



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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JUNE 2021

JUNE DISPATCH

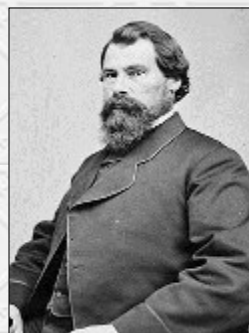
Although Juneteenth is a uniquely Texas holiday, Juneteenth has become a nationwide celebration that has even reached an international audience.

I would never begrudge any ethnic, religious, racial, or national group celebrating their heritage, including a celebration of Juneteenth. I think we can all agree slavery is a moral evil. I can't see any justification of keeping a fellow human in bondage against their will. I don't think I would willingly accept that if I were held against my will and forced to do labor. Can you imagine being jailed with no charges against you? I digress. On to what Juneteenth means to me.

Juneteenth celebrates Union General Gordon Granger's announcement that Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was now in effect, over 2 and a half years after Lincoln issued it. The current narrative is that the last slaves were freed on June 19, 1865. I don't think that's quite accurate.

When Lincoln issued his proclamation, he stated that slaves in states "in rebellion" were free. That is, he declared slaves were free only in those states where he had no power to free them. Those slaves in Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, and Missouri were not freed. Wherever the Union was in control, slavery was still legal. To me, this was an obviously political ploy that freed no slaves nor intended to. It certainly had no effect in far-off Texas. Finally, when the war was over and Federal occupation troops arrived at Galveston, Granger announced that the Emancipation Proclamation had finally come to Texas after the long War was over.

Congratulations to those who descended from slaves! You have a right to celebrate. I also celebrate my ancestors who fought against overwhelming odds to have the right of self-determination in



John H. Reagan

About 1863

Oct 8, 1818 – March 6, 1905

Post Master General of the
Confederate States of America

Secretary of the Treasury CSA

U. S. Senator from Texas

U. S. Rep. from Texas

District Judge

Texas State Representative

First Chairman - Railroad

Commission of Texas

A Founder and President of the
Texas State Historical Association

a new nation. I'm amazed they held out for over two and half years before the might of the United States forced a political declaration on an unwilling populace. Amazing!

David Franklin
Reagan Camp
Chaplain



CAMP MEETINGS

3rd 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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The John H. Reagan Camp is requesting donations from those who would be able to help keep the Confederate Heroes Memorial Plaza landscape manicured. If you would be willing to donate, please contact Dan Dyer at danielyer497@yahoo.com
Phone: (903) 391-2224

Officers for 2021

Commander - Richard Thornton

1st Lt. - Calvin Nicholson

Adjutant/Treasurer - Dan Dyer

Sgt at Arms - Frank Moore

Quartermaster - Andrew Petty

Chaplains - David Franklin
& Dwight Franklin



Above is a picture of seven different pistols that were used in the war between the states. Photo courtesy of history channel online pictures.

Prayer List

- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
- Compatriot J.B. Mason
- Past Reagan Camp Historian Gary Williams
- Rod Skelton (former Camp Chaplain)
- Former Camp Commander Rudy Ray
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Reagan Camp will have monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Commercial Bank of Texas meeting room

Tuesday June 15 — June Meeting

Tuesday July 22 - July Meeting

Tuesday August 17 - August Meeting

Tuesday September 21 - September Meeting



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.reagancvcamp.org

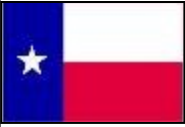
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

"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-



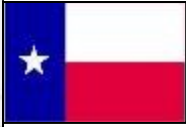
John H. Reagan Camp Monthly Meeting

June 15, 2021



We had 11 in attendance at the June meeting. The night started off with a pot of purple hull peas, cornbread, fresh grown tomatoes, soft fried potatoes and onions, cucumber and onion salad and Blue Bell Ice Cream. Following the meal, Andrew Petty provided everyone with an interesting historical program on John Wilkes Booth that was titled, Curtain Call: The Last Acts of John Wilkes Booth. Andrew is always able to find something to talk about that is something unique. He is moving to Huntsville next month, and we will certainly miss him. Our next meeting will be on July 20th. We hope to see you there.

