



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2010

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

Seasons Greetings Compatriots,

As we get nearer to the day we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and enjoy this season of giving and being with our loved ones, let us also remember those loved ones who have gone before us, setting an example of faith and of sacrifice for us all. I am especially speaking of our Confederate ancestors who sacrificed everything in an effort to hold on to their Southern Independence so that they and their descendants could live under the Constitution in its original interpretation by our founding fathers. Though unsuccessful in their efforts to maintain Southern Independence, they did leave us with a wonderful legacy that we as their descendants can not only be very proud of, but can also perpetuate to our next generation and beyond.

December 6, 1889 is a day to remember in honor of our beloved President Jefferson F. Davis. That was the day President Davis died. If you go to the following website, a short, excellent history of the President's funeral can be read with photos: Granberry's Texas Brigade Camp #1479, Conroe, Texas.

www.granburystexasbrigade.org/articles/davis/davis1889.html

I would like to thank 1st Lt. Commander Calvin Nicholson for his leadership and all our camp members who participated in the first annual Veterans in the Park Day in Reagan Park on November 6th. Our camp was invited to begin the ceremony by firing the opening round with our cannon. Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield took the opportunity to write and present an address honoring Confederate Veterans Anderson County Texas and explaining what the Sons of

Confederate Veterans is all about. Please take the time to read his address on page 8. This event is to be an annual one held on a Saturday close to Veterans Day to honor all American Veterans. Booth space was available to non-profit organizations only. The Reagan Camp table top display board was set up and members spoke to many visitors that morning.

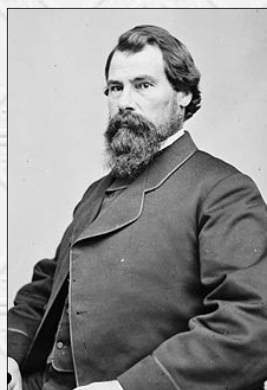
Thank you Chaplain Rod Skelton for the awesome chuck wagon meal and for you and your wife Nancy's hospitality while hosting our November meeting at your home and pavilion.

Best of wishes to Reagan Camp member, Rudy Ray, who will be impersonating John H. Reagan and presenting both his own academic paper on the causes of the War Between the States and Reagan camp member Gary Williams' paper on John H. Reagan's contribution to secession at the academic symposium at the Texas Division SCV sesquicentennial historical educational event "The Road to Secession" at Camp Gilmore, Gilmer, Texas December 1-5. Please support the Texas Division SCV by your attendance at this event.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual Christmas party and awards ceremony on December 11th 06:00 PM at the First Christian Church, Palestine.

I wish each and everyone of you and your families a very Merry Christmas season.

Respectfully your obedient servant,
Marc Robinson



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

"BUT UNBRIDLED AMBITION, PREFERRING SELF TO COUNTRY, AND APPEALING TO THE FREE SOIL SENTIMENT OF THE NORTHERN WING OF THE PARTY, HAS DESTROYED ITS UNITY IF NOT ITS NATIONALITY, AND WITH IT, THERE IS BUT TOO MUCH REASON TO FEAR, PREPARED THE WAY FOR THE SEPARATION OF THE STATES."

JOHN H. REAGAN

CAMP MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of Each Month
06:00 PM

Light meal served at each meeting.
First Christian Church
113 East Crawford Street
Palestine, Texas

Turn north on N. Sycamore St. off of Spring St. (Hwy 19, 84, & 287) (across from UP train station) travel three blocks, turn right on Crawford St., go one block Church is on left

Guests are welcome!
Bring the family.

www.reaganscvcamp.org

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LIEUTENANT RANDOLPH H. MCKIM, CSA

"OUR AFFAIRS LOOK DARK BUT NOT HOPELESS. THE WAR MAY BE A LONG ONE, BUT IT CAN HAVE BUT ONE TERMINATION—OUR INDEPENDENCE. WE ARE STIMULATED TO NEW EXERTION, OUR PEOPLE ARE ROUSED TO ACTION, AND THERE EXISTS A DEEP-SEATED RESOLVE IN THE HEART OF THE NATION TO CHOOSE EXTERMINATION BEFORE SUBJUGATION."

