



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 7

JULY 2017

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH



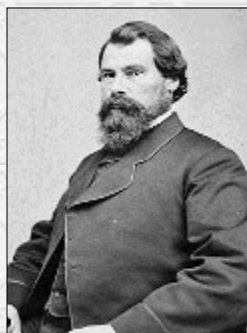
MEETING PLACE IS CHANGING

Compatriots, due to the current make up of the First Christian Church board, we have been asked to move our meetings from the church effective with the August meeting. At the July meeting five different locations were discussed and after some weighing of the pros and cons of each site, it was agreed that we would hold our August meeting on the third Thursday on August 17 at the Palestine Masonic Lodge building pending approval by the members of the lodge. I will present to them on August 1st our desire to rent out their banquet hall for our August meeting for about three hours. I do not expect there to be any problems so come on to that location unless you hear something different from us.

For those of you who missed the July meeting, you missed a very entertaining and informative program presented by David Franklin on, "The Music of the War Between The States." Our program for August will be presented by

Gary Williams and Andrew Harris on General John B. Gordon. As always these men do a great job and it will be another interesting program that you will not want to miss. For September we have a real treat scheduled for you. Scott Bell will be with us to showcase his new book on "The Camel Regiment – The Bloody 43<sup>rd</sup>". Books will be available for purchase so bring some money with you as we are entertained by this compatriot. In October the program will be presented by Calvin Nicholson on Reconstruction. I want to thank these devoted camp members for "stepping up to the plate" and volunteering to put on these programs!!!

We are all trying to get through these hot summer months and stay cool. With this in mind, the follow up work still needing to be done at John Reagan's home place will be delayed until late September or early October. We will repair one of the broken brick columns and hopefully replace a broken concrete bench and maybe install a new concrete picnic table. Early this morning Dan Dyer left for the National Reunion in Memphis. Please remember him in your prayers for a safe trip to and from the meeting. I appreciate Dan representing our Camp as



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

well as others who have attended reunions. Someday I will retire and be able to travel and hopefully attend some as well.

REMEMBER to come to the masonic lodge building next month. Ample parking on the paved lot on the west side and you will enter the building from the back doors. The lodge is located on the corner of N. Queen and Debard Streets or north of the Sacred Heart Catholic church.

Till next month, Deo Vindice!

Charles

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

- 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



Above, members of the John H. Reagan Camp #44, United Confederate Veterans, gathered long ago for a Confederate Reunion. The exact date is unknown.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**August 17 - August meeting to be held at Palestine Masonic Lodge**

**Sept 21 - September meeting**

**Oct 19 - October meeting**

**Nov 23 - November meeting**

**Dec 21 - December 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.reagansvcamp.org](http://www.reagansvcamp.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 JULY 2017 MEETING



We had 14 members and 4 guests in attendance at the July meeting. Stuart Whitaker brought a HUGE pot of lady cream peas!!! David Franklin brought cornbread, Dwight Franklin brought fried chicken and home grown tomatoes, Doug Smith brought Blue Bell Ice cream, and Gary Williams brought good old southern sweet tea! We would like to thank each of these men for providing such a great meal.

This was our last meeting at the First Christian Church in Palestine. We would like to thank the church for allowing us to meet in their banquet room for the past six years. Our next meeting will be held on August 17, 2017 (3rd Thursday) at the Palestine Masonic Lodge at 401 West Debard Street. We hope to see you there.





## JULY HISTORICAL PROGRAM “MUSIC OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES”



David Franklin, John H. Reagan Camp Chaplain, presented a very interesting program on the “Music of the War Between the States” at the July 2017 meeting. David pointed out that mankind has an inner love for music and that everyone enjoys music of some kind or another. Robert E. Lee even said that he didn’t think he could have an army without a band. David then went on to explain that music can make you sad, it can calm you down, and it can even make men charge cannons.



David passed out a handout that contained the lyrics to several songs. He told us the history about each song and explained the words. He would then play the song so we could hear the music and get the feel of what the soldiers might have felt as they sang or heard it. The most popular song among the soldiers of the north and south was a song by the name “Lorena”. In this song, a lovesick man was singing about his sweetheart that he would never get to marry. The song made troops so homesick that General Bragg forbid it be played or sung at his camp! Another song mentioned was “Stonewall Jackson’s Way”. This song mentioned Stonewall praying, and it also mentioned other interesting things about how Stonewall would lead men into battle. “Riding the Raid” was a song dedicated to Jeb Stuart. “Vacant Chair” is a beautiful song about a family leaving their son’s ( Union Lt John William Gout) dining room chair vacant after he had been killed in battle. “Wearing of the Gray” is a beautiful song written by a confederate veteran who put down his thoughts after the war. Other songs mentioned were “Somebody’s Darling”, “I’m a Good Ole Rebel”, “Goober Peas” and “Yellow Rose of Texas”.

