



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2017

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH



**Robert E. Lee —  
A Man to be admired**

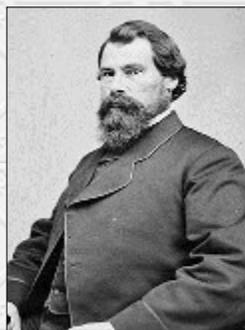
It is shameful to dishonor the memory of one of the most honorable men to ever have come from the south. The politically correct crowd, after smelling blood, is hell bent on destroying every single confederate memorial standing in not only the South but throughout the United States. When they go after the many monuments of Robert Edward Lee, they show how bias, hateful, racist they really are. For Lee is a man to be imitated and honored above all men who called themselves, American, patriot and a Son of Virginia. I would tell our less than informed black and white liberal foes, that of all the monuments being torn down, Lee's should be spared! The following proves that Lee was a unifier and a man who held no ill feelings towards anyone. Soon after the war was over, Lee, a very religious man, was attending Sunday services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at Richmond, Va. Also attending the same service, unnoticed by most, was a black man sitting

in the back pew. As Communion was being served, he rose to his feet and walked proudly down the middle aisle of the all white church and knelt at the front rail to partake of the bread and wine. This action was unacceptable to the priest and congregation and there was dead silence as the priest wondered what to do. He wasn't going to serve a black man, especially as many hated carpetbaggers and Yankee soldiers garrisoned in the south were black men administering harsh injustice.

General Lee next rose to his feet and walked down to the communion rail and knelt beside the black man and putting his hand on the other man's back, they received communion together. Only then, did the rest of the congregation follow Lee's lead and proceed down to the front altar rail for their own communion.

Remember next month we have a real treat scheduled for you at the September meeting. Scott Bell will be with us to showcase his new book on "The Camel Regiment—The Bloody 43rd. Books will be available for purchase so bring some money with you as we are entertained by this compatriot.

Please remember Dan Dyer in your prayers and for his



**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

complete recovery. Luckily what was initially thought to be a heart attack was not! Also we will be continuing our meetings at our new place, the Palestine Masonic Lodge Building. There is 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 Steen

**CAMP MEETINGS**

3rd Thursday of Each Month  
06:30 PM

Snacks and drinks served at each meeting.

Palestine Masonic Lodge  
401 W. Debard Street  
Palestine, Texas

(Located behind the Sacred Heart Catholic Church)

Guests are welcome!  
Bring the family.

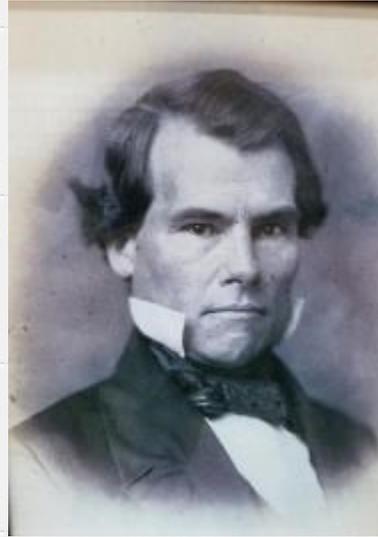
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### Prayer List

- Past Chaplain Ed Furman (very ill)
- 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 is a picture of John H. Reagan taken when he was the master of the Palestine Masonic Lodge #31.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sept 21 - September meeting at Palestine Masonic Lodge**

**Oct 19 - October meeting at Palestine Masonic Lodge**

**Nov 23 - November meeting at Palestine Masonic Lodge**

**Dec 21 - December meeting at Palestine Masonic Lodge**



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

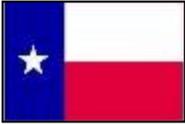
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

“NOTHING FILLS ME WITH DEEPER SADNESS THAN TO SEE A SOUTHERN MAN APOLOGIZING FOR THE DEFENSE WE MADE OF OUR INHERITANCE. OUR CAUSE WAS SO JUST, SO SACRED, THAT HAD I KNOWN ALL THAT HAS COME TO PASS, HAD I KNOWN WHAT WAS TO BE 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 MOURNS THE LOSS OF RONNIE HATFIELD A GREAT FRIEND TO THE CONFEDERACY



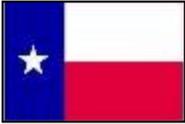
The John H. Reagan Camp is said to report that former Reagan Camp Commander Ronnie Hatfield lost his long and courageous battle with cancer on July 22, 2017. Ronnie worked hard for over 30 years to make sure that Confederate Soldiers were remembered with honor. He was a true southern gentleman, and will be missed by all of those who knew and loved him.

Please remember Ronnie's widow, Leigh Ann, in your prayers.



Rest In Peace our friend. It has been a privilege, an honor, and a pleasure to have known you and to have been your fellow compatriot in our efforts to honor our ancestors. You will be greatly missed but remembered forever.





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP PHOTOS FROM THE CEMETERY RONNIE HATFIELD WILL BE MISSED



Past Commander Ronnie Hatfield was laid to rest in Rock Church Cemetery near Blackfoot with his ancestors.

