



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

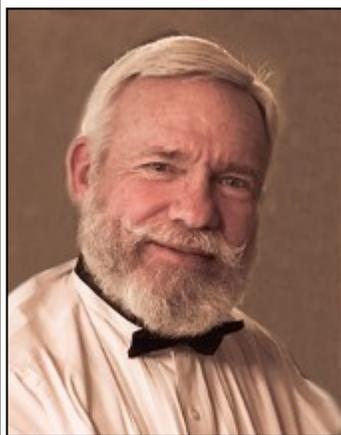
THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2016

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH



Compatriots, I just arrived home from tonight's meeting and for those of you who were not present, you missed Richard Thornton's most informative program of his confederate ancestors. Richard has done extensive research and that includes traveling up to North Carolina from which his great grandfather Thornton hails. I always like hearing the history of confederate ancestors and Richard did not disappoint! As this year is quickly winding down, we are well into the planning of the next year.

Tonight we elected officers for 2017. Thanks to the following for accepting the call to serve:

Comdr - Charles L. Steen
1st Lieutenant - Gary Gibson
2nd Lt. - Calvin Nicholson
Adj/Treas.—Dan Dyer
Sgt. At Arms:

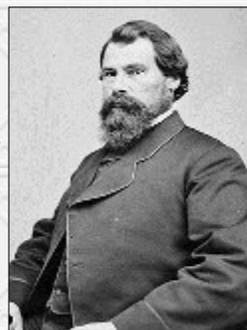
Richard E. Thornton
Jr. Artil. Batt. -Frank Moore
Historians:

Gary Williams
Andrew Harris
Judge Advocates:
Martin Lawrence
Stuart Whitaker

Chaplains:
David Franklin
Dwight Franklin

It will be an honor and pleasure to continue serving you as your Commander for a second year. This is a learning experience and I thank the Camp and every member for your help and encouragement. We will install officers at our December meeting which just so happens to be our Christmas party. We are in for another treat this year as we have secured Dan Manuel who will be doing a repeat performance of singing and picking! Families are encouraged to attend and we will kick off the festivities at 6:30 p.m. with a pot luck supper.

Gary Williams will be



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

presenting the program for January 2017. I am excited that next year promises to be one with great programs and who knows what opportunities will present for us to continue to support and honor our great confederate heritage.

Till next month, Deo Vindice!

CAMP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of Each Month
06:30 PM

Snacks and drinks served at each meeting.

First Christian Church
113 East Crawford Street
Palestine, Texas

Turn north on N. Sycamore St. off of Spring St. (Hwy 19, 84, & 287)(across from UP train station) travel three blocks, turn right on Crawford St., go one block Church is on left

Guests are welcome!
Bring the family.

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Prayer List

- Past Chaplain Ed Furman
- Past Cmdr. Ronnie Hatfield
- Past Chaplain Rod Skelton & his wife, Nancy
- Past 1st Lt. Gary Williams
- Past Davis/Reagan UDC Pres. Dollye Jeffus
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans



Picture Courtesy of Palestine Herald Press—April 2013.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 20 - December Reagan Camp Meeting Annual Christmas Party. Everyone bring a covered dish and your wife. Dan Manuel will be providing the entertainment.

Jan 16, 2017 - January meeting. Camp Historian, Gary Williams will present the historical program to the camp.

Feb 25, 2017 - Army of Trans-Mississippi seminar “Recruiting & Retention; Heritage Operations. Hosted by Red Diamond Camp #2193

Mar 21 - March Reagan Camp meeting



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

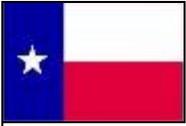
Above: Reagan Camp’s battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

“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 #2156 NOVEMBER MEETING



There were 13 Reagan Camp Compatriots in attendance at the November meeting. It was a big night for Richard Thornton. He provided the meal as he fed everyone a wonderful meal of Chicken Spaghetti and Garlic Bread. Charles Steen brought sweet tea, and Dwight Franklin brought a peach cobbler. Richard then presented the camp with an Historical meeting on his ancestors who fought at Gum Swamp and Plymouth, North Carolina. We appreciate

Richard for all that he does for the camp. Since joining the Reagan Camp, he has always been ready to contribute any way that he can.





NOVEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM BY RICHARD THORNTON



Richard Thornton (2017 Reagan Camp Sgt-at-Arms) presented an excellent historical program at the November meeting. Richard told those in attendance about two particular battles that his Great-Grandfather, Great-Great-Grandfather, & Great Uncle fought in during the War of Northern Aggression. They were engaged against the Yankees in the 2nd Battle of Gum Swamp and the Battle of Plymouth, North Carolina. He said that many of the people of that time were more interested in religious beliefs and moral beliefs than they are in the time present time that we live. He said that many of the Confederate Soldiers had the mindset, "When God is ready for you to die, you will die". This made them very brave since they weren't afraid of dying.

Richard's G-G-Grandfather, Richard Whitfield Thornton, enlisted for a 6 month period when he enlisted. He enlisted as a private of the 1st Infantry thinking that the war probably wouldn't last that long. After his 6 months were over, the war was still going, so he reenlisted in Company B of the 56th which was also known as the Cape Fear Guards. He was voted 1st Lt of Company B by a vote of the soldiers. Benjamin Whitfield Thornton (Richard's Great Uncle) was elected as a 3rd lieutenant.

During his program, Richard told of the two battles and went into detail about how the battles were fought and how many were captured, wounded, or killed. The battle of Gum Swamp started on May 22, 1863, and 3rd Lt. Benjamin

Whitfield Thornton was captured on May 25th along with 68 other men. He was soon released, because records show that he was back with his company in July 1863.

Benjamin Whitfield Thornton was killed in the Battle of Plymouth, North Carolina on April 20, 1864. Richard told the story about how Benjamin Whitfield Thornton was shot above the eye and lived for two days before dying. Captain Carver said, Benjamin Whitfield Thornton was mortally wounded of a bullet entering above the eye and exiting near his ear. This was recorded



on R.W. Thornton's headstone which proudly marked his grave until Union General Sherman and his men happened to see it. General Sherman had his men break the headstone into small pieces after seeing that it was marking the grave of a Confederate Soldier. The soldiers then threw the pieces they had broken up into a nearby creek. After Sherman and his troops had gone, someone found the pieces of the headstone in the creek and painstakingly put them back together.

We appreciate Richard for bringing the Reagan Camp such an interesting historical program and also for feeding everyone a delicious meal of spaghetti and garlic bread. Everyone enjoyed the meal and the program.



PORTRAITS OF CONFLICT

Rare and Original Images from the War Between the States (Part 1)

By Reagan Camp Historian—Andrew Harris

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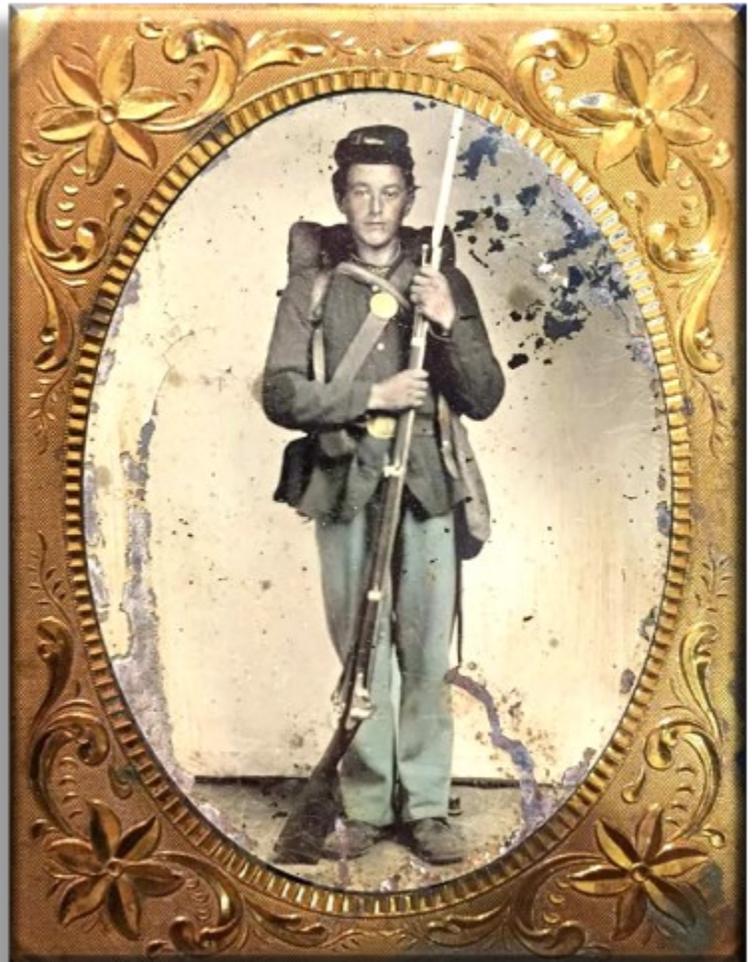


