



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2024

COMMANDER HEITMAN'S DISPATCH



Fellow Gentlemen of the South,

For at least the last 40 years of my life, one of the great appeals of Shelby Foote has been his vast knowledge of American History .. more specifically Southern History .. and his anecdotal tenderizing of undistilled historical fact versus today's trendy 'Historians' .. that manufacture fashionable history by omission or misrepresentation.

Nothing affirms this more than his comment about how Americans today unconsciously use the singular verb when they speak of the United States. "The United States is ..." versus how our ancestors said "The United States are ..."

Possibly today's fashionable-historians should describe The War as 'The Verb War' .. or 'The Northern War Against Plurals'. For the first seventy-years of our history as an independent nation, These United States ARE each a separate part of the Constitutional Compact which forms our united Republic - A Republic composed of separate Republics.

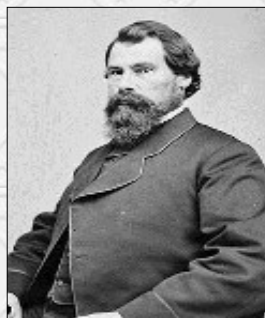
As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, I planned to and did attend the 160th Anniversary Commemoration of the

Battle of Mansfield [La.]. The speakers at the event were worth the travel efforts alone. The now retired park supervisor for the battlefield state park, Scott Dearman, had a superb presentation replete with little-known facts about the battle .. that students of the battle like myself did not know.

It will please you to know that the good guys .. again .. [very literally - those defending their homes and families] won a resounding victory .. for the 160th straight-time.

Natchitoches provided a delightful respite, as always, from the toils of travel through the Pine Curtain of east Texas and western Louisiana. Though, I must say, it seems to get harder and harder to find locals of Natchitoches Parish whom recall the tragic event of September 20th - 1973 .. when Jim Croce and five others perished in a plane crash just beyond the runway at Natchitoches' Regional Airport. Jim and his fellow passengers were flying to Sherman, Texas to perform a concert at Austin College.

I have included a few photos from the Mansfield Anniversary. I did have a delightful time sitting in the "Cigar Section" of the crowd during the speaker's presentation .. which gave me the opportunity to discuss important matters pertaining to the best Dominican tobaccos .. with our SCV Commander-in-



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

Chief [Jason Boshers].
Donnie Kennedy [SCV Lt.
Commander-in-Chief] sat
in the sun rather than be
downwind to our
indulgences.

Last but certainly not least,
I visited the R.L. Dabney
Camp meeting [April 30th]
and watched a portion of
the documentary Lincoln's
Quest For Empire. I
HIGHLY recommend this
enlightening documentary.
The title probably best
describes its content.

Like the Dabney Camp .. I
suggest we watch this 2-
hour video [at our Camp
meeting] spread out over
several meetings.

Hope to see you at the May
meeting.

Ed Heitman - Commander

CAMP MEETINGS

~~4th Tuesday of Each Month~~
06:30 PM
With a 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.

Guests are welcome!

Bring the family.

www.reaganscvcamp.org

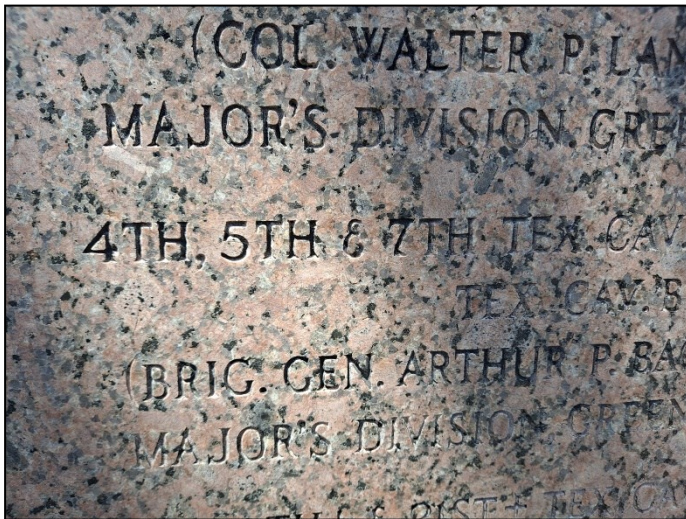
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PICTURES ED TOOK AT THE 160TH Anniversary of the Battle of Mansfield





PICTURES ED TOOK AT THE 160TH Anniversary of the Battle of Mansfield



People want to know why the South is so interested in the Civil War. I had maybe, it's a rough guess, about fifty fistfights in my life. Out of those fifty fistfights, the ones that I had the most vivid memory of were the ones I lost. I think that's one reason why the South remembers the war more than the North does.

