



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2012

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH

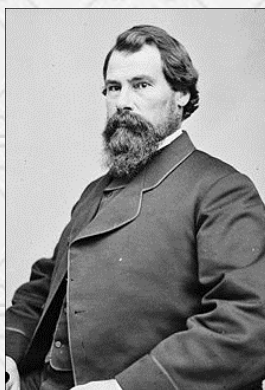
Greetings Compatriots!

Boys, we hit the ground running in May, and never let up! From a three cemetery Saturday grave dedication to Division Reunion down in Victoria, the Reagan Camp has busted it's tail this month and I'm very proud of the entire bunch!

Those of you that aren't aware of it will be excited to know that there is concrete on the ground at our memorial plaza site. A substantial amount of it at that! As of this writing, our third pour is due to take place on Friday the 8th of June. After that comes flagpole and monument installation, so we're moving right along. Paver sales are starting to pick up as well, so we can keep funds inbound to hopefully match outbound.

I also wish to commend those of you that took part in the dedication marathon in Freestone County. You folks went above and beyond, and your gray-clad ancestors are smiling approvingly of your dedication, as am I. You should all be proud of your accomplishments there. Kudos as well to Toni and Rudy Ray for their program at the Goodman Museum in Tyler. It was indeed a hit!

I was also ecstatic to be able to rejoin you in the field on Memorial Day weekend at the RR Park and again the next day at Guiceland Cemetery. The displays and demonstrations at the RR park were superb, and this old infantry colonel was honored to command the battery during one of our firing exercises. The next day was especially poignant at Guiceland, when I realized that so many of our veterans all lay side by side resting with honor and dignity. Over 100 vets from the Texas Revolution, the Confederacy, WW1, WW2, Korea, and Viet Nam conflicts crowd that small acre or so of land, and all were proudly and solemnly remembered and honored. I personally departed the cemetery with a freshly renewed sense of the blessing it is to be a Confederate, a Texan, and an American! Our camp's division reunion delegates neatly tied a bow on the month's activities by attending the reunion way down in Victoria. Thanks to Marc Robinson, Dan Dyer, and Frank Moore for allowing me to share the experience with yall. Especially the drive down and



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

say that our website, newsletter, and five of our members garnered awards at the division level as well. Those personal and camp awards to be presented at our June meeting. Between here and there, keep spirit and colors high! May God bless you all!

R. Hatfield, Cmdr.

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!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

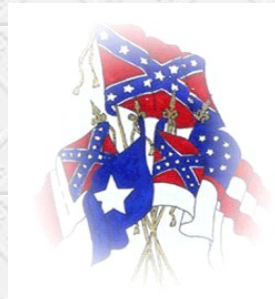
EVENTS CALENDAR 2

ON THE ROAD TO JENKINS FERRY 3

MAY CAMP EVENT PHOTOS 4

MAY CAMP EVENT PHOTOS 5

MEMBERSHIP/ CONTACT INFO 6



Camp Gets New Colors!

Remember a few months back we agreed to purchase a new flag from Preston Furlow's Company? Well we received it at the May meeting and it's 1st official duty was to represent the camp at the Division Reunion. We'll have it on display at our meetings as well in place of the old nylon rectangular



"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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sovereign State of Texas • The United States of America • Lt. Cmdr. and Chaplain Rod Skelton • The Sons of Confederate Veterans • The United Daughters of the Confederacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaplain Ed Furman • Sgt. At Arms John Brent Barnhart • Athens SCV Camp Cmdr. Len Patterson • Davis-Reagan UDC Pres. Dollye Jeffus |
|---|---|



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



June 8th: 8 AM Concrete pouring at the Plaza Contact Marc Robinson or Frank Moore for more details.

June 9th: 6 PM Regular monthly meeting at First Christian Church. Our program will be presented by 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Jack Dyess of the Middleton Tate Johnson camp 1648 in Arlington, and the topic will be the Texas Navy. Should be a good'un yall!

June 17th: Father's Day

June 21st: CWO Andrew Davis - Us Army (Cmdr. Hatfield's son-in-law) returns to Ft. Hood from his 3rd tour of duty in Afghanistan! Your year long prayers for his safe return are much appreciated and are about to be answered. His next duty station is the Little Dixie Ranch for two weeks and then to Hawaii for three years! Welcome home Son!



"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."