As David played various songs, he told us how music had a big part in keeping the men mentally sound. Some of the songs were sad while others were upbeat. But all of them were very important to the men who were so courageous and who were willing to give everything they had for their families and country.

We appreciate David for the program and for all he does for the Reagan Camp.







## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP WELCOMES NEW MEMBER GRADY GROUNDS JR.



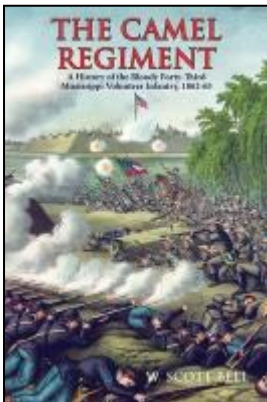
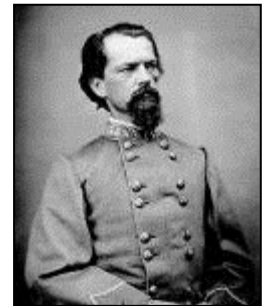
Grady Grounds Jr was sworn in as the newest member of the John H. Reagan Camp at the July meeting. Grady told the members that he was very, very happy to be a member of the Reagan Camp. He told us that he descends from SEVEN ancestors who were Confederate Soldiers! We are so happy to have Grady as a Reagan Camp member. Congratulations Grady!



## \*\*\*Upcoming Programs\*\*\*

August Program: General John B. Gordon from Georgia

Program will be presented by Gary Williams and Andrew Harris



September Program: The Camel Regiment: A History of the Bloody 43rd Mississippi Infantry, 1862-1865

Program will be presented by the author of the book, Scott Bell

October Program: Reconstruction in Texas

Program will be presented by Calvin Nicholson






## SOCIAL MEDIA POST WALTER WILLIAMS COMMENT



You can't believe everything you read on social media, but you can certainly find a lot of opinions out there. There have been a lot of posts lately about the battle flag that say the battle flag is a symbol of racism and hate. But we know that this is not true. This is just a step by those who want to rewrite history to change our ancestors brave cause.

One thing we must remember, the truth is the truth even if only a few believe it; and a lie is a lie even if the majority believe it. We must stand firm to the truth and not get caught up in the "politically correct" crowd who want to change the true history of the war in which our ancestor's fought by spreading false information.

The picture below was posted on social media (facebook). Professor Walter Williams comments about the dishonor being shown to the black men who fought for the Confederacy, and he is correct. But this dishonor is being shown to all who fought for the Confederacy, no matter their race, color, religious belief, or their country of origin.



"The flap over the Confederate flag is not quite as simple as the nation's race experts make it. They want us to believe the flag is a symbol of racism. Yes, racists have used the Confederate flag, but racists have also used the Bible and the U.S. flag. Should we get rid of the Bible and lower the U.S. flag? Black civil rights activists and their white liberal supporters who're attacking the Confederate flag have committed a deep, despicable dishonor to our patriotic black ancestors who marched, fought and died to protect their homeland from what they saw as Northern aggression."