-- LETTER TO HIS MOTHER - MARCH 10, 1862

CONTRIBUTED BY KIRBY MCCORD



"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-

PRAYER LIST

- Mrs. Nelda Eppes
- Forrest Bradberry, Sr.
- Chaplain Ed Furman
- The Sons of Confederate Veterans
- The United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas
- The United States of America

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 11th 06:00 PM— John H. Reagan Camp Christmas party at the First Christian Church Palestine, TX

December 12th 03:00 PM— Confederate Funeral Ceremony for long time Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp Adjutant and Val Verde Battery member John Robinson of Teague, Texas. Mexia Cemetery, Mexia, TX. Reagan Camp Color/Honor Guard to assist along with the Battery. Contact—Calvin Nicholson.

December 18th 01:30 PM— Tennessee Colony Cemetery, Tennessee Colony Texas, Confederate Grave Marker Dedication for Pvt. Lloyd T. Holmes, 13th Alabama Infantry .

January 8, 2011 06:00 PM— John H. Reagan Camp Annual meeting (**Officer elections**) at the First Christian Church Palestine, TX
January 8th Program : To be announced

January 22, 2011, 06:00-11:00PM— **7th annual Moonlight and Magnolias Antebellum Ball**, Cook Center at Navarro College, Corsicana, TX, Sponsored by the J. L. Halbert Camp #359 SCV, Tickets—\$25/ person, Contact Brandon Ford for tickets—903-654-1951, 735 FM 55 Barry, TX
Moonlight and Magnolias began as a dream 8 years ago and is still going strong today. The dream: a wonderful evening full of elegance and fun. Where families can come

together over a wonderful meal, learn about history, dance the night away. Entering its 7th year, Moonlight and Magnolias will become something entirely new and even more spectacular! Please come join us for this wonderful event! For more information: www.12htexasartillery.org/moonlight2011.html



Above: Moonlight and Magnolias Antebellum Ball, Cook Center at Navarro College, Corsicana, TX

"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 INFLECTED UPON ME, ALL THAT MY COUNTRY WAS TO SUFFER, ALL THAT OUR POSTERITY WAS TO ENDURE, I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN."

-PRESEDENT
JEFFERSON DAVIS-



THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—NOVEMBER 13, 2010



Above: Members and guests enjoying the program as they are seated under a new pavilion built at Rod and Nancy Skelton's residence near Montalba, Texas.



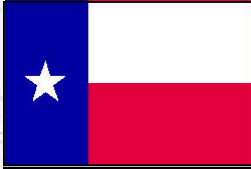
Above: Reagan Camp Chaplain Rod Skelton preparing the evening meal from his authentic 1870 period chuck wagon. We all know how good Chaplain Skelton can cook, but the food prepared in his dutch ovens and large cast iron pots that evening was simply the best ever!



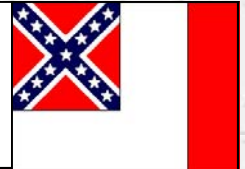
Above: Dr. Bill Rogers of Tyler, Texas presented an awesome program on the 1864 Red River Campaign. Dr. Rogers is an excellent speaker and presented very interesting detail information on the campaign in which some was information no one had ever heard before. An anonymous donor gave this framed photo to be given to Dr. Rogers that evening.



Above: Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield reading the Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans to the members and guest present at the meeting. Mrs. Dollye Jeffus and Lt. Cmdr. Calvin Nicholson are seated to his right.



IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN
COMPILED BY
REAGAN CAMP HISTORIAN, DANIEL DYER



DEC. 4, 1865

JOHN H. REAGAN ARRIVED IN TEXAS AT GALVESTON FOLLOWING RELEASE FROM FEDERAL PRISON.

DEC. 6, 1875

JOHN REAGAN TOOK SEAT AS REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 44TH U. S. CONGRESS.

DEC. 7, 1857

JOHN REAGAN TOOK SEAT AS U. S. REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 35TH CONGRESS.

DEC. 11, 1857

JOHN REAGAN ADMITTED AS ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR OF THE U. S. SUPREME COURT.

