



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2017

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH



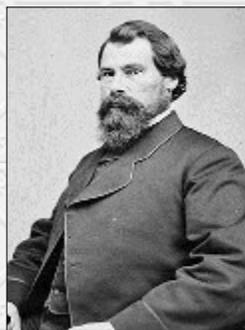
A PROCLAMATION HONORING PALESTINE'S FAVORITE SON – JOHN HENNINGER REAGAN

On Sunday, October 8th, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen at 2 o'clock p.m. at the Confederate Veterans' Plaza we will assemble and pay homage to the memory of that celebrated confederate hero, JOHN HENNINGER REAGAN. I invite our sisters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to join with us as well as all other persons interested in honoring this important man in the life of the City of Palestine as well as the State of Texas.

Last Monday, September 18th, Dollye met with compatriot George W. Tennison of the Cross of St.

Andrew SCV Camp at the Plaza for the purpose of doing something very special. It seems that previous to that time they had visited there and Dollye had mentioned that vandals had stolen a angel that Dan Dyer had donated when the Plaza had been dedicated. Upon hearing this brother Tennison broke down in tears.

Well he left but he did not forget how sad it was that there was no "Angel" keeping watch over the names of soldiers on the memorial pavers. I am both happy and speechless to report that compatriot Tennison out of his own pocket and purchased on behalf of his Camp as a gift to our Camp a replacement "Angel" which I have enclosed a photo in this dispatch. Along with the help of our compatriot Gary Gibson, it was installed this last week and it sure looks good!!! Thanks George, Gary, and Ken McClure and the Cross of St. Andrew Camp SCV. We appreciate your kind expression of love!



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



I hope to see everyone at the Reagan celebration on October 8 at 2 p.m. 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 Rod Skelton & his wife, Nancy
- Past 1st Lt. Gary Williams
- Past Davis/Reagan UDC Pres. Dollye Jeffus
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans



The Reagan Camp is sad to announce that Ed Furman, Reagan Camp compatriot and former Reagan Camp Chaplain, lost his long battle with cancer on Sept 13th. RIP Ed. Please keep Ed's wife, Bettie in your prayers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 19 - October meeting at Palestine Masonic Lodge

October Program: Reconstruction in Texas:

Program will be presented by Calvin Nicholson

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

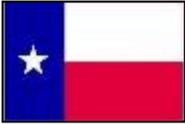
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

“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 REMEMBERING ED FURMAN FORMER REAGAN CAMP CHAPLAIN



Funeral services for Edward (Eddie) L. Furman, 73, of Neches, were held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, Sept 16, 2017, at Rhone Funeral Home with Dan Manual officiating. Visitation preceded the service at 2:00 p.m. and burial followed at the Neches Cemetery. Eddie was surrounded by family and friends on the evening of his passing. He drifted peacefully home in the arms of Bettie, his devoted wife of 50 years.

Eddie was born November 6, 1943, in Buffalo, NY. Mr. Furman spent his youth in Eden, New York. Following his high school graduation, Eddie proudly served in the United States Marine Corps, completing two tours of duty in Vietnam. He was employed in the construction and oil field industries, and later, in sales. He was a licensed peace officer, employed as a Deputy Sheriff for Anderson County for five years. He is most noted for serving as a faithful husband, son-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle, and friend. Eddie was a Christian and a faithful member of the Crockett Rd. Church of Christ for 42 years.

Ed Furman was a multi-faceted and talented man. He was an architect, an artist, a poet, a published author, and a scholar of history. He was a member of the **John H. Reagan Camp/Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans**, served on the Board of Directors of Dogwood Trails, and was a member of the Palestine Chamber of Commerce. He was a Charter member of the Reagan Memorial Museum and a member of the Anderson County Historical Society. In addition, he was a member of both the Neches Volunteer Fire Department and the Anderson County Rescue Unit.

As a returning adult student, Mr. Furman received an Associate Degree from Trinity Valley Community College. He was an honor graduate and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor fraternity. Mr. Furman and his wife, Bettie, founded the Neches River Runners Organization, funding scholarships for students on the Palestine Campus of Trinity Valley Community College for over 20 years. Ed's legacy continues through the efforts of this organization, celebrating its 27th year.

Eddie was preceded in death by his parents, Leslie and Martha Furman, brother Jack Germain, brothers-in-law Donald Wayne Cross and Paul Pearson. Eddie is survived by his wife, Bettie, of Neches, one brother, Leslie Furman of West Seneca, NY, brothers-in-law, Danny Cox (Mackie), Eric Moseley (Cindy) of Neches, Ed Jorgensen (Shelah) of Jacksonville, TX. Nephews, Gary Cox, of Cibolo, TX, Tracy Cox (Denise) of Missouri City, TX, Eric Moseley, II (Stacey) of Tyler, TX, James Pearson of Palestine, TX., Roger Furman of Derby, NY, Mike Smith (Dani) of Maryville, TN, Nieces: Ashley Radford (Jody), Sara Jo Helms (Jason) of Tennessee Colony, TX, Lindsey Urbina (Modesto) of Neches, TX, Candace Cotton of Palestine, TX, Karen Burnett and Debbie Rudolph of Buffalo, NY and numerous great and great-great nieces and nephews. Eddie served as a second "father" to each of his nieces and nephews as well as many other young people who were so fortunate as to have crossed his path.

Pall Bearers were his nephews, Gary Cox, Tracy Cox, Clayton Cox, Eric Moseley, II, Kade Helms, and Kolby Radford

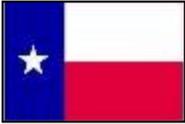
You may honor Ed with flowers or by donation to the Wounded Warrior Project or the charity of your choice.

Funeral services for Edward L. Furman are in care of Rhone Funeral Home, 3900 S. State Highway 19, Palestine, Texas.



**Rest In Peace Ed. You have fought the
good fight, you have finished the race.**



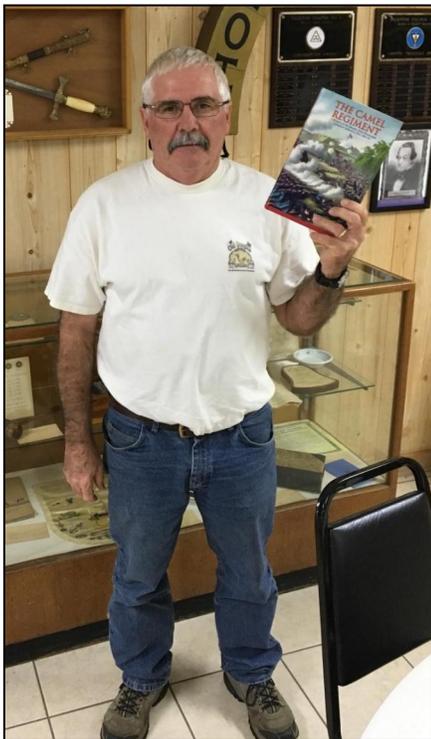


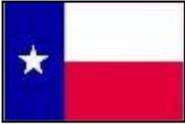
JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 SEPTEMBER 2017 MEETING



The September meeting for the John H. Reagan Camp was held at the Palestine Masonic Lodge on September 21st. The meeting started off with a meal. Charles Steen brought pizzas and Doug Smith brought Blue Bell Ice Cream for dessert. After the meal, Scott Bell presented the Reagan Camp with this month's historical program. Details about that program are on the next few pages. There was a political rally held at the same time in another place in Palestine where President Ronald Reagan's son was a guest speaker, and some of our members were at that rally. We need to be sure that we do all that we can to keep the United States from going down the road it appears to be going down. Our ancestors stood up for what was right, and we need to do so also.

W. Scott Bell is a Life Member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SVC) and its Texas Division. Due to his scholarly research and published literature, he has been awarded membership into the Bonnie Blue Society of the SVC. He is also a recipient of the Jefferson Davis Gold Medal from the United Daughters of the Confederacy for his research, writings, and presentations to schoolchildren, as well as his efforts in the restoration of Confederate monuments. Bell's great-great-grandfather was Cpl. John K. Bell, a member of the 43rd Mississippi, who provided much of the inspiration to research and write about the regiment. Bell currently resides in Maydell, Texas.





SEPTEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM

The Camel Regiment: A History of the Bloody 43rd Mississippi Infantry, 1862-1865 by Scott Bell



The Reagan Camp was presented an interesting historical program by Scott Bell. Scott is the author of the book, "The Camel Regiment: A History of the Bloody 43rd Mississippi Infantry, 1862-1865". Scott's program is posted below for those who may have missed it at this month's meeting.

