



## SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, TEXAS DIVISION

## THE JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP NEWS

www.reaganscvcamp.org

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2026

## JANUARY DISPATCH

Commander's Dispatch  
LT CDR David Franklin

During the month of January, one name from the Confederate Pantheon always comes up: Robert E. Lee. Although the great Stonewall Jackson was also born in January, Lee rises above all in the typical Southerner's mind.

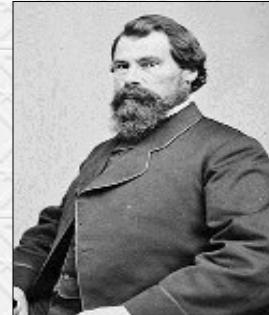
Lee was born January 19, 1807, at Stratford Hall Plantation in Westmoreland County, Virginia, to Henry Lee III and Anne Hill Carter Lee. His ancestor, Richard Lee I, emigrated from Shropshire, England, to Virginia in 1639.

Lee's father, known as "Light Horse Harry" Lee, was George Washington's close friend and his Chief of Cavalry. At

Washington's funeral, Lee's father was the one who gave the eulogy and said the famous words about Washington: "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Robert Lee grew up surrounded by love from his mother in particular, and excelled in his studies. He attended West Point and graduated Second in his class with no demerits. When U. S. Grant heard of this, he said it was impossible to go through West Point with no demerits. Lee said he came close once to getting a demerit for almost getting caught studying after "Lights Out." That's the kind of man Lee was all his life – almost in trouble for working too hard.

There is no need to tell of Lee's service in the United State Army or the Confederate Army – history has written his excellence. General of



## John H. Reagan

Oct 8, 1818 – March 6, 1905  
Post Master General of the Confederate States of America  
Secretary of the Treasury CSA  
U. S. Senator from Texas  
U. S. Rep. from Texas  
District Judge  
Texas State Representative  
First Chairman - Railroad Commission of Texas  
A Founder and President of the Texas State Historical Association

## the Army Winfield

Scott said of Lee: "he was the best soldier I ever saw in the field."

If those who hate the legacy of the South want to tear any of our heroes down, Lee is the one to go after: he was the epitome of all we strive for, both as Southerners and Americans.

This month, I choose to venerate the Son of Virginia, the South, and the United States of America: Robert E. Lee.

## CAMP MEETINGS

4th Tuesday of Each Month  
06:30 PM at the First Congregational Methodist Church of Elkhart.

With a meal served at each meeting.  
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 willing to contribute financially to help keep the Confederate Heroes Memorial Plaza landscape manicured. If you would be willing to donate, please contact Richard Thornton at 903-731-1557 or email [tx\\_tsar@hotmail.com](mailto:tx_tsar@hotmail.com).

### Prayer List

- Compatriot Forrest Bradberry
- Compatriot Gary Gibson & his wife, Lynn
- Donna Williams in the loss of her husband, past Reagan Camp Historian, Gary Williams
- Former Camp Commander Rudy Ray
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- The Sovereign State of Texas

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Reagan Camp will have monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meetings will be held at the First Congregational Methodist Church of Elkhart.

**Feb 24th - February meeting 6:30 p.m.**

**March 24th - March meeting 6:30 p.m.**

**April 28th - April meeting 6:30 p.m.**

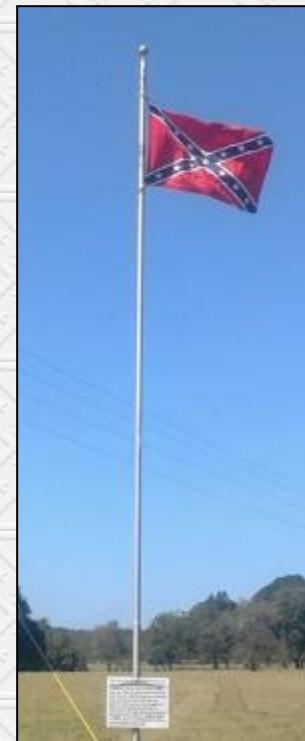
**May 26th - May meeting 6:30 p.m.**



At peace at last, Jefferson Davis sits on a veranda of an old friend's Mississippi estate. There he wrote *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, which was published in 1881, eight years before he died.

