



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 7

JULY 2016

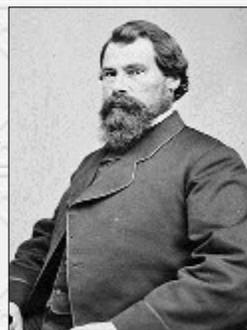
COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Compatriots,

Those of you who missed the meeting last night missed a real treat. I am amazed at the knowledge that so many in our camp have one Civil War history. Our Past Commander, David Franklin, presented a very informative and interesting history on the Battle of Sabine Pass that took place on September 8, 1863. It was clear from the start, that this is a little known piece of war history that David is very interested in. He has done extensive research that makes him the guy to go to should you want to know anything about that engagement in which 43 confederates defeated and put to flight a yankee force of 6,000 men. Wow, and they say that the South was defeated. I say that it was not where it really matters. For in the hearts and minds of

every Confederate soldier, the North could not defeat the belief that the South's cause was just and worth dying for.

That cause is still alive today in the hearts of every member of the various camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. We join because we desire to honor our ancestors and keep alive the dreams that they dreamed. A nation that was founded on constitutional principles and a belief in God. That nation, called the United States of America, died with the end of the war in 1865 and has, over the last 150 years, only further been eroded. Today, our heritage and history is under attack like never before. God has been abolished from



**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

our schools, churches close their doors on Sunday night, stores are open seven days a week and our women are treated with disdain and dishonor. And we wonder how could this have happened in so short of time?

I would like to offer an opinion.  
-continued on next pg-

CAMP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of Each Month  
06:30 PM

Snacks and drinks served at each meeting.

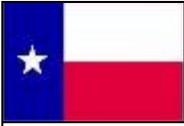
First Christian Church  
113 East Crawford Street  
Palestine, Texas

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commander's Dispatch	1-2
Prayer List/ Calendar of Events	3
July meeting pics	4
July Historical Program	
Battle of Sabine Pass	5-9
Upcoming Programs	10
Tex. Civ. War History	11
July Civ. War Calendar	12
CSA Gen Thomas Green	13-14
Tx Div Chaplain's Article	15-17
Confederate Plaza Info	18
Reagan Camp Contacts	19



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



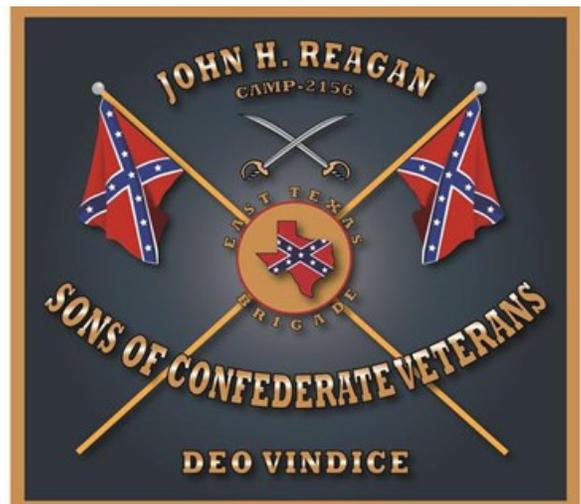
It's because we as a nation lost sight of the principles that guided Robert E. Lee and the Confederacy. The North after the war sought to subjugate the South and erase all signs and landmarks of a belief in the dignity of every man in a chivalry fashion. The North sent scalawags down to our homes to enslave a noble people and so perpetuated slavery in just another form. It is still going on today. The Black Lives Matter movement embolden by a corrupt black President and ambitious former female Secretary of State seek to enslave the entire nation to be dependent on Congress for every aspect of our life. Just like they sought the same thing back in 1860.

Now we must again take up the fight to preserve our dignity, our freedoms and our ability to pursue the dreams our confederate ancestors had. Right now it is a war being fought in the courts and across the front pages of the newspapers, but make no mistake about it, unless we change the minds of those hateful and willing to spill the blood of peaceful police officers and innocent people, the war will take to the streets.

I hope everyone will make a special effort to be at our August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will be back at the First Christian Church at 6:30 p.m. for a meal and then you are in for another special treat as Bonnie Woolverton will be presenting a program on the "Confederate Exodus to South America." Wow, I can hardly wait. The September 20<sup>th</sup> program will be on, "The History of James B. Liken's 35<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry" by John D. Stevens Sr. Our own, Andrew Harris will be bring the program on October 18 on "Confederate Images" and on November 15<sup>th</sup>, one of our newest members, Richard Thornton will be presenting a program. How does that sound to yall? Pretty great I have to suggest.

Please remember Gary Williams in your prayers. He is going to have to have the battery in his pacemaker changed out in August and continues to attempt to find his, "new norm" after his stroke. Due to his health issues, Gary has reluctantly resigned as 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander on July 9, but he left us in excellent condition in regards to programs. Hope to see you at our meetings soon Gary!

Till next month, Deo Vindice!