The historical program presented at the October meeting of the John H. Reagan Camp featured eleven original photographs from Andrew Harris' Civil War artifact collection. Last month's newsletter included an introduction to these period images and an overview of 19th Century photography. This month we will begin a series of articles highlighting each of the photos in detail.

On Campaign: We start off with a Yankee soldier. This quarter-plate tintype of an unidentified Union infantryman measures about 3 inches by 4 inches in size. The photo itself is in kind of rough shape; some of the emulsion is cracking and flaking off the surface, and you can see the exposed tin plate in several places.

Despite any criticisms we may have about Yankees, the great thing about this particular image is that it shows exactly what the typical soldier looked like during the War Between the States. This soldier is young; probably barely 18 or 19 years old, very thin and he has a sort of serious innocence about him. Although young, he appears to have seen his share of the action, and it has taken its toll.

This is probably a mid-war image judging by the short, more utilitarian 4-button sack coat that he is wearing; a style that became more prevalent as the war progressed. He is shown here with all of the gear and accoutrements that he would have worn on



campaign. Most of the photos you find of soldiers, whether Union or Confederate, do not show nearly this amount of gear because most were taken in a more leisurely setting – in camp or in a photographer's studio – and they were often staged with soldiers wearing just their coat and belt and perhaps holding a single weapon that may have been a photographer's prop.

But this soldier has it all; just as he would look "in the field" or "on the march". In addition to the musket, you can see that he has his belt, cap box, and cartridge box. Even more uncommon is the knapsack with blanket roll, haversack and canteen (the white canvas strap of his canteen runs high, across the upper part of his chest). It is very rare to see those particular items

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PORTRAITS OF CONFLICT

Rare and Original Images from the War Between the States (Part 1)

By Reagan Camp Historian—Andrew Harris

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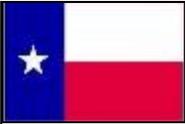
being worn in period photos. This soldier is a classic War Between the States soldier and his overall appearance is representative of how both sides were armed and equipped.

[Armed to the Teeth](#): The next photograph is one of our Southern boys. This is the quintessential rebel soldier. The first thing you notice - after the cold, hard stare - is probably the large clipped-point bowie knife. The look in his eyes leaves little doubt as to his intentions; he is ready for a fight and he is certainly equipped for the task. This is a small, ninth-plate ambrotype. The glass plate measures only about 2 by 2.5 inches. It is probably an early-war photograph. Unfortunately, he is unidentified as is often the case. His service to the Cause is preserved in this little photograph and he stands as a representative of so many other faceless names who filled the rosters of our Confederate heroes. This is a very rare photograph, not only because it is an image of a Confederate soldier, but also because of the number of weapons he displays. This soldier is “triple-armed” with a musket, the large bowie knife and a small



pocket revolver tucked into his belt. A general rule of thumb is that the more weapons that are displayed the more rare and valuable the photograph; so this one is very desirable from a collector's standpoint.

This photograph surfaced at an estate sale in northern Florida, so he may have been from that area, southern Georgia or even Mississippi maybe. He wears the classic Confederate uniform, gray coat with dark facings on the cuff and collar and a cap for his headgear. These large bowie knives of course were very popular as a sidearm in the Confederate ranks. You see them frequently in photographs of Southern soldiers like this one. They were very intimidating - the tool of a true 19th century Southern warrior.