### Officers for 2026

1st Lt Cmdr. - David Franklin  
Adjutant/Treasurer - Richard Thornton  
Sgt at Arms - Marc Robinson  
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.reagansccamp.org](http://www.reagansccamp.org)

"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 INFILCTED 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-

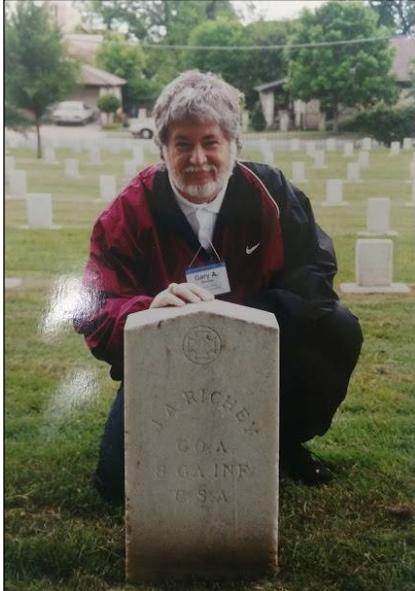
Above: Reagan Camp's battle flag and sign displayed proudly at intersection of FM 315 and Anderson Cty Rd 448, ten miles north of Palestine.

"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-



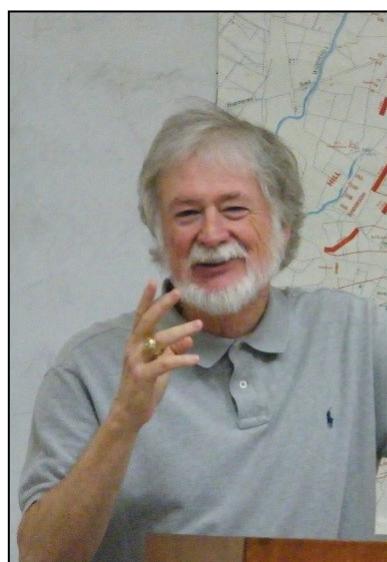
## The Reagan Camp Mourns the Passing of Our Friend Gary Allan Williams July 26, 1950—January 9, 2026



The Reagan Camp mourns the loss of our friend Gary Williams. Gary was a member of the Reagan Camp for years until his health prevented him from being able to attend meetings. Gary had a vast knowledge of the war of Northern aggression and the Confederacy. His ability to remember details about the war was impressive, and he used his knowledge to teach others in public schools, at community events, at Reagan Camp meetings and at any time someone was willing to learn.

Gary was not only a valuable member to the Reagan Camp, but he was also a valuable member to the community.

Gary will be missed, but he will never be forgotten. Please remember his wife and family in your prayers.





## Remembering Gary Allan Williams

### July 26, 1950 - January 9, 2026



Gary Allan Williams, age 75 years, went to his Heavenly home on January 9, 2026, at his residence with his beloved wife by his side. He was born in Palestine, Texas on July 26, 1950, to Robert "Red" Williams and Ava Jeane Walker Williams. Gary attended Palestine Schools where he made many lifelong friends. He played baseball at a young age at the YMCA, and later football at Palestine High School. Graduating from PHS in 1968, Gary later graduated from Texas A&M with a BBA degree as part of the Class of 1972. He was a Petroleum Landman for several years, later purchasing his father's interest in Anderson County Abstract Co., where he worked until 2016, when he sold out and retired. His main interests were watching College Football (especially following the Texas Aggies), reading about history (especially the Civil War era), and admiring God's beautiful creation in the way of traveling by RV or staying in cabins. He was a humble man and very kind and understanding. He taught more by actions than by words.