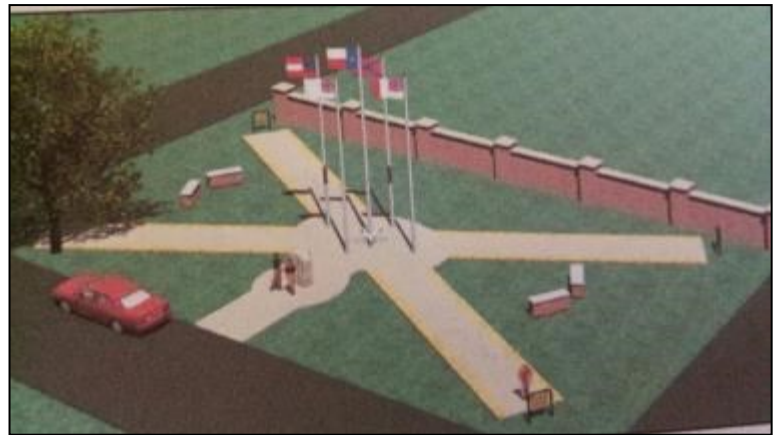




A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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	JOHN H. REAGAN SCV CAMP #2156 PALESTINE, TEXAS	PVT WM. H. FOSTER CO. H 1ST TEX INF DIED AS POW OCT 63
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	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	PVT. R. M. LUMMUS 53 GEORGIA INF. COMPANY B C.S.A	PVT ALLEN G TURNER CO A 7TH BATTALION MISS INF. CSA
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	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.



June 2021 Historical Program by Andrew Petty

The Curtain Call: The Last Acts of John Wilkes Booth



On April 26, 1865 Union soldiers caught up with John Wilkes Booth, who was hiding in a tobacco barn on the Garrett farm in Port Royal, Virginia. For the past twelve days Booth had eluded capture from the most intensive manhunt in American history, but now it appeared the hands of Fate had finally found him. Cornered, and with nowhere to go, Booth opted to make a desperate last stand as the troops set fire to his hiding spot. A Sergeant named Boston Corbett,

spying Booth's figure through one of the cracks in the barn, opened fire, striking the assassin in the neck. The soldiers then dragged the mortally wounded Booth from the barn to the porch of the Garrett farmhouse, where he expired three hours after being shot. This concluded the final chapter on one of the most infamous individuals of the Civil War, a definitive and in debatable exclamation point on the subject.

At least, that's history's official version of events. Over the ensuing years, multiple people claimed that Booth somehow escaped, fleeing to parts unknown and mysteriously disappearing from the pages of record. Though reported sightings of Booth persisted well after his alleged demise, historians were able to discredit most of these stories as outlandish tales from over-imaginative minds. However, at least one possible theory has gained some traction amongst conspiracy theorists- the account of Finis L. Bates a lawyer from Texas and the paternal grandfather of actress Kathy Bates. In 1907, he published a book entitled *The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes Booth*, detailing his conversations with the man whom he believed to be the former assassin of President Abraham Lincoln.

The narrative of Booth's life in the postwar period picks up in 1972, where his path first intersected with Bates in the town of Granbury, Texas. Bates was just establishing his law practice when an individual by the name of John St. Helen walked into his office looking to obtain his legal services. According to the story, St. Helen had been unfairly indicted by a federal court in Tyler, Texas for selling tobacco and alcohol without a license. At the time, he revealed to Bates that he did not wish to go to court, "in fear that my true identity be discovered" and admitted that John St. Helen was an alias. However, he failed to disclose his true name. No matter- Bates handled the legal affairs by traveling to Tyler and paying a fine on exchange for the charges being dismissed.

