



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2017

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH



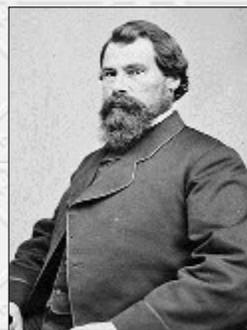
NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

Well the year is almost completed and my two years as your Commander is coming to a conclusion. This has been one of the most enjoyable of opportunities I have ever had come my way. I want to thank the members for supporting me these last two years as well as the Camp. We have so much talent in the Camp and many of our members are always ready to volunteer to present entertaining programs.

Please join me in congratulating compatriot Richard Thornton Jr. who will be our new Commander for 2018. Richard will do a great

job and I encourage everyone to reach out to him with the same support and encouragement you have given to me. Handling our programs next year as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant will be David Franklin. If you can present a program please call him and schedule a month. Thanks to all who have volunteered to serve as an officer for 2018.

We will have to continue to stand strong as our heritage continues to be under attack. But those who would try to wipe out our history will NEVER succeed. We have right on our side and hate will NEVER win out over justice and love. And we do love our heritage!!!! And now just a word about our December meeting. We are again very fortunate to have Dan Manuel entertain us at our annual Christmas Party. Come for a evening of good food, great



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

picking and singing and the installation of our new officers. We would ask everyone to bring a covered dish so we will have plenty of food for all. Wives, girlfriends and children are cordially invited to attend this meeting. It is shaping out to be a fun time for all.

Till next time I see you, Deo Vindice!

- Charles Steen -

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 1st Lt. Gary Williams
- Past Davis/Reagan UDC Pres. Dollye Jeffus
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans



Flags in the Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza fly high as they remind all of the sacrifice of the brave Confederate Soldiers.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Dec 21 - December meeting at Palestine Masonic Lodge. Everyone bring a covered dish and their spouse. Dan Manuel will provide entertainment**

**Dec 25—Christmas Day**

**Jan 1—New Year's Day**

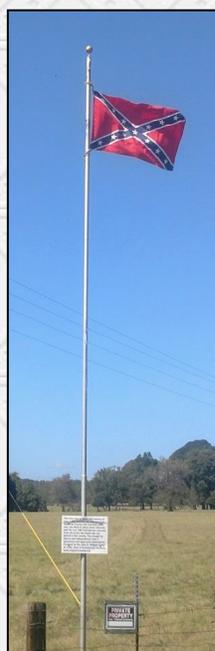
**Jan 18 - January Meeting**

**Jan 27 - Robert E. Lee Celebration see page 6 for details**

**Feb 15 - February Meeting**

**Feb 17 - Stephen D. Lee Institute Symposium see page 7 for details**

**Mar 15 - March Meeting**



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

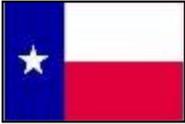
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

“NOTHING FILLS ME WITH DEEPER SADNESS THAN TO SEE A SOUTHERN MAN APOLOGIZING FOR THE DEFENSE WE MADE OF OUR INHERITANCE. OUR CAUSE WAS SO JUST, SO SACRED, THAT HAD I KNOWN ALL THAT HAS COME TO PASS, HAD I KNOWN WHAT WAS TO BE INFLECTED UPON ME, ALL THAT MY COUNTRY WAS TO SUFFER, ALL THAT OUR POSTERITY WAS TO ENDURE, I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN.”

-PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS-

“DUTY IS THE MOST SUBLIME WORD IN OUR LANGUAGE. DO YOUR DUTY IN ALL THINGS. YOU CANNOT DO MORE. YOU SHOULD NEVER WISH TO DO LESS.”

-GENERAL  
ROBERT E. LEE-

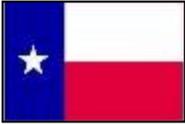


## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 NOVEMBER 2017 MEETING



We had 13 compatriots, 2 cadets and three visitors in attendance at the November meeting. We had a delicious meal of spaghetti, salad, fried chicken, potato salad, pizza, Blue Bell ice cream and sweet tea! We really appreciate Richard Thornton, David Franklin, Stuart Whitaker, Doug Smith, and Dwight Franklin for providing food for the meeting. We will have our annual Christmas Party at next month's meeting. We are asking that everyone bring your spouse and also a covered dish or the food of your choice. Dan Manuel has agreed to provide the entertainment for the Christmas party.





## NOVEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM “COLD STEEL—SWORDS & SABERS IN THE WAR OF SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE”



**Andrew Harris** presented a very interesting program titled “Cold Steel - Swords and Sabers of the War Between the States”. In his presentation, Andrew explained the differences between the bladed weapons that were used in the war. In addition to an excellent program, Andrew brought actual artifacts from the War of Northern Aggression and allowed everyone to hold and admire various swords and a Bowie knife. If you missed his program, you missed a great one. Andrew has allowed us to post his notes for those who were not able to make it to the meeting. Notes below:



Picture by Stuart Whitaker

### “Cold Steel—Swords and Sabers of the War Between the States”

The sword was a common sight on the great battlefields of the War Between the States. In fact, some of the most dramatic images of the War involve edged weapons...infantry officers directing their troops into battle with the point of their sword and dashing cavalry charges come to mind...

But even though these weapons could be intimidating, swords and sabers actually had relatively little effective function in combat by the time of the Civil War. There were exceptions, but for the most part the Civil War was the end of an era for swords.

