



## SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

# THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

APRIL 2009

### COMMANDER'S CORNER

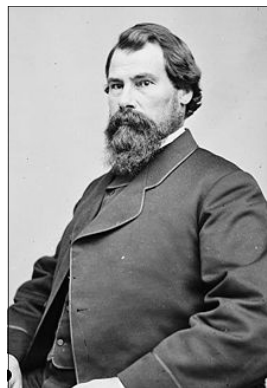
When this newsletter reaches you, we will be in the middle of Confederate Heritage month in Texas. There are thankfully many activities and events across the state to attend to honor of our Confederate ancestors. Members of our Reagan camp will be taking part in various events including the Davis-Reagan United Daughters of the Confederacy Memorial service in Elkhart and the reenactment in Livingston, Texas. Our camp will also have a special historical program at the April 11th meeting. Author, reenactor, and dedicated Confederate son, Ronnie Hatfield, will present his first person program depicting his Confederate ancestor. I have seen this once before and I must say I am eagerly awaiting to see it again. It is truly a special event. Ya'll invite your friends, bring the family and enjoy this wonderful program.

Our first covered dish meal was enjoyed at the March meeting and boy was it enjoyed! Thanks to everyone, especially the ladies, for their attendance and for mak-

ing this meal and meeting such a success.

Something to celebrate is that we already have a new addition to our camp. Congratulations to Reagan Camp member David Link and his wife Hanna as they had a little girl on February 12 in College Station. The six pound 10 ounce young lady was named Kendahl Elizabeth Link. She joins her older brother, Hunter Link, who will be three next July 13th.

We can also celebrate that Adjutant Bradberry was able to mail our SCV charter application to the Texas Division Adjutant with 16 charter members on the roll. I can't say thank you enough to all of you who have made forming the John H. Reagan Camp a reality! At our last meeting we elected some good men to finish filling the camp's officer positions. I am very much looking forward to working with all of them this coming year. I also look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on April 11th as we honor our Confederate ancestors. Your Obedient Servant,  
Marc Robinson



#### 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. Representative from Texas

Chairman Railroad Commission of Texas

A Founder and President of the Texas State Historical Association

### CAMP OFFICERS ELECTED

On March 14th, 2009 the newly formed John H. Reagan Camp voted in the remainder of their camp officers. All of the officers elected this first year are considered to be the charter officers of the camp. Elected at this meeting were Gary Williams as Second Lieutenant, Ronnie Hatfield as Sergeant at Arms, David Link as

Quartermaster, Mike Link, as Surgeon, Daniel Dyer as Historian, and Kirby McCord as Judge Advocate. Officers elected at the camp's organizational meeting on January 13th, 2009 were Marc Robinson as Commander, Calvin Nicholson as Lieutenant Commander, Forrest Bradberry as

Adjutant, and Ed Furman as Chaplain. An induction ceremony will be held during the April meeting. A list of duties for all of these camp officers, is available on the camp's web site at [www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org). The document can be downloaded from a link on the page listing the officers.

### CAMP MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of Each Month  
06:00 PM

Covered Dish Meal  
Museum for East Texas Culture  
400 Micheaux Avenue  
Palestine, Texas

(Old John H. Reagan High School Building, Near State Hwy 19, five blocks east of courthouse)

Guests are welcome!  
Bring the family.

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

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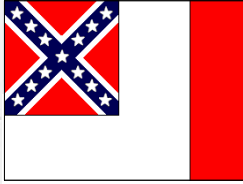
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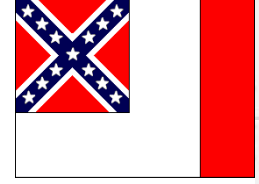
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## ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

May

Provided by Kirby McCord



**May 6, 1861:** The state legislatures in Arkansas (69-1) and Tennessee (66-25) both vote in favor of secession; Tennessee's vote relies on a public referendum set for June 8 to make official its withdrawal from the Union. Meanwhile, in Richmond, Jefferson Davis signs a bill from the Confederate Congress that declares that a state of war exists between the United States and the Confederate States.

**May 13, 1861:** Britain's Queen Victoria, in response to a meeting the British foreign minister held with Confederate emissaries on May 3, and in response to protests from the United States, declares her nation's position of neutrality. Confederate hopes are buoyed by the fact that Victoria accords belligerents' rights to both sides, which is but one step short of recognizing Confederate independence.