The two gentlemen eventually befriended each other, and would sometimes carry on detailed discussions. Bates took particular notice of his newfound companion's exceptional oratorical skills, his "theatrical mannerisms", and his seemingly limitless knowledge of the works of Shakespeare. However, the young lawyer didn't pay much attention to these informal chats until 1877, when St. Helen suddenly took seriously ill. When it appeared that St. Helen was on his deathbed, he summoned for Bates. When Bates arrived, St. Helen delivered a shocking announcement: "I am dying. My name is John Wilkes Booth, and I am the assassin of President Lincoln. Get the picture of myself from under the pillow. I leave it with you for future identification.



June 2021 Historical Program by Andrew Petty

The Curtain Call: The Last Acts of John Wilkes Booth



Notify my brother, Edwin Booth, of New York City.”

Bates was initially skeptical of St. Helen’s story. There was no way to corroborate St. Helen’s admission, and as the man was soon to pass away, Bates dismissed the account as the nonsensical ramblings of a dying man. Yet, it wouldn’t be much of a story if that were the end of things. As it was, St. Helen made a miraculous recovery. When he had regained his health, St. Helen proceeded to tell Bates the harrowing details of the assassination plot and subsequent escape. Bates wrote in his book that St. Helen claimed that he had killed Lincoln purely for patriotic intentions and that then Vice-President Andrew Johnson was the mastermind behind the conspiracy. From there, St. Helen’s version of events more or less matched up to the historical record, until it diverged with his arrival at Garrett’s barn.

So, if it wasn’t John Wilkes Booth who perished that night, then who did? St. Helen’s explanation was that the man whom Union soldiers had captured and killed that night was an acquaintance named “Ruddy” who, not surprisingly, bore a striking resemblance to Booth. Furthermore, St. Helen described how he had entrusted Ruddy with his papers and other personal effects such as his diary and family pictures, which is why the soldiers had plausibly mistaken the dead man for Booth (who was now supposedly masquerading as St. Helen). Despite St. Helen’s insistence that his real identity was indeed that of John Wilkes Booth, Bates remained unconvinced.

The following year in 1878, Bates and St. Helen went their separate ways. Bates headed off to Memphis, Tennessee; whereas St. Helen presumably made his way to Leadville, Colorado, again to be subsequently lost in the chronicles of history. Over time, the incredulous account would fade into memory as well, with Bates ultimately concluding that St. Helen’s tale, while amusing and entertaining, held no weight of truth to it. This, the legend of John Wilkes Booth would lay dormant for another twenty-five years, until a chance publication in the newspaper Willis thrust the story back into the spotlight.

On January 13, 1903, a man named David Elihu George committed suicide at the Grand Avenue Hotel in Enid, Oklahoma by ingesting a fatal quantity of strychnine. He had purchased the poison the evening before from the local drugstore supposedly to kill a dog, whose barking had kept him up all night. Later on, George acquired another dose of strychnine from the same supplier to get rid of a cat. At approximately 10:30 a.m., guests of the hotel heard wails and groans coming from George’s room. Breaking down the door, they found George in the piteous throes of death. Despite efforts to save him, George succumbed to the effects of the strychnine thirty minutes later. The man’s death was perplexing as it was, but it turned out the life of David E. George presented far stranger details. Nine months before his death, George had unsuccessfully made another suicide attempt. Believing that he was soon to expire, George confessed to the wife of Methodist preacher E. C. Harper that he was, in actuality, John Wilkes Booth, starting to her, “I killed the best man who ever lived.”



June 2021 Historical Program by Andrew Petty

The Curtain Call: The Last Acts of John Wilkes Booth



As the undertaker was preparing to embalm the remains of George, Reverend Harper hurriedly rushed into the furniture store (which also served the functionary duties of a mortuary) and uttered, "You are embalming the body of John Wilkes Booth, who killed Abraham Lincoln." After comparing a picture of Booth to the likeness of David E. George, the undertaker became convinced that the two individuals were one and the same, and took great care in preserving the corpse for future identification purposes.