**Walter E. Williams**  
Professor at  
George Mason University

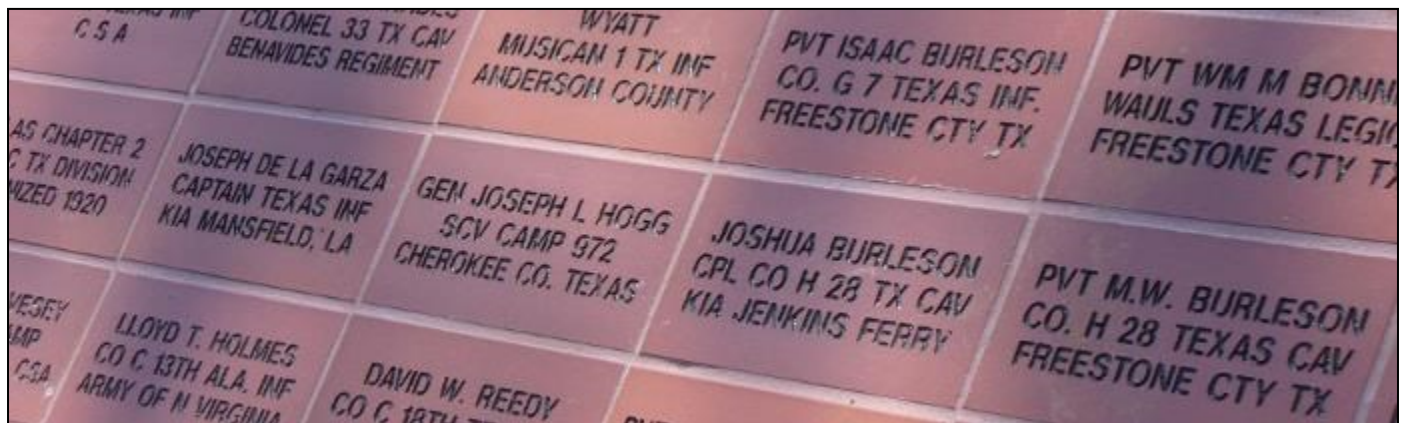
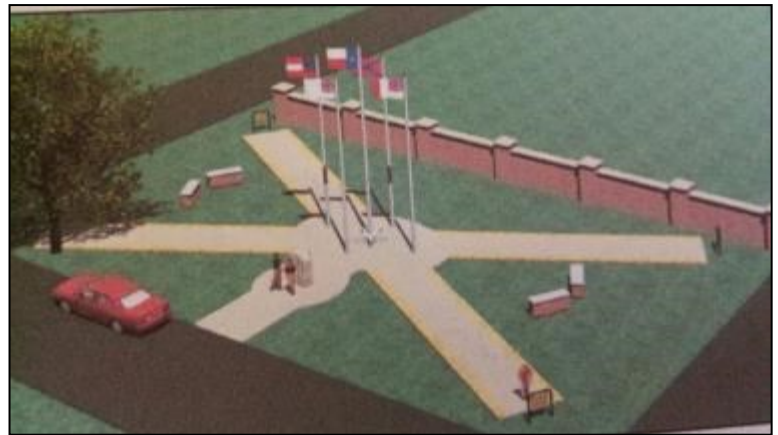




## A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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.







MILITARY INSTITUTE MAGAZINE ARTICLE  
FEATURES  
BEN CAMPBELL—PALESTINE NATIVE



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**MILITARY IMAGES**  
SUMMER 2017



**Sons  
of Virginia**

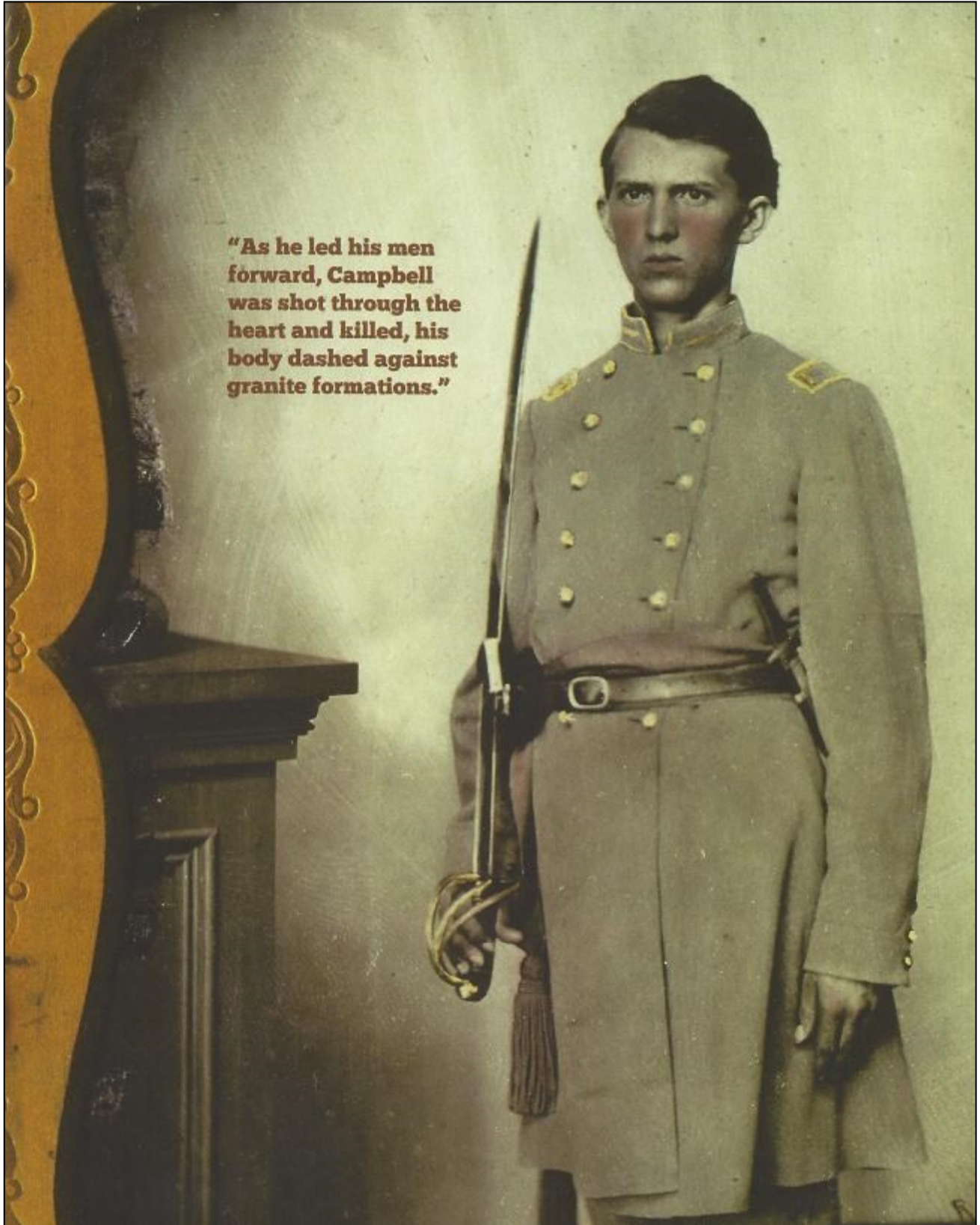
Representative portraits and personal  
narratives of volunteer soldiers

