

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2024

COMMANDER HEITMAN'S DISPATCH



Fellow Gentlemen of the South,

I am compelled to mention the "Elephant in the Room" concerning the recent 2024 Elections. President Trump #47 won an ~ 2650 -County-to-500 -County victory. The 'red' 2024 Electoral County Map shows Conservatives voted to "conserve" the foundations of our Republic [No .. we are not a Democracy] .. with the usual smattering of urban-blue counties – thereby preventing "The Tail [500 counties] from Wagging the Dog [2650] counties].

Here in our own Texas, only ten Counties voted a democrat majority, six of which are the same crime -ridden urban blue counties with exponentially higher crime-rates than neighboring counties. It is refreshing to witness the American Voter

thinking for themselves.

On to Camp business .. At our October meeting we continued our viewing of the superb documentary Lincoln's Quest for Empire. We watched an additional 45 minutes of the two-hour documentary .. almost making it to the end of the documentary. The extra-bonus portion of this well-researched production contains another 100-minutes of interviews from the learned participants of the 2-hour documentary - my favorite part of the entire video production.

My historical scattershootin' discussion topic for this month's Dispatch discusses another Confederate General. who like last month's discussion topic, General Forrest, is an "amateur" General genius -General Richard Taylor, the Confederate Patton as aptly named by author and fellow SCV-member Dr. Samuel W. Mitchum, Jr. Taylor had no formal military education, like that of Forrest, though

he did have a rather well



John H. Reagan

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

known General and 12th U.S. President as his father, and read more about military history than any man on the American continent. It was said that "no civilian of his time was more deeply versed in the annals of war". Richard Taylor gained initial notoriety when serving under General Jackson during the famous Valley Campaign - whippin' the likes of 'political-chameleon' yankee General "Commissary" Banks, a nickname fostered by Jeb Stuart. -cont on next pg-

CAMP MEETINGS

4th Tuesday of Each Month 06:30 PM With a meal served at each meeting.

> Guests are welcome! Bring the family.

www.reaganscvcamp.org



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OCTOBER COMMANDER'S DISPATCH BY ED HEITMAN PG 2



"[General] Jackson would be ungrateful if he complained about Banks, for he has been the best commissary and quartermaster you ever had."

Promoted at Jackson's recommendation to Major-General, the 36-year-old Taylor became the youngest officer to attain the distinction and one of three who had not graduated from West Point - just like General Forrest.

Taylor again whipped-up on the true-amateur Banks two-years later and a thousand-miles away during the Red River Campaign of Louisiana. "Initiative, speed, surprise and overwhelming power at the point of attack. The value of the 'initiative' in war cannot be overstated," as Taylor writes. "The 'defensive' is weak, lowering the morale of the army .. and keeping commander and troops in a state of anxious tension."

General Taylor, like General Patton, was a strict disciplinarian, once having two enlisted men court-martialed and summarily shot before ever having gone to battle with a yankee. Such actions put an abrupt end to loosemouths in his ranks. Later in The War his Texicans, especially his mounted



Lt. General Richard Taylor

Texicans, were generally known to follow orders that suited them, when not in battle surroundings ... something Taylor learned to accept because of the fierce fighting the Texans always provided.

It could be argued that Richard Taylor had more in common with General George S. Patton, Jr than any other military figure in American history. It is said that Taylor was every bit as profane, if not more so, than Patton – not an easy accomplishment. Though, turning the "air blue" took on another level of verbal carpentry with Taylor. With his generally superior intellect .. Taylor could crush his "inferiors" employing his literary written-word talents.

The most noticeable difference betwixt the two Generals was Taylor's talents to accomplish victory with far less available to him, whether being always greatly out-numbered or severely under-supplied and poorly equipped. Taylor always fought against greater odds – generally three or four to one.

Taylor frequently ordered his troops to "... rely on the bayonet, as we have neither time nor ammunition to waste."

It is said that knowing your opponent is half the battle won, something that Taylor excelled at. Adding to that, Taylor was known as a connoisseur of soldiers and battles.