Men from several Sons of Confederate Veterans camps participated in a 21 gun salute in honor of Ronnie.

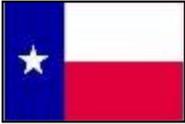


All of the men who participated in the memorial felt honored to have been able to do so. Ronnie Hatfield was a man who touched many lives.



Smoke is in the air as the men fire their rifles in honor of a great man. RIP Ronnie Hatfield. You will be missed but will always be remembered.



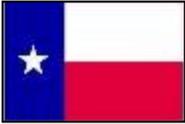


## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 AUGUST 2017 MEETING



The August meeting was held in our new location, the Palestine masonic Lodge Building. It is a wonderful place to meet. Before the meeting, Commander Steen took us on a tour of the building. It was so nice to see the First National flag in their meeting room. It felt so good to be able to meet in a place that is not ashamed of our Confederate heritage. We had 14 in attendance at the meeting and had a delicious meal of fried chicken, red beans and cornbread, cookies, brownies, Blue Bell ice cream, tomatoes, onions and Southern sweet tea. Thanks to Martin Lawrence, Gary Williams, Doug Smith, Dwight Franklin and anyone else who brought something for the meal. It is appreciated.





## AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM GEN. JOHN B. GORDON



BY GARY WILLIAMS, ANDREW HARRIS AND MARTIN LAWRENCE



Andrew Harris (holding picture of John B. Gordon), Martin Lawrence and Gary Williams stand beside a Don Troiani print "Until Sundown".

Gary Williams, Andrew Harris and Martin Lawrence presented the Reagan Camp with an interesting historical program on Confederate General John B. Gordon. Each man gave different accounts on events in General Gordon's life. Even though he was wounded several times during the war, Gordon was able to make it until the end.

Below is some of the historical information that they presented to the camp during the meeting.

### General John Brown Gordon

**John Brown Gordon** (February 6, 1832 – January 9, 1904) was one of Robert E. Lee's most trusted Confederate Generals by the end of the American Civil War. After the war, he was a strong opponent of Reconstruction during the late 1860s. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as a U.S. Senator from 1873 to 1880, and again from 1891 to 1897. He also served as the 53rd Governor of Georgia from 1886 to 1890.

Gordon was descended from an ancient Scottish lineage, and was born on his father Zachariah Gordon's farm in Upson County, Georgia, the fourth of twelve children. Many Gordon family members fought in the Revolutionary War. His family moved to Walker County, Georgia in the 1840s, where his father owned a plantation with 18 slaves at the time of the 1840 census. He was an outstanding student at the University of Georgia, where he was a member of the Mystical 7 Society, but left before graduating. He studied law in Atlanta and passed the bar examination. Gordon and his father, Zachariah, invested in a series of coal mines in Tennessee and Georgia. He also practiced law. Gordon married Rebecca "Fanny" Haralson, daughter of Hugh Anderson Haralson, in 1854, and they had a long and happy marriage. They had six children.

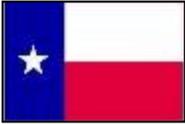


In 1860, he owned one slave, a 14-year-old female. His father owned four slaves that same census.

Although lacking military education or experience, Gordon was elected captain of a company of mountaineers and quickly climbed from captain to brigadier general (November 1, 1862), to major general (May 14, 1864). Though Gordon himself often claimed he was promoted to lieutenant general, there is no official record of this occurring. Gordon was an aggressive general. In 1864, Gordon was described by General Robert E. Lee in a letter to Confederate President Jefferson Davis as being one of his best brigadiers, "characterized by splendid audacity".

Gordon commanded the 6th Alabama in 1862. During the subsequent Seven Days Battles as Gordon strode fearlessly among his men, enemy bullets shattered the handle of his pistol, pierced his canteen, and tore away part of the front of his coat. He was wounded in the eyes during the assault on Malvern Hill. Assigned by General Lee to hold the vital sunken road, or "Bloody Lane", during the Battle of Antietam, Gordon's propensity for being wounded reached new heights. First, a Minie ball passed through his calf. Then, a second ball hit him higher in the same leg.

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## AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM GEN. JOHN B. GORDON



BY GARY WILLIAMS, ANDREW HARRIS AND MARTIN LAWRENCE

A third ball went through his left arm. He continued to lead his men despite the fact that the muscles and tendons in his arm were mangled and a small artery was severed. A fourth ball hit him in his shoulder. Despite pleas that he go to the rear, he continued to lead his men. He was finally stopped by a ball that hit him in the face, passing through his left cheek and out his jaw. He fell with his face in his cap and might have drowned in his own blood if it had not drained out through a bullet hole in the cap. A Confederate surgeon thought he would not survive but after he was returned to Virginia, he was nursed back to health by his wife.

After months of recuperation, in June 1863 Gordon led a brigade of Georgians in Jubal A. Early's division during the Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania. His brigade occupied Wrightsville on the Susquehanna River, the farthest east in Pennsylvania any organized Confederate troops would reach. Union militia under Col. Jacob g. Frick burned the mile-and-a-quarter-long covered wooden bridge to prevent Gordon from crossing the river, and the fire soon spread to parts of Wrightsville. Gordon's troops formed a bucket brigade and managed to prevent the further destruction of the town.