**May 20, 1861:** North Carolina assembles a convention at Raleigh, voting for secession. Meanwhile, United States Marshals in the North appropriate all of the previous year's telegraph dispatches in an effort to discover pro-secessionist evidence.

**May 23, 1861:** In a vote of 97,000 to 32,000, Virginia approves secession.

**May 24, 1861:** Flashy Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, commander of the 11<sup>th</sup> New York Zouaves, sees a Confederate National flag flying from the roof of the Alexandria, Virginia Hotel as Union troops occupy that Southern city. Dashing impetuously up the stairs and rips the flag down. The owner of the hotel, James Jackson, is outraged at this assault on his private property. He meets the triumphant Ellsworth, his trophy draped over his shoulder, as he descends from the roof and shoots the Northern soldier dead. Union soldiers, who moments before were cheering Ellsworth's act, shoot and kill Jackson. Newspapers North and South honor the martyr dead.

**May 27, 1861:** Chief Justice Roger B. Taney of the United States Supreme Court, declares President Lincoln's April 27 suspension of *habeas corpus* illegal. John Merryman, a Maryland citizen, was arrested for recruiting Confederate soldiers in Maryland, and was being held without charges being filed. Taney's majority opinion held that arrest to be illegal.

**May 9, 1862:** General David Hunter, Federal commander of the Department of the South, at Hilton Head, South Carolina, declares all slaves in South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia to be free. President Lincoln repudiates Hunter's act on May 19, 1862, saying merely that Hunter had exceeded his authority.

**May 10, 1862:** A Confederate force of eight gunboats attacks a superior Union force of seven ironclads at Fort Pillow, Tennessee, on the Mississippi River. Confederate commander James Montgomery commands the Confederates in a valiant manner and sink two of the Union ironclads before retreating.

**May 16, 1862:** Union General Benjamin "Spoons" Butler, US military governor of New Orleans, issues General Order Number 28, which says: "As officers and soldiers of the United States have been subjected to repeated insults from the women (calling themselves ladies) of New Orleans . . . when any female shall . . . show contempt for the United States, she shall be regarded as a woman of the town plying her avocation." A storm of protest ensues and Butler's hanging is called for throughout the South.

**May 31, 1862:** General Robert E. Lee is given command of the Confederate Army of Virginia (later to be called the Army of Northern Virginia) following the wounding of that army's commander, General Joseph Johnston at the Battle of Fair Oaks (aka Seven Pines). Lee's opponent, the Union Army of the Potomac, led by General George McClellan, has advanced slowly but steadily up the York/James Peninsula for a month, and is now on the outskirts of Richmond. Although he outnumbers the men in gray by almost two to one, and has defeated the Confederates in every battle of the campaign thus far (Yorktown, 5/3; Williamsburg, 5/5; Eltham's Landing, 5/7; Norfolk, 5/9; Wilmoughby Point and Gosport, 5/10; Suffolk, 5/18; and Fair Oaks/Seven Pines, 5/31), McClellan is overly cautious. Believing himself to be outnumbered he continually asks for more troops before besieging Richmond. But no Federal troops are available: Confederate General T.J. Stonewall Jackson has led his 16,000 men masterfully in the Shenandoah Valley, tying up more than 60,000 Federal troops there and another 40,000 in a defensive perimeter in and around Washington, D.C., and winning the battles of McDowell, 5/8; Franklin, 5/10; Strasbourg, 5/13; Ravenswood and Princeton, 5/15; Front Royal, 5/23; and Winchester, 5/25. The stage is set for Lee's counterattack on McClellan.

**May 1, 1863:** Union General Ulysses Grant's army crosses the Mississippi River below Vicksburg and take Port Gibson. Federal losses are 875, Confederate at 1650.

**May 2, 1863:** Outnumbered 70,000 to 46,000, at Chancellorsville, Virginia, Robert E. Lee does the unthinkable: he divides his forces. General T.J. Stonewall Jackson takes about half of Lee's forces on a lengthy march and strikes Federal General Joe Hooker's exposed right flank. The attack is a resounding success, driving the Federals from the field. But it is costly also, as darkness falls, Jackson is reconnoitering and accidentally shot by his own men; he will die on May 10. Union losses are a staggering 17,289, but Confederate casualties of 12,764, including Jackson, may be costlier.

