trans-Mississippi Department June 2, 1865.

Various controversies surrounded the battle which I will not discuss at this time, but suffice it to say, the South fought to the last moment and this May, I remember the brave Texans at Palmito Ranch, fighting for their homes.

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



Above: General Robert E. Lee's Headquarters in Gettysburg

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 30—Confederate Heritage Rally: Shreveport, Tx  
see <http://confederate150.com/2015.html>  
for more information

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



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)

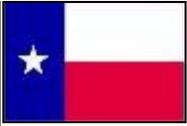
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

"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 MEETING PICTURES MAY 2015

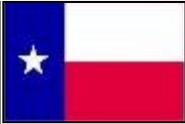


The May meeting started off with a bang as the Reagan Camp swore in four new members! We welcome them aboard and are proud of their dedication to honor their Confederate ancestor. Pictured left to right are camp Commander David Franklin, Paul Randal Huffman, Robert Martin Lawrence, Charles Lee Steen, Richard James Benton, Adjutant Dan Dyer, & Chaplain Dwight Franklin.



We had 28 in attendance at the May Camp Meeting. The night started off with the swearing in of our four newest members. After that, everyone enjoyed a supper of subway sandwiches and pizzas. For dessert we had home made brownies and ice cream. After the meal, compatriot Andrew Harris gave a wonderful presentation on the Black Horse Troops. It was a great meeting. If you missed it, you missed a lot!





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP MEETING PICTURES MAY 2015



At Left: Mark Keith tells the Reagan Camp a few things about his ancestor James Keith, and others, who rode with the Black Horse Troop. Mark and his wife, Mary, came all the way from Kiefer, Oklahoma to hear Andrew Harris' program on his ancestor. Mark is the 2nd Lt. Cmdr of the Col. Daniel N. McIntosh Camp #1378 in Tulsa, Ok.



Above: Awards, ribbons and black ostrich plume that belonged to Mark Keith



Above: Original Spurs and Binoculars and below: original stirrups that James Keith used in battle while riding along side Stonewall Jackson with the Black Horse Troops. I they could only talk, what a story they could tell!

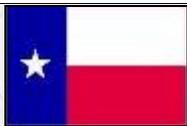


At Left: Mark Keith, Mary Keith, and Andrew Harris with pictures and artifacts of James Keith.

How many men would like the opportunity to hold the binoculars, spurs, and stirrups of their confederate ancestor? Mark got that opportunity!

Wow!





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP HISTORICAL PROGRAM “THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE”



Compatriot Andrew Harris presented the May Historical program to the Reagan Camp members and guest. His program was titled “Bravest of the Brave”.

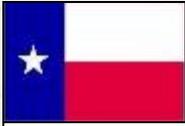
(pictured at right: Gary Williams introduces speaker Andrew Harris)



Andrew presented a detailed account of The Black Horse Troop Company “H”, 4th Virginia Cavalry. His program was full of details and first hand accounts of James Keith, who rode with the Black Horse Troop. If you missed this program, you missed a great one! It was very interesting. On top of that, Andrew brought several personal items of James Keith that were carried in battle. He was nice enough to allow us to look at the items and actually hold them! It was a great program.

Andrew’s presentation will be featured in a series which will start in this month’s newsletter & will continue in upcoming newsletters so those who were unable to make the May meeting will be able to learn of the sacrifices the men of the Black Horse Troop made for the Confederate cause.





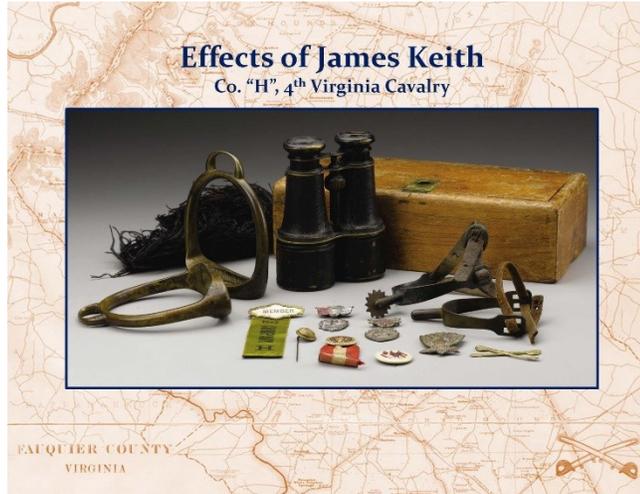
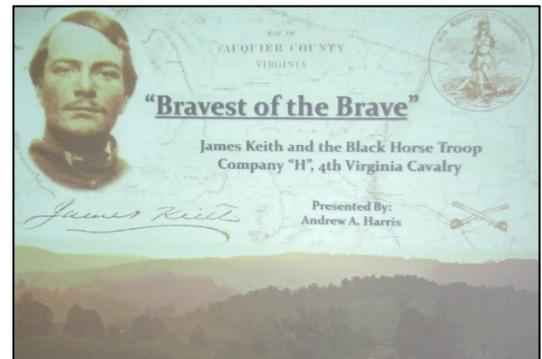
## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP “THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE” BY ANDREW HARRIS PG 1



This article “The bravest of the brave” will tell about perhaps the most famous cavalry unit in the Army of Northern Virginia – Co. H, 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry – known as the “Black Horse Troop”. And it will be an honor and my privilege to introduce you to one man in particular who served in the Black Horse with distinction – I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know him thru my research and he is the kind of historical figure that I find so fascinating – his name is James Keith, and he has a remarkable story.