DEAF PRINCE IN ART AND WAR • DISPATCHES FROM HELL • A DREAM DIARY  
GETTYSBURG FACES • PHOTO SLEUTH AND FACIAL RECOGNITION





MILITARY INSTITUTE MAGAZINE ARTICLE  
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BEN CAMPBELL—PALESTINE NATIVE



**"As he led his men forward, Campbell was shot through the heart and killed, his body dashed against granite formations."**



MILITARY INSTITUTE MAGAZINE ARTICLE  
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## For Life and Lone Star Honor

By Miranda Dean

Along the rocky slopes west of Gettysburg, Benjamin Asbury Campbell drew his last breathe on July 3, 1863.

The 21-year-old Texan, a dashing figure with cascading, honey-blond curls, was the beau ideal of a Southern soldier. It therefore seems altogether fitting that he gave his last full measure on one of the most hallowed battlegrounds on American soil.

Born in Alabama, Campbell barely knew his father who died early. His mother and older brother, George, raised him. In 1852, his mother remarried and the family moved to Anderson County in East Texas. In this farming community, the bboys matured and became inseparable for a time. They oversaw the farming, caught fish in the generous local waters and explored their sunny corner of the world.

During the boy's adolescence, the question of their education interrupted their idyllic boyhoods. Ultimately, the boys were educated at different schools in Texas: Campbell in Larissa, his brother in Lebanon.

Campbell's quick intelligence and wide-eyed idealism made him a favorite among his professors. He hungered for recognition and the opportunity to rise above his station in life. He was pleased when a geology professor invited him on a tour of the western part of the state. Campbell spent the trip making notes and examining rivers and ridges and basins with a keen fascination. He was thrilled to learn about the diversity of natural phenomena in his home state.

At some point during his impressionable teen years, Campbell fell in love with Eppinina Micheaux, a Kentucky belle from a prominent family that had moved to the country and established a church. When he asked Eppie to marry him, both were barely young adults. They wed in May 1860. He was 18 and she, 17.

By all accounts, Campbell doted on Eppie, who soon became pregnant. In the summer of 1861, a month after she gave birth to a baby boy, Campbell was roused by the bugler's call.

In June 1861, he joined Company G of the 1st Texas Infantry. Though prominent family connections and privileged education had enabled him to enlist as a second lieutenant, his vigor and leadership abilities earned him a promotion to first lieutenant.

The year proved a dizzying confluence of events for the young officer. Campbell spent the first several weeks of his military career drilling at Long Lake in Anderson County, learning brute physical maneuvers that had little to do with lofty Southern ideals. Officers and men drilled in uniforms sewn by local women on a volunteer basis, and subsisted on provisions that were a far cry from the lush dinners of home. Campbell's darkest hour arrived in August, when a letter informed him that his infant son was dead. His grief and homesickness was strong, but not enough to erode his belief in the Confederate cause.

The same month, Campbell and his comrades in the 1st assembled in Richmond, Va., joining the 4th and 5th Texas infantries and the 18th Georgia Infantry to form the Texas Brigade. The regiments were under the command of Brig. Gen. Lewis T. Wigfall. He resigned in early 1862, however to join





MILITARY INSTITUTE MAGAZINE ARTICLE  
 FEATURES  
 BEN CAMPBELL—PALESTINE NATIVE



the Confederate Senate. Gen. John Bell Hood replaced him.

Campbell wrote dutifully to Eppie and his brother during these early months. Like so many restless young men in uniform, he ached for battle.