— Shelby Foote —

Ed's Great-Grandfather William Ferguson and three of his brothers fought at the Mansfield Battlefield



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 903-731-1557 or 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

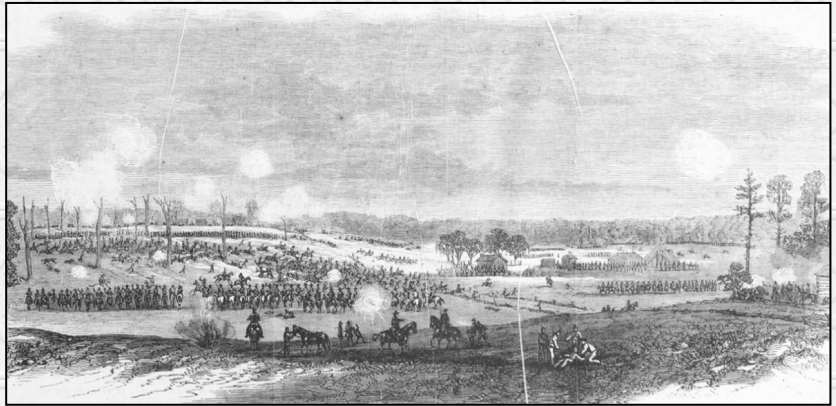
The Reagan Camp will have monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Commercial Bank of Texas meeting room

May 28, 2024 - Camp Meeting 6:30 pm

June 25, 2024 - Camp Meeting 6:30 pm

July 23, 2024 - Camp Meeting 6:30 pm

August 27, 2024 - Camp Meeting 6:30 pm



The Battle of Mansfield was held on April 8, 1864. 9,000 Confederates engaged and defeated 12,000 Union forces in a Confederate victory that drove the Yankees all the way back to New Orleans. There were an estimated 3,117 casualties with 2,117 of those being Union soldiers. This victory ensured that the people of Louisiana & Texas would not be attacked again during the War of Northern Aggression.

Officers for 2024

Commander - Ed Heitman

1st Lt. - David Franklin

Adjutant/Treasurer - Richard Thornton

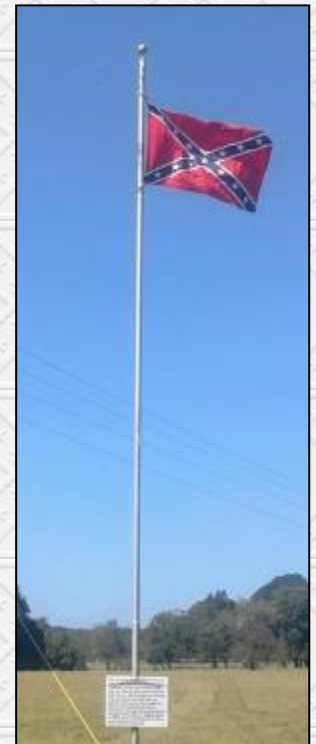
Sgt at Arms - Marc Robinson

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



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

APRIL MEETING PICS



Far left: Mac McGuyer brought a dozen enchiladas with beans & rice ,

Left: Richard Thornton brought a Chocolate cake.

Right: Ed Heitman brought home made Cucumber Salad.



The Reagan Camp's April meeting was held on April 23, 2024 in the Commercial Bank of Texas Community Room. We had 9 members in attendance at the April meeting. We had a FEAST this month. We would like to thank Mac McGuyer, Ed Heitman, Richard Thornton, Marc Robinson, David Franklin, Charles Steen, and Dwight Franklin for all the delicious food. We had enough to feed 50 people, and everything was great!