At the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, Gordon's brigade smashed into the XI Corps on Barlow's Knoll. There, he aided the wounded opposing division commander Francis Barlow. This incident led to a story (which many people consider apocryphal) about the two officers meeting later in Washington, D.C., Gordon unaware that Barlow had survived the battle. The story was told by Barlow and Gordon and published in newspapers and in Gordon's book.

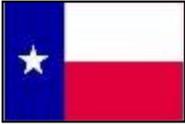
*Seated at Clarkson Potter's table, I asked Barlow: "General, are you related to the Barlow who was killed at Gettysburg?" He replied: "Why, I am the man, sir. Are you related to the Gordon who killed me?" "I am the man, sir," I responded. No words of mine can convey any conception of the emotions awakened by those startling announcements. Nothing short of an actual resurrection from the dead could have amazed either of us more. Thenceforward, until his untimely death in 1896, the friendship between us which was born amidst the thunders of Gettysburg was greatly cherished by both. — John B. Gordon, Reminiscences of the Civil War*

Some historians choose to discount this story, despite contemporary accounts and the testimony of both men, because of Gordon's purported tendency to exaggerate in post-war writings and because it is inconceivable to them that Gordon did not know that Barlow subsequently fought against him in the Battle of the Wilderness.

At the start of the 1864 Overland Campaign, in the Battle of the Wilderness, Gordon proposed a flanking attack against the Union right that might have had a decisive effect on the battle, had General Early allowed him freedom to launch it before late in the day. On May 8, 1864, Gordon was given command of Early's division in Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell's (later Early's) corps. Gordon's success in turning back the massive Union assault in the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House (the Bloody Angle) prevented a Confederate rout. He left with Early for the Valley Campaigns of 1864 and was wounded August 25, 1864, at Shepherdstown, West Virginia. After having a wound over his right eye dressed, he returned to the battle. Confederate cartographer Jedediah Hotchkiss's official report of the incident stated, "Quite a lively skirmish ensued, in which Gordon was wounded in the head, but he gallantly dashed on, the blood streaming over him." His wife Fanny, accompanying her husband on the campaign as general's wives sometimes did, rushed out into the street at the Third Battle of Winchester to urge Gordon's retreating troops to go back and face the enemy. Gordon was horrified to find her in the street with shells and balls flying about her.

Returning to Lee's army after Early's defeat at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Gordon led the Second Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia until the end of the war. In this role, he defended the line in the Siege of Petersburg and commanded the attack on Fort Stedman on March 25, 1865 (where he was wounded again, in the leg).

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## AUGUST HISTORICAL PROGRAM GEN. JOHN B. GORDON

BY GARY WILLIAMS, ANDREW HARRIS AND MARTIN LAWRENCE



At Appomattox Court House, he led his men in the last charge of the Army of Northern Virginia, capturing the entrenchments and several pieces of artillery in his front just before the surrender. On April 12, 1865, Gordon's Confederate troops officially surrendered to Bvt. Maj. Gen. Joshua L. Chamberlain, acting for Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, recorded in moving detail by Chamberlain:

*'The momentous meaning of this occasion impressed me deeply. I resolved to mark it by some token of recognition, which could be no other than a salute of arms. Well aware of the responsibility assumed, and of the criticisms that would follow, as the sequel proved, nothing of that kind could move me in the least. The act could be defended, if needful, by the suggestion that such a salute was not to the cause for which the flag of the Confederacy stood, but to its going down before the flag of the Union. My main reason, however, was one for which I sought no authority nor asked forgiveness. Before us in proud humiliation stood the embodiment of manhood: men whom neither toils and sufferings, nor the fact of death, nor disaster, nor hopelessness could bend from their resolve; standing before us now, thin, worn, and famished, but erect, and with eyes looking level into ours, waking memories that bound us together as no other bond;—was not such manhood to be welcomed back into a Union so tested and assured? Instructions had been given; and when the head of each division column comes opposite our group, our bugle sounds the signal and instantly our whole line from right to left, regiment by regiment in succession, gives the soldier's salutation, from the "brder arms" to the old "carry"—the marching salute. Gordon at the head of the column, riding with heavy spirit and downcast face, catches the sound of shifting arms, looks up, and, taking the meaning, wheels superbly, making with himself and his horse one uplifted figure, with profound salutation as he drops the point of his sword to the boot toe; then facing to his own command, gives word for his successive brigades to pass us with the same position of the manual,—honor answering honor. On our part not a sound of trumpet more, nor roll of drum; not a cheer, nor word nor whisper of vain-glorying, nor motion of man standing again at the order, but an awed stillness rather, and breath-holding, as if it were the passing of the dead! — Joshua L. Chamberlain, *The Passing of Armies*, pp 260-261'*

As the government of the State of Georgia was being reconstituted for readmission to the Union, Gordon ran for governor in 1868, but was defeated. He was a firm opponent of Reconstruction and endorsed measures to preserve white-dominated society, including restrictions on freedmen and the use of violence. Gordon was thought to be the titular head of the Ku Klux Klan in Georgia, but the organization was so secretive that his role was never proven conclusively. During congressional testimony in 1871, Gordon denied any involvement with the Klan, but did acknowledge he was associated with a secret "peace police" organization whose sole purpose was the "preservation of peace.

