



# David's Dispatch

1st Lt. David Richard Reynolds Camp #2270  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Mount Pleasant, Texas



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**WINNER OF THE BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD, NATIONAL, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, 2016, 2017 & 2018**

**WINNER OF THE BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD, TEXAS DIVISION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, 2017 & 2018**

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Alvin "Rex" McGee



I find it difficult to believe that this will be my last Commander's Corner article. The past two years have passed with what appears to be just a blink of an eye. We have many accomplishments that we can be proud of over the past few years. Those accomplishments would not have been possible without the efforts and support of all the members working together while going in one well defined direction. We must remember that it is through accomplishment in a man's life that he makes his contributions and that contributions are life's greatest reward.

It seems like yesterday when we received our Charter and now we are moving into our third administration for the Camp. We must remember that our many accomplishments should not be the end of our endeavors, just the starting point for the next leap forward. If we continue with the efforts we all have put forth we will continue to grow as a Camp and continue to be a force for preserving our Southern Heritage.

I have enjoyed my tenure as Camp Commander and look forward toward my new role in service to the Camp and its members. Your support and assistance has made my job as Commander a pleasure. I know the new Commander will be able to depend upon your support to continue moving the Camp forward. As we change leadership of the Camp let us all continue to be of one mind and one spirit directed at serving each other while leaving a rich history of Southern Heritage for our children and grand children.

I look forward to our future association and our efforts to keep Southern Heritage alive in the minds and hearts of our descendants.

May the blessings of Heaven rest upon you and your family.

Deo Vindice

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NEXT MEETING

Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.

Old Union Community Center

Hwy 67E, Mount Pleasant, Texas

### 2019 NATIONAL REUNION

July 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel

64 South Water Street

Mobile, Alabama 36602

See [scvsemmes.org](http://scvsemmes.org) for details

### CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

August 10, 2019

Convention and Visitors Center

305 E. Austin Street

Jefferson, Texas



## DAVIDRREYNOLDS.ORG

This month the following changes have been made to our web site: <http://www.davidrreynolds.org>

- I've updated our Events page to include all known events by the Camp and its members. Please let me know when you do anything for the SCV, this includes attending other camp meeting, public speaking, or even putting flags on graves.
- I've updated our Calendar of Events.

If you have any suggestions, recommendations or comments you can send me an email to: [Joe.Reynolds@davidrreynolds.org](mailto:Joe.Reynolds@davidrreynolds.org) and I promise to give it my full consideration.



## Our Charge...

**"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." Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations!**

*Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General,  
United Confederate Veterans,  
New Orleans, Louisiana April 25, 1906*



## LAST CAMP MEETING

During our June meeting we has a Presentation Ceremony where our members received Texas Division Meritorious Crosses and Honor Awards. We also held our election of new officers. Joe Reynolds was elected as Camp Commander, Kid Tillery was elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander and Dave Davy was elected as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander of

the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Richard Reynolds Camp #2270. At our July Meeting we will have our Change of Command Ceremony and I'm asking everyone as a personal favor to me, please try to make the meeting.



## WHY VICKSBURG CANCELED THE FOURTH OF JULY – FOR A GENERATION

From May through early July 1863, Vicksburg, Mississippi, a strategically important city on the Mississippi River, was besieged by Federal forces under the command of General Ulysses S. Grant, and by a flotilla of gunboats in the river commanded by Admiral David Porter. The city was surrounded by outlying Confederate lines of defense, but the Union

forces also shelled the city itself, which was full of civilians, who dug caves into the clay hills of Vicksburg for protection from the artillery bombardment. The siege lasted 47 days, until the city and its Confederate defenders were at last starved into submission.

The Confederate commander, Gen. John C. Pemberton, surrendered on July 4, 1863. So bitter were the feelings and memories of the people of Vicksburg afterward that they did not officially observe the Independence Day holiday for the next 81 years (not returning to its observance until 1945).

