



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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OCTOBER 2017

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH



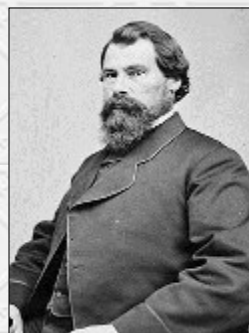
Back on August 12, 2017 I fell and tore my rotator cuff. It was a surprising injury, and one that has been non-stop pain until I had surgery on October 9th. Since I haven't yet mastered typing with one hand, much yet my weak hand, this month's dispatch will be brief.

Our historical program this month was on the subject of Reconstruction in Texas presented by our own camp member, Calvin

Nicholson. As always he presented another very informative, well researched program. I'm not sure what the November program will be on, so if someone has already signed up through the 2nd Lt. to present something, please let me know. Also at the November meeting we will be presenting the proposed came officers for 2018. Thanks in advance to those who have offered to serve if elected. Voting and installation will be at our December meeting.

Well I am worn out so I will close.

Till next month, Deo Vindice!



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



CAMP MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of Each Month
06:30 PM

Snacks and drinks served at each meeting.

Palestine Masonic Lodge
401 W. Debard Street
Palestine, Texas

(Located behind the Sacred Heart Catholic Church)

Guests are welcome!
Bring the family.

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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Prayer List

- Forrest Bradberry—Camp Historian
- Compatriot J.B. Mason
- Commander Charles Steen
- Toni Ray (wife of past comdr Rudy Ray)
- 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

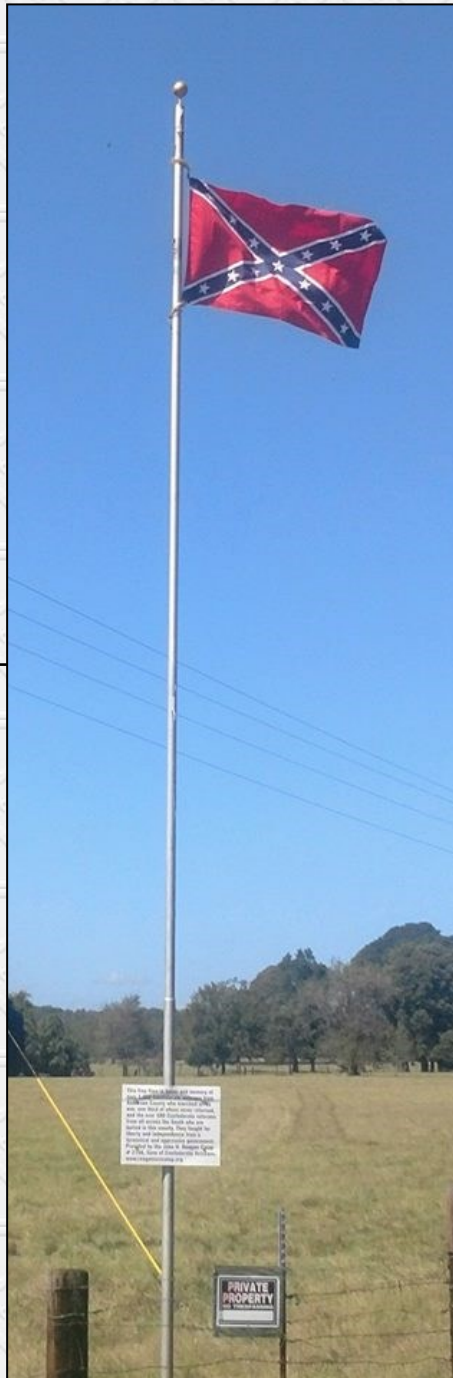
Nov 16 - November meeting at Palestine Masonic Lodge

Nov 23—Thanksgiving

Dec 21 - December meeting at Palestine Masonic Lodge

Dec 25—Christmas Day

Jan 1—New Year’s Day



The flag in the picture to the left flies on Marc Robinson’s private property. Someone trespassed and stole the battle flag on the night of October 7th. They also stepped on the sign that says “this flag is flying in honor and in memory of the over 1,100 Confederate Veterans from Anderson County who went off to war, one third to never return home, and the over 500 Confederate Veterans from all across the South that are buried in the cemeteries in this County.” This is the second time it has been vandalized since July 2011 when it was raised. It is hard to understand how people who are so vocal about people respecting their history show no respect for the true history of our Confederate ancestors. Although these hoodlums would be upset if the monuments of their ancestors and their heroes were removed or destroyed, that is exactly what they are doing to the memorials of our Confederate ancestors. Our heroes are being served a big injustice and political correctness is allowing it. Marc replaced the battle flag in the picture above, but in many places the memorials are being forcibly removed and will never return.

“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 OCTOBER 2017 MEETING



We had 14 in attendance at our October meeting. We started off with a delicious meal of fried chicken, purple hull peas, turnip greens, buttermilk cornbread, jalapeno cornbread, Mississippi Mud Cake, pound cake, Blue Bell ice cream, sweet tea and red cream soda! Everyone ate until they were stuffed. Each member of the camp was given the opportunity to stand up and tell the group about their Confederate ancestor. It was so nice to be able to hear the stories about each member's ancestor. Seeing the excitement in their faces as they spoke was proof of how proud each man was of his brave ancestor's sacrifice for his family and the Confederacy. The November meeting will be on November 16th. Richard Thornton will be bringing homemade spaghetti for the meal. Hope to see you there.





OCTOBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM RECONSTRUCTION IN TEXAS BY CALVIN NICHOLSON



Calvin Nicholson presented the Reagan Camp with an historical program entitled “Reconstruction in Texas”. Calvin started off by reading an article by a northern sympathizer that was full of mistruths and fabricated so-called facts about the reason the southern states succeeded from the union. He followed that up by telling true facts about the war of northern aggression. Calvin told how each state followed the democratic process of secession that was allowed by the constitution. (Texas even allowed its citizens to vote on whether or not to secede from the union). Calvin explained that eleven states successfully seceded from the union. He explained that the eleven states having to be readmitted to the union was proof of their successful secession. By doing this they did not commit treason, as the northern sympathizer had stated in his fictional article. If they had not been successful in their secession, then the union wouldn’t have needed to “readmit” them into the union.