His baptism under fire arrived during the spring campaigns of 1862, which left a corpse-ridden wake across battlefields in Virginia and Maryland. Campbell emerged unharmed from the Battle of Elyham's Landing, the Seven Days' Battles, Second Manassas and Antietam. Meanwhile, the long list of casualties in the 1st earned it the grim nickname "Ragged Old First."

In October 1862, Campbell was detached on recruiting duty, and enjoyed a triumphant return to Eppie in Anderson County. Through the harvest season, his slaves (he owned 20 according to the 1860 federal census) shunted themselves along the cotton rows while he gathered fresh recruits. He attacked his duties with alacrity, and remained in the county long enough to enjoy a festive Christmas with Eppie. By January 1863, the time had come to rejoin his military unit.

Seven months later, Ben and his battle-hardened Texans arrived in Gettysburg. On July 2, 1863, at 9 a.m., the Texas Brigade stepped wearily up to Cemetery Ridge. Ben looked out over quilted pastures to the Union forces gathered along a ridge opposite its position.

After a firefight that lasted several hours, the Texas men scrambled through low ground that came to be known as the Valley of Death. They continued onward towards Houck's Ridge and Devil's Den, a loose collection of igneous rock boulders that Ben might have recognized from his adolescent studies. At some point, Ben was ordered with his company to cover a gap in the lines between his regiment and the 3rd Arkansas Infantry. While leading his company forward, Ben

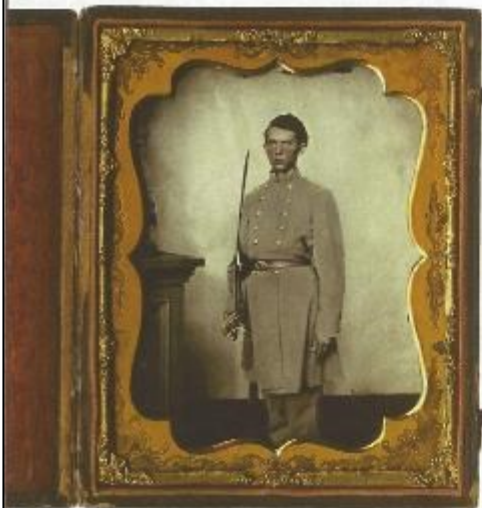
was shot through the heart and killed, his body dashed against rocks forged in magma, rocks that had been there for eons and that would continue to be there for eons to come, rocks that stood indifferent to his cause and golden curls. His remains were never recovered.

The news reached Eppie and George soon after. Shocked and grief-stricken, they dutifully set about paying Campbell's debts and divided his estate according to a will he had hastily written.

Eppie lived a long life, dying in 1930 without ever having remarried. George, who had enlisted in the 14th Texas Cavalry in 1861, fought on to finish the bloody war for which his little brother had given his life. The Confederate surrender hit George hard, and he returned from the war to find Southern life no longer an enchantment. Still, he established a farm and raised his family during the chaos and bitterness of Reconstruction.

As Campbell's memory receded into the background of the family's consciousness, George added a passage to the family Bible. "Benjamin Asbury Campbell," he wrote, "departed this life fighting for liberty."

Miranda Dean is a writer living in Columbus, Ohio. She has previously contributed to the *Woonsocket Call* in Rhode Island and is currently working on her first novel.



Half-plate ambrotype by Charles R. Rees of Richmond, Va.  
 Adam Fleischer Collection.

A note in pencil on the inside case states, "Likeness of B.A. Campbell taken in Richmond, Virginia 1861 and presented to his wife Eppie Campbell."

