



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

# THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 7

JULY 2015

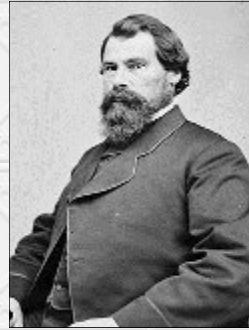
## COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

The screaming headlines today that are battling for domination seem to be redefining marriage, police brutality, and removing all vestiges of anything Confederate from our culture. There may be a common denominator in these three, but I will not examine that at this point. I will, however, address the removal of all things Confederate from our national psyche.

I am proud of my Confederate heritage. I think my ancestors were doing what they thought was right. I have no doubt they had a legal, Constitutional right to secede. Whether that was the smartest or best thing long-term to do is another issue, but I have no doubt they were within their legal rights to do so. Although slavery was an issue, I do not think it was the dominant issue for either the North or the South. If we as descendants of

Confederate military men and government leaders do not uphold our heritage and proclaim the legitimacy of what our ancestors did, I do not see who will. And if we lose battles, it does not mean we quit the fight.

In our SCV charge, we quote LT GEN Stephen D. Lee. Although General Lee was inspiring, he was not the only one who expressed similar sentiments. Our own John H. Reagan: "To the patriots, who in the council and on the field, pledged life and fortune to the Cause of the Confederate States of America; to the Daughters of the Confederacy, who, endowed with the self-sacrificing virtues of their noble mothers, are doing so much for the preservation and perpetuation of the true history of the causes and conduct of the War



**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

between the States; and to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, upon whom devolves the grave duty of vindicating their fathers against the calumny of rebellion and treason, and upon whose wisdom and patriotism largely rests the hope of this great Republic."

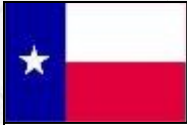
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## CAMP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of Each Month  
06:30 PM  
Snacks and drinks served at each meeting.  
First Christian Church  
113 East Crawford Street  
Palestine, Texas  
Turn north on N. Sycamore St. off of Spring St. (Hwy 19, 84,& 287) (across from UP train station) travel three blocks, turn right on Crawford St., go one block Church is on left  
Guests are welcome!  
Bring the family.

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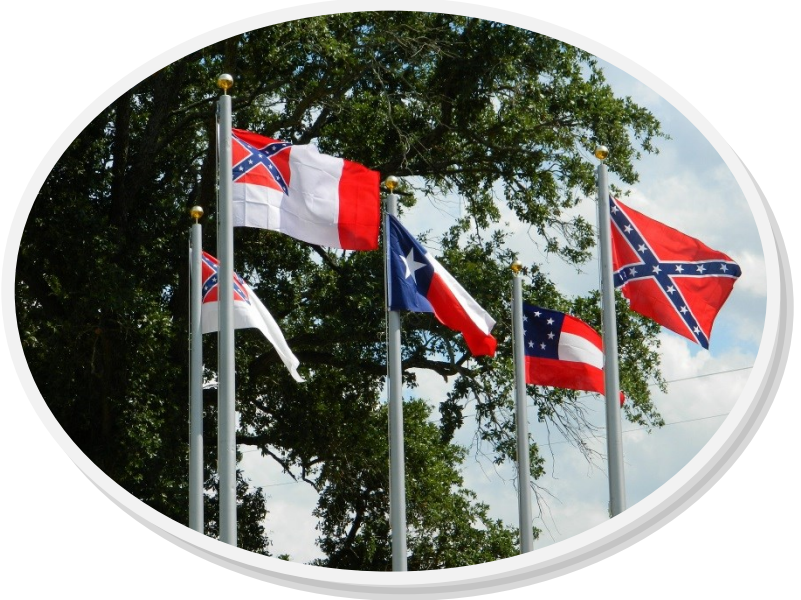
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## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP COMMANDER'S DISPATCH BY DAVID FRANKLIN PG 2

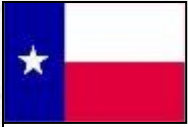


Mr. Reagan, says we are to “vindicate.” Vindicate indicates to “clear from guilt, accusation, or blame...to defend or justify.” I believe we have every right to be proud of our Confederate ancestors and what they did with so little. Let the popular opinion of our country say what it will, we must unapologetically defend the good name of the Confederate soldier. I could say much about what I believe to be the error of the North and many of its leaders, but I choose rather to focus on the honor of the South.



I could say much here about what I see as the sad deterioration of the moral fiber of my country, but I choose rather to focus on doing my best for “me and my house.” Come what may, the Confederacy will not be forgotten nor will be the men and women forgotten who gave so much in its Cause, so long as we descendants remember, vindicate, and live our lives in a manner, that in some small way, reflects the honor of those brave Confederates who left home and fought so that we might have a better life and a better home.

David Franklin



**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP  
MESSAGE FROM TEXAS DIVISION  
COMMANDER GARY BRAY**



Gentlemen,

As you know we are being attacked hourly. Any victory by our oppressors causes even more attacks. In the last 48 hours I have been dealing with flags stolen from cemeteries around Texas. The statue problem in Austin, planned removal of monuments in San Antonio and the coming attack on all monuments at the State Capital are some of the issues. With the fall of the flag in Charleston I am afraid we are about to be savagely mauled by politicians that smell blood in the water.