### EFFECTS OF JAMES KEITH

In the picture below are some of Mr. Keith’s personal effects... various items that we will look at that he saved in memory of his war



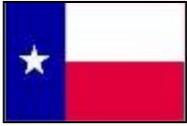
-time experiences – his field glasses that he carried during the war, the stirrups off of his saddle, and his spurs...many of these things are rather utilitarian objects, but no doubt indispensable in his role as a cavalryman and scout...Also we have here the black ostrich plume that he wore in his hat, a Virginia button, presumably off of his uniform that has been made into a hat pin and some of his post-war veteran ribbons, etc. So many times, when it comes to historical artifacts like these we often say, “if that thing could only talk...the stories it could tell!” Well, in this case they come pretty close to talking...and their story and the events they witnessed will be told through the eyes and

words of the man they belonged to.

These items were all formerly on display at the Liberty Heritage Museum, in Warrenton, Virginia...it was a privately owned museum and the artifacts were also all privately owned. As I understand it, the owner is up in years and the museum was recently closed and parts of the collection liquidated ...my wife happened across this particular group on a relic dealer’s website while on the hunt for a Christmas gift last year.



*To the left is Andrew’s wife, Rashel, and their daughter. Rashel found the artifacts of James Keith for sale online and purchased them for her husband. The Reagan Camp would like to thank Andrew and Rashel for bringing these items to the meeting so we could all see them.*



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP “THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE” BY ANDREW HARRIS PG 2

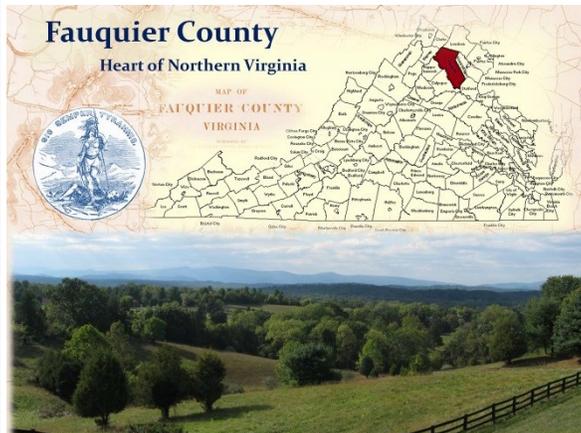
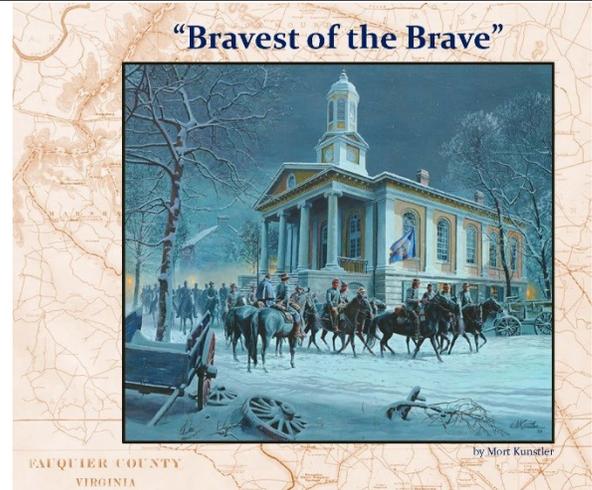


### BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE – MORT KUNSTLER

The title of the program – “Bravest of the Brave” - comes in part from the painting to the right, painted by Mort Kunstler, which depicts the Black Horse Cavalry, in the winter of 1863, in front of this historic old building – this is the courthouse in Warrenton, Virginia. Warrenton is the county seat of Fauquier County, where Company H, 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry was raised.

### FAUQUIER COUNTY - MAP

Fauquier County is located in the rolling Piedmont region of northern Virginia. That part of Virginia was (and still is) horse country...at that time they raised the finest equestrian stock in the world there, and needless to say many of the men from that area were skilled horsemen



long before the Civil War began. Of course their experience with horses was one thing that made the Southern cavalry so much superior to their Yankee counterparts during the war...it took a long time for the Yankees to finally realize that you don't put city boys in a saddle – they don't ride well, and they certainly don't ride and shoot at the same time very well. But for many of these northern Virginia boys, horse races, foxhunting and even jousting tournaments were common past-times...they knew their horses!