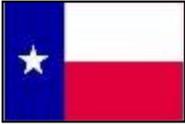
Gordon was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1873, and in 1879 became the first ex-Confederate to preside over the Senate. He was a strong supporter of the "New South" and industrialization.

Gordon resigned as U.S. senator on May 19, 1880. Word of his unexpected resignation had barely reached back to Georgia before Governor Alfred H. Colquitt had appointed Joseph E. Brown to succeed Gordon. Almost instantly, cries of corruption were heard when it was discovered Gordon resigned to promote a venture for the Georgia Pacific Railway.

He was elected Governor of Georgia in 1886 and returned to the U.S. Senate from 1891 to 1897. In 1903 Gordon published an account of his Civil War service entitled *Reminiscences of the Civil War*. He engaged in a series of popular speaking engagements throughout the country.

General Gordon was the first Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans when the group was organized in 1890 and held this position until his death. He died while visiting his son in Miami, Florida, at the age of 71, and was buried in Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia; upwards of 75,000 people viewed and took part in the memorial ceremonies.





## THE LAST SALUTE

### A STORY OF THE SURRENDER AT APPOMATTOX FROM DON TROIANI'S BOOK "CIVIL WAR"



With the war in its final hours, the battle-scarred intellectual warrior Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain rode at the head of two brigades bound for a final confrontation with the Army of Northern Virginia. General Chamberlain would never forget that grueling march to destiny: "They move—these men—sleepless, supperless, breakfastless, sore-footed, stiff-jointed, sense-benumbed, but with flushed faces, pressing for the front. It has come at last, the supreme hour." The end was in sight.

Eight days after the defeat of Five Forks, a week after the fall of Petersburg and evacuation of Richmond, three days after the disastrous fight at Saylor's Creek—Robert E. Lee and the surviving remnants of the Army of Northern Virginia conceded defeat at Appomattox Court House. On the afternoon of April 9, 1865, the great commander, supremely dignified in his most tragic hour, met U. S. Grant in the parlor of Wilmer McLean's home and signed the terms of surrender.

For all his bulldog tenacity and single-minded pursuit of victory, once victory was attained Grant displayed remarkable compassion to his defeated foe. The Confederate soldiers would be paroled and allowed to return to their homes. Officers were permitted to retain their swords and sidearms, and those who owned their horses could keep them as well. But the Federal commander did have one important stipulation — the Southern troops would be required to park their artillery and supply trains, stack their muskets and accoutrements, and surrender their battle flags to the officers appointed to receive them. This ceremonial abandonment of the tools of war would both disarm the Confederate troops and leave no doubt as to which side had ultimately triumphed.

The officer delegated to receive "the arms, artillery, and public property" was Joshua Chamberlain. No more fitting choice could have been made than the lean academic from Maine who had soldiered on, with unsurpassed gallantry, despite wounds that left him in almost constant pain. He cherished a profound respect for those who had risked all for ideals they valued above life itself. It mattered not whether they wore the blue or the gray, or whether they won or lost. "There is a way of losing that is finding," Chamberlain once said. "It is only when a man supremely gives that he supremely finds."

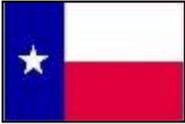
On the chili, overcast morning of April 12, Chamberlain deployed the veterans of his old 3rd brigade, 1st Division, 5th Corps along the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. The general and his staff took position on the right of the line, alongside the 32nd Massachusetts and beneath the red Maltese cross of the division flag. Maintaining an awed silence, the Federal troops rested in place as their Southern counterparts began marching uphill toward the village of Appomattox to meet the men in blue for the last time. "It was," Chamberlain wrote his sister afterward, "a scene worthy of a pilgrimage."

At the head of the Confederate column rode thirty-three-year-old General John B. Gordon, like Chamberlain a man who had carried himself through four years of war with bravery and skill, and who bore the scars of near-fatal wounds. "As my command, in worn-out shoes and ragged uniforms, but with proud mien, moved to the designated point to stack their arms and surrender their cherished battle-flags, they challenged the admiration of the brave victors," Gordon remembered.

When the Confederates drew abreast of his command, Chamberlain called his troops to attention, then to shoulder arms, thus rendering a salute to Gordon's soldiers in their hour of heartbreak and grief. Recognizing the gesture as "a token of respect from Americans to Americans," Gordon saluted Chamberlain with his sword and ordered his own troops to return the honor.

From early morning to late afternoon, brigade after brigade of Southern soldiers filed up the road, stacked arms, unslung belts and cartridge boxes, and furled their flags. Choked with emotion, men of both sides wept unashamedly. "It was a proud, but sad scene," one Federal recalled, "and our men felt a soldier's sympathy for their brave antagonists."