The sensation soon became front page news, with the townspeople of Enid flocking to the furniture store to gaze upon the features of such a notorious historical figure. The Daily Wave, Enid's local newspaper, felt compelled to run the story, along with a picture of the deceased. It wasn't long before the rumors of Booth's demise spread beyond the borders of Oklahoma- and one of the readers of the paper soon contacted the Wave, offering to divulge some bombshell information about the man in question. Ten days later, Finis L. Bates arrived in Enid to positively identify the body.

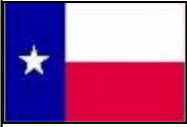
When Bates entered the furniture store and examined the figure lying before him, he exclaimed, "My old friend, St. Helen!" As far as anyone else was concerned, that was all the confirmation they needed- it seemed apparent that David E. George, also known as John St. Helen, was the infamous John Wilkes Booth. When Bates matched the stories of St. Helen with the accounts of David George, he discovered they overlapped remarkably well. As a result, Bates spent the next four years compiling his notes and released his book, *The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes Booth* in 1907, to critical acclaim- the book sold 75,000 copies in its first release.

For the next eight years, the body of David E. George sat unclaimed, with the undertaker displaying the corpse in his furniture shop. He propped the body in a chair, put a newspaper in his hand, and charged curious passerby a dime to view the notorious assassin of Abraham Lincoln. Eventually, Bates himself took possession of the remains, periodically lending them out to passing circus sideshows. One very interested buyer was none other than the famous automaker Henry Ford, who offered \$1000 to purchase the late David George from Bates. However, his publicist ultimately talked Ford out of the deal over considerable doubts that George really was the authentic John Wilkes Booth. Bates himself would pass away in 1923 at his home in Memphis.

After Bates' death, his widow sold George's body to William Evans, who ran several small carnival outfits. Evans went across the country touring with George until 1930, when another carnie, John Harmon, purchased the mummy for \$5,000, and offered \$1,000 to anyone who could disprove claims that George and Booth were the same person. Allegedly, no one was able to collect on the bounty. George would make the rounds for several more years, and be shuffled amongst various circus shows, before disappearing sometime in the 1970s.

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June 2021 Historical Program by Andrew Petty

The Curtain Call: The Last Acts of John Wilkes Booth



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So, how well do Bates's claims hold up in the face of intense historical scrutiny? Turns out, not very well. Upon further investigation, historians discovered that Bates was inaccurate on a number of things. First off, academics found it incredulous that, despite the passage of a quarter century, Bates was able to recall his discussions with St. Helen in stunning detail, sometimes recording the information "word for word". In addition, Bates ignored the fact that, at the time of Booth's death, several family members and friends had positively identified the body dug from Garrett's barn as Booth; and none of the physical descriptions Bates put forth matched up with known descriptions of him. For example, the hairline on the body of George did not match Booth's; George had blue eyes whereas Booth's eyes were jet black. Perhaps most damning however, was that Bates had offered as proof a fracture to George's lower right leg as positive identification of him being Booth- despite the fact that the notes of Dr. Samuel Mudd, who set Booth's leg after his escape from Ford's Theater, recorded the injury to the *left* leg.

While scholars did not consider Bates' claims legitimate, this failed to dissuade everyone- including the descendants of John Wilkes Booth, who wanted to definitively know if the person buried in the family plot was indeed their relative, or an imposter. In 1994, the family members filed suit in Maryland state court to have the remains in Booth's grave exhumed for DNA testing to verify once and for all the man's identity. However, there were numerous problems with this approach. The caretakers in charge of Green Mount Cemetery, where members of the Booth family are buried, flatly refused the request, citing the rather "flimsy evidence" presented by Bates and stating that there was no convincing reason to disturb the grave. Because Booth's body had been clumsily and hastily interred, it was likely that the remains had deteriorated to a point to render DNA testing infeasible in the first place. As it was, there was also speculation over the location of the tomb within the cemetery itself- while Booth has a grave marker, there is considerable doubt that his body actually lies underneath the stone bearing his name, and that he might possibly be buried in an unmarked plot.