Not only did the horses in the region come from a strong pedigree, but the men who joined the ranks of the Black Horse Troop came from some of the oldest and most established families in the State.

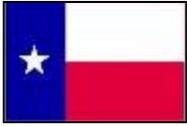
### KEITH BROTHERS

One of these families was the Keith family. Isham and Juliet (Chilton) Keith lived near Warrenton, there in Fauquier County and they had three sons - Isham Jr., Jerome and James, all of whom would serve in the Confederate States military as cavalymen.

Here is a photo of the 3 brothers...James (shown here on the left)...this is believed to be a war-time image although the only one in Confederate uniform here is Jerome.

James was born September 7, 1839, near the “Woodbourne” community. His father was a successful farmer and businessman...in fact, the family owned several woolen mills in the area that would for a time provide cloth used to make Confederate uniforms. It was said that James was raised “in the country, in a period when there was great simplicity of life, which tended to develop independence and manhood and its leisure led to reading and thoughtfulness.” Quite the opposite of today...is it not?





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP “THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE” BY ANDREW HARRIS PG 3



### JAMES KEITH - UVA

In his early life he became a voracious reader. James' mother was a woman of strong character and had a great influence on his early life and she inspired his love of study and reading and directed his education. He believed that it was her influence which largely shaped his life. He learned from his parents a love of patriotism and of all things good and noble.

One biography said of James that *“his retentive mind was a storehouse of accurate information upon historical and political questions, and he had great familiarity with all the best English writers.”* James was a bright young man. He went on to attend the University of Virginia where he studied law; he graduated and was licensed to practice on July 31, 1860.

James was 21 years old and in the prime of his life...by this time of course, the Northern and Southern sections of the United States had evolved into two distinct regions - distinct civilizations even. The country certainly had its problems, and the question became not so much HOW to solve those problems, but WHO would solve them???...the over-reaching arm of an all-powerful Federal government or the individual State governments?

And so Southerners found themselves in a position forced to define themselves as sole heirs - and defenders - of the original US Constitution.

Dis-unionist sentiment was prevalent in James' home county... and by the time he graduated from UVA, the compromises of many decades which maintained political balance and tentative union had nearly worn thin.

### THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

James Keith saw the inevitable coming, and upon completing his studies at UVA he was one of the first to join the Black Horse Troop...

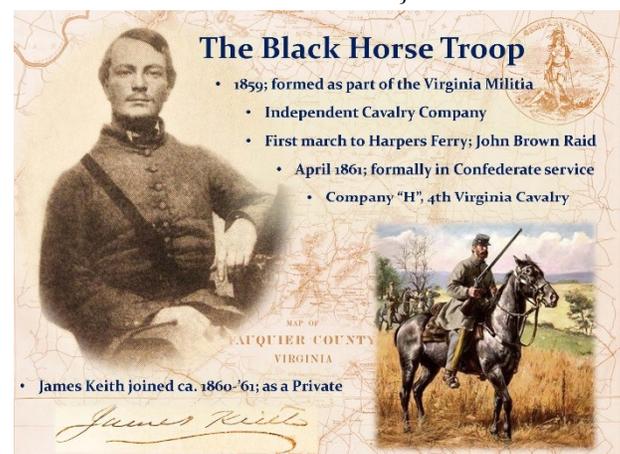
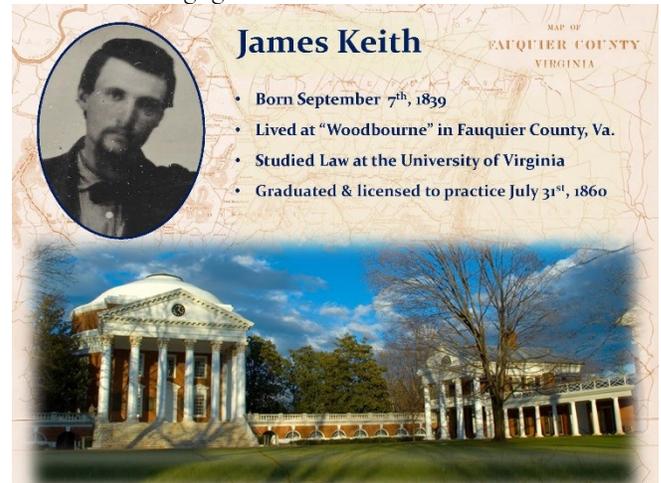
The unit was an independent cavalry company that had been formed as a local militia in 1859...2 years prior to secession and the official outbreak of the Civil War.

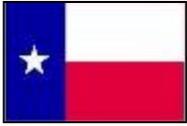
Their first march was to Harper's Ferry in response to the John Brown Raid...they were too late to help capture Brown, but they were assigned to guard him and escorted John Brown to his execution.

With the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and the call for troops to suppress the southern “insurrection”, the desire for secession became more widespread...Virginia, among others, seceded from the Union, and as Keith himself would later write, *“the tempest [of war] burst upon us in all its wrath and fury.”*

Everyone in northern Virginia was talking about joining the war. But the Black Horse Troop needed no urging...they were already trained, equipped and ready to drive every Yankee back across the Potomac.