Many have asked what the plan is for the SCV. We will fight! What else can we do? Just like the old Confederates we have small numbers and no money. We need to raise funds to fight these people in court. This is not the plaques case or the license plate case. This will be many court cases at one time and it will cost this Division a lot of money to fight. We must raise a war chest for our Division and it must be done now! We must call and keep pressure on the people that are attacking us. Keep their phones ringing and get anyone that is willing to help to keep calling and complaining. Make their lives miserable!

The Southern people are mad and I hope mad enough to join us. Talk to anyone that will listen and get them into our Camps. We need their help, their talents and their money to help in this fight. During the parade in Arlington, Texas, I studied the faces in the crowd and what I saw in those faces was relief that someone was standing up for their heritage. They were so proud of the SCV, proud that we had the guts to stand up for what is just and true. I have been on radio shows and done interviews and can tell you that the American people are with us and politicians are against us. This is a witch hunt.

I want to say a heartfelt thank you to the men of the 6TH Brigade, for you men are the heroes of our Division. You are taking the brunt of this battle in Texas. John McCammon, Carl Crowther, Russ Lane and Marshall Davis thank you for your hours of work and TV and Radio spots defending our cause. God bless all of the Texas Compatriots that carried our flags in 4TH of July events across this state. You showed the people around the world that our colors don't run and that SCV men will stand their ground in this fight for our heritage.

Donate today to the Texas Division Heritage Defense and ask your friends and families to donate as well, as every penny counts. Please spread the word.

Please mail your donation today to: Texas Division Adjutant, 725 David Drive, Tyler, TX 75703. Make checks out to Texas Division SCV.

For our cause and our heritage,

Gary D. Bray



**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP  
MESSAGE FROM TEXAS DIVISION  
CHAPLAIN DON MAJORS**



Lines are ever where. There are lines in parking lots to designate the parking spaces. There are lines drawn at intersections so that pedestrians know where to cross the street. There are little, but important, lines drawn on rulers to show units of measure. There are lines drawn on baseball diamonds, basketball courts, and football fields to help the players and referees know if the balls and the players are in or out.

Lines can be very important. They help us know where we stand. We are either on one side of the line or the other.

Exodus 32 tells us that Moses drew a line. Here's why: God's people had participated in a drunken party, and had worshiped a golden calf. Moses knew that God demands that people love, obey, and worship only Him. In a very courageous move, Moses stepped in front of all those people and drew a line by saying, "Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come to me...." (Exodus 32:36). That day, many crossed the line by standing with Moses and the Lord.

Jesus, too, drew a line when He called those from the multitude to follow Him. Jesus' words make a very clear line: either you are for Christ or you are against Him. That same line exists today. We must decide on which side of that line we will stand.

Many choose to stand on both sides of the line. And for those individuals, Jesus replies, "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue you out of my mouth." (Rev 3:15-16). There is no middle ground with the Lord. In fact, for those who try, it makes Him sick to His stomach. Take a stand on God's side, and while we are at it, let's make a stand for our great heritage organization, The Sons of Confederate Veterans. Our camps need us. Our division needs us, and our national leaders need us. They need our support. They need our prayers. They need our time and effort for the Cause of the South. Now is not the time to sit back. Now is the time to act.

The great Jewish leader Joshua said, "As far as me and my house, we will serve the Lord." That type of statement needs to be made from every one of us. "As far as me and my house, we will stand with the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Col Travis drew a line in the sand at the Alamo. The decision had to be made. Now is not the time to waffle. Now is the time to act.

God bless Dixie. God bless the Texas Division. God bless the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Hold strong for the Cause!

In the Cause,

Reverend Don Majors, Chaplain

### Prayer List

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



Past Anderson Co. Historical Commissioner Jimmy Odom recently went to Cherokee County to fire a volley to start the annual parade. He and his wife, Kathy stopped at Maydell, on Hwy 84 to go into Mt. Comfort Cemetery. He fired his weapon to honor his ancestor, Thomas H. Odom, who died in 1915, one hundred years ago. The marker designates Thomas H. Odom's Confederate service. Contrary to what some in this country think, our Confederate ancestors deserve to be remembered for their sacrifice. Not a member of the SCV? Contact us and we can help you become a member.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Aug 1**—Four Division Training Seminar: Red Diamond Camp in Hooks, TX (see info on page 4)

**Aug 18** — Reagan Camp Monthly Meeting

**Sept 7-8** — Civil War Re-enactment:  
Dick Dowling Days Sesquicentennial:  
The 150 Anniversary of the battle of Sabine Pass, TX

**Sept 15**— Reagan Camp Monthly Meeting

**Sept 17-20**—Major Battles War reenactment in Hallsville, TX

**Oct 20**— Reagan Camp Monthly Meeting



This flag flies in honor and memory of over 1,000 Confederate veterans from Anderson County who marched off to war, one third of whom never returned, and the over 500 Confederate veterans from all across the South who are buried in this county. They fought for liberty and independence from a tyrannical and oppressive government. Provided by the John H. Reagan Camp # 2156, Sons of Confederate Veterans. [www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

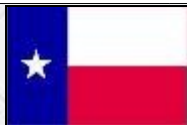
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

“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 UPCOMING EVENTS



### FOUR DIVISIONS LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR

#### **Red Diamond Camp 2193 Texarkana, Texas Four Divisions Leadership Training Seminar Saturday, August 01, 2015.**

The Red Diamond is pleased to announce and host the first ever Four Divisions Training Seminar to be held in NETexas on Saturday, August 01, 2015 from 8:30AM - 4:30PM.