-PRESEDENT
JEFFERSON DAVIS-



THE ROAD TO JENKINS FERRY BATTLEFIELD

SUBMITTED BY DWAIN SCHOPPE



On April 28, 1864, Walker's Texas Division was racing to catch General Steele's Federal Army on their retreat back to Little Rock, Arkansas. Steele's Army was part of the Red River Campaign to capture Shreveport. The Greyhounds had just had two victorious battles at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, La. With very little time to rest, the soldiers were pushed to catch the fleeing Yankees. Through Shreveport, Minden, Camden, Ark., Princeton, Tulip, and finally Leola, close to the Saline River bottom. With all the rain, the river bottom was flooded and Steele had to construct a pontoon bridge to get his Army across before the Confederates could catch up with them. The Federals set up a good defensive rear guard as thousands of troops, wagons, and artillery pushed through the mud and rain to get across the make-shift bridge at Jenkins Ferry.

It was at this moment that the Confederate Army crossed the ridge and entered the Saline River bottom. With rain still falling, and Cox Creek on the left and marsh land on the right, the Confederates stepped off into knee deep water covering the corn fields. The carnage was horrific that April 30th, when regiment after regiment was sent into a frontal assault on an enemy that was well entrenched. Three Confederate Generals were killed that day along with hundreds of soldiers that would never see home. As darkness fell, the remnants of the Federal Army slipped across the pontoons. When the Federals destroyed the bridge, the Confederates were left with no way to cross the river. The battle was over and the chase was finished.

On April 28, 2012, Ronnie Hatfield and I took to the road to follow the route taken by my 4th Great Grandfather who was in the 12th Texas Infantry, in Waul's Regiment, in Walker's Texas Division. We picked up the trail in Shreveport and went through all the winding roads that finally led us to the little town of Leola. As we stood on the ridge that led in the Saline River bottom, I tried to imagine how my Grandfather must have felt 148 years earlier when he was standing where I was.

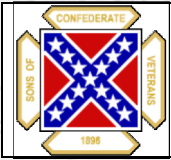


More Jenkins Ferry photos on next page....
The Ridge overlooking the River Bottom

and eerie. It was like a feeling of dread, as if something was. All of the open cornfields are gone now. Swamp and trees now were never again planted on those fields. All that is left of that as built at the crossing.

and monument at Jenkins Ferry State Park, we went on to and visit with Mr. Joe Walker. Joe had just completed his te story of the battle of Jenkins Ferry. He gave Ronnie and I two close to the location of where the Texas Division had taken their rry.

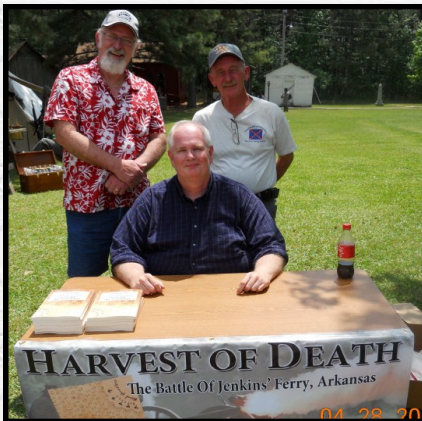
estions were answered as well as a continued respect for the men on. We have a huge debt to pay to our ancestors that took up arms deserve better than the slanted history that has been dealt to them.



EVENT PHOTOS



Top Left: Standing at the site of the pontoon bridge on the Saline river. It anchored right behind Dwain at the declivity you can see in the background. **Top Right:** The only official sign on the roadway into Sheridan denoting Jenkins Ferry Battlefield. The cleared area in the background is the park while the actual battle took place on the far side of the river bridge behind Dwain.



Left: We got to meet Joe Walker, author of "Harvest of Death" while at the museum. Joe plans to come and speak to our camp this summer!

Right: Huge flag and banner flies above dedication of Texas monument at Gaines Mill ceremony where battle flags were banned by city. Paid for by Texas Div. SCV, the plane and banner also buzzed downtown Richmond for a half hour!



Left: Reagan Camp delegates pose with statue of CS soldier in downtown Victoria. Statue was being rededicated by UDC on centennial of it's installation in 1912.

Right: Our camp display in the shade at the RR Park on military weekend. It was a super nice way to spend the day with comrades and vets from other time periods.





THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156 MAY EVENT PHOTOS



Top Left: Reagan Camp members seem to have captured a large rare silver sasquatch apparently entangled in the re-bar at their plaza work site!



Top Right: The Val Verde Battery once again barks its presence at the Bonner Cemetery during a marker dedication.



Top Left: The Reagan Guards managed to complete three separate marker ceremonies at different cemeteries all on the same day. **Top Right:** Rudy and Toni Ray performed period Southern music for the crowd at the Goodman House Museum in Tyler. **Bottom L & R:** Your division reunion delegates taking care of business in Victoria!





JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP #2156

c/o Daniel Dyer, Adjutant/Treasurer
P.O. Box 913
Palestine, Texas 75802
E-mail: danielyer@embarqmail.com
Phone: (903)391-2224

Ronnie Hatfield, Commander
E-mail: reh53@embarqmail.com
Phone: (903) 538-0130
Newsletter Editor

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

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