### Prayer List

- Adjutant Dan Dyer
- Former Chaplain Ed Furman
- Past Cmdr. Ronnie Hatfield
- Former Chaplain Rod Skelton & his wife, Nancy
- Former 1st Lt. Gary Williams
- Past Davis/Reagan UIDC Pres. Dollye Jeffus
- Lynn Gibson (Sgt at Arms Gary Gibson's Wife)
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans



Above: Confederate flags show their colors as they fly in the **Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza** in Palestine, Texas. The plaza was built by the John H. Reagan Camp #2156, and is open every day of the year for visitors to enjoy. It is located at the intersection of West Oak and North Jackson streets.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Aug 16 - August Reagan Camp Meeting**  
**Historical Program - Confederate Exodus to South America after the War.**

**Sept 20 - Sept Reagan Camp Meeting**  
**Historical Program - The 32nd Texas Cavalry**

**Oct 18 - October Reagan Camp Meeting**  
**Historical Program Portraits of Conflict**

**Nov 15 - November Reagan Camp Meeting**  
**Historical Program by Richard Thornton**



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](http://www.reaganstvcamp.org)

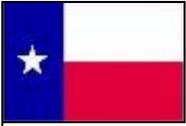
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

“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 JULY MEETING



Due to vacation Bible school being held at our normal meeting location, we had our July meeting at the Congregational Methodist Church in Elkhart. We had 15 in attendance. We were happy to have Mr. & Mrs. Delmer Wilson as visitors. We had a meal of pizza, barbeque sandwiches, fresh purple hull peas and cornbread, fresh tomatoes, with cake and cookies for dessert. The August meeting will be held at our normal location.





## JULY HISTORICAL PROGRAM THE BATTLE OF SABINE PASS BY DAVID FRANKLIN



David Franklin presented the Reagan Camp with an excellent program on the Battle of Sabine Pass. It was a fascinating story about how 43 Confederates were victorious over 6,000 Yankees.

The setting was August 1863. Vicksburg had been lost. Lee was stopped at Gettysburg, and Lincoln had major concerns about Texas. He was worried, because Texas had been untouched agriculturally, and it was able to supply the Confederate Army with valuable resources. But he was also worried because France was in control of Mexico, and France was wanting Texas to succeed from the Union and become a part of Mexico.

As Lincoln and Grant were looking for the next Confederate target, Grant was pushing to invade Mobile, Alabama, but Lincoln disagreed. Lincoln said, "I am greatly impressed with the importance of re-establishing the national authority in Texas". He knew that Texas was valuable in more ways than one.

Thus, Lincoln instituted a three pronged plan. (1) Secure Little Rock, Arkansas (2) Secure East Texas (3) Secure Shreveport.

On August 10, 1863, 30,000 U.S. troops left Helena, Arkansas and headed for Little Rock.

Lincoln felt that Brownsville should be a point of attack, but Union Chief of Staff Henry Halleck talked him into attacking Sabine Pass. On August 5th, Halleck wrote General Nathaniel Banks a letter ordering

him from New Orleans to Sabine Pass. Banks had 37,000 men and was going to use 20,000 in Texas. The Confederate States Army had 11,000 total men in all of Texas, and most were concentrated near Marshall due to the threat against Shreveport. Banks was told by Admiral Farragut, who was helping plan the invasion, he could only transport 6,000 at a time to Texas.



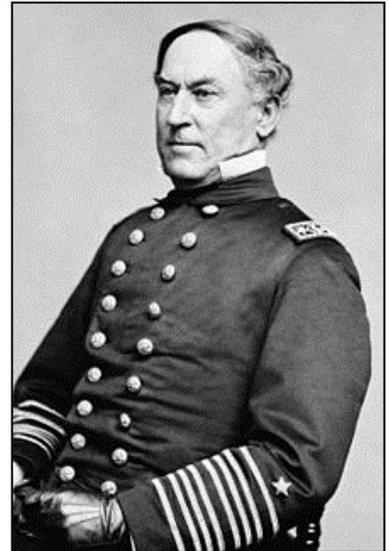
-continued on next page-



## JULY HISTORICAL PROGRAM THE BATTLE OF SABINE PASS BY DAVID FRANKLIN



Admiral Farragut had such little concern over the upcoming invasion of Sabine Pass that he went on vacation to New York City on August 1st and left Commodore Bell in command. He put Captain Frederick Crocker in command of the lead boats. Crocker, a new Englander, had captained whaling ships since 1845 and had captured 8 CSA blockade runners in 1862. His flagship was the Clifton, an 892 ton 210 foot long sidewheel steamer, ironclad. Banks also had 22 transport ships for a total of 27 ships. They had 4 infantry brigades, 6 artillery batteries, the 1st Texas Union Cavalry Regiment, 50 army wagons, 300 horses, and 100 mules. Major General William Franklin, 1st in his West Point Class of 1843, was to command the landing. Banks was to be the Military Governor of Texas.



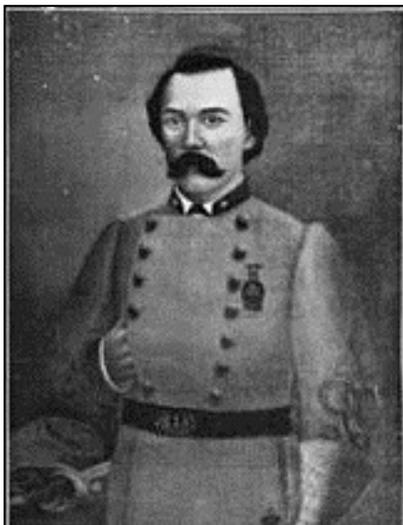
U.S. Admiral David Farragut

Ships began leaving New Orleans at 5 p.m. on Friday September 4th.

After much confusion, including passing Sabine Pass by mistake, all the ships finally anchored in the bay by 9 p.m. on September 7th.