Opening Introduction— Over two and a half decades ago, while researching my family history, I discovered that my parental great-great grandfather, John K. Bell was a Confederate soldier. His service record showed that he was a good soldier. The more I found out about his Confederate service, the more interested I became in his regiment, The 43rd Mississippi.

It was soon apparent the 43rd, a once illustrious regiment, was poorly documented, even within the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. There was not a book or a detailed source describing the exploits and history of the regiment. The men of the 43rd deserved to be remembered, not forgotten.

Writing a book had always been on my bucket list. It occurred to me then that this was it. I would research and write a book about the 43rd Mississippi. Around this same time, I became acquainted with the honorable Jim Huffman, of Picayune, Mississippi. We shared a similar story, his great-great grandfather, Henry "J.J." Gully also served in the 43rd, and he too was researching the regiment. We joined forces discovering and documenting all information that could be found about the regiment. Finally, after twenty-five years, I mentioned to Jim that I was retired now and not getting any younger. The time to write a book about the regiment had come. He agreed but informed me that research was his talent and that he wanted to hand the project of the writing and publishing the book over to me. He would be there for support and he has done this.

My John K. Bell,, I have not yet found out what his initial K stands for, enlisted at Mooreville, Mississippi, into the "Itawamba Tigers" commanded by Captain Merriman Pound, in April, 1862. The company would then become Co. H of the 43rd Mississippi. Also, enlisting with John K. was Thomas W. Bell. Both were twenty-four years old, had families and were poor dirt farmers. Thomas W. and John K. did not appear together in earlier government surveys, so they were not likely brothers but since they signed up in the same remote small village on the same date and enrolled by Captain Pound, it can be assumed they were kinsmen and likely cousins.

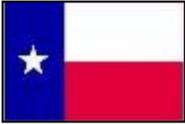
Talk about a small world, several years ago while attending a Texas Division/SCV convention, I met Dr. Charles Bell who informed me his ancestor was Thomas W. Bell. We had a nice visit and shared family information. John W. Bell was mortally wounded at the Battle of Corinth in October 1862.

1st corporal, John K. Bell served in the 43rd throughout the war and his name is listed among the men of the regiment surrendered in General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee in North Carolina at war's end in 1865. Three years later, he left Mississippi and moved his family to Montgomery, Texas. He died in 1879 at the age of forty-three from Consumption of Tuberculosis as the disease was referred to back then. I do not have an image of him or even know where he is buried. I do have some family stories of him passed down from an uncle and discovered some other bits and pieces of information. He was typical of the common Johnny Reb, honorable, steadfast, faithful, and unheralded.

Jim Huffman's Henry "H.J." Gully was another story and much is known of him. Lieutenant Gully served in the Mississippi Army of 10,000 in 1861. He then formed the "Kemper Fencibles" in Kemper County which became Company I. and served as its de facto captain throughout most of the war. He too was surrendered with the 43rd in North Carolina.

After the war, Gully's story is similar to the movie "Tombstone" and the Gunfight at the O.K. corral. Two brothers were shot down on the streets of a small Mississippi town. One of the brothers killed was Lt. Samuel K. Gully of Co. K. Henry sought revenge and a firefight occurred. When the shooting stopped, a number of men lay wounded or dead. Gully would later be tried for murder in an internally reported trial.

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SEPTEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM

The Camel Regiment: A History of the Bloody 43rd Mississippi Infantry, 1862-1865 by Scott Bell



He was acquitted by a jury of his peers. The details to this remarkable story are in the book.

Formed in the spring of 1862, in Northeast Mississippi, the 43rd Mississippi otherwise known as the “Camel Regiment” received its nickname from its unmistakable mascot—a privately-imported African dromedary, one-humped camel, named “Old Douglas” was donated by a young Mississippi planter Lieutenant William H. Hargrove to the 43rd’s founding commander Colonel William H. Moore. He was not a war horse but used to carry the colonel’s equipment. Moore then gave the camel to the regimental band to carry its instruments.

“Old Douglas” was a celebrity in his day. Not only was he very popular within the 43rd but with the entire Confederate Army. Even the Federals were aware of the Rebel camel.

Early on, the 43rd learned as the U.S. Camel Corps had come to realize that camels do not mix with horses and mules. On the road to the Battle of Iuka “Old Douglas” whose handler had been instructed to keep him in the rear became intertwined after dark with the horses and mules of the regiment causing a stampede which led to the death of Private William Morris.

Near the end of the Siege of Vicksburg, “Old Douglas”, while grazing behind the lines, believed to be out of harm’s way, was dropped by a squad of Yankee sharpshooters. The Rebels quickly took revenge and dropped the commander of the sharpshooters. Afterwards, there were reports that “Old Douglas” served as Camel steaks to the starving soldiers and was given a full military burial. Today, thanks in large part to the research and commitment of Jim Huffman, “Old Douglas” has been given recognition and a headstone in the memorial plot dedicated to the 43rd Mississippi at the Cedar Hill Cemetery located in Vicksburg.

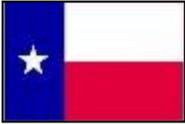
As J.W. Cook, 43rd Mississippi, said “Douglas was a faithful, patient animal, and his service merits record...”

The 43rd Mississippi was a large regiment eventually composed of eleven companies instead of the usual ten. The regiment was fortunate to be led by excellent field and company officers. On the most part, these men were planters, physicians, lawyers, judges and members of prominent families of their communities. But there were those who rose through the ranks by faithful duty. Lieutenant Colonel Columbus “Lum” Sykes would later refer to the regiment as the “Bloody 43rd”. There were slaveholders but three-quarters of the men were dirt farmers trying to scratch out a living. Also, included were preachers, teachers, and other professions of the day.

At the Battle of Corinth, October, 1862, the 43rd would compose one half of General Martin Green’s Missouri brigade. Colonel Moore was shot down mortally wounded, leading the Confederate charge, in hand-to-hand fighting, into the rail crossroads near the two-story Tishomingo Hotel, a well known landmark and later burned down. The original painting, “Decision at the Crossroads”, which hangs in the Civil War Interpretation Center in Corinth, is based on this legendary charge. In their first test of “Seeing the Elephant” or first full fight one of the Missouri veterans recalled the 43rd “was marked by bravery and intrepidity the most daring and devoted...” Even though the 43rd lost its colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel Richard W. Leigh in the battle, they would be replaced by outstanding officers Colonel Richard Harrison and Lieutenant Colonel “Lum” Sykes.

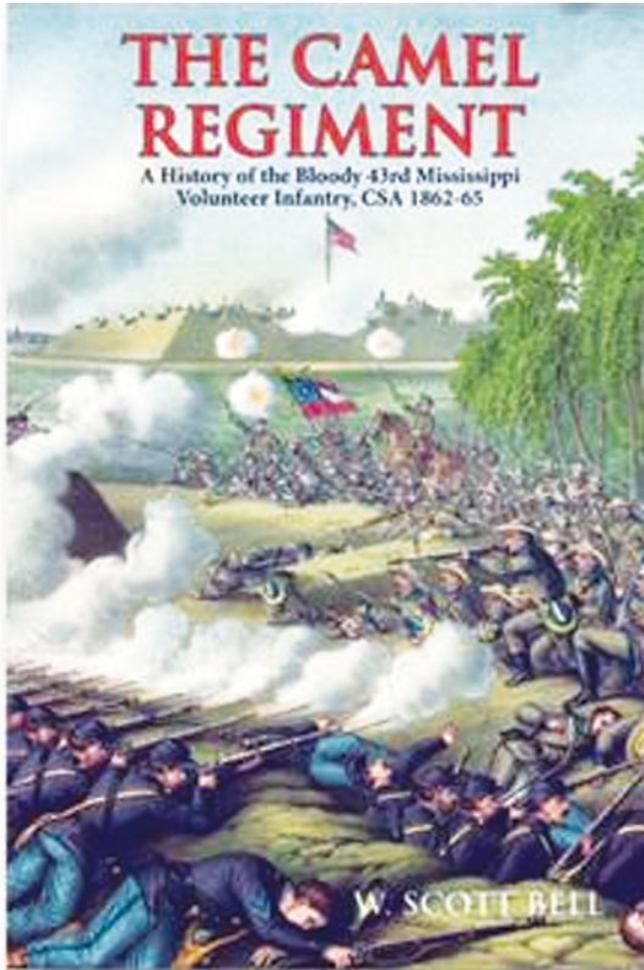
Not only is this a war story but is as much a human interest story. The role of black population and others in and with the Confederacy and Confederate army is a popular topic today. The letters and diaries of the soldiers reveal the faithfulness and loyalty the blacks showed. These men attended to the indispensable camp duties such as cooking and laundering of clothes. Anyone, want to tell a cook he is not part of the army. They rode back and forth from camp to the plantations and farms entrusted with and carrying supplies such as mail, clothing, medicines and other valuable items. All the while, being so close to the enemy they could have rode off to “join the Yankees”. They found, recovered mail and other papers returning these to the army. After the surrender at Vicksburg, the Federals offered to let all blacks within