In his book *Vicksburg 1863*, published in 2010, historian Winston Groom noted the following: “From the river, Porter’s mortar boats kept up a regular bombardment of the city’s environs, while from landward Grant’s artillery relentlessly threw barrages of shells into the town. The shocking part of it was that much of the naval firing was deliberately aimed at the civilians.” (emphasis added)

Mary Longborough, a resident of Vicksburg, kept a diary that was later published as *My Cave Life in Vicksburg*. Her eyewitness accounts attest to many poignant incidents that occurred during the siege of the city:

“A young girl, becoming weary in the confinement of the cave, hastily ran to the house in the interval that elapsed between the slowly falling shells. On returning, an explosion sounded near her—one wild scream, and she ran into her mother’s presence, sinking like a wounded dove, the life blood flowing over the light summer dress in crimson ripples from a death-wound in her side, caused by the shell fragment.”

“One afternoon, amid the rush and explosion of the shells, cries and screams arose—the screams of women amid the shrieks of the falling shells. The servant boy, George...found that a negro man had been buried alive within a cave, he being alone at that time. Workmen were instantly set to deliver him, if possible; but when found, the unfortunate man had evidently been dead some little time. His wife and

relations were distressed beyond measure, and filled the air with their cries and groans.”

“A little negro child, playing in the yard, had found a shell; in rolling and turning it, had innocently pounded the fuse; the terrible explosion followed, showing, as the white cloud of smoke floated away, the mangled remains of a life that to the mother’s heart had possessed all of beauty and joy.”

“Sitting in the cave, one evening, I heard the most heartrending screams and moans. I was told that a mother had taken a child into a cave about a hundred yards from us; and having laid it on its little bed, as the poor woman believed, in safety, she took her seat near the entrance of the cave. A mortar shell came rushing through the air, and fell with much force, entering the earth above the sleeping child—cutting through into the cave—oh! most horrible sight to the mother—crushing in the upper part of the little sleeping head, and taking away the young innocent life without a look or word of passing love to be treasured in the mother’s heart.”

*Karen Stokes*



*Karen is an archivist and writer in Charleston, S.C., is the co-editor of *Faith, Valor, and Devotion: The Civil War Letters of William Porcher DuBose*, and *A Confederate Englishman: The Civil War Letters of Henry Wemyss Feilden*, both published by the University of South Carolina Press. She is also the author of three non-fiction books published by The*



*History Press: South Carolina Civilians in Sherman's Path, The Immortal 600, and the newly released Confederate South Carolina.*



## **BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG PICKETT'S CHARGE**



At 3:00 P.M. on July 3, 1863, 11,000 steady and disciplined Confederate soldiers emerged from the trees on Seminary Ridge and formed perfectly aligned battle ranks facing the Union position a mile away on Cemetery Ridge. For two days, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had bested Maj. Gen. George G. Meade's Union Army of the Potomac in heavy fighting in and around Gettysburg, Pa. But Meade's troops still occupied a defensive position south of town, and Lee was determined to attack him there.

Three of the nine brigades in the attacking Confederate force were commanded by Maj. Gen. George E. Pickett, a 38-year-old career soldier from Virginia. Pickett's division spearheaded the assault, advancing with parade precision. Almost immediately, gaps were blown in the Confederate lines from Union artillery positions. Under orders not to fire and not to let loose their Rebel Yell, the Confederates closed the gaps in their lines and kept advancing. Union artillery changed from shells to

canister-tin cans packed with iron balls that made giant shotguns of the cannon-and mowed great swaths through the Confederate ranks. As the attackers continued to close, Union infantry sent volleys of minie balls into the still-ordered Southern troops.

Surviving Rebels returned fire and charged the Union line. Desperate hand-to-hand fighting ensued as the Union line was penetrated, but there were not enough Confederates left after the charge to hold the line. The Confederates' only choice was to surrender or to go back across the mile of open ground.