Both Patton and Taylor had a certain disdain for the 'wisdom' of their superiors. General Taylor speaks 'fondly' of his superior, General Kirby Smith, in his outstanding history of the war, *Destruction and Reconstruction*. The following excerpt drips with humorous sarcastic contempt for the 'inept' Smith: General Kirby Smith had publicly announced that Banks's army was too strong to be fought, and that the proper policy was either to defend the works protecting Shreveport, or retreat into Texas. People do not like to lose their reputations as prophets or sons of prophets. Subsequently, it was given out that General Kirby Smith had a wonderful plan for the destruction of the enemy, which I had disturbed by rashly beating his army at Mansfield and Pleasant but this plan, like Trochu's for the defense of Paris, was never disclosed ..." emphasis added

General Taylor was the "one Confederate general who possessed literary art that approached the first rank." Author - Douglas Southall Freeman.

I would attest the General was "First Rate".

Ed Heitman – Commander

Flag of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi

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The John H. Reagan Camp is requesting donations from those who would be willing to contribute financially to help keep the Confederate Heroes Memorial Plaza landscape manicured. If you would be willing to donate, please contact Richard Thornton at 903-731-1557or email tx_tsar@hotmail.com.

Prayer List

- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
- Compatriot Gary Gibson & his wife, Lynn
- Compatriot J.B. Mason
- Compatriot Doug Smith (complications from several hip surgeries)
- Past Reagan Camp Historian Gary Williams
- Former Camp Commander Rudy Ray
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Reagan Camp will have monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Commercial Bank of Texas meeting room

We will **NOT** have a meeting in November due to Thanksgiving being the week of our meeting.

The December Christmas Party will be held on December 17th at the Crockett Road Church of Christ Activity Building at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and join the fun.



Ball's Bluff Battlefield National Cemetery is the 3rd smallest national cemetery in the United States. The battle was fought on October 21, 1861 with the Confederates defeating the Yankees.

Officers for 2024

Commander - Ed Heitman

1st Lt. - David Franklin

Adjutant/Treasurer - Richard Thornton

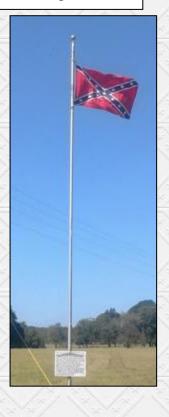
Sgt at Arms - Marc Robinson

Judge Advocate - Martin Lawrence

Chaplain - Dwight Franklin

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



"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-

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.

"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 OCTOBER MEETING PICTURES





The October Reagan Camp meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. on October 22nd. We had ten compatriots in attendance at the October meeting.

Our newsletter editor was out of town on vacation, so we were not able to get pictures of the food, but Commander Ed Heitman was able to take a couple of photos of those in attendance. We would like to thank Ed for the pictures.

The meeting started off with a delicious meal. We would like to thank Richard for the Corn Chowder, the East Texas Baked Meaty Beans, and Strawberries with Angel Food Cake; Mac for the Blue Bell Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream; Ed for the Mexican Tacos; and David for the fresh Purple Hull peas (with plenty of pork) and cornbread. We really appreciate all of these men for making sure that we had a good meal.

Thanksgiving is the week of our November meeting, so it has been cancelled.

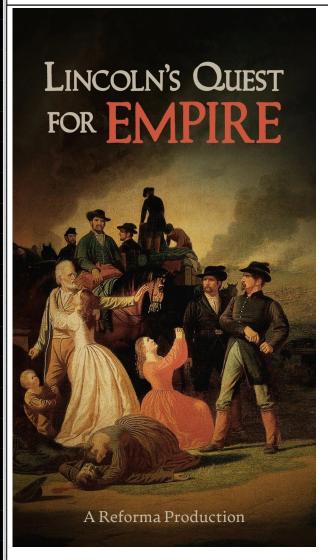
Our December Meeting (Christmas Party) will be on December 17th at 6:30pm at the Crockett Road Church of Christ. We are asking everyone to bring a favorite dish and join the fun.





SEPTEMBER HISTORICAL PROGRAM LINCOLN'S QUEST FOR EMPIRE





Commander Ed Heitman presented the 2nd part of the program he started last month with part two of a documentary titled "Lincoln's Quest for Empire".