CSA GENERALS FROM TEXAS

GEN. WILBURN HILL KING



[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/WILBURN_HILL_KING](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilburn_Hill_King)

Wilburn Hill King (June 10, 1839 – December 12, 1910) was a Confederate States Army colonel during the American Civil War. He was assigned to duty as a brigadier general by General E. Kirby Smith but was not officially appointed and confirmed to that grade.

King had been a lawyer and businessman in Warrensburg, Missouri at the outbreak of the Civil War. He promptly enlisted in the pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard. After being wounded at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, he was discharged and returned to Texas. There he enlisted as a private in the 18th Texas Infantry Regiment. In October 1861, he served as major and quartermaster of the division of Texas regiments which was being formed at that time. On May 13, 1862, he was elected major of the regiment. He progressed to lieutenant colonel and colonel in 1863.



On April 8, 1864, King's regiment, as part of Major General John G. Walker's division, helped rout three Union Army divisions at the Battle of Mansfield, where he was severely wounded. On April 16, 1864, General E. Kirby Smith, as the Confederate commander of the Trans-Mississippi Department, assigned King to duty as a brigadier general. The Confederate government took no action on the appointment and Confederate President Jefferson Davis did not officially appoint and nominate King to the rank of brigadier general. By the end of the war, King had acted as a general officer, leading brigades, and briefly Walker's division, for more than a year, but had not been legally promoted to a general officer's grade.

After fleeing to Mexico at the end of the war, and then operating a sugar plantation in Central America, King returned to Texas where he practiced law, was the mayor of Sulphur Springs, Texas, was a state representative and was adjutant general of Texas from 1881 to 1891. After he retired as adjutant general, he concentrated on the affairs of the Masonic Order.

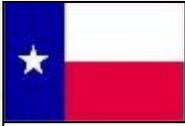
EARLY LIFE

Wilburn Hill King was born in Culloden, Georgia on June 10, 1839. His parents were Alexander and Mary (Douglas) King. King studied law and medicine at Americus, Georgia. He was a lawyer, prospector and businessman. He moved to Cass County, Texas in 1860 but he was in business at Warrensburg, Missouri when the Civil War began. King married Lucy Furman in 1867.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SERVICE

Wilburn Hill King, like another Missouri officer with a similar career, Benjamin Franklin Gordon, was an early enlistee in the pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard. King was elected lieutenant of Company E of the 3rd Infantry Regiment under Major General Sterling Price. He progressed to captain and fought at the Battle of Carthage and the Battle of Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861, where, like Gordon, he was wounded. Soon thereafter, he was discharged from the regiment and returned to Texas where he enlisted as a private in the 18th Texas Infantry Regiment. Two historians say he was appointed major and quartermaster of the Texas Division being organized by Brigadier General Henry E. McCulloch and later commanded by Major General John G. Walker on October 15, 1861.

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CSA GENERALS FROM TEXAS

GEN. WILBURN HILL KING



[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/WILBURN_HILL_KING](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilburn_Hill_King)



King was elected major of the 18th Texas Infantry on May 13, 1862, lieutenant colonel on February 5, 1863 and colonel to rank from August 10, 1863. The 18th Texas Infantry was assigned to Brigade 1 in Major General John G. Walker's division. The 18th Texas Infantry was detached from Walker's division in the fall of 1863 and temporarily assigned to a cavalry division under Major General Thomas Green. On November 3, 1863, King led the regiment under Green in a successful attack on a Union Army detachment at the Battle of Bayou Bourbeau.

King's regiment was recalled to Walker's division in time for the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana on April 8, 1864. King's regiment helped rout three Union Army divisions. King was severely wounded at the end of the attack. On April 16, 1864, General E. Kirby Smith, as commander of the Trans-Mississippi Department, assigned King to command as a brigadier general. Smith intended that King take command of the brigade formerly commanded by Major General Camille de Polignac. King could not assume this command until he had recovered from his wound in October 1864.

According to Allardice, in February 1865, King assumed command of a new Brigade 4 in Walker's old division. Eicher and Blessington show King in command of Brigade 4, a brigade of Texas regiments, in Polignac's division from September 1864 or October 8, 1864, respectively King's appointment as a brigadier general by E. Kirby Smith remained unconfirmed at the end of the war. Although King had served in general officer commands for more than a year, he was never appointed or legally promoted to general officer rank by Jefferson Davis.