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SEPTEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM

The Camel Regiment: A History of the Bloody 43rd Mississippi Infantry, 1862-1865 by Scott Bell



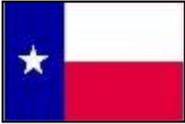
Garrison leave with their masters and the army as long as it was voluntary. So many blacks left that the embarrassed Federals had to rescind their policy. Two blacks or servants of the 43rd as they were sometimes referred to in those days misled the Yankees into thinking they had been mistreated. They soon confiscated some choice mules and rode off to rejoin the 43rd on the march from Vicksburg. Another story recounts Private Joshua T. Steele as a sharpshooter posted in a tree alongside a black sharpshooter. A snake and Federal cavalry arrived at the same time. Both men remained silent as the snake crawled over them and the Yankees rode off.

The “Bloody 43rd” fought in fourteen battles including Corinth, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Atlanta, Franklin, Nashville, and Bentonville. General Joseph E. Johnston or “Ole Joe”, as his men affectionately called him, called for all available troops to make as stand against the marauding Federal army of William “Uncle Billy” Sherman. At Bentonville, the tattered and depleted but still proud Army of Tennessee, letting loose their hair raising Rebel Yell “Who-whey” attacked and routed the blue bellies until they were

reinforced. For the men who wore the gray the war would end shortly afterwards. Most of the men walked home to what was left of their families and what was left of their homes. Time does not allow for me to tell you about all the amazing stories of the regiment. That’s what the book is for. When was the last time you sat down with a good book about the war? How about an interesting and enjoyable read? This is an opportunity to step back in time and take a journey with the “Bloody 43rd” I have visited every battlefield the 43rd fought at and now so can you.

We really appreciate Mr. Bell for coming to the meeting and for such a good historical presentation. It was one that most of the camp had not heard, and it was very interesting.

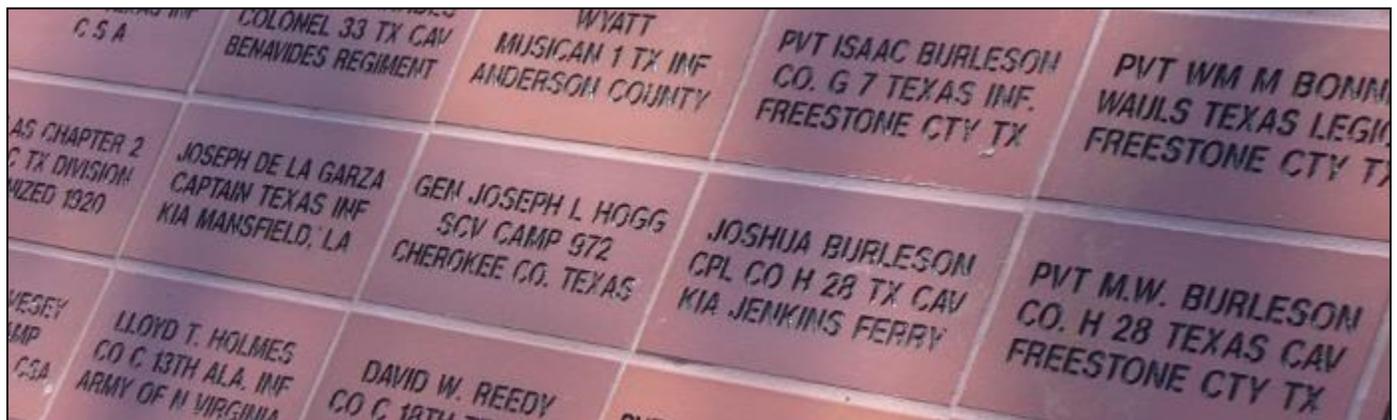
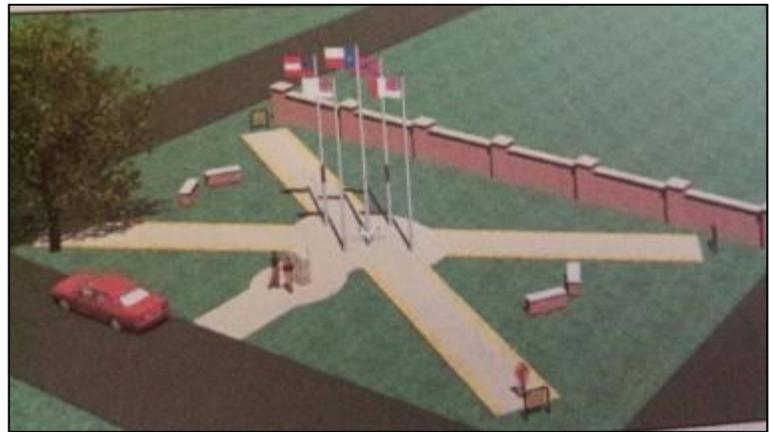


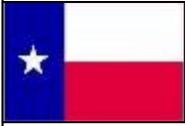


A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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.

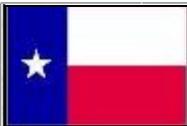




JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP SEPTEMBER CIVIL WAR CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>Sept 1, 1856 to wife. We are all in the hands of a kind God, who will do for us what is best, & more than we deserve & we have only to endeavor to deserve more & to do our duty to him.</p>	<p>Sept 2, 1864 to Jeff Davis. Our ranks are constantly diminishing by battle & disease, & few recruits are received.</p>
<p>Sept 3, 1861 to Custis. Know that wherever you may be placed you will do your duty. That is all the pleasure, all the comfort, all the glory we can enjoy in this world.</p>	<p>Sept 4, 1865 to A.M. Keiley. It should be the object of all to avoid controversy.</p>	<p>Sept 5, 1857 to Agnes. It is persuasion and not force...cultivate the powers of pleasing.</p>	<p>Sept 6 undated to A.M. Keiley. Encouraging our citizens to engage in the duties of life with all their heart & mind our country will not only be restored but will be advanced in science, virtue, & religion.</p>	<p>Sept 7, 1865 to Capt. Tatnall. I believe it to be the duty of every one to unite in the restoration of the country & the reestablishment of peace & harmony.</p>	<p>Sept 8 undated to J. Gordon. The thorough education of all classes of the people is the most efficacious means, in my opinion, of promoting prosperity.</p>	<p>Sept 9, 1861 to his wife. Everybody is slandered, even the good.</p>
<p>Sept 10, 1863 to Mildred. You have only always to do what is right. It will become easier by practice.</p>	<p>Sept 11 undated I shall, however, endeavor to do my duty and fight to the last.</p>	<p>Sept 12 undated to wife. Feeling lonesome, as the saying is, and out of sorts, I got on a horse & took a ride.</p>	<p>Sept 13 Undated to Capt. Tatnall. I have since the cessation of hostilities advised all with whom come within the terms of the President's proclamation to take the oath of allegiance.</p>	<p>Sept 14, 1869 to Col. Duncan. As individuals prosper, communities will become rich.</p>	<p>Sept 15 undated Study human nature, more by experience than by precept.</p>	<p>Sept 16, 1853 to his wife. Young men must not expect to escape contact with evil, but must learn not to be contaminated by it.</p>
<p>Sept 17, 1861 to wife. I had taken every precaution to insure success, & counted on it; but the Ruler of the Universe willed otherwise.</p>	<p>Sept 18, 1864 to wife. It is from no desire of exposure or hazard that I live in a tent, but from necessity. I must be where I can speedily attend to the duties of my position.</p>	<p>Sept 19 undated To Markie Action in this World goes farther than Sentiment.</p>	<p>Sept 20 undated To wife. I have been offered rooms in the houses of our citizens, but I could not turn the dwellings of my kind hosts into a barrack.</p>	<p>Sept 21 undated to Capt Maury I look forward to better days, & trust that time & experience, the great teachers of men, under the guidance of an ever merciful God, save us from destruction.</p>	<p>Sept 22 undate to Capt Maury. The thought of abandoning the country is abhorrent to my feelings & I prefer to struggle for its restoration & share its fate, rather than give up all as lost.</p>	<p>Sept 23 undated to Mildred. The more you know, the more you find there is to know in this grand & beautiful world.</p>
<p>Sept 24 undated The more you learn the more you are conscious of your ignorance</p>	<p>Sept 25 undated to Mildred. You will find all the days of your life that there is much to learn & much to do...learn all you can.</p>	<p>Sept 26, 1861 to wife. It is raining. The men are exposed on the mountain without tents. Today my tent came up & I am in it. Yet I fear I shall not sleep for thinking of the men.</p>	<p>Sept 27 undated to Mildred. The struggle which you describe you experience between doing what you ought & what you desire is common to all.</p>	<p>Sept 28 undated As long as virtue was dominant in the republic, so long was the happiness of the people secure.</p>	<p>Sept 29, 1862 to Mary. If God spares me to the end of the war, I trust to be with you all at least, for the few remnant years of life.</p>	<p>Sept 30 My Beautiful Daughters:.... May good angels guard you & bright visions cheer you.</p>