In April 1861, their militia unit was officially sworn into Confederate service and would be formally organized as “Company H, 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry”. \*The photo (above) of James was probably taken about the time of his enlistment; late 1860 or very early '61.

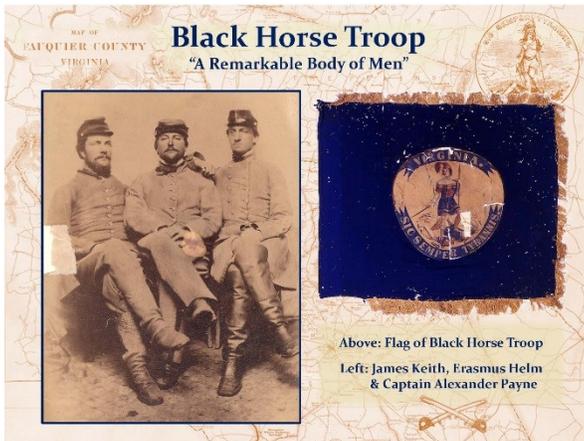




## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP “THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE” BY ANDREW HARRIS PG 4



**BLACK HORSE TROOP** The Black Horse troop was described as *“a remarkable body of men, composed as it was, of handsome, strapping, debonair Virginians, admirably horsed and equipped, in whose natures the spirit of chivalry was an abiding trait that marked the flight of their banner from the outbreak to the close of the war.”*



Above: Flag of Black Horse Troop  
Left: James Keith, Erasmus Helm  
& Captain Alexander Payne

Certainly they exhibited a striking appearance in those early days of the war...all mounted on matched black horses and resplendent in brand new gray uniforms with black boots and caps.

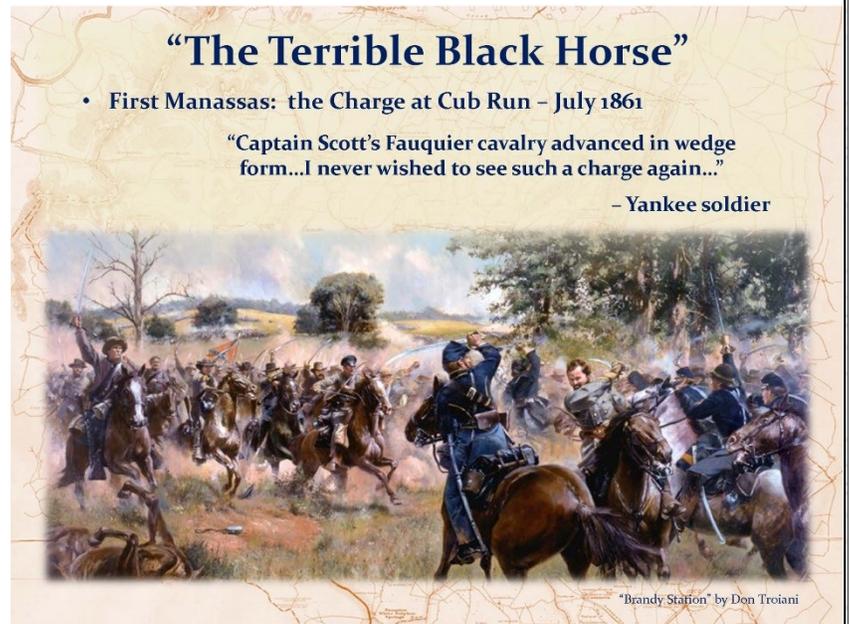
At full strength there was a little over 100 of Virginia’s finest in the troop...and during the course of the war at least 50 families had two or more members in the Black Horse. The Keith’s were one of them... both James and Isham rode with Company H. Here we see another early-war photo of some of the Black Horse men... James on the left.

If not actually related by blood, all of the men of the Black Horse were at least friends or neighbors. The fabric of their lives was woven together *“into an organic relationship within their community”*. And their turf – there in far northern Virginia - was obviously where the war would be fought.

### THE TERRIBLE BLACK HORSE – FIRST MANASSAS

The troop’s gallant exploits began at the first major battle at Manassas (July 1861)...only 18 miles east of Warrenton. There the Black Horse troop led a charge against fleeing Yankees along a branch of Bull Run Creek known as “Cub Run”. Their charged caused panic among the enemy who retreated back to Washington in wild confusion. Their action at First Manassas received the praise of President Jefferson Davis, himself, and was well publicized and cited in several newspapers both north and south...the Baltimore Exchange quoted a Yankee witness to the event, who said that the *“Captain Scott’s Fauquier cavalry, advanced in wedge form, then opened, disclosing a battery which fired upon the regiment; then the cavalry charged upon the regiment, hemming it in on all sides and cutting right and left with tremendous blows, each powerful enough to take off a man’s head. He said he never wished to see such a charge again.”*

The “Terrible Black Horse” as it was then called became a watchword for danger among the Federal Army.