Commander Heitman explained to us that we need to have our annual dues paid by no later than July 31st. We should be getting our notices in the mail during the next month or two.

Next month's meeting will be held on May 28th at 6:30pm. Andrew Petty will present the historical program "A Picture Worth A Thousand Words: Repainting History in the Battle of Atlanta."



Above: Fried Chicken by Ed Heitman. Cornbread brought by David Franklin

Below: Pinto Beans & Ham by Dwight Franklin

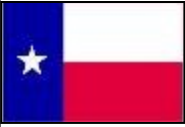


Left: Casserole by Richard Thornton.

Potato Salad by Marc Robinson

Shep's Potato Salad by Charles





JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

APRIL HISTORICAL PROGRAM



Compatriot Mac McGuyer presented this month's Historical Program with "Part 2" from the book, "Come Retribution". Where his program last month was about the Confederate Secret Service, this month's program was about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Up until the summer of 1864, leaders had an unwritten agreement that the assassination of opposing leaders would not be attempted. The Confederates were able to see that this had all changed when they found papers during the Dahlgren Raid that told of a plan to assassinate Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

John Wilkes Booth was only mentioned once in the first 250 pages of the book, but all that changed. The book, "Come Retribution", had a lot of detail about the plans of Booth after the first 250 pages. Booth went to Canada and organized a plan to abduct Abraham Lincoln. This plan had a train on standby to bring them from the Potomac to Ashland. Custus Lee was charged with guarding the escape route. In order to have the man power needed, Custus Lee took soldiers who had lived in that area and put them on furlough. This would allow them to be mobilized into a security force very quickly if needed. In the 500 page book, there was no evidence that Jefferson Davis ever authorized this attempt. But he did authorize a lot of money that went to some of those involved.



Mac said that Robert E. Lee and Confederate troops were in favor of allowing blacks to be enlisted in the Confederate Army. The south even agreed to abolish slavery if the north would agree to allow the Confederate States succession from the Union. Lincoln would not agree to their requests.

At the end of March 1865, the plan to kidnap Lincoln was changed to assassination. John Surratt and Lewis Thornton Powell checked out the theater for the attempt. Booth would assassinate Lincoln. He assigned George Atzerodt to kill Vice President Andrew Johnson, who was staying at the Kirkwood Hotel which was a few blocks from Ford's Theatre. Lewis Powell was assigned to kill Secretary of State William Seward.

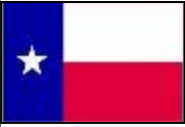
Atzerodt lost his nerve and began drinking at the Kirkwood bar. He was later found wandering the streets of the city through the night. He fled Washington and was arrested on April 20th. He was apprehended at the house of his cousin, Hartman Richter in Germantown, Md. He was riding Booth's horse. He was tried and convicted for conspiracy to commit murder and executed by hanging on July 7, 1865.

Lewis Powell entered the Secretary of State's home in Lafayette Square and severely injured Seward and others in the



house. He was arrested at Mary Surratt's tavern, tried and convicted. He was executed by hanging on July 7, 1865.

It should be known that Booth felt that Tyrannicide (the killing of a tyrant) was justified. (Side note: The Virginia state flag displays the state motto, (Latin) "Sic Semper Tyrannis", which is Latin for, "This Always to Tyrants".) According to what Mac read in the book, Booth wanted to assassinate Lincoln before the 1864 election. He was not able to do so. Booth met Dr. Samuel Mudd several times before meeting up with him after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

APRIL HISTORICAL PROGRAM



Another participant in the assassination plot was David Herold. His role was to assist Powell by guiding him to Secretary of State Seward's home. He was supposed to help Seward escape after he killed Seward, but after hearing the screams coming from the home of Seward, Herold fled. He met up with Booth in Maryland and was captured with Booth at Garrett's farm. He was tried in Washington D.C. where he was convicted and hanged on July 7, 1865.