(the program can be found at https://lincolnsquestforempire.com/)

This is a very, very interesting and informative program. It tells of a lot of changes from the beginning of the United States up until the start of the war of Northern Aggression. It goes into detail explaining changes in religion, the heavy taxation that was imposed on the southern states, the way the northern states were allowed to keep slaves while the southern states were not, and how slavery was never an issue until many, many months after the war had started. (9-22-1862)

The following is the description of the documentary from their website:

"Discover the shocking truths buried within America's untold history in this groundbreaking documentary. Featuring stunning visuals and expert analysis, "Lincoln's Quest for Empire" explores Christianity's pivotal role in American history, the fate of the Puritan faith in the North, and the rise of Northern heretical movements. Delve into the unexpected causes of the Civil War, the concealed story of antebellum slavery, and the Emancipation Proclamation's ulterior motives. Uncover the true face of Abraham Lincoln, a man revered as a national saint but led over a million Americans to their deaths. Prepare for an eye-opening journey that will change how you see America's past and present."

This is a very informative program. If you want to learn more about things that led up to the war between the states, this is one that you want to watch.

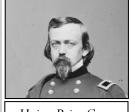
We would like to thank Ed for the program. It was full of informational facts that you don't hear in today's "Politically Correct" society. We will finish it a later meeting.



CONFEDERATE VICTORY IN OCTOBER

THE BATTLE OF BALL'S BLUFF OCTOBER 21, 1861





Union Brig. Gen. Charles P. Stone

Forces Engaged 3,429

Union 1,720 1,709 Confederate

Estimated Casualties 1,157

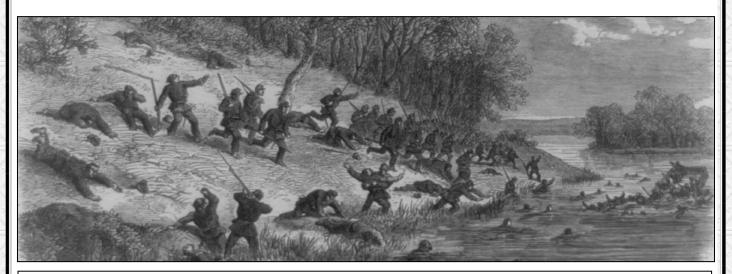
Union 1002 Confederate 155



Confederate Col. Nathan G. Evans

On the evening of October 20, 1861, Union army commander George B. McClellan ordered Gen. Charles Stone to send a scouting party across the Potomac River to identify the positions of Confederate Col. Nathan Evans's troops near Leesburg. In the darkness the party's inexperienced leader, Capt. Chase Philbrick, mistook a line of trees for a line of tents, and reported that he had stumbled across an unguarded Confederate camp. Early the next day, Col. Charles Devens was sent across the river to attack the camp, and after realizing that the supposed "camp" was nothing but a line of trees, his men encountered a company of Mississippi infantry and a skirmish began. Col. Edward Baker, a U.S. Senator, decided to reinforce Devens, but with only four small boats available to transport men, Union reinforcements arrived slowly. Evans used the Federal delay to organize his men, and when Col. Baker was killed in the afternoon, Union resistance crumbled. The victorious Confederates drove the Yankees over the bluff and into the Potomac, where many drowned and hundreds surrendered rather than risk escape into the river.

The battle, while small in scale, had major political implications that would haunt the Union army for the rest of the war.



The picture above depicts the Confederates driving the Yankees into the Potomac River.

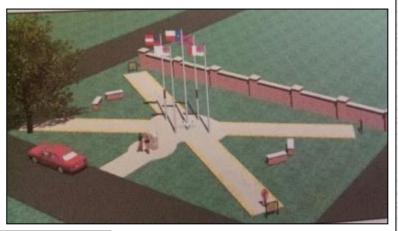


A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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

SCV CAMP #2156

PALESTINE TEXAS

WILLIAM C FRANKLIN	JOHN DANIEL LILES	WILLIAM J. CHAFFIN
CO D 12 BTTN ARK	PVT	CO H 5 TEX CAV CSA
SHARP SHOOTERS	DIED 4 25 1865 POW	1829 - 1908
JASPER N. CARNES	RICHARD A. HODGES	ANDREW J BEAUCHAMP
CO B 8 REGIMENT	CO K 22 TX INF CSA	CO F 13 TEX INF
TEXAS INFANTRY	1833 - 1905	12-9-1834 9-1-1894
JACOB L. SHERIDAN	JOHN H. SHERIDAN	COL A.T. RAINEY
CAPT CO I 1ST REGT	PVT. CO I 1ST REGT	CO. H 1 TEX. INF.
TEXAS INFANTRY	TEXAS INFANTRY	HOOD'S TEX. BRIG
L. E. SHERIDAN	PVT WM. N SHERIDAN	STEPHEN O. RAINEY
PVT. CO I 1ST REGT	CO C 6 BATTALION	CAPTAIN
TEXAS INFANTRY	TEXAS CALVARY	1ST BATT TEX CAV

