



Patriots Periodical

Upshur County Patriots, Camp #2109
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Gilmer, Texas

Vol. 1, No. 6

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December 2014

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Eddie "Spook" Pricer



At the November meeting, the membership of the Upshur County Patriots held the annual elections for Camp Officers. I was blessed or cursed with being reelected Camp Commander. Actually, this first year has been a very rewarding experience.

Currently we have 11 offices that are filled by election and 2 (Editor and Associate Editor) that are appointed. When I joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans, our Camp had 8 elected officers and 1 appointed position. Under the guidance of Past Commander Chris Loyd, a committee was formed to update the Camp Constitution and By-Laws. During the course of this review and update, 3 new elected offices were added. This was done to broaden participation in Camp activities, ensure fresh ideas, and spread the Camp duties so that no one person was unduly burdened with maintaining a vibrant and innovative program to forward the "true history of the South".

Two of our offices (3rd Lieutenant Commander and Adjutant) remain filled with the same two individuals. This is because the primary duties of each position are such that these two men are extremely efficient at what they do and no one in the Camp is foolish enough to ruin a good thing. That being said, that leaves 9 other offices under the current system to share amongst our members.

To date, the Past Commanders with input from the current Commander have prepared a slate of candidates for office. The list consisted of members who they believed could appropriately administer the duties of a particular office and were willing to do so. This was done to ensure that each office was filled and this year was no different. Of the nine offices that routinely change, only 2 were contested

and then to the extent that 2 men were willing to fulfill the duties of the positions.

The Commanders of the Camp, since its inception and chartering in 2006 have overseen the formation and the building of a solid foundation, recruitment, community activities, mentoring and educating, the placing of a monument and more recently joining the Chamber of Commerce along with our Web Site and Newsletter publications. These have all had one common thread. That thread being to demonstrate that we are like the majority of this country, everyday mainstream citizens, operating within the system to correct the popular notions, misconceptions and untruths concerning the events encompassing the second American Revolution.

During our election process, our Judge Advocate commented and rightly so on the lack of candidates for the various offices and how he wished that most positions gave the membership a choice. It reminded me a bit of the election ballot for our national, state and local governmental offices. Mind you, it only reminded me of the lack of choices.

I hope that at next year's elections we have more members willing to have their name placed on the ballot for an office. Fresh ideas and new perspective will continue to move us forward successfully in strengthening our organization and demonstrating our ability to work as do the other successful and respected civic groups while proving the "true history of the South". Don't be afraid of undertaking a position. The past officers will always be there to provide guidance, lend an ear and a helping hand. If you are not sure or uncomfortable with the idea, remember one very important fact, if I can do it anyone can.

Merry Christmas and God Bless you and your families.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Daniel Alan Stevens, P. O. Box, 418, Daingerfield, TX 75638, (903) 884-7000, (Pvt. Julius Honesta Stevens, Co. I, 17th Mississippi Infantry)

Ford Cemetery Monument Repair

On November 8th, members of the Upshur County Patriots, General John Gregg Camp and the Walter P. Lane Camp joined forces to make repairs to monuments in the Ford Cemetery in Gilmer. This is a small family cemetery located behind a house on Pine Street. Members of the Ford and Harrison families are buried in this peaceful setting.



Although routine care for the grounds has occurred throughout the years, settling of the gravesites resulted in a number of the monuments leaning with one perilously close to falling over. The Upshur County Patriots was contacted via our new web site by the owner of the adjacent property for help. Two of the graves belonged to Confederate soldiers and Ms. Teresa Holder turned to us in hopes that we could be of assistance.

We completed an assessment of the cemetery and determined what course of action was needed. A

date for repairs was scheduled and work began. Three hours after the job began, 8 monuments were once again vertical and plumb. Nancy Harrison Hill, a relative of those buried arrived to inspect the work and give her heartfelt thanks to our group.

After some pictures, site cleanup and loading of tools, the group adjourned to Swanner's Hamburgers for lunch, fellowship and to marvel the fact that no one was injured.

See all the pictures on our website at: <http://upshurpatriots.org/11-08-2014.html>.

UPSHURPATRIOTS.ORG

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

- I've added several pages of pictures taken during the various events of October.
- I've added several new biographies to our Members' Roster but I still need more bios of our ancestors.
- I've added a Members Only section that is password protected.

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

“The Jar”

By Eddie Pricer

Many of you are aware of “The Jar” which came into being for our Camp just over two months ago. For those of you that have not yet been blessed to meet “The Jar” either at one of the last two meetings or at the Yamboree Recruiting and

Information Booth, I will discuss its importance to our Camp.