He was predeceased by his parents and his favorite aunt Betty Carnathan and uncle Jake Carnathan. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Donna Madewell Williams; daughter, Ashley Brown and spouse Gary with their children, Allie, Boone and Carter; stepchildren, Laura Kolstad and spouse Joel, Julie Lovelady and spouse Chad with their children, Caden and Emily Wayne Fletcher and children, Abby, Rachel and Ben.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Joe Ed Johnston, Dudley Vickers, Eddie Moore, Bill Brown, Steve Pickett, Don Dennis, David French, Wayne Fletcher, Bill Aman, Tracy Perry, Chad Lovelady, Caden Lovelady, Andrew Harris, Gary Brown, and Joel Blanchard.

Graveside services for Gary Williams were held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026, at Palestine City Cemetery with his nephew Pastor Josh Dennis of Westwood Baptist Church officiating. Services were under the direction of Herrington / Land of Memory Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Gary to a charity of your choice.





## From Troy Chandler Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi



Did you know that.....JESUS IS YOUR SECURITY?

Below are scriptures related to this topic. All are taken from the KJV bible.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5*

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. Psalm 23:6*

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. John 10:27-29*

*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39*

*But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. 2 Thessalonians 3:3*

*Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. 2 Corinthians 1:22*

*Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. Jude VV. 24-25*

*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30*

*Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth. Isaiah 40:26*

*Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. John 6:27*

*And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.---- That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Hebrews 6:11-12, 18-20*

*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Ephesians 1:13*

*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37*

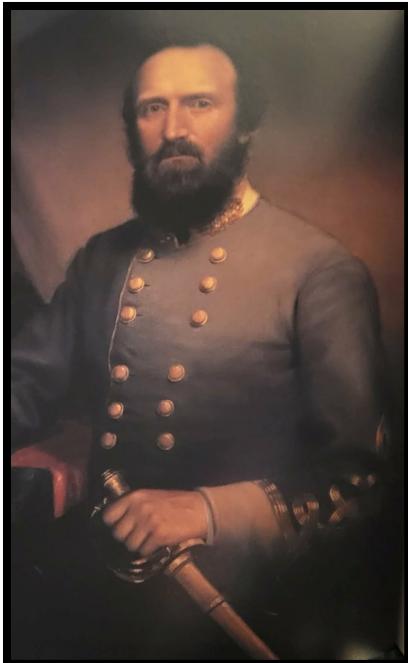
*May these "Words of Thought" be a blessing unto you.*

**Troy Chandler**

**Chaplain, Army of Trans-Mississippi**



## THOMAS JONATHAN “STONEWALL” JACKSON

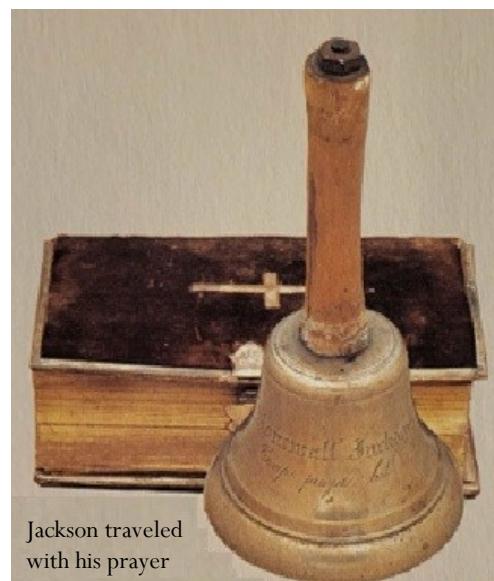


On July 21, 1862, the South was losing the first great battle of the Civil War near the banks of Bull Run. Desperately trying to halt his retreating soldiers, Confederate general Barnard E. Bee spotted on Southern brigade that wasn't running. "There stands Jackson like a stone wall!" Bee shouted. "Rally behind the Virginians!" The new line held, and by day's end the Yankees had been routed from the field. General Thomas Jonathan Jackson, the man who had turned defeat into victory, would ever after be known as "Stonewall" Jackson.