The Clifton had two 9" Parrott rifles. The largest 9" shot a 150 pound shell, the smallest shot a 20 pound shell. They also had two 32 pound smoothbore Dahlgren and four 32 pound Parrott smooth bores. The ship's batteries, boiler, and machinery were all protected by 2 inches of iron plates.

Fort Griffin was the Confederate fort at Sabine Pass. Its construction was overseen by General Magruder's Chief of Engineers, Col. Valery Sulakowski. Different descriptions abound, from a 4 foot high dirt embankment to bombproof shelters that were supported by timber and railroad iron rails. It had 6 cannons, Two 32 pound smoothbores, two 24 pound smooth bores, and two 32 pound howitzers that had been captured in New Mexico at the Battle of Valverde.



Richard "Dick" Dowling

Manning the CSA fort were 41 Irishmen, 2 outsiders, a CSA Cavalry surgeon and an engineer. They were commanded by 26 year old Lieutenant Richard W. Dowling. Shelling began by the Clifton at 6:30 a.m. on September 8th and continued for an hour. After firing 26 shells and receiving no answer, the 4 battleships and transports entered the channels. Plans were made to unload the men by noon, but Franklin waiting until 4 p.m. to say he was "ready".

Henry Dane, signal officer on the Sachem, noticed poles standing upright in the Sabine River through his spyglass. These poles had been used by the soldiers at Fort Griffin for target practice, and they had gotten very good at hitting them. When Dane pointed them out to his captain, he was asked, "well, what about them? in a gruff tone.

- continued on next page -



## JULY HISTORICAL PROGRAM THE BATTLE OF SABINE PASS BY DAVID FRANKLIN



Dane said, "I believe we'll get an answer to your question when we get near those poles, and the answer will be quite unsatisfactory to us all." That's when the Confederate guns opened up. The 5th shell from Michael McKernan's 24 pounder hit the Schem's boiler. A shell took off one of the Arizona's masts. A shot hit the Clifton's steering rope.

Dane said, "We were told afterwards that General Weitzed swore like a pirate and wept like a mother over her dead child when he was ordered to sail away and leave us."

After being captured, Dane told Lt. Dowling, "Well sire, you and your men in your miserable little mud fort among the rushes have captured two gunboats carrying 14 guns, a good number of prisoners, many stands of small arms, and plenty of good ammunition. And all that you have done with six popguns and two smart Quakers. And that is not the worst of your boyish tricks, you have sent three yankee gunboat, 6000 troops, and a General out to sea in the dark. You ought to be ashamed of yourself sir."

During the brief battle, 2 Union gunboats were captured and put into service. 472 Union prisoners were taken. 200,000 rations and several hundred horses and mules were tossed overboard by the escaping transports to lighten their load so they could get away.

On September 16, 1863, \$3380 was raised in Houston by the Southern Dramatic Association to present each man with a silver medal which was made from Mexican Silver dollars. This medal was the only Confederate wartime issued battle medal.

Jefferson Davis said, "The inquiry may naturally arise how this small number of men could take charge of such a large body of prisoners. To their valor they added stratagem. A few were placed on the parapet as sentinels. The rest marched out as a guard to receive the prisoners and their arms. Thus was concealed the fact that the fort was empty. Reinforcements arrived which relieved the little garrison of its embarrassment."



Commodore Bell said to Gideon Wells, the Secretary of the Navy, "It is my unpleasant duty to report that the expedition to the Sabine has totally failed." Bell drew a picture of his "frail boats" going against mighty Confederate batteries on Franklin's orders while the army stood by idly and watched.

U.S. General Nathaniel Banks told Lincoln, "Immediate cause of the failure was the misapprehension of the naval authorities of the real strength of the enemy's position, and the insufficient naval force with which the attempt was made." Northern newspapers pointed out that more than 1/3 of all union shipping losses in 1863 had occurred at Sabine, Tx. U.S. Credit declined abroad, as the dollar lost 5% of its value against gold.

Dick Dowling became a hero in the Galveston area and was very successful in business. He died Sept 23, 1867 of Yellow Fever. His daughter, Annie Mary, married Will Robertson, a judge, who was the uncle of future Governor of Texas, Dan Moody, an Irishman.

July 12, 1880, Jefferson Davis said, "the very remarkable defense of the Sabine Pass in 1863 was commemorated by a medal struck in silver, one of which was presented to each member of the Company that made the defense, and another one to me, I having been elected an honorary member of the Company at the time of its organization. After my capture in 1865, and while I was in Fortress Monroe, my wife held as a prisoner on board the transport ship Clydel, some officers were sent to examine her luggage. Among other articles pillaged from her trunks, was the medal to which I have referred."

Only 7 of the medals are known to exist today with four of those being in public institutional collections. The most recent medal sold at auction for \$48,300 in January 2007.