Registration from 7:30AM - 8:30AM with Coffee, Juice & Muffins and Lunch at Noon catered by the "Lunch Box" It is our hope that this will help all of us as we strive to fulfill our Charge.

**Speakers:**

- Lt. Commander-in-Chief Thomas Strain**
- Past Commander-in-Chief Chuck McMichael**
- Past ATM Commander Paul Gramling**
- TX Division Commander Johnnie Hollie**
- AR Division Commander Robert Edwards**
- TX Division 2nd Lt. Commander Gary Bray**
- TX Division Adjutant Cooper Goodson**
- LA Division Adjutant Bobby Herring**
- TX Division Daryl Coleman**
- AR Division Heritage Defense Tom Bird**

**Location:**

Myrtle Springs Baptist Church  
 555 County Road 2111  
 Hooks, TX 75561  
 Directions: 1-30 to exit 208 in Hooks, TX - North on 560 - East on CR 2111 - Church on the left

Pre-Registration now through July 18th, 2015 - \$25.00 per person

Late-Registration after July 18th - \$35.00 per person

\*Make checks payable to: Red Diamond Camp SCV

**Mail Registration and Check to:**

Phil Maynard  
 1497 Myrtle Springs Road  
 Texarkana, TX 75503

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#### LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR REGISTRATION

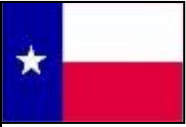
**NAME & OFFICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCVCAMP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DIVISION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT PAID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRE-REGISTRATION FEE \$25** \_\_\_\_\_ **LATE-REGISTRATION After July 8th \$35** \_\_\_\_\_



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP JULY MEETING PICTURES



The July 2015 monthly meeting was a treat for everyone. We had one of our best turn-outs in quite a while with a total of 37 people in attendance. We had a meal of tacos and flautas with all kinds of trimmings. We had cake, cookies and ice cream for dessert. Everyone had a great time visiting before being treated to a wonderful historical program on the Myths and Realities of American Slavery by John C. Perry. We always have room for more. If you have not been attending, please make plans to start doing so.





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP JULY HISTORICAL PROGRAM BY JOHN C. PERRY PG 1



**American Slavery: The Truth** A talk by John C. Perry, based on his book, *Myths & Realities of American Slavery*, July 21, 2015 in Palestine, TX.

**Summary:** Perry served for two years as the Chief of Heritage Defense for the SCV, and he spent a lot of time dealing with the national media. He learned that it was quite apparent that it is accepted that the cause of the "Civil War" was slavery. He searched for documented resources about slavery, and found few so he vowed then to research the true history of slavery.



After three years of research he wrote a book, *Myths & Realities of American Slavery, The True History of Slavery in America* was published. It is based on facts and is well documented (600+ footnotes).

He researched the book using some of the key sources: 1. Various libraries; 2. Original source materials, such as plantation records and slave sale records; 3. Scientific studies of slavery; 4. Early writings about slavery. 5. Federal Writers' Project (FWP) accounts. He used the FWP accounts quite extensively.

The FWP project was a make work effort by the Federal government and employed hundreds of writers during the Depression years. Their task was to go out and interview former slaves and record their recollections about slavery. There were over 2,200 former slaves interviewed with over 3.5 million words of slave recollection, usually collectively called "The Slave Narratives." The interviews represented about two percent of the total slaves that were still alive in the 1930s.

### **Selected myths and realities of American Slavery:**

**Myth or Reality?** All slaves were captured by and brought to the United States by Southerners.

**Reality:** It certainly wasn't Southerners that went to Africa to capture slaves. It was Africans that captured slaves and sold them first to the Europeans and later, not Southerners, but New Englanders. First it was the Portuguese, then the Spanish, then the Dutch and the British, and finally the New Englanders that transferred approximately 10 million slaves to the Western Hemisphere.

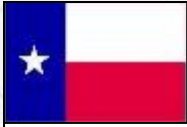
**Myth or Reality?** Most slaves from Africa were sent to what would become the United States.

**Reality:** Only about 6%, 600,000 (out of 10.3 million) of all the slaves sent to the Western Hemisphere made it to what would become the United States. Of that 600,000, New England slave traders brought in about a third. What Western Hemisphere nation brought in the most African slaves? Brazil.

**Myth or Reality?** The trans-Atlantic voyage, from Africa to the Western Hemisphere, was quite deadly for the slaves.

**Reality:** Actually that is a true statement. Any voyage in the 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> century was a very dangerous journey. At the beginning of slave trade the death rate during the passage was about 20%. As time progressed however the death rate did drop, but was never eliminated. By the time slave trade ended the death rate was about 4%. But there is a further reality that most people do not know. The trans-Atlantic trip was deadly, but it was deadly for all who crossed the ocean. The death rates for white immigrants that crossed the Atlantic and for white crew members were almost identical to the death rates of African slaves.





