



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2017

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH



A NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW CHANGES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

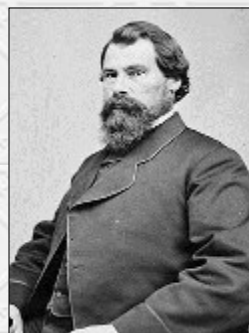
At our December meeting we were again entertained by well know preacher of the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the multi-talented Dan Manuel. We were truly blessed to be able to book Dan for the third consecutive year and he "picked and grinned" many of our favorite songs. Thanks so much Dan for a most enjoyable evening!! I also had the privilege of installing the new officers for 2018. They will hit the ground running at our January meeting and I know you will support them as you have done me for the past two years.

As I leave office there are some regrets. Still working a job that demands some attention, I was unable to attend any reunions and represent the Camp, but I thank Dan Dyer and Marc Robinson for filling in on that front. We are still under attack and it appears to not be letting up. I fear that 2018 will find more monuments being removed and it appears that the only way to save these icons is to install them on private land. It appears to me that "public" land means land that only the liberals and black folks can use as they deem fit. What the rest of the population wants is of

no importance to the Black Lives Matter demons and I do call them demons, devils and hell's representative on earth. There is NO LOVE in these people's hearts, they seek to destroy and rewrite history and have no tolerance for any other people's rights. OUR RIGHT to honor our ancestors and our heroes!!!

Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, WERE righteous men and very religious indeed. But more important than being religious, they WERE CHRISTIANS! Our Lord preached love and lived a short life on earth of ministering to others with compassion, feeding those hungry for eternal life. I recall that passage of scripture that Jesus said, For when you have done this (feed the hungry, tend the sick, love your neighbor) to your fellow man, YOU have done this to me! Yet there are folks who spend their whole life in hate. They hate our President, who happens to be a supporter of protecting Confederate monuments. They hate our schools named for our confederate heroes. They just plain hate all white folks yet they call us racists!

Please continue to pray for these haters! Please remember what our Lord taught us to do – bless those who curse you. As I write this month's column, it is the Christmas Season. Let's all try to live the Christian life, not just during these short days, but throughout the year ahead. If we put God first and have him with us and our



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

cause, who can stand against us! Pray for peace and understanding and changed hearts of those who seek to destroy our memorials and monuments! If we do this I firmly believe that we WILL WIN the battle!!

Thanks again for allowing me to be your Commander for the last two years! See everyone at the January meeting.

Deo Vindice!

Charles Steen  
Reagan Camp Commander

CAMP MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of Each Month  
06:30 PM

Snacks and drinks served at each meeting.

First Christian Church  
113 East Crawford Street  
Palestine, Texas

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

Guests are welcome!  
Bring the family.

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**Prayer List**

- Forrest Bradberry—Camp Historian
- Compatriot J.B. Mason
- 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



Elm Springs, SCV General Headquarters  
Columbia, Tennessee

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Dec 25—**Christmas Day**

Jan 1—**New Year's Day**

Jan 18 - **January Meeting**

Jan 27 - **Robert E. Lee Celebration**  
see page 8 for details

Feb 15 - **February Meeting**

Feb 17 - **Stephen D. Lee Institute Symposium**  
see page 9 for details

Mar 15 - **March Meeting**

Apr 19 - **April Meeting**



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

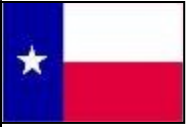
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

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

-PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS-

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

-GENERAL  
ROBERT E. LEE-



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 CHRISTMAS IN THE CONFEDERACY



The excerpts below were written by Varina Davis, the wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, describing Christmas of 1864 in the Confederate White House in Richmond, Virginia.