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN SEPTEMBER

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.

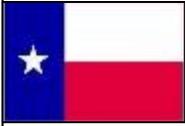
August 10, 1862 - On this day, Confederate soldiers attacked a force of Hill Country Unionists camped in route to Mexico beside the Nueces River in Kinney County. The skirmish is known as the battle of the Nueces. The sixty-odd Unionists, mostly German intellectuals, had camped without choosing a defensive 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."



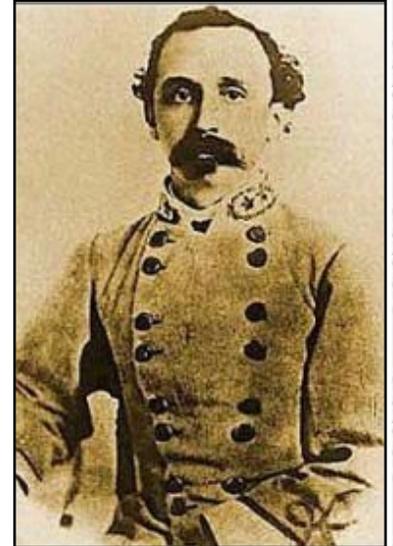


JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP
CSA TEXAS GENERAL OF THE MONTH
LAWRENCE SULLIVAN ROSS



Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross (September 27, 1838 – January 3, 1898) was the 19th Governor of Texas, a Confederate States Army general during the American Civil War, and a president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, now called Texas A&M University.

Sul Ross was raised in the Republic of Texas, which was later annexed to the United States. Much of his childhood was spent on the frontier, where his family founded the town of Waco. As a teenager, Ross attended Baylor University. On one of his summer breaks, he suffered severe injuries while fighting Comanches. After graduation, Ross joined the Texas Rangers, and in 1860, led troops in the Battle of Pease River, where he recaptured Cynthia Ann Parker, who had been captured by the Comanches as a child.



When Texas seceded from the United States and joined the Confederacy, Ross joined the Confederate States Army. He participated in 135 battles and skirmishes and became one of the youngest Confederate generals. Following

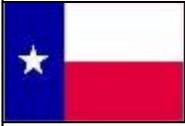
the Civil War, Ross briefly served as sheriff of McLennan County before resigning to participate in the 1875 Texas Constitutional Convention. With the exception of a two-year term as a state senator, Ross spent the next decade focused on his farm and ranch concerns. In 1887, he became the 19th governor of Texas. During his two terms, he oversaw the dedication of the new Texas State Capitol, resolved the Jaybird-Woodpecker War, and became the only Texas governor to call a special session to deal with a treasury surplus.

Despite his popularity, Ross refused to run for a third term as governor. Days after leaving office, he became president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (now Texas A&M University). He is credited with saving the school from closure, and his tenure saw a large expansion in college facilities and the birth of many school traditions. After his death, the Texas legislature created Sul Ross State University in his honor.

EARLY YEARS

Lawrence Sullivan Ross was born on September 27, 1838 in Bentonsport, Iowa Territory. He was the fourth child and second son of Shapley Prince Ross and Catherine Fulkerson, the daughter of Missouri legislator Issac Fulkerson. Ross was jointly named for his paternal uncle, Giles O. Sullivan, and his father's grandfather and brother, both named Lawrence Ross. The senior Lawrence Ross had been captured by Native Americans as a child, and lived with them from the time he was six years old until he was rescued at 23. To differentiate Ross from his uncle and great-grandfather, he was called "Little Sul" when he was a child, and later "Sul".

Shortly after Ross's birth, his parents sold their Iowa property and returned to Missouri to escape Iowa's cold weather. In 1839, the family moved to the Republic of Texas, where they settled in the Robertson Colony on the lower Brazos River. Two years later, they joined seven other families under Captain Daniel Monroe and settled near present-day Cameron, where they received 640 acres of land along the Little River. Their land adjoined Comanche territory and was raided several times. -Continued on next page-



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In 1845, the family moved to Austin so Ross and his older siblings could attend school. Four years later, they relocated again. By this time, Shapley Ross was well known as a frontiersman, and to coax him to settle in the newly formed community of Waco, the family was given four city lots, exclusive rights to operate a ferry across the Brazos River, and the right to buy 80 acres of farmland at US\$1 per acre. In March 1849, the Ross family built the first house in Waco, a double-log cabin on a bluff overlooking the springs. Ross's sister Kate soon became the first Caucasian child born in Waco.

Eager to further his education, Ross entered the Preparatory Department at Baylor University (then in Independence, Texas) in 1856, despite the fact that he was several years older than most of the other students. He completed the two-year study course in one year. Following his graduation, he enrolled at Wesleyan University in Florence, Alabama. The Wesleyan faculty originally deemed his mathematics knowledge so lacking, they refused his admittance; the decision was rescinded after a professor agreed to tutor Ross privately in the subject. At Wesleyan, students lived with prominent families instead of congregating in dormitories, thus giving them "daily exposure to good manners and refinement". Ross lived with the family of his tutor.



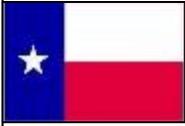
Wichita Village Fight

During the summer of 1858, Ross returned to Texas and journeyed to the Brazos Indian Reserve, where his father served as Indian Agent. The United States Army had conscripted Indians from the reserve to help the "Wichita

Expedition" of 2nd Cavalry in a search for Buffalo Hump, a Penateka Comanche chief who had led several deadly raids on Texas settlements. Fearing that Shapley Ross was too ill to command them on the expedition, the Indians named Sul Ross their new war chief. With his father's approval, the younger Ross led the 135 warriors to accompany 225 troops led by brevet Major Earl Van Dorn. Ross was given the courtesy title of "Captain" during his command.

Native scouts found about 500 Comanches, including Buffalo Hump, camped outside a Wichita village in Indian Territory. Early in the battle, Ross and his men successfully stampeded the Comanche horses, leaving the Comanche warriors at a disadvantage when facing the mounted troops. When many Comanche tried to flee the area, Ross, one of his scouts, Lieutenant Cornelius Van Camp of the 2nd Cavalry and one of his troopers chased a party of noncombatants that appeared to contain a white child. On Ross's orders, his man grabbed the child; as the four turned to rejoin the battle, they were confronted by 25 Comanche warriors. Van Camp and the private were killed with arrows, and Ross received an arrow through his shoulder. A Comanche picked up the trooper's carbine and fired a 0.58-caliber bullet through Ross's chest. His attacker, Mohee, was a Comanche brave Ross had known since childhood. Mohee was killed by buckshot fired by Lieutenant James Majors of the 2nd Cavalry as the warrior approached the temporarily paralyzed Ross with a scalping knife.

After five hours of fighting, the troops subdued the Comanche resistance.¹ Buffalo Hump escaped, but 70 Comanches were killed or mortally wounded, only two of them noncombatants. Ross's injuries were severe, and for five days he lay under a tree on the battlefield, unable to be moved. His wounds became infected, and Ross begged the others to kill him to end his pain. - Continued on next page -



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When he was able to travel, he was first carried on a litter suspended between two mules, and then on the shoulders of his men. He recovered fully, but experienced some pain for much of the rest of the year.