Calvin mentioned how terrible it is when those who live in the present, try to change the truth about the past. Just because someone may not agree with a particular event, it doesn’t mean that they can change the facts of what actually happened. This is a big problem that we are seeing with the “political correct” in our country today. They are so determined to have people come to their side that they are changing the actual facts of why the war was fought. They don’t care that they are ruining the good names of the brave men who fought for the Confederacy.

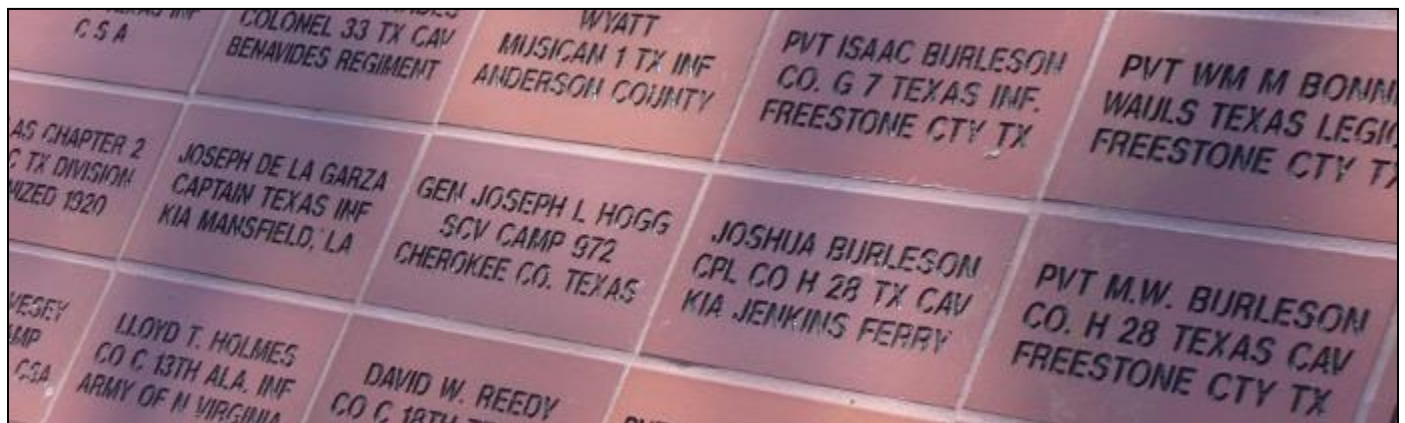
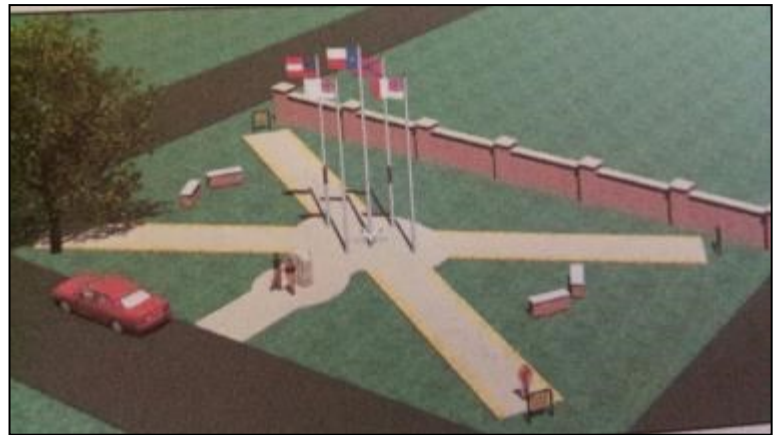
We appreciate Calvin for his historical presentation and for everything else that he does for the Reagan Camp and for our Confederate ancestors.

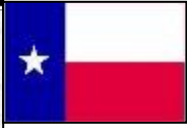


A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



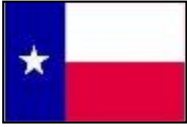
Many Americans have forgotten that freedom isn't free at all. There have been hundreds of thousands of Americans who have willingly given their life for their country so that we could continue to have the rights of free men. But there is a group of people in our country who have decided that they have the right to take away the rights of others, especially if those others do not agree with their agenda. These people have no respect for the true history of anything that goes against what they want. Although they cannot change true history, they are changing the history books and in so doing are changing what people are taught about the history of our country. These people don't care if they are dishonoring our Confederate ancestors. They care nothing about our ancestor's service. Do you care about preserving your ancestor's service? If so, you can do so by having his service noted in the Confederate Veteran's Memorial Plaza with a paver that will include his name and service information on it for only \$50. It will last for years and years to come and will let countless people see his name and information. It is a wonderful way to give him the recognition that he deserves.





JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP OCTOBER CIVIL WAR CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 undated - to his wife: I am opposed to officers surrounding themselves with their sons & relatives.	2 Oct 1865 - at Washington college I shall devote my remaining energies to training young men to do their duty in life.	3 Oct, 1865 - to Gen Beauregard: The South requires the aid of her sons now more than at any period of her history.	4 Undated - to Gen Beauregard Every one should do all in his power to collect & disseminate the truth in the hope that it may find a place in history & descend to posterity.	5 Undated - War is a terrible alternative & should be the very, very last resort.	6 Oct, 1865 - to R.H. Chilton I have entered upon the duties of my new office, in the hope of being of some service; but I should prefer to be on a small farm.	7 Oct, 1865 - to wife: I am sorry the armies cannot keep with the expectations of the editors of papers. I know they can regulate matters satisfactorily on paper. I wish they could do so in the field.
8 Oct, 1852 - to Markie: carry a brave as well as true heart for every occasion of life.	9 Oct, 1865 - Life is gliding away & I have nothing good to show for mine that is past. I pray I may be spared to accomplish something for the benefit of mankind & the honour of God.	10 undated If I could only have my children around me, I could be happy	11 undated - Charity should have no beginning or ending.	12 Oct, 1870 - Lee died at 9:30 Strike the tent!	13 Oct, 1870 - from Mrs. Lee: I have never so truly felt the purity of his character as now, when I have nothing left but his memory.	14 undated - to Anna Fitzhugh: A man may manifest & communicate his joy, but he should conceal & smother his grief as much as possible.
15 Undated - My only pleasure is in my solitary evening rides, which give me abundant opportunity for quiet though.	16 Oct, 1837 - to wife: I pray God to watch over & direct our efforts in guarding our dear son, that we may bring him up 'in the way he should go.'	17 Undated - Human virtue should be equal to human calamity.	18 Undated - no honest man can take long to deliberate which side he will choose.	19 Undated - to Rooney: We must unite in doing our duty & earnestly work to extract what good we can out of the evil that now hangs over our dear land.	20 Undated - to wife: Our little boy seems to have the reputation of being hard to manage, a distinction not at all desirable, as it indicates self-will & obstinacy.	21 Undated - to Robert: You could raise money on your farm only by mortgaging it, which would put you in debt at the beginning of life, & I fear in the end would swallow up your property.
22 Oct, 1837 - to Jack Mackay: Life is too short for them [his children] & their mother to be in one place, & I in another.	23 Undated - to Gen Beauregard: I fear the South has yet to suffer many evils, & it will require time, patience, & fortitude to heal her affliction.	24 Undated - to Robert: I am clear for your marrying, if you select a good wife; otherwise you had better remain as you are.	25 Oct, 1864 - to Wife: I am glad you had the opportunity of partaking of the blessed communion. May it serve to keep our Redeemer in our hearts & minds.	26 Oct, 1862 - to wife: I cannot express the anguish I feel at the death of our sweet Annie. To know that I shall never see her again on earth is agonizing in the extreme.	27 Undated - to Gen. Longstreet: I am of the opinion that all should vote for the most intelligent, honest, & conscientious men eligible to office, irrespective of former party opinions.	28 Oct, 1863 - to wife: I am glad you have some socks for the army. Tell the girls to send all they can. We have thousands of barefooted men.
29 Oct, 1865 - to Mildred: Traveller is my only companion; I may also say my pleasure. He & I, whenever practicable, wander out in the mountains.	30 Oct, 1865 - to Robert: If I find I can accomplish no good for her [Washington College], I will endeavor to pursue the course to which my inclinations point [farming].	31 Undated - to Robert: We must not, however, yield to difficulties, but strive the harder to overcome them.				

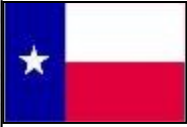


CELEBRATING JOHN H. REAGAN'S BIRTHDAY AT THE CONFEDERATE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PLAZA



Members from the John H. Reagan Camp 2156 and the Davis/Reagan Chapter 2292 of the U.D.C. came together to celebrate the birthday of John H. Reagan at the Confederate Veteran's Memorial Plaza in Palestine. Commander Steen gave a speech on John H. Reagan and spoke of many of his accomplishments and honors. Davis/Reagan U.D.C. President Deborah Robinson read a poem and presented a wreath on behalf of the chapter in honor of Mr. Reagan. Below are some pictures of the event.





ANDERSON COUNTY, TEXAS IN THE CIVIL WAR FROM THE PALESTINE HERALD PRESS AUG 21, 1968



BY FORREST BRADBERRY

ANDERSON COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR: On April 29, 1861, Jefferson Davis spoke before a special meeting of the Confederate Congress in response to Lincoln's call for troops two weeks earlier. This excerpt is from his speech: "The Declaration of War made against this Confederacy by Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in his proclamation issued on the 15th day of the present month, renders it necessary, in my judgement, that you should convene at the earliest practicable moment to devise the measures necessary for the defense of the Country."

Every southern state was hastily making preparations for war. Even distant Texas, which had seceded on March 2, 1861, had immediately acted and had secured the surrender of all Union troops in Texas and their supplies without a single shot being fired.

In Anderson County, the fever of war was high. The county had voted 1,500 to 7 in favor of secession and had been represented in Austin at the state Secession Convention by the capable John H. Reagan, A. T. Rainey, and S. G. Stewert. T. J. Word represented us in the adjourned convention.

John H. Reagan was chosen by the Texas convention to attend the general convention in Montgomery, Alabama. Upon arriving, Reagan was called upon by Jefferson Davis and was persuaded to accept the cabinet post of Postmaster General. Reagan kept this office until the last few days of the war when Davis, clinging to a lost dream of saving the Confederacy, appointed him to the post of Secretary of the Treasury. Shortly after this, Union troops captured Davis and his escort, including Reagan. Years after the war, it would be John H. Reagan's account of the capture that disproved the rumor that Davis had tried to disguise himself as a woman to avoid detection. Between 700 and 1,000 men from Anderson County alone would march off to war, many, never to return.

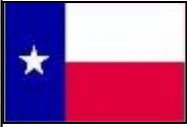
The first group of men to leave Palestine was recruited by John T. Aycock. These men left from the Hunter Hotel, as would all of the companies that left Palestine. Arriving in Rusk, these men, about 20 in number, were enrolled by Captain Peter Hardeman, along with men from Nacogdoches, Rusk, and Crockett, into Company A, 2nd Texas Cavalry, commanded by Colonel John Ford. This company was to serve for a period of 12 months, starting on the 23rd day of May 1861.

Dr. John Woodward of Palestine organized the first full company that was completely made up of men from Anderson County. This was Company G, First Texas Regiment. When this company left Palestine, "their uniforms at first did not consist of the Confederate grey, which was substituted later, but of a dark suit with bright red stripes. It was at Manassas that this company first saw action, and it was there that Dr. Woodward was killed. (See separate article for muster roll.)

In the summer of 1861, Colonel Lewis Wigfall began organizing companies in East Texas. A. T. Rainey began organizing a company here in Palestine. Company H was assigned to the First Texas Regiment along with Dr. Woodward's Company. The First Texas Regiment was joined by the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Texas Regiments plus a Georgia Regiment. Together they were called the First Texas Brigade, under command of Wigfall; however, after Wigfall was voted to the Confederate Congress, he was replaced by John B. Hood.