Varina Davis, wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis (Library of Congress)

*“For as Christmas season was ushered in under the darkest clouds, everyone felt the cataclysm which impended but the rosy, expectant faces of our little children were a constant reminder that self-sacrifice must be the personal offering of each member of the family.”*

*Due to the blockades around Confederate states, families could not find certain types of food and merchandise for their holiday celebrations and available items were often outrageously priced. Southerners had to find substitutes for many of the ingredients in their favorite Christmas recipes, and they had to make most of their gifts and tree decorations instead of purchasing them.*

*In Richmond, where Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his family lived, it was discovered that the orphans at the Episcopalian home had been previously promised a Christmas tree, toys, and candy. The excerpt below shows how the people of Richmond creatively worked together to bring Christmas to the orphans in spite of the war’s shortages.*

*“The kind-hearted confectioner was interviewed by our committee of managers, and he promised a certain amount of his simpler kinds of candy, which he sold easily a dollar and a half a pound, but he drew the line at cornucopias to hold it, or sugared fruits to hang on the tree, and all the other vestiges of Christmas creations which had lain on his hands for years. The ladies dispersed in anxious squads of toy-hunters, and each one rushed over the great house looking up their treasure eyeless dolls, three-legged horses, tops with the upper peg broken off, rubber tops, monkeys with all the squeak gone silent and all the ruck of children’s toys that gather in a nursery closet. Some small feathered chickens and parrots which nodded their heads in obedience to a weight beneath them were furnished with new tail feathers, lambs minus much of their wool were supplied with a cotton wool substitute, rag dolls were plumped out and recovered with clean cloth, and the young ladies painted their fat faces in bright colors and furnished them with beads for eyes.”*

*When the orphans received their gifts, Mrs. Davis wrote, “the different gradations from joy to ecstasy which illuminated their faces was ‘worth two years of peaceful life’ to see.”*



# JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 DECEMBER MEETING



The Reagan Camp held the December meeting at the Palestine Masonic Lodge on December 21, 2017. Everyone brought a covered dish (or dishes), and the meal was delicious! Many of the wives attended the meeting, and it was so good to have them with us. There were 28 people who attend the December meeting. After the meal, we were treated to a wonderful musical program by Dan Manuel.





**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156**  
**DECEMBER ENTERTAINMENT**  
**DAN MANUEL**



The Reagan Camp was treated to an excellent musical program for the Christmas party by Dan Manuel, who has been producing the Dogwood Jamboree for the past 13 years. The Dogwood Jamboree is a Branson style Country Music show that has great classic country music, and some of the best entertainers in East Texas. Dan is not only a producer but also an excellent entertainer, and he put on quite a show for those in attendance at the meeting as he played the guitar and sang to those in attendance. Dan started off his program by asking the audience to join him in the singing of several Christmas songs. In between songs, he would tell jokes and ask questions to those in attendance.

After singing Christmas songs, he sang several of the most popular songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s from various country and pop artists. He even impersonated Elvis Presley, Marty Robbins, Willie Nelson, Julio Iglesias, and Johnny Cash to name a few. He put on a great show, and everyone really enjoyed it. It was a wonderful program.

We really appreciate Dan for his willingness to come to the meeting and to provide the entertainment.

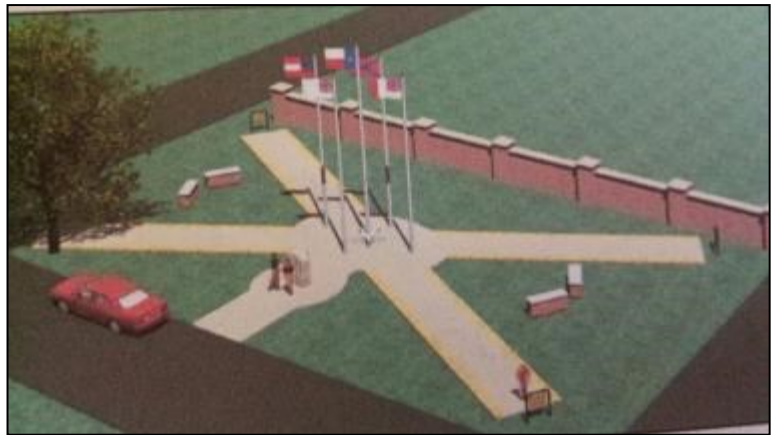




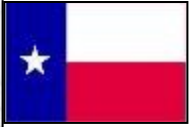
## A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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.