DEC. 14, 1860

JOHN REAGAN JOINED 29 SOUTHERN U. S. CONGRESSMEN IN ISSUING MANIFESTO DECLARING INEVITABILITY OF SECESSION.

DEC. 23, 1857

JOHN REAGAN MADE HIS 1ST MOTION ON THE FLOOR OF THE U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Photo to right:

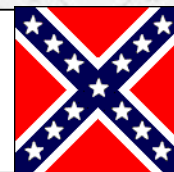
John H. Reagan in his study at his home he called Fort Houston near Palestine, Texas





TO ARMS!

BY RONNIE HATFIELD
COPYRIGHT 1994



To Arms, my Southern Brethren, To Arms,
goes out the call,
rise up again for honor, lest the gloried
colors fall!
Let not our fathers sacrifice, be blood
that spilled in vain,
let not them watch from Heaven's rest,
and feel again the pain.
For they wept at Appomattox, with the
battle not yet won,
when the last flag had been folded, and
they'd fired the final gun.
The standard these men followed, though
battle torn and stained,
should represent to each of us, a cause
which still remains.
A symbol to their memory, and the devotion
these men gave,
we as Sons of Veterans, are duty bound
to save!
Take up the fight our fathers knew, and
defend our sacred land,

from those who would write history, with
a tainted pen in hand!
Take back the flag our fathers loved, from
those who bring her shame,
and let no man e'er dishonor her, or the
men who brought her fame!



Texas Monument at the location of Miller's Cornfield, Battle of Sharpsburg, MA.

Monument Text:

TEXAS Remembers the valor and devotion of her sons who served at Sharpsburg September 16 - 17, 1862

Here in the Cornfield early on the morning of September 17 the Texas Brigade helped blunt the attack of elements of Mansfield's Union Corps. Almost alone during this powerful Federal onslaught the Texas Brigade sealed a threatening gap in the Confederate line. In so doing the 1st Texas Infantry Regiment suffered a casualty rate of 82.3 percent, the greatest loss suffered by any infantry regiment, North or South, during the war. Of approximately 850 men engaged the Texas Brigade counted over 550.

CASUALTIES

Texas troops at Sharpsburg were: 1st Texas Inf., Lt. Col. P.a. Work; 4th Texas Inf., Lt. Col. B.F. Carter; 5th Texas Inf., Capt. Ike N.M. Turner. (Col. W.T. Wofford's Texas Brigade Hood's Division, Longstreet's Corps)

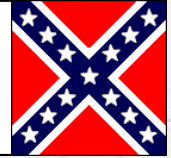
The Texas Brigade included the 18th Georgia Inf., Lt. Col. S.Z. Ruff, Hampton South Carolina Legion (Inf. Cos.) Lt. Col. M. W. Gary
A Memorial to Texans Who served the Confederacy Erected: by the State of Texas 1964 No. 29-B

Photo from: National Park Service



LIMITATIONS

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



Many of us are concerned about the effectiveness of our confederation. For all of our conferences, campaigns, movements, events and activities we are seemingly stuck in a rut. As someone once said, "The mountain labors and brings forth a mouse." What is it that makes the effectiveness of our efforts mediocre when they could be miraculous? Could our limitations be a result of our own "Hindering Spirits?"

Now, hindering spirits are not floating in the air above us like Humming Birds inspecting a bright red flower. They are within us. And, I venture to name three such spirits which may be found among us today.

First, there is the "fighting spirit." Of course, there is a fighting spirit that is good and proper. We are to endure hardness and fight the good fight. We need an aroused indignation against those who oppose us and all their evil works. Some of our members are peaceful because they do not believe anything enough, or they are too indifferent toward our cause to fight for it. I heard of a soldier who was asked how many of the enemy did he kill. "None," was his reply. "But, I got as many of them as they got of me." Unfortunately many of our members are just about as effective. We need a fighting spirit. However, too often we are fighting each other instead of our common enemy. The greatest danger to our cause is not from without, but from this hindering spirit within.

Then there is the "frivolous spirit." We all like having a good time, and certainly our meetings should be enjoyable. But there is an inherent seriousness in our cause which requires that our manner and conduct match our purpose. The member who thinks of the SCV only as a hobby at which to "play" and have "fun," should be shown photographs of our heroic Confederate forefathers lying dead and bloated on a battlefield. Then they need to be reminded that the very evil forces that killed them are even now attempting to discredit their cause, and erase their memory. How can we think of playing and having fun when the blood of our brave Confederate ancestors cry out from a hundred hillsides, "Where is my honor!"

