



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2015

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

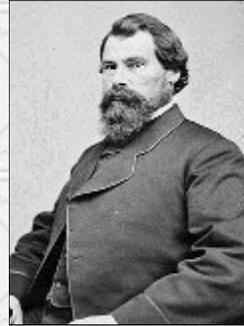
Buck and Bill

Buck and Bill don't seem to have much in common. Buck was a career Army officer who commanded the defenses in Alaska in the early days of World War 2. Bill, from Texas, never met Buck, a native of Kentucky. They took very different paths in life.

Buck was raised in a genteel society as his dad was the Governor of Kentucky and was a one-time candidate for Vice President of the United States! Buck himself was so well thought of, that President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him to the 1908 Class at West Point. Buck was one of the very first leaders of aviator cadets, having been promoted to major in World War 1.

Bill saw a little history himself. He was in the crowd waving to President John F. Kennedy in Fort Worth on that fateful morning on November 22, 1963. There are pictures in the Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas that show the then 8 year-old Bill being lifted above the crowd. Ten years later Bill headed to California to break into show business. He produced a short film shown on Saturday Night Live in 1975, then headed to New York and studied acting at NYU. He got a bit part in the hit movie Stripes (1981), got small roles in The Terminator (1984) and Weird Science (1985), and had a memorable role in Aliens (1986).

Buck was much better known than Bill and



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

continued to shine in the US Army. Buck was promoted to colonel in 1937, became Chief of Staff at Fort Benning, GA, and promoted to Brigadier General in 1940. This was a rapid rise during a time of no war. War was coming though.

Continued on next page

CAMP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of Each Month  
06:30 PM  
Meal served at each meeting.

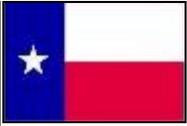
First Christian Church  
113 East Crawford Street  
Palestine, Texas

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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## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP COMMANDER'S DISPATCH PG 2



Buck was promoted to Major General in 1940 and after repelling several invasions of Alaska Buck was promoted to Lieutenant General (three-star) in 1943. Buck was a soldier's general in that he wanted to be with the troops in the field. This ultimately caused Buck to give the ultimate sacrifice. He was killed on Okinawa by Japanese artillery, evidently targeting his jeep with his three-star flag toward the end of the war, June 18, 1945. The nation mourned as the highest ranking officer of the US to be killed in action in World War 2 was laid to rest. Buck was so well thought of in his country, that by a Special Act of Congress July 19, 1954, Buck was posthumously promoted to the rank of General (four-star).

Bill succeeded in his own right. You know him today as the star of The History Channel's mini-series on Texas, "Texas Rising." Bill plays Sam Houston. Bill is Bill Paxton, an actual relative of Sam Houston.

So what do Bill and Buck have in common? In a day that our Confederate heroes are maligned, it is a fact that many of the most outstanding personalities of our present-day United States descend from Confederate heroes. Bill Paxton is the great-great-grandson of Confederate Brigadier General Elisha "Bull" Paxton, one-time commander of the Stonewall Brigade, killed May 3, 1863 at the Battle of Chancellorsville. General Robert E. Lee wired President Jefferson Davis in Richmond saying, "We have to thank Almighty God for a great victory. I regret to state that Gen'l Paxton was killed."

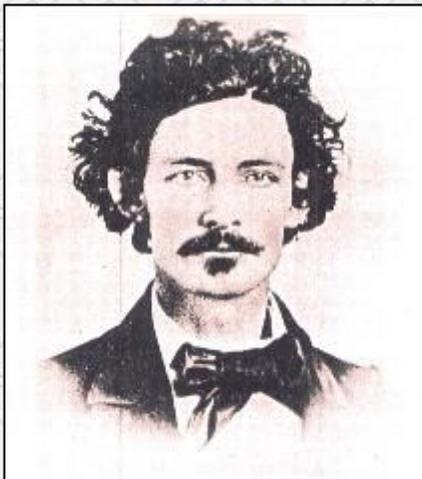
LT General Simon B. "Buck" Buckner was the son of LT General Simon Bolivar Buckner, Confederate States Army. Two fine men, descendants of two Confederate heroes. Like it or not America 2015, some of your most outstanding people of contemporary America descended from Confederate heroes. As for myself, I like it very much.

David Franklin



### 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



At left: Hiram Bronson Granbury—was born in Copiah County, Ms. and moved to Texas in the 1850s. He established himself in Waco and studied law. Commissioned Brigadier General on Feb 29, 1864 and led the 10th Texas through the Atlanta campaign and into Tennessee with John Bell Hood. Granbury died at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee on November 30, 1864 along with Gen. Patrick Cleburne within a few feet of the Federal breastworks.

Courtesy of Library of Congress

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 12—Texas Division Executive Committee meeting  
Open to all SCV members  
Ray's Southern Kitchen, Lorena, Texas

Sept 17-20—Major Battles War Reenactment  
Hallsville, Texas  
[www.battleofortcrawford.com](http://www.battleofortcrawford.com)

Sept. 24-27-Battle of Pea Ridge Reenactment  
Pea Ridge, Arkansas  
[www.battleofpearidge.com](http://www.battleofpearidge.com)



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)

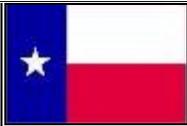
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

"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 JUNE 2015



We had 23 in attendance at the June meeting. We had a meal which consisted of pizza, fried chicken, fresh purple hull peas, home made potato salad, home grown tomatoes and onions and peppers.

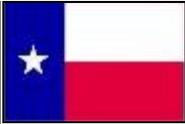


For dessert we had chocolate cobbler. If you missed it, you really missed some good food.