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP JULY HISTORICAL PROGRAM BY JOHN C. PERRY PG 2



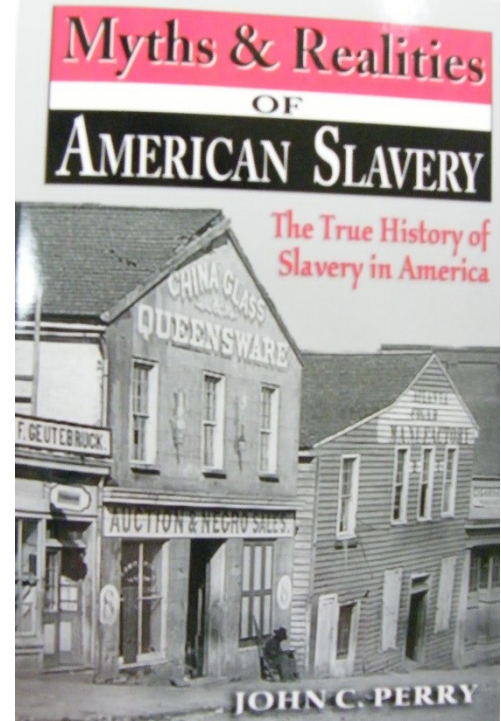
**Myth or Reality?** American slaves were only found in the South.

**Reality:** Slaves were initially found in all 13 colonies. At one time there were more slaves in New York City than any other American city.

Side note: Anthony Johnson was one of the first 20 African slaves that were brought into North America in 1619. He and nineteen other Africans were sold in Jamestown, Virginia. By 1623 Mr. Johnson was a free man and by 1851 he owned land and 5 "servants" 4 whites and 1 black. In 1694 one of Johnson's slaves, John Castor, sued him demanding his freedom. In this landmark cases, that help set precedent that once you were a slave you were always one, unless your master freed you, was won by Mr. Johnson.

**Myth or Reality?** All white Southerners owned slaves.

**Reality:** Fortunately we are blessed with the 1860 Census on the eve of the War Between the States. We have a wonderful snapshot of history on the eve of the war. If you take every white man woman and child in the South the % ownership is about 95% didn't own slaves. Little unfair, because children and women typically were not property owners. What is the best way to look at it? By families, if you take all the Southern families in 1860 (U.S. Census) the percentage ownership was only 26%. That means that nearly 3 out of 4 Southern families did not own slaves.



**Myth or Reality?** The entire South was full of Tara like plantations.

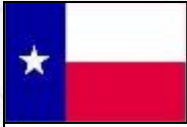
**Reality:** There were 393,975 slave owners in the South and they owned nearly 4 million slaves, if you do the math the average number of slaves owned was not hundreds or thousands, but rather 10.3 slaves per owner.

According to the 1860 Census:

- \* 20% of all slave owners owned only 1 slave
- \* 60% owned 5 or fewer slaves
- \* 71% owned fewer than 10 slaves
- \* 97% owned fewer than 50 slaves
- \* 99% owned fewer than 100 slaves
- \* Only 15 people in the entire south owned 500 slaves or more

**Myth or Reality?** All blacks in the South were slaves.

**Reality:** Most Americans think that all Free Blacks were in the North, but there were many free blacks all across the South. Total free Blacks in the U.S. were 487,970 and over half, (53%), 250,787, lived in the South.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP JULY HISTORICAL PROGRAM BY JOHN C. PERRY PG 3



**Myth or Reality?** Only whites in the South owned slaves.

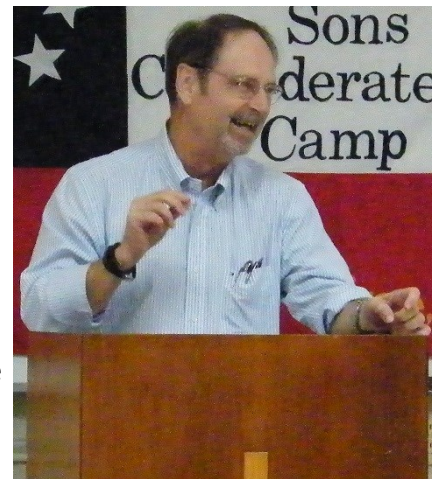
**Reality:** Many free blacks in the South owned slaves. William Ellison, a free black, in South Carolina was one of the largest and most successful slave owners in the state at the outbreak of the War Between the States. According to the 1830 United States Census, just in the states of Louisiana, Maryland, South Carolina, and Virginia, free African Americans owned more than ten thousand slaves. In South Carolina alone there were one hundred and seventy one free African American slave owners that owned seven hundred and sixty-six slaves in 1860.

**Myth or Reality?** Living conditions for slaves were atrocious, after all we have all seen the TV mini-series *Roots* or read the book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

**Reality:** Varied, but the book examines in detail the lives of slaves from a perspective of food, clothing and shelter.

**Myth or Reality?** All slaves worked from dawn to dusk in back braking labor.

**Reality:** Partially true, everyone in the South worked from dawn to dusk in the South, live was hard for most rural Southerner, black or white. Slaves worked basically the same work schedule as rural whites, dawn to dusk Monday through Friday, usually a half day on Saturday, and rarely did anyone work on Sundays, unless it was harvest time.

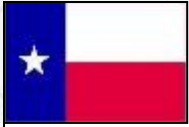


**Myth or Reality?** All slaves worked under an overseer.

**Reality:** The majority of slaves never worked under the direction of an overseer. The other fact about overseers seems to astound people is that most of the overseers were black.