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## THE LAST SALUTE PG 2

### A STORY OF THE SURRENDER AT APPOMATTOX FROM DON TROIANI'S BOOK "CIVIL WAR"



Many Yankees shared their scant rations of hardtack and salt pork with the famished and exhausted Rebels. Deeply appreciative of the Northerners' good will, a Confederate wrote, "We suffered no insult in any way from any of our enemies. No other army in the world would have been so considerate of a foe."

To the end of his long and honorable life, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain would never fail to pay homage to the heroic legacy of the Confederate soldier. In a postwar address to the Society of the Army of the Potomac, Chamberlain echoed the message of that profound moment at Appomattox:

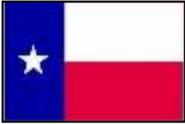
*The Army of Northern Virginia! Who can help looking back upon them now with feelings half fraternal? Ragged and reckless, yet careful to keep their bayonets bright and lines of battle well dressed; reduced to dire extremity sometimes, yet always ready for a fight; rough and rude, yet knowing well how to make a field illustrious.*

*Who can forget them—the brave, bronzed faces that looked at us for four years across the flaming pit—men whom in a hundred fierce grapples we fought with remorseless desperation and all the terrible enginery of death, till on the one side and the other a quarter of a million fell—and yet we never hated....*

*Main force against main force—there was good reason why, when valor like that was exhausted, the sun should go down on thousands dead, but not one vanquished.*



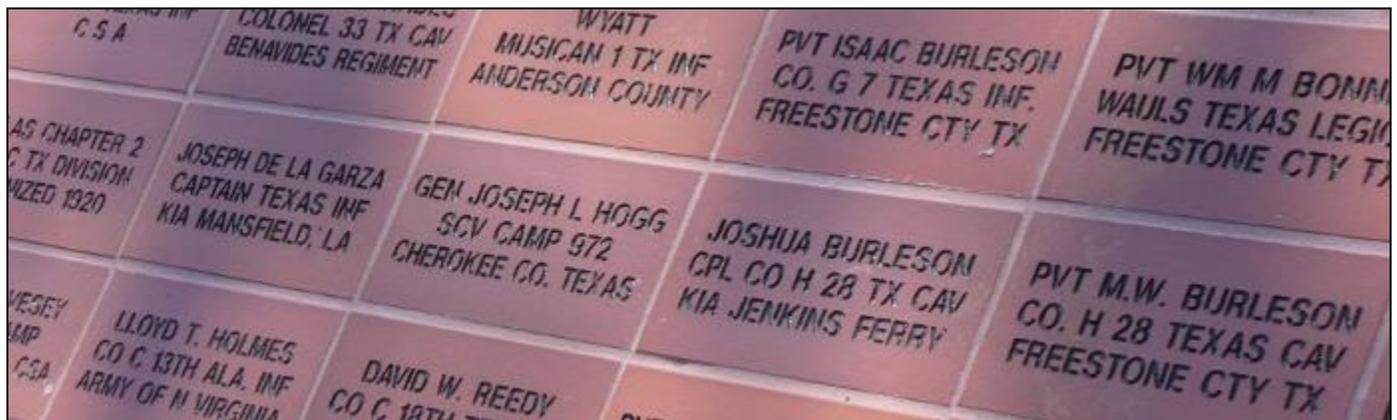
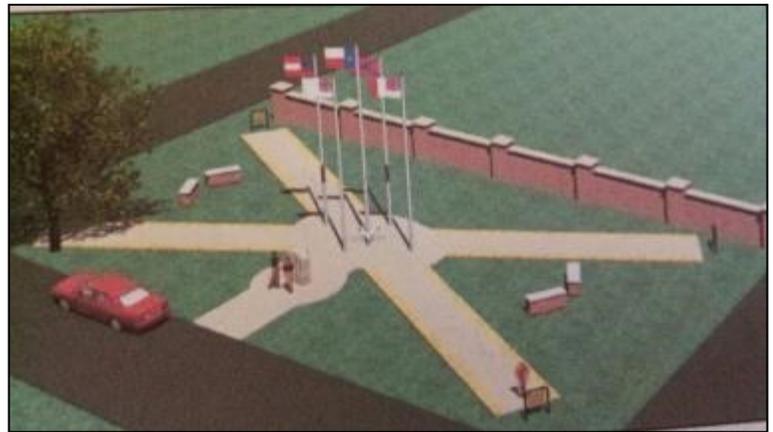
Painting by Don Troiani