SAMUEL R. CORN CO. B 33RD ALA. INF CSA	PVT. DAVID A. BRAY CO. H 34TH GA. INF. CSA	O. M. ROBERTS CAMP 178 - SCV WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS	UPSHUR COUNTY PATRIOTS CAMP 2109 GILMER, TEXAS	PRIMUS KELLY BODY SERVANT GRIMES COUNTY
GEN. HORACE RANDEL CAMP # 1533 CARTHAGE, TEXAS	ERASTUS W. DAVIS 31ST MISS INFANTRY 1825-1862	WILLIAM A. LOYD 30TH TEXAS CAVALRY COMPANY F PRIVATE	1ST LT. LEWIS P. BROOKS CO. B 7TH GA REGT	ROGER Q. MILLS CHAPTER 2466 UDC
PVT. JOHN LAND 54TH GA. INF CO. H RUSSELL GUARDS	1ST LT. LEWIS P. BROOKS CO. B 7TH GA REGT	PVT THOMAS M. LORD CO. L MARTIN-HOWELL GA LT ART. CSA	CPL J RILEY PATTY 59TH TN MTD INF. CO. A	MARY WEST #26 UDC WACO, TEXAS
PVT T. JEFF PARKS 22ND TX INFANTRY CO. K	TERRY LEE HULSEY FOR 24 GA CO. I PVT JOHN MCAFEE HULSEY	JAMES HALL BENDY PVT CO. A 25 TEXAS CAV. CSA	JOHN A. BUCHANAN SERGEANT CO. H 27TH MISS INFANTRY	JOEL S. WALTERS PRIVATE CO. C 12TH MISS INFANTRY
PVT W.C. HERRING 12TH TX INFANTRY CO. K	JOHN PINKNEY MANN PVT. CO. K 13 TEXAS CAV. CSA	WILLIAM H. L. WELLS VA LIGHT ARTILLERY WELLS CLAN PLANO	WILLIAM L. WALTERS PRIVATE CO. K 37TH MISS INF REGT	JESSIE C. ROBERTS 1ST LIEUTENANT 20TH TEXAS CAVALRY



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 AWARDS & OFFICER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Eldon Tedder was presented a framed certificate for being selected as the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 camp member of the year for 2017. Eldon went above and beyond as he kept the John H. Reagan home site area mowed on a regular basis. This is a BIG lot which has acreage with it, so Eldon had to put forth a lot of work to keep it looking nice.

We appreciate Eldon for all of his hard work for the Reagan Camp and for all he does to ensure that our Confederate ancestors are honorably remembered.

Congratulations Eldon on your selection as the John H. Reagan Camp Member of the Year 2017.



Pictured above from left to right: Charles Steen, Dan Dyer, Richard Thornton, David Franklin, Calvin Nicholson, Doug Smith, Frank Moore, Dwight Franklin, & Martin Lawrence. (Not pictured is Stuart Whitaker)

The John H. Reagan Camp officers for 2017 were sworn in by current camp commander Charles Steen during the December meeting. The new officers are:

Commander -	Richard Thornton
1st Lieutenant -	David Franklin
2nd Lieutenant -	Calvin Nicholson
Adjutant/Treasurer -	Dan Dyer
Sgt.-at-Arms -	Doug Smith
Quartermaster -	Frank Moore
Chaplin -	Dwight Franklin
Judge Advocates -	Martin Lawrence & Stuart Whitaker



# UPCOMING EVENT GEN. 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**

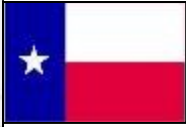
**Hosting**

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.



ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Dec, 1866— To Markie Our communication with the world beyond the Mountains is reduced to one stage a day & the tri-weekly packet boat.	2 Dec, 1862 - to wife I tremble for my country when I hear of confidence expressed in me. I know too well my weakness & that our only hope is in God.
3 Dec, 1860 - to Rooney As an American citizen I prize the Union very highly & know of no personal sacrifice that I would not make to preserve it, save that of honour.	4 Dec, 1863 - I believe a kind God has ordered all things for our good.	5 Dec, 1860 - to Custis The education of a man or woman is never completed till they die. There is always before them much to lean & more to do.	6 Dec, 1846 - To Wife I am one of those silly persons when I have anything to do I can't rest satisfied till it has been accomplished.	7 undated - To Wife It is satisfactory always to have facts to go on; they restrain supposition & conjecture, confirm faith, & bring contentment.	8 undated - With a grateful heart I thank him for his preservation of you thus far & trust to his mercy and kindness for the future.	9 Dec, 1869 - While moderation & temperance in all things are commendable & beneficial, abstinence from spirituous liquors is the best safeguard of morals and health.
10 undated - I shall think of you & my grandson very often during the season when families are united & though absent from you in person, you will always be present in mind.	11 undated - to S.G. Miller Practice habitual temperance, so that you may form the habit in youth & not feel the inclination to depart from it in manhood.	12 Dec, 1851 - To Custis Do your best, and I shall be satisfied.	13 Dec, 1862 - at Mary's Heights It is well that war is so terrible; we should grow too fond of it.	14 Dec, 1860 - to Custis Pay all your debts as soon as possible	15 Dec, 1866 - to Fitzhugh I know of no fitter resting place for a soldier than the field on which he has nobly laid down his life.	16 undated - to wife I expect to die a pauper & I see no way of preventing it. So that I can get enough for you & the girls I am content.
17 undated - to a friend  If I could only have my children around me, I could be happy	18 Dec, 1869 - to son I must begin by wishing you a pleasant Christmas & many Happy New Years, & may each succeeding year bring to you & yours increasing happiness.	19 undated - to Mildred I trust many of you will be assembled around the family hearth at dear Arlington for another Christmas. Though absent, my heart will be in the midst of you.	20 undated - to Mildred I hope you will find time to read & improve your mind. Read history, works of truth. Get correct views of life & learn to see the world in its true light.	21 Dec, 1866 - to daughter Mildred Experience will teach you that you will never receive such a love as is felt for you by your father and mother.	22 Dec, 1866 - If I was an artist I would draw a true picture of Traveller. Such a picture would inspire a poet. But I am no artist & can therefore only say he is a Confederate grey.	23 undated - I shall think of you on that holy day & shall pray to the God of heaven to shower his blessings upon you in this world & to unite you all in his courts in the world to come.
24 Dec, 1846 - to sons I hope Santa Claus will fill Rob's stocking tonight; that Mildred's, Agnes's & Anna's may break down with good things. If he only leaves for you one half of what I wish, you will want for nothing.	25 Dec, 1862 - to Mildred You must study hard, gain knowledge & learn your duty to God & your neighbor; that is the great object of life.	26 undated - Occupy yourself in aiding those more helpless than yourself.	27 Dec, 1863 - to M. Stuart Thus is link by link the strong chain broken that binds us to earth & our passage soothed to another world.	28 undated - to Custis There is nothing so military as labour & nothing so important to an army as to save the lives of its soldiers	29 Dec, 1863 - The object of this life is to prepare for a better and brighter world.	30 Dec, 1864 - to Wife I pray daily & almost hourly to our Heavenly Father to come to the relief of you & our afflicted country.
31 undated - to a student We cannot undo the past; that is forever gone; but the future is in our hands						



## TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY - DECEMBER

[HTTP://THOMASLEGION.NET/AMERICANCIVILWAR/  
TEXASCIVILWARHISTORY.HTML](http://thomaslegion.net/AmericanCivilWar/TexasCivilWarHistory.html)



The Republic of Texas was admitted to the Union as the 28th U.S. state on December 29, 1845. Texas shares an international border with the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León and Tamaulipas to the south, and borders the US states of New Mexico to the west, Oklahoma to the north, Arkansas to the northeast and Louisiana to the east.

Spanish conquistadors (conquerors) first arrived in the region now known as Texas in 1519, finding the region populated by various Native American tribes. During the period from 1519 to 1848, all or parts of Texas were claimed by six countries: France, Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the United States of America, as well as the Confederate States of America in 1861–65. (See also [Texas History Homepage](#).)

No single culture was dominant in the present-day Texas region and many different peoples inhabited the area. Native American tribes that lived inside the boundaries of present-day Texas include the Alabama, Apache, Atakapan, Bidai, Caddo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Cherokee, Choctaw, Coushatta, Hasinai, Jumano, Karankawa, Kickapoo, Kiowa, Tonkawa, and Wichita.