With the Booth family resting places rendered untouchable, it seemed as if the quest to bring closure to Bates' theory had reached a dead end. However, it turns out there was one Booth family member who wasn't interred in Mount Green Cemetery, or even the city of Baltimore itself for that matter- and could provide the strongest evidence yet to support the side of the conspirators.



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The Curtain Call: The Last Acts of John Wilkes Booth



That person was none other than Booth's famous elder brother Edwin, buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Boston. Once the funeral home there obtained permission from Edwin's great-great-granddaughter, they readily agreed to unbury Edwin Booth to solve the 130 year old mystery.

Yet another dilemma presented itself- there was nothing to compare Edwin's DNA to. The location of George/St. Helen's body was unknown; and John's Wilkes's remains were off limits. Again, it looked as if the historical scavenger hunt had come to a standstill- until the discovery of a crucial artifact which provided some glimmer of hope. When the doctors had initially performed the autopsy on the body removed from the Garrett barn, they had extracted three vertebrae from where Boston Corbett's bullet had passed through the neck. These vertebrae are in the possession of the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Silver Spring, Maryland, which is overseen by the U.S. Army Medical Command.

In 2013, Booth's descendants petitioned the Army to have skeletal DNA testing conducted on the vertebrae- if it was a familial match, then historians could definitively conclude that they had been correct all along- that Booth was indeed the identity of the man who had been trapped in the barn a century and a half ago. If however, the DNA was different, then it would lend some credence to Bates's allegations. Unfortunately, the Army rejected the request for testing, stating that such an experiment would irreparably damage the specimen- even though only .2 grams of bone would have been required for a sample. Until one party agrees to budge for the sake of history- whether it be the cemetery, the military, or perhaps some other as yet unknown source- the ultimate fate of John Wilkes Booth will remain a tantalizing mystery.

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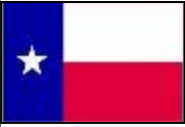
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John H. Reagan picture from the past

Picture taken from Compatriot Stuart Whitaker's facebook post



Judge John Henniger Reagan relaxes with his family and friends on the front lawn of his home. He is in the rocking chair on the right. He came to the Republic of Texas about the age of 19. In 1838, he settled in Nacogdoches, where he joined local militia during the Cherokee War. In 1851, he became a citizen of Palestine and established a home with a law office in the front on the old Rusk Road (now 900 Lacy Street). He later bought a farm west of Palestine on the old Fort Houston site. After a very active political life, he retired in 1901 to write his memoirs, with special emphasis on Secession and the Civil War.

The picture and caption above were copied from Compatriot Stuart Whitaker's facebook post.



ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR

JUNE 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 June 1864 - to Jeff Davis My daily prayer to the great Ruler of the world is that He may shield you from harm, guard you from evil & give you peace the world cannot take away	2 undated - You cannot be a true man until you learn to obey	3 June, 1863 - to wife I trust that a kind Providence will watch over us, & notwithstanding our weakness & sins will yet give us a name & place among the nations	4 June, 1864 - to wife We are all in the hands of our Merciful God, whom I know will order all things for our good & upon Him is my whole faith & reliance.	5 June, 1839 - to his wife Mildness & forbearance, tempered by firmness & judgment, will strengthen their [children] affection for you, while it will maintain your control
6 undated - to Markie I shall therefore have the great pleasure of being at Arlington Saturday where my affections & attachments are more strongly placed than at any other place in the World.	7 undated - No tears at Arlington! No tears!	8 June, 1863 - to wife What a beautiful world god has given us! What a shame that men endowed with reason & knowledge of right should mar His gifts.	9 June, 1861 - to wife I should like to retire to private life, if I could be with you & the children, but if I can be of any service to the state or her cause I must continue.	10 June, 1862 - to wife I cannot help grieving [grandson's death] but when I reflect upon his great gain by his merciful transition from earth to Heaven, I think we ought to rejoice.	11 June, 1863 - to Charlotte Wicham Some good is always mixed with the evil in this world	12 undated - to wife My trust is in our Heavenly Father to whom my supplications continually ascend for you, my children, & my country!
13 June, 1863 - I grieve over the desolation of the country & the distress to innocent women & children occasioned by spiteful excursions of the enemy, unworthy of a civilized nation.	14 June, 1864 - to Jeff Davis We have only to do our whole duty, & everything will be well.	15 June, 1869 - to Robert You will have to get married if you wish to prosper.	16 undated - I have great reluctance to speak on political subjects. I have, however, said I think all who can should register & vote.	17 June, 1865 - to Col. Taylor Tell [our returned soldiers] they must all set to work & if they cannot do what they prefer, do what they can.	18 undated - to College Faculty We must be very careful how we are influenced by hearsay.	19 undated - to wife In this time of great suffering to the state & country, our private distresses we must bear with resignation like Christians.
20 undated - to Robert With the improvement of your farm, proceeds will increase & with experience, judgment, & economy, will augment greatly.	21 undated - to Trustees I need not enlarge upon the importance of a good library to the advancement of the college. A useful literary institution cannot be maintained without it.	22 June, 1851 - to Custis I am opposed to the theory of doing wrong that good may come of it. I hold to the belief that you must act right whatever the consequences.	23 undated - I am fond of independence. It is that feeling that prompts me to come up strictly to the requirements of law & regulations.	24 June, 1861 - No one can say what is in the future, nor is it wise to anticipate evil. But it is well to prepare for what may reasonably happen & be provided for the worst.	25 undated - to Custis In regard to duty do your duty in all things—you cannot do more—you should never wish to do less.	26 undated - to Agnes You know how pleased I am at the presence of strangers, what a cheerful mood their company produces.
27 June, 1863 - to his men It must be remembered that we make war only upon armed men & that we cannot take vengeance for the wrongs our people have suffered.	28 undated - As a general principle you should not force young men to their duty, but let them do it voluntarily & thereby develop their characters.	29 June, 1854 - to Markie Nor is it possible for us always to do 'the good that we would,' & omit 'the evil we would not.'	30 June, 1864 - to wife Do you recollect what a happy day 31 years ago this was? How many hopes & pleasures it gave birth to! God has been merciful & kind to us.			



TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN JUNE

From the Texas State Historical Association



June 1, 1864 On this day, celebrated Confederate partisan Adam Rankin (Stovepipe) Johnson was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. Johnson was born in Henderson, Kentucky, and moved to Texas in 1854. There he gained a reputation as the surveyor of much virgin territory in West Texas, as an Indian fighter, and as a stage driver for the Butterfield Overland Mail. With the outbreak of the Civil War Johnson returned to Kentucky and enlisted as a scout under Nathan Bedford Forrest. His subsequent exploits as commander of the Texas Partisan Rangers within the federal lines in Kentucky earned him a colonel's commission in August 1862 and a promotion to brigadier general in 1864. One of his most remarkable feats was the capture of Newburgh, Indiana, from a sizable Union garrison with only twelve men and two joints of stovepipe mounted on the running gear of an abandoned wagon. This episode won him his nickname. Johnson was blinded and captured at a skirmish at Grubb's Crossroads in August 1864. Upon his release he returned to Texas, where he lived for his remaining sixty years and founded the town of Marble Falls, "the blind man's town."