Almost 4,000 Confederate soldiers were captured. General Pickett's division lost 75% of its men. The Union forces, just half as numerous as the Rebel attackers, suffered only 1,500 casualties-only one-fifth of the number they inflicted. Gen. Robert E. Lee had thought his army was invincible. The proof to the contrary was a blow from which it would never recover.

***Fascinating Fact:*** *The artillery exchange preceding Pickett's charge was heard 140 miles away in Pittsburgh, making it one of the loudest noises on the North American continent up to that time.*

*Written by Stephen T. Foster*



## **A BLAST FROM THE PAST**

*(Taken from the July 1919 Edition of the Confederate Veteran 100 Years Ago)*

### **PILGRIMS NOT FIRST ENGLISH COLONISTS.**

*by James H. M'Neely, D.D., Nashville, Tenn.*

It is unfortunate for the fair proportions of the history of our country that it should have been largely written by New Englanders, especially by the descendants of the Pilgrims. And this holds particularly of the histories of the United States for schools. So our young people are taught that the origin and success of every good thing in our

government and institutions is to be credited to New England, and the other States are ignored or misrepresented. Now, I believe in giving credit to New England for all the excellencies of character and achievement which she may justly claim; yet she has never been accused of modesty in pressing her claims to the fullest and often at the expense of the South, which was considered as at least uncivilized.

It was a Knickerbocker, not a Southerner, who said that the Mayflower was loaded with Pilgrims and horns and that for nearly three hundred years the Pilgrim descendant had been blowing these horns to the glory of New England.

It was not a Southerner, but Joseph Choate, of Massachusetts, who gave as a toast at an annual New England dinner: "The Pilgrim mothers—they endured all the hardships of the Pilgrim Fathers and endured the Pilgrim Fathers too."

It was a New Englander who said that the Pilgrim Fathers on landing declared that "the Lord gave this land to his people, and we are his people." Then in thankfulness to God they fell upon their knees and then, rising up, fell upon the aborigines.

Now, this editorial from the Nashville Banner of June 2, 1919, contains so much of truth of history and so well told that it ought to be placed in front of all the histories of the United States taught in our schools. This editor always knows what he is talking about

#### The Pilgrim Myth.

"The myth that 'the Pilgrim Fathers' who landed on 'the bleak New England shores' in the early years of the seventeenth century were the founders of America, the progenitors of all Americans, and that all that is good in the country's institutions, its literature and its marked progress, came from them and their descendants has long existed in a considerable portion of this country, and it appears to have found some lodgment abroad. The Mayor of Plymouth, England, in his welcome to the heroic crew of the NC-4, who had crossed the ocean in a

seaplane, said: 'Out of a small beginning here in 1620 sprung a mighty people. To-day in the most dramatic fashion their descendants crossed back in a way undreamed of by their forefathers.'

"Before the Pilgrim Fathers had left Plymouth, England, for Holland and several years before they had landed on Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts, there was a colony of very representative Englishmen at Jamestown, Va. Virginia at the time of the Revolution was by far the most extensive of the colonies in territory and was greater in wealth and population than Massachusetts. Out of Virginia's gift to the Union was made the great States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Kentucky also was originally part of its dominion. The commander of the Revolutionary army was a Virginian, and four of the first five Presidents of the country came from the same State.

"Later English colonies were founded with which the Pilgrim Fathers had nothing to do, and even in Massachusetts they were not 'the whole thing.' The Mayor of Plymouth, England, needs to know something of his fellow countrymen who were active in American colonization; of William Penn, of Oglethorpe, Lord de la Ware and Sir Cecil Calvert, later Lord Baltimore; also of the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam and the first settlements in New Jersey and the Carolinas.

"These Pilgrim Fathers did a great work and in a marked degree stamped their impress on the country's progress; but no other people were ever more expert advertisers or more successful in assuming credit for achievement in which they either had no part or were but a small factor than were their alleged descendants of a later day. These succeeded to some extent in fixing everywhere the impression that this English Mayor seems to entertain that the original Pilgrims were all that was worth while in the making of America.