The rise of advanced firearms - the rifled musket and the Minie ball, for example- marked the beginning of the end for what was once a more practical weapon in the ancient world.

Even so, Civil War swords remained important as symbols of rank, authority and leadership; and still proved a very useful tool for directing men in battle.

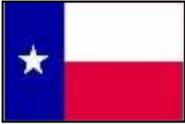
In this presentation, we are going to look at a few of the different kinds of swords of the period.

There were probably countless numbers of different styles and patterns of swords that were carried during the war...some, including Confederate General Joseph Johnston, carried blades that dated back to the Revolution.

But what we have here are a few examples of the basic military patterns of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century... these are the official patterns that were adopted by the US War Department in the years leading up to the war – in the 1840's, 50's - and these were the most commonly used at the time of the American Civil War on both sides, Union and Confederate.

You will notice the different styles, length, and curvature which generally depended on the branch of the military in which they were typically used – infantry, cavalry or artillery. Some of these are officer's swords and some are more utilitarian enlisted men's weapons.





## NOVEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM “COLD STEEL—SWORDS & SABERS IN THE WAR OF SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE”



**M1840 Cavalry Saber:** The basic cavalry saber is the one that probably had the most practical role in a combat scenario.

This sabre was mainly used during cavalry charges, where the horses were run head-on into a line of opposing infantry or cavalry, using the speed and height advantage to cut through enemy lines. This tactic was still somewhat effective due to the slow process of re-loading muskets used by the infantry. The curved design of the blade was to optimize the slashing motion used when attacking at speed and height.

As a standard government-issue piece of equipment for most all enlisted cavalymen during the war, this was probably the most common of Civil War swords and it is the one most commonly encountered today as a collector's piece.



This particular pattern is known as the “Wrist Breaker” by those who actually carried one, due to the effect of actually hitting something with it.

Thousands of M1840's were produced between 1840 and 1860 – this was the pattern used during the Mexican War – and they continued to be used throughout the Civil War.

Another slightly more trimmed-down and less weighty version was also adopted in 1860, called the “Light” Cavalry saber, but it essentially has the same design characteristics of 1840...

the basic components are an overall length of 40” with a 35” long steel blade, brass guard with 3 distinct branches, leather wrapped grip secured by twisted wire and a solid iron scabbard. It weighs about 2.5 to 3 pounds outside the scabbard...

Countless numbers of these were imported from foreign makers during the war and some were assembled here in the U.S. This particular sword bears the maker mark of Philip S. Justice of Philadelphia

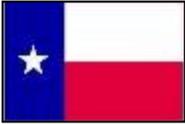
Southern sword makers made near identical copies of this sword, but probably as many or more Confederates carried foreign imports or northern manufactured sabers that were either captured or pre-dated the war.

In fact Nathan Bedford Forrest carried this pattern of sword...his Model 1840 cavalry saber came from another Philadelphia supplier – *W. H. HORSTMANN & SON*. Forrest selected his saber from the spoils he and his men captured from the US Army Depot at Trenton, TN in December 1862.

Forrest was one of the few Confederate cavalymen who believed in the continued use of the saber in battle; he is known to have inflicted several murderous wounds on Yankee horsemen with his sword...I have read anywhere from 7 to 22?

Again, that kind of combat was extremely dangerous...with multiple shot pistols and carbines it became nearly impossible for cavalry to get close enough to the enemy to actually engage in any kind of a sword fight.

So this is a representative example of the basic cavalry saber and it is still in excellent condition...



## NOVEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM “COLD STEEL—SWORDS & SABERS IN THE WAR OF SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE”



Model 1840 Light Artillery Saber: In keeping with the Napoleonic tradition of the time, sabers were also issued to the other military branch that was mounted on horseback - the light artillery.

The artillery saber is similar to its cavalry counterpart, but with a few notable differences including a more sweeping curve to the blade and a single piece forming the knuckle guard. Like the cavalry saber this style of saber was produced from the early 1840's throughout the war until 1865. From a collectors standpoint, generally the earlier the date of manufacture the more desirable.

This particular example pre-dates the war; and was manufactured in 1848 (as stamped on the blade). It was manufactured by the Ames brothers company in Cabotville, Massachusetts...the Ames Company was one of the premier manufacturers of swords, tools and cutlery in the U.S. at that time, and they were located in an



Picture above: Artillery Saber

industrial village along the Chicopee River in western Massachusetts. Ames was one of the oldest factories of their kind dating back to 1774, and in the early 1800's they had government contracts to help supply swords and side arms to the Republic of Texas and the US Army during the Mexican War.

Another interesting thing about this sword is that it is an example of what is called the “Type 1” artillery saber which has a recessed channel here in the guard that fits over the throat of the scabbard when it is sheathed. Type 2 sabers were also common throughout the Civil War, which eliminated this design configuration.

This one is in fair condition...quite a few rough nicks and dings along the edge of the blade.

**Infantryman's Bowie Knife:** Enlisted men in the infantry were not issued any type of edged weapon – only officers carried them by regulation- and although it is not technically a “sword” or “saber”, I would be remiss to do a program on edged weapons and not to include a Southern Bowie knife.

Of course the big knife was made famous in the years prior to the Civil War by Jim Bowie, namely in his famous “Sand Bar Fight” of 1827...and the knife that now bears his name quickly became an iconic weapon on the southern frontier.



At the outbreak of the War of Northern aggression, thousands of Confederate soldiers left home with their own big knife.

Many of the knives they carried had evolved into much larger versions of their predecessors; and some were, in fact, more akin to short swords than knives.