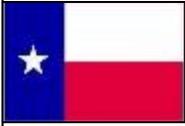


## A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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





## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP AUGUST CIVIL WAR CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p><b>1</b> To Annie</p> <p>I wish you to be very good, very wise, very healthy &amp; very happy — undated</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>If the subject of education could be of more importance at one period of our history than at another, that period is the present. Undated</p>	<p><b>3</b> My only object is to endeavor to make them [students] see their true interest, to teach them to labor diligently &amp; to prepare themselves for the great work of life. undated</p>	<p><b>4, 1861</b> to wife</p> <p>What a glorious world Almighty God has given us. How thankless &amp; ungrateful we are, &amp; how we labour to mar his gifts.</p>	<p><b>5, 1867</b> to Robert.</p> <p>A farmer's life is one of labour, but it is also one of pleasure.</p>
<p><b>6</b> We must expect reverses, even defeats. They are sent to teach us wisdom &amp; prudence, to call forth greater energies, &amp; to prevent our falling into greater disasters. undated</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>I dislike to have more than I actually require - Undated</p>	<p><b>8</b> to Jeff Davis</p> <p>I know how prone we are to blame others for the non-fulfillment of our expectations. This is unbecoming in a generous people &amp; I grieve to see its expression. undated</p>	<p><b>9</b> to Jeff Davis</p> <p>No matter what may be the ability of the officer, if he loses the confidence of his troops disaster must sooner or later ensue. undated</p>	<p><b>10</b> to Rooney I shall endeavor to procure some humble, but quiet abode for your mother &amp; sisters, where I hope they can be happy</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>To succeed it is necessary to set the example. Undated</p>	<p><b>12</b> Incubating discipline is a painful tedious process, &amp; is not apt to win popular favour. Undated</p>
<p><b>13, 1863</b> God is our refuge &amp; strength. Let us humble ourselves before Him. Let us beseech Him to give us a higher courage, a purer patriotism, &amp; more determined will.</p>	<p><b>14</b> to Eliza Stiles It is sad to see a soldier die, &amp; heart rending to announce it to his parents. Undated</p>	<p><b>15</b> to Charlotte</p> <p>Teach him that his only refuge is in Him, the greatness of whose mercy reacheth unto the heavens, &amp; His truth unto the clouds. Undated</p>	<p><b>16</b> to a son I hope you will continue never to exceed your means. It will save you much anxiety &amp; mortification. Undated</p>	<p><b>17</b> to Judge Andrew Magrath</p> <p>The best troops are ineffective without good officers. Undated</p>	<p><b>18, 1865</b> to Carter Lee— I have to labour for my living and a I am ashamed to do nothing that will give me honest support.</p>	<p><b>19</b> This is a political question, Mr. Hill &amp; you politicians must determine it; I shall endeavor to take care of the Army. Undated</p>
<p><b>20</b> to Custis Do not dream. It is too ideal. Live in the world you inhabit. Look upon things as they are. Take them as you find them. Make the best of them. Undated</p>	<p><b>21, 1835</b> to wife</p> <p>I must not consent to do aught that would lower me in your eyes, my own &amp; that of others.</p>	<p><b>22, 1866</b> to H. C. Saunder</p> <p>I prefer remaining silent to doing anything that might excite angry discussion</p>	<p><b>23</b> to college trustees. I think it the duty of every citizen, in the present condition of the Country, to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace &amp; harmony. undated</p>	<p><b>24, 1865</b> to college trustees. It is particularly incumbent on those charged with the instruction of the youth to set them an example of submission to authority.</p>	<p><b>25</b> I speak of the proper rule in republics, where, I think, we should have neither military statesmen nor political generals. Undated</p>	<p><b>26</b> to Jack Mackay</p> <p>It is so much more easy to make heroes on paper than in the field.</p>
<p><b>27, 1864</b> to Custis I have only one earthly want, that God in His infinite mercy will send our enemies back to their homes.</p>	<p><b>28, 1865</b></p> <p>There is no labour so beneficent, so elevated &amp; so sublime, as the teaching of salvation to every man.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>To Gov. Letcher</p> <p>It is the part of wisdom to acquiesce in the result. Undated</p>	<p><b>30</b> to B. Duncan.</p> <p>Every man must do his part in this great work [reviving South]. He must carry into the administration of his affairs industry, fidelity &amp; economy. Undated</p>	<p><b>31</b> to E. Pollard</p> <p>My thanks for the compliment by your proposition to write a history of my life. Independently of the few national events it presents little to interest the reader. Undated</p>		



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

From the Texas State Historical Association



August 9, 1946 - On this day, the last Confederate reunion was held at Camp Ben McCulloch. This golden Jubilee included a memorial service for the camp's last two members, who had died the previous year. The camp, near Driftwood, in Hays County, was organized in the summer of 1896 as a reunion camp for Confederate veterans and named for Confederate General Benjamin McCulloch. Annual three-day reunions were held at the camp, often with 5,000 to 6,000 persons attending. In 1930, Ben McCulloch was said to be the largest Confederate Camp in existence. Subsequently, the camp became the location of the annual meetings of the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy, with various activities and services spanning a week in early June. The campsite, on a branch of Onion Creek, also remains a popular picnic area for residents of northern Hays County.

August 10, 1862 - On this day, Confederate soldiers attacked a force of Hill Country Unionists camped in route to Mexico beside the Nueces River in Kinney County. The skirmish is known as the battle of the Nueces. The sixty-odd Unionists, mostly German intellectuals, had camped without choosing a defensive position or posting a strong guard. Nineteen of them were killed and nine were wounded. The wounded were executed by the Confederates later in the day. Two Confederates were killed and eighteen wounded. Of the Unionists who escaped from the battle, eight were killed on October 18 while trying to cross into Mexico. After the war, the remains of the Unionists were gathered and interred at Comfort, where a monument commemorates them.