**Trish Kaufmann**

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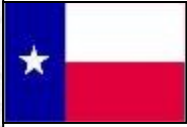
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## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP JULY CIVIL WAR CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 July, 1855 - to wife Any one can insist, but the wise alone know how to desist.
2 July - to Fitzhugh You know the interest I take in your prosperity & advancement, which cannot be assured without earnest attention to your business on your part.	3 July—to wounded Union soldier at Gettysburg. My son, I hope you will soon be well.	4 July, 1863— on Gettysburg - It is all my fault, I thought my men were invincible	5 July 1864— to Mildred I want to see you all very much. I think of you, long for you, pray for you. It is all I can do. Think sometimes of your devoted father.	6 undated - to Jeff Davis I have no complaints to make of any one but myself	7 July, 1863 - to wife I have heard with great grief Fitzhugh has been captured. We must bear this additional affliction with fortitude & resignation.	8 July, 1849 - to wife It is so difficult to regulate your conduct. Man's nature is so selfish, so weak, every feeling & every passion urging him to folly, excess & sin.
9 undated - Practice self-denial and self control, as well as the strictest economy in all financial matters.	10 undated - to Rooney Let us all so live that we may be united in that world where there is no more separation, & where sorrow & pain never come.	11 undated - Above all, [the teacher] must be uniform, consistent, firm & kind in his conduct & teach more by acts than by ends.	12 July, 1863 - to wife We must expect to endure every injury our enemies can inflict upon us. Their conduct is not dictated by kindness or love. But I do not think we should follow their example.	13 July, 1863 - to Jeff Davis No one is more aware than myself of my inability for the duties of my position. I cannot even accomplish what I myself desire.	14 July, 1863 - to Jeff Davis The general remedy for the want of success in a military commander is his removal. This is natural, & in many instances, proper.	15 July 1863 - to wife We must implore the forgiveness of God for our sins, & the continuance of His blessings. There is nothing by His almighty power that can sustain us.
16 undated - to Carter My pay seems to decrease as my children increase.	17 July, 1867 - If it is true as taught by history, that greatness rests upon virtue, it is equally true that religion is the fountain & support of virtue.	18 July, 1862 - to Jeff Davis The whole division takes tone from its commander.	19 undated - The teacher should be the example to the pupil.	20 undated - Should the pupils be trained in obedience, reverence & truthfulness, & be convinced they are noble the main object will have been attained.	21 July, 1861 - to wife All my thoughts & strength are given to the cause to which my life, be it long or short, will be devoted.	22 undated - [The teacher] should aim at the highest attainable proficiency & not at pleasing mediocrity.
23 undated - [The teacher] must study the character & disposition of his pupils & adapt his course of discipline to their peculiarities.	24 undated - We have no printed rules. We have buy one rule here [Washington College] & it is that every student must be a gentleman.	25 July, 1869 - to wife May God bless us all & preserve us for the time when we too, must part, the one from the other, which is now close at hand.	26 July, 1863 - to wife How I long & pray that God may pardon my many & long standing sins & once more gather around me you & my children before I go hence & be no more seen.	27 July, 1863 - to Mildred May God bless you my daughter, strew your path with happiness, & finally gather you & all of us to His mansions of bliss in heaven, is my daily & hourly prayer!	28 July, 1862 - to Mildred I cannot see what you are proud of & advise you against all such feelings for you know what is said in that good book about a proud spirit.	29 July, 1863 - You must endeavor to enjoy the pleasure of doing good. That is all that makes life valuable.
30 undated - I do not care for display.	31 undated - Its duties [teaching] require love & comprehensive preparation, it should be regarded as among the most honourable & important professions.					





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

From the Texas State Historical Association



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

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

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

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



**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP**  
**CSA TEXAS GENERAL OF THE MONTH**  
**FELIX HUSTON ROBERTSON**

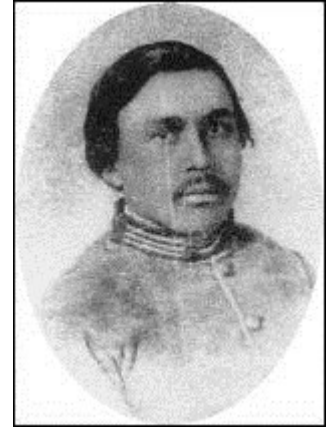


### EARLY LIFE

Felix Huston Robertson was born in Washington-on-the-Brazos, Texas, to Mary (Cummins) and Jerome B. Robertson, who would also serve as a Confederate general. He attended Baylor University and went to West Point in 1857, but left before graduation to serve the Confederacy.

### CIVIL WAR

Robertson was initially commissioned as a second lieutenant in the artillery of the Confederate Army. Robertson went to Charleston, South Carolina, and participated in the shelling of Fort Sumter. He then went to Florida, where he served as a staff officer for Brigadier General Adley H. Gladden at Pensacola.



In early 1862, Robertson became captain of an artillery battery from Alabama and fought at the Battle of Shiloh in April. He served at the Battle of Stones River at the end of the year. He was promoted by Braxton Bragg to the rank of major and given command of the reserve artillery battalion of the Army of Tennessee, which he led at Chickamauga in September 1863.

Robertson was subsequently promoted to lieutenant colonel and reassigned to command the Confederate horse artillery under Joseph Wheeler. He participated in the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. Robertson's performance drew the attention of senior commanders, and on July 26, 1864, he was appointed brigadier general (temporary). He became Wheeler's chief of staff. He married Sarah Davis while on a furlough.