AFTERMATH AND DEATH

After E. Kirby Smith's surrender of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department, King, like Benjamin Franklin Gordon and Brigadier General Jo Shelby, went to Mexico. He then bought and operated a sugar plantation in Central America for a brief time. King returned briefly to the United States and married Lucy Furman in December 1867. The couple then soon left for King's Central America plantation. King returned to Texas to practice law less than a year later, after the deaths of his wife and infant.

In 1875, King became mayor of Sulphur Springs, Texas. He was a state representative from 1878 to 1881. King served as adjutant general of the State of Texas from 1881 to 1891. In 1891, he retired to Sulphur Springs where he worked on the affairs of the Masonic Order.

Wilburn Hill King died at Sulphur Springs, Texas on December 12, 1910. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Corsicana, Texas after Methodist funeral rites and a Masonic burial.

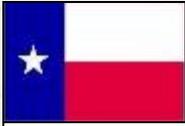


**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP
ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR**



NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1. Nov 1863 to wife: My daughters have not taken on the spinning-wheel & loom, as recommended them to the brave soldiers for wives.	2. Undated to son. You must endeavor to learn, in order to compensate me for the pain I suffer in being separated from you.	3. undated to wife. On death of Annie God in this has mingled mercy with the blow in selecting that one best prepared to leave us. May you be able to join me in saying, "His will be done!"	4. undated to wife. I desire to write a history of the campaigns in Virginia. My only object is to transmit the truth to posterity & do justice to our brave soldiers.	5. Nov 1855 A soldier has a hard life.
6. Nov. 1864 To Mildred. In your youth you must be careful to discipline your thoughts, words, & actions	7. undated—To Mildred . Never neglect the means of making yourself useful in the world.	8. Nov. 1855—To Wife. Take a happier view of things & not be dissatisfied because they do not accord more nearly with you views & wishes	9. undated - to Richmond City Council - I shall decline the generous offer (a house), & trust that whatever means the Council may have to spare for this purpose be devoted to the relief of the families of our soldiers.	10 undated— to Mildred. How ardently I pray you may be directed to every good & saved from every evil.	11. undated to wife We rarely know what is good for us & rarely see things as they really exist. Veterans Day!	12. undated to Wife So clouded is our vision by narrow selfishness, & often complain of what we ought not & blame others when the fault is on ourselves.
13. Nov. 1863— To Wife. You must pray to the great God who rideth in the heavens, to give us strength & courage to do the work He has set before us.	14. undated to Robert. God bless you, my son, & may He guard, guide, & direct you in all you do.	15. Nov. 1861 to Mildred. You must labour at your books a& gain knowledge & wisdom	16. Undated to Laura Chilton. My sincere prayer is that the Great God of Mercy may shower upon you his richest blessing & so direct your course in this world that you may enjoy peace here & life	17. undated to Mildred. Habituate yourself to useful employment , regular improvement & to the benefit of all those around you.	18. undated * to Agnes. I am very glad, my precious Agnes, that you have become so early a riser It is a very good habit.	19. undated to wife. A piano had been set in the house by the maker as a present. This is an article of furniture we might well dispense with under present circumstances.
20 Nov. 1865 to Wife I think we should enjoy all the amenities of life that are within our reach & which have been provided for us by our Heavenly Father.	21. Nov 1863 To wife. I am content to be poor, & to live on corn bread the rest of my life if a gracious God will give us our independence.	22. Nov. 1861 to daughters. I wish indeed I could see you, be with you & never again part from you. God only can give me that happiness. I pray for it night & day.	23. Nov 1862 to Custis. Our hardest lesson is self-knowledge, & it is one perhaps that is never accomplished.	24. Nov. 1862 The death of my dear Annie was indeed to me a bitter pang. But the Lord gave Y the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.	25. Nov. 1863 to Wife; The kindness exhibited toward you as well as myself by our people causes me to reflect how little I have done to merit it.	26. Undated - To Custis: My little personal troubles sink into insignificance when I contemplate the condition of the country.
27. undated—I am glad to learn your supply of socks is so large. I will endeavor to have them distributed to the most needy.	28 Nov 1862 - To Custis. People must help themselves, or Providence will not help them.	29 Nov 1863 - to Jeff Davis. The law should not be open to the charge of partiality.	30 Nov 1845 to a son. Let nothing discourage or deter you from endeavoring to acquire virtue & knowledge.			