After killing Lincoln, Booth broke his leg when he jumped off the stage but still managed to escape. How he could escape the crowd with a broken leg is still a mystery, but he did. Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd treated the leg, made him a splint, and allowed Booth and Herold to spend the night at his house. Mudd later insisted that he didn't know that Booth had assassinated Lincoln, but he was tried and convicted of conspiring to kill Lincoln. He was given a life sentence at hard labor. He was sent to do his time at Fort Jefferson in Florida. President Andrew Johnson pardoned Mudd in 1869.

Even though General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to the Union Army four days earlier, Booth and his group of conspirators went ahead with their plans. Booth killed President Lincoln by shooting him in the back of the head. Secretary of State William H. Seward was severely wounded, and Vice president Johnson was never attacked. Booth fled on horseback to Southern Maryland. He was tracked down and killed in Northern Virginia twelve days later. David Herold surrendered, but Booth maintained a standoff in a barn. He was shot in the neck by Union soldier Boston Corbett and died a few hours later.

Of the eight conspirators later convicted, four of them were soon hanged. See picture on the right.

A Military Commission composed of nine Union officers was convened on May 9, 1865 at the old penitentiary on the grounds of the Washington Arsenal (not Fort Leslie J. McNair) to try eight people on a charge of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth and others to murder President Lincoln. The specification listed the names of the accused as follows: David E. Herold, Edward Spangler, Lewis Payne (who was actually Powell), Michael O'Laughlin, Samuel Arnold, Mary E. Surratt, George A. Atzerodt, and Samuel A. Mudd. All were found guilty on June 30th. Herold, Powell, Atzerodt, and Mrs. Surratt were sentenced to death by hanging. Arnold O'Laughlin and



Mudd were sentenced to life in prison. Spangler was given a six year sentence. The hangings took place on the penitentiary grounds on the afternoon of July 7, 1865. Left to right in the photograph above, of those being hanged are: Mrs. Surratt, Powell, Herold, and Atzerodt. The photo above is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

We appreciate Mac for the interesting historical program. Everyone really enjoyed it.

Next month's program will be held on May 28th at 6:30 p.m. Andrew Petty will present the program, "A Picture Worth A Thousand Words: Repainting History in the Battle of Atlanta."



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

“THE SURRENDER”



"The Surrender" painting by Keith Rocco shows Generals Lee and Grant shaking hands near the end of the meeting.

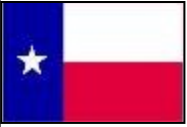
THE SURRENDER—APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

The parlor of the Wilmer McLean home where General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to General U.S. Grant—April 9, 1865

“I have always observed that you can tell the character of a man by his eyes, & I would be willing to stake my farm and all I am worth upon the statement that there never was a person with such eyes as General Lee’s who was not an honest man...”

Corporal Shabrach, Army of N. Va.—letter to his sons



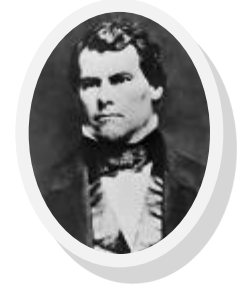


JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

APRIL IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN



April 15, 1857 JH Reagan announced in letter to Oran M. Roberts That he would accept any nomination conferred by Conferred by State Demo. Convention.



April 12, 1859 JH Reagan issued circular at end of 1st term as U.S. Rep.: clarified his pro-union stand and Intention to run for re-election



April 17, 1859 JH Reagan praised by Sam Houston as a man of “genius, integrity, and industry” in Dallas Herald for his pro- Union views.

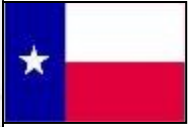


April 29, 1867 Pres. Andrew Johnson’s pardon of JH Reagan for his Part in the Civil War.

