

# CONFEDERATE GAZETTE



## Confederate Gazette

*Is a monthly publication  
of the*

Major Robert M. White  
Camp #1250  
Sons of Confederate  
Veterans  
Temple, Texas

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*Event Set for October 26-27<sup>th</sup> in Fairfield*

## PERIOD FUNERAL FOR CONFEDERATE GENERAL

A period funeral service will be held for former Confederate Brigadier General Joseph Burton Johnson in Fairfield, Texas on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. General Johnson was the commander of the 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Texas State Troops. The brigade was made up of men from the Freestone, Limestone, Ellis, and Navarro counties. The brigade served along the Texas Gulf coast near Galveston for most of the war.

Johnson, his wife and son were removed from their original graves in February of this year from a very remote gravesite, in the middle of a hay field, in

Freestone County. The re-burial is an effort to honor one of the General's last wishes to be buried in the Fairfield City Cemetery.

Johnson's remains will lie in state beginning at noon on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Moody-Bradford House in Fairfield. The home is a period home built in 1860 and a location that Johnson often visited during his life.

Visitors will be able to pay their final respects to Johnson and a number of his descendants will be at the home. An honor guard will accompany the body from the time the body is lying in state until he is reinterred.

Funeral services will begin at the home at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. At approximately 10:45 A.M. a period procession will form at the home and proceed the 1.3 miles to the cemetery.

At the cemetery a Masonic ritual will be held, followed by ceremonies by clergy and the SCV. A full 21 gun artillery salute will follow as well as volleys of muskets by the assembled troops.

The event is hosted by the Johnson-Sayers-Nettles Camp #1012 and Company A of the 12<sup>th</sup> Texas.

*Robert Duvall To Play Lee*

## WAR MOVIE TO BEGIN

Filming was scheduled to begin August 28<sup>th</sup> on the new War Between the States movie, *Gods and Generals*. The movie is adapted from the book of the same name by Jeff Shaara.

The movie is a prequel to the movie *Gettysburg*, which was adapted from the book *Killer Angels* written by Shaara's father, Michael.

Robert Duvall has agreed to play Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Duvall will join Jeff Daniels, Tom Berenger, and C. Thomas Howell in the movie. These three actors are reprising their roles from *Gettysburg*, which starred Martin Sheen as Lee.

Writer-director Ron Maxwell adapted the screenplay for *Gods and Generals*. Although

"Gettysburg" debuted on television, *Gods and Generals* is planned for a theatrical release.

Filming was to begin in Lexington, Virginia where scenes of General Thomas J. Jackson at Virginia Military Institute were to be filmed. Reenactors are being recruited for the film, call 301-223-1498 for additional information.



## CONFEDERATE PROFILE



# JOHN H. REAGAN



Texan served  
as Postmaster  
General  
of the  
Confederacy

**H**e literally created something out of nothing. The new nation needed a postal system, and they picked a Texan to do the job. John H. Reagan was up to the task at hand.

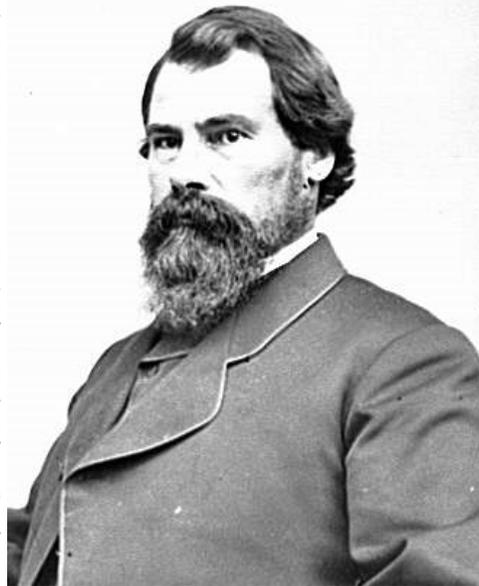
John Henninger Reagan was born in Sevier County, Tennessee in 1818. As he grew up he worked on the family farm and with his father, who was a tanner. He had little formal education. His mother died in 1831, requiring John to help raise his four brothers and a sister. In 1837, at the age of 19, he did manage to attend Southwestern Seminary in Maryville, but ran out of funds after one year.

