



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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FEBRUARY 2017

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Compatriots, I want to thank Dan for doing double duty at the meeting this month. I am sorry I missed Calvin's program and the fellowship but I had to work. About three weeks ago, I was contacted by the University of Texas at Tyler Police Department and offered a job doing security here in Palestine at the branch campus for a good deal of money, which I found impossible to turn down. It seems that when "money falls out of the sky" one best pick it up while the picking up is good!!! I PICKED IT UP !!!! Anyway, this new job until May will require me to be out of pocket for the March and April meetings and maybe May depending on when finals are given.

Since Calvin chose a different subject to present a program on, and after he perked up my curiosity on just who was C. C. Castle, I have done a extensive study of the man for the last four weeks and have developed a one-hour power-point which I would like to present to the camp at either the June or July meeting. I will be inviting Calvin Castle's great-great-granddaughter and her husband to be with us and enjoy the history of her famous Civil War ancestor.

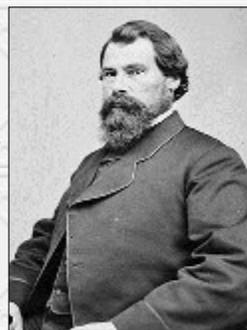
While I did not have a famous Civil War ancestor, I am nevertheless extremely proud of my four ancestors

who fought in that great war! All four were privates, but they chose to support their states and the Cause of the Confederacy! This makes them dear to me beyond words!

In thinking back on our rich heritage, I am reminded of a time when ALL Americans celebrated the heroes of the South. Back in 1925 the United States Mint produced a commemorative half dollar. Called the "Stone Mountain Half Dollar" this coin proved extremely popular both in the South and North. Just this morning I purchased one on EBAY and am eagerly awaiting its arrival.



Thirty years after the striking of this coin another Civil War confederate hero was honored when Gen. Robert E. Lee appeared on a United States postage stamp in 1955.



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

It is sad that what was once embraced and celebrated by ALL Americans regardless of geographic, or race, has become embroiled in hate. How I wish we could return to the days when we allowed all people to celebrate their heritage regardless if we were offended or not.

Till next month, 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

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

“The North was mad and blind; it would not let us govern ourselves, and so the war came, and now it must go on till the last man of this generation falls in his tracks, and his children seize the musket and fight our battle, unless you acknowledge our right to self government. We are not fighting for slavery. We are fighting for Independence, and that, or extermination.”

President Jefferson Davis, C.S.A

Marker above is located in the Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza in Palestine. The plaza is open 365 days per year, 24 hours per day.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 4 - East Texas Heritage Flag Rally at Camp Ford POW Camp, in Tyler, Tx. Contact Dennis Brand, 8th Brigade Comdr. 903-566-3132 (home) or 903-360-7090 (cell)

Mar 21 - March meeting

Apr 18 - April Meeting

May 16 - May meeting

June 20 - June meeting

July 18 - July meeting



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

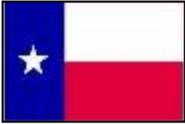
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

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

-PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS-

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

-GENERAL
ROBERT E. LEE-



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 FEBRUARY MEETING



We had 15 in attendance at the February meeting. Everyone enjoyed a meal with consisted of Spaghetti, Pinto Beans, cornbread, & cookies. Gary Williams commented that beans and cornbread was no doubt eaten many times by our confederate ancestors as they fought for the freedom of the southern states. It got us to thinking about how often they were hungry, tired, cold and exhausted as they trudged on and on to fight for their families to be free. Don't you know that those beans and cornbread were a wonderful sight for those hungry Confederates! These men were willing to give everything they had so their families could be free from a tyrannical government. They were fighting with all they had even though they had less manpower, less arms, and less ammunition that those they fought. Today, we live in a society where everything comes so easy compared to how it was in the past, and it is easy to forget just how much our ancestors gave so those who came behind them could have a better life. So the next time you eat a bowl of beans and cornbread, take a moment to think that you are probably eating just as your great-great-grandfather or other Confederate ancestor ate. It just makes them taste that much better!



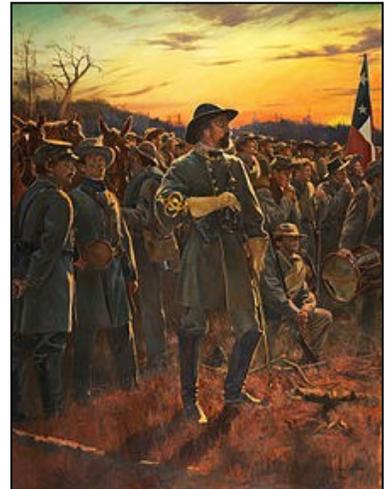


FEBRUARY HISTORICAL PROGRAM
GEN. JOHN CRAWFORD VAUGHN
PRESENTED BY CALVIN NICHOLSON
(GEN. VAUGHN WAS CALVIN'S GR-GR-UNCLE)