**Myth or Reality?** All slaves were severely beaten to meet production goals or for punishment. We have all seen the terrible photos of beaten slaves.

**Reality:** Did it happen, yes it did. But the goal of the book was to find out was how often? The most common form of slave punishment was with the whip, although some slave owners, a minority number, forbade whippings. Whipping, in fact, has been the most common form of corporal punishment in the history of mankind, regardless of the victim's race. One did not even have to break the law to receive a whipping, dodging one's duties could warrant a whipping. In the 1800's, it was, in the North and the South, a totally acceptable form of discipline for all races, slave and non-slave, but that was already beginning to change. How extensive was whipping? There is not much in the way of solid historical data on whippings to examine. Some plantation records survive, some diaries survive that record whippings, and there are first hand accounts from former slaves, but little else. Some conjecture is called for to determine the extent of whippings. A northern writer, on assignment for a New York City newspaper, (Frederick Law Olmsted) perhaps said it the best when he wrote prior to the War Between the States, "Men of sense have discovered that when they desire to get extraordinary exertions from their slaves, it is better to offer then rewards than to whip them, to encourage them, rather than to drive them."



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP JULY HISTORICAL PROGRAM BY JOHN C. PERRY PG 4



**Myth or Reality?** Slaves were inexpensive to own.

**Reality:** Even with price fluctuations slaves always remained very costly. In 1860 \$1,500 per young male slave was not uncommon. Today that would be the equivalent of \$17,000. Prices varied per slave due to economic conditions, some studies suggest they tracked closely with cotton prices, slave gender, physical condition, age, and attitude.

**Myth or Reality?** It was common for slave families to be broken up, “sold down the river.”

**Reality:** Did it happen, yes, again the question I wanted to answer was how frequent was it? Careful studies, all cited in the book, clearly show that is was quite infrequent.

**Myth or Reality?** The Civil War was fought to free the slaves.

**Reality:** Abraham Lincoln said, “My paramount objective in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union.” (Source: August of 1862 from a public statement that Lincoln made in the *New York Tribune*)

**Myth or Reality?** As Union soldiers advanced in the South, nearly all of the slaves fled to freedom and “safety” of the Federal soldiers.

**Reality:** Of the 4 million slaves only about a half a million left. In other words 87.5% remained loyal. That percentage also doesn’t take into account the thousands that left, but then returned home when they were not warmly welcomed by their “liberators.”

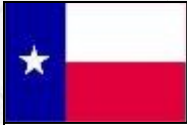
**Myth or Reality?** Blacks served only in the Union Army

**Reality:** The reality is that Blacks served in both armies, that of the Union and in the Confederate Army. About 186,000 Blacks served in the Union Army and although the numbers are only estimates on the Confederate side, perhaps as many as 90,000 served in the Confederate Army.

**Myth or Reality?** Even if Blacks served in the Confederate Army they only served in non-military roles.

**Reality:** Let’s ask Frederick Douglass, the noted Black abolitionists. In 1861, early in the war, he wrote: “There are at the present moment, many colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants, and laborers, but as real soldiers, having musket on their shoulders and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down loyal troops and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government . . .”

The John H. Reagan Camp would like to say “Thank You” to John Perry for his outstanding historical lesson. We really appreciated it, and would recommend him for other camps who need a good speaker. Job well done!



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



### Battle of Sabine Pass:

The battle of Sabine Pass, on September 8, 1863, turned back one of several Union attempts to invade and occupy part of Texas during the Civil War.

In September 1863 Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks sent by transport from New Orleans 4,000 soldiers under the command of Gen. William B. Franklin to gain a foothold at Sabine Pass, where the Sabine River flows into the Gulf of Mexico. A railroad ran from that area to Houston and opened the way into the interior of the state.

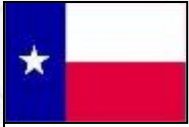
At Sabine Pass the Confederates recently had constructed Fort Griffin, an earthwork that mounted six cannon, two twenty-four pounders and four thirty-two pounders. The Davis Guards, Company F of the First Texas Heavy Artillery Regiment, led by Capt. Frederick Odum, had placed stakes along both channels through the pass to mark distances as they sharpened their accuracy in early September.

Finally at 3:40 P.M. the Union gunboats began their advance through the pass, firing on the fort as they steamed forward. Under the direction of Lt. Richard W. Dowling, the Confederate cannoneers emerged to man their guns as the ships came within 1,200 yards. One cannon in the fort ran off its platform after an early shot. But the artillerymen fired the remaining five cannon with great accuracy. A shot from the third or fourth round hit the boiler of the *Sachem*, which exploded, killing and wounding many of the crew and leaving the gunboat without power in the channel near the Louisiana shore. The following ship, the *Arizona*, backed up because it could not pass the *Sachem* and withdrew from the action. The *Clifton*, which also carried several sharpshooters, pressed on up the channel near the Texas shore until a shot from the fort cut away its tiller rope as the range closed to a quarter of a mile. That left the gunboat without the ability to steer and caused it to run aground, where its crew continued to exchange fire with the Confederate gunners. Another well-aimed projectile into the boiler of the *Clifton* sent steam and smoke through the vessel and forced the sailors to abandon ship. The *Granite City* also turned back rather than face the accurate artillery of the fort, thus ending the federal assault. The Davis Guards had fired their cannon 107 times in thirty-five minutes of action, a rate of less than two minutes per shot, which ranked as far more rapid than the standard for heavy artillery. The Confederates captured 300 Union prisoners and two gunboats. Franklin and the army force turned back to New Orleans.