Bowie knives of the Civil War period were fashioned in a wide variety of sizes and configurations, but in general, they can be classified as either factory-made and distributed by various arsenals, or as privately-made by individual craftsmen.

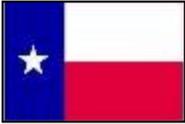
The knife here is somewhat unique in its details, has a relatively crude finish, with no professional maker markings or arsenal stamp. So, it was most likely made by a blacksmith, the most common of skilled craftsmen in the rural South.

With an impressive 14-inch clipped-point blade and an overall length of 18 1/2 inches, this particular knife remains as sturdy as the day it was made.

It has all the tell-tale characteristics of a period Rebel knife: a hand-forged steel blade, a one-piece hickory grip and an iron guard that is shaped like a capital letter “D”.

Research into the source of these knives suggests that these “D-guard” varieties, as they are called, were more prominent among the lower Southern states, with origins in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Although the exact origin is unknown, it is widely agreed by historians that as a knife style, the D-guard existed nowhere else in America prior to the War Between the States.

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## NOVEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM “COLD STEEL—SWORDS & SABERS IN THE WAR OF SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE”



**Infantry Officers Swords:** These swords were primarily carried as symbols of rank and leadership; kind of a prestigious thing... but they were also very useful for directing men in combat. Rallying troops, or bullying nervous soldiers back into the ranks or just using them as pointers during drills and on the battlefield.

The two basic patterns were the M1850 Foot Officers Sword and the M1850 Staff & Field Officers Sword. Again these patterns pre-date the war so the Union army continued their use throughout the 1860's and Confederate sword makers turned out their own variations or copies of these patterns as well...

Here we have two examples of the Foot Officer's pattern – one Union and one Confederate - and one US Staff & Field.

Foot Officers swords were generally carried by a company-grade officers - lieutenants and captains.

The Staff & Field sword was generally carried by the higher ranks - majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels

**M1850 Foot Officers Swords:** In the case of the foot officer's sword, the Union and Confederate version of the same pattern bear a very strong resemblance to one another.

They are a little less ornate than the Staff officers swords...the primary differences are the smaller brass guard with some basic floral patterns in the casting and the leather vs. steel scabbards.

**Confederate Foot Officers Sword:** The Confederate version of this sword is really the star of the show...this is the classic Southern combat line officer's sword

This is a fairly rare sword...it is an excellent example that was manufactured by Boyle and Gamble, of Richmond Virginia.



Boyle & Gamble was located in the capitol of Richmond, was one of the South's premier sword manufacturers...they offered swords for private purchase and also produced swords and bayonets under Confederate government contract under the name “Boyle, Gamble, & McFee”.

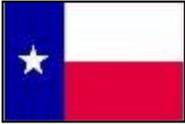
Like a lot of these, this sword has no maker markings or stampings anywhere on it...but it has several tell-tale characteristics of a Boyle & Gamble sword. One is the brass pommel cap here on the end of the grip...Boyle & Gamble used a variety of different types of pommel caps on their swords – some with steps or tiers – and some like this one, known as a “smooth” pommel...this smooth type is more seldom encountered and is believed to be indicative of their early- to mid-war swords.

The etching on the blade is also characteristic of a Boyle and Gamble sword...the etching on these is often so shallow that many times after 150 years there is not much left that is visible, it gets worn away and very faint...but this one still retains some very nice etching on the blade and that is one thing that makes this particular sword stand out among many of those that have survived.

Along with the typical floral pattern, this one has a very nice second national flag and a shield with the letters CSA etched into the blade.

A close comparison of this Confederate sword with the US sword will reveal other less obvious traits that are typical of Southern made swords...a Confederate sword is generally a bit more crudely made; there are casting flaws in the brass portions of the sword and imperfections in the blade due to hand finishing techniques that were used..

Another characteristic of Southern swords is what is called an “unstopped” fuller on the flat of the blade...



## NOVEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM “COLD STEEL—SWORDS & SABERS IN THE WAR OF SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE”



The fuller is the beveled groove that runs along the side of the blade here...some call it a “blood groove” or a “blood gutter” but it actually doesn’t have anything to do with blood. The purpose of the fuller to actually lighten the weight of the sword without sacrificing strength or the integrity of the blade.

An un-stopped fuller refers to one that gradually tapers off here, near the hilt...as opposed to being squared-off or “stopped” like these Union-made or imported blades. Unstopped fullers are considered one of the hallmarks of less industrialized Confederate manufacture.

Also, Confederate swords usually have about seven to eight turns of thick single-strand copper or brass wire...as opposed to the twisted wire you see on the grip of these others.

Union Foot Officer’s Sword: The Union version of the foot officer’s sword is very similar in design, but is a better-made sword overall...this particular sword has a bit of history with it...we know who carried it and where it was carried

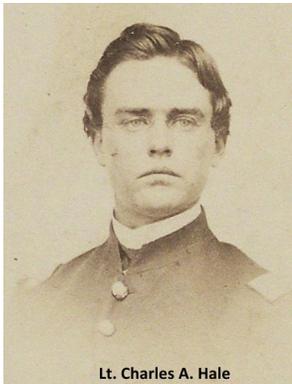
The sword is identified by an inscription on the upper mount of the scabbard here. It reads:  
**“Presented to Lt. C.A. Hale Co. C., 5th NHV  
July 1862 by his friends”** (see picture below)



That is Lieutenant Charles Hale...if you were here for the program I did on photographs, you may remember him...