**May 2, 1863:** Union Colonel Benjamin Grierson completes his sixteen day, 600 mile long diversionary raid through Mississippi by linking up with Federal troops in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. (continued on following page)

**May 3, 1863:** Ohio Congressman Clement Vallandigham is arrested at 2 in the morning for treason. Opposing the war, calling it “wicked and cruel,” and communicating with (some say leading) northern Copperheads in an attempt to overthrow the Lincoln administration are the specifics, and Vallandigham is convicted by a military tribunal chaired by Union General Ambrose E. Burnside by 9 a.m., leading many to call Vallandigham a Christ figure. The Ohio Democratic party is so incensed by Vallandigham’s treatment that they nominate him for governor by a vote of 411 to 11. As punishment for Vallandigham’s crimes, President Lincoln exiles him to the Confederacy, but he is such a troublemaker there that President Davis sends him on a recruiting and fund raising mission to Canada for the duration of the war.

**May 16, 1863:** Union General Grant continues closing in on Vicksburg by defeating Confederate General Pemberton at the Battle of Champion’s Hill. 29,000 Federals sustain losses of 2481 men while attacking 20,000 Confederates, who suffer 3,851 casualties. The next day, Pemberton loses 1,700 men unsuccessfully attempting to stop Grant at Big Black River; Grant loses only 279. By May 19, Grant is at the gates of Vicksburg, a goal he has been pursuing doggedly for almost a year. Impatiently he attacks and is thrown back with almost 1000 casualties. On May 22, Grant launches a much more extensive attack, but determined Confederate resistance results in 3,200 Union casualties to only 500 for the South. Grant settles in to a long siege.

**May 5, 1864:** Union Generals Ulysses Grant and George Meade clash with Confederate Robert E. Lee in the Wilderness. The two day stalemated battle results in staggering casualties: 17,666 Union soldiers fall while the Confederates lose almost 8,000. But the Union Army of the Potomac, accustomed to fighting a battle and retreating, lets loose a round of cheers when Grant continues to advance toward Spotsylvania.

**May 8, 1864:** Lee has anticipated Grant’s move toward Spotsylvania and that bloody contest begins. For the next ten days the two armies slug it out, resulting in another 17,500 Union casualties and at least 11,000 Confederate losses.

**May 9, 1864:** Union General William Sherman advances on Atlanta against Confederate General Joseph Johnston. Five separate Union assaults are thrown back with heavy losses, by Johnston, fearing envelopment, retreats.

**May 11, 1864:** Union General Philip Sheridan is striving to find the Confederate right flank, so Grant can swing around Lee. Sheridan’s cavalry clash with Confederate cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart. The dashing Confederate cavalier falls in battle.

**May 15, 1864:** Union General Franz Sigel advances down the Shenandoah Valley. He is attacked by Confederates under former U.S. Vice President John Breckinridge. While the armies and losses are about equal, Breckinridge’s aggressive tactics force the Federals to withdraw. The notable feature of the battle is that under-aged cadets from the nearby Virginia Military Institute have been recruited at the last minute and actually lead some assaults, capturing several Union guns.

**May 23, 1864:** Grant again moves to the east to outflank Lee and Lee stops him at the North Anna River, where four more days of fighting occur. More fighting and more casualties have occurred on the eastern front in the month of May, 1864, than have occurred in most years on that front.

## THERE STANDS A REBEL SOLDIER, BY RONNIE HATFIELD COPYRIGHT 1995

There stands a Rebel soldier,  
Filled with fire and Southern pride!  
Defiant, and yet devoted,  
And sure that God is on his side!

He fears not death, but cowardice,  
and disgrace to family name,  
for to die upon the battlefield, for cause and country,  
there is no shame!

He fights for rights and liberty,  
and his native land to save,  
and tho’ some yanks believe he does,  
he’s never owned a slave!

His ragged clothes are dirty,  
and he has no shoes to warm his feet,  
but consoles himself that he’ll walk much less,

if he’s never in retreat.  
In his eyes, I see hi hunger,  
for food and warmth, and sleep,  
and at times, in mournful sadness,  
for comrades lost, I see him weep.

There’s a place reserved for men like him,  
in Southern history’s hall of fame,  
and it’s up to us to carry on,  
you see, The Cause, is still the same!

And should you choose to honor me,  
just look my way as you confide. . . .  
“There stands a Rebel Soldier,  
filled with fire and Southern pride!”



## BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR CONFEDERATE ANCESTORS

Biography of  
Private Obediah Joseph Syfrett  
Captain James F. Izlar's Company (Edisto  
Rifles),  
Co. G, 25th Regiment South Carolina  
Volunteers

Obediah Joseph Syfrett born Feb 16, 1846 was the great grandson of German immigrants who first came to America in 1752. These new Americans received large land grants in return for clearing 3 acres a year for every 100 acres of land to settle the frontier area along the Edisto River near Orangeburg, South Carolina to provide a buffer zone between the Indians and the Charleston port area. These Swiss and German immigrants were very desirable to the newly formed government of South Carolina. They were hard working, industrious, very skilled in their trades and sturdy enough for frontier life.

Obediah's father, Allen Alexander Syfrett b.1810, son of Frederick Syfrett b.1783 and Elizabeth Dukes settled in the river area near Rowesville, Orangeburg County, South Carolina. Alexander married Harriet Goodwin who was also born in South Carolina. They had a family of 9 children all born at Rowesville. Alexander died suddenly in 1857 at Bull Swamp, South Carolina and his brother Abraham Hazelwood Syfrett was killed in the War a few years later.

Obediah's brothers Andrew Jackson and Ceborn Wade were both Confederate Veterans enlisting 22 Aug 1861 and were still serving in 1864. Other siblings were John Newton Calhoun, Jasper Alexander, Harriet Margaret, Rachel Martha, Mary M. and Janie.

After the War Between the States was over, Obediah, Jasper, and Ceborn brought their wives to Texas to be near their sister Janie who had married Josh King and was living near Marquez They all walked the still dangerous route to Texas from South Carolina with bandits and Indian problems along the way.

Obediah Joseph Syfrett was an intelligent, stern, hard working businessman and accumulated a lot of land, cattle and other property. If you knew him, you would never suspect that he was a man of means as he always wore clothes made of duck which is a coarse, rough cloth. He wore a mustache, always rode a roan mule and his curly hair stuck out of a

hole in his straw hat making him quite a colorful character.

In 1865 Obediah married Mary Frances Scott who was born in South Carolina. Their first child was born 16 years later. They must have wanted a boy because they named her Luther Elizabeth or because of their Lutheran German heritage.

Luther married James Marion Winn, grandson of Whited Wilkes Winn and their children were daughters Melissa, who died as an infant, Eula Mae Winn who married Lee Copeland and Obie Syfrett Winn who married Bernard Arleigh Haynie.

Luther died suddenly from complications with her fourth pregnancy. Obie and Eula Mae lived with their grandparents Obediah and Mollie Scott after their mother had died. Their father James Marion Winn remarried and had four more children.

O. J. Syfrett's official Confederate military service record is as follows:

*April 15, 1862* O. J. Syfrett enlisted in the Confederate Army. Captain John V. Glover took his enlistment in Orangeburg, South Carolina. O. J. enlisted for a period of three years, or for the duration of the war.

He served in Captain James F. Izlar's Company (called the Edisto Rifles), 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, as a private in Company G. Company G was designated as Captain Izlar's Company on July 22, 1862.

*November and December 1862* Muster Rolls show he was present but sick.

*August 20 to September 6, 1863*, O.J. appeared on a list of killed, wounded, or missing for a slight concussion obtained while fighting at Morris Island, South Carolina.

*Spring 1864*, the regiment moved to Virginia.

*May 15, 1864*, he was wounded at Drewry's Bluff. He was sent to the Jackson Hospital in Richmond, Virginia. The Jackson Hospital reported in O.J.'s service record that his injury was from a U.S. Minnie ball to his Left hip.

*September 19, 1864*, Private Syfrett returned to duty.

*January 15, 1865*, during the battle at Fort Fisher, North Carolina, Private Syfrett was captured.



The Bonnie Blue Flag

*January 30, 1865* records show that he was received at Elmira, New York's Prisoner of War Camp. He was imprisoned there until *June 23, 1865*, when he took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States and was released from service.

The 25<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Infantry Regiment (also called Eutaw Regiment) was organized and mustered into service in July 1862. It was formed with men of the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion who were from Charleston and the middle region of the state. It served in the Charleston area assigned to the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, and in September 1863, it was placed in General Hagood's Brigade.

During the spring of 1864, when the unit moved to Virginia, they fought at Drewry's Bluff and Cold Harbor.

On May 6-9 1864 after the siege of Petersburg south and north of the James River in the North Carolina Campaign it reported 47 casualties

The regiment lost 4 killed and 14 wounded at Secessionville.

On Morris Island from July 10 to September 6, 1863 there were 16 killed, 124 wounded and 3 missing. At this time, it contained 36 officers and 491 men.