Thus began a legend that stands beside that of the Light Brigade; Hood's Texas Brigade became world renown and people everywhere shared the same regard for these Texans that General Robert E. Lee felt

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ANDERSON COUNTY, TEXAS IN THE CIVIL WAR FROM THE PALESTINE HERALD PRESS AUG 21, 1968



BY FORREST BRADBERRY

when he stated to an observer while the brigade marched in review: "Never mind their raggedness, the enemy never sees the backs of my Texans!" Men from Anderson County helped write that legend.

At Eltham's Landing, Rainey's Company felt their first taste of gun fire. The First Texas Regiment of which Rainey was now in command was being held in reserve by General Hood, when they were suddenly fired upon by Union troops. Rainey ordered his men to move back into the trees and "...fall on your knees, unfurl the Lone Star flag, aim low, and give them hell."

The Union advance was stopped some 30 yards from Rainey, and after 20 or 30 minutes of close fighting, Rainey ordered a charge and with a wild Rebel yell, the First Texas leaped to their feet and drove the enemy back. They did not cease until General Hood himself, who had been leading the rest of the Brigade elsewhere on the battle field, rode out and ordered the First to half and retire, leaving the federal troops in complete confusion.

At the Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam), Hood's Brigade was almost completely destroyed on the battle field. Ordered to hold a position with little ammunition against one entire wing of the Union army, Hood's Texans did just that. Heavily outnumbered and battle weary, these men held their ground and repulsed attack after attack, until the battle died down. When asked by General Lee on the condition of the Texas Brigade, Hood replied "The Texas Brigade is dead on the field." When the casualty reports were compiled at the end of the war, it was discovered that at Sharpsburg Hood's Texas Brigade had lost 82% of her fighting force in the battle, and that the First Texas Regiment of which Rainey and Woodward's companies had been assigned had lost close to 85%, the highest casualty rate inflicted on any fighting outfit during the four years of war.

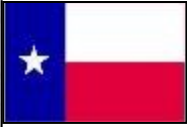
There were several other companies raised in the county during the war. Among these was James W. Gardner's Company I, Anderson County Volunteer Company of Cavalry or known locally as the Anderson County Buckhunters (Company I, 7th Texas Cavalry) This company was enrolled on October 1, 1861. There was also Captain William Tucker's Company G, of Texas Lancers commanded by Horace Randal in May 1862 for a term of 3 years.

Other companies organized in Anderson County included units Organized by Jackson J. Davis in 1862, C. W. Graves in 1861, Higginbottom in 1864, William H. Lawrence in 1861, Rufus M Mynett in 1862, Benjamin Parker in 1861, B. F. Parks in 1861, P. J. Simons in 1861, James E. Teague in 1861, Jesse Vannoy in 1861, and J. N. Wood in 1861.

On the home front, Anderson County was little affected by the war. There was the ever increasing number of men marching off to war, but business went on as usual. The news of the war took two to three months to reach Palestine because of the slow communication that was evident throughout the South. The news would come by stage from Galveston to Crockett and then on into Palestine. The stage horn would be blown about a mile from town, and by the time the stage had reached the post office on the courthouse square, all had gathered to hear news of the latest battle.

Travel was almost at a standstill during the war, and there was very little immigration into the county. Toward the end of the war travel by stage became almost impossible because of the risk of bandits on the road. All of the stages that left Palestine departed from the Hunter Hotel. There were stage roads to Crockett, Rusk, Alto, Fairfield, Tennessee Colony, and Tyler.

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ANDERSON COUNTY, TEXAS IN THE CIVIL WAR FROM THE PALESTINE HERALD PRESS AUG 21, 1968



BY FORREST BRADBERRY

There were no bridges which crossed the Trinity or Neches Rivers, and the use of ferries were the only effective means to cross these rivers. On the Neches were located Blackburn's Crossing, Cannon's Ferry and Stenson's Perry. On the Trinity ferries were located at Magnolia Crossing, Parker's Bluff, Wildcat Ferry, and Bonner's Ferry.

When Confederate troops came through Palestine, they camped around Gum Springs just east of town or they may have camped at Long Lake Plantation. A third possibility was at Fred Jackson's plantation just west of town. Jackson was one of the richest men in Texas, owning at the time of his death in 1863 four homes and over 100 slaves.

As the war dragged on, the people of Anderson County began to feel the effects. Coffee was scarce, and it became necessary to make it out of parched wheat bran. The people also raised their own sugar, flour, molasses and wheat. The wheat was carried to the flour mill at Mound Prairie, and the flour, seconds, shorts, and bran was brought back to the home. Then the ladies would take bran and make starch as good as any could be bought at the store. Nothing was wasted; they could not afford to waste anything.

Entertainment during the war was simple and inexpensive. The young people would go to Long Lake or Gum Springs to watch the troops drill and parade. The homes of the city were open to the troops and officers, and they were frequently entertained at dinner. On one such occasion, the famous General John B. Hood met in the home of the Gathright family, and here he mapped out his course of war.

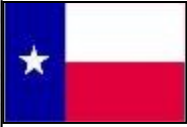
There were frequent church fairs and bazaars for the benefit of the troops, and worship services were held by various church groups for them. Religious activities went on as usual in the city, although some of the churches would not always have a minister due to the shortage of men at home. Even ministers had to serve the war effort.

At night the ballrooms of the Hunter Hotel in Palestine and Haygood's Tavern at Magnolia were the scenes of numerous dances and parties. During the year of 1864, a wing of the Hunter Hotel was converted into a hospital for the use of troops who may have taken ill on their way to war or were recuperating from wounds received in battle. Aunt Bee Small, well-known in early Anderson County history and a niece of Jefferson Davis, was a nurse here and endeared herself to many ill soldiers. Late during the war as Granbury's Brigade was passing through Palestine, the unit left 25 men here to recover from an illness. Of these men, 9 died and are buried in the Old Cemetery just west of Gum Springs.

Before the war, Anderson County had been considered a leading educational center for all of Texas. Located at Mound Prairie, a thriving town north of Palestine, was the Mound Prairie Institute. The school reached its zenith about 1860, but with the outbreak of the war, the male students decreased in number due to the military needs for manpower. The last commencement exercises were held in 1861, and Palestine missed out on the opportunity to become a state educational center.