Hale enlisted as a Corporal in Company C of the 5<sup>th</sup> NH in September 1861 at 20 years of age. The 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire is known for having suffered the highest number of combat casualties of any Union regiment during the course of the war. They were in practically every major battle of the Eastern Theater and suffered heavily for it. Charles Hale would survive, although he was wounded a couple of times and would rise to the rank of Captain before it was all over...

But he was presented this foot officer’s sword as a lieutenant, and it is a great relic from a very historic regiment. However, this sword is actually more notable for its association with another man...



Lt. Charles A. Hale



Capt. Thomas Livermore

Captain Thomas Livermore - another young officer in the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire regiment...Hale actually served as a Lt. in Livermore’s company, and they were good friends...

Livermore would go on to publish his memoirs after the War, and in his book he tells a very interesting story about this sword that occurred just prior to the Battle of Gettysburg...

At that time, Livermore carried the fancier, Staff & Field officer’s pattern of sword with the steel scabbard, but somewhere along the way, he had broken the blade in half...in two pieces, about 18 inches below the hilt.

And Hale carried his field officers sword, here, which Livermore very accurately describes as a foot officer’s sword, having the leather scabbard...

Just prior to the Battle of Gettysburg, Lt. Hale was appointed as an aide to Col. Edward Cross who was elevated to command the brigade - so Lt. Hale was appointed to a position as a brigade staff officer...and at the same time, Livermore was assigned as Chief of the Ambulance Corps for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps of the Union Army of the Potomac.

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## NOVEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM “COLD STEEL—SWORDS & SABERS IN THE WAR OF SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE”



So Livermore writes that upon learning of their new assignments he played a “practical joke” of sorts on his buddy Hale, saying that....

“I proposed to him to trade temporarily my sword with the steel scabbard, which is what staff officers usually carried, for his... saying that mine was more appropriate for him and his for me under the circumstances.”

Livermore said that Hale, “quickly embraced the offer, without drawing my blade...and buckled it on”...

The idea was that he would not discover the broken blade until “in the presence of others”, he would with “military grace and ferocity” draw from the scabbard a piece of blade only about 18 inches long...it was considered very funny.

He goes on to write, at the time neither of them could have imagined that they were on the very eve of the largest battle of the War...he would not see Hale again to return his sword until after the Battle of Gettysburg and fortunately his little stunt did not have any serious result for Hale should he have actually had to use the sword as a weapon...

So, while that is a rather peculiar little story, the thing that is particularly interesting about it is the fact that during the Battle of Gettysburg, Hale carried Livermore’s broken sword and Captain Thomas Livermore carried this sword...

...Livermore’s memoirs would go on to give a detailed account of his experiences at Gettysburg, which gives us an idea as to exactly where he carried Hale’s sword...

His duties with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps ambulances placed him along the center of Cemetery Ridge on July 3<sup>rd</sup>...which of course was the focal point of Pickett’s Charge...and the objective of Lee’s attack on the Third Day of the Battle. Livermore describes riding with General Winfield Scott Hancock and staff along the Union battle line and was at Meade’s headquarters about noon, when the Confederates opened fire with massed artillery...which we all know as the cannonade that was the prelude to Pickett’s charge. He even tells of personally escorting Hancock, who was later wounded during the battle that day, to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps hospital...

So despite the fact that from our perspective, this sword was on the “wrong” side of events that day...Livermore’s account places this sword very near the scene and it would have witnessed perhaps the most climactic moment in Confederate history – the moment that has been called the High Water Mark of the Confederacy at Gettysburg...

And it is there, at the High Water Mark that we are all familiar with what is probably the most famous example of an officer using his sword to rally his men in battle– at the culmination of “Pickett’s Charge”, Confederate Brigadier General Lewis Armistead placed his hat on the tip of his sword, which he then held high in the air to guide his troops, as a handful of them manage to cross over the stone wall on the crest of that ridge and pierce the Union line. And as they advanced into the jaws of death, Armistead is quoted as having shouted to his men, “Give them Cold Steel, Boys!”

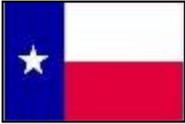
Does anyone know what kind of sword General Armistead carried that day?

He was actually carrying a US Model 1850 Foot Officer’s sword...very similar to this one...which is now on display at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia.

M1850 Staff and Field: The staff officer’s swords were probably the most attractive swords of the period and as mentioned these had a steel scabbard, as compared to the leather scabbards on the Foot Officer’s swords (The theory behind this was that like the cavalry and artillery swords, Field Officers were often mounted on horseback, there was less chance of the horse accidentally breaking the steel scabbard.)

Other than the scabbards, the most notable differences is seen in the guard: the Staff-and-Field has a larger guard with an extra branch containing the letters U.S. between them. Naturally, swords of Confederate manufacture omitted this detail, but some makers substituted C.S.)

The blades were usually similar with engraved floral designs and patriotic motifs. The grips were almost always wrapped with leather or ray skin secured by a fancy strand of twisted brass wire.



## NOVEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM “COLD STEEL—SWORDS & SABERS IN THE WAR OF SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE”



Does anyone know what famous Confederate General carried a US M1850 Staff & Field?

There were probably several, but Stonewall Jackson is one in particular that comes to mind... It was the sword he carried in the pre-war years with the US military and which he continued to carry throughout his service with the Confederacy. However, as the story goes, Jackson seldom used it...as evidenced by one rare occasion when he attempted to dramatically draw the sword to rally his troops at the Battle of Cedar Mountain in August 1862... he found that it had actually rusted firmly into the scabbard. Not to spoil the momentum, he was said to have simply unhooked the whole rig from his sword-belt and waved it in the air...scabbard and all.