The Davis Guards, who suffered no casualties during the battle, received the thanks of the Confederate Congress for their victory. Careful fortification, range marking, and artillery practice had produced a successful defense of Sabine Pass.

Dick Dowling was an Irish immigrant; born in Ireland in 1838. He immigrated with his parents and six siblings to New Orleans in the United States in 1846. In 1853, a Yellow Fever outbreak in New Orleans took the lives of his parents and four of his siblings. Orphaned, Dowling settled in Houston where he established a successful chain of saloons starting in 1857. Dowling was described as a likable red-headed Irishman.

At the outbreak of the Civil War Dowling enlisted in a Texas unit composed primarily of Irish dockworkers and known as the Jefferson Davis Guards. He participated in the Battle of Galveston and in 1863 now-Lieutenant Dowling along with a company of 44 men, almost all Irish, known as the Davis guards, was assigned to an earthen artillery post on the Sabine River named Fort Griffin. Known for his skilled artillery work, Dowling spent his time at the remote outpost instructing his men in artillery targeting drills across the Sabine River's two channels, which the fort guarded. He implemented an innovative idea, placing colored poles in the river marking the distance and elevation for his artillery crews.



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



After the battle of Sabine Pass Dowling was elevated to hero status in his hometown of Houston. He subsequently served as a recruiter for the Confederacy and was personally commended for his action at the battle by Jefferson Davis. After the war Dowling returned to his saloon business in Houston and quickly became one of the city's leading businessmen. Dowling's promising future was cut short by a yellow fever epidemic and he died on September 23, 1867.

He was buried at St. Vincent's Catholic Cemetery, the oldest Catholic cemetery in Houston.

### **The Battle of Mansfield:**

The Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana, (8 April 1864) formed part of the Red River Campaign during the American Civil War, when Union forces were aiming to occupy the state capital Shreveport.

The Confederate commander Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor chose Mansfield as the place where he would make his stand against the advancing Union army under Nathaniel Banks. Taylor concentrated his forces at Sabine Crossroads, knowing that reinforcements were nearby.

After a brief resistance, the Union army was routed by the Confederates, consisting mainly of units from Louisiana and Texas, reportedly strengthened by hundreds of men breaking parole.

The engagement is also known as the Battle of Sabine Crossroads.

Confederate victory; End of the Union army's Red River Campaign

### **The Battle of Pleasant Hill:**

The Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana (9 April 1864), formed part of the Red River Campaign during the American Civil War, when Union forces were aiming to occupy the state capital Shreveport.

The battle was essentially a continuation of the Battle of Mansfield (8 April), a decisive Confederate victory, which had caused the Union commander Nathaniel Banks to send his wagons, with most of his artillery, downriver in retreat.

A number of Union soldiers were captured during the battle (and many more at the Battle of Mansfield), and were taken to Camp Ford, a Confederate prisoner-of-war Camp, near Tyler, Texas.

The decisive failure of the Red River Campaign was a rare bit of uplifting news for the Confederacy in a bleak year. Despite the loss of resources (including the mercurial and beloved Brig. Gen. Tom Green, who was killed April 12), the failure of this offensive helped to prolong the war by tying down Union resources from other fronts.

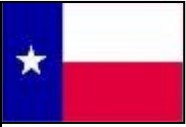
Units that performed well in this battle were the 12<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry and the 16<sup>th</sup> Texas dismounted cavalry of Walker's Brigade.

### **The Battle of Jenkins' Ferry:**

The Battle of Jenkins' Ferry was fought April 30, 1864, in Grant County, Arkansas during the American Civil War. It was the climactic battle of the Camden Expedition, which was a part of the Union Army's failed Red River Campaign. As a result of the battle, the Union force was able to complete a successful retreat from a precarious position at Camden, Arkansas to their defenses at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Despite some Confederate disappointment in not destroying, through casualties or capture, most of the Union forces engaged in the Red River Campaign, the Confederates had a considerable tactical victory.

Confederates also gained a strategic victory in the Red River Campaign.



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



### In Closing:

In May of 1865 and a month after Appomattox Court House, Lee was resting upstairs at his new residence in Richmond, he had letters to write without interruption, a knock at the front door was answered by his son Custis. In the door outside was a tall Confederate soldier, in rags, with his arm in a sling. The reserved, dignified Custis explained to the man that his father was not receiving guests.

The soldier nodded, but remained standing at the top of the outside steps. He said that he had spent four years in the Texas Brigade, was about to start walking home to Texas, and would like to see once more in his life, the man he had followed through so many campaigns.

Major General Custis Lee knew that his father admired the Texans above all other Confederate soldiers. Indeed the bond between Lee and his boys from Texas was almost mystical, and this was one of those Texans, at the door on that still, hot morning. Custis told the man to wait and he would see what he could do.

Presently, the stately step of General Robert E. Lee could be heard descending the stairway. Lee bowed to the soldier and then advanced toward the Texan, with his hand extended. The poor fellow grasped Lee's hand and looked the General straight in the eye, struggled to say something and choked, and could not. As he was shaking Lee's hand he dropped it as he burst into tears, then, covering his face with his arm, turned away and walked out of the Lee home.