Finally, there is the "fed-up spirit." There is perhaps nothing more discouraging to our membership than to see some-

one who has worked long and hard for our Cause leave the SCV in disgust. We all get tired "in" the fight. But, we must never get tired "of" the fight. We will win some, we may lose some, but we must never quit. Our Confederate forefathers fought to defend our country. Now, they are depending on us to defend their honor and preserve their memory. To do this we must repel the hindering spirits that beset us and prevent us from fully accomplishing our mission. Remember.....

**"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans,
we submit the vindication of the cause
for which we fought..."**

This is the responsibility of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, it was not given to any one else, therefore the Charge is, and must be, our defining characteristic. For the sake of our Confederate fathers and our proud Southern heritage, we must go forth into battle believing that God is our Champion and Vindicator. We must believe that, as we trust Him and follow Him, He will strengthen and guide us to victory over the enemies of truth. Psalm 18:2&3 states, "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from my enemies." Then verse 47 goes on to tell us, "It is God that avengeth me..."

It is my prayer and sincere desire that our Lord bless each of you in His service, and in service to our just and most worthy Cause. Heb. 10:30.....

Bro. Len Patterson, Th.D
Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi

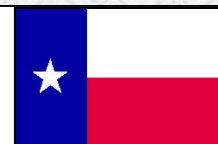
"IN ALL MY PERPLEXITIES AND DISTRESSES,
THE BIBLE HAS NEVER FAILED TO GIVE ME
LIGHT AND STRENGTH."

-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE-



VETERANS IN THE PARK DAY

A DAY TO HONOR ALL OF THE MILITARY VETERANS WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY - REAGAN PARK, PALESTINE, TX



Above: The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 Val Verde Battery was asked to fire an opening round with the cannon to begin the first annual Veterans in the Park Day held on **November 6, 2010**. From left to right: Frank Moore, Billy Newsom, Calvin Nicholson, Kirby McCord, Ronnie Hatfield, and John Barnhart. Non-profit organizations only were allowed to set up display booths in the park. The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 had their table top display out and spoke to many visitors who stopped by their booth that day.



Above: Reagan Camp members stand at attention alongside members of Veterans organizations while they salute the U.S. flag as the National Anthem is played during the opening ceremonies for the Veterans in the Park Day at Reagan Park, Palestine, Texas



Above: A photo taken just as the Reagan Camp's Val Verde Battery fires the cannon to kick off the Veterans in the Park Day.



Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield in the wonderful company of two special Southern Ladies and members of the Davis-Reagan Chapter 2292 UDC. Left-right Mrs. Dollye Jeffus, Sgt. Hatfield, and Mrs. Jean Stokes. Standing in front of the Gazebo in Reagan Park.

Continued: Sergeant Ronnie Hatfield's address to the crowd is printed on the following page...



VETERANS IN THE PARK DAY

A DAY TO HONOR ALL OF THE MILITARY VETERANS WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY - REAGAN PARK, PALESTINE, TX



Veteran's Day Address

Written and presented by Ronnie Hatfield

The **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is the direct heir of the **United Confederate Veterans**, and is the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers.

On June 30, 1896, in Richmond, Virginia, representatives of 24 camps and societies of the **UCV** met to take action, after several years of planning. Prior to this date, descendants of those veterans had been attending meetings of the **UCV** but had no official status as members.

J E B Stuart, Jr., son of the noted cavalry leader, was selected as temporary chairman, and a committee was appointed to draft a constitution. They worked late into the night, and on the next day, July 1, 1896, the constitution was completed and adopted. **The Sons of Confederate Veterans** had been born. J E B Stuart Jr. was elected as our first Commander General.

In New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 25, 1906, Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, then Commander General of the **United Confederate Veterans**, addressed our membership at convention, and presented to us "The Charge" by which our organization molds its purpose, its goals, and its standards. That charge reads as follows...

"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."