Despite Jackson's West Point education and gallant service in the Mexican War, few of his contemporaries in 1861 imagined that the 37-year-old Virginia Military Institute professor would rise to the heights of military genius. Stern, quiet and deeply religious, Jackson was a true eccentric. He was stoop-shouldered and wore his cap pulled low over his piercing blue eyes. His uniform was rumpled and worn, his sword rusted in its scabbard. Jackson rarely harbored his plans with his

subordinates, and when he did speak his voice was so low and muffled that he was often unintelligible. A faithful churchgoer, he usually fell asleep during the sermon. He craved buttermilk to settle his chronic indigestion, yet snacked on lemons and raw onions. It was said that his habit of raising his left arm above his head stemmed from his belief that one side of his body was heavier than the other.

Yet Jackson possessed an iron will and a fervent devotion to the Southern cause. As one general put it, "praying and fighting appeared to be his idea of the whole duty of man." In Virginia's Shenandoah Valley in the spring of 1862, he confirmed his strategic brilliance. Though outnumbered four to one, Jackson defeated three Federal armies sent to trap him. Stonewall pushed his men hard; they marched so far and so fast that they were dubbed "Jackson's foot cavalry." His troops seemed to love him for it—they called him "Old Jack." A Yankee prisoner once grumbled, "Stonewall Jackson's men will follow him to the devil and he knows it." In the battles of Second Manassas, Antietam and Fredericksburg, Jackson proved to be General Robert E. Lee's most trusted commander. At Chancellorsville, during May of 1863, Jackson's daring flank attack brought the Confederacy one of its greatest victories. But it was Stonewall's last fight. Riding forward in the dark, he was mistakenly shot by his own men. He died eight days later, after uttering these last words: "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees."



Jackson traveled with his prayer

book and bell for summoning his troops to worship. At every encampment he ordered tents pitched for chapel, and at frequent services he even acted as usher for his men.

His portrait (above left) was painted from a photograph taken in 1862.



## TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT JOHN H. REAGAN



1. Born in Tennessee, he left in 1838 to come to Texas via Natchez, Mississippi.
2. He participated in the Cherokee War in 1839 and then worked as a surveyor.
3. After statehood, he was elected first county judge of Henderson County and in 1847 he became a member of Texas' second legislature.
4. He was reelected as Henderson County judge in 1856 and became a US Congressman from East Texas. In 1859 he won reelection but resigned his seat to become the Confederate Postmaster General in 1861.
5. At the end of the Civil War, John H. Reagan was captured with Jefferson Davis on May 10, 1865 near Abbeville, Georgia.
6. Held in solitary confinement in Boston for nearly six months, Reagan appealed to the people of Texas to recognize that they were back to being a part of the Union, but it didn't win him friends. He returned to Texas in December of 1865.
7. Reagan, who was proven right on how Texas would fare by opposing reunification, became known as "The Old Roman." He was given amnesty, and his citizenship was restored.
8. From 1875 to 1887 Reagan served in Congress before being elected to the U.S. Senate.
9. He became the first Railroad Commissioner of Texas when that body was formed in 1891.
10. Reagan ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1894 and remained chairman of the Railroad Commission until 1903 when he retired and returned to Palestine. He died there two years later of pneumonia.



## JOHN H. REAGAN CAMP

### JANUARY IN THE LIFE OF JOHN H. REAGAN



JAN. 15, 1858 John H. Reagan made his 1<sup>st</sup> introduction of a bill in U.S. House of Representatives



JAN. 19, 1858 John H. Reagan delivered speech in U.S. Congress on death of T.J. Rusk



JAN. 15, 1861 John H. Reagan delivered speech of resignation in U.S. House of Representatives prior to Civil War



JAN. 30, 1861 John H. Reagan arrived in Austin after resigning seat in U.S. Congress prior to Civil War



JAN. 19, 1876 John H. Reagan delivered speech in U.S. Congress pleading for unity of country to Celebrate U.S. centennial