In his written report, Van Dorn praised Ross highly. The *Dallas Herald* printed the report on October 10, and other state newspapers also praised Ross's bravery. General Winfield Scott learned of Ross's role and offered him a direct commission in the Army. Eager to finish his education, Ross declined Scott's offer and returned to school in Alabama.

The following year, Ross graduated from Wesleyan with a Bachelor of Arts and returned to Texas. Once there, he discovered no one had been able to trace the family of the young Caucasian girl rescued during the Wichita Village fight. He adopted the child and named her Lizzie Ross, in honor of his new fiancée, Lizzie Tinsley.

TEXAS RANGERS

In early 1860, Ross enlisted in Captain J. M. Smith's Waco company of Texas Rangers, which formed to fight the renegade Native Americans. Smith appointed Ross his second lieutenant. When Smith was promoted, the other men in the company unanimously voted to make Ross the new captain. In conjunction with several other Ranger companies, Ross led his men to retaliate against a Kickapoo tribe which had murdered two white families. The tribe had been warned of the Rangers' approach and set the prairie ablaze. The Rangers were forced to abandon their mission when confronted with the massive wildfire.

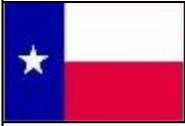
Smith disbanded Ross's company in early September 1860. Within a week, Governor Sam Houston authorized Ross to raise his own company of 60 mounted volunteers to protect the settlements near Belknap from Native American attacks. Ross and his men arrived at Fort Belknap on October 17, 1860 to find the local citizens they were sworn to protect had passed a resolution asking Ross to resign his commission and leave the frontier. The citizens erroneously believed the raiding was committed by Native Americans from the reservations, and they feared Ross's friendship with those on the reservations would make him ineffective.

Battle of Pease River

In late October and November 1860, Comanches led by Peta Nocona conducted numerous raids on various settlements, culminating in the brutal killing of a pregnant woman. On hearing of these incidents, Houston sent several 25-man companies to assist Ross. A citizen's posse had tracked the raiders to their winter village along the Pease River. As the village contained at least 500 warriors and many women and children, the posse returned to the settlements to recruit additional fighters. Ross requested help from the U.S. Army at Camp Cooper, which sent 21 troops.

Immediately after the soldiers arrived on December 11, Ross and 39 Rangers departed for the Comanche village. On December 13, they met the civilian posse, which had grown to 69 members. After several days of travel, the fast pace and poor foraging forced the civilians to stop and rest their horses. The Rangers and soldiers continued on. When they neared the village, Ross personally scouted ahead. Hidden from view by a dust storm, he was able to get within 200 yards of the village and saw signs that the tribe was preparing to move on.

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Realizing his own horses were too tired for a long pursuit, Ross resolved to attack immediately, before the civilians were able to rejoin the group. Ross lead the Rangers down the ridge, while the soldiers circled around to cut off the Comanche retreat.

After fierce fighting, the Comanches fled. Ross and several of his men pursued the chief and a second, unknown, rider. As the Rangers neared, the second rider slowed and held a child over her head; the men did not shoot, but instead surrounded and stopped her. Ross continued to follow the chief, eventually shooting him three times. The chief refused to surrender, even after falling from his horse. Ross's cook, Anton Martinez, who had been a captive in Nocona's band, identified the fallen chief as Nocona. With Ross's permission, Martinez fired the shot that took Nocona's life. Nocona was the only Comanche male to die in the fighting; 13 Comanche women were also killed. Ross's men suffered no casualties.

The civilian posse arrived at the battleground as the fighting finished. Although they initially congratulated Ross for winning the battle, some of them later complained that Ross had pushed ahead without them so he would not have to share the glory or the spoils of war.

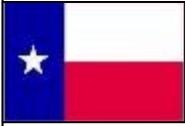


When Ross arrived back at the campground, he realized the captured woman had blue eyes. The woman could not speak English and did not remember her birth name or details of her life prior to joining the Comanche. After much questioning, she was able to provide a few details of her capture as a child. The details matched what Ross knew of the 1836 Fort Parker Massacre, so he summoned Colonel Isaac Parker to identify her. When Parker mentioned his kidnapped niece had been named Cynthia Ann Parker, the woman slapped her chest and said "Me Cincee Ann." Parker never returned to the Comanche people, but was not happy to have been rescued by Ross.

In contrast, Ross's intervention was welcomed by a nine-year-old Indian boy found hiding alone in the tall grass. Ross took the child with him, naming him Pease. Though Pease was later given the choice to return to his people, he refused and was raised by Ross.

The Battle of Pease River cemented Ross's fame. His "aggressive tactics of carrying the war to the Comanche fireside, (as it had long been carried to that of the white) ended charges of softness in dealing with the Indians." After Ross's death, however, Nocona's son Quanah parker maintained his father was not present at the battle, and instead died three or four years later. Quanah Parker identified the man Martinez shot as a Mexican captive who was the personal servant of Nocona's wife, Cynthia Ann Parker.

When Ross returned home, Houston asked him to disband the company and form a new company of 83 men, promising to send written directives soon. While Ross was in the process of supervising this reorganization, Houston appointed Captain William C. Dalrymple as his new *aide-de-camp* with overall command of the Texas Rangers. Dalrymple, unaware of Houston's verbal orders, castigated Ross for disbanding his company. Ross completed the reorganization of the company, then returned to Waco and resigned his commission. In his letter of resignation, effective February 1861, Ross informed Houston of his encounter with Dalrymple, and noted he did not believe a Ranger company could be effective if the captain did not report solely to the Governor. - Continued on next page -



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Houston offered to appoint Ross as an *aide-de-camp* with the rank of colonel, but Ross refused.

Civil War Service

In early 1861 after Texas voted to secede from the United States and join the Confederacy, Ross's brother Peter began recruiting men for a new military company. Shortly after Ross enlisted in his brother's company as a private, Governor Edward Clark requested he instead proceed immediately to the Indian Territory to negotiate treaties with the Five Civilized Tribes so they would not help the Union Army. One week after his May 28 wedding to Lizzie Tinsley, Ross set out for the Indian Territory. Upon reaching the Washita Agency, he discovered the Confederate commissioners had already signed a preliminary treaty with the tribes.

Ross returned home for several months. In the middle of August, he departed, with his company, for Missouri, leaving his wife with her parents. On September 7, his group became Company G of Stone's Regiment, later known as the Sixth Texas Cavalry. The other men elected Ross as the major for the regiment. Twice in November 1861, Ross was chosen by General McCulloch, with whom he had served in the Texas Rangers, to lead a scouting force near Springfield, Missouri. Both times, Ross successfully slipped behind the Union Army lines, gathered information, and retreated before being caught. After completing the missions, he was granted a 60-day leave and returned home to visit his wife.

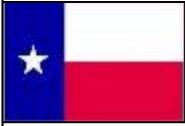
Active duty

In early 1862, Ross returned to duty. By late February, he and 500 troops were assigned to raid the Union Army. He led the group 70 mi behind the enemy lines, to Keetsville (now Washburn) MO, where they gathered intelligence, destroyed several wagonloads of commissary supplies, captured 60 horses and mules, and took 11 prisoners. The following month, the regiment was assigned to Earl Van Dorn, now a Major General, with whom Ross had served during the battle at the Wichita Village. Under Van Dorn, the group suffered a defeat at the Battle of Pea Ridge; Ross attributed their loss solely to Van Dorn, and blamed him for overmarching and underfeeding his troops, and for failing to properly coordinate the plan of attack. In April, the group was sent to Des Arc, Arkansas. Because of the scarcity of forage, Ross's cavalry troop was ordered to dismount and send their horses back to Texas. The unit, now on foot, traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, arriving two weeks after the Battle of Shiloh. Ross soon caught a bad cold accompanied by a lingering fever, and was extremely ill for eight weeks. By the time he considered himself cured, his weight had dwindled to only 125 pounds.

Over Ross's protests, the men of the Sixth Regiment elected him colonel in 1862. He did not want the responsibility of the position and had not wanted to embarrass a friend who wanted the job. Their brigade commander, General Charles W. Phifer, was often absent, leaving Ross in charge. Ross's actions impressed other officers, and several times during the summer of 1862, he was nominated for promotion to brigadier general. Although he was not promoted at that time, his unit was the only one of the 8–10 dismounted cavalry units in the area to be promised the return of their horses.¹

While still afoot, Ross and his men participated in the Battle of Corinth. Under Ross's command, his Texans twice captured Union guns at Battery Robinett. They were forced to retreat from their position each time as reinforcements failed to arrive.