John Crawford Vaughn (February 24, 1824 – September 10, 1875) was a Confederate cavalry officer from East Tennessee. He served in the Mexican-American War, prospected in the California Gold Rush, and participated in American Civil War battles including First Manassas, Vicksburg, Piedmont, and Saltville. He was born in 1824 on a farm in Monroe County, Tennessee. He probably explored the hills and valleys of East Tennessee on horseback as a youth. From 1830 through 1841 he attended Bolivar Academy in Madisonville, Tennessee. At 23 in 1847, Vaughn volunteered to fight in the Mexican-American War. He was elected captain and marched to Mexico City, but his regiment saw no military action. He left the military in July, 1848. In 1850, Vaughn & 17

other Monroe County men set out for California gold. No fortunes were found, and John was back in Tennessee by 1852. In 1856 he was elected sheriff of Monroe County. During the Civil War, Vaughn raised Tennessee's first Confederate regiment and was with Jefferson Davis in the final days of the war. His family was imprisoned by Union forces, and it was several years after the Civil War before he could safely return to Tennessee. Yet, he eventually was elected to the general assembly of his native Tennessee (1871–1873). Even before Tennessee had seceded, in early 1861 Vaughn recruited two units from Monroe County to support the southern cause. The recruits formed the 3rd Tennessee Infantry Regiment on May 29, and Vaughn was elected colonel. On June 18, Vaughn's men won a skirmish at New Creek near Maryland/West Virginia. On July 21, Vaughn's regiment traveled by train from the Shenandoah Valley to Manassas Junction. The regiment participated in breaking the Union right at the First Battle of Bull Run. Vaughn's troops moved back to East Tennessee in 1862 and fought against Union factions in Scott County. In May, Vaughn's regiment patrolled the gaps in the northern Cumberland Mountains, winning battles in Tazewell in August and helping to regain control of Cumberland Gap. In September, Vaughn was promoted to brigadier general. In December, Gen. Vaughn's east Tennesseans traveled by



Don Troiani's painting of John C Vaughn titled "General of the Confederacy"

train to Jackson, Mississippi. Vaughn's brigade held heights north of Vicksburg for the first four months of 1863. On May 17, Grant's forces sliced through the Confederate line at the Battle of Big Black River Bridge forcing the surrender of two of Vaughn's regiments. The Confederates retreated into Vicksburg where they eventually surrendered on July 4. Vaughn was paroled and in October began reassembling his troops. He won a skirmish against Union troops in Philadelphia, TN, and also combated marauders in his Monroe County. Working with Longstreet to try and take Knoxville in December, Vaughn was forced to retreat to upper East Tennessee. In late December, Vaughn was authorized to mount his brigade. In the summer of 1864, Vaughn's cavalry moved to the Shenandoah Valley. On June 5, the Union routed the Confederates at the Battle of Piedmont. The Confederates under Grumble Jones were poorly deployed, and some of Vaughn's cavalry failed to engage. Gordon argues that Vaughn was with his dismounted troops on the Confederate left and not responsible for the inactive units. In September, Vaughn returned to east Tennessee winning an October skirmish near Bull's Gap, but was routed at the Battle of Morristown. In April 1865, Vaughn and his troops were near Christanburg, Virginia, moving towards North Carolina after news of Lee's surrender. On April 19, Vaughn joined the Jefferson Davis escort in Charlotte. On May 10, Vaughn surrendered. Indicted for treason in Tennessee, in October, 1865, Vaughn moved his family to Thomas County, Georgia. By 1870, Vaughn had returned to Sweetwater, Tennessee and was elected to the state general assembly (1871–1873). In 1874, he pleaded guilty to using bogus identities to defraud the widow's pension and was fined \$1000. In 1874, Vaughn returned to southern Georgia. On September 10, 1875, at the age of 51, he died of meningitis and was buried with military honors at Greenwood, Georgia.

* Much of this article was copied from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_C._Vaughn



PORTRAITS OF CONFLICT (PART 3)

Rare and Original Images from the War Between the States

CONTRIBUTED BY REAGAN CAMP HISTORIAN ANDREW HARRIS

PORTRAITS OF CONFLICT

Rare and Original Images from the War Between the States (Part 3)

The historical program presented at the October 2016 meeting of the John H. Reagan Camp featured eleven original photographs from Andrew Harris' Civil War artifact collection. This month we will continue with Part 3 of a series of articles highlighting each of the photographs in detail.