During the nineteenth century, as part of the Cotton Kingdom, planters in parts of Texas depended on slave labor. In 1860, according to the US census, Texas had a total population of 604,215, of which 182,566 were enslaved. In the statewide election on the secession ordinance, Texans voted to secede from the Union by a vote of 46,129 to 14,697 (a 76% majority). The Secession Convention immediately organized a government, replacing Sam Houston when he refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy.

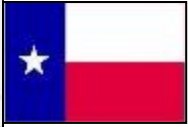
Texas declared its secession from the United States on February 1, 1861, and joined the Confederate States of America on March 2, 1861. On February 16, 1861, U.S. General David E. Twiggs, commander of Federal forces in Texas, surrendered the United States arsenal in San Antonio to secessionist volunteers led by the famed Texas Ranger Ben McCulloch, along with all additional army posts and property in Texas. Twiggs ordered all 3000 Army troops stationed in Texas – mostly in defense of the Indian frontier – to march to the coast to be evacuated. Texas, now firmly in Confederate control, also took possession of thousands of U.S. Army muskets and ammunition. Twiggs, deemed a traitor by Washington, soon joined the Confederate Army.

During the American Civil War (1861-1865), Texas excelled at supplying soldiers and cavalry units for the Confederacy. The Lone Star State was mainly a "supply state" for the Confederate forces until mid-1863. Subsequently, Union forces captured various points of the Mississippi River, thus making large movements of men, horses or cattle impossible. Some cotton was sold in Mexico, but most of the crop became useless because of the Federal naval blockade of Galveston and other ports.

Before the war, Galveston was the only major business center in Texas. Enjoying a luxurious lifestyle compared with the rest of frontier Texas, the city was the export point for most of the cotton in Texas along with other products like sugar and molasses. But by 1862, the federal navy had blockaded the Texas coast. Galveston was withering. The city's residents were ordered to evacuate in May 1862, along with their livestock and supplies. Many crowded into refugee camps in Houston along with hundreds who had fled the war in Louisiana.

Federal attacks on Corpus Christi, Sabine Pass, and Beaumont set the stage for the events of October 4, 1862, when Federal warships sailed into Galveston Harbor and seized control of the defenseless city. By Christmas Day, when 260 Massachusetts infantrymen began an occupation of the waterfront, Galveston was all but a ghost town. In a dramatic reversal of fortunes, however, Confederate forces staged a surprise invasion on New Year's Day, 1863, leading thousands of troops into town over the abandoned railroad bridge to the mainland. In a coordinated operation, two Confederate gunboats fought to an unlikely victory over six Union ships in Galveston Harbor. The audacious recapture of Galveston exhilarated Texas and made heroes of the men who participated. From the Federal perspective, it was one of the great debacles of the war.

Texas regiments fought in every major battle throughout the war. The last battle of the American Civil War, the Battle of Palmito Ranch, was fought in Texas on May 12, 1865.



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

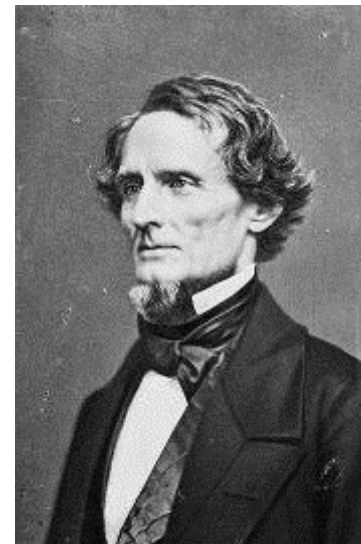
From the Texas State Historical Association— <https://texasdaybyday.com/#feedCarousel>