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP
TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN NOVEMBER
[HTTPS://TEXASDAYBYDAY.COM/](https://TEXASDAYBYDAY.COM/)



On November 18, 1862, John Austin Wharton was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Confederate army. Wharton, born in Tennessee in 1828, was brought to Galveston as an infant and spent his early years on a Brazoria County plantation. Before the Civil War he enjoyed a successful career as a lawyer and planter and represented Brazoria County at the state Secession Convention. When the war began Wharton was elected captain of Company B, Eighth Texas Cavalry, better known as Terry's Texas Rangers. He rose to command the regiment after the deaths of Col. Benjamin F. Terry and Lt. Col. Thomas S. Lubbock. Wharton's leadership in the course of Gen. Braxton Bragg's 1862 Kentucky invasion earned him the promotion to brigadier general. His actions at the battle of Chickamauga in the fall of 1863 earned him another promotion, to the rank of major general. In 1865, while visiting Gen. John B. Magruder's headquarters in Houston, Wharton was killed by fellow officer George W. Baylor in a personal quarrel that grew out of "an unpleasant misunderstanding over military matters." Even though Wharton was found to have been unarmed, Baylor was acquitted of murder charges in 1868

November 28, 1884, the John B. Hood Camp of United Confederate Veterans obtained a state charter for a residence for impoverished and disabled Confederate veterans. The Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy helped raise funds that enabled the camp to purchase land at 1600 West Sixth Street in Austin from John B. and Mary Armstrong. The home opened on November 1, 1886. The UDC held a "Grand Gift Concert and Lottery," with prizes donated by the public, and raised over \$10,800 to support the home. Operating funds continued to come from public contributions until 1891, when the state assumed control and support and the name officially became Texas Confederate Home. The John B. Hood Camp deeded the property to the state on March 6, 1891. The complex had several buildings, including the large administration building and living quarters, a brick hospital, and private cottages. During its first two years of operation 113 veterans were admitted to the home, and from 1887 to 1953 more than 2,000 former Confederates were housed there. In 1929 the home had 312 residents, but by 1938 the number had dropped to thirty-eight, whose average age was ninety-three. Thomas Riddle, the last veteran, died in 1954 at the age of 108. During its last decades, the home was used to house senile mental patients from other state institutions, disabled veterans of the Spanish American War and World War I, and their wives. In 1963 the remaining residents were sent to Kerrville State Hospital, and the Austin facility was transferred to the Austin State Hospital as an annex. The buildings were razed in 1970 to make room for University of Texas married students' housing.

November 30th, 1864

On this day in 1864, Confederate general Hiram B. Granbury, commander of Granbury's Texas Brigade, was killed in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. Granbury, a native of Mississippi, moved to Texas in the 1850s. He was chief justice of McLennan County from 1856 to 1858. At the outbreak of the Civil War he recruited the Waco Guards, which became a unit in the Seventh Texas Infantry. By 1864 he had commanded in turn a regiment and a brigade. After the fall of Atlanta, Granbury led his brigade in Hood's invasion of Tennessee. He was one of at least 1,750 Confederate soldiers killed in the frontal assault at Franklin, the highest total of rebel dead for any single-day battle of the war. A Texas captain wrote of the battle, "It can't be called anything else but cold blooded murder."



TEXAS STATE SCV CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE
BY DON MAJORS
Happy Thanksgiving 2016 SCV Texas Division



“Truth is not always on the side of the majority.”

The men and women who came to this country on the Mayflower were unprepared for the challenges of the North American wilderness. It was radically different from Europe. Pilgrim scholar, Roland G. Usher said, “They brought nothing but a good constitution and high religious ideals.”

The Mayflower compact reflected the Bible-based self-government that they practiced in their congregations. It also reflected the historic Judeo-Christian tradition that government should be modeled on the “covenants” that God established with His people in the Bible.