In the fight at the Weldon Railroad, there were 2 killed, 29 wounded, and 70 missing.

At Fort Fisher, all the men present were captured, and the few who later served in the regiment surrendered in April 1865. The field officers were Colonel Charles H. Simonton, Lieutenant Colonel John G. Pressley, and Major John V. Glover.

Sources:

O.J. Syfrett Biography by Fousein Haynie Gresham (Great-grand daughter of O. J. Syfrett)

The Book of Syfretts by Harold Syfrett National Archives, Confederate Military service record

National Park Service, [www.civilwar.nps.gov/](http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/)  
[www.civilwar.nps.gov/](http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/)



## COVERED DISH DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS!

Reagan Camp Adjutant, Forrest Bradberry, Jr. (right) preparing to serve his grandson Josh Pullin (lower right) at the Reagan Camp's meeting on March 14th at the Museum for East Texas Culture. It was our first covered dish meal and boy was it enjoyed by all!



"NEVER DO A  
WRONG THING TO  
MAKE A FRIEND OR  
TO KEEP ONE."

- ROBERT E. LEE-

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 11, 02:00 pm - 04:30 pm, Honor guard practice at Ronnie Hatfield's home.**

Take Hwy 79 south towards Tucker. Stay on 79 past the flashing caution light at FM 645, past the Tucker Store on your right, then go another half mile, and turn left on County Road 2133, between the old Green Bay AME School and the little white church house. Cross the RR tracks and go 1 mile on 2133, then turn left again on County Road 2134. Follow 2134 for a half mile around a curve and a pond on your left, then turn in at the next driveway on your left. There's a sign over the driveway that says "Little Dixie Ranch."

**April 11, 6:00 pm** - John H. Reagan Camp meeting at the Museum for East Texas Culture. Families and guests are welcomed.

Bring a covered dish and enjoy the fellowship.

**Program: Ronnie Hatfield** presents a program in first person depicting his Great grandfather

**April 19 - 2:00 pm.** Memorial & Marker Dedication in Cherokee Co. at Henry Cemetery on FM 23 at Gallatin, Texas. This is an annual event hosted by UDC Moses Buckner and Invincible

Rose Chapter 37. Will need uniformed men for rifle squad & flag bearers. Please contact Cindy Bobbitt PPO. 903-683-5554.

[cbobbitt@peoplepc.com](mailto:cbobbitt@peoplepc.com)

**April 25, 2009, 11:00 AM** - Davis— Reagan UDC 2292 - Confederate Memorial Ceremony, Garden of Memories Cemetery, Elkhart, TX

**May 2, 09:30 AM** - Bonner Cemetery Confederate Memorial Ceremony, near Fairfield, TX, Host camp: Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp 1012—Valverde Battery. Musket and flag carriers are appreciated. POC - Marc Robinson, 903-676-6069, [mrobinson@tvcc.edu](mailto:mrobinson@tvcc.edu)

**May 9, 6:00 pm**— John H. Reagan Camp meeting at the Museum for East Texas Culture. **Program: Thomas Harrison,** Commander of the 2nd Texas Frontier District Camp 1904 in DeLeon, Texas will present at program titled, "Cornbread Johnny and Co. G, 1st. Texas Infantry, Hood's Brigade." It is about a Confederate soldier from Anderson County, his family members, other soldiers in Co. G, and of course their military involvement in the WBS.

**June 6, 10:30 AM** - Confederate Grave Marker Dedication, Hosted by Reagan Camp. Honoring Private Obediah Joseph Syfrett. Reagan Camp's Honor Guard and the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp's Valverde Artillery Battery will be a part of the ceremony, To get to the Winn Cemetery from the intersection of U.S. Hwy 79 and Texas Hwy 7 at Marquez, TX, travel southward 3 miles to FM 3 and turn left toward Hilltop Lakes. The cemetery is on the left approximately 6 tenths of one mile just across the railroad tracks. POC Marc Robinson at 903-676-6069

**June 12, 13, and 14 2009** SCV State Convention Reunion in Waco, Texas. 14 at the Waco Hilton, located at 113 S. University Parks Dr. The phone number is 254-754-8484.

**Reenactment** events calendar at: [www.12thtexasartillery.org](http://www.12thtexasartillery.org) or contact Lt. Commander Calvin Nicholson, 903-391-3243 [cwnicholson@hotmail.com](mailto:cwnicholson@hotmail.com)

THE MEN IN GRAY,  
WHO, WITH  
MATCHLESS COURAGE,  
FOUGHT TO MAINTAIN  
THE PRINCIPLES OF THE  
CONSTITUTION AND  
PERPETUATE THE GOVERNMENT  
ESTABLISHED BY THEIR  
FATHERS, AND WHOSE  
HEROIC DEEDS CROWNED  
THE SOUTH WITH  
DEATHLESS GLORY.