## THE BATTLE OF SABINE PASS MONUMENTS

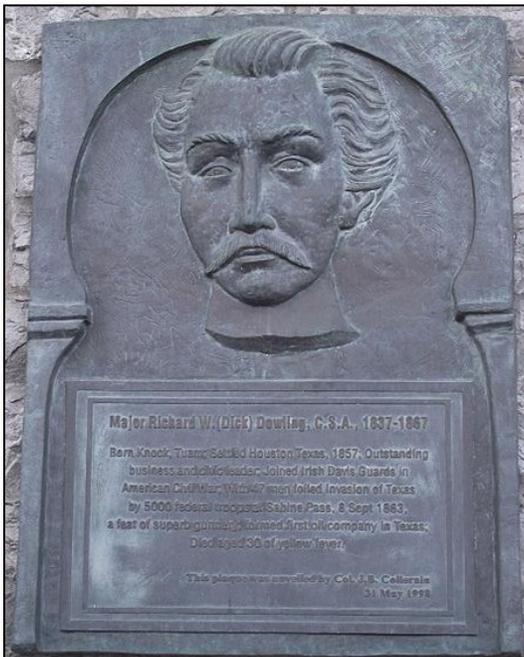


Although the Irish had been treated as outcasts by many before the war, the Confederate government offered its gratitude to Richard "Dick" Dowling after the Battle of Sabine Pass. He was promoted to Major, and the ladies of Houston presented the unit with the specially stuck Davis Guard Medals. They are the only medals of honor issued by the Confederate government, and are highly valued by collectors today.

Pictured at left is the Dowling Monument in Hermann Park, Houston, Texas courtesy of: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Richard\\_Dowling\\_Statue.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Richard_Dowling_Statue.jpg)

After the battle of Sabine Pass, Dowling was treated as a hero in his hometown of Houston. He ended us serving as a recruiter for the Confederacy. He was personally commended for his actions at the Battle of Sabine Pass by Jefferson Davis. He became a prominent businessman after the war, but died on Sept 23, 1867 of Yellow Fever. He was buried at St. Vincent's Catholic Cemetery in Houston.

Pictured at right is Dowling's grave: picture courtesy of <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>



Not only was Dowling a hero in Houston and throughout the Confederacy, but he was also a hero to his home town of Tuam in Ireland. The picture at the left is of a bronze plaque that is in his home town in honor of their brave "Confederate Hero" that bears his image and explains his incredible victory at Sabine Pass, Texas. The text on the plaque reads, "*Major Richard W. (Dick) Dowling C.S.A., 1837-1867 Born Knock, Tuam; Settle Houston Texas, 1857; Outstanding business and civic leader. Joined Irish Davis Guards in American Civil War. With 47 men foiled invasion of Texas by 5000 federal troops at Sabine Pass, 8 Sept 1863, a feat of superb gunnery, formed first oil company in Texas; Died aged 30 of yellow fever. This plaque was unveiled by Col. J.B. Collerain 31 May 1998.*"

At left is the Dowling plaque in Tuam, Co., Galway, Ireland. Picture courtesy of [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dick\\_Dowling\\_Plaque\\_Tuam.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dick_Dowling_Plaque_Tuam.JPG)

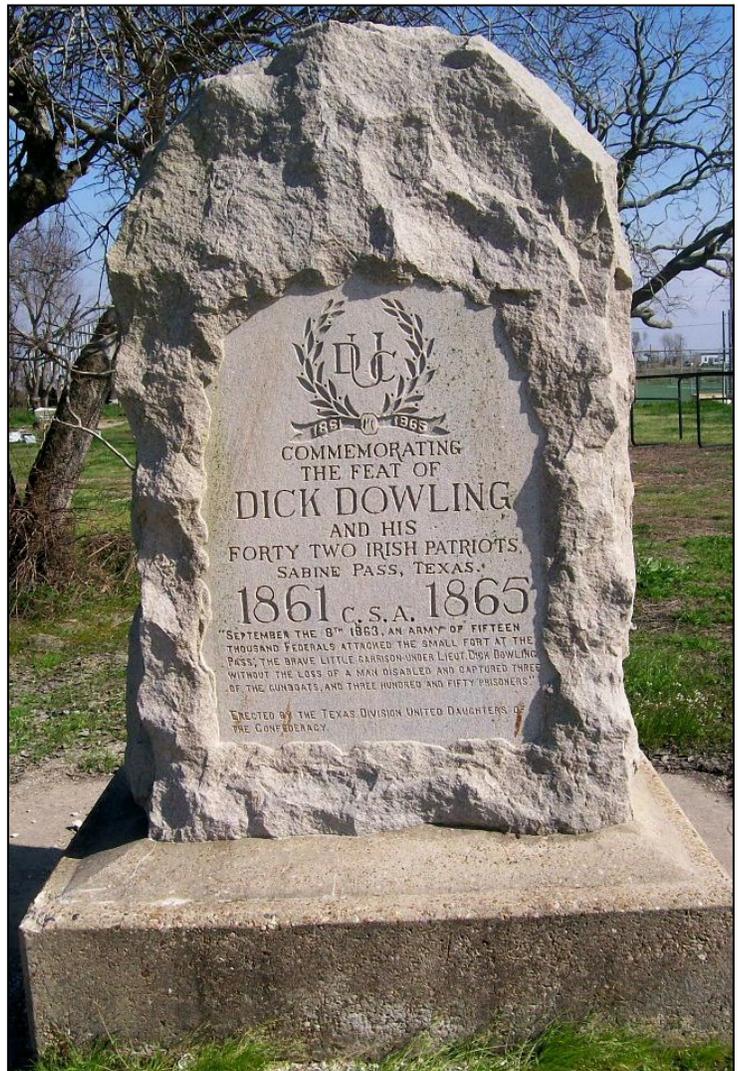
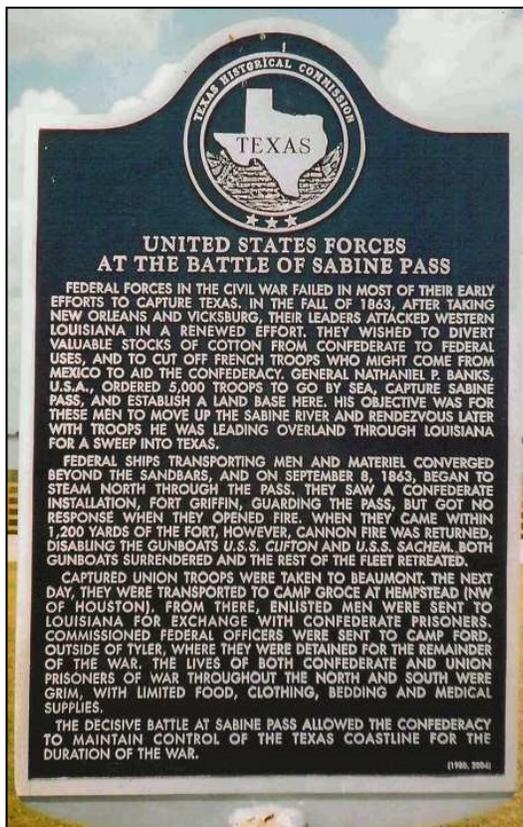