June 11, 1865 On this day, an estimated fifty desperados broke into the state treasury in Austin, one of the boldest crimes in Texas history. The robbery occurred during the chaotic period immediately after the downfall of the Confederacy in the spring of 1865. Gen. Nathan G. Shelley informed George R. Freeman, a Confederate veteran and leader of a small company of volunteer militia, that the robbery was imminent. By the time Freeman and about twenty of his troops arrived at the treasury, the robbers were in the building. A brief gunfight erupted in which one of the robbers was mortally wounded; all the other robbers fled toward Mount Bonnell, west of Austin, carrying with them about \$17,000 in specie, more than half of the gold and silver in the state treasury. None was ever captured. The loot was never recovered, although some of the money was found strewn between the treasury building and Mount Bonnell. Freeman and his company of volunteers were later recognized by the state for their service in defending the public treasury, but the resolution providing a reward for their services never passed the legislature.

June 19, 1865 On this day ("Juneteenth"), Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and issued General Order Number 3, which read in part, "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor." The tidings of freedom reached the approximately 250,000 slaves in Texas gradually as individual plantation owners informed their bondsmen over the months following the end of the war. The news elicited an array of personal celebrations, some of which have been described in *The Slave Narratives of Texas* (1974). The first broader celebrations of Juneteenth were used as political rallies and to teach freed African American about their voting rights. Within a short time, however, Juneteenth was marked by festivities throughout the state, some of which were organized by official Juneteenth committees.

June 25, 1864 - On this day, a skirmish between Confederate and Union forces was fought at Las Rusias, a colonia located one mile north of the Rio Grande in southwest Cameron County. Confederate officer Refugio Benavides of Laredo led a company and joined John Salmon (Rip) Ford to overrun Union forces. Ford, a colonel of the Second Texas Cavalry who engaged in border operations protecting Confederate-Mexican trade, praised Benavides for his gallant conduct during the battle. Las Rusias had also been the site of a skirmish on April 25, 1846, when Mexican troops ambushed an American patrol; the shedding of "American blood upon American soil" sparked the Mexican War.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

JUNE IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN



June 6, 1857- John H. Reagan made 1st speech in bid for US Rep. at Palestine.



June 10, 1891- John H. Reagan's official appointment by Gov. Hogg as 1st Railroad Commissioner of Texas.

June 19, 1896- John H. Reagan 5th recipient of honorary doctorate at Tulane Univ., New Orleans, La.



June 23, 1865- John H. Reagan's letter to Gov. A.J. Hamilton asking for pardon and release from Federal Prison, Boston Harbor.

Other important dates in June

June 23, 1861- Co. G (Reagan Guards) 1st Texas Vol. Regt., Hoods Brigade, org. in Palestine by J.R. Woodward.



June 24, 1861- Co H, 1st Texas Vol. Inf. Regt., Hoods Brigade, org. in Palestine by J.G. Deveroux; A.T. Rainey was Capt.

June 21, 1900- Hood's Brigade veterans began 3 day convention in Palestine.



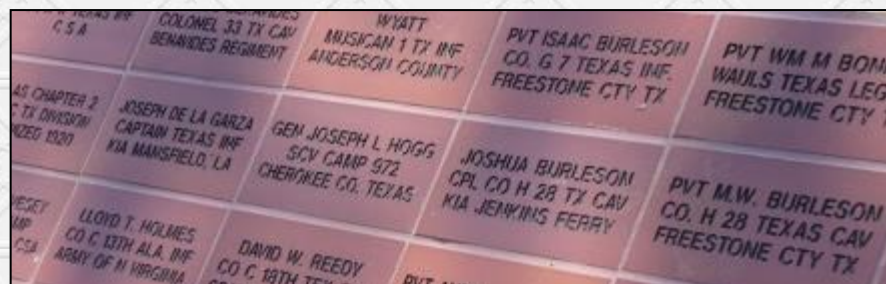
June 28, 1900- Reception held at John H. Reagan's home for Hood's Brigade veterans.



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



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



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

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

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

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

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

THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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

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

United Confederate Veterans

New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 3rd Tuesday Each
Month - 06:30 PM
Snacks 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.