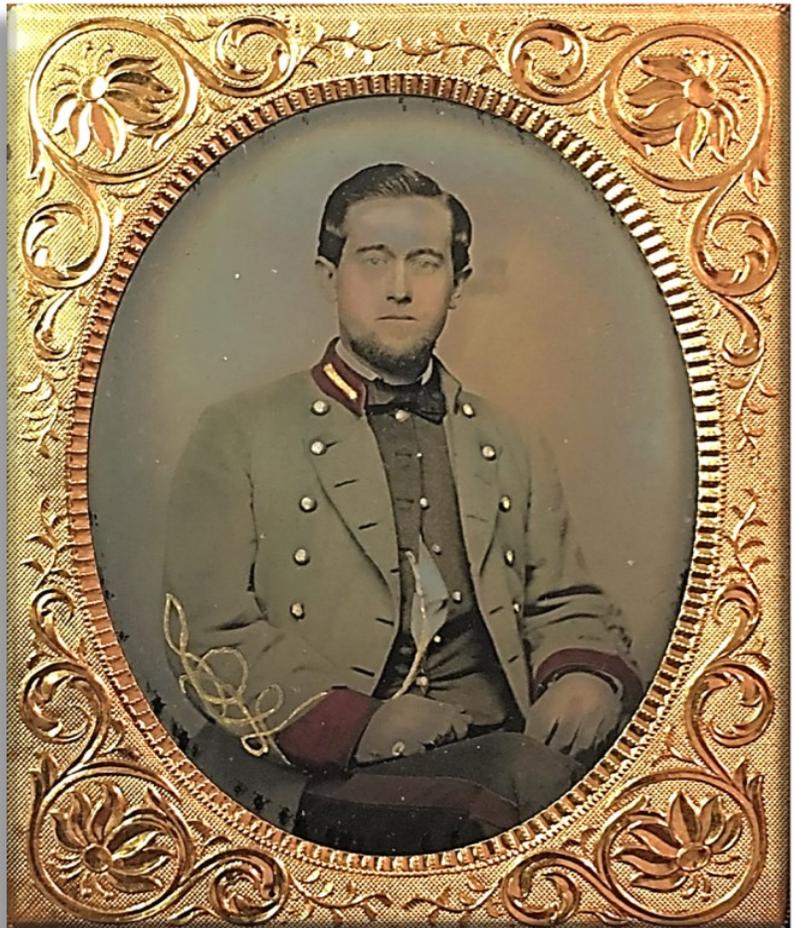
Battery Forward: The next image in the series is a small 1/9th plate glass ambrotype of a Confederate artilleryman. He is the model Confederate officer, with double-breasted coat and gold braid on his sleeves. The artillery branch of service is denoted by the red collar and cuffs of his uniform coat and the red stripe down the side of his trousers.

While this soldier's name has been lost over the past 150+ years, the single gold bar on his collar tells us that this distinguished-looking fellow held the rank of 2nd lieutenant. A lieutenant of artillery usually had the position of "Section Chief", meaning he would have commanded a 2-gun section of a 4- or 6-gun battery on the battlefield.

This particular image is a beautiful piece of Civil War- period photography and is believed to have been created by the photographer, Charles R. Rees.

C. R. Rees was perhaps the most skilled photographer in the Confederacy. He operated a studio in Richmond, Virginia during the War and is known for having taken photos of some very famous and notable southerners during his time there. Though he never really gained the notoriety of his northern counterparts, like Matthew Brady or Alexander Gardner, Rees has since become very well known for his work in recent years, and his pictures- both military and civilian - are highly sought by collectors. His expertise with the camera is clearly evident in this example; the skill, artistry and quality of the color tinting, the pose and the technique used to highlight the buttons and braid on his uniform are all hallmarks of Rees work.

This sharp little photograph stands as a lasting work of art; a fitting tribute to this unknown Rebel artilleryman.



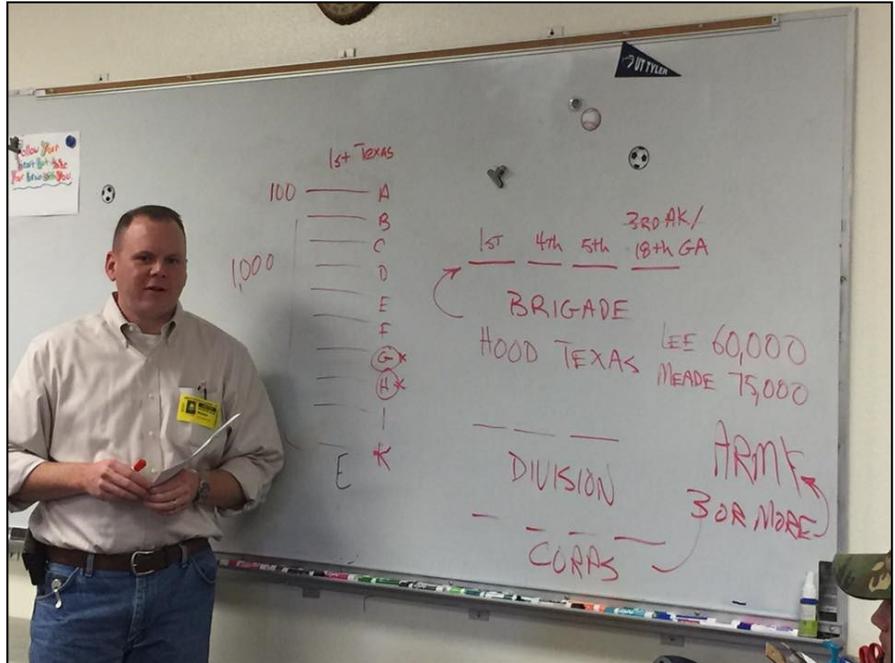


REAGAN CAMP HISTORIANS GARY WILLIAMS & ANDREW HARRIS



PUT ON PROGRAM FOR UT INNOVATIVE ACADEMY

The Reagan Camp is very, very proud of our camp historians, Gary Williams and Andrew Harris. They have been spreading the word of the War Between the States to local school children. Education of the young who have yet to be exposed to radical or “fake news” is hope for the future of correct perspective of history. Gary and Andrew teach facts about the war that will help the children be more knowledgeable about the War Between the States. The pictures below show Gary and Andrew putting on a history program to 7th grade students at the UT Innovative Academy in Palestine. The items that the students saw were real artifacts from the war. Our historians were nice enough to even allow the students to hold some of the artifacts! Thanks you Andrew and Gary for all you do.