The John H. Reagan newsletter was awarded the “Best Newsletter Award” at the State Convention for the second year in a row! Editor Dwight Franklin said, “The entire camp has contributed to the success of this award. We have excellent articles contributed by several of our camp members, and it really helps make it a great newsletter. Thanks to all who helped.”

Above: Commander David Franklin presents the “Best Newsletter Award” to Dwight Franklin during the June meeting. Dwight said, “I very much appreciate this award. It was really a surprise, because there are some excellent newsletters out there. All of them are winners in my book.”



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP PARTICIPATES IN THE GUICELAND CEMETERY MEMORIAL



John H. Reagan Camp Commander, David Franklin, presented the message to all those who attended the Guiceland Cemetery Homecoming on May 31, 2015.



### Southern Hospitality...

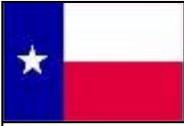
Not a tangible thing, but an attitude which has been ingrained in southerners forever.  
It's a feeling of being sincerely welcomed as a guest or a long lost friend; a way of life that lets people be as warm as the climate.  
It's an easiness in speaking with total strangers or anyone, a unique friendliness encompassing the whole way of life in the deep south.

It's not something one does,  
it's the way one is.  
Bee Jackson

Cameron & Callyn Corpus (Grandsons of Reagan Camp Commander David Franklin) wear their kepi's as they look at the Reagan Camp Cannon at the Guiceland Memorial. Compatriots Marc Robinson, Calvin Nicholson, Gary Gibson & Frank Moore attend the cannon. The members of Guiceland Cemetery regularly request that the Reagan Camp help them with their annual memorial. There are several Confederate Veterans buried here, and it is an privilege to help honor them.

Pictured at right is the grave of Cameron & Callyn Corpus' Great-Great-Great-Grandfather. His grave is located in the Guiceland Cemetery in Houston County, Texas.

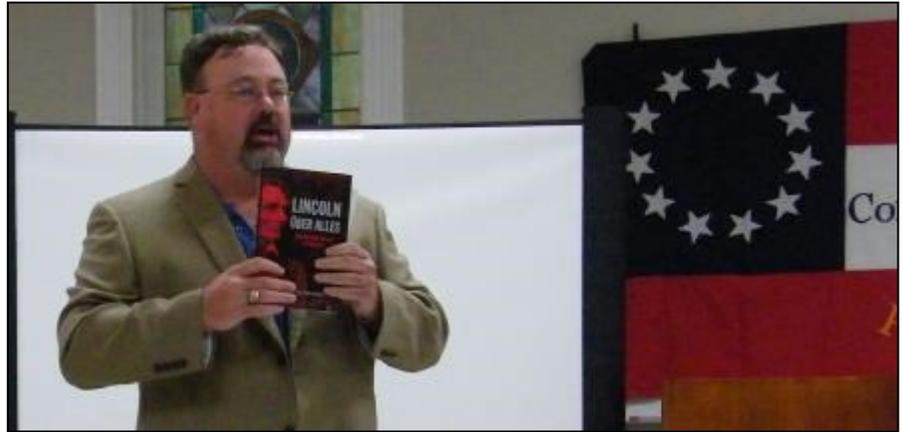




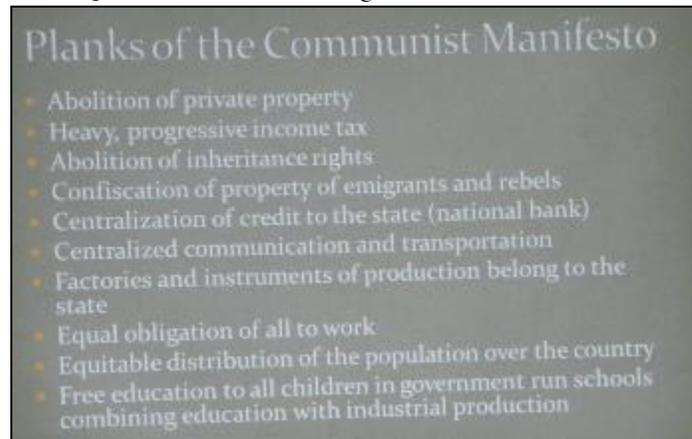
## HISTORICAL PROGRAM LINCOLN AND THE '48ERS BY KIRT BARNETT PG 1



The Reagan Camp was privileged to have Mr. Kirt Barnett as the guest speaker at the June meeting. Kirt brought a historical presentation on "Lincoln and the 48ers". In his presentation, he explained to us that Lincoln was far from what most people think. He was an excellent lawyer who worked for the Illinois Central Railroad. Kirt told us that Lincoln was the highest paid attorney in the United States. He mentioned



that Lincoln was paid \$8,000 for one particular case. This was an enormous amount of money for that time period. Kirt explained how Lincoln aligned himself with the 48ers, which was a communist group from Europe.



A picture of his PowerPoint slide "Planks of the Communist Manifesto" is pictured to the left.

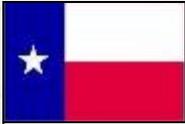
Some may ask how Lincoln connected to the 48ers. He was the leading attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad. The railroad had an immense amount of land obtained from the federal government. The railroad also had land agents working for them and the states. These agents recruited thousands of settlers for the new open land. Between 1856-1857, they brought 411,000 settlers to Illinois which were mostly Germans and

Austrians. By 1860, there were 130,000 Germans living in Chicago and huge numbers also lived in Milwaukee and Cincinnati. Thus the mid-west became inundated with these newcomers. In 1854, the Republican Party was formed. Many former '48ers were drawn into this new political party, because it was one they felt they could impact with it's founding. Many felt they were on a cultural mission to perfect their new, adopted country. They hated the old social order and hated what they called the "Sabbathism" (Church influence) in government. They opposed regional interest and political subdivisions in favor of a centralized power. They stood against states' rights and supported the "International Mind of Social Democracy". They saw the U.S. as becoming the center of a new world revolution.