He left Tennessee in 1838. He went first to Natchez, Mississippi, to manage a plantation, but soon the lure of Texas caught his attention. He came to the Texas wilderness in 1839. By July of that year, his fellow frontiersman recognized his natural leadership abilities and elected him captain of militia in Nacogdoches to fight the nearby hostile Indians. He fought with distinction in the Cherokee War.

Reagan worked in several different capacities in Nacogdoches, as a deputy surveyor, frontier scout, and as the justice of the peace. In 1844, he mar-

ried Martha Music, who died in 1845. Reagan studied to be an attorney, and in 1846 he received a temporary law license. He opened a law office at Buffalo.

Reagan was elected, in 1846, the very first County Judge in Hender-



John H. Reagan

son County. In 1847, he was elected to the Texas State Legislature. His political fortunes continued to blossom, as by 1857, he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, representing the eastern district of Texas. He was married for the second time in 1852 to Edwina Moss Nelms. They had a total of six children.

As secession came, Reagan decided not to stay on the sidelines. On January 15, 1861, Reagan

resigned his U.S. congressional seat and returned home to Texas. He felt that secession was a state's right, guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution. Reagan also thought that it was the right thing to do. Well known in Texas for his views, Reagan was chosen to lead a delegation to approach Texas Governor, Sam Houston, to request Houston to call a convention to consider secession. Houston was convinced to do so by quite possibly the only man in the state that could do it, John Reagan.

After Texas left the Union, the people of Texas elected Reagan as one of their seven delegates to the secession convention at Montgomery, Alabama. As had happened in Texas, it didn't take long for leaders, this time of the new Confederacy to recognize Reagan's leadership skills. Confederate President Jefferson Davis asked Reagan to be his Postmaster General. At first Reagan refused, but soon he was persuaded by Davis, the man Reagan considered to be the "finest man he had ever known."

Despite the tremendous challenge of starting a national postal service from scratch, John H.

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## Confederate Profile

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Reagan was most successful. He became one of the most admired men in the Confederate cabinet. Reagan relocated to Richmond, Virginia when the new Confederate government moved there in the spring of 1861. The Confederate Constitution required that the postal service be self-sufficient by March 1, 1863. To meet this ambitious challenge Reagan abolished the franking privilege, raised postal rates, and cut expenses by eliminating too expensive routes and eliminating staff.

His efforts were not always well received. Many in the general public became dissatisfied with Reagan's postal service. He was blamed for many of the postal woes that were well outside of his control, such as the Union armies disrupting routes and destroying postal facilities.

Reagan even took an interest in military operations. He was the sole member of Davis' cabinet who voted against the ill-fated 1863 Gettysburg Campaign. In 1863 his wife, Edwina died.

As the war was ending, in April of 1865, Davis and the Confederate government fled Richmond. They head south with an eventual goal to head west, out of harms way, and attempt to carry on the cause. After the surrender of General Robert E. Lee on April 9, 1865 and General Joseph E. Johnston on April 26,

1865 one by one all the other members of Davis' cabinet, except Reagan and Secretary of War John C. Breckinridge, began to desert their president. The Secretary of the Treasury, George A. Trenholm, resigned on April 27<sup>th</sup> and Reagan was asked to handle the duties of the Treasury Department.

At Washington, Georgia as the Davis party continued to stay just one step ahead of the pursuing Federal cavalry, Reagan and Breckinridge stayed behind to over see the transfer of Confederate property, as Davis headed west. Upon completion of their task Breckinridge took his leave, while the ever-faithful Reagan journeyed to catch up with his Davis. On May 8, 1865 the Federals caught up with the Davis party. Davis and only one member of his administration, John R. Reagan, were arrested.

Reagan was sent to Boston where he was imprisoned at Fort Warren in Boston harbor. For his loyalty to the Confederacy, Reagan, at the hands of the Federals, was forced to endure three months of solitary confinement. Finally, after surviving the solitary confinement he was able to see his fellow prisoner, former Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens.