Plymouth Colony lost its population that first winter. In the spring, the survivors befriended a Native American man named Squanto. He taught them how to grow corn and catch fish. The Pilgrims were very grateful for his help.

It would be the Pilgrims of Plymouth who would be credited for establishing America’s distinctive Thanksgiving holiday with a joyous observance in the autumn of 1621.

The days of Thanksgiving were a Christian tradition that was modeled on the Jewish feast days recorded in the Old Testament. It was a time of rejoicing when all work ceased.

The celebrated 1621 thanksgiving event at Plymouth was commissioned by leader Governor William Bradford.

Despite the heartbreaking losses and severe hardships, the colony had survived the winter, a feat that Bradford attributed to the grace of God. The celebration also included besides wild turkey, beaver, baked clams, lobster, cod, bass and other fish, Indian corn, peas, beans, cabbage, onions, parsnips, cheese, porridge, biscuits and corn-based pudding. Typical beverages were ale and spring water.

The event lasted three days, and it was preceded by a worship service. The Plymouth Colony grew slowly. Its people were poor, and their lives were difficult. But, they never forgot their heartfelt appreciation to God for His bountiful blessings.

Thanksgiving was not a secular holiday. It was never intended to be a secular holiday. It was established to be an American tradition that honored God. It was to be an annual tradition that demonstrated its blessings to God for all His bountiful gifts.

Continued on next page



TEXAS STATE SCV CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE BY DON MAJORS PG 2 OF 2



A magician who was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean realized very quickly that his audience was different each week. The magician decided to do the same tricks over and over again. There was only one problem. Each week, the captain's parrot saw each show. The parrot began to learn and understand how the magician did his tricks. The parrot would shout out at the show, "Look, it's not the same hat." "Look, all the cards are the ace of spades." The magician became furious and very upset. What could he do? Absolutely nothing! He hated that dumb bird, but it was the captain's parrot. One morning in his cabin as he was trying to figure out what he could do, the cruise ship suddenly sank. The magician found himself floating on a piece of driftwood with the parrot. The magician and the parrot stared and glared at each other. No words were spoken. After a few days, the parrot asked the magician, "Ok, I give up. Where's the boat?"

America is like the magician and the parrot hanging on to driftwood in the ocean, because their ship had sunk. They were shocked and puzzled as to why the ship had suddenly gone down. Why were they floating in the ocean hanging on to driftwood? The parrot wanted to know, "Where's the boat?" Many Americans are discussing this question as well. "Where's the boat?" We are witnessing in America today the demise of a once-great culture and civilization that was founded upon reverence for God.

We must ask ourselves, "Where's the boat?" Where's the nation we once knew? What is the root cause? Why are we in the ocean hanging on driftwood? There is always a root cause for everything. It seems as chose many in this nation have chosen government and federalism over God. How long will we drift? Will we ever recover the moral ground that has been lost to this nation? The conscience of America seems to have been quieted.

It appears that the Thanksgiving holiday of 1621 and the Thanksgiving holiday of 2016 have vastly changed through the years. Perhaps our schools should return to teaching the school children the true meaning of Thanksgiving. Perhaps we as a nation should return to the Judeo-Christian foundations for which the holiday was established.

Be blessed,

Reverend M. Don Majors
Texas Division Chaplain
Sons of Confederate Veterans

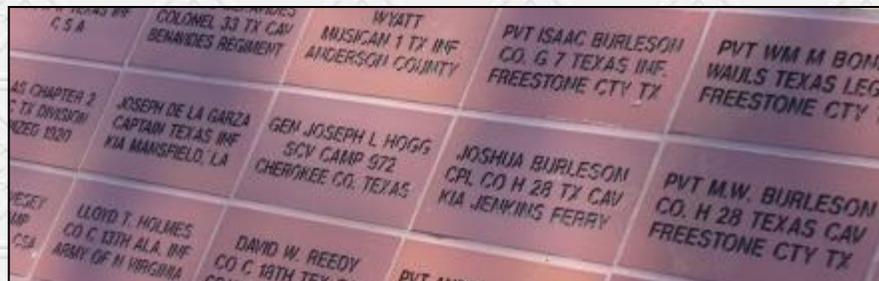




CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



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 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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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)