So how did the '48ers have influence in America? By 1860, '48ers controlled half the German newspapers in the U.S. These newspapers were located in most large cities where there were significant German populations including Texas' San Antonio and Fredricksburg. They were so influential that Lincoln himself bought a German newspaper in Illinois called the Staatsan Zeiger (meaning: Press for All).

Things were very different in the election of 1860, because one did not have to be a citizen to vote in the election. Each state decided their own voting qualifications. In order to vote in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, you only had to promise to become a citizen eventually. Many other states only required residency for a predetermined amount of time.

-Continued on next page-



# HISTORICAL PROGRAM LINCOLN AND THE '48ERS

BY KIRT BARNETT PG 2



Fred Schwarz was a delegate and member of the Republican National Convention that nominated Lincoln. Schwarz said he spoke for 300,000 German American voters who would block vote for Lincoln if he were the Presidential Candidate. Being the smart lawyer that Lincoln was, he had found a way to be a strong candidate. He knew that he didn't have to get all the votes. He just had to get the most, and it was a huge advantage to have a block of voters this large in his corner. Another strong supporter for Lincoln was '48er Fredrich Kapp. He was a Republican Elector for Lincoln who had only been in the United States for ten years. Interestingly, Kapp said that America would occupy a higher place once it got rid of Christianity.



**Impact of the German vote in 1860**  
Lincoln is the only president to be elected with less than 40% of the popular vote.

States	Electoral Votes	Estimated German Vote	Majority over Douglas	Results without German vote
Illinois	11	45,300	12,000	Loss by 33,300
Indiana	13	26,000	24,000	Loss by 2,000
Iowa	4	21,000	15,300	Loss by 5,700
Michigan	6	33,400	23,400	Loss by 10,000
Minnesota	4	12,000	10,000	Loss by 2,000
Ohio	23	65,900	44,300	Loss by 21,600
Wisconsin	5	56,000	21,000	Loss by 35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>259,600</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>Loss of Election</b>

Lincoln is the only president to be elected with less than 40% of the popular vote. Many of the votes he received came from the '48ers within the German voters. They changed the outcome of the election, even though many of them were not even citizens of the United States. At that time you didn't have to be a citizen to vote, and by allowing non-citizens the right to vote, it had a huge impact on the election. The picture to the left is a chart that shows the impact of the German vote in 1860.

We have seen time and again that history often repeats itself. Although Lincoln wasn't a member of the '48ers,

he saw a way to use them to help himself get elected as President. It worked great for him. We see politicians today using everything that they can to try to get an advantage to allow them to be elected. What Lincoln saw was a way to allow him to be president, which was a short term dream. But the Socialist '48ers, were in it for a much longer march.

They were in it to press onward with their ideals against ours. They were for the centralization against states rights. They were in favor of communism against Capitalism, and in favor of Atheism against Christianity.

These "48ers" were in for the long haul and patiently took each step offered them. They are still marching today. The question is, ARE YOU?



**The LONG MARCH**

- This isn't only about what 150 years ago.
- Remember history doesn't happen in a vacuum. Neither does the present.
- It's about what Marxists refer to as the Long March. It is the ever pressing onward of their ideals against ours.

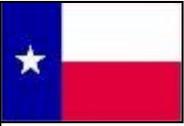
Of centralization against states rights.  
Of communism against Capitalism.  
Of Atheism against Christianity.

They are still marching.

Are you?

( information obtained for this article was from Kirt Barnett's lesson)

(slides are the property of Kirt Barnett)

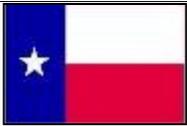


## SCV Sesquicentennial National Heritage Rally Shreveport, La May 30, 2015



Below are some pictures of the SCV Sesquicentennial National Heritage Rally that was held in Shreveport on May 30, 2015. The pictures below show members of the John H. Reagan Camp of Palestine and the Howdy Martin Camp of Athens. We appreciate these men putting forth the effort to attend and show their support for our ancestors. There were estimated to have been about 300 SCV members who attended the event.





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



**(THIS IS THE COMPLETION OF THE SERIES WHICH STARTED LAST MONTH)**

**STRATEGICALLY POSITIONED**

This map shows just how strategically positioned Fauquier County was...you can see the major battles identified all within a 50 mile radius of Warrenton. It would become no-man’s and as the armies passed through the beautiful countryside. For the first three years of the war, the Rappahannock River (which forms the southwest line of Fauquier County) was the dividing line between the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac. Many campaigns were launched from or through Fauquier County...Warrenton would change hands no less than 67 times and the town frequently became the headquarters for Union commanders including McClellan, Pope and Meade.

The Black Horse – farm boys like James Keith - knew this country like the back of their hand...and Confederate commanders eagerly sought Black Horse troopers as guides and scouts because of their knowledge of Northern Virginia.

Jeb Stuart once remarked that the Black Horse were *“among his best”* and that he always counted on them *“in emergencies”*...on one occasion he told General James Longstreet to, *“Send to it, and you will be furnished with a guide to any point in Virginia.”* It was once said that criticizing Stuart was like trying to find spots on the sun...so coming from a man like Stuart – that is no small compliment! General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson soon discovered what good stuff the Black Horse was composed of and during the Second

Manassas Campaign in the summer of 1862, the company was detailed as Stonewall’s personal escort, scouts and couriers.

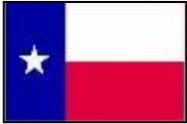
**RETURN TO BULL RUN**

Robert E. Lee’s maneuvering against Pope in the Second Manassas Campaign is considered a military masterpiece... in many respects it is considered the greatest campaign of the Army of Northern Virginia. In true Lee-Jackson form the Confederates violated accepted military doctrine and divided their forces in the face of superior numbers.