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During the battle, Ross, who had acquired a horse, was bucked off, leading his men to believe he had been killed. He was actually unharmed. The Confederate Army retreated from the battle and found themselves facing more Union troops at Hatchie's Bridge. Ross led 700 riflemen to engage the Union troops. For three hours, his men held off 7,000 Union troops, repulsing three major enemy assaults.

The Sixth Cavalry's horses arrived soon after the battle, and the regiment was transferred to the cavalry brigade of Colonel William H. "Red" Jackson. Ross was permitted to take a few weeks leave in November 1862 to visit his wife, and returned to his regiment in mid-January 1863. Several months later, his unit participated in the Battle of Thompson's Station. In July, Major General Stephen D. Lee created a new brigade with Ross at the helm; consisting of Ross's regiment and Colonel Richard A. Pinson's First Mississippi Cavalry. Near the same time, Ross received word that his first child had died, possibly stillborn.

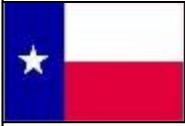
Ross fell ill again in September 1863. From September 27 through March 1864, he suffered recurring attacks of fever and chills every three days, symptomatic of tertian malaria. Despite his illness, Ross never missed a day of duty, and in early 1864 he was promoted to brigadier general, becoming the ninth-youngest general officer of the Confederate Army. Following his promotion, unit morale improved, and every one of his men re-enlisted.

In March 1864, Ross's brigade fought against African American soldiers for the first time at Yazoo City, Mississippi. After bitter fighting, the Confederates were victorious. During the surrender negotiations, the Union officer accused the Texans of murdering several captured African American soldiers. Ross claimed two of his men had likewise been killed after surrendering to Union troops.

Beginning in May, the brigade endured 112 consecutive days of skirmishes, comprising 86 separate clashes with the enemy. Though most of the skirmishes were small, by the end of the period, injuries and desertion had cut the regiment's strength by 25%. Ross was captured in late July at the Battle of Brown's Mill, but was quickly rescued by a successful Confederate cavalry counterattack.

Their last major military campaign was the Franklin-Nashville Campaign of November and December 1864. Ross and his men led the Confederate advance into Tennessee. Between the beginning of November and December 27, his men captured 550 prisoners, several hundred horses, and enough overcoats and blankets to survive the winter chill. Only 12 of Ross's men were killed, with 70 wounded and five captured.

By the time Ross began a 90-day furlough on March 13, 1865, he had participated in 135 engagements with the enemy and his horse had been shot out from under him five times, yet he had escaped serious injury. With his leave approved, Ross hurried home to Texas to visit the wife he had not seen in two years. While at home, the Confederate Army began its surrender. He had not rejoined his regiment when it surrendered in Jackson, Mississippi, on May 14, 1865. Because he was not present at the surrender, Ross did not receive a parole protecting him from arrest. As a Confederate Army officer over the rank of colonel, Ross was also exempted from President Andrew Johnson's amnesty proclamation of May 29, 1865. To prevent his arrest and the confiscation of his property, on August 4, 1865, Ross applied for a special pardon for his treason against the United States. Johnson personally approved Ross's application on October 22, 1866, but Ross did not receive and formally accept the pardon until July 1867. - Continued on next page -



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Farming and Early Public Service: When the Civil War ended, Ross was just 26 years old. He owned 160 acres of farmland along the South Bosque River west of Waco, and 5.41 acres in town. For the first time, he and his wife were able to establish their own home. They expanded their family, having eight children over the next 17 years.

Despite his federal pardon for being a Confederate general, Ross was disqualified from voting and serving as a juror by the first Reconstruction Act of March 2, 1867. This act, and the Supplementary Reconstruction Act passed three weeks later, disenfranchised anyone who had held a federal or state office before supporting the Confederacy.

Reconstruction did not harm Ross's fortune, and with hard work, he soon prospered. Shortly after the war ended, he bought 20 acres of land in town from his parents for \$1,500. By May 1869, he had purchased an additional 40 acres of farmland for \$400, and the following year his wife inherited 186 acres of farmland from the estate of her father. Ross continued to buy land, and by the end of 1875, he owned over 1,000 acres of farmland.¹ Besides farming, Ross and his brother Peter also raised Shorthorn cattle. The two led several trail drives to New Orleans. The combined farming and ranching incomes left Ross wealthy enough to build a house in the Waco city limits and to send his children to private school.

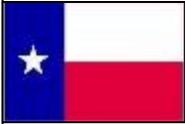
By 1873, Reconstruction in Texas was coming to an end. In December, Ross was elected sheriff of McLennan County, "without campaigning or other solicitation". Ross promptly named his brother Peter a deputy, and within two years, they had arrested over 700 outlaws. In 1874, Ross helped establish the Sheriff's Association of Texas. After various state newspapers publicized the event, sheriffs representing 65 Texas counties met in Corsicana in August 1874. Ross became one of a committee of three assigned to draft resolutions for the convention. They asked for greater pay for sheriffs in certain circumstances, condemned the spirit of mob law, and proposed that state law be modified so arresting officers could use force if necessary to "compel the criminal to obey the mandates of the law."

Ross resigned as sheriff in 1875 and was soon elected as a delegate to the 1875 Texas Constitutional Convention. One of three members appointed to wait upon convention president-elect E.B. Pickett, Ross was also named to a committee that would determine what officers and employees were needed by the convention. He sat on many other committees, including Revenue and Taxation, the Select Committee on Frontier Affairs, the Select Committee on Education, and the Standing Committee on the Legislative Department. Of the 68 days of the convention, Ross attended 63, voted 343 times, and missed or abstained from voting only 66 times.

When the convention concluded, Ross returned home and spent the next four years focusing on his farm. In 1880, he became an accidental candidate for Texas State Senator from the 22nd District. The nominating convention deadlocked between two candidates, with neither receiving a two-thirds majority. As a compromise, one of the delegates suggested the group nominate Ross. Although no one asked Ross whether he wanted to run for office, the delegates elected him as their candidate. He agreed to the nomination to spare the trouble and expense of another convention.

Ross won the election with a large majority. Shortly after his arrival in Austin, his youngest son died. Ross returned home for a week to attend the funeral and help care for another son who was seriously ill.

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On returning to the state capital, he was assigned to the committees for Educational Affairs, Internal Improvements, Finance, Penitentiaries, Military Affairs (where he served as chairman), State Affairs, Contingent Expenses, Stock and Stock Raising, Agricultural Affairs, and Enrolled Bills. Ross introduced a petition on behalf of 500 citizens of McLennan County, requesting a prohibition amendment to be placed on the next statewide ballot; the legislature did agree to place this on the next ballot.

Although the Texas Legislature typically meets once every two years, a fire destroyed the state capitol building in November 1881, and Ross was called to serve in a special session in April 1882. The session agreed to build a new capitol building. Near the end of the special session, the Senate passed a reapportionment bill, which reduced Ross's four-year term to only two years. He declined to run again.

As early as 1884, Ross's friends, including Victor M. Rose, the editor of the newspaper in Victoria, had encouraged Ross to run for governor. He declined and asked his friend George Clark to attend the 1884 state Democratic convention to prevent Ross from being named the gubernatorial candidate. Clark had to produce written authorization from Ross to convince the delegates to nominate someone else. Ross changed his mind in late 1885, announcing his candidacy for governor on February 25, 1886. During the campaign, he was variously accused of pandering to the Greenbackers, the Republicans, and the Knights. Ross spent no money on his campaign other than traveling expenses, but still handily won the Democratic nomination. He won the general election with 228,776 votes, compared with 65,236 for the Republican candidate and 19,186 from the Prohibitionist candidate. Much of his support came from Confederate veterans.

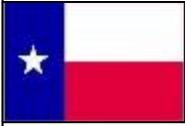
Ross became the 19th governor of Texas. His inauguration ball was held at the newly opened Driskill Hotel, a tradition followed by every subsequent Texas governor. Under the 1876 Texas Constitution, which he had helped write, the governor was granted the power to be commander-in-chief, to convene the legislature, to act as executor of the laws, to direct trade with other states, to grant pardons, and to veto bills. His campaign had focused on land use reform, as most of the frontier issues now resulted from disagreements over the use of public land, especially between farmers and ranchers concerned with water rights and grazing issues. At Ross's urging, the legislature passed laws to restore the power of the Land Office Commissioner, provide punishments for those using state lands illegally, and to catalog existing public lands.