April 3, 1891 Texas railroad Commission Created by State Leg. John H. Reagan became 1st Chairman



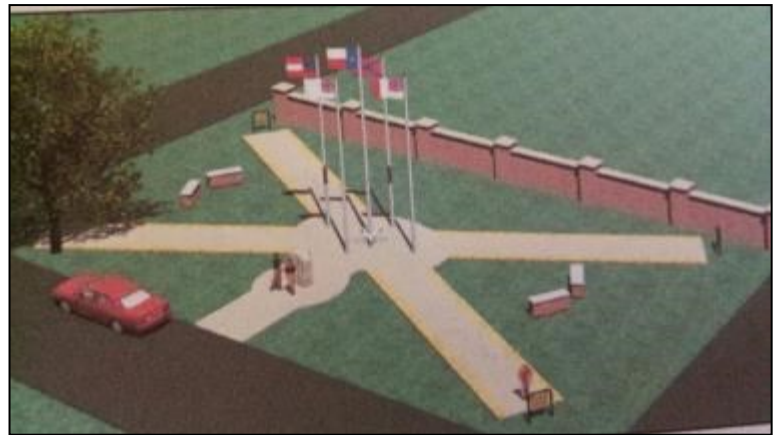
April 18, 1891 US president Benj. Harrison, wife and party reached Palestine in 5 car special train; Gov. Hogg and JH Reagan boarded train.



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.



WILLIAM C FRANKLIN CO D 12 BTNN ARK SHARP SHOOTERS	JOHN DANIEL LILES PVT DIED 4 25 1865 POW	WILLIAM J. CHAFFIN CO H 5 TEX CAV CSA 1829 - 1908
JASPER N. CARNES CO B 8 REGIMENT TEXAS INFANTRY	RICHARD A. HODGES CO K 22 TX INF CSA 1833 - 1905	ANDREW J BEAUCHAMP CO F 13 TEX INF 12-9-1834 9-1-1894

JOHN H. REAGAN SCV CAMP #2156 PALESTINE TEXAS	PVT WM. H. FOSTER CO. H 1ST TEX INF DIED AS POW OCT 63
GEORGE KNOX GIBSON PVT. CO. B 12TH TEXAS CAVLRY, CSA	WILLIAM H. CRIST COMPANY I 7 TX CAV C.S.A.

JACOB L. SHERIDAN CAPT CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	JOHN H. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	COL. A.T. RAINEY CO. H 1 TEX. INF. HOOD'S TEX. BRIG
L. E. SHERIDAN PVT. CO I 1ST REGT TEXAS INFANTRY	PVT WM. N SHERIDAN CO C 6 BATTALION TEXAS CALVARY	STEPHEN O. RAINEY CAPTAIN 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
SGT. AMOS G. HANKS CO F. 1ST TEX INF HOODS BRIGADE CSA	WILLIAM H. DYER PVT CO K MISS INF C.S.A.