"Even in the South, whenever a bunch of good citizens get together for any patriotic purpose, they piously sing to the tune of England's anthem

" 'Land where our fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride.'

"Even in Massachusetts to-day there are few of the descendants of the Pilgrims left. In Boston the Irish Catholics are one of the strongest elements of the population where the original white settlers forbade a Catholic to come. Italians of the same faith are also numerous there, and people from all the new States of Europe that the Paris Peace Conference has created—Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Jugo-Slavs, as well as many Russians, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, and all the rest are among the numerous factory workers of that region.

"It is a great part of the country up there, abounding in wealth. The rest of the country pays it tribute in interest on money representing many bonds issued for various purposes, in insurance premiums and otherwise. But the story that the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth founded and built the country, that it is all a monument to their energy, wisdom, and superior virtues, is pure and unadulterated myth that the Mayor of an English city should not credit.

"There have been and are mayors in this part of the world whom it would not be safe to bet could tell where Plymouth Rock is or its history or why so called, but in England there is supposed to be a higher standard of official intelligence."



## **BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

**July 6<sup>th</sup>** – James Robert Reynolds

**July 16<sup>th</sup>** – Penny Oliver

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Tim and Cindy Fletcher

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Buffalo and Mariann

**July 23<sup>rd</sup>** – O. M. and Karen Adams

**July 13<sup>th</sup>** – This day in 1821 General Nathan Bedford Forrest was born.



## **BATTLES FOUGHT DURING THE MONTH OF JULY**

### **Battle of Malvern Hill - Malvern Hill Virginia**

1 July 1862 - General Robert E. Lee verses General George B. McClellan. Casualties: 5355 Confederate, 3214 Union!

### **Battle of Gettysburg - Gettysburg Pennsylvania**

1-3 July 1863 - General Robert E. Lee verses General George G. Meade. Casualties: 28,063 Confederate, 23,049 Union!

### **Siege of Vicksburg Ends - Vicksburg Surrenders - Vicksburg Mississippi**

4 July 1863 - General John C. Pemberton surrenders his Confederate Army and thereby the City of Vicksburg Mississippi to Union General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 39,941 Confederates and 8873 for the Union!

### **Siege of Port Hudson Ends - Port Hudson Surrenders - Port Hudson Louisiana**

26 May - 9 July 1863 - General Franklin Gardner surrenders to General Nathaniel P. Bank

### **Battle of Monocacy River - Monocacy River Maryland**

9 July 1864 - General Jubal A. Early verses General Lew Wallace. Casualties: 700 Confederate, 1880 Union!

### **Battle of Rich Mountain - Rich Mountain Western Virginia**

11 July 1861 - Colonel John Pegram verses General William S. Rescans. Casualties: 600 Confederate, 46 Union!

### **Battle of Tupelo - Tupelo Mississippi**

13-15 July 1864 - General Stephen D. Lee verses General Andrew J. Smith. Casualties: 1376 Confederate, 674 Union!

**Battle of Peach Tree Creek - Peach Tree Creek Georgia**

20 July 1864 - General John Bell Hood verses General George H. Thomas. Casualties: 2500 Confederates, 1600 Union!

**First Battle of Manassas - Manassas Virginia**

21 July 1861 - General Joseph E. Johnston, General P.G.T. Beauregard verses General Irvin McDowell. Casualties: 1981 Confederate, 2645 Union!

**Battle of Atlanta - Atlanta Georgia**

22 July 1864 - General John Bell Hood verses General William T. Sherman. Casualties: 8500 Confederates, 3722 Union!

**Second Battle of Atlanta or Ezra Church - Ezra Church Georgia**

28 July 1864 - General John Bell Hood verses General William T. Sherman. Casualties: 4300 Confederate, 632 Union!

**Battle of "The Mine" - Petersburg Virginia**

30 July 1864 - General Robert E. Lee verses General Ulysses S. Grant. Casualties: 1200 Confederate, 3798 Union!

**A Word About Independence Day in the Civil War**

*From: the Emerging Civil War  
By: Virginia R. Benson*

As we all celebrate the Fourth of July Independence Day, let us also remember that Independence Day was considered an important celebration during the Civil War in both the North and the South. In the North, Independence Day was symbolic for preserving the Union. In the South, it represented a time of celebrating the Founding Fathers and the constitutional rights and ideas of independence.

