



## SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

## THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

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

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2022

## COMMANDER DYER'S DISPATCH



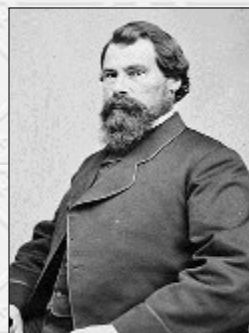
Compatriots,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying out of the heat.

Today is July 3, it is the 159th Anniversary of Pickett's Charge during the battle of Gettysburg. I have been thinking about it most of the day. To me it is still amazing that the Confederate soldiers had the courage to do a charge like this. 159 years ago right now numerous Southern men and boys lay dead on Northern soil. As we all know, the Confederate Army left Gettysburg on July 4th, the same day that Grant and the

Yankees took over Vicksburg, Mississippi. It has been my understanding that John H. Reagan was at the Cabinet meeting when Lee told them that he was planning to take the troops into Pennsylvania. Reagan wanted Lee to send troops to Vicksburg because if Vicksburg fell Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas would be cut off from the rest of the Confederacy which is exactly what happened. It makes me think what if. What if Lee and Davis would have taken Reagan's advice? They wouldn't have lost either. Image how this would have affected the outcome of the war and history.

Dan Dyer



## 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

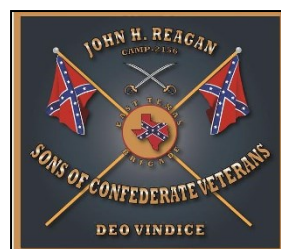
U. S. Rep. from Texas

District Judge

Texas State Representative

First Chairman - Railroad

Commission of Texas

A Founder and President of the  
Texas State Historical Association

## CAMP MEETINGS

4th Thursday 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](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)
[www.reaganscvcamp.org](http://www.reaganscvcamp.org)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commander's Dispatch	1
Calendar of Events	2
June Meeting Pics	3
June Historical Program by Andrew Harris	4-7
"Capt. James Daniel Roberdeau"	
Remembering Your Ancestor	8
Robert E. Lee Calendar for June	9
Tx Civil War History for June	10
Confederate Plaza Info	11
Reagan Camp Contacts	12

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 Dan Dyer at [danieldyer497@yahoo.com](mailto:danieldyer497@yahoo.com)

### 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 4th Thursday of each month in the Commercial Bank of Texas meeting room**

July 19-21, 2022 - National Reunion in Georgia

July 28, 2022 - July Meeting

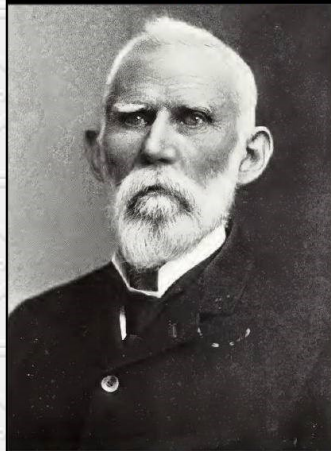
August 25, 2022 - August Meeting

September 22, 2022 - September Meeting

"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-

### THE ISSUE OF BRAVE CONDUCT



Captain, Company C, Eleventh Virginia Regiment, Kemper's Brigade

**WILLIAM HENRY  
MORGAN**

*"The Yankees had a custom of promoting men from the ranks for brave conduct on the field of battle. If this custom had prevailed in the Confederate army, as I have often remarked, there would have been more officers than privates in that army; for no army ever had so many men so deserving and so capable of being officers."*