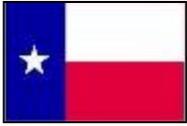
#### • First Manassas: the Charge at Cub Run – July 1861

*“Captain Scott’s Fauquier cavalry advanced in wedge form...I never wished to see such a charge again...”*

– Yankee soldier

“Brandy Station” by Don Troiani

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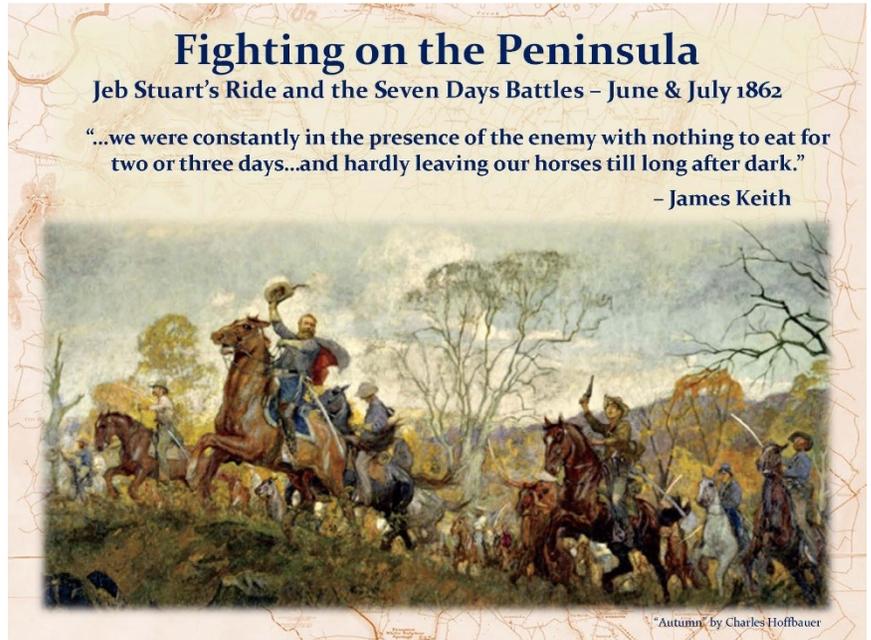
## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP “THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE” BY ANDREW HARRIS PG 5



### FIGHTING ON THE PENINSULA

In early 1862 the unit was heavily involved on the Virginia Peninsula against McClellan's move on Richmond...the 4th Virginia Cavalry was among the 1,200 troops hand-picked by Jeb Stuart to accompany him on his famous ride around the Federal Army, deep into Union-held territory, and they were frequently engaged in combat with Union forces during the Seven Days.

Details were made from the Black Horse to carry dispatches between the commanding general and those on the battlefield all along the James River. James Keith was one of those couriers and he was reported to have “made many marvelous escapes and greatly distinguished himself.” He later wrote home, “For three weeks we were constantly in the presence of the enemy with nothing to eat sometimes for two days in succession, going to bed at ten o'clock...(waking) at three in the morning and hardly leaving our horses till long after dark.”



### Fighting on the Peninsula

Jeb Stuart's Ride and the Seven Days Battles - June & July 1862

“...we were constantly in the presence of the enemy with nothing to eat for two or three days...and hardly leaving our horses till long after dark.”

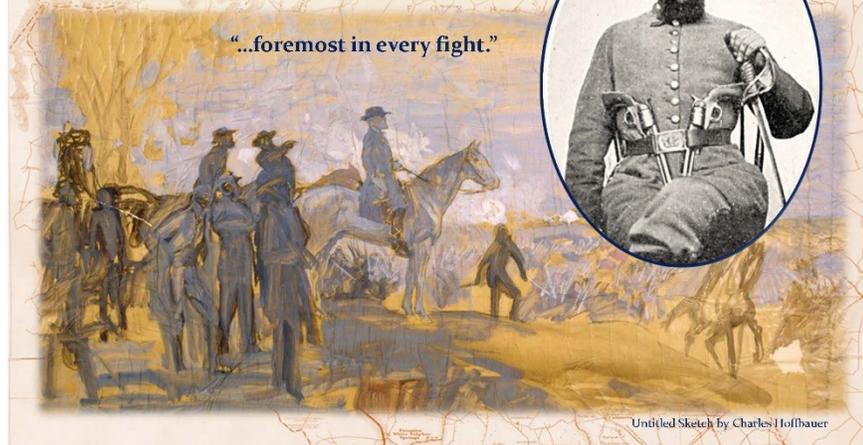
- James Keith

### “The Bravest Man in Lee's Army”

**Robert E. Martin**

1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, Co. H. 4<sup>th</sup> VA, Black Horse Troop

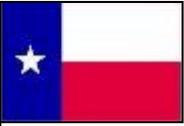
“...foremost in every fight.”