"The Fourth of July as a celebration centered on conceptions of American identity and about the core concepts of America," says historian Jared Jefferson Bond. "With the celebration of the Fourth of July, both sides of the war sought to preserve their right to observe and honor what they felt was the true vision of America."

Independence Day in the Confederacy was celebrated until 1863, as an official holiday, but newspapers continued to "assert the South's right to the principles set forth by the Declaration of Independence and to the celebration of the Fourth of July," Bond says.

On July 4, 1865 the Fourth of July was fervently celebrated by the Northerners. The New Hampshire Sentinel wrote: "Never before since the birth of the nation, had we so abundant cause for public rejoicing as now. Formerly we rejoiced in a country gained; now, in a country gained and a country saved." ("The fourth of July, 1865 – Welcome to the Soldiers," The New Hampshire Sentinel, July 6, 1865.)

So today let's all celebrate our heritage, our Nation, and the principles for which our Nation was founded, and for which many of our soldiers fought and died to defend our freedoms



"Sirs, you have no reason to be ashamed of your Confederate dead; see to it they have no reason to be ashamed of you."

*Robert Lewis Dabney, Chaplain for Stonewall Jackson*



*Our Honored Ancestors*

**John Bell Hood  
Brigadier General  
Confederate States of America**



John Bell Hood, born in Owingsville, Kentucky, June 1, 1831, and graduated from West Point in the class of 1853 had by all odds the most spectacular advance in rank of any officer in the Confederate service. After serving in California and Texas, he resigned his union 1st lieutenant position on April 17, 1861.

There after he distinguished himself on a dozen battlefields as a regimental, brigade, and division commander in the Army of Northern Virginia. Initially he was a captain of cavalry and then colonel of the 4th Texas Infantry on September 30, 1861. After promotion to brigadier general to rank from March 3, 1862, he commanded the Texas Brigade composed of the 1st, 4th, 5th Texas Infantry as well as the 18th Georgia and Hampton's Legion infantry during the Peninsula campaign and Second Manassas. He was then promoted to major general October 10, 1862, and as a division commander under Gen. Longstreet he distinguished himself at Sharpsburg where he led the brigades of Robertson, Law, Benning, and Jenkins and at Fredericksburg where his command was composed of the brigades of Law, Toombs, Robertson, and Anderson all of the Army of Northern Virginia.

After being severely wounded in the arm at Gettysburg where his troop performed superbly and after losing a leg at Chickamauga, he was appointed lieutenant general on February 1, 1864, to rank from September 20, 1863, and assigned to a corps under Joseph E Johnston whom he ultimately superseded. Hood's corps was composed of the divisions of Hindman, C L Stevenson, and A P Stewart, Army of Tennessee. Hood was appointed full general with temporary rank on July 18, 1864. After severe battles of Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Ezra Church, and Jonesboro, Hood marched his army into Tennessee. Federal Gen J M Schofield withdrew before Hood, but slipped by Hood's forces to occupy Franklin and fortify sufficiently to shatter Hood's frontal assault. Hood pressed on to Nashville ill supplied in the dead of winter where his army was devastated by Union Gen. George Thomas. Hood was then relieved at his own request in January 1865 and reverted to his

permanent rank of lieutenant general. In May he surrendered himself in Natchez, Mississippi.

He later made his residence in New Orleans, where he died of yellow fever, together with his wife and one of his children. He is buried in Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans. Before his death, Hood wrote a volume of memoirs.