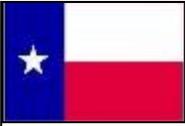


JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP CIVIL WAR CALENDAR



FEBRUARY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | 1, 1863 Inflation reduces Confederate dollar to 1/5 its original value. | 2, 1863 CSA Gen. Albert Sydney Johnston born 1865 Weather so cold that James River freezes around Richmond, Va | 3, 1807 CSA Gen Joseph Johnston born | 4, 1861 Confederate States of America formed in Montgomery, Al. |
| 5, 1864 Sherman enters Jackson, Miss. | 6, 1863 US Sec of State Seward rejects France's offer to mediate peace 1833 CSA Gen Jeb Stuart born | 7, 1863 U.S. Secretary of State Seward rejects France's offer to mediate peace. | 8, 1820 US Gen William Sherman born | 9, 1861 New Conf gov elects Jefferson Davis President | 10, 1862 CSA blockade-runner "Mosquito Fleet" is destroyed off North Carolina Coast | 11, 1812 CSA V.P. Alexander Stephens born In 1861, While pruning roses, Davis hears that he is president-elect |
| 12, 1865 Lincoln's b'day. Electoral College votes 212-21 to re-elect him | 13, 1862 Battle of Ft. Donelson | 14, 1824 U.S. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock birthday | 15, 1861 Provisional Confederate Congress votes to take Ft. Sumter & Ft. Pickens by force if necessary. | 16, 1863: U.S. Senate passes Conscription Act to draft men into army | 17, 1864: The USS Housatonic sinks in 28 ft of water after being rammed by submarine Hunley. The Hunley sinks too. | 18, 1862 The first Congress meets in Richmond, Virginia. |
| 19, 1861 Jefferson Davis appoints his Cabinet which included John H. Reagan as Postmaster General | 20, 1865: Conf. Congress passes bill that authorizes the arming of slaves. | 21, 1862: Conf. win handily at Battle of Ft Craig near Santa Fe, NM | 22, 1861: On Washington's b'day, both Lincoln & Davis give important speeches. | 23, 1861 Texas citizens ratify the actions of the secessionist convention voting to secede 34,749—11,235 | 24, 1864: Pres Davis appoints Braxton Bragg his military advisor, despite generals' outcry | 25, 1862 US War Dept seizes control of all telegraph lines |
| 26, 1863 The Cherokee Nation rescinds its declaration of secession & abolished slavery | 27, 1864: A rudely constructed prison outside Andersonville, Ga houses its first prisoners | 28, 1862: A day of fasting is proclaimed across the South. Pres Davis invokes martial law in parts of Virginia | | | | |

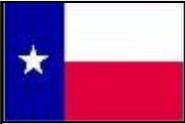


JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN FEBRUARY

From the Texas State Historical Association



- February 1, 1861 - On this date, Texas became the 7th state to secede from the Union when a state convention voted 166-8 in favor of secession. Even though Sam Houston objected to Texas leaving the Union, the vote passed.
- February 2, 1861 - On this date, a declaration of the causes which impel the State of Texas to secede from the Federal Union was adopted.
- February 2, 1861 - On this date the Committee of Public Safety directed to seize all federal property in Texas.
- February 9, 1861 - On this date, a proclamation by Gov. Houston setting an election on the Ordinance of Secession.
- February 16, 1861 - On this date, the US Army Facility at San Antonio was seized under authority of the Texas Committee of Safety
- February 18, 1861 - On this date, US General David E. Twiggs surrendered all US military posts in Texas.
- February 19, 1861 - On this date, Carlos A. Waite replaced Gen. Twiggs as US Army commander, Department of Texas.
- February 21, 1861 - On this date, Volunteers under the command of John 'Rip' Ford seize U.S. property at Brazos Santiago in the Rio Grande Valley.
- February 23rd, 1861— On this day in 1861, the people of Texas went to the polls to vote on a referendum to secede from the Union. The vote was 46,153 for secession and 14,747 against. Of the 122 counties casting votes, only eighteen cast majorities against secession. Only eleven others cast as much as 40 percent against. The referendum was held pursuant to a decision in favor of secession in the state Secession Convention.
- February 27th, 1850 - On this day in 1850, Carlos Esparza, a supporter of the Mexican folk hero Juan N. Cortina, and various followers attempted to establish a territorial government and separate themselves from the rest of Texas. The territory of the Rio Grande was intended to protect the interests of Hispanics, but the proposal became politically complicated and was dropped. Esparza, born in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in 1828, was to all appearances an ordinary rancher possessing neither Cortina's striking appearance nor leadership qualities. The eccentric, sharp-tongued Esparza remained Cortina's man in the shadows, however. During the Civil war, he managed to aid Union and Confederate forces against each other while promoting the Cortinista cause.