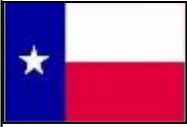
**On December 2nd, 1862**, the Confederate government issued \$100 notes bearing a portrait of the renowned Southern beauty Lucy Pickens. Lucy Holcombe was born in 1832 in Tennessee. Between 1848 and 1850 the Holcombes moved to Wyalucing plantation in Marshall, Texas. Lucy became highly acclaimed throughout the South for her "classic features, titian hair, pansy eyes, and graceful figure." In the summer of 1856 she met Francis Wilkinson Pickens, twice a widower and twenty-seven years her senior. Her acceptance of his marriage proposal, it is said, hinged on his acceptance of a diplomatic post abroad. President James Buchanan appointed him ambassador

to Russia, and Pickens and Lucy were wed in 1858 at Wyalucing. Lucy was a favorite at the Russian court, but Pickens resigned his diplomatic post in the fall of 1860 in anticipation of the outbreak of the Civil War. Upon his return home he was elected governor of South Carolina. By selling the jewels that had been given her in Russia, Lucy helped outfit the Confederate Army unit that bore her name, the Lucy Holcombe Legion. Her portrait was also used on the one-dollar Confederate notes issued on June 2, 1862 and 1863, and the \$100 bill of 1864. She was the only woman to appear on Confederate currency. She died in 1899.

**On December 6th, 1889**, Jefferson Davis, former president of the Confederate States of America, died in New Orleans. Davis, born in Kentucky in 1808 but later a senator from Mississippi, was first in Texas as an army officer during the Mexican War in 1847 with Zachary Taylor's force on the Rio Grande. In 1854, while Davis was United States secretary of war, he recommended the Texas or thirty-second-parallel route for construction of a railroad to the Pacific Ocean, and in 1856 he sent camels to Camp Verde to test the animals' suitability as military transportation. After Reconstruction a movement was launched in Dallas to purchase a homestead for Davis and invite him to move to Texas. In 1875 he was offered the presidency of the newly established Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. In declining the appointment, he wrote of his hopes of revisiting Texas, but he never did so.



**On December 16th, 1863**, Confederate colonel Sul Ross assumed command of a brigade formed from the Third, Sixth, Ninth, and Twenty-seventh Texas Cavalry regiments, and the men in these units thereafter fought together as Ross's Brigade. Lawrence Sullivan Ross was born in Iowa in 1838; his family moved to Texas a year later. He realized his early ambition to become an Indian fighter like his father, Shapley Ross, when he served in campaigns with the Texas Rangers against the Comanches in 1858 and 1860; in the latter year he led the raid that resulted in the recapture of Cynthia Ann Parker. With the coming of the Civil War he joined the Confederate forces and rose to command the Sixth Texas Cavalry. He was promoted to the rank of general soon after taking command of Ross's Brigade. Under his able leadership, his brigade saw action in the Atlanta and Franklin-Nashville campaigns, although Ross was in Texas on furlough when his men surrendered at Jackson, Mississippi, in May 1865. After the war he served Texas as a state senator and then as governor from 1886 to 1891.



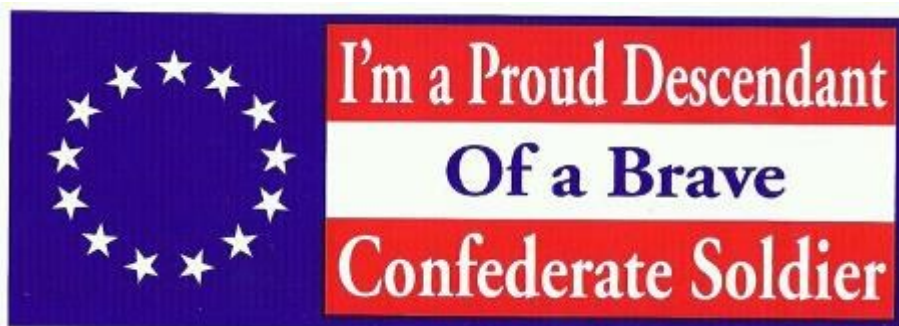
## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN DECEMBER

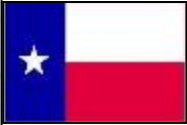


From the Texas State Historical Association— <https://texasdaybyday.com/#feedCarousel>