Late in the year, Robertson was assigned a field command, leading first a brigade and later a division of cavalry. Robertson participated in a victory over Union troops at the First Battle of Saltville in Smyth County, Virginia on October 2. Many of the Federal troops participating were negroes, and over 100 were massacred by a group of guerillas associated with Robertson's troops on October 3. Robertson had bragged to another officer that "he had killed nearly all the Negroes." His conduct was such that when Robert E. Lee learned of it he communicated to General John C. Breckinridge his dismay "that a general officer should have been guilty of the crime you mention" and instructed Breckinridge to "prefer charges against him and bring him to trial." One of his subordinate officers, Champ Ferguson, was executed by hanging after the war for his part in what the Northern press deemed the "Saltville Massacre." Historian William C. Davis, in his book *An Honorable Defeat. The Last Days of the Confederate Government*, reports that Robertson personally "join(ed) in the act of villainy" although he escaped prosecution. Robertson was severely wounded in the elbow during the Battle of Buck Head Creek near Augusta, Georgia, in late November 1864. He lived, but never resumed field duty. On February 22, 1865, the Confederate Senate rejected Robertson's nomination to the grade of brigadier general. He was captured in Macon, Georgia on April 20, 1865. No record of his parole has been found.

**Postbellum career** After the war, Robertson returned to Texas and settled in Waco. He studied law, passed his bar exam, and established a profitable legal practice. He and his father speculated in real estate and invested in several local railroads. After the death of his wife, Robertson remarried in 1892. Robertson attempted to enter local politics in 1902 as he ran for mayor of Waco in the Democratic primaries. However, he was defeated by incumbent J. W. Riggins. He became the commander of the local United Confederate Veterans in 1911. In 1913, Texas Governor Oscar B. Colquitt appointed him as the Texas Representative for the Battle of Gettysburg Commission, a national group that commemorated the battle's fiftieth anniversary in July 1913. He died in Waco, Texas on April 20, 1928 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.





**Chaplain's Connection**  
**Sanford Reed, Texas Division Chaplain, SCV**



**July 2017**

"...gray hair (is) the splendor of the old." Proverbs 20:29b

This past few months has been a time of church schools, conventions, and rallies. One youngster in my family who had attended studies came home with the bible quote above. I don't exactly know what they were teaching them that day, but I was amused and pleased, and reminded of our own responsibilities as each of us is called to be leaders in our Camps and communities. It is up to us to be certain that the true history of the South is taught to future generations.

In light of this, I pray that the following monthly schedule of Observance Days will be of great use and service to all Camps in remembering and honoring our past. This is by no means a complete list, but serves to give meaning and direction to all of us, and is designed to assist Chaplains and 1st Lt. Commanders in planning and execution of meaningful meetings.

### **SCHEDULE & OBSERVANCE DAYS FOR CAMP CHAPLAINS**

**January** - This **Convivial Meeting** is to honor Confederate Heroes Day and the birthdays of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. "Tributes and Toasts" may be presented.

January 1, 1863 - Battle of Galveston, TX. General Magruder recaptures the port and city of Galveston and disperses the federal blockading fleet. Called the first successful cavalry charge upon a naval fleet.

Jan. 8 - General James Longstreet's birthday.

Jan. 15 - General John C. Brackenridge birthday.

**February** - Meeting to honor the birthday of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston and Confederate Independence Day (Founding of the C.S.A. / Jefferson Davis inaugurated).

Feb. 1, 1861 - Texas Secedes.

Feb. 6, 1833 - J.E.B. Stewarts birthday.



## Chaplain's Connection

Sanford Reed, Texas Division Chaplain, SCV

July 2017



**March** - meeting honors Confederate Flag Day and the Confederate Day of Prayer, designated by President Jefferson Davis in 1863 as a day of "fasting, humiliation, and prayer" in the Confederate States, and also to honor Texas Independence Day, Texas Heroes Day, National Medal of Honor Day, Women's History Month.

March 16 - Gen. Patrick Cleburne birthday

**April** - Meeting to celebrate Confederate Veterans Memorial Day, Confederate History and Heritage Month, National Poetry Month, Texas Independence Day and Declaration of Independence principal author Thomas Jefferson.

April 9, 1865 - Gen. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse.

April 12, 1861 - Confederates bombard Fort Sumter.

April 22 - Battle of Aransas Bay, Texas.

April 18, 1863 - Siege of Vicksburg begins.

**May** - honors the anniversary of the last battle of Lincoln's Invasion of the Southern States, the **Battle of Palmito Ranch** in Texas on May 12 and 13.

May 1, 1807 - Gen. John B. Magruder birthday.

April 11, 1864 - Battle of Yellow Tavern where JEB Stewart was killed.

**June** - John Bell Hood Birthday Celebration, Flag Day, Freedom Day.

June 3, 1808 - Jefferson Davis birthday.

June 23, 1865 - Brigadier General Stand Watie signed cease hostilities agreements with the United States Government, near Doaksville, Indian Territory. Gen. Stan Watie and his Indian Brigade was "The Last to Strike the Colors".