This particular example has a few more “bells and whistles” than the typical Staff and Field sword because it is a presentation sword that was given as an honorary gift to the officer who carried it – you will notice the elaborate brass mounts and drag on the scabbard. This sword was actually presented to yet another Federal Lieutenant...(again, Lt.’s generally carried a foot officer’s sword, but in the case of a presentation sword, the presenters often purchased swords intended for ranks higher than that of the recipient.)

The scabbard is engraved up here between the upper mounts:  
“Presented to / Lieut. Benjamin B. Lathbury / by Company C 183 Reg PV / Jan. 1st 1864”



(See picture to the right)

The 183rd Pennsylvania was a late-war regiment raised in Philadelphia in late 1863, organized and sent to the field in early 1864. The regiment contained an unusually large number of very young recruits who would not have passed muster in the earlier days of the war...Lt. Lathbury was himself just 22 years old.

His unit was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division of Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps...and they were almost immediately thrown headlong into the meat-grinder of Grant’s Overland Campaign. The regiment was at the “Salient” at the Battle of Spotsylvania and in the thick of the fighting at the Wilderness...and finally, the 183rd was one of the regiments in Grant’s final charge at Cold Harbor on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1864, where they suffered heavy losses.

Nearly 6,000 Union soldiers were killed, captured or wounded during the assault with no real advantage gained...it was the kind of butchery that Grant has been criticized for.

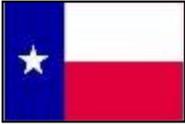
Lt. Lathbury suffered a severe wound in the upper left leg being entirely disabled and unable to leave the field.

Grant – perhaps unwilling to admit defeat - delayed the process of a formal truce in order to gather and care for the wounded who lay trapped between the opposing lines and trenches for many 3 or 4 days. Needless to say, a lot of the wounded Yankees there died in the interim.

Lathbury laid on the Cold Harbor battlefield for 3 days, at which point he was taken prisoner by the Confederates and was sent to the military hospital at Libby prison in Richmond.

His leg was examined by the surgeons there, and amputated at the lower third of his thigh on June 6th. Sadly, he did not make a full recovery from his wounds and died June 27th (3 weeks after his leg was amputated) at the Libby Prison Military Hospital.

During this ordeal, his sword presumably fell into Confederate hands somewhere along the way and it has survived to the present day in remarkably good condition...it is an incredible piece of history from one of the darkest chapters of the War...a grim reminder of the suffering and tragedy brought on by this cruel event that has become known as the American Civil War.



## NOVEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM “COLD STEEL—SWORDS & SABERS IN THE WAR OF SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE”



Below is a picture of Lt. Hale’s sword and scabbard. This sword was carried in battle at Gettysburg. After Andrew Harris purchased it, he took it back to the Gettysburg battlefield and met one of Lt. Hale’s descendants while there. They walked the same battlefield that the sword had been carried on 150 years ago.



Hale Sword  
 Scabbard  
 Inscription

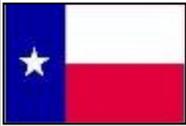


The sword and scabbard in the picture below belonged to Lt. Benjamin B. Lathbury.



Pictured below is the display that Andrew brought to the meeting. It was a wonderful program with a fantastic display. We really appreciate Andrew for his program and for being so generous by allowing us to handle these prize possessions. There are very few times in life that someone has the chance to hold historical artifacts like these in their hands. Thanks Andrew!





# UPCOMING ROBERT E. LEE CELEBRATION



## Sons of Confederate Veterans

*Texas Division High Plains Brigade*



### *General Robert E. Lee Celebration*

#### The events of the evening

**Special Guest**  
**SCV National Lt.**  
**Commander-in-chief**  
**Paul Gramling**

#### **Door Prizes**

uniforms and  
period dress  
encouraged but not  
required! and  
business suits also  
not required!

**\$ 15.00 Per Person**

**Catered by**  
**Top Notch BBQ**



Contact Hosting camps commanders  
or email [scv.relee.camp@gmail.com](mailto:scv.relee.camp@gmail.com)

Charter Ceremony  
for R.E. Lee Camp #  
728  
Installing of Officers  
for camps

*Everyone is  
Welcome and  
bring a guest!*  
**RSVP**

Location for the event  
Childress Fair Park  
Auditorium

Brisket, sausage, three sides and dessert *Deadline for RSVP is January 8, 2018*

**January 27, 2018**

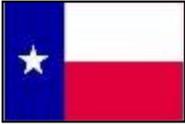
**Starting at 7:00pm**

**Hosting**

R. E. Lee Camp # 728 Childress, Texas

Charles Goodnight, Frontier Regiment Camp # 2280 Wellington, Texas

Sidney Sherman Camp # 2256 Stratford, Texas



## 2018 STEPHEN D. LEE INSTITUTE SYMPOSIUM FEBRUARY 17, 2018



2018 Stephen D. Lee Institute Symposium

The Rational Confederate in an Irrational World

Defending our Southern heritage in an age devoid of logic and reason.

17 February 2018  
Shreveport, Louisiana

The attacks on our Southern heritage are beyond all reason: emotion and insanity rage while facts, rationality, and logic are being driven from public discourse.

It is the purpose of the Stephen D. Lee Institute to provide the antidote to these toxins by bringing together some of the best minds in the South to make the case for Dixie.