# THE BATTLE OF SABINE PASS MONUMENTS

PICTURES COURTESY OF CIVILWARALBUM.COM  
PHOTOS USED WITH PERMISSION FROM BRUCE SCHULZE



Dick Dowling monument at Sabine Pass State Battleground



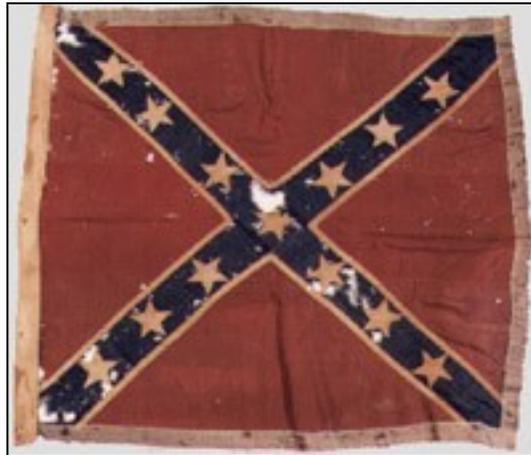


## UPCOMING HISTORICAL PROGRAMS

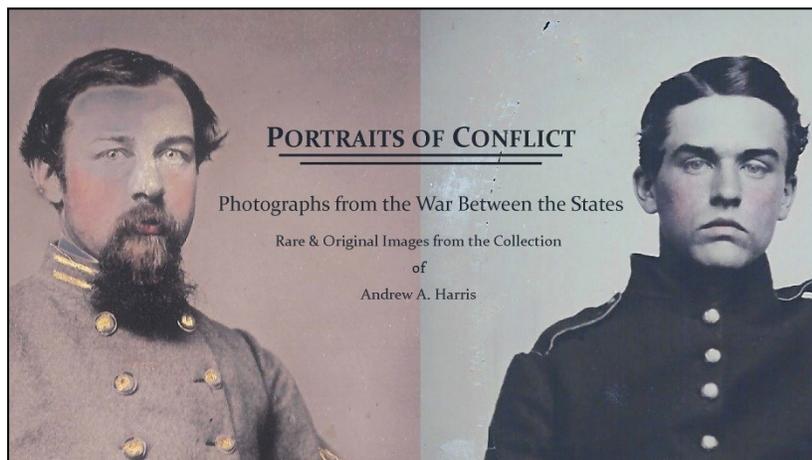
August Program: Confederate Exodus to South America after the War by Bonnie Woolverton

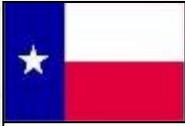


September Program: The History of James B. Liken's 35th Texas Cavalry by John D. Stevens Sr.



October Program: Portraits of Conflict by Andrew Harris





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN JULY

From the Texas State Historical Association



July 2, 1863 On this day in 1863, Hood's Texas Brigade became a major participant in the battle of Gettysburg. The brigade had been organized in 1861 in Richmond, Virginia. It was composed of the First, Fourth and Fifth Texas Infantry regiments, the only Texas troops to fight in the Eastern Theater. Col. John Bell Hood had been commander of the Fourth. On July 2, 1863, the brigade led the assault at Devils Den and Little Round Top, the crucial action of the second day of the battle. A soldier of the First Texas called the assault on Devil's Den "one of the wildest, fiercest struggles of the war." After routing the Union forces at the Devil's Den, however, the brigade was unable to capture Little Round Top. A thirty-five-foot monument to the men of Hood's Texas Brigade stands on the south drive of the Capitol in Austin.