**Chaplain's Connection**  
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**July 2017**

**July** - Independence Day, Gettysburg, Vicksburg....Each year we remember that July 4th stands for freedom and independence, the war's bloodiest battle at Gettysburg on July 1-3 and the day Vicksburg fell to Grant.

On July 4 of every year Americans gather to shoot fireworks, eat barbecue, listen to "patriotic" speeches and celebrate the birth of their country unaware that the union of our Founders was laid to rest at Appomattox Courthouse in 1865. The Founder's union was altered through an act of violence, bloodshed and subjugation, and its stated purpose for existences in 1788, when the constitution was ratified, was dealt a death blow.

In all reality, we are celebrating a country that no longer exists. The Texas Regiments, under the leadership of Generals Robert E. Lee, John Bell Hood, and Jerome B. Robertson, fought in the bloody battle of Gettysburg on July 2nd and 3rd, 1863.

July 9 1864 - Battle of Monocacy, MD, General Jubal Early's troops advance on Washington, D. C.

**August** - Second Manassas (Yankee Bull Run) was fought August 28-30.

August 4, 1862 - Gen. Silby's Brigade burns Fort Bliss, Texas

**September** - Honors the battles of Iuka, Mississippi; Harper's Ferry; Chantilly; Sabine Pass, Texas; South Mountain; Sharpsburg; and Crampton's Gap, Maryland; Harpers Ferry; Chickamauga; and, Lee's decision to march toward Maryland.

**October 7** - Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg launched an invasion of the key border state of Kentucky, hoping to divert Union attention from the Southern strongholds at Vicksburg and Chattanooga.

12 October 1870 - General Robert E. Lee, President of Washington College died. He is buried in Lexington, Virginia. Battles of Corinth, MS and Perryville, KY.

**November** - the month to honor Veterans Day and officially correct the inaccuracies and false history of Lincoln's legacy and his invasion of our homeland.

Nov. 3, 1816 - Gen. Jubal Early birthday.

**December** - Confederate Christmas prayer to honor Hood's Battle of Nashville, where he was outnumbered 55K to 30K; also, Battles of Fredericksburg, Stones River, Fort Fisher, and Parkers Crossroads.

6 December 1889 - President Jefferson Davis died. President Davis was buried in New Orleans Louisiana. In 1893 he was interred in Richmond Virginia.

Dec. 26, 1863 - yankees burn and loot Port Lavaca, Tx.



Sanford Reed, Texas Division Chaplain, SCV

July 2017



**Almighty God, Father of all mankind and Judge over nations, we pray Thee to guide our work in this meeting and in all our days. Send Thy peace to our nation and to all nations. Hasten the fulfillment of Thy promise of peace that shall have no end. We pray for all those who serve the people and guard the public welfare; that by Thy blessing they may be enabled to discharge their duties honestly and well. We pray for our members; that by Thy help they may observe the strictest justice; keep alight the fires of freedom, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy, and preserve untarnished our loyalty to our country and to Thee. We especially ask Thy blessing and comfort for all those who are suffering from the ravages of war. May our duty to them be ever alive in our minds. Finally, O God of Mercy, we remember lovingly before Thee our departed heroes and ancestors who received from Thee the reward of life everlasting. May their splendid example guide us, now and forever. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

***Rom. 15:5-6 - "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."***

***Sanford Reed***

***Texas Division Chaplain, SCV***

***[sanfordreed@gmail.com](mailto:sanfordreed@gmail.com)***



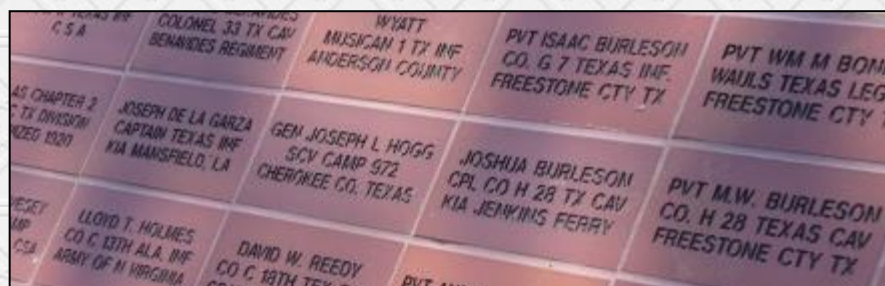




## CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



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: [danielder497@yahoo.com](mailto:danielder497@yahoo.com) or Phone (903) 391-2224



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



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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

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

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

Please visit our website @

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

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

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

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

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

## THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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

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

United Confederate Veterans

New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 3rd 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.