**On December 21st, 1861**, the state legislature established the Frontier Regiment to patrol west of the line of settlements from the Red River to the Rio Grande. Less than a month later, the Confederate Congress authorized the secretary of war to receive the regiment into Confederate service for the protection of the Indian frontier of Texas. President Jefferson Davis vetoed the bill, however, because it withheld the control of the executive of the Confederate States over the troops. In early 1863 Governor Francis R. Lubbock attempted once more to transfer the regiment to Confederate service, but President Davis again refused to accept the regiment if it remained under Texas control. The Frontier Regiment achieved its greatest successes during the summer and fall of 1863, after James E. McCord replaced James M. Norris as commander. State authorities finally transferred the regiment to Confederate control in 1864, but only after the legislature approved the establishment of the Frontier Organization to ensure the continued protection of the frontier. During the last eighteen months of the Civil War the regiment increasingly devoted itself to enforcing Confederate conscription laws, arresting deserters, and tracking down renegades and outlaws.

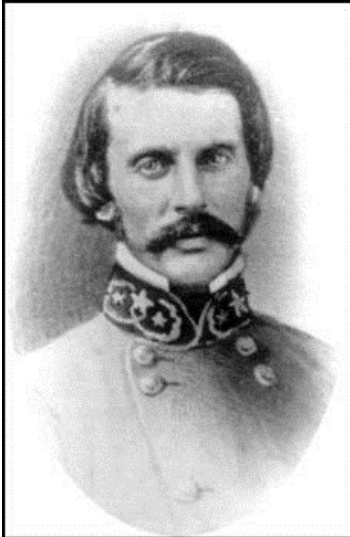
**On December 26th, 1862**, an armed group of 100 pro-Union Tejanos captured and hanged the wealthy rancher Isidro Vela, the chief justice of Zapata County and an outspoken supporter of the Confederacy, in the presence of his family. Vela was born in Mexico in 1798 and served as president of the secessionist meeting held in Zapata County in December 1860. He and the other landowners in the area strongly supported secession, in contrast to the mostly Hispanic local populace. Guerrilla warfare ensued, as pro-Union, anti-Anglo bands staged raids into Texas and retreated into Mexico. In April 1861 Vela had faced down a band under the leadership of Antonio Ochoa, a follower of Juan N. Cortina who threatened pro-Confederate county officials, and later that year had been forced to seek refuge with a neighbor when another such band raided his ranch. After Vela's death, Capt. Refugio Benavides caught and defeated the raiders near Camargo, Mexico. Papers seized in the battle implicated Leonard Pierce Jr., the United States consul in Matamoros, as an instigator of the raid.





## CSA GENERALS FROM TEXAS

### C.S.A. BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM STEELE



**William Steele** (May 1, 1819 – January 12, 1885) was a career United States Army officer who served with distinction during the Mexican-American War. He later served as a Confederate General during the American Civil War.

**Early Life and Career** - Steele was born in Albany, New York; his mother was from Florida and his father originally from New England. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1836, graduating four years later standing 31st out of 42 cadets. He was appointed a brevet second lieutenant in the 2nd U.S. Dragoons on July 1, 1840.

Steele served at the Cavalry School for Practice at the Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania in 1840 and 1841, during which he was promoted to second lieutenant on February 2, 1841. He participated during the Seminole Wars in Florida in 1841 and 1842, engaged there in two skirmishes. Steele and the 2nd Dragoons were on frontier duty at Fort Jesup in Louisiana from 1842 to 1844, and then in garrison at Jefferson Barracks in Missouri in 1844 and 1845.

The 2nd Dragoons were part of the Military Occupation of Texas in 1845 and 1846, just prior to the start of the Mexican–American War. Steele fought at the Battle of Palo Alto on May 8, 1846, after which he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant in the 2d Dragoons on May 9. He then saw action at the Battle of Monterrey that September, the Siege of Vera Cruz in March 1847, and the Battle of Cerro Gordo in April. Steele then fought in the Battle of Contreras and the Battle of Churubusco on August 20, and the Battle of Molino del Rey that September. Steele was appointed to the rank of brevet captain for his performance at Contreras and Churubusco as of August 20, 1847.