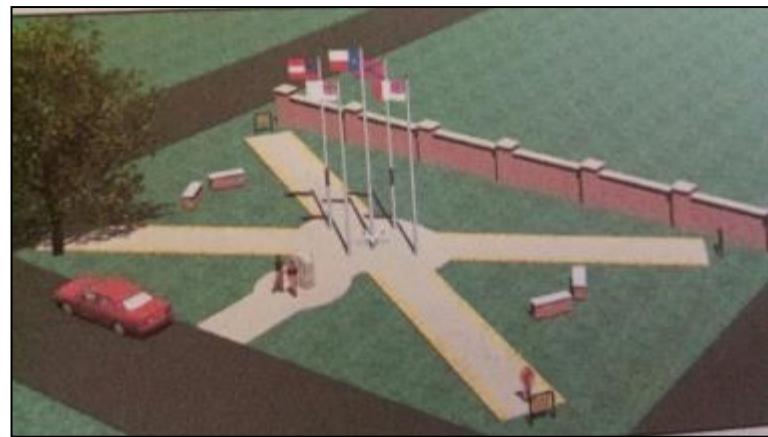
JAN. 20, 1903 John H. Reagan retired from public office to Palestine farm at Ft. Houston



## 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 BTTN 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 CAVALRY, CSA	WILLIAM H. CRIST COMPANY 17 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. RAINES 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 CAVALRY	STEPHEN D. RAINES CAPTAIN 1ST BATT. TEX CAV	SGT. AMOS G. HANKS CO F. 1ST TEX INF HOOD'S 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

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1, 1863 Temps fall below zero as far south as Memphis, Tn	2, 1863 Battle of stones River resumes with horrific carnage near Murfreesboro, Tn	3, 1864 In two-plus years of war, prices have soared to 28 times higher in the Confederacy
4, 1864 President Davis authorizes Lee to commandeer food stores in Virginia to feed army.	5, 1861 U.S. merchant ship Star of the West leaves New York with supplies for Fort Sumter.	6, 1865 The 13th Amendment abolishing slavery fails to pass 38th Congress.	7, 1863 Confederates speed up efforts to build naval vessels in Europe.	8, 1821 CSA Gen. James Longstreet is born	9, 1861 Mississippi's legislature votes 84-15 to secede.	10, 1864 U.S. Gov floods Confederacy with fake currency to cripple its economy
11, 1862 Simon Cameron, a corrupt Pennsylvania Politician, resigns from Lincoln's cabinet	12, 1865 Pres Davis sends a letter to Pres Lincoln hoping to negotiate a peace	13, 1863 Union officials raise Black troops for infantry units in South Carolina.	14, 1831 CSA Brig. Gen John Bullock Clark, Jr is born	15, 1865 Union forces assault Fort Fisher along outer banks of North Carolina. Lee Jackson	16, 1864 Europe is on the brink of war as Prussia threatens Denmark's monarch.	17, 1862 U.S. Gen. Smith leads expedition down the Tennessee River to capture Fort Henry.
18, 1864 Conf. Gov extends conscription to include 17 yr olds	19, 1807 CSA Gen. Robert E. Lee is born.	20, 1862 Demoralized Confederates retreat south after losing at Mills Springs, Ky	21, 1824 CSA Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson is born	22, 1864 Disgraced U.S. Gen. Rosecrans is appointed to command of Missouri Dept.	23, 1863 Famous "Mud March": ends in total failure for Union forces in Virginia.	24, 1862 U.S. Gen. Halleck declares martial law in St. Louis.
25, 1863 U.S. Gen. Burnside is fired by Lincoln because of Fredericksburg debacle.	26, 1861 Louisiana votes 113-117 to secede from Union.	27, 1862 President Lincoln issues War Order #1 ordering all forces to advance.	28, 1825 CSA Ge. George Pickett is born	29, 1861 Kansas is admitted to the Union as the 34th state.	30, 1861 President Elect Lincoln visits stepmother Sarah Bush before leaving for Washington.	31, 1865 Gen. Robert E. Lee is appointed General in Chief of all Confederate Armies.



## TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN JANUARY

From the Texas State Historical Association— <https://texasdaybyday.com/#feedCarousel>



January 1, 1863: On this day, Confederate forces under Gen. J. B. Magruder began their assault on Union forces that had held Galveston since October. Magruder placed artillery and dismounted cavalry aboard two river steamers, The *Bayou City* and the *Neptune*. He also gathered infantry and cavalry, supported by artillery, to cross the railroad bridge onto the island. The Confederates entered Galveston on New Year's night, January 1, 1863, and opened fire before dawn. The Union ship *Harriet Lane* sank the *Neptune*, but the *Bayou City*'s crew seized the Federal Vessel. Union commander William B. Renshaw's flagship, the *Westfield*, ran aground, and the commander died trying to blow it up rather than surrender it. The other Union ships sailed out to sea, ignoring confederate surrender demands, while their infantry comrades in town surrendered. Magruder had retaken Galveston with a moderate loss. Although the port remained under Confederate control for the rest of the war, only a week elapsed before it was again blockaded.

January 8, 1864: On this day, seventeen-year-old David Dodd was hanged. The Texas native was captured as he tried to cross Federal lines near Little Rock, with notes in Morse code hidden in his shoe. After a military court found him guilty, he confessed that he had been sent to gather information about Union troops. Dodd may have been the youngest person hanged as a spy in the Civil War.

January 8, 1865: On this day, about 160 Confederates and 325 state militiamen lost a battle against the Kickapoo Indians about twenty miles southwest of present San Angelo. A month earlier a scouting party had discovered an abandoned Indian camp and, assuming the group was hostile, dispatched forces to pursue them. A militia force under Capt. S. S. Totten and state Confederate troops under Capt. Henry Fossett set out, but the two forces lacked a unified command and full communication. When the troops and militiamen finally rendezvoused near the timbered encampment of the Kickapoos along Dove Creek, the forces concocted a hasty battle plan. The militia waded the creek to launch a frontal attack from the north, while Confederate troops circled southwestward to capture the Indians' horses and prevent a retreat. A well-armed Indian fighting force, possibly several hundred strong, easily defended their higher, heavily-wooded position as the militiamen slogged through the creek. The Confederate force was splintered into three groups caught in a heavy crossfire. Three days later the battered Texans retreated eastward, while the embittered Kickapoos, once peaceful, escaped to the Mexican border. Thus began a violent period of border raids on settlers along the Rio Grande.

January 11, 1863: On this day, the remnants of the Fourth Brigade of Walker's Texas Division were captured intact at Arkansas Post. The division, organized in Arkansas in October 1862, was the only division in Confederate service composed throughout its existence of troops from a single state. It took its name from Major Gen. Henry Eustace McCulloch, on January 1, 1863. During its existence it was commonly called the "Greyhound Division," or "Walker's Greyhounds," in tribute to its special capability to make long, forced marches from one threatened point to another in the Trans-Mississippi Department. Initially, the division was made up of four brigades. The Fourth Brigade, under the command of Col. James Deshler, was detached from the division shortly after its organization and sent to Arkansas Post. Deshler was captured there, then exchanged and promoted to brigadier general in July 1863. He was killed during the battle of Chickamauga later that year.



## TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN JANUARY

From the Texas State Historical Association— <https://texasdaybyday.com/#feedCarousel>



January 11, 1863: On this day, the USS *Hatteras* was sunk by the CSS *Alabama*. The *Hatteras*, a converted merchant ship formerly named the *St. Mary*, was commissioned in October 1861 and first saw duty in the South Atlantic. After assignment to the blockading squadron in the Gulf of Mexico, she was raiding along the Confederate coast when she was sunk by Confederate captain Raphael Semmes. She lies sixty feet of water twenty miles south of Galveston. The federal government has been able to preserve the wreck for scientific and historical research.