July 22, 1861 On this day in 1861, Confederate General Barnard Elliott Bee Jr. died from wounds received at the first battle of Manassas ( or Bull Run ). Bee's family had been very active in the government of the Republic of Texas. His father, Barnard Bee Sr., moved the family from South Carolina to Texas in 1836. The elder Bee's offices included secretary of state in the administrations of David G. Burnet and Lirabeau B. Lamar and secretary of war under Sam Houston. Hamilton P. Bee, brother to Barnard Jr., served as secretary for the commission that established the boundary between the Republic of Texas and the united States. Hamilton later fought in the Mexican War and served in the Texas legislature before achieving the rank of Confederate brigadier general during the Civil War. Barnard Bee Jr., a West point graduate and Mexican War veteran, was appointed brigadier general in the Confederate Army and assigned to command a brigade in Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard's Army of Virginia at Manassas Junction. It was there on July 21, 1861, where his soldiers suffered the brunt of the federal attack on the Confederate left wing. In an effort to encourage his men, Bee cried, "Rally behind the Virginians! There stands Jackson like a stonewall!" Bee's colleague Thomas Jonathan Jackson was forever known as "Stonewall."

July 24, 1861 On this day, Lt. Col. John Robert Baylor led 300 men of the Confederate Second Texas Mounted Rifles in an assault on Union forces under Maj. Isaac Lynde at Fort Fillmore, Arizona. Baylor was under orders to occupy a chain of forts protecting the overland route between Fort Clark and Fort Bliss. He entered the nearby town of Mesilla that night. The next morning Lynde ordered an artillery attack on Mesilla, but after three of his men were killed and six wounded, he withdrew. Learning that Baylor had requested artillery from Ft Bliss, Lynde abandoned the fort the night of July 26. The next day, Baylor gave chase. The Confederates rode into Lynde's camp in the early afternoon, and Lynde surrendered his force of 492 men. Baylor proclaimed Arizona Territory, C.S.A., and named himself governor. He remained there until the spring of 1862. The victory at Mesilla was one of the Civil War's early and surprising Confederate successes.

July 30, 1867 On this day, James Webb Throckmorton, first governor of Texas after the Civil War, was removed from office for being an "impediment to Reconstruction" on the grounds that the state of Texas did not support the Fourteenth Amendment, he refused to support it himself. He declined to increase protection for former slaves and to advocate Radical Republican policies. This "Tennessean by birth [and] Texan by Adoption" was a physician and politician who had a long and distinguished record of service to the state, the united States, and the Confederacy. He died at McKinney on April 21, 1894.



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



**JULY**

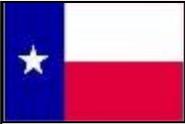
					1 July, 1855 - to wife Any one can insist, but the wise alone know how to desist.	2 July - to Fitzhugh You know the interest I take in your prosperity & advancement, which cannot be assured without earnest attention to your business on your part.
3 July—to wounded Union soldier at Gettysburg. My son, I hope you will soon be well.	4 July, 1863—on Gettysburg - It is all my fault, I thought my men were invincible	5 July 1864— to Mildred I want to see you all very much. I think of you, long for you, pray for you. It is all I can do. Think sometimes of your devoted father.	6 undated - to Jeff Davis I have no complaints to make of any one but myself	7 July, 1863 - to wife I have heard with great grief Fitzhugh has been captured. We must bear this additional affliction with fortitude & resignation.	8 July, 1849 - to wife It is so difficult to regulate your conduct. Man's nature is so selfish, so weak, every feeling & every passion urging him to folly, excess & sin.	9 undated - Practice self-denial and self control, as well as the strictest economy in all financial matters.
10 undated - to Rooney Let us all so live that we may be united in that world where there is no more separation, & where sorrow & pain never come.	11 undated - Above all, [the teacher] must be uniform, consistent, firm & kind in his conduct & teach more by acts than by ends.	12 July, 1863 - to wife We must expect to endure every injury our enemies can inflict upon us. Their conduct is not dictated by kindness or love. But I do not think we should follow their example.	13 July, 1863 - to Jeff Davis No one is more aware than myself of my inability for the duties of my position. I cannot even accomplish what I myself desire.	14 July, 1863 - to Jeff Davis The general remedy for the want of success in a military commander is his removal. This is natural, & in many instances, proper.	15 July 1863 - to wife We must implore the forgiveness of God for our sins, & the continuance of His blessings. There is nothing by His almighty power that can sustain us.	16 undated - to Carter My pay seems to decrease as my children increase.
17 July, 1867 - If it is true as taught by history, that greatness rests upon virtue, it is equally true that religion is the fountain & support of virtue.	18 July, 1862 - to Jeff Davis The whole division takes tone from its commander.	19 undated - The teacher should be the example to the pupil.	20 undated - Should the pupils be trained in obedience, reverence & truthfulness, & be convinced they are noble the main object will have been attained.	21 July, 1861 - to wife All my thoughts & strength are given to the cause to which my life, be it long or short, will be devoted.	22 undated - [The teacher] should aim at the highest attainable proficiency & not at pleasing mediocrity.	23 undated - [The teacher] must study the character & disposition of his pupils & adapt his course of discipline to their peculiarities.
24 undated - We have no printed rules. We have buy one rule here [Washington College] & it is that every student must be a gentleman.	25 July, 1869 - to wife May God bless us all & preserve us for the time when we too, must part, the one from the other, which is now close at hand.	26 July, 1863 - to wife How I long & pray that God may pardon my many & long standing sins & once more gather around me you & my children before I go hence & be no	27 July, 1863 - to Mildred May God bless you my daughter, strew your path with happiness, & finally gather you & all of us to His mansions of bliss in heaven, is my daily & hourly	28 July, 1862 - to Mildred I cannot see what you are proud of & advise you against all such feelings for you know what is said in that good book about a proud spirit.	29 July, 1863 - You must endeavor to enjoy the pleasure of doing good. That is all that makes life valuable.	30 undated - I do not care for display.