### THE BRAVEST MAN IN LEE'S ARMY

It was about this time that the Black Horse Troop received special tribute to their being called the “Bravest of the Brave”...an English military officer who was sympathetic to the Southern Cause had a rifle of beautiful workmanship prepared and gave it to a Confederate navy Captain with a request that the rifle be “presented to the bravest man in the Confederate army”. The rifle was given to First Sergeant Robert E. Martin of the Black Horse troop...a man who displayed the highest qualities of a soldier and who was said to be “foremost in every fight; who appeared to court danger for itself and it seemed there was nothing he so little valued as life.”

Certainly the men of the Black Horse were a unique lot...their fighting ability and first-hand knowledge of the Northern Virginia territory made them an extremely valuable resource to the Confederate Army.

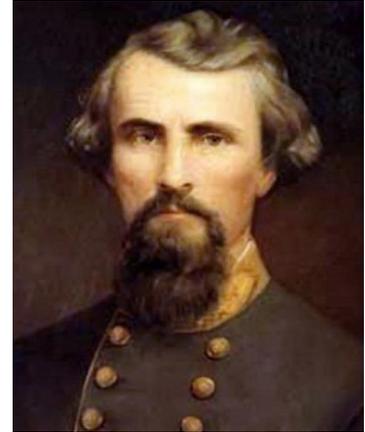


**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP**  
**GENERAL NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST**  
BY GARY WILLIAMS PG 1 OF 2



“War means Fighting and Fighting means Killing.” Forrest was an individual that you would not to cross.

At six feet, two inches tall and 210 pounds, Forrest was physically imposing and intimidating, especially compared to the average height of men at the time. He used his skills as a hard rider and fierce swordsman to great effect. (He was known to sharpen both the top and bottom edges of his heavy saber.)



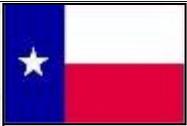
Historians have evaluated contemporary records to conclude that Forrest may have killed more than thirty enemy soldiers with saber, pistol, and shotgun. Not all of Forrest's feats of individual combat involved enemy troops. Lt. A. Wills Gould, an artillery officer in Forrest's command, was being transferred presumably because cannons under his command were spiked by the enemy during the Battle of Day's Gap. On June 14, 1863, Gould confronted Forrest about his transfer, which escalated into a violent exchange. Forrest was shot in the hip while Gould was mortally stabbed.

Forrest's command included his Escort Company (his “Special Forces”), for which he selected the best soldiers available. This unit, which varied in size from 40-90 men, was the elite of the cavalry.

*Sacramento, Kentucky December 1861*

Forrest began to display some of the qualities which would make his reputation. He saw where work was to be done and he moved in the direction of the enemy without waiting to be told. Forrest had natural instincts and so, in formation prescribed by regulations and approved by common sense, Forrest's regiment of Cavalry advanced to its first land fight.

A Yankee scouting expedition was reported near with 500 men, a mile south of Sacramento. After an hour's hard ride, Forrest and his Cavalry advanced up to the rear of the Union troopers. When Forrest opened on them, firing the first shot himself, he soon realized that the rest of his men were strung out along the road because of the hard gallop and his unit was not up in sufficient numbers to make a successful fight. Forrest, high upon his horse watched the enemy, while his men on slower horses continued to gallop up



**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP**  
**GENERAL NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST**  
 BY GARY WILLIAMS PG 2



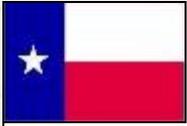
the road from the rear to the sound of the firing. Where upon, with instinctive generalship divided his command and sent some Cavalry around through the woods to the right, another party to the left off the road, and then drew back his center while simultaneously dismounting some of his best men as sharp shooters.

The enemy, as was intended, mistook the movement as a retreat and began to advance into an ambush.

Forrest, with his column up, he saw the signs which told him that his divided position on the flanks were ready to begin the attack. Forrest had placed his troops with skill and cunning and now the time had arrived for the kill. The Union forces broke into retreat as Forrest and his Cavalry charged from the flanks and front. Forrest went into the fight standing "high" in the stirrups, saber raised, with eyes ablaze, headlong he rode into the very forefront of the attack, slashing and shooting a pathway among the demoralized Union troopers, until he struck resistance from a soldier and two Officers. A Yankee Private put a bullet thru his coat collar, Forrest shot him with a pistol shot, just in time to whirl and engage the two officers riding at him with sabers swinging. One he shot and the other he sabered. Forrest charged head-on into a 3<sup>rd</sup> officer coming into the fight and knocked the Yank from his horse. And so it went the fight and pursuit that lasted to, thru, and beyond Sacramento, altogether about three miles.