In May 1888, Ross presided over the dedication of the new Texas State Capitol building. Later that year, Ross ran relatively unopposed for a second term. His platform included abolishing the national banking system, regulating monopolies, reducing tariffs, and allowing the railroads to regulate themselves through competition. No other Democrats placed their names in contention at the nominating convention, and the Republicans chose not to select a candidate, as they were happy



with Ross's performance. His sole competition was a Prohibitionist whom Ross defeated by over 151,000 votes. In his second inaugural address, Ross, a true Jeffersonian Democrat, maintained, "a plain, simple government, with severe limitations upon delegated powers, honestly and frugally administered, as the noblest and truest outgrowth of the wisdom taught by its founders."

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During his second term, Ross was forced to intervene in the Jaybird-Woodpecker War in Fort Bend County. Sheriff Jim Garvey feared there would be armed battles between the white supremacist Democrats (the Jaybirds) and the black men who had retained political power (who, with their white supporters, were known as Woodpeckers). At Garvey's request, Ross sent two militia companies, which managed to impose a four-month peace. In August 1889, Ross sent four Texas Rangers, including Sergeant Ira Aten, to quell the unrest. Violence erupted, leaving four people dead and injuring six, including a Ranger. Aten wired Ross for help. The following morning, the Houston Light Guard arrived and instituted martial law; that evening, Ross arrived with an Assistant Attorney General and another militia company. Ross fired all the local civil officials and called together representatives from both factions. On his suggestion, the two groups agreed to choose a mutually acceptable sheriff to replace Garvey, who had been killed in the firefight. When they could not agree on a candidate, Ross suggested Aten; both groups finally agreed, thus halting the conflict.

In March 1890, the U.A. Attorney General launched a suit in the Supreme Court against Texas to determine ownership of a disputed 1,500,000-acre plot of land in Greer County. Determined to meet personally with the Attorney General, Ross and his wife traveled to Washington, D.C., where they visited President Benjamin Harrison at the White House. Following that visit, they traveled to New York City, where they met with former president Grover Cleveland. While in New York, Ross was extremely popular with journalists. He was interviewed by several large northeastern newspapers, which recounted in detail many of his exploits along the frontier. According to his biographer Judith Brenner, the trip and the resulting exposure for Ross, "excited much interest in Texas among easterners, an interest that would eventually bear fruit in increased investment, tourism, and immigration".

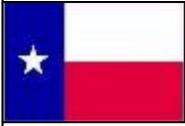
Ross declined to become the first Texas governor to run for a third term, and left office on January 20, 1891. During his four years in office, he vetoed only ten bills, and pardoned 861 people. Compared to other Texas governors, these are small numbers; Governor Miriam A. Ferguson granted 1161 pardons in just two years.

During his time in office, Ross proposed tax reform laws intended to provide for more equitable assessments of property—at that time, people were allowed to assess their own belongings with little oversight. The legislature passed his recommendations, and approved his plan to exert more control over school funds and to require local taxation to support the public schools. He also encouraged the legislature to enact antitrust laws. These were passed March 30, 1889, a full year before the federal government enacted the Sherman Antitrust Act. His reform acts were beneficial for the state, leading Ross to become the only Texas governor to call a special session of the legislature to deal with a treasury surplus.

During his term, the legislature agreed to allow the public to vote on a state constitutional amendment for the prohibition of alcohol. Ross vehemently opposed the measure, saying, "No government ever succeeded in changing the moral convictions of its subjects by force." The amendment was defeated by over 90,000 votes.

When Ross took the governor's oath of office, Texas had only four charitable institutions—two insane asylums, an institute for the blind, and an institute for the deaf and dumb. By the time he left office, Ross had supervised the opening of a state orphan's home, a state institute for deaf, dumb, and blind black children, and a branch asylum for the insane.

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JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP
CSA TEXAS GENERAL OF THE MONTH
LAWRENCE SULLIVAN ROSS



He also convinced the legislature to set aside 696 acres near Gatesville for a future open farm reformatory for juvenile offenders.

Ross was the first governor to set aside a day for civic improvements, declaring the third Friday in January to be Arbor Day, when schoolchildren should endeavor to plant trees. He also supported the legislature's efforts to purchase the Huddle portrait gallery, a collection of paintings of each governor of Texas. These paintings continue to hang in the rotunda of the Texas State Capitol.

Ross felt strongly that the state should adequately care for its veterans. During his first term, the first Confederate home in Texas was dedicated in Austin. Within two years, the facility had run out of room, so Ross served as chairman of a committee to finance a relocation to a larger facility. By August 1890, the home had collected enough money to move to a larger location.

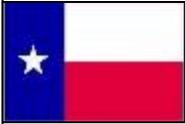
Samuel Willis Tucker Lanham was the last governor of Texas who also served as a Confederate soldier in the Civil War, January 20, 1903 to January 15, 1907.

College President: By the late 1880s, rumors abounded of "poor management, student discontent, professorial dissatisfaction, faculty factionalism, disciplinary problems, and campus scandals" at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (now Texas A&M University). The public was skeptical of the idea of scientific agriculture and the legislature declined to appropriate money for improvements to the campus because it had little confidence in the school's administrators. The board of directors decided the school, known as Texas AMC, needed to be run by an independent administrative chief rather than the faculty chairman. On July 1, 1890, the board unanimously agreed to offer the new job to the sitting governor and asked Ross to resign his office immediately. Ross agreed to consider the offer, as well as several others he had received. An unknown person informed several newspapers that Ross had been asked to become Texas AMC's president, and each of the newspapers editorialized that Ross would be a perfect fit. The college had been founded to teach military and agricultural knowledge, and Ross had demonstrated excellence in the army and as a farmer. His gubernatorial service had honed his administrative skills, and he had always expressed an interest in education.

Though Ross was concerned about the appearance of a conflict of interest, as he had appointed many of the board members who had elected him, he announced he would accept the position. As the news of his acceptance spread throughout the state, prospective students flocked to Texas AMC. Many of the men Ross had supervised during the Civil War wanted their sons to study under their former commander, and 500 students attempted to enroll at the beginning of the 1890–1891 school year. Three hundred and sixteen students were admitted, though the facilities were only designed for 250 scholars. When Ross officially took charge of the school on February 2, the campus had no running water, faced a housing shortage, was taught by disgruntled faculty, and many students were running wild.

The board of directors named Ross the treasurer of the school, and he posted a \$20,000 personal bond "for the faithful performance of his duty". In the break between school years, Ross instituted a number of changes. When students returned for the 1891–1892 school year, they found a new three-story dormitory with 41 rooms (named Ross Hall), the beginning of construction on a new home for the president, and a new building to house the machine and blacksmith shops.

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JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP
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The minimum age for enrollment decreased from 16 to 15, and Ross now personally interviewed all prospective students to determine if they should be admitted. Fees and expenses rose by \$10 per session, and the number of hours required for graduation increased, including additional hours in English grammar, sciences, mathematics, and history. Additionally, Ross would now appoint the officers for the Corps of Cadets, and the name of the company of best-drilled cadets in the Corps would change to the Ross Volunteers (from Scott Volunteers). Finally, Ross enacted an official prohibition against hazing, vowing to expel any student found guilty of the practice. Although Ross professed to enjoy his new position, he wrote to several people that directing the college "made me turn gray very fast."

Enrollment continued to rise, and by the end of his tenure, Ross requested that parents first communicate with his office before sending their sons to the school. The increase in students necessitated an improvement in facilities, and from late 1891 until September 1898, the college spent over \$97,000 on improvements and new buildings. This included construction of a mess hall, which could seat 500 diners at once, an infirmary, which included the first indoor toilets on campus, an artesian well, a natatorium, four faculty residences, an electric light plant, an ice works, a laundry, a cold storage room, a slaughterhouse, a gymnasium, a warehouse, and an artillery shed. Despite the expenditures on facilities, the school treasury held a surplus in 1893 and 1894. The 1894 financial report credited the surplus to Ross's leadership, and Ross ensured the money was returned to the students in the form of lower fees.



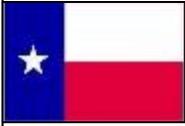
Ross was the first president of Texas AMC to live in this newly erected home.

Ross made himself accessible to students and participated in school activities whenever possible. Those around him found him "slow to condemn but ready to encourage ... [and they] could not recall hearing Ross use profanity or seeing him visibly angry." Every month, he prepared grade sheets for each student and would often call poorly performing students into his office for a discussion of their difficulties.