W. H. Morgan, Personal Reminiscences of the War of 1861-5 (Lynchburg, Va.: J. P. Bell Company, Inc., 1911), 12.

### Officers for 2022

Commander - Dan Dyer

1st Lt. - David Franklin

Adjutant/Treasurer - Richard Thornton

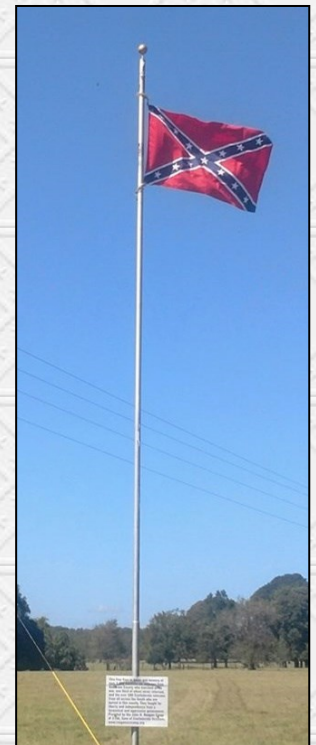
Sgt at Arms - Doug Smith

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](http://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.

"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-





## JUNE REAGAN CAMP SCV MEETING PICS

### JUNE 26, 2022



We had 14 in attendance at the June meeting. For our meal together we had pizza, homemade Chicken Pot Pie, Goulash, soft fried new potatoes with onions, skillet cornbread, fresh tomatoes, fresh fruit salad, chocolate cake, cake squares and sweet tea. As always, everything was delicious. One thing about our meetings, you don't ever leave one hungry!

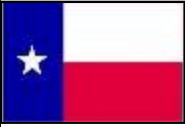
We appreciate the Commercial Bank of Texas for allowing us to use their banquet room for our meetings.

Our July meeting will be held on Thursday, July 28th. We hope you can join us!



Following the meal together, Andrew Harris provided us with a very interesting program on a glass-plate ambrotype and the person pictured on it. You can see pictures and read notes of his program on the following pages.





## JUNE HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### LT - CAPT. JAMES DANIEL ROBERDEAU

#### BY ANDREW HARRIS

Andrew Harris presented the June historical program to the Reagan Camp at the monthly meeting. Andrew has put together an impressive collection of artifacts from the War of Northern Aggression, and he has given us some great historical programs in the past. This month's program was also impressive!

Andrew purchased an original photograph from the war to put in his collection. When he purchased the photograph, he had no idea who the officer in the photograph was or any history of the man. But through his persistence, he was able to not only find out the officer's name, but also a whole lot more.

Andrew has allowed us to print his program in this newsletter for those who were unable to make it to the meeting. We really appreciate Andrew for the program and for his friendship.

### ***James Daniel Roberdeau***

*Lieutenant - Captain  
Company "B", 5<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry  
Hood's Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia*



1st Lieutenant (later Captain) James Daniel Roberdeau

James Daniel Roberdeau was born on February 6th, 1830 in Fairfax County Virginia.

He was a born patriot and soldier...a man destined to become a Confederate hero.

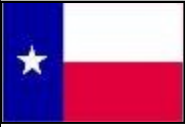
He was of French Scotch ancestry.

His Great-Grandfather – Isaac Roberdeau - was a Huguenot. The Huguenot's were Protestants who suffered severe religious persecution by the Catholic government in France during the 1600's. He left France after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, which suspended religious freedoms, and took refuge on the Island of St. Christopher, in the Caribbean / West Indies, in about 1685.

His great-grandfather had three children, including an only son – Daniel Roberdeau – who was born, there on the island of St. Christopher, in 1727. The elder Roberdeau died when Daniel was a young man, and his widowed mother, moved with Daniel and his two sisters to Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

Daniel Roberdeau, would make his mark in Pennsylvania during the founding of America. He was literally a founding father. He was a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (1756-1760), on the Council of Safety (1775-1776), a Brigadier General in the Revolution, commanding the Pennsylvania Militia in '76 (in fact there is still a Revolutionary War fort named after him in central Penn – Fort Roberdeau); member of the Continental Congress in 1777-8 & 9, and a signer of the Articles of Confederation. In 1784 he moved to Alexandria Virginia and then to Winchester, Virginia.