General Lee gazed after him for a few motionless moments, his fine deep dark eyes filled with emotion and then silently Lee left the room without speaking and returned upstairs.

**Southern Born, Texas Proud!**

*"Learn About Your Heritage"*

**Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Texas Division**



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP CIVIL WAR JOURNEYS CALENDAR JULY—CROSSROADS AT GETTYSBURG



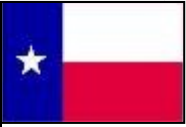
### A Crossroads at Gettysburg

As spring turned to summer in 1863, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia took the offensive. Emboldened by a great victory at Chancellorsville, Gen. Robert E. Lee's brave soldiers marched north into Pennsylvania. Lee had convinced the Confederate high command in Richmond that a victory on northern soil might fuel the burgeoning peace movement in the North, thereby weakening the North's will to continue the war, & might win support for the Confederacy from England. Equally as important, a northern invasion would draw northern forces away from the Virginia's battle-weary Shenandoah Valley.

On June 30 the commanders of each army had only vague notions about where the other was. General Robert E. Lee, commanding the Army of Northern Virginia, sent scouts toward Gettysburg to forage for supplies. Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade, commanding the Army of the Potomac, ordered Maj. Gen. John Gordon Meade, commanding the Army of the Potomac, ordered Maj. Gen. W. John F. Reynolds to advance with three army corps to Gettysburg. At 8 a.m. on July 1, Confederate divisions under Maj. Gen. Henry Heth and Maj. Gen. W. Dorsey Pender marched toward town and ran into Union troopers. The battle of Gettysburg had begun. Buford's men held the Confederates west of town for one and a half hours when Reynolds arrived to direct the Federals. Around 11 p.m. a Confederate bullet struck Reynolds, killing him. Maj. Gen. Abner Doubleday assumed command of the field. Numerous Federal reinforcements arrived from the south, but not in time to keep Confederates from driving the Union army into Gettysburg. About 4 p.m. Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock arrived & took command of the federal troops. Confusion reigned for a short time on Cemetery hill when Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard, senior to Hancock, assumed he should be in command. Meanwhile Lee ordered Lieut. Gen. Richard S. Ewell to take Cemetery Hill, ringed with Federal artillery, "if possible" Darkness fell on July 1 before a frontal attack could be launched. Darkness fell on July 1 before a frontal attack could be launched. During the night, both armies massed around Gettysburg. The next morning Lee ordered Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet to cut around the Union left flank. Longstreet attacked at 4 p.m., capturing a rocky hill dubbed Devil's Den and moving up toward the critically placed hill called Little Round Top. The union line, formed in a giant fishhook, missed occupying Little Round Top, and a race to capture it ensued. Federals under Brig. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren captured the summit, and soon Federal artillery could fire down onto the Rebel positions. That night Meade held a council of war, and decided to stay and fight. Gettysburg would be decided on the third day, July 3. As the sun rose, Longstreet begged Lee to get around the Federal left flank. But Lee wanted to directly attack the strong Union line. He ordered Longstreet to assault the Union center on a low rise called Cemetery Ridge, while Stuart's cavalry struck the Union's rear lines. At 1 p.m. Lee's artillery opened fire, and nearly 15,000 troops in the divisions of Pettigrew and Brig. Gen. George E. Pickett marched toward a copse of trees at the Union center. In what became known as Pickett's Charge, the strongest units of Lee's army were obliterated. Yankee artillery laid down an enfilading fire that pounded the Rebels as they marched nearly a mile across the valley. When it was over, Lee's army had no option but retreat. Lee himself took the blame, saying "It's all my fault." The next day the Confederates moved into Virginia. Gettysburg would be the high-water mark of the Confederacy.

\* Article taken from "Civil War Journeys 1994 Calendar" article for July.

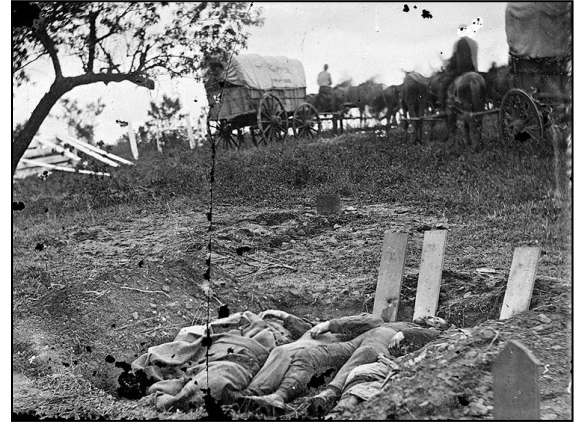
\* Picture of the "High Water Mark" at top of page taken from "Civil War Journeys 1994 Calendar"



## GETTYSBURG JULY 1863 “SOME GAVE ALL”



Left: Devils Den Photo. Possibly most famous photo Gettysburg. Soldier in photo was moved here posed for this shot. (Lib. Of Congress)



Right: Dead soldiers from 2nd Carolina

Right: Painting of Pickett's Charge.

Confederate losses at the Battle of Gettysburg were:

- 4,400 killed
- 12,950 wounded
- 5,350 missing.

The total number of losses was 22,700 men. These brave men gave their all for the Confederacy.