31 undated - Its duties [teaching] require love & comprehensive preparation, it should be regarded as among the most honourable & important professions.

**Southern Born, Texas Proud!**

*"Learn About Your Heritage"*

**Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Texas Division**



**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP**  
**CSA GENERAL THOMAS GREEN**



**1814-1864** PG 1 OF 2



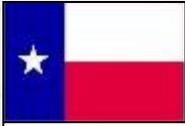
Thomas Green was born in Amelia County in Virginia to Nathan and Mary (Field) Green. The family moved to Tennessee in 1817. He attended Jackson College and Cumberland College (Princeton, Kentucky) before he received a degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1834. He then studied law with his father, who was a judge on the Tennessee Supreme Court.

When the Texas Revolution began, Green left Tennessee to join the rebel volunteers. He arrived in Nacogdoches in December 1835, and enlisted in Isaac N. Moreland's company on January 14, 1836. During the April 21 Battle of San Jacinto, Green helped operate the famed "Twin Sisters" cannons, the only artillery present in Sam Houston's army. A few days after the decisive victory, Houston rewarded Green with a commission as a lieutenant. In early May, he was promoted to major and assigned as the aide-de-camp to General Thomas J. Rusk. With hostilities over, Green resigned on May 30 and returned to Tennessee to

resume studying law. In 1837, the legislature of the new Republic of Texas granted large tracts of land to leading veterans of the Revolution, including Green. After relocating to Fayette County, Green became a county surveyor at La Grange. That same year, fellow San Jacinto veteran William W. Gant nominated Green for the position of engrossing clerk for the Texas House of Representatives. He was subsequently elected and held the office until 1839, when he represented Fayette County in the House of Representatives in the Fourth Texas Congress. After a single term, he chose not to run again, and resumed his clerkship. During the Sixth and Eighth Texas Congresses, he served as secretary of the Senate. From 1841 to 1861, he was clerk of the Texas Supreme Court, in both the republic and the subsequent U.S. State.

During his legislative career, Green continued his involvement with Texas' military. He participated in John H. Moore's 1840 campaign against the Comanche up the Colorado River. When Mexican General Rafael Vasquez briefly occupied San Antonio in March 1842, Green recruited the Travis County Volunteers and stood as their captain; the unit was not involved in combat. In response to this and two other Mexican incursions, Texas launched the punitive Somervell Expedition against Mexico; Green served as its inspector general. In the Mexican-American War, Green recruited a company of Texas Rangers from LaGrange, and served as their Captain during the 1846 U.S. capture of Monterrey in the state of Nuevo Leon. Green married Marry Wallace Chambers in 1847. The couple eventually produced six children.

- continued on next page -



**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP**  
**CSA GENERAL THOMAS GREEN**  
**1814-1864** PG 2 OF 2



After Texas seceded in early 1861, Green was elected colonel of the 5th Texas Cavalry Regiment, which as part of a brigade led by Brig. Gen. Henry H. Sibley, joined the invasion of New Mexico Territory in 1862. There, Green led the Confederate victory at the Battle of Valverde in February. After a difficult retreat into Texas, he led his men, aboard the river steamer Bayou City, to assist in the recapture of Galveston on January 1, 1863. He was also involved in the seizure of the union steamer Harriet Lane the same day.

In the spring of 1863, Green commanded the First Cavalry Brigade in Richard Taylor's division in the fighting along Bayou Teche in Louisiana. He was promoted to brigadier general, May 20, 1863. In June, he captured a Union garrison at Brashear City, but failed to seize Fort Butler on the Mississippi River. Green's cavalry routed advancing Union troops under Godfrey Weitzel and Cuvier Grover at Koch's (Cox's) Plantation on July 13. In September, the First Cavalry Brigade captured another Union detachment at Stirling's Plantation. A similar success followed in November at the Battle of Bayou Bourbeux. In the four victories, Green's men inflicted about 3,000 casualties and suffered only 600 losses. Green was subsequently assigned command of the cavalry division of the Trans-Mississippi Department.

During the Red River Campaign, Green led his division of cavalry from Texas to reinforce Taylor in Louisiana to stop the advance of Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks toward Shreveport. Green participated in the Battle of Mansfield and the Battle of Pleasant Hill. A few days later, on April 12, 1864, Green was mortally wounded by a shell from a Federal gunboat while leading an attack on the gunboats patrolling the Red River at Blair's Landing. He soon died on Blair's Plantation. Upon his death, Union admiral David Dixon Porter paid tribute to the fallen Confederate cavalryman in saying that Green was "one in whom the rebels place more confidence than anyone else. He led his men to the very edge of the bank, they shouting and yelling like madmen—losing General Green has paralyzed them; he was worth 5,000 men to them". He is buried in the family plot at Oakwood Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

Historian John D. Winters in the Civil War in Louisiana (1863) quotes a Texas soldier who fought under Green: "He was a man who, when out of whiskey, was a mild mannered gentleman, but when in good supply of old burst-head was all fight." Winters continues: "Well fortified with Louisiana rum, Green with a yell told [his men] that he was going to show them how to fight. The charge against the gunboats was made on horseback. Green was killed well in advance, a cannon shot taking off the top of his head.. ..Drunk or sober, foolish or not in waging the attack, Green was a valuable man, and General Taylor lamented him."