## JUNE HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### LT - CAPT. JAMES DANIEL ROBERDEAU

#### BY ANDREW HARRIS

James' father – James Milligan Roberdeau – was born here in 1785. A native Virginian, James's father was described as a man of culture, a graduate of Princeton University, with a large estate in Fairfax County, where he was reared and died in the prime of life leaving a large family of daughters and an only son... James Daniel Roberdeau. His father died in 1832 at the age of 47, when James was just 2 years old.

Not much is known of his early years, but in probably around 1858, at the age of 28, James Roberdeau moved to Texas. And by the time of the firing on Fort Sumter, he was living in Colorado County.

Several militia units were being formed in the little towns and communities across the South in those early days of the war, but on July 10th, 1861 in the town of Columbus, Colorado County a group of volunteers, including James, formed themselves into a company of infantry for regular service in the Confederate Army. James was elected 1st Lieutenant by the men...

They left Texas for Virginia, arriving in the Autumn of 1861 and were officially mustered into the Confederate Army as Company B, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry, in October 1861. The 5<sup>th</sup> Texas of course, along the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Texas would become part of John Bell Hood's famous Texas Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia.

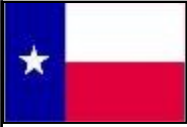
This artifact is an original glass-plate ambrotype of Roberdeau, taken sometime during those early days of the war. Here we see him in his Confederate uniform – a long, double-breasted coat, with two gold bars on the side of his collar, which indicates his rank of First Lieutenant. The cuffs of his coat have been tinted blue indicating the infantry branch of the service and he wears a pair of blue, officer's trousers with a wide gold stipe down the side. The subject of the photograph was previously unknown, but was ultimately identified as being Roberdeau through comparison with another known photograph of home that was published with his obituary in the September 1910, *Confederate Veteran* magazine. A picture really is worth 1,000 words and this one really gives us a glimpse into the character of the man. (photo can be seen later in this article)

One of his muster rolls lists Roberdeau as being 5 foot -10 inches, with blue eyes, brown hair, and dark complexion.

One soldier of the 5th Texas soldier remembered Roberdeau as being a strict disciplinarian, "a natural born soldier, which the men first thought was too strict for being a volunteer soldier. However, they learned quickly that Roberdeau was fair and just to his men and was untiring in behalf of their comfort. He demanded of the commissary and quartermaster all that was due his company and he generally received it."

Photo to the right is the original glass-plate Ambrotype, that Andrew was able to purchase, of Capt. Roberdeau.