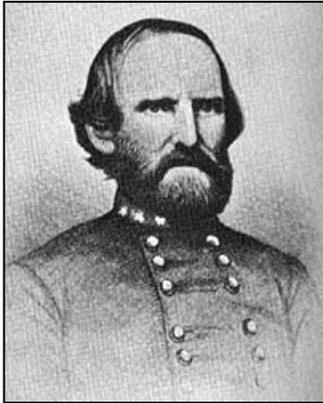


CSA GENERALS FROM TEXAS

BEN McCULLOCH 1811-1862



FROM [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/BENJAMIN_McCULLOCH](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_McCulloch)



Benjamin McCulloch (November 11, 1811 – March 7, 1862) was a soldier in the Texas Revolution, a Texas Ranger, a major general in the Texas [militia](#) and thereafter a major in the United States Army (United States Volunteers) during the Mexican-American War, a U.S. marshal, and a brigadier general in the army of the Confederate States during the American Civil War.

EARLY LIFE

Benjamin McCulloch was born November 11, 1811 in Rutherford, County, Tennessee, one of twelve children and the fourth son of Alexander McCulloch and Frances Fisher LeNoir. His father, a Yale University graduate, was an officer on Brig. Gen John Coffee's staff during the Creek War of 1813 and 1814 in Alabama (and apparently at the Battle of

New Orleans in 1815). His mother was a daughter of a prominent Virginian planter.

The McCulloch family had been wealthy, politically influential, and socially prominent in North Carolina before the American Revolution, but Alexander had wasted much of his inheritance and was unable even to educate his sons. (Two of Ben's older brothers had briefly attended a school in Tennessee taught by their neighbor, Sam Houston). One of Ben's younger brothers was Henry Eustace McCulloch, also a Confederate general officer. Another brother, Alexander, served in the Texas Revolution and as a captain in Mexico.

The McCulloch family, like many on the frontier, moved often by choice or necessity. In the twenty years following their move from North Carolina and Ben's birth, they lived in eastern Tennessee, Alabama, and then western Tennessee. They finally settled at Dyersburg, where one of their closest neighbors was David Crockett, a great influence on young Ben.

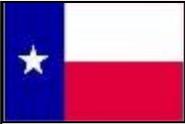
In 1834, McCulloch headed west. He reached St. Louis just too late to join the fur trappers headed for the mountains for the season. He then tried to join a freight company heading for Santa Fe as a muleskinner, but was told they had a full complement. He moved on to Wisconsin to investigate lead-mining, but found all the best claims already staked by the large mining companies. In the fall of 1835, he returned to Tennessee to take up farming.

TEXAS CAREER

When Crockett went to Texas in 1835 (following his defeat in his third congressional campaign), Ben McCulloch - tired of farming but seeking adventure - decided to accompany him, as did his brother Henry McCulloch. They planned to meet Crockett's Tennessee Boys at Nacogdoches on Christmas Day. Crockett's arrival in Nacogdoches was delayed due to hunting between the Bois d'Arc Creek and Choctaw Bayou. By January 5, 1836, Crockett found his way to Nacogdoches. There, Ben McCulloch greeted him after having convinced his brother, Henry McCulloch to return to Tennessee. Ben subsequently contracted measles and was bedridden for several weeks. Crockett pressed on toward San Antonio. McCulloch's illness prevented him from arriving in San Antonio until after the Alamo had already fallen.

McCulloch joined the Texas army under Sam Houston in its retreat to east Texas. Assigned to Captain Isaac N. Moreland's artillery company at the Battle of San Jacinto (April 21, 1836), he commanded one of the "Twin Sisters" - two six-pounder cannons sent to aid the Texans by the citizens of Cincinnati. He made deadly use of grapeshot against the Mexican positions and received a battlefield commission as first lieutenant. For his service (dating before April 18, 1836), McCulloch was issued Texas Bounty Certificate No. 2473 for 320 acres. In 1839, he also received Donation Certificate No. 776 for 640 acres, for his service at San Jacinto.

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CSA GENERALS FROM TEXAS

BEN McCULLOCH 1811-1862

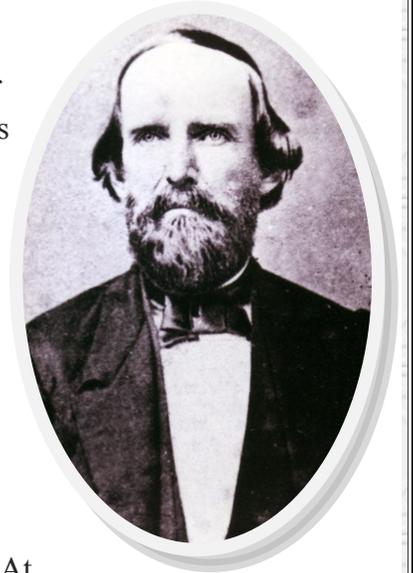


[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/BENJAMIN_McCULLOCH](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_McCulloch)

McCulloch was then attached to Captain William H. Smith's cavalry company, but left the army to revisit Tennessee. He returned a few months later with a company of thirty volunteers under the command of Robert Crockett, David's son.