ROBERT CATLETT  
CAVE  
CONFEDERATE  
VETERAN, AUTHOR,  
AND PASTOR

## JOHN H. REAGAN'S COMMISSION FROM PRESIDENT DAVIS

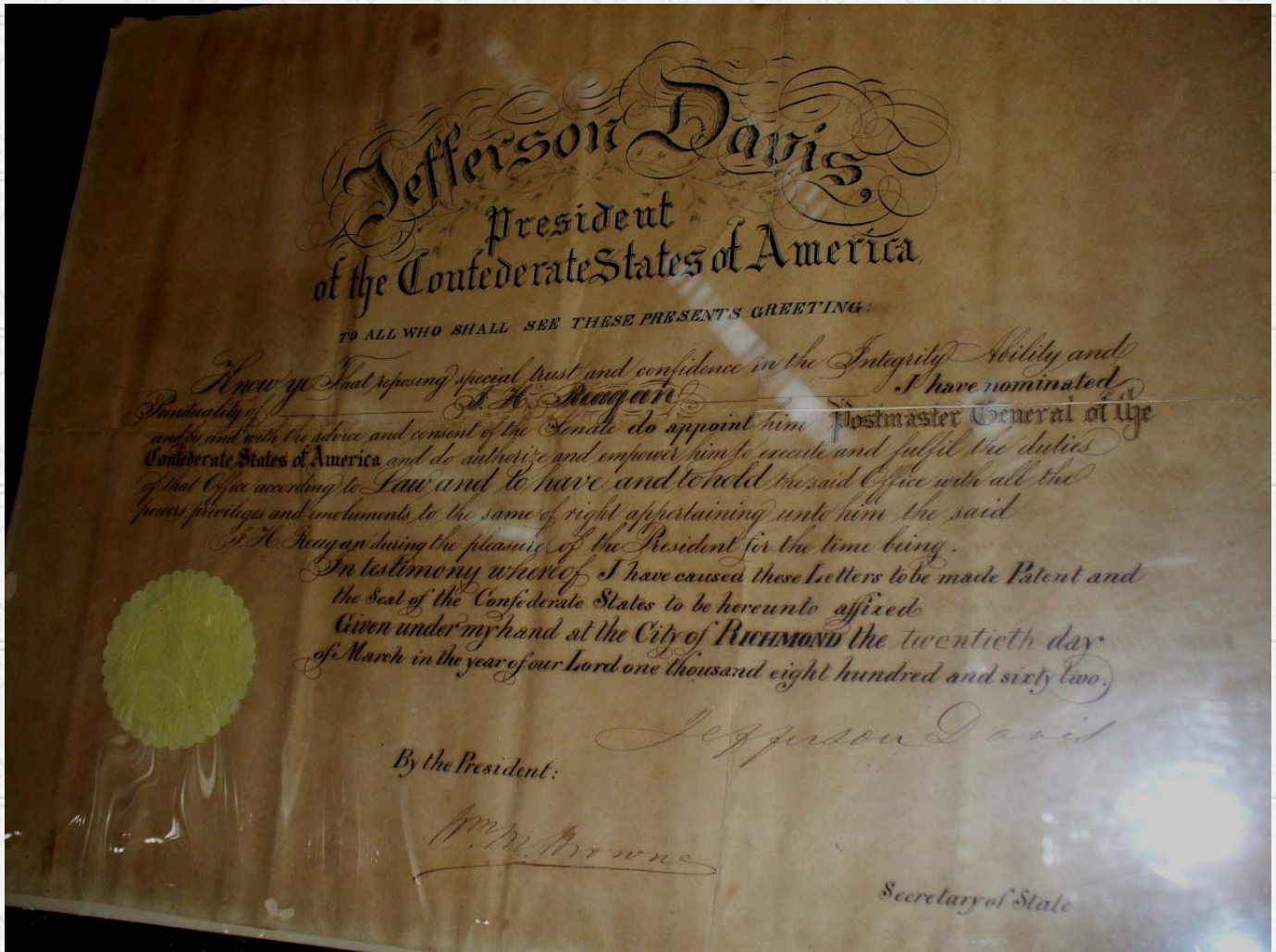


Photo of the actual document signed by President Jefferson Davis commissioning John H. Reagan as Postmaster General of the Confederate States of America

This document is located for all to see at the Museum for East Texas Culture, 400 Micheaux Ave., Palestine, Texas

Another document in this same display case is one signed by President Andrew Johnson, granting full pardon to John H. Reagan after the war. There is also a room dedicated solely to the memory of John H. Reagan.