An institution of higher learning which was not drastically affected by the war was the Palestine Female Academy, located where the old high school has just recently been torn down between Spring Street and Avenue A. The school remained open during the war and was closed only for the period of time that the Federal occupation troops used the building to house the troops that were stationed in Palestine after the war during Reconstruction.

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ANDERSON COUNTY, TEXAS IN THE CIVIL WAR FROM THE PALESTINE HERALD PRESS AUG 21, 1968



BY FORREST BRADBERRY

Primarily an agriculturally dominated society, the war brought limited industry to the area. At Concord, north of Palestine, Jim Hathcock established, a foundry for producing guns for the Confederate army. There were also factories near present Cayuga and a large one at Plenitude, a short distance from Mound Prairie. The Palestine Salt Works was important because salt was the only known meat preservative at the time. The salt was sold to the Confederate army for \$8 per sack and \$20 to private customers. John Murchison, a prominent merchant in Palestine, slipped through the federal blockade and made his way to Liverpool, England. There he acquired the services of an English family and returned with them to Palestine, where he helped them start a cotton mill at Washington Mills.

O. C. Calloway was sent home to Harmony on furlough from the Confederate army with instructions to make shoes for the soldiers. At Palestine there was located a supply depot. There were no railroads in the county at the time, so supplies were usually transported to the Trinity River, primarily to Magnolia. From there the supplies were taken to the coast aboard steamboats, or they were loaded aboard flatboats which had been built by the Alabama-Coushatta Indians.

After General Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865, soldiers from Anderson County began to return home. The feeling that filled their hearts and that of all Anderson County can best be reflected in the words of W. O. Small in his eulogy to Lt. Benjamin A. Campbell (of Palestine) of Company G, First Texas Regiment: "How well do we remember this handsome, gallant soldier, what a graceful figure he was in his brilliant uniform and long curls that gracefully hung over his shoulders. There were but a few of his old company that returned, but many lie in the unknown graves from Manassas through the valley of the Shenandoah and along the meanderings of the historic Potomac to Gettysburg, and their fame on many a battle field will live in history until time has run its course."

From Palestine Herald Press, August 21, 1968, article by Forrest E. Bradberry, Jr. of Palestine.

Submitted by Bonnie Woolverton

Additional Information on Anderson County in the Civil War Munitions Factory — The firm of Billups and Hassell secured a handsome Confederate contract to produce 700 Mississippi Rifle guns at a unit price of \$30 each. After 7 months of production, the firm had delivered 600 of the weapons contracted for. During the interim of this contract, they entered into an additional contract with the Texas Military board to provide 1200 rifles for Texas troops. The scarcity of materials in Texas needed for production of the rifles prevented the completion of the contract. This munitions factory was located at Plenitude.

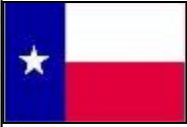
Quartermaster Depot — This facility was located on 640 acres at Mound Prairie, 8 miles north of Palestine and was described as the finest Confederate depot in the South. Major J. S. Bussey supervised the construction of the works at Mound Prairie which consisted of a sawmill, four and grist mill, a cotton spinning building, a blacksmith shop, a foundry, a harness shop, a tin shop, a shoe shop, 2 large storage warehouses and 14 dwellings. In addition, a large tanyard and a small arms manufacturing business was operated by J. Llewellyn. A Texas Historical Marker marks this spot on Highway 155 just past the intersection of Farm Road 321 and Hwy. 155.

Supply Depot — Designated in September 1861 for gathering stations for cloth and clothing donated by residents of the State for the troops in the field. The Depot was located in Palestine and A. P. McClure was the agent.

Under an act of the Confederate Congress, approved Mar 6 1861, volunteers for mounted (cavalry) service (such as those units given elsewhere in this issue) were to furnish their own horse and accoutrements. This included 2 bridles, a halter, saddle, saddle blanket, 1 or more pair of spurs, surcingle, curry comb, horse brush, picket pin, and a lariat. Their horse was branded C.S.A. (Confederate States Army). In return the soldiers received 40 cents per day and compensation if their horse was killed in action.

Information on this page was taken from Texas in the Confederacy, Bill Winsor, 1968.

Submitted by Bonnie Woolverton



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN OCTOBER

From the Texas State Historical Association

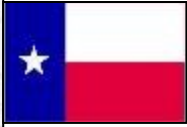


October 4 - On this day in 1862, on the second day of the battle of Corinth, Mississippi, Confederate General Earl Van Dorn called for a series of headlong frontal attacks against a heavily fortified federal position. Col. William Peleg Rogers of the Second Texas Infantry was ordered to lead the vanguard of the assault on Battery Robinett, a small fort anchoring the center of the Union line. After one bloody repulse, Rogers led a second desperate charge. Remaining on horseback in the face of a barrage of cannon and musket fire, and finally carrying the regimental colors himself, Rogers reached the deep trench fronting Battery Robinett, dismounted, and led several hundred Texans and Alabamans down into the trench, up the steep embankment, and into the fort. Suddenly federal reinforcements closed in from both flanks. Rogers shouted, "Men, save yourselves or sell your lives as dearly as possible." A few seconds later he was struck by multiple rifle shots and died instantly. Scores of others fell with him, and the battle soon ended. The Second Texas Infantry had lost more than half its numbers in casualties. The failure of Rogers's attack sealed Van Dorn's defeat at Corinth. In a remarkable tribute to Rogers's personal bravery, Union general William S. Rosecrans ordered his burial attended with full military honors, a ceremony normally reserved only for Confederate general officers.



At left: The Van Dorn battle flag is a historical Confederate flag with a red field depicting a white crescent moon in the canton and thirteen white stars; and trimmed with gold cord. In February, 1862, Confederate General Earl Van Dorn ordered that all units under his command use this flag as their regimental colors.