## TEXAS STATE SCV CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE BY DON MAJORS

PG 1 OF 3



### **Compatriots,**

In the colonial days of early America, a town crier would walk through the streets calling out the news of the day. "Hear ye, hear ye!" He would shout it out above the noise of his clanging bell.

All people would stop their work to listen to the news of the day. Sometimes the news was good; sometimes it was bad. Then at nightfall, a watchman paraded the streets with a lantern in his hand, to cry out: "All's well, all's well."

What would the town crier and the watchman be saying today? Is the news good or is the news bad? Is all well or not? I guess those judgments are in the eye of the beholder.

In my humble opinion, it appears as though the world we inhabit is immersed in strife, violence, uncertainty, depression, and despair. There seems to be a creeping ingratitude that has gripped our Western society, as though our society has succumbed to things negative, and turned from the God of the Judeo-Christian faith to hedonism and spiritual decline.

In the time of the judges (1375 to 1050 B.C.), the Good Book tells about the life of a particular Israelite family (Elimelech and Naomi). The story takes place in the land of Moab (east of the Dead Sea), one century before the time of David. It was an age of anarchy. It was an age of confusion and unfaithfulness to the Law of God. It was also a time of spiritual unrest, and a time of social and political unrest. To add to it all, it is a time of severe famine in Israel. This Jewish family had fallen on hard times and ended up in Moab, but in Moab things only got worse.

Naomi's family started dying off. Her husband Elimelech died, and then her two sons both past away. That was a hard culture for a woman and two daughter-in-laws to live in. These three widows were left to fend for themselves. No children. On the brink of ruin and despair. Impoverished. This was the situation.

"Hear ye, hear ye, all was not well."

- continued on next page -



## TEXAS STATE SCV CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE BY DON MAJORS

PG 2 OF 3



Naomi came to a decision. She knew that she must go back to her kinsmen in Israel if she ever intended to survive. She expressed these difficult emotions to her two daughter-in-laws, Orpah and Ruth.

When it came time for Naomi to leave, both daughter-in-laws showed the same emotion. They both cried. They both hugged Naomi. That's where the similarities cease. Orpah went back, but Ruth clung to Naomi.

Ruth's words to Naomi are classic.

"Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go. And wherever you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me." - Ruth

Orpah showed all the emotions with Naomi. She hugged her. She cried, and I'm sure she truly loved her Mother-in-law. But, when the day of decision came, she turned back. Ruth is the example. She also hugged Naomi. She also cried, and she also loved her Mother-in-Law, but she put her words into action. When the day of decision came, Ruth's decision was already made. "Your people will be my people."

Down through the years in the Sons of Confederate Veterans many have been like Orpah. They care for the organization in many ways, but when the day of decision comes they turn back. Let us be "Ruth's."

Anyone can be a part when things are easy and commitments are not really required, but when things get difficult and heated up they ride off into the sunset.

Many of us learned to drive a car with a manual gear shift. As we all know, every time you change gears, you always pass neutral. The other gears will all put you in a position to go somewhere (even backwards), but neutral is the one position where you end up going nowhere. You cannot have the car in neutral and expect to go forward.

- continued on next page -



## TEXAS STATE SCV CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE BY DON MAJORS

PG 3 OF 3



The Sons of Confederate Veterans cannot live in neutral about our commitment to the Cause and expect to enjoy the rewards of our labor. If we stand for nothing, we will fall for anything.

"Hear ye, hear ye, all's not well."

Will we commit to our "Naomi" (Sons of Confederate Veterans)? Or will we be Orpah? Will we cry? Will we hug? But, when the day of decision comes to defend the Cause, will we return to our home, or will we be "Ruth?"

"Sons of Confederate Veterans, entreat me not to leave you or to turn back from being a part of you. For wherever this organization goes, I will go. Whatever battles you fight, I will fight. The compatriots of the Sons of Confederate Veterans are my compatriots. I will defend the name of my compatriot's ancestors, and I will defend the name of my ancestors. Your people shall be my people. Let nothing but death part me from you."

God Bless Dixie,

Reverend M. Don Majors, Pastor

Texas Division Chaplain Sons of Confederate Veterans

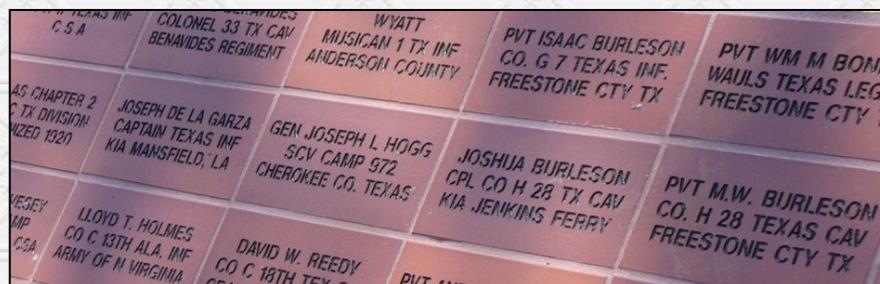




## CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



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

c/o Dan Dyer, Adjutant/Treasurer  
Palestine, Texas 75802  
E-mail: danielyer497@yahoo.com  
Phone: (903) 391-2224

Charles Steen, Commander  
Palestine, Texas  
E-mail: clsteen430@yahoo.com  
Phone: 903-948-8275

Dwight Franklin, Chaplain/Newsletter  
Editor: dwightfranklin1@yahoo.com

Please visit our website @  
[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)