This was the beginning of many brilliant and successful Cavalry engagements to be witnessed by Forrest and his men in the marches and Bivouacs of two months through the Kentucky countryside. Forrest's men gained confidence in their leader and in themselves by the pure will of their Commander which would govern the impulse of their movements, resulting in the brilliant and dashing affair at Sacramento which cemented their belief in the skills of their leader with Forrest's timing of a "simulated retreat" in front with surprise attack upon the flanks, and then lastly, the thunder bolt charge with everything hurled into a never-let-up, never-slow-down driving fight. Forrest's men saw him demonstrate an instinctive mastery of military principles, which in all probability, he had never heard. And so, there began to grow that great pride of men who could say that they had "Rode with Old Bedford."





**TEXAS IN THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE**  
**CONTRIBUTED BY REAGAN CAMP HISTORIAN**  
**GARY WILLIAMS**



The Battle of Gettysburg was fought from July 1 - 3rd, 1863.

In route to Gettysburg, Hood's Texans were passing through the Pennsylvania town of Chambersburg. The brigade had a "scare crow", ragged appearance. The women in the town lined the front yard fences or leaned out upper story windows, observing and taunting the rebel army as it moved by. Numerous times the name of the regiment or brigade was asked of passing soldiers. When a member of the 5th Texas was asked, he proudly answered, "The Texas Brigade." On hearing the answer one of the ladies turned to the group and loudly announced, "They are the ones who have killed so many of our soldiers."

At 4pm on July 2nd, 1863 Hood's southerners prepared for battle. Their order was to attack the Union on its extreme left which consisted of three prominent rocky defensive positions. They are called Devil's Den, Rocky Ridge and Little Round Top. The Texas Brigade consisting of the 1st, 4th and 5th Texas along with the 3rd Arkansas. Each company of each unit had men collect all the canteens and were ordered to fill them before the battle at a nearby creek. However the order to commence the attack was given before the canteens of water had arrived and thus they moved forward from behind a timbered area that fronted on the Emmetsburg Pike. They moved toward the enemy on a hot, dusty July afternoon with NO water.

The thrust of the attack led Hood's Texans over difficult terrain and over a ridge strewn with large boulders. The fighting was described as intense and desperate. Hood's division ultimately captured Devil's Den which was used as excellent cover for sniping at federal soldiers. They would hold the ground but advance no further. It was one of few southern successes in fighting that day. Hood himself was put out of the battle when shell fragments struck his arm; it would hang useless for the rest of his life.

The Texas brigade pressed on now becoming completely intermingled with other regiments as officers were killed and wounded. Regardless of the entangling command lines and loss of key commanders such as Hood and Robertson, the Texas Brigade, at Gettysburg gave one of its greatest exhibitions of courageous fighting. The 4th and 5th Texas had to pass across the front of a large federal force in order to maintain contact with General Law's Alabama units. The Texans were exposed to destructive and deadly fire as it advanced up the slopes of Little Round Top. The fight here was long and vicious, with much hand to hand struggles. The union defenders, steadily reinforced by fresh troops and having the advantage of position, checked and then beat back the Confederate assault. Rifles grasped in one hand and taking cover from one protruding rock to another, pulling themselves up by saplings and bushes, the tired Texans had fought their way almost to the summit of Little Round Top. Too exhausted to reach their objective, Law's and Robertson's men were either captured or fell back down the slope to regroup. John West, of the 4th Texas, described the rugged terrain over which he and his comrades fought, "It was a mass of rock and sharp boulders amid which only a mountain goat would have had enjoyed". Zack Landrum of the 4th Texas summed up his activities on July 2nd in a letter to his mother. "We had to fight the Yankees on a mountain where it was very steep, with rocks as large as barns. I had gone a considerable distance up that hill when one of them rascals put me to a stand-still by means of a minnie ball through the thigh just above my knee".

The attack was called off as night approached. The four shattered regiments were withdrawn to a belt of timber near the base of Little Round Top. Here a defense line was established. The bitterly contested hill was dotted with bodies of the fallen Texans and Alabamans. During the 2nd day at Gettysburg the Texas boys drove the federals on level ground, but Little Round Top proved too tough a nut to crack.



*Hood*



**TEXAS DIVISION CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE**  
**A MESSAGE FROM REV. DON MAJORS**  
**THE CHARACTER OF ROBERT E. LEE** PG 1 OF 2



At the close of the War of Northern Aggression, some stockholders of a particular business interest, approached the great General Robert E. Lee. They tendered him the presidency of their company. General Lee was without position, property, or income. He regarded the offer as the gain of oppression, and on the ground that he did not understand the business, and did not care to learn it, he modestly (as only General Lee could do) declined the proposition. The stockholders replied to the General, "Sir, no experience is needed. We know how to run the business. We want you as president for the influence of your name. Remember the salary is twenty-five thousand dollars a year." General Lee arose and buttoned his old gray coat over his manly breast and replied, "Gentlemen, my home at Arlington Heights is gone. I am a poor man, and my people are in need. My name and my influence are all I have left, and they are not for sale at any price."



Poverty and wealth are not always what we define them to be. A man can have a single shirt to his back and be rich in character and faith.

General Lee defined himself as a "poor man," but how do we truly define poverty? More importantly, how does God define poverty? Second Corinthians 8:9, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."