October 23 - On this day in 1863, the First Texas Cavalry, USA, left New Orleans for South Texas as part of the Union effort to interdict the lucrative trade between Confederate Texas and Mexico. The First was one of two regiments of Unionist cavalry from Texas to serve in the Civil War; the Second was formed in Brownsville after the Rio Grande campaign got underway. Loyalty to the Union was anything but a major consensus in Texas during the Civil War. A total of 1,915 Texas men served the Union cause, in contrast to the many thousands who served the Confederacy. Brownsville was a center of Unionist sentiment. Significant numbers of civilians who supported the North fled to the lower Rio Grande, where a provisional state government was set up under Andrew J. Hamilton, and where Edmund J. Davis and others recruited cavalymen for the North. Davis had formed the First Texas Cavalry, USA, in New Orleans in 1862. In November 1864 the regiment was merged with the Second into the First Texas Volunteer Cavalry. This new twelve-company regiment engaged in patrolling and reconnaissance duties until the end of the war, and was mustered out of service on November 4, 1865.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

CSA TEXAS GENERAL OF THE MONTH

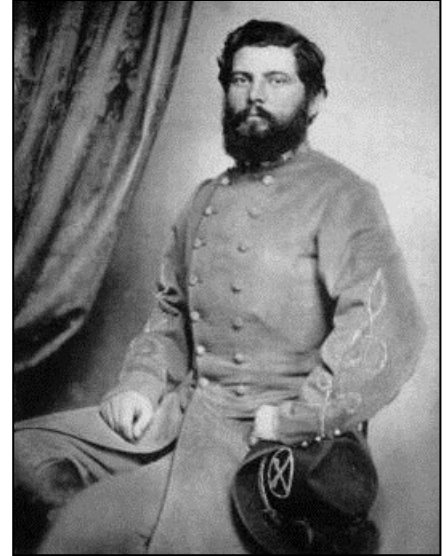
THOMAS LAFAYETTE (TEX) ROSSER PG 1 OF 2



Thomas Lafayette (Tex) Rosser (October 15, 1836 – March 29, 1910) was a Confederate major general during the American Civil War, and later a railroad construction engineer and in 1898 a brigadier general of volunteers in the United States Army during the Spanish-American War. A favorite of J.E.B. Stuart, he was noted for his daring cavalry raids, efficiency in handling combat troops, and tactical brilliance.

EARLY LIFE AND CAREER

Rosser was born on a farm called “Catalpa Hill”, in Campbell County, Virginia, the son of John and Martha Melvina (Johnson) Rosser. In 1849, the family relocated to a 640-acre farm in Panola County, Texas, some forty miles west of Shreveport, Louisiana. The 13-year-old Tom Rosser led the wagon train bearing his mother and younger siblings westward, as business considerations compelled his father to remain in



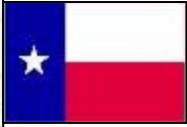
Virginia for a short time. Texas congressman Lemuel D. Evans appointed Rosser to the United States Military Academy in 1856. However, Rosser did not complete the required five-year course of study, as Rosser, a supporter of Texas secession, resigned when Texas left the Union on April 22, 1861 two weeks before the scheduled graduation. Rosser traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, to enlist in the Confederate States Army. Thomas Rosser’s roommate at the academy, George Armstrong Custer, was a close friend and despite being on opposing sides this friendship continued both during and after the Civil War ended. He was known for his “Hit and Run” raids.

Civil War

Rosser was commissioned a first lieutenant and became an instructor to the famed "Washington Artillery" of New Orleans. He commanded its Second Company at the First Battle of Manassas in July 1861. He was noted for shooting down one of George B. McClellan's observation balloons, a feat that won him promotion to captain. He commanded his battery during the Seven Days Battles of the Peninsula Campaign, and was severely wounded at Mechanicsville. Rosser was promoted to lieutenant colonel of artillery, and a few days later to colonel of the 5th Virginia Cavalry.

He commanded the advance of J.E.B. Stuart's expedition to Catlett's Station, and was notable in the Second Battle of Manassas, where captured Union commander John Pope's orderly and horses. During the fighting at Crampton's Gap at the Battle of South Mountain, his cavalry delayed the advance of William B. Franklin's VI Corps with help from John Pelham's artillery. At Antietam, his men screened Robert E. Lee's left flank. He temporarily assumed command of Fitzhugh Lee's brigade during the subsequent fighting against Alfred Pleasonton.

He was again badly wounded at the Battle of Kelly’s Ford, where "the gallant" Pelham was killed. Rosser was disabled until the Gettysburg Campaign, where he commanded his regiment in the fighting at Hanover and the East Cavalry Field at Gettysburg. He was promoted to brigadier general of the "Laurel Brigade," which had gained fame under Turner Ashby. He was distinguished again in the 1864 Overland Campaign, driving back a large force of Union cavalry and artillery at the Battle of the Wilderness.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

CSA TEXAS GENERAL OF THE MONTH

THOMAS LAFAYETTE (TEX) ROSSER PG 2 OF 2



Rosser was yet again wounded at Trevilian Station, where his brigade captured a number of prisoners from former West Point classmate and close personal friend George Armstrong Custer. His brigade later gallantly fought against Philip Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, and he efficiently commanded Fitzhugh Lee's division at Cedar Creek. A rare defeat where Custer overran Rosser's troops at the Battle of Tom's Brook allowed Custer to repay Rosser for Trevilian Station. For no tactical reason, Custer chased Rosser's troops for over 10 miles and the action became known as the "Woodstock Races" in Union accounts. Custer had also captured Rosser's private wardrobe wagon at Tom's Brook, and Rosser immediately messaged him.

Dear Fanny

You may have made me take a few steps back today, but I will be even with you tomorrow.

Please accept my good wishes and this little gift—a pair of your draws captured at Trevilian Station.

Tex

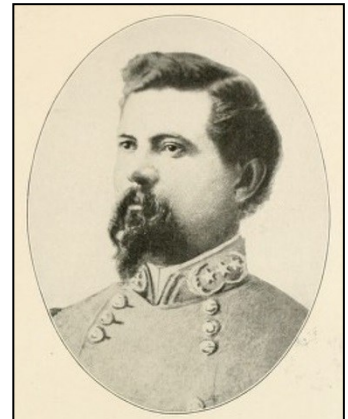
Custer shipped Rosser's gold-laced Confederate grey coat to his wife with a reply.