From prison, Reagan, wrote on August 11<sup>th</sup> an open letter to the people of Texas. In the letter Reagan appealed to them to recognize the authority of the United States, renounce immediately both secession and slavery. Finally, after 22 weeks of imprisonment both Reagan and Stephens

were released.

Reagan returned home to Texas. He, like thousands of other Confederates, began the arduous task of rebuilding the South. Reagan settled in Palestine, and began to negotiate with the Houston and Great Northern Railroad, trying to make his adopted hometown a rail-

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Camp Schedule

#### September, 2001

September 11<sup>th</sup>: Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M. at King's Daughters Hospital in Temple, TX.

September 29<sup>rd</sup>: Texas Division Executive Council Meeting, Waco Hilton Hotel, Waco, TX, 10:00 AM

#### October, 2001

October 6<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>: Granbury Reenactment, Granbury, TX

October 13<sup>th</sup>: Camp Dinner Meeting, 7:00 PM, Inn at Scott & White, Temple, TX.

#### November, 2001

November 13<sup>th</sup>: Regular Camp Meeting, 7:00 P.M. at King's Daughters Hospital in Temple, TX.

November 17<sup>th</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Civil War Preservation Seminar, Hill College, Hillsboro, TX, 9:00 AM

September  
Camp Meeting:  
Sept. 11th  
King's Daughters  
Hospital  
7:00 P.M.

## *Confederate Profile*

*(Continued from page 3)*

road center. He married for the third and final time in 1866. He wed Molly Ford Taylor, who, with three of their five children, survived him.

By 1874 ex-Confederates had regained the right to vote and immediately voted out of office the much-despised Scalawag governor, E. J. Davis. Davis however refused to leave office. Texans turned to one man to approach the radical Republican governor, "The Old Roman" John H. Reagan. Reagan told Davis that he had to select one of two choices, to surrender or to die. Davis surrendered.

Reagan, in 1875 returned to the U.S. Congress, representing the 1st Texas District, serving until 1887. Reagan took leadership roles in the Congress on interstate commerce and in railroad legislation. In 1887, Reagan was elected to the U.S. Senate. He resigned, before his term was up, to come home and serve as the

chairmanship of the newly formed Texas Railroad Commission.

Reagan was unsuccessful in an 1894 bid as the Democratic nominee for governor. He remained the chairman of the Railroad Commission until he retired in 1903.

In 1897 he was one of the founders of the Texas State Historical Association. He was active in the United Confederate Veterans, and in wrote his memoirs, which were published in 1906. He passed away March 6, 1905 and is buried in Palestine. At the end he remained unapologetic about his Confederate service.

Who was John H. Reagan, soldier, frontiersman, leader, cabinet member, Texan? The question is probably best answered by Reagan himself. From his memoirs he made the following dedication. "To the patriots, who in the council and on the field, pledged life and fortune to the Cause of the Confederate States of America; to the Daughters of the Confederacy, who endowed with the self-sacrificing virtues of their noble mothers, are doing so much for the preservation and conduct of the War Between the States; and to the Sons of Confeder-

ate Veterans upon whom devolves the grave duty of vindication their fathers against the calumny of rebellion and treason, and upon whose wisdom and patriotism largely rests the hope of this great Republic." John H. Reagan was a proud Southern Confederate.

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### **Confederate Air Force To Change Name**

Members of the Confederate Air Force have four options for replacing the group's culturally challenged name. In October 2000, members voted to rename the organization.

The board of directors of the CAF approved the four names that will be voted on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The names to be voted on are: (1) Heritage Flying Museum, (2) Ghost Squadron, (3) Heritage Air Force, and (4) Commemorative Air Force.

Voting results are expected to be released December 7<sup>th</sup>, and the new name will take effect January 1, 2002. Formed in 1957 as the Confederate Air Force, they have never gone by any other name.



# Confederate Gazette

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**Next Meeting:  
September 11th  
King's Daughters  
7:00 PM**