Membership in the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces, and can be obtained through either direct or collateral family lines and kinship to a veteran must be documented genealogically. As our Confederate ancestors believed in, and indeed fought to preserve, the ideals as written and intended by their forefathers in the Constitution of the United States, our organization today feels and expresses that same belief in our membership oath to support, preserve, and defend that Constitution.

Today, 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. We work in conjunction with other historical groups to preserve Confederate history, but are not officially affiliated with any other group other than the **Military Order of the Stars and Bars**, composed of male descendants of the Southern Officers Corps. The **SCV** rejects any group or individual whose actions tarnish or distort the image of the Confederate soldier, his flags and symbols, or his reasons for fighting.

Among the current activities of the **SCV** are, maintenance of historic sites such as Beauvoir, the home of President Jefferson Davis, educational programs for schools and civic organizations, the marking and ceremonial dedication of Confederate graves, sponsorship

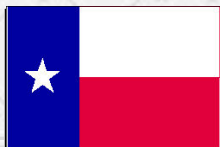
and participation in reenactment groups and Confederate honor guards, preservation and restoration of existing Confederate monuments and memorials, and the awarding of scholarships.

Our local camp #2156, representing and named for the honorable John H. Reagan, also takes responsibility for maintaining the Judge's old home site here in town, and for representing the approximate 1000 men who served the Confederacy from Anderson County and those who settled here post war. Another ongoing project is the cataloging of all Confederate Veterans buried within Anderson County Cemeteries. To date, that list contains almost 500 names. Ten companies of cavalry and infantry were formed from men of Palestine and Anderson County, serving in all theaters of the war, and members of our local camp proudly claim kinship to veterans who served in those units. The most famous, but no more important, were companies G and H of the 1st Texas Infantry Regt who fought in the Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee. Lee revered and respected his "Texans" and stated once that he had grown to count on them too much, but that "no enemy ever sees their backs!" Lee also stated that the "Sons of the South had their reputations to gain, but the Sons of the Alamo had theirs to protect." These men joined the approximate 1,000,000 total who served the Confederacy, of which almost 300,000 never returned home.

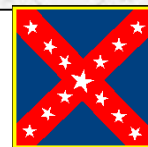
Other local units included
Co. D, 13th Texas Cavalry
Cos. D & K, 22nd Texas Infantry
Co. I, 7th Texas Cavalry
Co. A, 2nd Texas Cavalry
Co. G, 28th Texas Cavalry
Co. F, 32nd Texas Cavalry
Co. E, 37th Texas Cavalry

It is no mere coincidence that many of the **SCV**'s members are also veterans of military service, or that our fathers, grandfathers and children have proudly worn this country's uniform. The same blood that our Confederate ancestors shed on battlefields runs in the veins of many of our country's military veterans and our decorated heroes. Alvin York, Ike, Audie Murphy, Tommy Franks, to name a few. That bloodline gives you by default, the courage, strength, and will to fight against all odds, and when wrong needs to be made right.

Today, we, the **SCV**, are here as your veteran ancestors. We represent your great grandfathers who served in an army and navy that suffered a 30 percent mortality rate from battle, disease, and as prisoners of war. Rest assured that they are as proud of you as we are. As we have sworn not to forget their sacrifices, and to honor their service, we also vow never to forget the service and sacrifices made by you and your comrades lost. On behalf of the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** worldwide, it is with great pride that we thank you for keeping our country free and strong, and pray that God continue to bless each of you, your families, and the United States of America.



LIENDO PLANTATION—CIVIL WAR WEEKEND
HEMPSTEAD, TEXAS
NOVEMBER 19-21, 2010



Above: Re-enactors participating and camping with the 12th Texas Artillery, Val Verde Battery at the Liendo Plantation Civil War Weekend held each year on the weekend before the Thanksgiving holiday.



Above: The Reagan Camp's Val Verde Battery in the foreground during the heat of the battle.



Above: Reagan Camp Val Verde Battery members at the Liendo Plantation re-enactment from left to right: John Barnhart, Marc Robinson, Ashton Moore (powder monkey and grand daughter of Frank Moore), Kirby McCord, Frank Moore, and Calvin Nicholson.