We are pleased to announce the 2018 Stephen D. Lee Institute will be held February 17, 2018 in Shreveport, Louisiana. Our host hotel for the event is the Hilton Hotel Shreveport; the symposium will take place at the Shreveport Convention center, which is connected to the Hilton.

We are once again putting together a very distinguished line-up of speakers, including...

**Marshall DeRosa** - professor of American Constitutional Law and author of numerous books including *The Confederate Constitution of 1861: An Inquiry into American Constitutionalism*

**Ron Kennedy** - noted trouble-maker and, along with his brother Don Kennedy, perhaps the most prolific author in the modern Southern movement. Among his many books are *The South was Right* and *Dixie Rising: Rules for Rebels* and many others

**Paul C. Graham** - editor Shotwell Publishing & author *Confederaphobia!*

**Lee Bright** - Two-term S.C. State Senator and renowned defender of Southern heritage

**Jeffery Addicott** -- law professor and expert on terrorist tactics; author of *Radical Islam Why?: Confronting Jihad at Home & Abroad* among others

**Charles E. McMichael** - Educator, Past SCV Commander-in-Chief and relentless defender of Southern heritage

*Special Offer for Current SCV Members:*

Thanks to the support of the SCV General Executive Council, this year, in an effort to make the SDLI as accessible as possible, we are able to offer a special early registration discount for SCV members of just \$95. That's a \$30 savings off our regular registration fee of \$125.

This special \$95 registration fee is only available to current SCV members, and to take advantage of it you must register before January 17.

### Registration Package

Admission to all symposium programs including a special panel discussion with all of our distinguished speakers Saturday afternoon.

- Desert Reception Friday night at the hotel.      Lunch Saturday

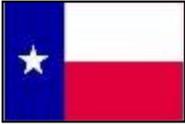
### Registration Cost

\$95 for SCV members who register before January 17. \$125 for SCV members after January 17

\$150 for non-members (the public is invited) A limited number of scholarships are available for high-school seniors, college students, and high-school teachers.

**To register** for the event click here: <http://www.stephendleeinstitute.com/events.html>

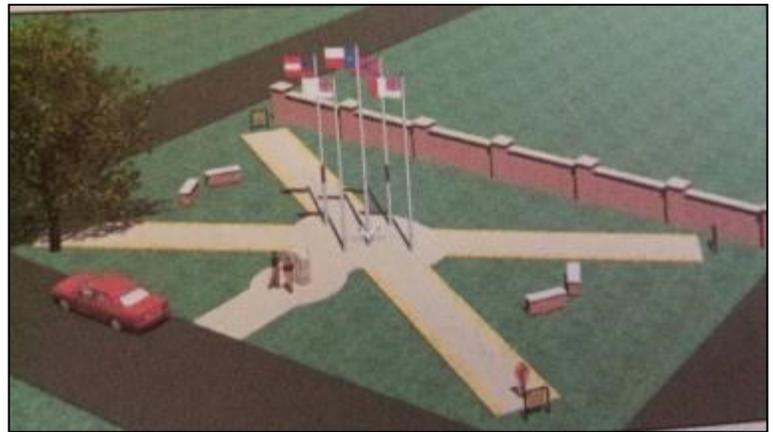
Our host hotel is the Hilton Shreveport, 104 Market St, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 698-0900.



## 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.

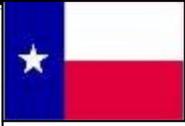


JACOB L. SHERIDAN CAPT CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	JOHN H. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	COL. A.T. RAINEY CO. H 1 TEX. INF. HOOD'S TEX. BRIG
L. E. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	PVT WM. N SHERIDAN CO C 6 BATTALION TEXAS CALVARY	STEPHEN D. RAINEY CAPTAIN 1ST BATT. TEX CAV

PVT. R. M. LUMMUS 53 GEORGIA INF. COMPANY B C.S.A.	PVT ALLEN G TURNER CO A 7TH BATTALION MISS INF. CSA
SGT. AMOS G. HANKS CO F. 1ST TEX INF HOODS BRIGADE CSA	WILLIAM H. DYER PVT CO K MISS INF C.S.A.

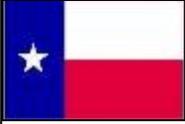
PVT WM. H. NIX CO. K 22ND TEXAS INF	THAD S. SKELTON CO. F 5TH GA. INF WIA JAN. 3, 1863
PVT JOHN FOSTER CO. H 1ST TEX INF KIA GAINES MILL	WM. FRANKLIN HAYS 7 CONF. CAV. CO I WIA AUG. 6, 1864

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



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NOVEMBER CIVIL WAR CALENDAR

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



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

From the Texas State Historical Association

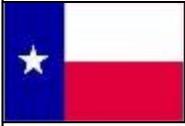


On November 18, 1862, John Austin Wharton was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Confederate army. Wharton, born in Tennessee in 1828, was brought to Galveston as an infant and spent his early years on a Brazoria County plantation. Before the Civil War he enjoyed a successful career as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