PVT. R. M. LUMMUS
53 GEORGIA INF.
COMPANY B C.S.A

PVT ALLEN G TURNER
CO A 7TH BATTALION
MISS INF. CSA

WILLIAM H. CRIST
COMPANY 1 7 TX CAV
C.S.A.

PVT ALLEN G TURNER
CO A 7TH BATTALION
MISS INF. CSA

WILLIAM H. DYER
PVT CO K MISS INF
C.S.A.

PVT WM. H. FOSTER

CO. H 1ST TEX INF

DIED AS POW OCT 63

Above are some pictures of some of the pavers in the plaza. If you would like to purchase a paver for your ancestor, you can pick what you want to have inscribed on it. These pictures will give you some ideas to what you might want on your paver.

*

ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR OCTOBER 2024

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 undated - to his wife: I am opposed to officers surrounding themselves with their sons & relatives.	2 Oct 1865 - at Washington college I shall devote my remaining energies to training young men to do their duty in life.	3 Oct, 1865 - to Gen Beauregard: The South requires the aid of her sons now more than at any period of her history.	4 Undated - to Gen Beauregard Every one should do all in his power to collect & disseminate the truth in the hope that it may find a place in history & descend to posterity.	5 Undated - War is a terrible alternative & should be the very, very last resort.
6 Oct, 1865 - to R.H. Chilton I have entered upon the duties of my new office, in the hope of being of some service; but I should prefer to be on a small farm.	7 Oct, 1865 - to wife: I am sorry the armies cannot keep with the expectations of the editors of papers. I know they can regulate matters satisfactorily on paper. I wish they could do so in the field.	8 Oct, 1852 - to Markie: carry a brave as well as true heart for every occasion of life.	9 Oct, 1865 - Life is gliding away & I have nothing good to show for mine that is past. I pray I may be spared to accomplish something for the benefit of mankind & the honour of God.	10 undated If I could only have my children around me, I could be happy	11 undated - Charity should have no beginning or ending.	12 Oct, 1870 - Lee died at 9:30 Strike the tent!
13 Oct, 1870 - from Mrs. Lee: I have never so truly felt the purity of his character as now, when I have nothing left but his memory.	14 undated - to Anna Fitzhugh: A man may manifest & communicate his joy, but he should conceal & smother his grief as much as possible.	15 Undated - My only pleasure is in my solitary evening rides, which give me abundant opportunity for quiet though	16 Oct, 1837 - to wife: I pray God to watch over & direct our efforts in guarding our dear son, that we may bring him up 'in the way he should go.'	17 Undated - Human virtue should be equal to human calamity	18 Undated - no honest man can take long to deliberate which side he will choose.	19 Undated - to Rooney: We mus unite in doing our duty & earnestly work to extract what good we can out of the evil that now hangs over our dear land.
20 Undated - to wife: Our little boy seems to have the reputation of being hard to manage, a distinction not at all desirable, as it indicates self-will & obstinacy.	21 Undated - to Robert: You could raise money on your farm only by mortgaging it, which would put you in debt at the beginning of life, & I fear in the end would swallow up your property.	22 Oct, 1837 - to Jack Mackay: Life is too short for them [his children] & their mother to be in one place, & I in another.	23 Undated - to Gen Beauregard: I fear the South has yet to suffer many evils, & it will require time, patience, & fortitude to heal her affliction.	24 Undated - to Robert: I am clear for your marrying, if you select a good wife; otherwise you had better remain as you are.	25 Oct, 1864 - to Wife: I am glad you had the opportunity of partaking of the blessed communion. May it serve to keep our Redeemer in our hearts & minds.	26 Oct, 1862 - to wife: I cannot express the anguish feel at the death of our sweet Annie. To know that I shall never see her again on earth is agonizing in the extreme.
27 Undated - to Gen. Longstreet: I am of the opinion that all should vote for the most intelligent, honest, & conscientious men eligible to office, irrespective of former party opinions.	28 Oct, 1863 - to wife: I am glad you have some socks for the army. Tell the girls to send all they can. We have thousands of barefooted men.	29 Oct, 1865 - to Mildred: Traveller is my only companion; I may also say my pleasure. He & I, whenever practicable, wander out in the mountains.	30 Oct, 1865 - to Robert: If I find I can accomplish no good for her [Washington College], I will endeavor to pursue the course to which my inclinations point [farming].	31 Undated - to Robert: We must not, however, yield to difficulties, but strive the harder to overcome them.		