Left: Dead Confederate soldier in Gettysburg near Devil's Den. (Lib. Congress)

Right: Dead Soldiers in the Wheatfield Near Emmittsburg Road - Gettysburg PA, July 1863







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



PG 1 OF 2

In the 1600's and 1700's, America's foundation of faith was common knowledge, and they viewed American liberty as a legacy of the Judeo-Christian worldview.

A young minister by the name of George Whitefield would soon become the most famous preacher in Colonial America. He would help fuel the nation-changing phenomenon called, "The Great Awakening." While it encouraged denominational diversity, the Great Awakening also established an extraordinary unity of faith in Colonial America. Despite differences, essential Christianity reigned throughout the land. The Great Awakening increased Americans' awareness of biblical standards and beliefs. Due largely to the Great Awakening, the political base in Colonial America on the eve of the American Revolution was not some secular organization, but rather the local church. America's most influential leaders were not politicians but the local clergyman.

George Whitefield on his fourth visit to America preached from the steps of the courthouse at Philadelphia to a great crowd. In the twilight he read a portion of Scripture with a little boy standing by who held a lantern up to enable the preacher to see to read. While holding the lantern he listened intently to the sermon, and forgetful of his light he let it fall breaking it in pieces. Twenty years later, Whitefield was staying at a minister's house and recalled the incident, and said he wondered what had become of the lad. His host replied, "I am that little boy. I held the lantern and let it drop. Your preaching made me what I am."

"I held the lantern and let it drop."

May we remember the words of the Apostle Paul when he said, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith; be men of courage; be strong." -- First Corinthians 16:3. Another passage in First Kings 2:2 says, "Show yourself a man."

What is society seeing today regarding manhood-in-America? In many cases they are seeing effeminate-limped-wrist-sissy's, swindlers, thieves, foulmouth revilers and slanders. They are seeing men who have "dropped the lantern." It sees as though we have reached the deepest level of corruption ever. God, please give us men in America today. Give us godly Southern men. Men of conscience. Men with ethics and moral standards. Let the Sons of Confederate Veterans be men who will hold the light of the lantern up and not let it fall.



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

PG 2 OF 2



I had an interesting conversation last week as I was being wheeled into the surgical suite. The anesthesiologist (lady doctor) and her two assistants (lady nurses) approached me to ask a few questions. I responded, "yes, mam" to each of her inquiries. She then asked me, "May I ask you a personal question?" I responded, "Yes, mam." She said, "Are you Southern?" I responded, "Yes, mam, to the core of my being." She responded with a big smile, "This is so refreshing. Men do not talk like this today." I informed her that she would have to blame that on my two wonderful Southern-God-Fearing parents who trained me to be respectful to ladies. I didn't get a chance to say any more because she put that mask on me and sent me into la-la land. But, I am surrounded by great and wonderful men in this awesome organization called, "The Sons of Confederate Veterans," who have learned how to be men of ethical standards and moral principles. Men who have not dropped the lantern, but have held it high for all to see.

This is not the day to go slack on our responsibilities. General Robert E. Lee, General Stonewall Jackson, President Jefferson Davis, General Jeb Stuart, General Nathan Bedford Forrest, and many many more who have asked us to hold the lantern for them. May we respond like that little boy who held the lantern for George Whitefield. Let us say, "You have made me what I am today." We cannot afford to drop the lantern. We must keep the light glowing bright on the great Cause of the South.

Southern Blessings,

Reverend Don Majors, Chaplain  
Texas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans





## CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza had the official opening and dedication on April 13, 2013. It is a beautiful Memorial to the Confederate Veterans. Although it is open for visitors, there is still room along the sidewalks for you to purchase a brick paver in the name of your confederate ancestor. This will ensure that your ancestor's service to the confederacy will not be forgotten, but will be remembered for years to come. If you would like to make a donation for a paver, please contact Dan Dyer at E-mail: [danielyer497@yahoo.com](mailto:danielyer497@yahoo.com) or Phone: (903) 391-2224

WILLIAM C FRANKLIN CO D 12-BTTN ARK SHARP SHOOTERS	JOHN DANIEL LILES PVT DIED 4/25/1865 POW	WILLIAM J. CHAFFIN CO H 5 TEX CAV CSA 1829 - 1908
JASPER N. CARNES CO B 8 REGIMENT TEXAS INFANTRY	RICHARD A. HODGES CO K 22 TX INF CSA 1833 - 1905	ANDREW J BEAUCHAMP CO F 13 TEX INF 12-9-1834 9-1-1894

Would you like to honor you ancestor? There is still room in the plaza for you to have a paver with your ancestor's name and military information. You can also acquire a paver in the name of your SCV Camp.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the *Second American Revolution*. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.

Membership in the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. Membership can be obtained through either **lineal or collateral** family lines and kinship to a veteran must be **documented genealogically**. The minimum age for full membership is 12, but there is no minimum for Cadet membership. **Friends of the SCV** memberships are available as well to those who are committed to upholding our charge, but do not have the Confederate ancestry.

## THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

*"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."*

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander-in-Chief

United Confederate Veterans

New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 3rd Tuesday of Each Month - 06:30 PM  
Snacks served at each meeting.  
First Christian Church  
113 East Crawford Street  
Palestine, Texas  
Turn north on N. Sycamore St. off of Spring St. (Hwy 19, 84, & 287) travel three blocks, turn right on Crawford St., go one block Church is on left)