After the war with Mexico ended, Steele was the acting asst. adjutant general of the cavalry brigade in 1847 and 1848. He was also the adjutant of the 2d Dragoons from December 20, 1847, to April 10, 1849, during which the 2nd was in garrison duty at East Pascagoula, Mississippi in 1848. Steele then served on recruiting service in 1848 and 1849, and on frontier duty with the 2nd at several locations in Texas. Included in these assignments were being stationed at Fredericksburg in 1849 and 1850, at Fort Martin Scott, in Austin in 1850, and at Fort Lincoln in 1850 and 1851. Steele and the 2nd Dragoons returned to Fort Martin Scott and later back at Fort Lincoln in 1851, and Steele served as Quartermaster in Austin in 1851 and 1852, during which he was promoted to captain as of November 10, 1851. Due to his multiple postings in Texas, he married a woman from there in 1850.

Steele and the 2nd Dragoons were stationed at Fort Conrad in the New Mexico Territory from 1852 to 1853, and was on scouting duty in 1853, during which Steele was engaged against Apache in a skirmish near Fort Conrad on July 28, 1853. He then served at Fort Craig in the New Mexico Territory in 1854 and at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas from 1854 to 1855. Steele participated in the expedition against the Sioux in 1855, during which he fought near Blue Water on September 3, 1855. He returned to Fort Leavenworth in 1855 and 1856, and then was at Fort Randall in the Dakota Territory from 1856 to 1857. Another stint at Fort Leavenworth followed in 1857 and 1858, and then in garrison at St. Louis, Missouri, in 1858. Steele was on sick leave from 1858 to 1859, and on frontier duty at Fort Kearny in the Nebraska Territory from 1859 into 1860. Steele was part of the expedition against the Kiowa and Comanche in 1860, then stationed once at Fort Scott in Kansas from 1860 to early 1861.

- Continued on the next page -



**CSA GENERALS FROM TEXAS**  
**C.S.A. BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM STEELE**



PG 2 OF 2



**Civil War Service -**

On May 30, 1861, Steele resigned his U.S. Army commission and moved to Texas. Choosing to follow the Confederate cause and his adopted home state, he entered the Confederate States Army as a colonel in the 7th Texas Cavalry on October 29. His first assignment was heading the Confederate forces in Mesilla during the New Mexico Campaign. Steele was promoted to brigadier general on September 12, 1862, and then the following year was sent to the Western Theater. He commanded the Confederate District of the Indian Territory in Lt. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith's Department of the Trans-Mississippi from January 8 to December 11, 1863. He also commanded the rear guard of the Confederate force at the Battle of Perryville (Indian Territory), where the Confederates were defeated in August, 1863.

Steele commanded the Department's Eastern Sub district of the District of Texas, New Mexico, & Arizona beginning on March 18, 1864. He participated in the Red River Campaign that spring, and was praised for his performance in the Battle of Pleasant Hill on April 9. He then briefly led a division of cavalry until May 26, 1865, the day Gen. Smith surrendered the department. Steele was paroled on August 4 from San Antonio, Texas.

After the war, Steele returned to Texas and became a Commission merchant of cotton from 1866 to 1873. He moved to Austin in 1873 and was then Adjutant-General of the State of Texas until his death in early 1885. He died in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 65, and is buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Austin.

General Steele's headstone is pictured to the right.

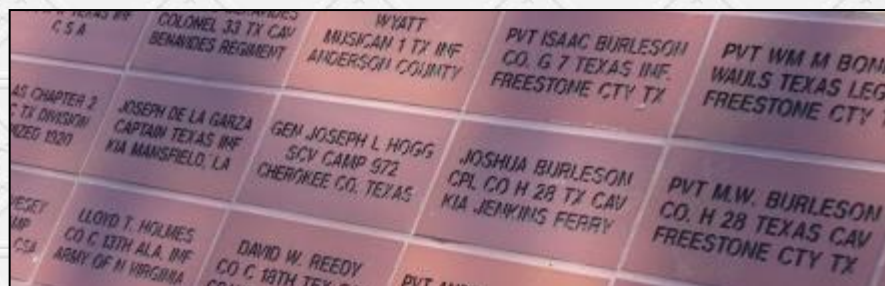




## CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



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



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





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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

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

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

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

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

## THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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

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

United Confederate Veterans

New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



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