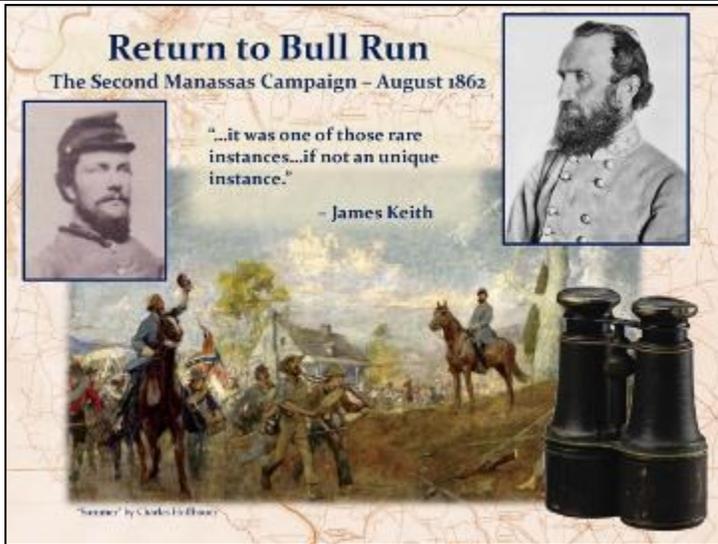
The Black Horse cavalry led Jackson and 24,000 men on a daring 50-mile march through their home turf, in little more than a day, to cut the Yankees supply lines...Jackson then took up a defensive position at Manassas and was attacked by Pope, who was in turn surprised and attacked on the flank from the west by Longstreet’s wing of the Confederate Army in a crushing victory.

The key to their success, of course, was the timing of Longstreet’s arrival...any delay in re-uniting the Confederate strength could have resulted in disaster, as

Jackson alone was heavily outnumbered. The Black Horse had perhaps the most important role of any individual unit in the Confederate Army here...not only were they personal escort and scouts for Jackson’s march, but about half of the men were sent back to guide Lee and Longstreet to Jackson’s position. They were absolutely key to the whole strategy here.



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



**RETURN TO BULL RUN – AN UNIQUE INSTANCE**  
 James Keith was riding with Stonewall and he remembered the events this way...

“The great battle of Manassas was at its crisis on Friday morning, August 29th. Jackson had been attacked in force. Our left flank was threatened at Sudley Mills, our right at Gainesville, and our center assailed with great violence. The situation was indeed critical; Longstreet’s corps had been delayed at Thoroughfare Gap, and its arrival was awaited with great anxiety which General Jackson plainly shared. He rode a little to the rear of his line and took a position commanding a view of the road to Thoroughfare. At short intervals couriers were rushed off to find Longstreet’s position and to make known to him the peril of Jackson’s corps.”...

“The point at which Jackson stopped was just within the line of fire of a battery of the enemy; the shells came thick and fast, ricocheting down the little slope close to him as he sat upon his horse, with his field glasses glued to his eyes, watching for the approach of Longstreet.”

“Realizing the danger of the position, I rode up to him, and said, with some misgivings, “General, if you will move a little to the left we will be fairly safe; if you remain here the chances are that some of us will be hurt.”

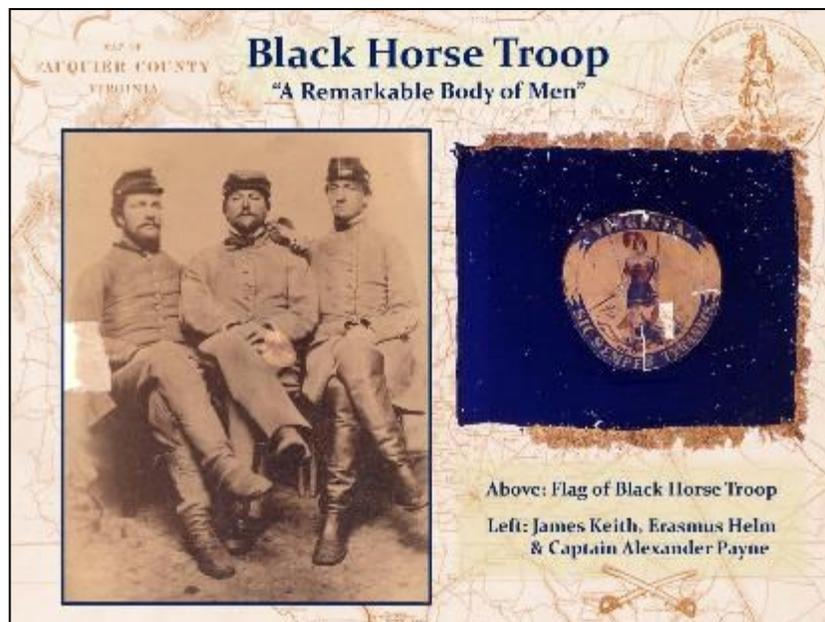
“He looked at me from under his cap, made no reply, but pressed his leg against the side of his horse, and moved a few yards to the left.”

“Soon the dust clouds began to rise in the direction of Thoroughfare, the glint of bright muskets and bayonets flashed in the sunlight, Longstreet’s artillery rushed into action, the peril was passed and the day was won.”

“This was one of those rare instances – if not an unique instance – in which a private soldier presumed to give good advice, which a great general was wise enough to accept.”

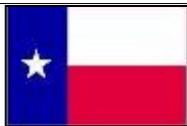
I don’t know about you, but I would imagine that Jackson wasn’t the only one peering through his field glasses that day in search of Longstreet...and I would be willing to bet that James Keith also got a good look at the lead elements of Longstreet’s columns approaching from the west that day...through the lenses of these very field glasses right here.