I can't take credit for the idea of the jar, which goes to the J.M. "Matt" Barton Camp in Sulphur Springs. I encountered their jar while attending one of their monthly meetings and asked its significance. Adjutant Charles Bolding enlightened me to its importance. Although simple, this marvelous idea is how their Camp collects donations to purchase flags to place on the graves of Confederate Heroes.

I pondered this concept and how it might be put to constructive use in our Camp. After several months of discussing how we might utilize a jar, the old light bulb came on and a plan was hatched. I checked with the J.M. "Matt" Barton Camp to ensure that they had no objections to our using their concept and moving forward in a slightly different direction.

In the nearly 8 ½ years of this Camp's existence, we have grown from a group of men honoring their ancestors, to a group that is involved in numerous civic activities such as educating the public, repairing cemeteries and even erecting a monument.

With education being paramount to our success in honoring our ancestors, bits and pieces of other tested and proven ideas were brought together to form the concept for "The Jar."

Our Camp will utilize "The Jar" to collect donations for the procurement of a parcel of land to be developed into a park whereby the various flags of the Confederacy may be displayed year round along with factual and educational information as to their use and meaning. There are restrictions on the donations. For donations under \$100.00, only Lincoln pennies, quarters (there are 2), the Lincoln Dollar coin, the five dollar bill or a fifty dollar bill are acceptable. Do not despair if you only have a

ten, a twenty or a check burning a hole in your pocket, we will change it for you.

Please give as much as you can as often as you can for this worthy project. Donations may be made in person to "The Jar" or mailed to:

The Upshur County Patriots Camp # 2109
P.O. Box 472
Gilmer, Texas 75644

Please indicate that your donation is for "The Jar". The Upshur County Patriots Camp # 2109 is a qualified 501 C 3 for tax purposes pertaining to charitable donations.

GUARDIAN MEDAL



The Guardian Medal was presented to Texas Division Commander Johnnie Lee Holley by George Linton, 5th Brigade 2nd Lieutenant Commander and Phil Davis, Guardian Program Chairman.

THE GUARDIAN

By Phil Davis

At the November 4th Upshur County Patriots Camp meeting, I along with 5th Brigade 2lt George Linton had the honor of presenting the Guardian Medal and Certificate to our Texas Division Commander Johnnie Holley. This is important, why?

A program that has such importance as it does needs the leadership of our Division, Brigade and Camp Officers. When we get the leaders involved, the troops will follow. We now have the Texas Division's Commander, 2nd Lt. Commander and 3rd Lt. Commander, all wearing the Guardian Medal. There is much support at all levels of command in Texas.

I am receiving more and more applications from Camp Commanders seeking Guardianship. There is a Guardian from every Brigade at this time. I hope that someday there will be at least one Guardian in each camp. I am very proud of our camp, the Upshur County Patriots, as we have many Guardians.

I know you get tired of hearing me talk about the Guardian Program, but gentlemen you will hear it over and over again, until every Patriot is in the Guardian Program. I make no apologies for this! It is of my opinion that the Guardian Program aids in the retention of our fellow compatriots.

I believe with all my being in the Guardian Program and I hope that in some way I can convince you of its importance in fulfilling "The Charge". As always I leave you with this question-

Are you a Guardian?

If not, why not?

"We could have pursued no other course without dishonour; and as sad as the results have been, if it had all to be done over again, we should be compelled to act in precisely the same manner."

Robert E. Lee

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."

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

Historic Upshur Museum Window Adoption Program

At our last meeting, 1st Lieutenant Commander Phil Davis explained a dilemma faced by the Historic Upshur Museum. The Museum although small provides a much needed link to our past. All too often, the citizens of this great Country, especially our kids, miss out on what made this country great. This fast paced world doesn't always leave time for proper reflection on our history and how we got to where we are today.

Being small, the Historic Upshur Museum receives little or no support from tax funded programs and relies largely on Museum membership dues and the occasional donation. Routine operations exhaust the lion's share of funds and thus repairs to the Museum are made piece meal as funds are found and made available. This is the dilemma and a significant one.

The windows are original and have had little maintenance since the building was built many, many decades ago. The framework of the windows is deteriorating and in order to protect the exhibits must be replaced. As the building is on the historical register, there are many restrictions on what modifications can be undertaken. The Museum found a man that could complete the repairs in the necessary fashion for approximately \$125.00 per window. With twenty odd windows and no budget for even one, the Historic Upshur Museum created a Window Adoption Program.