There has been a radical shift in this nation. Sadly, the days of General Lee are long gone. Our society today is fostered in an atmosphere of disrupted social order, corruption, and instability. All traces of sensitivity, sentimentality, and sincerity seemingly is gone. The land is in greater poverty today than the Southland of 1865 ever thought about being. This nation is consumed in a poverty of spirit, a poverty of ideas, a poverty of discipline, a poverty of parenthood, and a poverty of respect. I must humbly confess that this nation is starving morally and spiritually. Today, there is a poverty in modesty, a poverty in restraint, and a poverty in sobriety. In fact, exactly, what has happened to modesty? What has happened to restraint? What has happened to sobriety? Our Grandparents and even our parents would go into coronary arrest if they saw the indulgence of this American society today. This society truly has "gone wild." It is blatantly obvious that this society is drawn to the superficial. Thank God that there is still a remnant of good Southern folks who still believe in the Judeo-Christian values and virtues of our forefathers. Some still maintain and keep their moral character. Their handshake and their word is still a firm foundation. What counts in life, someone once said, is what a man believes. If we know what a man believes, then we know what manner of man he is. We Southerners are rich in heritage. We certainly knew what Robert E. Lee believed.



**TEXAS DIVISION CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE**  
**A MESSAGE FROM REV. DON MAJORS**  
**THE CHARACTER OF ROBERT E. LEE** PG 2 OF 2



It is true, in April 1865, General Robert E. Lee was without position, property, or income. As stated, he considered himself to be a "poor man," due to the fact that he was without position, property, or income. However, we must remember that he was a man of integrity, ethics, and spiritual principles. He truly was a man who cared for "his" Southern people. The Southern folks were in need, and he carried that burden on his shoulders. "All I have left is my name, and my influence, and that is all that I have left and it is not for sale." Awesome!

While I watching a commercial the other day, something caught my eye. Of course, people like me are more than likely the only ones who would catch this "politically-correct" commercial. I don't even remember what the commercial was about, and could care less. Remember the show, "The Dukes of Hazzard?" Remember their orange supped-up sports car that they called, "Robert E. Lee" with the Battle Flag on top of their vehicle? Well, in this commercial, the same guys it appears, seem to be driving the orange sports car, but the Battle Flag is gone, and Robert E. Lee is gone.

"They" are doing their best to wipe out General Lee and our Battle Flag, but as long as I draw breath it will never happen. "They" may do their best to erase the General and the flag from American history and heritage, but it will never happen as long as God-fearing Southerners stand up for Southern heritage, Bonnie Blue, and Dixie!!

They had U.S. Grant, Abe Lincoln, and T. Sherman. We had Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, and Jefferson Davis.

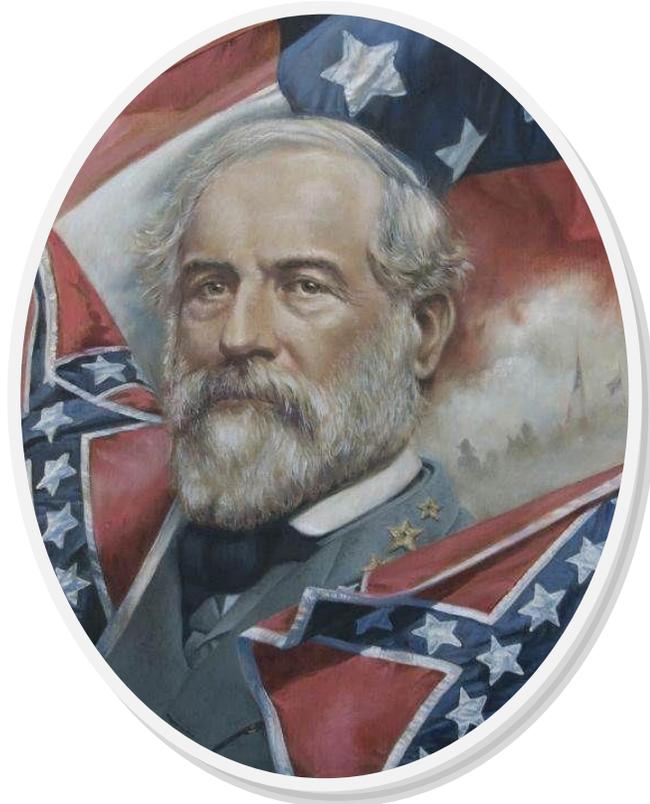
Enough said.

Confederately Yours,

Reverend Don Majors

Texas Division Chaplain

Sons of Confederate Veterans





## CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza had the official opening and dedication on April 13, 2013. It is a beautiful Memorial to the Confederate Veterans. Although it is open for visitors, there is still room along the sidewalks for you to purchase a brick paver in the name of your confederate ancestor. This will ensure that your ancestor's service to the confederacy will not be forgotten, but will be remembered for years to come. If you would like to make a donation for a paver, please contact Dan Dyer at E-mail: [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)