\*The photo to the right is believed to have been taken just prior to Second Manassas...the gentleman seated in the center, Private Erasmus Helm, was killed while holding General Jackson’s horse during the battle.

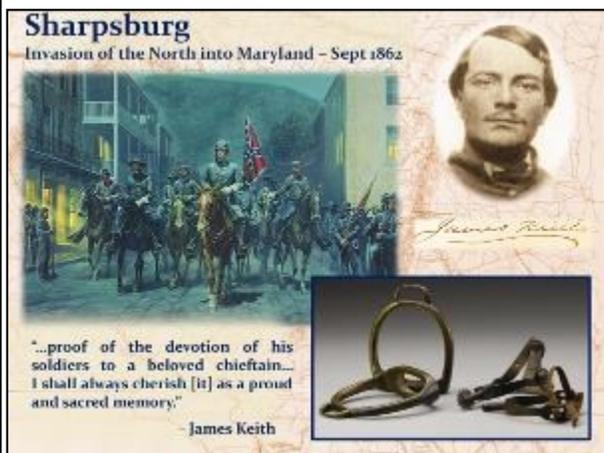


Above: Flag of Black Horse Troop

Left: James Keith, Erasmus Helm & Captain Alexander Payne



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



### SHARPSBURG

The victory at Second Manassas, paved the way for Lee's first invasion of the north...which would of course culminate at the Battle of Sharpsburg on Antietam Creek in Maryland in Sept. 1862.

The Black Horse troop continued in their role on “detached duty” with Stonewall... their very important and dangerous assignment included protecting the General as they moved north through enemy territory.

Following the great battle at Sharpsburg, which we all know was the bloodiest single day of combat in the entire war, James Keith told of another remarkable encounter...

“After the strain and stress of the Sharpsburg Campaign, Jackson was almost completely exhausted, physically, as we were returning from Maryland...”

“I was riding immediately behind General Jackson, and noticed that he was swaying in his saddle. Riding closer to him, I saw that he was fast asleep. Calling to one of my comrades to ride at his left side, I put my hand under his right arm, and supporting him thus, we rode a long distance, thus rendering him a service of which he was wholly unconscious, but which was proof of the devotion of his soldiers to a beloved chieftain, and I shall always cherish the incident as a proud and sacred memory.”

### CHANCELLORSVILLE

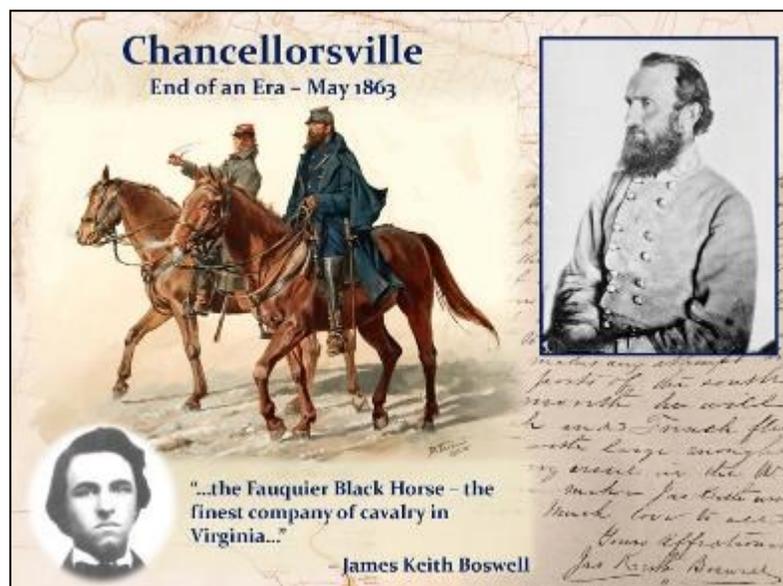
Sadly the Black Horse Troops days with Stonewall Jackson would end with the mortal wounding of their beloved General the following Spring, during Jackson's night reconnaissance at Chancellorsville in May 1863.

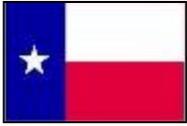
It is not completely clear who all accompanied Jackson on his fateful ride along the plank road that night, but some accounts record as many as a half dozen Black Horse troopers among those who rode with Jackson and A P Hill into the woods.

One thing that is certain...one of the men who was killed that night by the same volleys that wounded Stonewall was Jackson's chief engineer...a bright young man named Captain James Keith Boswell – Boswell was James Keith's cousin.

Boswell was riding as A P Hill's guide and was killed instantly when the volleys rang out in the darkness that night. After his body was carried from the battlefield it was turned over to his brother William S. Boswell also of the Black Horse troop...a letter addressed to his mother was found in his coat pocket...it told of recent events and his belief in the inevitable victory of the Confederacy...he also listed the names of friends and relatives, “William Skinner, James Keith, P. Keith Boswell, Opp Clopton, Marshal and James Fleming are all in the Fauquier Black Horse – the finest company of cavalry in Virginia...”

And indeed they were the finest in Virginia...





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



**TO APPOMATTOX** After the death of Stonewall Jackson the Black Horse returned to regular duty with the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry as part of Fitz Lee’s Division of Stuart’s Cavalry. For the sake of time tonight we won’t go into detail on their late-war encounters, but will just mention a few highlights here to say that the remaining years of the war were particularly hard on them...

They were cut to pieces at Brandy Station in what was remembered as the darkest day in the history of the Black Horse

Between Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor they were under fire 27 out of 30 days and suffered 50% casualties.