By 1838, he had taken up the profession of surveying land for the Republic of Texas in and around the community of Seguin, later joining the Texas Rangers as lieutenant to Captain John Coffee "Jack" Hays. He acquired a reputation as an Indian fighter, favoring shotguns, pistols, and Bowie knives to the regulation saber and carbine.

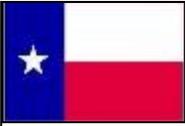
On the strength of his new fame, he was elected to the Republic of Texas House of Representatives in 1839. The campaign was contentious, and McCulloch fought a rifle duel the next year against Colonel Reuben Ross, resulting in a wound that left his right arm crippled for life. Ben considered the matter closed, but it flared up again the following year, this time involving Henry McCulloch, who killed Ross with a pistol.



In 1842, McCulloch went back to surveying and intermittent military service. At the Battle of Plum Creek, August 12, 1840, he served as a scout against the Comanches, and then commanded the right wing of the Texas army. When a Mexican raiding party under General Rafael Vasquez invested San Antonio in February 1842, McCulloch was prominent in the fighting that pushed the Mexicans back beyond the Rio Bravo Rio Grande. A second Mexican raid led by General Adrian Woll in September of that year again captured San Antonio. McCulloch then served as a scout for Captain Hays's Rangers. He and his brother, Henry, subsequently took part in the failed Somervell expedition and both escaped very shortly before most of the Texans were captured at Ciudad Mier, Mexico in Tamaulipas, December 25, 1842.

Samuel Reid, a volunteer from Louisiana, described McCulloch and his ranger company as "men in groups with long beards and mustaches, dressed in every variety of garment, with one exception, the slouched hat, the unmistakable uniform of a Texas ranger, and a brace of pistols around their waists, [who] were occupied drying their blankets, cleaning and fixing their guns, and some employed cooking at different fires, while others were grooming their horses. A rougher-looking set we never saw. They were without tents, and a miserable shed afforded them the only shelter. Captain McCulloch introduced us to his officers and many of his men, who appeared orderly and well-mannered people. But from their rough exterior, it was hard to tell who or what they were. Notwithstanding their ferocious and outlaw look, there were among them doctors and lawyers and many a college graduate."

WAR WITH MEXICO - In 1845, McCulloch was elected from Gonzales County to the first Texas State Legislature following its entry into the union. In the spring of 1846, a law was passed appointing him Major General in command of all Texas militia west of the Colorado River. That same year, with the outbreak of the war with Mexico, he raised a company of Rangers that became Company A of Col. Hays's 1st Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers, who were known for their ability to regularly travel 250 miles in ten days or less. He subsequently was named chief of scouts under Gen. Zachary Taylor, with the rank of major, and became known nationwide for his daring exploits in northern Mexico. - Continued on next page -



CSA GENERALS FROM TEXAS

BEN McCULLOCH 1811-1862

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

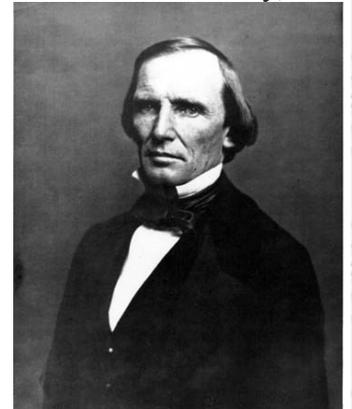


(His company of scouts included George Wilkins Kendall, editor of the New Orleans Picayune.) By this time, McCulloch was fluent in Spanish and his woodsman's skills enabled him to slip back and forth across the lines undetected—more than once penetrating to within a mile of Santa Anna's own tent.

McCulloch led his scouting company as mounted infantry at the Battle of Monterrey and his expert reconnaissance work preceding the Battle of Buena Vista probably saved Taylor's army from disaster. After Buena Vista he was promoted to the rank of major of U.S. Volunteers.

At the war's end, McCulloch scouted for Maj. Gen. David E. Twiggs, but joined the rush to the California gold fields in 1849. While he never struck gold, he was elected sheriff of Sacramento. (His old commander, Col. Hays, had been elected sheriff of San Francisco on the same day.) His old friends Sam Houston and Thomas J. Rusk, both now in the U.S. Senate, tried to arrange for his appointment to command a frontier army regiment, but his lack of formal education was against him and the appointment never went through. In 1852, President Franklin Pierce promised him command of the U.S. Second Cavalry, but Secretary of War Jefferson Davis gave it instead to Albert Sidney Johnston.