Above right: Reagan Camp member, Frank Moore, dancing with Reagan Camp Cmdr. Marc Robinson's daughter, Caraline Robinson, at the Antebellum Dance Saturday night at the Liendo Plantation re-enactment. At 70, Frank Moore can sure cut a rug or maybe cut a turf in this case.



QUOTES FROM THE PAST

PROVIDED BY MARC ROBINSON



THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

...CONFEDERATE SURGEON DR. HOLT WORKED IN A FIELD HOSPITAL BEHIND SEMINARY RIDGE. HE SPOKE OF THE UNFORGETTABLE COURAGE OF A WOUNDED SOLDIER STATING, "HIS LEFT ARM AND A THIRD OF HIS TORSO HAD BEEN TORN AWAY AND HE DICTATED A FAREWELL LETTER TO HIS MOTHER." IT READ SIMPLY,

"THIS IS THE LAST YOU MAY EVER HEAR
FROM ME.

I HAVE TIME TO TELL YOU THAT I DIED
LIKE A MAN.

BEAR MY LOSS AS BEST YOU CAN.
REMEMBER THAT I AM TRUE TO MY COUNTRY

AND MY GREATEST REGRET AT DYING IS
THAT SHE IS STILL NOT FREE
AND THAT YOU AND YOUR SISTERS ARE
ROBBED OF MY YOUTH.

I HOPE THIS WILL REACH YOU
AND YOU MUST NOT REGRET THAT MY
BODY CANNOT BE OBTAINED.

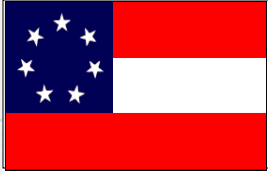
IT IS A MERE MATTER OF FORM ANYHOW.
THIS LETTER IS STAINED WITH MY BLOOD."

Source: www.brotherswar.com/Gettysburg-3v.htm

BRUCE CATTON (1899-1978)

JOURNALIST,
AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN

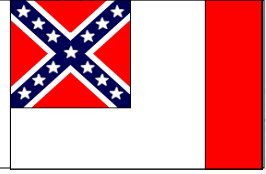
"THERE IS NO LEGEND QUITE LIKE THAT OF THE CONFEDERATE FIGHTING MAN. HE REACHED THE END OF HIS HAUNTED ROAD LONG AGO. HE FOUGHT FOR A STAR-CROSSED CAUSE AND IN THE END HE WAS BEATEN, BUT AS HE CARRIED HIS SLASHED RED BATTLE FLAG INTO THE DUSTY TWILIGHT OF THE LOST CAUSE, HE WALKED STRAIGHT INTO A LEGEND THAT WILL LAST AS LONG AS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CARE TO REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THE AMERICAN PAST."



ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

December

by Kirby McCord



1860

December 18, 1860: Following the electoral victory of Abraham Lincoln, the Southern States have clamored for secession. Kentucky Senator John J. Crittendon proposes a constitutional amendment he hopes will mollify Southerners: extend the Missouri Compromise line (the southern border of Missouri) across the continent, allowing slavery south of that line. Although debated in both houses, the Crittendon Compromise satisfies no one.

December 20, 1860: South Carolina holds a state convention that votes for secession. A delegation is sent to Washington, D.C. demanding that President Buchanan remove all Federal troops from Charleston. Buchanan, who has always been sympathetic to the Southern position on states' rights, refuses, saying, "Fort Sumter will be defended against hostile attacks, from whatever quarter." His cabinet begins plans for a relief expedition to the beleaguered garrison there. President-elect Lincoln, still in Illinois, has nothing to say.

1861

December 3, 1861: Federal President Abraham Lincoln, in his State of the Union address, states ominously that the Union must be preserved, and all means at his disposal will be used in pursuit of that goal.

December 4, 1861: U.S. Senator John Breckinridge of Kentucky, formerly U.S. Vice President under James Buchanan, is expelled from the U.S. Senate by a vote of 36-0. Since the secession of South Carolina the previous December, Breckinridge has relentlessly pursued compromise. He has recently realized that negotiations are futile; although Kentucky has not seceded, Breckinridge believes the South is in the right and has accepted a commission in the Confederate Army.