James Keith would be promoted to adjutant of the regiment in 1864...and he and several others would find opportunity to return home on detached duty where they rode with the famous 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Mosby’s Rangers.

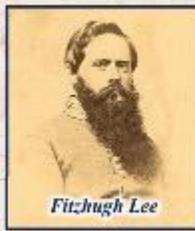
The inevitable victory that Cousin Boswell had believed in would not come to fruition...and the Black Horse though depleted in numbers would remain an integral part of the Army of Northern Virginia until it was forced to yield to “overwhelming numbers and resources” at Appomattox.

### POST WAR YEARS

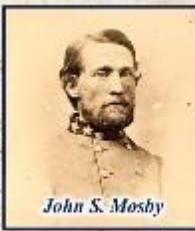
James Keith survived the war and returned to the county of his birth – *a county desolated by war, its manhood depleted, poverty, mourning and anguish everywhere...but, in the words of a good friend, James Keith, “with an inborn, rugged manhood, developed by 4 years of ‘agony and bloody sweat’, he resolutely turned his face to the future with courageous resolution to rehabilitate, to rebuild and to reconstruct.”*

### To Appomattox: 1863 - 1865

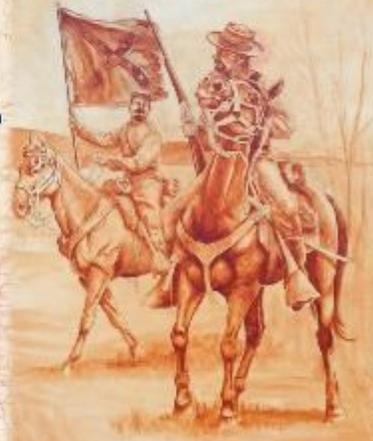
- “Regular Duty”; Fitz Lee’s Division
- Heavy Losses at Brandy Station
- 50% Casualties at Spotsylvania
- Keith promoted to Adjutant of the 4th
- Rode with Mosby’s Rangers
- Charge against Sheridan at Appomattox Court House



Fitzhugh Lee



John S. Mosby



### Post War Years

**James Keith Lawyer & Judge**

- Law partners with Col. John S. Mosby
- House of Delegates; elected 1869
- Moved to “Brentmoor”; sold to Mosby in 1875
- 1870; elected Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit







Brentmoor, Warrenton, Va

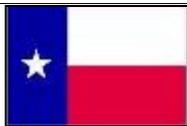
He resumed his legal studies and formed a law partnership with none other than Col. John S. Mosby.

Their law practice succeeded and in 1869, Keith was elected to the House of Delegates of Virginia and served effectively in the Legislature in the 1869-70 session.

About that time he moved into this Italian Villa style house, known as “Brentmoor”...which still stands in Warrenton today. He subsequently sold the house to his friend and partner Mosby in 1875.

At the age of 30, James was elected by the General Assembly as Judge of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit...he was the youngest judge in the State. Mosby was quoted to say that, *“age has nothing to do with it...the man was born to be a judge.”*

The 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit was made up of Fauquier, Loudon, Prince William, Fairfax, Rappahannock and Alexandria Counties...all of these had been alternately occupied by the Confederate and Union Armies, and much of it drenched with blood. Many legal questions growing out of these conditions of war and occupation came before Judge Keith for decision...many of these questions were without legal precedent in this country if not in the English-speaking world.



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

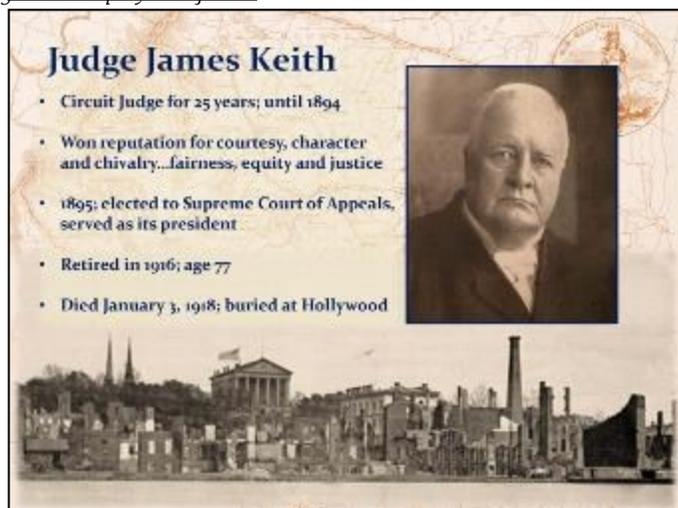


**UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS** During the post-war years, James was an active member in the United Confederate Veterans organization ...which was formed in 1889 to assist Confederate widows, orphans and disabled veterans. He was a member of the Joe Kendall Camp of the U.C.V., at Warrenton.

Here we have several of his reunion badges and buttons...this red and white one is from the Jun 1917 UCV reunion...there are two 1907 medals (one specific to the Veteran Cavalry Association of the ANV)...and one here from 1900 related to his membership in Company H of the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry.

**JUDGE JAMES KEITH** Keith served as circuit judge for almost 25 years, until 1894. He had become one of the most loved men in Virginia.

He won reputation as a *“gentleman, full of courtesy, character and chivalry...and he was known for reaching sound conclusions with fairness, equity and justice.”*



He retired from the Supreme Court in 1916...

He died January 3, 1918 and is buried in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery...among hundreds of our Confederate heroes.