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

November 30th, 1864

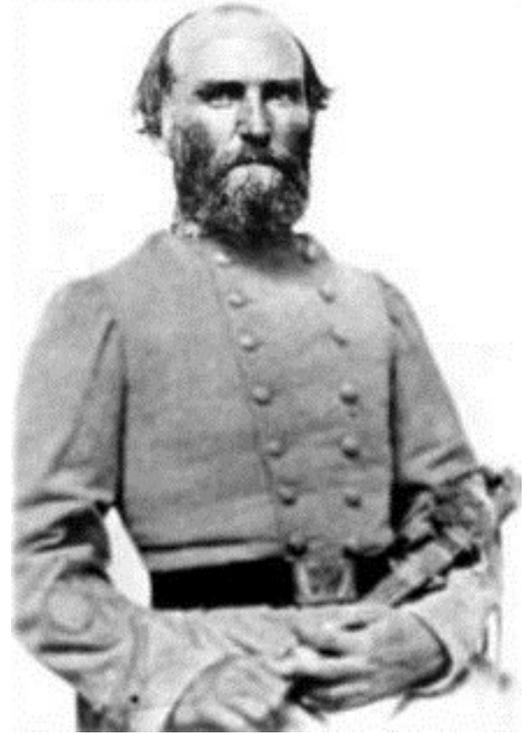
On this day in 1864, Confederate general Hiram B. Granbury, commander of Granbury's Texas Brigade, was killed in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. Granbury, a native of Mississippi, moved to Texas in the 1850s. He was chief justice of McLennan County from 1856 to 1858. At the outbreak of the Civil War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



**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP**  
**CSA TEXAS GENERAL OF THE MONTH**  
**WILLIAM READ SCURRY**



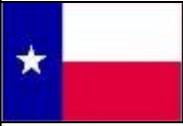
William Read Scurry was born in Gallatin, Tennessee on February 10, 1821. He spent his youth working on his father's estate and studying law. He traveled to Texas in June 1839 and was issued a land grant in the San Augustine area the following year. By 1841, he was so respected for his legal writings that he was appointed the district attorney of the fifth judicial district; three years later he was elected to the Texas Congress, serving from 1844 to 1845. When the Mexican—American War broke out, he enlisted as a private in George Wood's Second Regiment of the Texas Mounted Volunteers. He was so impressive during this time that he was promoted to major in July of 1846. After the war, he married Janette (Jeannette) B. Sutton on December 17, 1846 and had seven children. He practiced law in Clinton, Texas, and was co-owner and editor of the Austin State Gazette. He represented Red River County in the Ninth Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1844 and 1845 and served in the House of Representatives in 1845, promoting the annexation of Texas to the United States. In 1856 Scurry became a delegate to the state Democratic nominating convention, and in 1861 he was a delegate to the Secession Convention.



In July 1861, Scurry enlisted a lieutenant colonel in the Fourth Texas Cavalry, part of the Sibley Brigade which launched the New Mexico Campaign at the outset of 1862. His military skills had not diminished since his time in the Mexican War, and distinguished himself as an officer at the Battle of Valverde, February 21–22, 1862. He also distinguished himself while commanding the Confederate forces in the Battle of Glorieta Pass, March 26–28, 1862.

He was promoted to full colonel on March 28, 1862, and subsequently played a key role in leading the Confederate retreat from New Mexico. He was promoted to brigadier general on September 12, 1862 and continued his exceptional work in the Confederate States Army, playing a key role in the recapture of Galveston, Texas on January 1, 1863.

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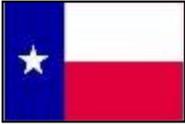
## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP CSA TEXAS GENERAL OF THE MONTH



PG 2 OF 2

General Scurry was assigned to command the Third Brigade of Walker's Texas Division in October 1863 and led them into the Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill in early April 1864. The Third Brigade then transferred to Arkansas to fight against Gen. Frederick Steele, who was about to invade Texas. Scurry was wounded in the leg at the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry on April 30, 1864, but refused to be carried to the rear, fearing that to do so would cause his troops to lose the morale needed to turn the enemy. When the Union soldiers overwhelmed the Confederates, his injury was forgotten for over two hours while the battle was fought around him; by the time his men had pushed them back, he was near death. After he was found, he asked "Have we whipped them?" Once he was assured that his men had been victorious, he asked to be moved to a house so that he could "be made comfortable and die easy." General William Read Scurry was buried with full military honors at the Texas Cemetery at Austin, Texas in May 1864. Texas erected a thirteen-foot-high white marble shaft over his grave. Scurry County, Texas is named in his honor.