December 9, 1861: Pro-Southern forces, composed of Choctaw, Cherokee, Seminole, and Creek Indians, defeat pro-Union Creek Indians, driving them from the village of Chusto-Talasah, Indian Territory (later known as Tulsa, Oklahoma).

December 30, 1861: Confederate commissioners James Mason and John Slidell are surrendered to British Ambassador Lord Lyons. Britain has threatened war with the United States over their seizure on a British mail packet, the *Trent*. The hope of a British alliance with the Confederacy, the South's best hope for independence, is now dead.

1862

December 1, 1862: U.S. President Abraham Lincoln makes his second State of the Union Address to Congress. His message has changed from the previous year. Now he emphasizes his Emancipation Proclamation: "In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free." He neglects to mention that he is not freeing slaves in parts of the country actually controlled by the U.S. government; the slaves in Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, all of western Virginia, most of Tennessee, parts of Louisiana, and the coastal areas of Virginia and the Carolinas will not be freed.

December 6, 1862: Following the great Sioux uprising in Minnesota that began in August, killing about 450 whites, U.S. President Lincoln orders the execution of 39 Indians. On December 26, 38 of them will be hanged at Mankato, Minnesota. Southerners fear this is a precursor of what will occur should their own war for independence fail.

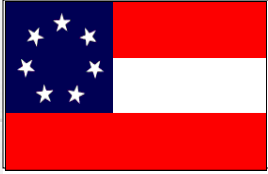
December 7, 1862: Confederate General John Hunt Morgan raids behind enemy lines, inflicting 2,096 Federal casualties at Hartsville, Tennessee.

December 7, 1862: Confederate General Thomas Hindman leads 10,000 rebels in a surprise attack against 10,000 Union soldiers under James Blunt and Thomas Herron at Prairie Grove, Arkansas. Although casualties are almost even (1251 Union, 1317 Confederate), the Federals are driven from the field.

December 13, 1862: Union General Ambrose Burnside has successfully crossed the Rappahanock River and taken Fredericksburg, Virginia in vicious house-to-house combat. Confederate General Robert E. Lee has withdrawn most of his troops to the strong defensive position on Marye's Heights south of the town to minimize damage to civilian property; it is too late, the city is virtually destroyed. Now, Burnside launches a frontal assault against Lee. Wave after wave of soldiers in blue are broken up in suicidal attacks. At the end of the day, Lee's forces still hold the high ground, the Federals have lost 12,700 to Confederate losses of 5,700, and Lee is quoted as saying, "It is good that war is so terrible, lest we grow too fond of it."

December 20, 1862: Union General U.S. Grant is mounting a massive effort to capture Vicksburg, Mississippi. Confederate General Earl Van Dorn attacks Grant's supply base at Holly Springs, taking 1,500 Union prisoners, burning over 4000 bales of cotton, and seizing \$1 million in materiel. Grant must retreat back to La Grange, Tennessee to start over. With Van Dorn and Nathan Bedford Forrest ranging almost unimpeded in his rear, Grant is unable to supply his army conventionally, and will drive toward his objective six more times before achieving his goal.

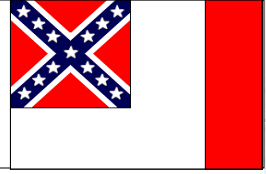
(Continued on following page)



ON THIS DAY IN CONFEDERATE HISTORY

December

by Kirby McCord



December 23, 1862: Although he is no longer governing occupied New Orleans, Louisiana, Union General Benjamin Butler's actions there have enraged the South. Nicknamed "Spoons" for stealing silverware in the various mansions he has used as headquarters, Butler has also seized slaves as "contraband of war," initially forcing them to labor for the army, then forming "Colored" regiments that enforced Federal martial law against civilians, resulting in several violent encounters. But his most egregious behavior involved his treatment of Southern women who had disdained his company and his rude and offensive manners. Butler's response to what he termed Southern snobbery was his infamous Order No. 28, in which he ordered his men (including the Colored troops), to treat any woman of New Orleans who demonstrated contempt or insult to Federal troops, as prostitutes. On this date, C.S. President Jefferson Davis brands Butler a felon and an enemy of mankind. Davis goes on to say if Butler is captured, he shall be immediately executed, and no captured Federal Army officers shall be released until Butler receives his just punishment.