## GUARDIAN NEWS

By Commander Rex McGee



The July 4th celebration each year marks a time period during the Civil War of several devastating battles. Below are the Confederate battle figures for three battles fought around the July 4th holiday period. July 4th may be a holiday, but it is a time of reverent remembrance of the Southern casualties.

Battle of Malvern Hill---5,650 casualties (Killed, wounded or missing)

Battle of Vicksburg---3,203 casualties (Killed, wounded or missing)

Battle of Gettysburg---23,000 (Killed, wounded or missing)

The 4th of July is a yearly celebration of the Declaration of Independence. There are also many Civil War battles that make this day even more



important. In a general sense, everybody who celebrates this day according to their preference is honoring the freedom we have in this country. Specifically, many of the key battles in the Civil War happened on or near this day. The anniversaries of the Battle of Gettysburg as well as lesser known conflicts like Vicksburg and Malvern Hill increase the respect for this day and should make us cherish it even more.

The Battle of Malvern Hill was fought July 1st 1862. This was the last battle of the Seven Days Campaign, and a series of battles in which General Robert E. Lee drove away the Union Campaign from the Confederate capital of Richmond. While Lee was successful in his strategic goals of saving the capital and driving back the enemy army, this battle was a bloody defeat for him, and the Seven Days Campaign was lackluster overall with a specifically poor performance from the normally amazing Stonewall Jackson. Lee and his generals sent the attacks on the Union position at separate times, which allowed the Union artillery to concentrate and destroy them one at a time. The war had gone on for over a year, but this blood bath finally convinced many that the war would become incredibly costly.

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought from the 1st through the 3rd of July a year later. Robert E. Lee had invaded the north, and the armies stumbled into each other near Gettysburg. This was a victory for the Union forces as Lee resorted to costly assaults each day and failed to carry the field. His army limped back to Virginia and struggled until the end of the war. This battle is the most famous of the war and it overshadows what is likely a more impressive Northern victory at Vicksburg also on July 3rd 1863.

But in Vicksburg, Grant didn't have those factors influencing his decisions. Grant marched south of the city, crossed the Mississippi river, defeated the relieving force, and then besieged the city. In his maneuver campaign that lasted about three weeks, Grant's men marched 180 miles, won five battles and captured some 6,000 prisoners; the city fell into his hands just a few weeks after he approached Vicksburg. This was vitally important for the overall war effort which called for a strangling of the south.

It cut off the Confederacy from its Western states and opened up the Mississippi rival and vital ports of Midwestern farmers. This defeat on the July 4 was so devastating that Vicksburg reportedly didn't celebrate the 4th for years after the battle.

In summary, the decisive events of the Civil War often occurred around this holiday.

1st Lt. David Richard Reynolds Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp # 2270 reports that, effective June 30, 2019, our Guardian numbers are 248 graves in 31 cemeteries in 4 counties attended to by 12 Compatriots.

As usual, I'll leave you with the question that Phil Davis, Upshur Patriots CDR and Chairman of both the National and Texas Division Guardian Program always asks,

**“Are you a Guardian?”**

**If not, why not?”**



“He possessed every virtue of other great commanders without their vices. He was a foe without hate; a friend without treachery; a victor without oppression, and a victim without murmuring. He was a public officer without vices; a private citizen without reproach; a Christian without hypocrisy and a man without guile. He was a Caesar without his ambition; Frederick without his tyranny; Napoleon without his selfishness, and Washington without his reward. He was obedient to authority as a servant, and loyal in authority as a true king. He was gentle as a woman in life; modest and pure as a virgin in thought; watchful as a Roman vital in duty; submissive to law as Socrates, and grand in battle as Achilles!”

*War-era Georgia Senator Ben Hill's tribute to  
Robert E. Lee*



**Camp Leadership**

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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Richard Reynolds Camp #2270. Letters and articles may be submitted to: [Joe.Reynolds@davidreynolds.org](mailto:Joe.Reynolds@davidreynolds.org) (Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)