August 13, 1906 - On this day, black soldiers of the Twenty-fifth U.S. Infantry allegedly attacked citizens of Brownsville. The event resulted in the largest summary dismissals in the history of the United States Army. The soldiers, newly arrived at Fort Brown from the Philippines and Nebraska, confronted racial discrimination for some businesses and suffered physical abuse from some federal customs collectors. A reported attack on a white woman during the night of August 12 so enraged the citizens that Maj. Charles W. Penrose, after consultation with Mayor Frederick Combe, declared an early curfew. Just after midnight on the thirteenth, a bartender was fatally shot and a police lieutenant was wounded. Various citizens claimed to have seen soldiers running through the streets shooting, even though it was dark. Several civilian and military investigations presumed the guilt of the soldiers without identifying individual culprits. When suspects were not forthcoming, the army inspector general charged a "conspiracy of silence." On November 5, president Theodore Roosevelt discharged "without honor" all 167 enlisted men garrisoned at Fort Brown. This action fueled political and "due process" arguments for more than sixty years. In 1972, the Nixon administration awarded honorable discharges, without back pay, to the soldiers involved. The only surviving veteran, Dorsie Willis, received a \$25,000 settlement.

August 20, 1866 - On this day, President Andrew Johnson, declaring that "the insurrection in the State of Texas has been completely and everywhere suppressed and ended," officially ended the Civil War by issuing a proclamation of peace between the United States and Texas. Johnson had declared a state of peace between the U.S. and the other ten Confederate states on April 2, 1866. The last land battle of the Civil War took place at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville on May 13, 1865, more than a month after Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse.

August 30, 1862 - On this day, Hood's Texas Brigade played a distinguished part in the battle of Second Manassas. After a Union assault was broken up by artillery fire, Confederate General Longstreet launched his First Corps, with the Texas Brigade in the lead, in one of the most successful counterattacks of the Civil War. The Fourth Texas Infantry, under the command of Lt. Col. B. F. Carter; captured a federal battery of artillery, losing eleven killed and twenty wounded in the process. After the battle the commander of the brigade, Gen. John Hood, encountered the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, Robert E. Lee, who playfully asked him what had become of the enemy. Hood answered that the Texans had chased them across Bull Run "almost at a double quick." A regiment of New York Zouaves was shattered by the assault, and, seeing their brightly uniformed bodies scattered about the next morning, a Texas officer wrote that they gave the battlefield "the appearance of a Texas hillside when carpeted in the spring by wildflowers of many hues and tints."





**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP**  
**CSA TEXAS GENERAL OF THE MONTH**  
**JEROME BONAPARTE ROBERTSON**



**Jerome Bonaparte Robertson** (March 14, 1815 – January 7, 1890) was a doctor, Indian fighter, Texas politician, and a general in the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War. He was noted for his service in the famed Texas brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia.

**Early Life and Career:**

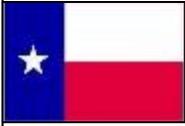
Robertson was born in Woodford County, Kentucky, the son of Scottish immigrant Cornelius Robertson and his wife Clarissa Hill (Keech) Robertson. When Robertson was only four years old, his father died, leaving his mother almost penniless. Unable to properly support her family, she apprenticed young Robertson four years later to a hatter, who moved with the boy in 1824 to St. Louis. After studying medicine at Transylvania University in Kentucky, Robertson graduated in 1835. With the Texas Revolution emerging as a national topic, Robertson joined a company of Kentucky volunteers as a lieutenant and made plans to travel to Texas. However, they were delayed in New Orleans and did not arrive in the Republic of Texas until September 1836. There, he joined the Army of Texas and was commissioned as a captain.



In 1837, with Texas Revolutionary hostilities essentially ended, Robertson resigned his Texas commission and returned to Kentucky, where he married Mary Elizabeth Cummins. He returned with his wife and several relatives to Texas in December 1837, buying land and settling in Washington-on-the-Brazos. He established a medical practice, and became known on the frontier as an Indian fighter through six years of sporadic campaigning. He also served in the military forces that helped repel two invasions by the Mexican army in 1842. After stints as the town's coroner, mayor, and postmaster, Robertson built a home in Independence in 1845. By this time, the Republic of Texas was on the verge of becoming the State of Texas. Robertson was elected in 1847 to the State House of Representatives and in 1849 to the State Senate. He and his wife Mary had three children, one of whom died in infancy. His son Felix Huston Robertson eventually became a brigadier general in the Confederate army. (story on him in last month's newsletter).

**CIVIL WAR:**

Robertson was a delegate to the state Secession Convention in January 1861, and subsequently raised a company of volunteers for the Confederate army and was elected as its captain when it became a formal part of the newly raised 5th Texas Infantry in the brigade of John Bell Hood. In November 1861, Robertson was elevated to lieutenant colonel, and then on June 1, 1862, to colonel and command of the regiment. He was in the Peninsula Campaign, serving with distinction during the Seven Days Battles and leading his regiment in a successful charge during the Battle of Gaines' Mill that split the Union lines.

**JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP****CSA TEXAS GENERAL OF THE MONTH****JEROME BONAPARTE ROBERTSON PG 2**

Robertson became popular with his soldiers due to his unusual concern for their welfare, giving rise to his nickname, "Aunt Polly." He served in the Northern Virginia Campaign and the Maryland Campaign, where his health was failing due to months of steady campaigning. During the Battle of South Mountain, he was overcome by exhaustion and had to be carried from the field. He did not rejoin his regiment until after the subsequent Battle of Antietam. However, by then his reputation as a fighter had been noted, and with the promotion of Hood to division command, Robertson was named as his successor and was promoted to brigadier general on November 1, 1862. He saw his first action as a brigade commander during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

In the summer of 1863, Robertson led his brigade into Pennsylvania during the Gettysburg Campaign. Hood's Division arrived too late for the first day's fighting during the Battle of Gettysburg, but they played a prominent role on the second day, where Robertson led his brigade in a series of hard-hitting, but ultimately unsuccessful, attacks on Little Round Top. Those attacks culminated with the fight for Devil's Den, during which his 1st, 4th, and 5th Texas regiments, as well as his 3rd Arkansas Infantry, took heavy casualties that ultimately resulted in their taking their objective, despite being greatly outnumbered by Union forces. Robertson was wounded along with several of his officers during that action, which he later described as "one of the hottest contests I have ever witnessed."

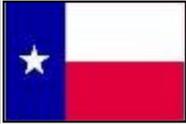
In September, along with the rest of Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's corps, Robertson and the Texas Brigade were moved to Tennessee to reinforce the Army of Tennessee, fighting with distinction at Chickamauga. However, Robertson's performance in the subsequent East Tennessee campaign invoked the wrath of both Longstreet and division commander Micah Jenkins. Longstreet filed formal court-martial charges against General Robertson, alleging delinquency of duty and accusing him of pessimistic remarks. Shortly before, Robertson had joined the other brigadiers in the division in support of Evander M. Law over Longstreet's protégé Jenkins as division commander, which undoubtedly influenced Longstreet, who was in a bitter argument with Law. Robertson was reprimanded, replaced as commander of the Texas Brigade, and transferred to Texas, where he commanded the state reserve forces until the end of the war.

**POSTBELLUM CAREER**

Following the collapse of the Confederacy and the surrender of the remaining Texas forces, Robertson returned to his home in Independence and resumed his medical practice, a period marked by mourning when his wife died in 1868. He re-entered politics in 1874, being named as superintendent of the Texas Bureau of Immigration for two years. Two years later, he served as passenger and emigration agent for the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. Robertson married a widow, Mrs. Hattie Hendley Hook, in 1878 and relocated to Waco a year later. There, he continued to promote railroad construction in west Texas.

He held several high Masonic offices, including deputy grand master of the Third Masonic District and of the Twenty-ninth Masonic District. He was an organizer of the Hood's Texas Brigade Association, which he served as president several times.

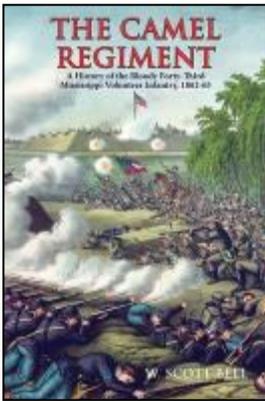
He was initially buried at Independence next to his first wife and his mother. In 1894 his son had all three bodies moved to Oakwood Cemetery (Waco, Texas).



# JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP UPCOMING PROGRAMS



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



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

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October Program: Reconstruction in Texas

Program will be presented by Calvin Nicholson

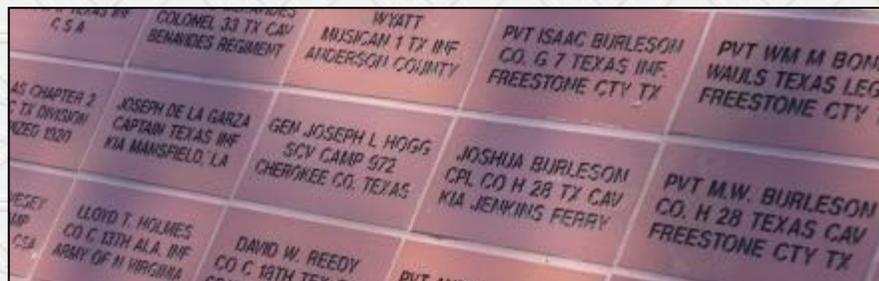




## CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza had the official opening and dedication on April 13, 2013. It is a beautiful Memorial to the Confederate Veterans. It is open for visitors 365 days per year. The sidewalks are lined with pavers that are engraved with information about brave men who fought for the Confederacy. There is still room along the sidewalks for you to purchase a brick paver in the name of your confederate ancestor. This will ensure that your ancestor's service to the confederacy will not be forgotten, but will be remembered for years to come. If you would like to make a donation for a paver, please contact Dan Dyer at E-mail: [danielyer497@yahoo.com](mailto:danielyer497@yahoo.com) or Phone (903) 391-2224



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



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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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 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.