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

APRIL 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 April 1, 1849 To Markie: Business drives entirely away pleasure	2 April 2, 1870 To Wife: My visit to dear Annie's grave was mournful, yet soothing to my feelings.	3 undated—to Markie: We are all prone I think to undervalue the gifts of a merciful God.	4 April 4, 1857 This is Easter Sunday. I hope you have been able to attend Church. My own have been performed alone in my tent, I hope with a humble, grateful & penitent heart.	5 April 5, 1865 The army of Northern Virginia arrived here today, expecting to find plenty of provisions, but to my surprise & regret I find not a pound of subsistence for man or horse.	6 undated—If the Union is dissolved & the Government disrupted, I shall return to my native State & share the miseries of my people, & save in defense will draw my sword on none.
7 April 7, 1866 to Markie: I am easily wearied now, & look forward with joy to the time, which is fast approaching, that I can lay [sic] down & rest	8 April 8, 1869 to Henry L. Smith Nothing is more instructive than the perusal of the deeds of men in other ages.	9 April 9, 1865 Men, we have fought through the war together; I have done my best for you; my heart is too full to say more.	10 April 10, 1865 to his men: After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage & fortitude, the Army of Northern Va. has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers.	11 April 11, 1870 to wife: We must hope for the best, speak little and act discreetly as possible.	12 April 12, 1865 to Jeff Davis: With pain I announce to your Excellency the surrender of the Army of Northern Va. I deemed this course the best. The enemy was five times our numbers.	13 April 13, 1851 to Custis: Cleanliness, temperance & order is [sic] very promotive of health & cheerfulness.
14 undated—I am considered such a monster, that I hesitate to darken with my shadow, the doors of those I love lest I should bring them misfortune	15 undated to A.W. Hope: Thank them most heartily for their kindness in providing me with a book [the Bible] in comparison with which all others in my eyes, are of minor importance.	16 April 16, 1865 to Matthew Brady: It is impossible, Mister Brady, how can I sit for a photograph with eyes of the world upon me as they are today!	17 undated— Oppose constancy to adversity, fortitude to suffering & courage to danger.	18 undated—I consider the character of no man affected by the want of success, provided he has made an honest effort to succeed.	19 April 19, 1857 to Mary Lee: I know in whose powerful hands I am, & on Him I rely & feel that in all our life we are upheld & sustained by Divine Providence.	20 undated—To Agnes: Do not forget your Papa, who thinks constantly of you & longs to see you more than he can express.
21 undated— Military discipline is, unfortunately, necessary in military education, but it is a most unsuitable training for civil life.	22 undated—to Custis: Shake off those gloomy feelings. Drive them away. Fix your mind & pleasures upon what is before you. All is bright if you will think it so.	23 April 23, 1864 To wife—Our life in this world is of no value except to prepare us for a better. That should be our constant aim & the end of all our efforts.	24 undated— Read history & works of truth—not novels & romances. They print beauty more charming than nature & describe happiness that never exists.	25 undated—A child is more readily taught by having before it good examples to imitate than by simple precepts. He should therefore, be encouraged to associate with his parents.	26 undated— One of the errors in the management of children is irregularity of behavior towards them.	27 April 27, 1853 to Wife: It is for you, your poor father, the children, relatives, & friends I grieve. Not for her. She has gone from all the trouble & sorrow to a happy immortality.
28 undated—The love of truth is equal in importance to habitual obedience.	29 undated— Sentiments of religion should be early impressed upon the minds of children by personal explanation & systematic instruction.	30 undated — Nothing good can be acquired in this world without labour; & that the very necessities & comforts of life must be pursued by earnest & regular exertion.				



Letter from John H. Reagan to Clark, April 1861

(Circular Letter, No. 1.)

[Apr. 1861]

Confederate States of America,
Post Office Department.

Montgomery, ----- 1861.

Sir:

It is the wish of this government that all postmasters and other employees in the postal service should continue to perform their duties as such, and render all their accounts and pay all moneys to the order of the government of the United States, as they have heretofore done, until the government of the Confederate States shall be prepared to assume the entire control of its postal affairs. This will be done as soon as practicable. But the causes of delay incident to the organization of the department are such as to place it out of my power to determine definitely when the new service will be substituted for the old.

Any attempt to mix the employees of the two governments, in the same service, would be wholly impracticable. And no removals or appointments of postmasters, or others, in the postal service, will be made by this department, nor will it receive returns relating to or moneys derived from the postal service, until it shall assume the entire control of the service.

If the government of the United States should cease to carry on this service, before this department shall be organized and prepared to take charge of it, no great shock to the public interests will be produced by such a course, as the Postmaster General is authorized to continue, provisionally, by proclamation, the present postmasters, and others in the postal service, in office, and to continue existing contracts for carrying the mails, until new appointments and new contracts can be made.

We must regard the carrying of our mails, at this time, by that government, as a great public necessity to the people of both governments, resulting from their past intimate political, commercial and social relations, and alike important to the preservation of the present interests of the people of both countries. And while that government, by its action, consults such considerations, our government and people should act with the same high regard for great public interests. Such a course on our part, springing from such motives, will preserve the character of our people, without impairing the dignity of our government, and may lead to the transfer of our postal service from the control of the old to that of the new government, with far less injury to the people of both, than would necessarily flow from precipitate and inconsiderate action on the part of either.

I am, very respectfully,

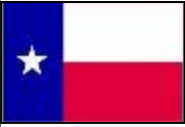
Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. REAGAN,

Postmaster-General.