Dear friend

Thanks for setting me up in so many new things,

but would you please direct your tailor to make the coat tails of your next uniform a trifle shorter.

Best regards G.A.C.



Rosser became known in the Southern press as the "Saviour of the Valley," and was promoted to major general in November 1864. He conducted a successful raid on New Creek, West Virginia, taking hundreds of prisoners and seizing much need quantities of supplies. In January 1865, he took 300 men, crossed the mountains in deep snow and bitter cold, and surprised and captured two infantry regiments in their works at Beverly, West Virginia, taking 580 prisoners.

Rosser commanded a cavalry division during the Siege of Petersburg in the spring, fighting near Five Forks. It was here that Rosser hosted the "infamous" shad bake (fish feast) 2 miles north of the battle lines preceding and during the primary Federal assault. Guests at this small affair included George Pickett and Fitzhugh Lee. Shelby Foote states that "Pickett only made it back to his division after over half his troops had been shot or captured..". It is said that Lee never forgave Pickett for his absence from his post when the Federals broke the Confederate lines and carried the day at Five Forks.

Rosser was conspicuous during the Appomattox Campaign, capturing a Union general, John Irvin Gregg, and rescuing a wagon train near Farmville. He led a daring early morning charge at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, and escaped with his command as Lee surrendered the bulk of the Army of Northern Virginia. Under orders from the secretary of war, he began reorganizing the scattered remnants of Lee's army in a vain attempt to join Joseph E. Johnston's army in North Carolina. However, he surrendered at Staunton, Virginia, on May 4 and was paroled shortly afterwards.

Rosser was superintendent of the National Express Company, working for fellow ex-Confederate General Joe Johnston. He resigned to become assistant engineer during the construction of the Pittsburgh & Connellsville Railroad. He became chief engineer of the eastern division of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Later he was chief engineer of the Canadian Pacific. In 1886, he bought a plantation near Charlottesville, Virginia, and became a gentleman farmer. On June 10, 1898, President William McKinley appointed Rosser a brigadier general of United States volunteers during the Spanish-American War. His first task was training young cavalry recruits in a camp near the old Civil War battlefield of Chickamauga in northern Georgia. He was honorably discharged on October 31, 1898, and returned home. He died at Charlottesville and is buried at Riverview Cemetery, Charlottesville. Rosser Avenue in Brandon, Manitoba is named in his honor. There is also a Rosser Avenue in Bismarck, North Dakota. This was platted before Custer's arrival in the area, and so likely is related to Rosser's time with the railroad (Northern Pacific) rather than his friendship with Custer, or his military career.



THERE WAS ONLY ONE LEE

By *SCV Chaplain Don Majors*



"THERE WAS ONLY ONE LEE"

by Don Majors, Past Chaplain Texas Division, SCV

First Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

The "Gray Fox" has always been one of my heroes. Many words and positive attributes can be attributed to this great Christian man. He was a man of integrity and godly principles. The sad circumstances of the last few weeks have been very difficult. It wounds my spirit to see what this nation is allowing to happen to this great American hero. My heart is heavy.

I want to share some Bible verses that I believe describe this very unique Southern gentleman.

Paul's scripture in First Corinthians 15:58 has to be my first scripture to mention. Steadfast is described as "fixed or unchanging; steady. Firmly loyal or constant. Unswerving; faithful."

Paul's scripture in ***Galatians 6:9*** is a very fitting description of Lee when it says, ***"And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."***



General Robert E. Lee was always steadfast throughout his entire life. He was a depiction of what a Southern gentleman should be.

In 1813, when his famous father (Henry) sailed to the West Indies, Robert was only six years old. He would never see his father again. He was steadfast.

Robert's mother was in poor health, and the family was very poor. At times Robert and his brothers had to share one piece of chicken for supper. He was steadfast.

At West Point, his uniform was always spotless. His shoes were spotless. He was never late to class. His lifestyle was "spotless." He never earned a single bad mark for breaking any

rules. He graduated as the second best student in his class in 1829, and joined the Army Corps of Engineers. He was steadfast.

Captain Robert E. Lee, Jr., his youngest son, says of his father: "From that early time I began to be impressed with my father's character, as compared with other men. Every member of the household respected, revered, and loved him as a matter of course, but it began to dawn on me that everyone else with whom I was thrown held him high in their regard....I always knew that it was impossible to disobey my father. I felt it in me, I never thought why, but was perfectly sure when he gave an order that it had to be obeyed."

- Continued on next page -



THERE WAS ONLY ONE LEE

BY *Chaplain Don Majors* pg 2 of 2



On Thursday, April 18, 1861, Lee was offered the command of the United States Army by Mr. Francis P. Blair (Lincoln's permission). He asked Lee to head the Union army. Lee was torn. On Friday, April 19, 1861, Lee spent a long night in prayer asking for God's guidance over the decision. He was a Virginian, and he would not lead an army against his Virginia homeland.

As soon as the War of Northern Aggression began, Lee knew his home at Arlington House would be taken over by Grant and the Northern Army. In May 1861 he instructed his wife to move to Richmond. Union troops took over the Arlington estate and built forts there. The Union army later began using Lee's land as a cemetery for soldiers killed in the war. Today, it is called, "Arlington National Cemetery."

When the sad news came to him that his daughter Annie had died of a fever, he could not go home to be with family during this sad time. He had to keep fighting. He was steadfast. He was a man of integrity.

After Fredericksburg, one Southern soldier remarked, "We never can be whipped while we have such a leader as General Lee."

While Northern General William T. Sherman spent his time burning homes and farms across Georgia, and while the Northern General Philip Sheridan spent his time doing the same in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, because their goal was to destroy the South's will to fight, General Robert E. Lee spent his time living a life of steadfastness, godly principles, and a life based on integrity.

The Reverend Dr. William N. Pendleton at 9:00 a.m., on Friday morning, October 14, 1870, described Robert E. Lee with these words: ***"Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."***



While our society spends its time taking down statutes in their cities that honor and remember General Robert E. Lee, and while they spend their time changing the names of schools and streets that honor and remember this very unique American, I would like to leave you with an admonition. "Be like Lee."