McCulloch was appointed U.S. marshal for the Eastern District of Texas in 1852, serving throughout the Pierce and Buchanan administrations. However, conscious of his lack of formal military education, he actually spent much of his term studying military science in libraries in Washington, D.C. In the aftermath of the Utah War, in 1858 he was one of the peace commissioners sent to negotiate with Brigham Young in Utah (the other being former Gov. Lazarus W. Powell of Kentucky).



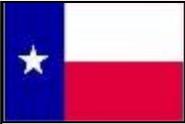
CIVIL WAR SERVICE

Texas seceded from the union on February 1, 1861, and on February 14, McCulloch received a colonel's commission from Confederate President Jefferson Davis, with the comment that "to Texans, a moment's notice is sufficient when their State demands their service." He was authorized to demand the surrender of all federal military posts in the state. Subsequently, on the morning of February 16, U.S. Army General Twiggs, finding that more than 1,000 Texas troops had surrounded his installations in an orderly manner during the night, turned over to McCulloch all federal property in San Antonio. In return Twigg's troops were to be allowed to leave the state unharmed. On May 11, President Davis appointed McCulloch a brigadier general.

McCulloch was placed in command of the Indian Territory. He set up his headquarters at Little Rock, and began piecing together an Army of the West, with regiments from Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. He disagreed strongly with General Sterling Price of Missouri, but with the assistance of Brigadier General Albert Pike, he was able to build alliances for the Confederacy with the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Creek nations.

On August 10, 1861, McCulloch's troops, though relatively poorly armed, handily defeated the army of General Nathaniel Lyon at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri. "We have an average of only twenty-five rounds of ammunition to the man," McCulloch reported, "and no more to be had short of Fort Smith and Baton Rouge."

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CSA GENERALS FROM TEXAS

BEN McCULLOCH 1811-1862



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

He did not have a high opinion of Price's Missourians, noting that they were undisciplined, commanded mostly by incompetent and inexperienced politicians, and possessed only a poor mix of weapons and equipment. For some 5,000 of them, their enlistment time was up and they were anxious to go home. Cooperation between the Arkansas and Missouri contingents was feeble, with "little cordiality of feeling between the two armies." His lack of confidence in the Missourians led McCulloch to hesitate when a bold attack might well have destroyed Lyon's smaller force and given Missouri to the Confederacy.

The continuing feud between McCulloch and Price led to the appointment of Major General Earl Van Dorn to overall command, Henry Heth and Braxton Bragg having declined the appointment. When Van Dorn launched an expedition against St. Louis, a strategy McCulloch strongly opposed, it was again McCulloch's reconnaissance that contributed most to what little success Van Dorn's plan was able to achieve.

McCulloch commanded the Confederate right wing at the Battle of Pea Ridge (or Elkhorn Tavern), Arkansas, and on March 7, 1862, after much maneuvering his troops overran a key Union artillery battery. Union resistance stiffened late in the morning, however, and as McCulloch rode forward to scout out enemy positions, he was shot out of the saddle and died instantly. McCulloch always disliked army uniforms and was wearing a black velvet civilian suit and Wellington boots at the time of his death. Credit for the fatal shot was claimed by sharpshooter Peter Pelican of the 36th Illinois Infantry.

McCulloch's next in command, Brig. Gen. James M. McIntosh, head of the cavalry, was killed a few minutes later in a charge to recover McCulloch's body. Confederate Col. Louis Hebert was captured in the same charge, and the Confederate forces, with no remaining leadership, slowly fell apart and withdrew. Historians generally blame the Confederate disaster at Pea Ridge and the subsequent loss of undefended Arkansas on the death of General Ben McCulloch.

McCulloch's body was buried on the field at Pea Ridge, but was subsequently removed with other victims of the battle to a cemetery in Little Rock. He was later reinterred in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin; the gravesite is in the cemetery's Republic Hill section, Row N, No. 4. His papers are housed at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History (previously the Barker Texas History Center) at the University of Texas at Austin. McCulloch County, Texas, formed in 1856 and located in the present geographical center of the state, was named for him. He is also one of thirty men inducted into the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Fisher, Waco.

Shortly after Pea Ridge, Albert Pike, now a brigadier general, constructed Fort McCulloch as the principal Confederate fortification in the southern section of the Indian Territory, naming it after his late commander. It was built on a bluff on the south bank of the Blue River and is now located in Bryan County, Oklahoma. It was placed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

Camp Ben McCulloch was established near Austin in 1896 as a reunion site for the United Confederate Veterans and is the last such site still owned by the UCV's descendant group, the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy. It is now a public recreation facility of some 200 acres operated by the County of Hays, and is a popular location for Central Texas family reunions, picnics, and musical festivals.

Several other members of McCulloch's family followed him to Texas, including his mother. She died in Ellis County in 1866 at the home of another of her sons, John C. McCulloch, who had been a captain in the Confederate army. Her remains were exhumed in 1938 by the State of Texas and reinterred beside those of Gen. Ben McCulloch, and a joint monument was erected. Other siblings lived in Gonzales and in Walker County.