January 12, 1861: On this day, Unionist editor John W. Barrett published the *Marshall Harrison Flag* for the last time. Barrett moved to Texas from Indiana in 1838. He bought the *Star State Patriot* in 1848 and in 1856 renamed it the *Harrison Flag*. The *Flag* supported Sam Houston, the American (Know-Nothing) party, and the Constitutional Union party of 1860. Robert W. Loughery, owner and editor of the *Marshall Texas Republican* and an ardent secessionist, classed Barrett and the *Flag* as oppositionist and submissionist during the secession crisis. In editorial after editorial during November and December 1860, Barrett opposed secession; he declared on December 18, 1860, that breaking up the United States would be “the most momentous political decision that has ever demanded the attention of mankind.” The same winter, ill and confined to his room, he suspended publication of the *Flag* with the issue of January 12, 1861. Five days later, Loughery called off their long political feud and wrote of Barrett: “He has been sick nine months with little chance of improvement....He has a large family depending on him, with children to educate. He needs every dollar coming to him. Those owing him should not be insensible to his condition.” Barrett died of tuberculosis on May 12, 1862.

January 14, 1865: On this day, during the final months of the Civil War, Governor Pendleton Murrah urged Texans to put aside personal ambitions and make sacrifices in defense of their liberty. Murrah, a native of either Alabama or South Carolina, had moved to Texas in 1850. After serving in the state legislature, Murrah was elected governor of Texas in 1863. As governor, he became involved in a series of controversies over control of the state's manpower and economy with Gen. John B. Magruder, the Confederate military commander of the Texas district, and his superior, Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, commander of the Trans-Mississippi Department. In spite of these quarrels, Murrah supported Kirby Smith in his determination to carry on the war in the face of military reversals. Even after Lee's surrender, Murrah continued to urge resistance. When it was obvious that Union forces would occupy the state, he vacated his office, leaving Lieutenant Governor Fletcher Stockdale in charge, and joined other Confederate leaders fleeing to Mexico. The long trip was too much for Murrah, who suffered from tuberculosis. He was confined to bed upon reaching Monterrey and died on August 4, 1865.

January 15, 1867: On this day, Bayland Orphans' Home for Boys, a county home for dependent and delinquent boys, was organized in Houston by Texas Confederate veterans. The institution was first located at Bayland on the west side of Galveston Bay near Morgan's Point. The nonsectarian home, planned to care for and educate up to 250 orphans of deceased Confederate soldiers, opened in August 1867. Henry F. Gillette was superintendent from 1867 to 1882, and Col. Ashbel Smith served as staff doctor. In 1887, when Houston-Galveston packet travel ceased and Bayland became inaccessible, a decision was made to move the home to Houston. Mrs. Kezia Payne DePelchin, later connected with the DePelchin Faith Home, was elected matron in 1888. The institution moved a number of times around the Harris County area over the years, with its final location near Webster. The orphanage ceased to function strictly as the Bayland Orphans' Home after World War II. Boys attended public school at Webster, and efforts were made to place children in foster homes.



## TEXAS CIVIL WAR HISTORY IN JANUARY

From the Texas State Historical Association— <https://texasdaybyday.com/#feedCarousel>



January 23, 1863: On this day in 1863, Confederate soldiers hanged Martin Hart in Fort Smith, Arkansas. This attorney from Hunt County had served in the Texas legislature, where he spoke out against secession. After secession, he resigned his government post and organized the Greenville Guards, pledging the company's services "in defense of Texas" against invasion. Under color of a Confederate commission, however, he spied against the Confederacy. In Arkansas he led a series of rear-guard actions against Confederate forces, and is alleged to have murdered at least two prominent secessionists. He was captured on January 18, 1863, by Confederate forces.

January 29, 1861: On this day in 1861, the Secession Convention of the state of Texas voted overwhelmingly to secede from the United States. South Carolina had seceded in December 1860. The election of Republican Abraham Lincoln precipitated the fall of the Southern dominoes. Fearful of Northern encroachment on traditional freedoms, and acutely aware of the South's economic dependence upon slavery, the Southern states voted one by one to withdraw from the Union. A Texas referendum to settle the legality of the move was held on February 23, 1861. The results for the state as a whole were 46,153 for secession and 14,747 against. The stage was set for Texans to fight and lose a bloody civil war.