During Ross's seven-and-one-half year tenure, many enduring Texas A&M traditions formed. These include the first Aggie Ring and the formation of the Aggie Band. Ross's tenure also saw the school's first intercollegiate football game, played against the University of Texas.

Ross had always been an avid hunter, and he embarked on a hunting trip along the Navasota River with his son Neville and several family friends during Christmas vacation in 1897. While hunting, he suffered acute indigestion and a severe chill and decided to go home early while the others continued their sport. He arrived in College Station on December 30 and consulted a doctor. Ross remained in pain for several days, and in the early evening of January 3, 1898, he died, aged 59 years and 3 months. Although no death certificate was filed, "evidence points to a coronary heart attack as the probable cause of death." The entire Texas AMC student body accompanied Ross's body back to Waco, where Confederate veterans in gray uniforms formed an honor guard. Several thousand people attended Ross's burial at Oakwood Cemetery. To further memorialize him, students at Texas AMC held the first Silver Taps ceremony, a tradition still followed when a current student at Texas A&M dies.

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JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP
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The morning after Ross's death, the Dallas Morning News published an editorial, quoted in several biographies of Ross:

It has been the lot of few men to be of such great service to Texas as Sul Ross. ... Throughout his life he has been closely connected with the public welfare and ... discharged every duty imposed upon him with diligence, ability, honesty and patriotism. ... He was not a brilliant chieftain in the field, nor was he masterful in the art of politics, but, better than either, he was a well-balanced, well-rounded man from whatever standpoint one might estimate him. In his public relations he exhibited sterling common sense, lofty patriotism, inflexible honesty and withal a character so exalted that he commanded at all times not only the confidence but the affection of the people. ... He leaves a name that will be honored as long as chivalry, devotion to duty and spotless integrity are standards of our civilization and an example which ought to be an inspiration to all young men of Texas who aspire to careers of public usefulness and honorable renown.

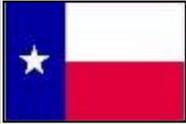


Within weeks of Ross's death, former cadets at Texas AMC began gathering funds for a monument. In 1917, the state appropriated \$10,000 for the monument, and two years later, a 10-ft bronze statue of Ross, sculpted by Pompeo Coppini, was unveiled at the center of the Texas AMC campus. In more recent years, students began the tradition of placing pennies at the feet of statue before exams for good luck. School legend states that Ross would often tutor students, and as payment would accept only a penny for their thoughts. At exam time, his statue, located in Academic Plaza, is often covered in pennies. Country singer Granger Smith, an A&M graduate, wrote a song titled *We Bleed Maroon*, with a chorus having the line "put a penny on old Sully and wish me some luck" in homage to this student tradition.

At the same time they appropriated money for the statue, the legislature established the Sul Ross Normal College, now Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. The college opened for classes in June 1920.

In 1998, a few activists on the Texas A&M campus objected to his statue on the basis that Ross might have been friends with some members of the Ku Klux Klan. As stated above, after an exhaustive search, no documented evidence has ever been found to show that Ross had any association with the Klan.

This article on Sul Ross was taken from Wikipedia and can be found online at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_Sullivan_Ross



TEXAS STATE SCV CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE
By Sanford Christian Reed
Chaplain, SCV Texas Division, ATM



CHAPLAIN'S CONNECTION
September 2017

2 Samuel 18:8 "Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself a pillar which is in the King's Valley, for he said, "I have no son to preserve my name." So he named the pillar after his own name, and it is called Absalom's Monument to this day."

We lost two important battles in San Antonio recently but our faith must not falter. Robert E. Lee High School will be renamed and the City Council voted to remove the beautiful cenotaph in Travis Park. Other monuments, schools and heritage sites across Texas and our Nation are also under attack by evil forces. When you combine this with the horrible devastation from hurricane Harvey, we all have been sent to our knees in prayer. Helping rebuild takes precedence, but many have asked "What can I do 'after the storm'?"

Cenotaphs, monuments and grave markers are well known throughout history. Our heritage, heroes and family members who have gone before us are marked for a reason. If we are to follow The Charge, we must devote some of our time and efforts to honoring and protecting them. Along with our prayers and donations of time and money to assist the hurricane victims, we will also make every effort to protect what has been left standing.

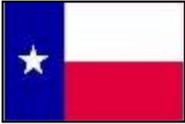
The Texas Division Guardian Program is designed for you, and as Chaplain I fully endorse it and have made it a focal point for service.

I have visited with Commander David McMahan, 1st Lt Cmdr John McCammon, Rocky Sprott, and Chairman Phil Davis and share their vision of each SCV member taking responsibility of guarding the final resting place of our Confederate graves. We are experiencing a surge in interest, and as new members come into your Camps, you should assist them in joining this program, and you will have a committed and devoted member for years to come.

Those who have Confederate ancestors buried close by are indeed blessed. But, if you do not have a family member buried in the immediate area, then find a soldier who was from the same state as your ancestor, or who fought in the same unit or brigade. Take ownership of our heritage and know that the final bivouac resting place will not be lost or forgotten, and that it is our responsibility to protect, honor, and guard them. Remember to register the grave with Rocky Sprott.

Use [FindAGrave](#) to find the cemeteries close to you, then look through the burials to see if you can find that soldier who may have been from the same state as your ancestor, or one that may have served in the same unit. When reviewing a cemetery listing of burials, focus on the date of birth, and if it is between 1805 and 1849 then then click on that grave and review it as a possible Confederate soldier. This could be the perfect Confederate soldier for you to take pride in guarding. If you can say a prayer over a grave and place a flag beside a tombstone, you are the perfect guardian. Use this application to get started now:

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TEXAS STATE SCV CHAPLAIN'S ARTICLE

By Sanford Christian Reed
Chaplain, SCV Texas Division, ATM



[Guardian Application](#)

Here is one register we use in the South Texas area that provides a full listing all the soldiers buried in the Confederate Cemetery in San Antonio. Many Camp members from this area have found a soldier to honor, but hundreds remain. Visit these great soldiers and get to know them, and it is free to click on the "Leave Flowers and a Note" at the bottom, to honor their service and bravery. You might even discover a relative. Bookmark this page for easy access:

[San Antonio Confederate Cemetery Internees](#)

Our sincere thanks, gratitude, and recognition to all who are already members of this great program. You are a source of inspiration and encouragement to us all, and may God continue to bless you and keep you and your family safe in all your endeavors.

As the storms of life continue, here is a prayer for your use that may be read when visiting the grave of a Confederate Soldier:

*With humble hearts and a sense of our responsibility, yet proud of the confidence placed in us by our Compatriots of the Sons of Confederate Veterans;
With hearts grateful for the rich heritage bequeathed to us by our fathers,
Yet also determined to be ever vigilant to preserve it,
We ask Your blessings, O God, on (name, rank, & unit)
Be with us, O God, and
Inspire us with Your wisdom, direct us in our thinking, and guide us as we work for You, our Nation, and to
Protect the memory and final resting place of our beloved Confederate Soldiers."
Amen. (salute is appropriate)*

Deo Vindice,
Sanford Christian Reed
National Genealogy Committee, SCV
Chaplain, SCV Texas Division, ATM;
Genealogist, 6th Brigade;
Gen. John Bell Hood's Texas Brigade, Camp 153;
sanfordreed@gmail.com

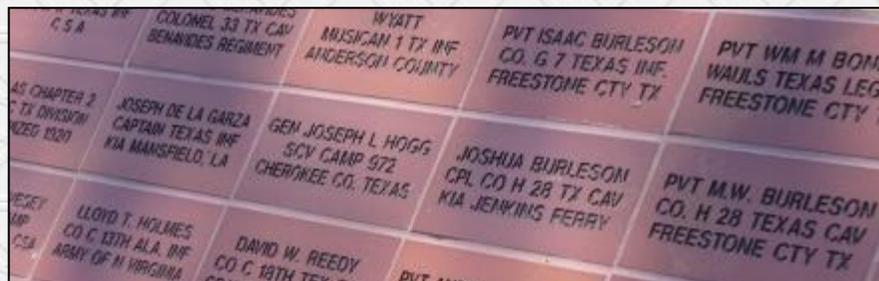




CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



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: danielyer497@yahoo.com or Phone (903) 391-2224



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



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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

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

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

Please visit our website @

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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

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

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

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

THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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

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

United Confederate Veterans

New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 3rd 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.