**TEXAS STATE SCV CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE
BY DON MAJORS
THE GREY FOX (PG 1)**



The Gray Fox, General Robert E. Lee

“Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace.” - **Psalm 37:37**

“Nothing influences the quality of our life more than how we respond to trouble.” – **Erwin G. Tieman**

How many of us have whined and complained to God by saying, “God that’s not fair!” Life sometimes does not seem fair does it? It’s not fair that the Lee’s would never return to Arlington House.

Mary Custis, Martha Washington’s great-granddaughter, and Robert E. Lee were married at Arlington House in June 1831. As soon as Northern Aggression broke out against the Southland in May 1861, Lee encouraged Mary to leave. He knew the Union would take over Arlington House. They began using the grounds as a cemetery. Later it became known as Arlington National Cemetery. They would never return to Arlington. Not fair. “Fairness” is based on man’s value system and timetable. Sometimes it seems as though God’s not listening. But, He is.

General Robert Edward Lee, was born January 19, 1807. He was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, and he was the son of a hero of the American Revolution. Two of his relatives signed the Declaration of Independence.

It has been 210 years (January 19, 1807), since the silver-haired man in the gray coat who would sit on the famous Confederate gray horse called Traveller, was born. He would be a dignified man of duty, humility, greatness, and gentleness. He would be unique in every way.

Alexander H. Stephens, Vice-President of the Confederate States of America, said of General Robert E. Lee, “He was absolutely stainless in his private life...I had before me the most manly and entire gentleman that I ever saw.”

In January-February of every year, we stop to pay special tribute to two great men, General Robert E. Lee, and General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.

Both of these Confederate Heroes were men of spit and vinegar. They had a resolve to win and succeed in spite of all odds. They had determination, purpose, and a refusal to compromise their godly convictions. They would refuse to take the easier road, the path of least resistance, even if everything seemed totally unfair. They had a disdain for self-pity even though both of them faced tremendous grief and loss during this time of war.

What does it take for us to lose our will to fight? What unfair event or series of unfair circumstances is there that can force us to consider quitting and throwing in the towel?

- continued on next page -



TEXAS STATE SCV CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE
BY DON MAJORS
THE GREY FOX (PG 2)



There are many Biblical characters that we could use as examples. The prophet Jeremiah is one to consider. Jeremiah's hands, feet and neck were firmly secured in a torturous device called stocks and ordered for forty lashes rip across his back without mercy.

One of my favorite characters in the Bible was Joseph. By all means, life should have destroyed him. His family turns their back on him and they put him in Egyptian slavery. It is there that he is lied about and thrown in an Egyptian prison for years for a crime he never committed. The bitterness of it all did not destroy him.

General Lee suffered privation and hardship. He suffered danger in opposing what he honestly believed to be the armed northern hosts of oppression and wrong. His home was seized by the government, and his property was destroyed. His motives were slandered, and his actions were misrepresented by Northern media. He certainly had every right to harbor bitterness at the wrong he suffered, as well as the suffering of the Southern people.

I have a picture that hangs in my study at the house that I cherish. It is called "The Noble General," by William L. Maughan. It is a true story of General Lee at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863. As the general is leaving the battlefield, he hears and sees a wounded Northern soldier laying on the ground. He stops his soldiers, gathers his canteen, leaves Traveller, and goes to console the young Northern soldier. No greater picture depicts the Christian character of Robert E. Lee than this picture drawn by William Maughan.

General Lee said to General Wade Hampton in July 1869, "I could have taken no other course save in dishonor; and if it were to be gone over again, I should act in precisely the same way."

How many men can say that?

He lived and died without regrets.

As the Gray Fox left Appomattox Court House with tears in his eyes, riding upon Traveller, tears also filled the eyes of his ragged and torn Southern soldiers as they cried out his name and affectionately patted Traveller. He would never be forgotten. General Stonewall Jackson will never be forgotten. Little Sorrell will never be forgotten. True Southerners will never forget our Confederate Heroes.

They will forever be heroes in the "true" South.

Strike the tent.

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

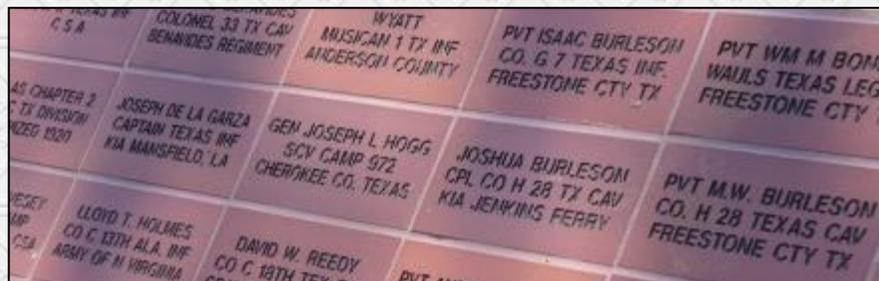




CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza had the official opening and dedication on April 13, 2013. It is a beautiful Memorial to the Confederate Veterans. 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: danieldyer497@yahoo.com or Phone (903) 391-2224



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



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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

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

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

Please visit our website @
www.reaganscvcamp.org

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)