January 30, 1862: On this day in 1862, Maine native Leonard Pierce arrived in Matamoros, Mexico, to take up his post as United States consul. As the Civil War raged to the north, Matamoros became a center of Confederate commerce. Texans shipped cotton from the unblockaded port, while Unionist refugees fleeing Texas collected in the town. Pierce's principal responsibilities were the care of refugees from Confederate territory and the military enlistment of Union sympathizers. During his service he relocated about 700 refugees and sent about 300 men to enlist in the Union army. These men served in the First and Second Texas Cavalry regiments, which were eventually merged into the First Texas Volunteer Cavalry. After the war Pierce settled in Brownsville, Texas, where he died in 1872.



### Origin of the Bonny Blue Flag

*"Harry McCarthy, a Confederate soldier and an Irish comedian, appeared on the stage of the Academy of Music in New Orleans in September, 1861, and sang a song which he had written. The house was filled with Confederate soldiers from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas on their way to the battle front. He was accompanied by his sister, Marion, who, in honor of the Texans present, bore in her hand a large flag of dark blue silk with one*

*white star in the center. Then McCarthy sang his 'Bonny Blue Flag' which brought to the soldiers the memory of home so vividly that they could not repress their feelings. They yelled, they waved their hats, they jumped upon the seats, and the excitement became so great that the police had to be called in to check it. McCarthy had first sung it at his home in Jackson, Miss. When General Butler was in command at New Orleans he issued an order that any man, woman, or child that sang that song, whistled or played it, should be fined twenty-five dollars. He had A. E. Blaekmar, the publisher of the music, arrested, fined him five hundred dollars, and ordered every copy of the song destroyed; but 'Bonny Blue Flag' was in the hearts of the people and could not be destroyed. It was sung from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean, and from the night McCarthy sang it, it became the Marseillaise of the South. Mrs. Annie Chambers-Ketchum, of Kentucky, wrote other words to the music, and for this reason it has been said she claimed to have written the original song."*

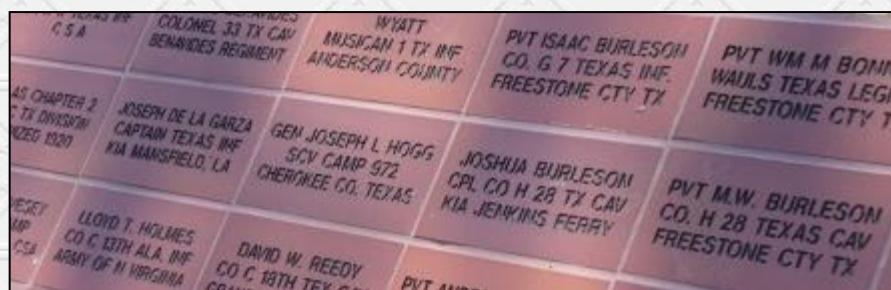
Mildred Lewis Rutherford, *What The South May Claim or Where The South Leads* (Athens, Georgia: Historian General U. D. C. 1911-1916, 1916), 30.



## 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 Commander Ed Heitman, E-mail: [edheitman@gmail.com](mailto:edheitman@gmail.com); Phone: (903-504-6674) or Dan Dyer at E-mail: [danielydyer497@yahoo.com](mailto:danielydyer497@yahoo.com); Phone: (903) 391-2224 or Richard Thornton, Adjutant/Treasurer at E-mail: [tx\\_tsar@hotmail.com](mailto:tx_tsar@hotmail.com)



Would you like to honor your 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

We meet the 4th Tuesday of Each Month  
At 06:30 PM at the First Congregational  
Methodist Church of Elkhart.

With a meal served  
at each meeting.

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[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 Tuesday  
Each Month - 06:30 PM  
Meal served at each meeting.

Held at First Congregational  
Methodist Church of Elkhart

510 N. US 287, Elkhart, Tx  
75839