Truly a remarkable man. He followed the feather of Jeb Stuart in what was called *“one of the most gallant, serviceable, and picturesque contingents of the Army of Northern Virginia.”*

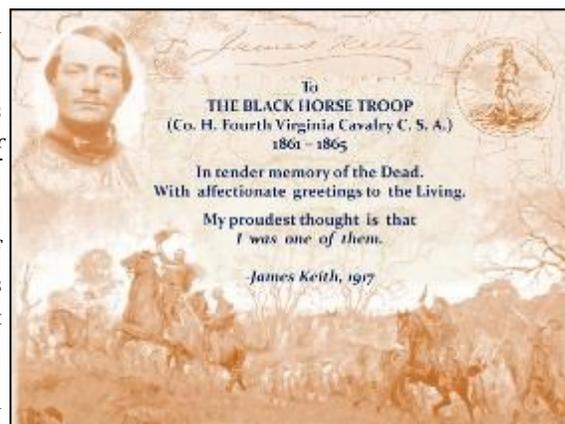
\*Near the end of his life, in 1917, Judge Keith published a little volume of his speeches and addresses, which he distributed as souvenirs among his friends...I was fortunate to find an original copy in an antique bookstore just a few months ago— it is fascinating reading.

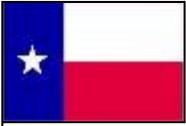
**CONCLUSION** His dedication of this little volume concludes the program tonight, he wrote: “To the Black Horse Troop –In tender memory of the dead – with affectionate greetings to the living –My proudest thought is that I was one of them.”

The respect and confidence he won made him a key figure in re-establishing law and order in a community so recently racked by war.

In 1895 he was elected to an even higher office by the Virginia Legislature as a member of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia...of which he became president...and he served in that capacity for nearly 20 years.

One incident in particular bears a remarkable tribute to the character of this man and judge...there was a certain case that Keith had heard earlier in his career as a trial judge...counsel on both sides of the case subsequently requested that he now review his own decision at the appellate level. Their good judgement that he would review it with impartiality was thoroughly vindicated, for Judge Keith in a very able and convincing opinion reversed his own decision in the circuit court.





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP BATTLES OF THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI BY GARY WILLIAMS PG 1



### The Battle of Franklin:

The Battle of Franklin was fought on November 30, 1864, at Franklin, Tennessee, as part of the Franklin–Nashville Campaign of the American Civil War. It was one of the worst disasters of the war for the Confederate States Army. Confederate Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee conducted numerous frontal assaults against fortified positions occupied by the Union forces under Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield and was unable to break through or to prevent Schofield from a planned, orderly withdrawal to Nashville.

The Confederate assault of six infantry divisions containing eighteen brigades with 100 regiments numbering almost 20,000 men, sometimes called the "Pickett's Charge of the West", resulted in devastating losses to the men and the leadership of the Army of Tennessee—fourteen Confederate generals (six killed or mortally wounded, seven wounded, and one captured) and 55 regimental commanders were casualties.

The Army of Tennessee retreated with barely half the men with which it had begun the short offensive, and was effectively destroyed as a fighting force for the remainder of the war.

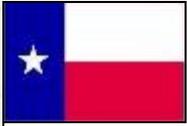
The plan was; Hood decided that he would attempt a major offensive northward, even though his invading force of 39,000 would be outnumbered by the 60,000 Union troops in Tennessee. He would move north into Tennessee, defeat portions of Thomas's army in detail before they could concentrate, seize the important manufacturing and supply center of Nashville, and continue north into Kentucky, possibly as far as the Ohio River.

Now that Hood had outflanked him by noon on November 29, Schofield's army was in critical danger.

In the Battle of Spring Hill that afternoon and night, Hood had a golden opportunity to intercept and destroy the Union troops and their supply wagons, as his forces had already reached the turnpike separating the Union forces by nightfall. However, because of a series of command failures along with Hood's premature confidence that he had trapped Schofield, the Confederates failed to stop or even inflict much damage to the Union forces during the night. Both the Union infantry and supply train managed to pass Spring Hill unscathed by dawn on November 30, and soon occupied the town of Franklin 12 miles to the north. That morning, Hood was surprised and furious to discover Schofield's unexpected escape. After an angry conference with his subordinate commanders in which he blamed everyone but himself for the mistakes, Hood ordered his army to resume its pursuit north to Franklin.

Schofield's advance guard arrived in Franklin at about 4:30 a.m. on November 30, after a forced march north from Spring Hill and immediately began preparing strong defensive positions around the deteriorated entrenchments originally constructed for a previous engagement in 1863.

- Continued on next page -



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP BATTLES OF THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI BY GARY WILLIAMS PG 2



By noon the Union works were ready. The line formed an approximate semicircle around the town, from northwest to southeast.

The actual earthworks on the southern portion of the line were formidable. Attacking infantry would be confronted by a ditch about four feet wide and two–three feet deep, then a wall of earth and wooden fence rails four feet above the normal ground level, and finally a trench three–four feet deep in which the defenders stood, aiming their weapons through narrow "head gaps" formed by logs. In the southeast portion of the line, Osage-orange shrubs formed almost impenetrable abatis. Just behind the center of the line stood the Carter House, just east of the pike was the Carter cotton gin building, around which a minor salient occurred in the Union earthworks.

Fort Granger, built in 1863 as an artillery position northeast of the town, that would sweep the field of attack.

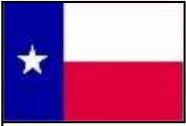
As Hood approached, Schofield initially assumed the Confederates were demonstrating as they had at Columbia, planning to cross the Harpeth and turn the Union position. He did not suspect that Hood would be rash enough to attack the strong defensive line.

Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood . . . . "I hereupon decided, before the enemy would be able to reach his stronghold at Nashville, to make that same afternoon another and final effort to overtake and rout him, and drive him in the Big Harpeth river at Franklin, since I could no longer hope to get between him and Nashville, by reason of the short distance from Franklin to that city, and the advantage which the Federals enjoyed in the possession of the direct road."