From the frontier era to East Texas Railroad history, there are many interesting things to see at this wonderful museum.

The Museum is open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM M-Sat and it is also open Sunday afternoons from 01:00 PM to 04:00 PM. Admission is \$2.00, Museum Director: Daniel Dyer 903-723-1914



## EXTRACT FROM THE PAST BY MARC ROBINSON

In 1859, while running for his second term in the U. S. House of Representatives, and while being blasted by many Texas newspapers and opponents for a speech he gave in Congress against filibustering and reopening the slave trade. During that campaign, John H. Reagan circulated a letter to his constituency clearly establishing his position. Concerning this letter, Mr. Reagan stated in his book *Memoirs*... published in 1906, "the result was that I defeated him by one of the largest majorities that any candidate for Congress ever got in the State". Below is an extract of the letter Mr. Reagan circulated to the public prior to that election:

"These doctrines of filibustering and the re-opening of the African slave-trade are chosen as those best calculated to secure the execution of their designs, because they appeal directly to the bad passions most easily awakened, and most difficult to reason with, those by which the people are encouraged to believe they are to be enriched suddenly and without patient toil, which has heretofore been regarded as necessary to secure wealth. These doctrines are not, and are not intended to be Democratic: but they are, and intended to be purely sectional and revolutionary. And I appeal to the Democracy of Texas, in the name of the Constitution and the Union, in the name of the rights of the States and the liberties of the people in the name of law and order, in the name of good government and sound morals, and for the happiness of our people and perpetuation of our institutions to sustain the old, the pure, the time-honored doctrines of our party; and put down these sectional and revolutionary doctrines. I know those who favor these doctrines will apply to me their cant expressions of submissionist! Submission to what? To be happy in a good government and obedient to just laws, and observant of sound morals? Certainly to these I submit. But I shall be called a *Union saver*, and charged with yielding to Northern aggression and surrendering the rights of the South. But no act, no vote, no speech of my life will warrant this. I have seen and understood the baleful effects of the sectional and revolutionary doctrines of the Abolitionists of the North, and have resisted and denounced them whenever and wherever I could do so. And I have often declared, and now repeat the declaration, that if they obtain the power

to do so, and so attempt to abridge the constitutional rights of the States, or deprive the people either in the States or the Territories of their constitutional rights, I would regard it as an act of revolution, and appealing to the first great law of nature, the law of self-preservation, I would urge the States to fall back on their sovereignty, and resist the power to the usurpation by every means necessary to secure their rights. The Abolitionists are a sectional, a revolutionary and fanatical party who have no respect for the Constitution and laws of our country or for the rights of their fellow-men. Our Southern agitators are alike sectional and revolutionary, and are now beginning in their meetings and speeches to show the same disregard for the Constitution and laws, and the same disposition to violate the rights of others. Both claim rights superior to the Constitution and laws of the land and claim the right to invade other people and despoil them of their property at whatever expense of human life and suffering. I denounce and defy them both, and appeal to the people to arrest the lawless career of each of them and restore our country to its former security. We expect Northern and Northwestern Democrats to resist the Northern sectionalism at whatever cost to themselves. They respond like pure patriots to our expectation, and often fight the most hopeless battles for the Constitution and the Union. We admire their self-sacrificing patriotism, and glory in their illustration of the pure principles of Democracy, and in that sublime grandeur of faithful integrity and moral courage which enables them to fight a hopeless battle bravely and meet defeat and proscription without a murmur, for the sake of maintaining such a government and such institutions as ours. And now that the sectional storm lowers here; now that sectionalism requires its victims here, who will go with me to the sacrificial altar if need be? Who will prove with me that the Democrats in the South are as ready to make the sacrifices which we expect the Democrats in the North to make? I know not what others may do, I only speak for myself; I will maintain the Constitution and laws of my country. I will maintain the moral law and the principles of justice. I will maintain the rights of the States and the liberties of the people. I

will maintain the principles of the Democratic party in the construction of the Constitution, the powers of Congress, and the reserved rights of the States. I will resist sectionalism and revolution and fraud and force and wrong alike faithfully, whether they come from the North or from the South."