**Texas Division Chaplain's Article**  
**November 2017**  
**By Sanford Reed**

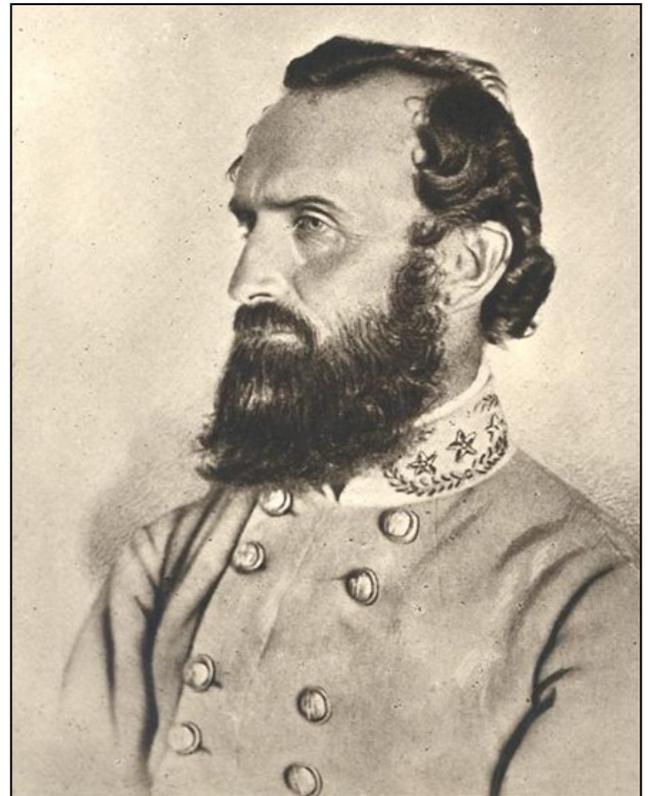


*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." Hebrews 13:7*

Several Camps have asked for appropriate Toasts to use to honor Lee and Jackson. During the next two months we will be commemorating Jackson and Lee and many of you will be having your annual banquets or meetings to show reverence and pay tribute to these great men. It is appropriate to let newly elected officers present these toasts, but anyone may be chosen for the honor. These may be shortened to fit the occasion and time frame, but offer an excellent opportunity to set the standard for future years.

**Tribute & Toasts:** Please locate your glass of water for our Toast to **General Stonewall Jackson:**

It is appropriate and our privilege and duty to honor General Stonewall Jackson on the occasion of his birthday, January 21. General Jackson was not afraid to admit his faith to others, nor hide it, but rather, openly shared it with those around him, inspiring many to come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Historians consider Jackson to be one of the most gifted tactical commanders in U.S. history, and is second only to Lee in popularity and significance of service to our Cause. Jackson's unusual command style and personality traits, combined with his frequent success in battle, contribute to his legacy as one of the most remarkable generals of the War for Southern Independence.



*Ladies and Gentlemen, will you please rise.*

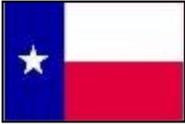
(hold your glass high)

*Let us lift our glasses here tonight, in honor, and to toast*

***THOMAS JONATHON Stonewall JACKSON.***

(Everyone together) - Here, Here - (Drink!)

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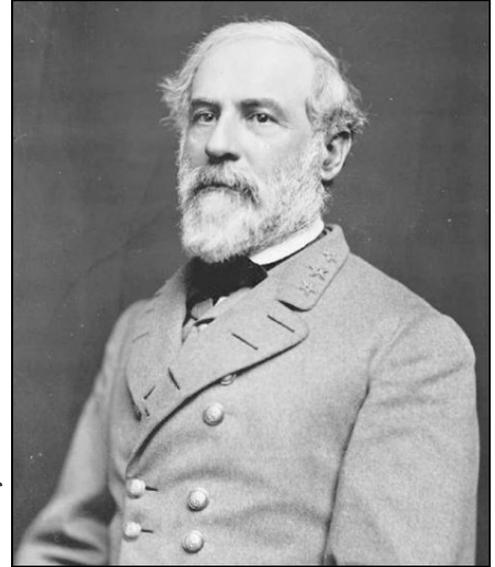
**Texas Division Chaplain's Article**  
**November 2017**  
**By Sanford Reed**



**Toast:**

With unbroken regularity and with unfailing reverence, we celebrate the Nineteenth Day of January. Upon that day **Robert E. Lee** was born in Virginia. Upon that day a matchless inspiration was born.

Lee himself, living, loving, labouring perfectly daily, was the proof and indication of the belief that it was possible for a living man to live up to the loftiest level of all human ideals. And in Lee was proved the ideal and the realization of flawless manhood. The ideal and the example of perfect ideals met and mingled in one man.



Robert E. Lee inspired and visualized in actual living, timeless customs, and his name will live in our hearts and in human history forever. Let us speak it here tonight. There is neither need nor room for more prominence in the power and dignity which history has fashioned for Lee.

The spirit of Lee inspires our spirit; the Life of Lee kindles a fire in the hearts of men; the fingers of Lee have touched our fingers, through our glorious ancestors that we also honor

*Will you please rise..... (The Toast - water only.)*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Sons and Daughters of Confederate Veterans:*

*Lift high your glasses here tonight, and in the liquid spotless as his fame, let us honor, celebrate, recognize, and toast:*

***ROBERT EDWARD LEE of OLD VIRGINIA!***

(Everyone together) - ROBERT EDWARD LEE - ( Drink!)

***May God continue to bless the work that each of you is doing. It is in remembering and honoring the past that we preserve our future.***

***God Bless the South!***

***Sanford Reed***

***Chaplain***

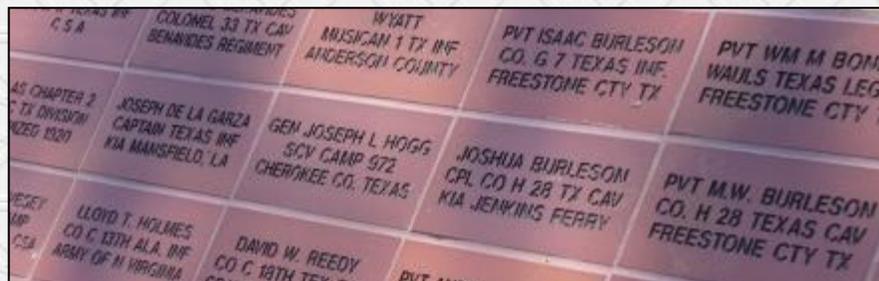
***Texas Division, SCV***



## 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](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](mailto:danielyer497@yahoo.com)  
Phone: (903) 391-2224

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Dwight Franklin, Chaplain/Newsletter  
Editor: [dwrightfranklin1@yahoo.com](mailto:dwrightfranklin1@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 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.