To *Governor of Texas*
Austin
Tex





JOHN HENNIGER REAGAN CONFEDERATE POSTMASTER

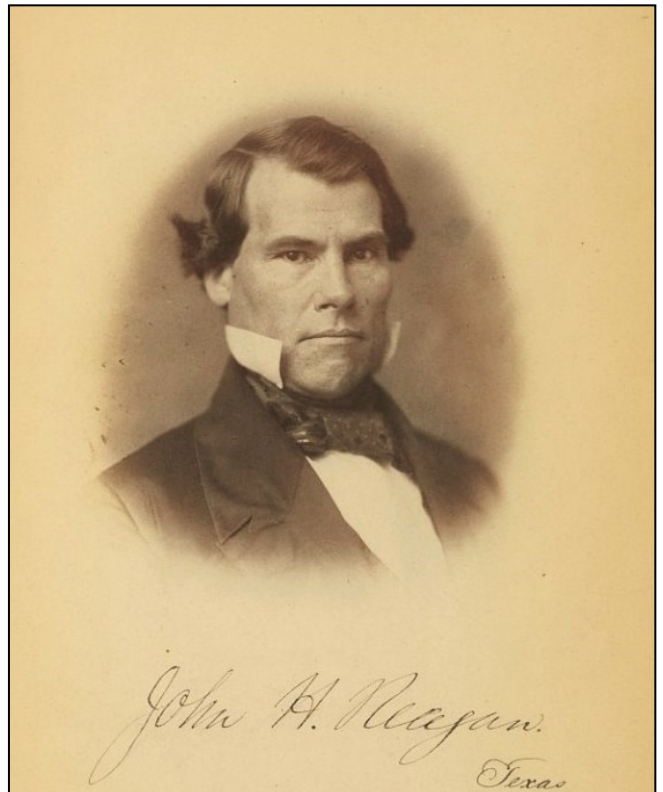


In addition to the misery caused by battle, the Civil War disrupted many everyday aspects of life. The Confederacy struggled to take over ordinary government services such as postal delivery. John Henniger Reagan, a former U.S. Congressman from East Texas, was appointed postmaster general of the Confederacy. In this letter, Reagan instructs the governors of the Confederate states to continue to pay their accounts to the U.S. postal service as before until a Confederate postal service could be organized.

U.S. postal service to the Confederacy was cut off on May 31, 1861. Although Reagan was an able administrator, Confederate postal service throughout the war was exceedingly poor. Very few stamps were issued, and delivery was handicapped by Federal control of the Mississippi River, destruction of railroads, blockade by sea, and invading army by land. Most people came to rely on travelers and soldiers on furlough as an informal alternative to the postal service.

At war's end, Reagan went on the run with other officials of the former Confederacy. Eventually, he was arrested along with Jefferson Davis and former Texas governor Francis R. Lubbock. During his imprisonment, he recognized the reality of the Confederacy's defeat and wrote an open letter to his fellow Texans urging them to recognize the authority of the United States and to renounce secession and slavery. Pardoned and released, he returned to Texas in December 1865, only to find himself the object of scorn for his conciliatory stance.

Events proved Reagan right, and he eventually won the nickname the "Old Roman" as a compliment to his willingness to sacrifice personal popularity for the greater good. He was reelected to Congress in 1874, and became a United States Senator in 1887. In 1891, he became the chairman of the newly formed Railroad Commission, which became a uniquely powerful body in regulating not only railroads, but many other aspects of the Texas economy. He retired in 1903 and died in 1905.





TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN APRIL



From the Texas State Historical Association— <https://texasdaybyday.com/#feedCarousel>

April 8th, 1864: On this day, Confederate forces under Richard Taylor defeated a much larger Union force at the battle of Mansfield, Louisiana. Union general Nathaniel Banks had gathered an army of some 17,000 Federal troops to advance up the Red River to Alexandria and Shreveport, hoping to cut off the flow of supplies from Texas and to capture large quantities of cotton. General Taylor, commanding a Confederate force of Texas and Louisiana units, attacked the long, 12,000-man Union column three miles south of Mansfield with an army of 8,800 men. Taylor's force killed or wounded 700 Union soldiers, captured 1,500, and took 20 Union cannons and 200 wagons. About 1,000 Confederates were killed or wounded. It was one of the most humiliating Union defeats of the war. The following day Taylor's army was repulsed when it attacked the Union army at Pleasant Hill. Nevertheless, stung by his defeat on the 8th and convinced that Taylor's army was much larger than it was, Banks gave the order to retire on the night of April 9.