Mr. Reagan continues in his book by stating, "I remained thus devoted to the Union until the Republican party obtained the control of the government and answered our appeals for the protection afforded by the Constitution, by saying they were in the majority and that we had to submit; thus proposing to substitute the will of a popular majority of the people of the Union for the Constitution of the United States, with its limitations on the powers of the Federal Government. I loved the American Union with a passionate devotion, and witnessed with an aching heart the unjust and unconstitutional crusade which led to disunion and war."



**JOHN H. REAGAN  
MEMORIAL  
REAGAN PARK  
PALESTINE, TEXAS**



## THE BLOOD OF MARTYRS

BY BRO. L.E. "LEN" PATTERSON, THD.  
SCV CHAPLAIN, ARMY OF TRANS-MISSISSIPPI



Marcus Aurelius emperor of Rome (161-180 A.D.) regarded it his duty to maintain the state religion and exterminate Christianity. During his reign, thousands of Christians, without regard for their age or sex, were subjected to cruel and barbarous torture and death. They were tortured "from morning till night," we are told. Blandina, a female Christian, while suffering intense pain and humiliation, would only yell, "I am a Christian! I am a Christian!"

During this time, Polycarp, who had studied under the Apostle John and ultimately became the leader of the church at Smyrna (In modern-day Turkey), was brought before a Roman magistrate. The magistrate, kindly as he could be under the circumstances, all but begged Polycarp to just go through the motions of denying Christ. Then he could go home and be with his grandchildren.

Polycarp replied firmly, "Eighty and six years have I served Christ and He has done me nothing but good. How then could I deny Him?" Then he went on to say, "Am I to pretend to not know who I am, hear my free confession. I am a Christian." He was burned alive.

The example of steadfast faith by so many early Christians under such ferocious persecution impressed the multitudes to the extent that, within another 150 years, the entire Roman world was "Christianized." Even to this day, Christians can be inspired by the sacrifice of these early Saints. No wonder it has been said, "The Christian Church was built on the blood of martyrs."

I am mindful that when I put a cross on my lapel, walk out of my house carrying a Bible, or in any way proclaim my faith and love for the Lord, how easy it is, in this time and place, to say, "I am a Christian." There was a time when such actions could, and often did, result in great suffering and death. But it was they, these early Christian martyrs, who under the guidance and strength of God's Spirit, spared not their own bodies and built the Lord's Church. For this, they are worthy

of our deepest respect.

I am also mindful of the hardship and shed blood of our Confederate forefathers from whom we are descended. I am mindful of the sacrifice, pain, and destruction leveled on Southern civilians and property by an invading Union army. I am mindful of the careless and inhuman treatment of the South during and following the War for Southern Independence. I am mindful of Southern states which asked their citizens to suffer, fight, and die in their defense, but now refuse to honor their sacrifice, and instead give in to the politically correct crowd who don't know the difference between being educated and being brainwashed. And, I hear Confederate blood from a thousand hills crying, "Where is our respect?"

I am a Christian. And while some may shun me because of it, they aren't going to feed me to lions. I am also the proud descendant of a brave Confederate Soldier, and a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I can say this with ease, to anyone who will listen, but I must strive to be worthy. Worthy of the blood of our Confederate Ancestors, and worthy of the blood of martyrs.

Bro. L.E. "Len" Patterson, ThD.  
Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi

"MY RELIGIOUS BELIEF TEACHES ME TO FEEL AS SAFE IN BATTLE AS IN BED. GOD HAS FIXED THE TIME FOR MY DEATH. I DO NOT CONCERN MYSELF ABOUT THAT, BUT TO BE ALWAYS READY, NO MATTER WHEN IT MAY OVERTAKE ME. THAT IS THE WAY ALL MEN SHOULD LIVE, AND THEN ALL WOULD BE EQUALLY BRAVE."

LT. GENERAL THOMAS J. "STONEWALL" JACKSON





## JOHN H. REAGAN 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. **Camp associate membership** is available as well to those who are committed to uphold our charge and do not have the Confederate lineage.

## 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 General,  
United Confederate Veterans,  
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 2nd Saturday of  
Each Month - 06:00 PM  
Covered Dish Meal  
Museum for East Texas Culture  
400 Micheaux Ave.  
Palestine, Texas

(Old John H. Reagan High School bldg.  
Near State Hwy 19, five blocks east of  
courthouse)