## JUNE HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### LT - CAPT. JAMES DANIEL ROBERDEAU

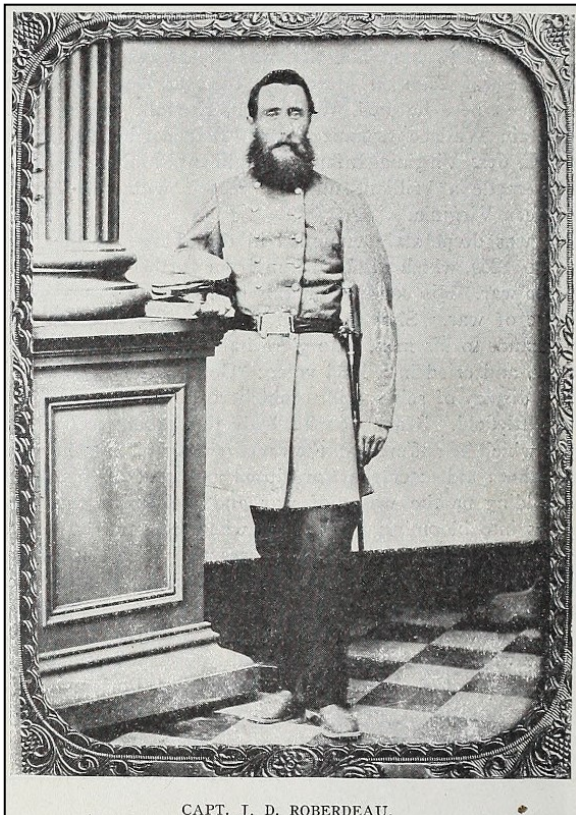
#### BY ANDREW HARRIS

Colonel James J. Archer, who initially commanded the 5th Texas Regiment (later became General) offered 1st Lieutenant Roberdeau a position of Brigade Commissary which meant a higher rank and better pay. However, Roberdeau declined the position preferring to remain with the company he helped raise and the rank and file of the regiment. Archer replied; "Lieutenant I admire your spirit, but damn your judgement". Roberdeau later said that "this conversation came to mind quite often while tramping in the snow on heavy marches when he thought of the warm berth of the quartermaster, in his comfortable ambulance wagon".

But, long marches and snow were not the only hazards he would face...

Roberdeau never missed a battle or skirmish in which Hood's Brigade was engaged, from Eltham's Landing in May 1862 to Gettysburg in July 1863. And he would be wounded three times in battle. First at the Battle of 2nd Manassas, a second time at Sharpsburg, and a third time at "Little Round Top" at Gettysburg.

James was promoted to Captain, just prior to the Battle of 2nd Manassas and on August 30, 1862 he would lead the 45 men of Company B, in a fierce fight against the 5th New York Zouaves during Longstreet's attack on the Union Army. The 5th Texas swept over the gaudy-dressed Zouaves, in their bright red baggy pants. Roberdeau would later write that, "Never before or since have I seen such alacrity displayed by soldiers". The hillside that they fought over was literally covered with the Yankee dead in their red and blue uniforms. Many of the men said afterward that the sight of the battlefield covered in the dead, reminded them of the fields of home, back in central Texas, when the red and blue wildflowers were in bloom.



CAPT. J. D. ROBERDEAU.

When the battle was over, 26 of the 45 Texans in Company B were either dead or wounded including Roberdeau who was shot in the right arm.

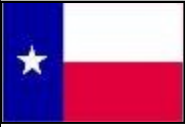
The following morning, at the suggestion of General Hood, Captain Roberdeau accepted a furlough to visit his mother, who still lived there in Northern Virginia, at the town of Centerville, which was not far away. He stayed there only one night...leaving in haste to catch up with Lee's Army as it began its first invasion of the north. To the astonishment of his men, he rejoined the regiment on September 5<sup>th</sup> at Leesburg, just as it crossed the Potomac, into Maryland. One soldier remembered, "his devotion to the cause for which we were fighting would not permit him to remain quiet at his old home."

The Maryland Campaign of course would culminate in the Battle of Sharpsburg, near Antietam Creek. The 5<sup>th</sup> Texas fought there, with the rest of Hood's Brigade, near the famous Dunker Church and the Cornfield, where they sustained extremely heavy casualties.

In the post war years, Roberdeau made an observation similar to many other veterans of the battle, writing that the Battle of Sharpsburg was "The longest day ever made!". He was wounded a second time in the fight, but the wound was described as slight and he remained with his Company.

Pictured above is the photograph that Andrew found which identifies the person in his ambrotype photo.





## JUNE HISTORICAL PROGRAM

### LT - CAPT. JAMES DANIEL ROBERDEAU

#### BY ANDREW HARRIS

The following summer, in July 1863, Hood's Texas Brigade would find on the far right of Lee's army in the assault against the formidable Yankee position at Gettysburg....places we all remember well - Little Round Top, the Devils Den and the Valley of Death. The 5<sup>th</sup> Texas was on the far right of Hood's brigade during the fight and Roberdeau and his men would end up across the Valley of Death, and on the far southern slope of Little Round Top and its saddle between Big Round Top as they attempted to turn the flank of the Union Army. One account describes that Captain Roberdeau and about 20 of his men outdistanced the other Texans; he was wounded a third time and was captured.

After Roberdeau's capture at Gettysburg he was confined at two different POW until after the war. First confined at Johnson's Island, Ohio. He was later transferred to Point Lookout, Maryland.