Sons of Confederate Veterans, ***"be ye steadfast, unmovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord."***

Deo Vindice,

Reverend M. Don Majors, Pastor

Past SCV Chaplain (ATM) confederategiraffe@gmail.com



SCV CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE

By SCV Chaplain Don Majors pg 1 of 2



Brother SCV Compatriots,

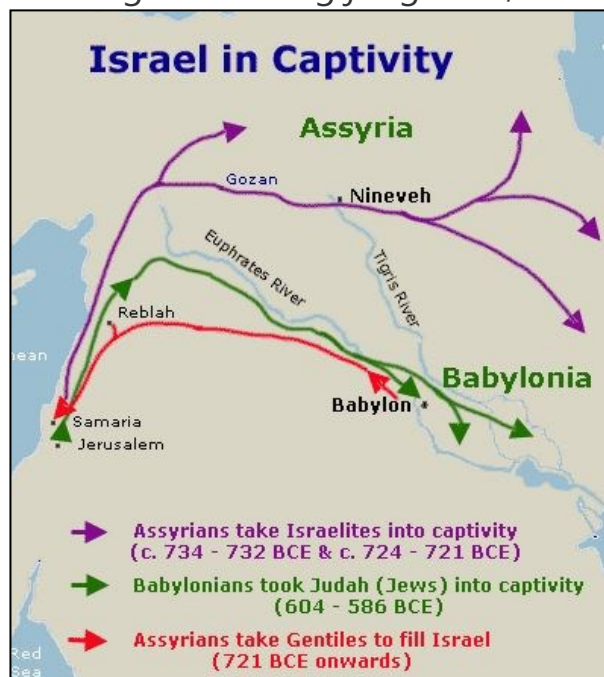
After King Solomon's death (King David's son), there was a dividing of the nation of Israel. The ten northern tribes tore away from the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

The northern kingdom took the name "Israel," which was led by a wicked king by the name of Jeroboam. Israel unraveled morally and spiritually into a low estate. The southern kingdom became known as "Judah." It retained Jerusalem as its capital and religious center and the lineage of David for its kings.

As stated, the northern kingdom of Israel descended rapidly into depravity until 722 B.C., when it was overrun and assimilated by the Assyrians.



The destruction of Israel should have been a wake-up call to jar the southern kingdom of Judah into returning back to God. The prophets of God sounded out warnings of coming judgment, but no one seemed to listen (Isaiah 39:6-7).



Jerusalem fell to Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C. (2 Kings 24:1; 2 Chronicles 36:6). The king deported his Jewish hostages to Babylon in 597 B.C. and 587 B.C. Four of the brightest young men that the Jews had to offer, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, were taken in the deportation.

According to Daniel 1:4, the king had a plan to retrain these young men, as well as several others just like them. They would teach them the language of the Chaldeans, as well as submerge them into Chaldean literature. It would be a three-year training course for

these gifted young men. They would teach them astronomy, astrology, religion, and many other things regarding their culture. Daniel and his three friends would be educated in a very sophisticated-pagan environment. (continued on next page)



SCV CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE

By *SCV Chaplain Don Majors* pg 2 of 2



the indoctrination of these young men into Babylonian culture was by design. Nebuchadnezzar didn't want to simply educate them, he wanted to disengage them from their previous cultural conditioning and transform them into full-fledged Babylonians.

To assimilate them into the Chaldean culture, Nebuchadnezzar demanded that their Hebrew names be replaced with various Babylonian gods (Daniel 1:6-7).

I like what the scripture says in Daniel 1:8. "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank."

Daniel was confronted with severe pressure to compromise his beliefs and convictions. Daniel and his friends refused to give in and forget their beliefs and their heritage. They would not allow themselves to be changed by the pagan society in which they lived.

When Joshua and the Jewish people were crossing the Jordan into the Promise Land, he instructed the leaders to establish a stone memorial to remember their time in slavery, their history, their heritage, and where God had brought them. He said, "In the years ahead when our young people ask us what this memorial means, remind them of their history. Remind them of their heritage. Remind them where they have come from."

As a young man, Daniel refused to incorporate into their pagan lifestyle. He would not forget Jehovah God. He would not forget who he was.

"If I win the world, but I lose my family, I have lost."



This secular society in which we live cannot take our heritage from us. They cannot rob us of our history.

As Southern men and descendants of the Confederacy, we must win our children and our grandchildren. This they cannot stop!

If we become the last generation then we die!

Let us carry on the truth of Stonewall, Lee, and Davis. **God Bless Dixie.**

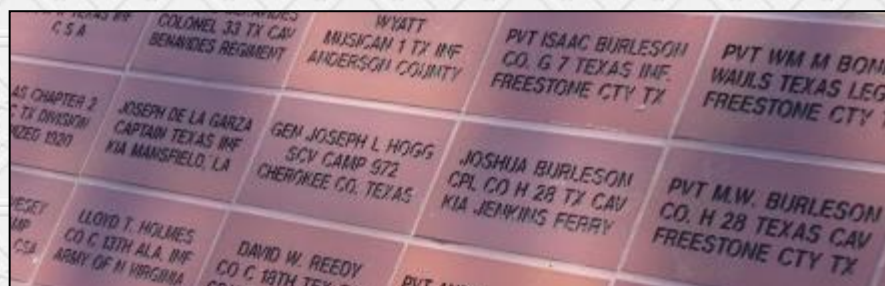
Don Majors



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. It is open for visitors 365 days per year. The sidewalks are lined with pavers that are engraved with information about brave men who fought for the Confederacy. 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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Editor: dwrightfranklin1@yahoo.com

Please visit our website @

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 Thursday of
Each Month - 06:30 PM
Snacks served at each meeting.
Palestine Masonic Lodge
401 W. Debard Street
Palestine, Texas
Turn north on N. Queen St. off of
Spring St. (Hwy 19, 84, & 287)
travel four blocks. Masonic Lodge is
on the left behind Sacred Heart
Catholic Church.