December 29, 1862: In Union General U.S. Grant's second attempt to take Vicksburg, Union General William Sherman, with 31,000 men, is repulsed by 14,000 Confederates at Chickasaw Bluffs. 1,776 Yankees are casualties to 207 rebels.

December 30, 1862: The *USS Monitor* sinks in a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

December 31, 1862: The Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee begins today. Confederate General Braxton Bragg, with the 34,739 men of the Army of Tennessee, attacks Union General William S. Rosecrans and his 41,400 man Army of the Cumberland. Although the Confederates control the field of battle after the fight, Bragg retreats three days later. The Confederates suffer 11,379 casualties, while the Union loses 12,906 men.

1863

December 7, 1863: Copperhead supporters of the Confederacy, disguised as passengers, seize the *USS Chesapeake*, off Cape Cod, Massachusetts and sail her to Nova Scotia.

December 12, 1863: The Confederate government ends its policy of allowing Northern food supplies to feed Union prisoners.

December 13, 1863: In a sign that the Confederacy is cracking, Georgia establishes the Georgia State Line militia, in which native Georgian troops, exempt from Confederate conscription, are to serve only within the borders of the state.

December 14, 1863: The widow of Confederate General B.H. Helm, who was killed at Chickamauga, is given amnesty by U.S. President Lincoln after she swears allegiance to the Union. Mrs. Helms is the half-sister of Mary Todd Lincoln.

December 16, 1863: C.S. President Davis appoints General Joseph E. Johnston as successor to General Braxton Bragg as commander of the Army of Tennessee. Bragg had resigned November 30. Johnston will be replaced in only nine months by John Bell Hood.

1864

December 10, 1864: Union General William T. Sherman has concluded his March to the Sea, reaching the coast near Savannah, Georgia. The 24 day march from Atlanta has wreaked a swath of destruction across Georgia.

December 15, 1864: General George Thomas' 50,000 man Union Army strikes Confederate General John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee south of Nashville. The 23,000 Southerners fight gallantly, but are driven back by overwhelming numbers; in the two day battle, they inflict more than 3,000 casualties on the Federals while losing 1,500 of their own men. However, 4,500 Confederates are captured. Hood's gambit to draw Sherman from Atlanta has failed. The Army of Tennessee began the campaign on November 21, with 38,000 effectives; more than 8,000 have succumbed to malnutrition and sickness on the rigorous march and 13,000 have become battlefield casualties. Only 17,000 men remain. The Army of Tennessee has ceased to function as a cohesive military unit.

December 21, 1864: U.S. General William Sherman's army occupies Savannah, Georgia.

December 25, 1864: Fort Fisher guards Wilmington, North Carolina, the last major Confederate port still open to blockade runners. Union Admiral David Porter and General Benjamin Butler, with sixty ships and 6,500 soldiers, attack the 500 man garrison. Even with the overwhelmingly superior Union firepower and numbers, the attack is repulsed.

December 30, 1864: Aging Francis P. Blair of Maryland writes to C.S. President Davis suggesting he act as go between for peace negotiations between the Lincoln administration and the Confederacy.

"THE PRINCIPLE FOR WHICH WE CONTEND IS BOUND TO REASSERT ITSELF, THOUGH IT MAY BE AT ANOTHER TIME AND IN ANOTHER FORM." PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS, C.S.A.



JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP 2156

c/o Forrest Bradberry, Jr., Adjutant
P. O. Box 1442
Palestine, Texas 75802
E-mail: brad.bradberry@yahoo.com
Phone: (903) 723-2814

Charles "Marc" Robinson, Commander
6720 AN CO RD 448
Palestine, Texas 75803
E-mail: mrobinson@tvcc.edu
Phone: (903) 676-6069
Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Please visit our website @
www.reaganscvcamp.org

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

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

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

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

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
Light meal served at each meeting.
First Christian Church
113 East Crawford Street
Palestine, Texas

Turn north on N. Sycamore St. off of
Spring St. (Hwy 19, 84, & 287) travel
three blocks, turn right on Crawford
St., go one block Church is on left