April 15th, 1869: the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Texas v. White* that the state still had the right to sue in the federal courts despite having seceded in 1861. In a suit originally filed by the state in 1867, George Paschal argued on behalf of the state for an injunction preventing defendants George W. White, John Chiles, and others from transferring bonds they received from the secession-era Texas State Military Board for supplying the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. The most historically significant question involved was whether or not Texas, having seceded and not having completed Reconstruction, had status in the Union and therefore the right to sue in the United States Supreme Court. Paschal argued that the Union was indestructible and that the state's status in the Union therefore had been unchanged by the war. The defense argued that Texas by seceding from the Union and later waging a war against the United States, had lost the status of a state in the Union and therefore had no right to sue in the United States Supreme Court. In its five-to-three decision, read by Chief Justice S.P. Chase, the court held the Union to be indestructible and thus not dissoluble by any act of a state, the government, or the people. The court thus repudiated the doctrine of state sovereignty.

April 20th, 1928: On this day, Felix Huston Robertson died in Waco. Robertson, the only Texas-born general officer to serve the Confederacy, was born in 1839 at Washington-on-the-Brazos. His father, Jerome Bonaparte Robertson, also fought in the Civil War, and was for a time commander of Hood's Texas Brigade. Felix Robertson was appointed brigadier general in 1864. He was a harsh disciplinarian whose savage punishments and Indian-like features earned him the sobriquet "Comanche Robertson." The most controversial incident of his military tenure occurred in Saltville, Virginia. There, on October 3, 1864, troops under Robertson's command killed well over 100 wounded, mostly black survivors of a Union attack. Though Robertson was never charged with any crime, one of his subordinate officers was hanged for murder. After the war, Robertson returned to Texas, where he became an enthusiastic member of the United Confederate Veterans and served as the commander of the Texas Division in 1911. At the time of his death he was the last surviving general of the Confederacy.

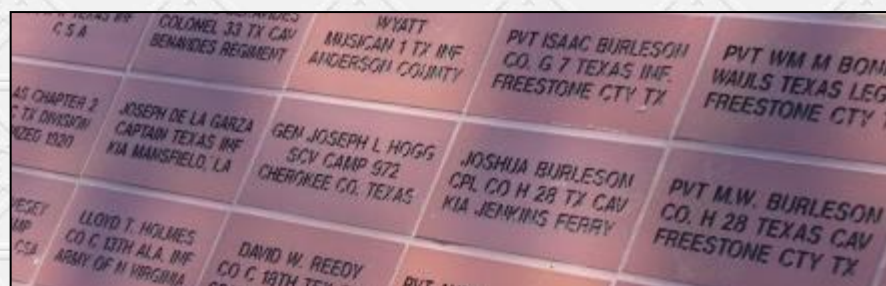
April 25th, 1861: On this day, 500 Federal troops stranded at the port of Saluria in Calhoun County were forced to surrender to Confederate colonel Earl Van Dorn. Saluria, at the eastern end of Matagorda Island, was founded in the 1840s and was a thriving port and ranching center in the 1850s. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Federal troops flocked to the coast, hoping to find transport to the North. Van Dorn intercepted 500 of them at Saluria. After being paroled, they were allowed to sail for New York. During the federal blockade of 1862, when invasion seemed imminent, Saluria inhabitants fled to the mainland. Confederate troops stationed at nearby Fort Esperanze later burned the town, dismantled the lighthouse, and drove most of the cattle off the island. Confederate artillerymen defended the fort until November 29, 1863, when they retreated to the mainland. In June 1864 Federal troops left Fort Esperanze. Afterward, citizens began moving back to the island. What finally destroyed Saluria was hurricanes, in 1875 and 1886. By 1904 a rural school with one teacher and seven students was the only vestige of the community. The more famous nearby port of Indianola was similarly destroyed.



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 Dan Dyer at E-mail: danieldyer497@yahoo.com or 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.



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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.