Following his release at war's end, he returned to Colorado County, Texas, in 1865.

He married Willie McCormick (sister of a veteran of the 35<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry), 15 years his junior, and during the post-war years they had six sons. Roberdeau served as mayor of the town of Weimar in the early 1870's and also worked in the General Land office in Austin for a time.

He died on May 18th, 1910 in his 80th year. His wife would die less than a year later, on April 3rd, 1911. They are both buried in the Weimar Masonic Cemetery in Weimar, Colorado County Texas.

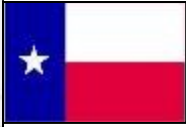
When Roberdeau passed on he was survived by only four members of his old Company B. Two of them were present at his funeral, while two were too feeble to attend.

We appreciate Andrew for the interesting program and for allowing us to print his pictures and notes.

Andrew was able to visit the grave of Captain James Daniel Roberdeau. To the right is a photograph of the Ambrotype with Capt Roberdeau's headstone.



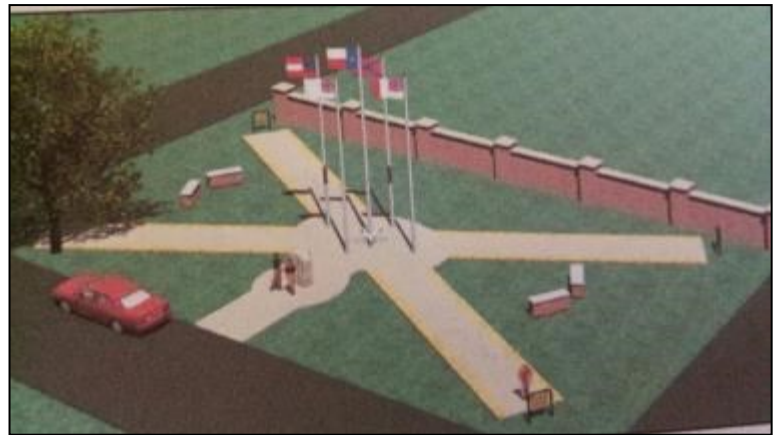




## A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR'S SERVICE AND HONOR IS NOT FORGOTTEN



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.



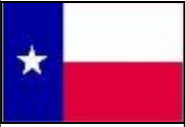


## ROBERT E. LEE CALENDAR



JUNE 2022

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 of the earth.	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 over them.	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.
226 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— <https://texasdaybyday.com/#feedCarousel>

**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.

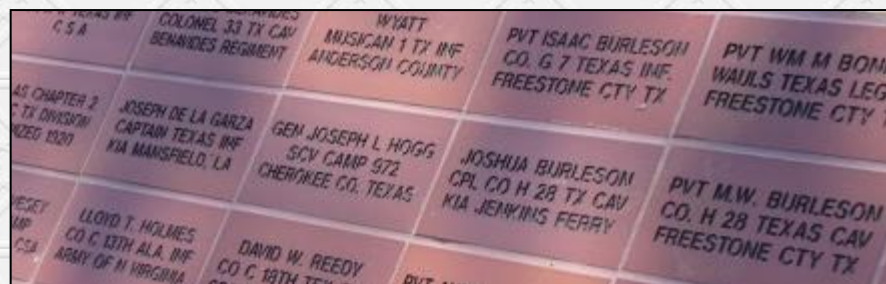




## CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA INFORMATION



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](mailto: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

Dan Dyer, Commander  
Palestine, Texas 75802  
E-mail: danielyer497@yahoo.com  
Phone: (903) 391-2224

Richard Thornton, Adjutant/Treasurer  
Palestine, Texas  
E-mail: tx\_tsar@hotmail.com  
Phone: 903-729-3864

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

Please visit our website @

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

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

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

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

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

## THE CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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

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

United Confederate Veterans

New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Camp meetings: 4th Thursday 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.