Hood ordered a frontal assault in the dwindling afternoon light—sunset would be at 4:34 p.m. that day—against the Union force, a decision that caused dismay among his top generals. Nathan Bedford Forrest argued unsuccessfully that if he were given a division of infantry to accompany his cavalry, he could flank Schofield out of his position "within an hour." Frank Cheatham told Hood, "I do not like the looks of this fight; the enemy has an excellent position and is well fortified." But Hood countered that he would rather fight a Federal force that had only a few hours to build defenses, instead of Nashville where "they have been strengthening themselves for three years." Patrick Cleburne observed the enemy fortifications as being formidable, but he told the commanding general that he would either take the enemy's works or fall in the attempt. He later remarked to Brig. Gen. Daniel C. Govan, "Well, Govan, if we are to die, let us die like men."

Some popular histories assert that Hood acted rashly in a fit of rage, resentful that the Federal army had slipped past his troops the night before at Spring Hill and that he wanted to discipline his army by ordering them to assault against strong odds. Recent scholarship by Eric Jacobson discounts this as unlikely, as it was not only militarily foolish, but Hood was observed to be determined, not angry, by the time he arrived in Franklin.

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## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP BATTLES OF THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI BY GARY WILLIAMS PG 3



Regardless of Hood's personal motivations, his specific objective was to try to crush Schofield before he and his troops could escape to Nashville.

The Union's momentary inability to defend the opening in the works caused a weak spot in its line at the Columbia Pike from the Carter House to the cotton gin.

Firing continued around the Carter house and gardens for hours.

Their attack near the cotton gin was driven back from the breastworks and was then subjected to devastating cross fire.

Cleburne was killed in the attack and 14 of his brigade and regimental commanders were casualties.

That some Union troops were armed with Spencer and Henry repeating rifles added to the otherwise considerable advantages of the defenders. Near the Carter House, 350 men of the 12th Kentucky and 65th Illinois fired 16-shot, lever-action Henry rifles, the predecessors to the Winchester repeating rifle. These rifles, capable of at least 10 shots per minute, gave these men several times more firepower than typical infantrymen with the more common muzzle-loading rifle-muskets.

The annals of war may long be searched for a parallel to the desperate valor of the charge of the Army of Tennessee at Franklin, a charge which has been called "the greatest drama in American history." Perhaps its only rival for macabre distinction would be Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. A comparison of the two may be of interest. Pickett's total loss at Gettysburg was 1,354; at Franklin the Army of Tennessee lost over 6,000 dead and wounded. Pickett's charge was made after a volcanic artillery preparation of two hours had battered the defending line. Hood's army charged without any preparation. Pickett's charge was across an open space of perhaps a mile. The advance at Franklin was for two miles in the open, in full view of the enemy's works, and exposed to their fire. The defenders at Gettysburg were protected only by a stone wall. Schofield's men at Franklin had carefully constructed works, with trench and parapet. Pickett's charge was totally repulsed. The charge of Brown and Cleburne penetrated deep into the breastworks, to part of which they clung until the enemy retired. Pickett, once repelled, retired from the field. The Army of Tennessee renewed their charge, time after time. Pickett survived his charge unscathed. Cleburne was killed, and eleven other general officers were killed, wounded or captured. "Pickett's charge at Gettysburg" has come to be a synonym for unflinching courage in the raw. The slaughter-pen at Franklin even more deserves the gory honor.





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



Aqaba, Jordan. July 6, 1917

Aqaba in 1917 was impregnable. Any enemy vessel approaching the port would have to face the battery of huge naval guns above the town. Behind Aqaba in every direction lay barren, waterless, inhospitable desert. To the east lay the deadly anvil of the sun. The Turks believed Aqaba to be safe from any attack. They were wrong.

Lawrence of Arabia led a force of irregular Arab Calvary across the "anvil of the sun." They rallied the support of the local people. On July 6, 1917, the Arab forces swept into Aqaba from the north, from the blind side. They galloped on camels and horses past the gigantic naval guns. The guns were facing the wrong direction. As a result, Aqaba fell. The Turkish hold on Palestine was broken, and was replaced by British Mandate, and eventually by the State of Israel.

The Turks failed to defend Aqaba because they made two mistakes:

First, they did not know their enemy.

Second, they did not have the right weapons.

I have been a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and a member of the Texas Division SCV since the early 1990's. I love and respect this awesome historical-heritage organization. I had 26 family members that fought for our Cause. I still feel as though it is my duty and right to still fight for this organization that I love so much. As an ordained minister and pastor for 26 years, I believe it is my duty to also fight for this organization upon my knees. Please forgive my boldness, but I believe I have to ask some questions to my fellow compatriots.

Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will we (you) lose the battle, or will we (you) win the battle? Are your guns facing the right direction or the wrong direction? Do you know who your enemy is?



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



Will you be blindsided? Aqaba lost the battle (again) for two simple but strategic reasons. First, they did not know their enemy. Second, they did not have the right weapons pointed the right direction.

Are we so busy facing our guns on one another that we don't see the enemy advancing from the "north?" Lawrence of Arabia and the Arab forces swept into Aqaba from the "north." (Excuse the pun) The message is clear. YOU CANNOT win the battle if you have your guns pointed at one another. You cannot win the battle if you are not together in the CAUSE. The enemy from the "north" still wants to destroy us. They are probably enjoying the show right about now. Will we let them or will we implode from within?

The Bible speaks very clear regarding the subject of dissention and division. The Bible also speaks about authority and leadership. It is true. A house divided against itself will not stand. I really don't care who made the quote famous. It still holds valid even today. Let's point our guns in the right direction by standing together instead of standing against one another.

"Truly, these times of ignorance, God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30

God Bless Dixie.

God Bless the Texas Division.

Deo Vindice,

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.



## 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

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)