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP







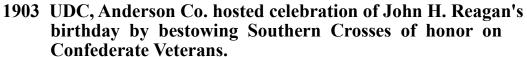
Oct. 8, 1818 Birth of John H. Reagan in Sevier County, Tenn.







Oct.29, 1877 John H. Reagan appointed Chairman of Committee on Commerce in U.S. House of Rep.







JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN OCTOBER



From the Texas State Historical Association

October 4 - On this day in 1862, on the second day of the battle of Corinth, Mississippi, Confederate General Earl Van Dorn called for a series of headlong frontal attacks against a heavily fortified federal position. Col. William Peleg Rogers of the Second Texas Infantry was ordered to lead the vanguard of the assault on Battery Robinett, a small fort anchoring the center of the Union line. After one bloody repulse, Rogers led a second desperate charge. Remaining on horseback in the face of a barrage of cannon and musket fire, and finally carrying the regimental colors himself, Rogers reached the deep trench fronting Battery Robinett, dismounted, and led several hundred Texans and Alabamans down into the trench, up the steep embankment, and into the fort. Suddenly federal reinforcements closed in from both flanks. Rogers shouted, "Men, save yourselves or sell your lives as dearly as possible." A few seconds later he was struck by multiple rifle shots and died instantly. Scores of others fell with him, and the battle soon ended. The Second Texas Infantry had lost more than half its numbers in casualties. The failure of Rogers's attack sealed Van Dorn's defeat at Corinth. In a remarkable tribute to Rogers's personal bravery, Union general William S. Rosecrans ordered his burial attended with full military honors, a ceremony normally reserved only for Confederate general officers.

Oct 8 - John H. Reagan's Birthday. (He was born in 1818 & passed away March 6, 1905).

Oct 12 - On this day in 1870, Robert E. Lee passed away.

October 23 - On this day in 1863, the First Texas Cavalry, USA, left New Orleans for South Texas as part of the Union effort to interdict the lucrative trade between Confederate Texas and Mexico. The First was one of two regiments of Unionist cavalry from Texas to serve in the Civil War; the Second was formed in Brownsville after the Rio Grande campaign got underway. Loyalty to the Union was anything but a major consensus in Texas during the Civil War. A total of 1,915 Texas men served the Union cause, in contrast to the many thousands who served the Confederacy. Brownsville was a center of Unionist sentiment. Significant numbers of civilians who supported the North fled to the lower Rio Grande, where a provisional state government was set up under Andrew J. Hamilton, and where Edmund J. Davis and others recruited cavalrymen for the North. Davis had formed the First Texas Cavalry, USA, in New Orleans in 1862. In November 1864 the regiment was merged with the Second into the First Texas Volunteer Cavalry. This new twelve-company regiment engaged in patrolling and reconnaissance duties until the end of the war, and was mustered out of service on November 4, 1865.



CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION





The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza had the official opening and dedication on April 13,2013. It is a beautiful Memorial to the Confederate Veterans. Although it is open for visitors, there is still room along the sidewalks for you to purchase a brick paver in the name of your confederate ancestor. This will ensure that your ancestor's service to the confederacy will not be forgotten, but will be remembered for years to come. If you would like to make a donation for a paver, please contact Commander Ed Heitman, E-mail: edheitman@gmail.com; Phone: (903-504-6674) or Dan Dyer at E-mail: danieldyer497@yahoo.com; Phone: (903) 391-2224 or Richard Thornton, Adjutant/ Treasurer at E-mail: tx_tsar@hotmail.com



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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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: 4th Tuesday Each Month - 06:30 PM Meal served at each meeting.

Commercial Bank of Texas on the corner of N. Mallard & E. Lacy Street

The Bank is located just south of the Anderson County Courthouse Annex.