The Upshur County Patriots membership stepped up again to help our community and adopted a window. This is the spirit of our organization and furthers not only our commitment to our neighbors, but once again demonstrates our partnership and leadership role in the community.

Several windows have been adopted, however many remain in need of a benefactor. If you know of someone, including yourself, some other group, or another SCV Camp that is willing to adopt a window or just make a partial donation, please notify us or the Historic Upshur Museum. The Museum will not forget those who help and will be publicly recognizing donors upon completion of the project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gilmer Christmas Parade
December 4, 2014
Gilmer, Texas

The Parade is currently scheduled to start at 5:45 p.m., muster will be at 5:00 on Titus Street behind Gilmer National Bank.

Ore City Christmas Parade
December 6, 2014

Ore City, Texas

Muster at 9 am on vacant lot on Peach Street, Parade will start at 10 am, Trailer will be provided.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, December 2nd, at 7:00 p.m.
 Annual Christmas Party
Wear your uniform for pictures to be taken.
 Walking S Steakhouse
 Hwy 852, Gilmer, Texas

Articles of Association – Nov 2014

Encouraged by the *Suffolk Resolves*, the First Continental Congress passed the *Articles of Association* in hopes that a boycott of British goods would encourage a redress of grievances and repeal of the *Intolerable Acts*. Abraham Lincoln noted the significance of this moment: “*The Union is much older than the Constitution. It was formed, in fact, by the Articles of Association in 1774.*” [Abraham Lincoln](#), First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861

“WE, his majesty's most loyal subjects, the delegates of the several colonies... avowing our allegiance to his majesty, our affection and regard for our fellow-subjects in Great-Britain and elsewhere, affected with the deepest anxiety, and most alarming apprehensions, at those grievances and distresses, with which his Majesty's American subjects are oppressed; and having taken under our most serious deliberation, the state of the whole continent, find, that the present unhappy situation of our affairs is occasioned by a ruinous system of colony administration, adopted by the British ministry about the year 1763...

To obtain redress of these grievances, which threaten destruction to the lives liberty, and

property of his majesty's subjects, in North-America, we are of opinion, that a non-importation, non-consumption, and non-exportation agreement, faithfully adhered to, will prove the most speedy, effectual, and peaceable measure: And, therefore, we do, for ourselves, and the inhabitants of the several colonies, whom we represent, firmly agree and associate, under the sacred ties of virtue, honor and love of our country...

And we do solemnly bind ourselves and our constituents, under the ties aforesaid, to adhere to this association, until such parts of the several acts of parliament... are repealed.” [Journals of Congress](#), Oct 20, 1774

James Still, JamesStill@RetraceOurSteps.com

Commentary by Eddie Pricer

The Articles of Association as written in 1774 and referred to by President Abraham Lincoln in his 1861 Inaugural Address was a reminder to the citizens of America of why this country existed. Unfair and oppressive taxation, restrictive and punitive laws, and dictatorial edicts led to the first American Revolution.

President Lincoln knew full well the ramifications of an overbearing and dictatorial process. Strangely enough, President Lincoln willingly fell prey to those same policies and practices which when rebuked by the Southern States ultimately led to the War of Northern Aggression (1861-1865), often known as the second American Revolution. Unreasonable laws and restriction of natural freedoms is a ticklish issue and will only be endured so long before some form of redress is forthcoming.

In 1776 the Colonies declared independence, in 1861 Southern States seceded as allowed by the Constitution and did likewise. In the years

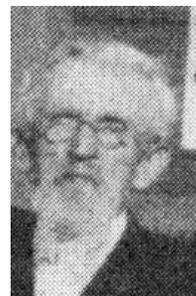
primarily following the War of Northern aggression, the Africans and their descendants, having been forcibly removed from their homes on the African continent, at the behest of the New England Slave Trading Companies, began to fight their own battles. Their struggles were not just below the Mason Dixon Line but throughout the United States. In fact, most of the significant civil strife today occurs outside of those States that composed the Confederacy.

Sadly, since the conclusion of the War in 1865, the effects of Union Reconstruction still plague us today in one form or another. The ugly hand of totalitarian type practices slapping the masses is again upon us. Unfortunately far too many have not heeded the lessons of the past. We may be a land of laws, but when they are unreasonable, oppressive, and restrictive of our natural freedoms it becomes again a ticklish issue.

People will assert themselves to maintain those natural freedoms and throw off their oppressors. I worry that today, we are yet again, repeating ourselves.

Our Honored Ancestors

**Loami Grandberry McLendon
Private
Company E, 59th Alabama Infantry**



Loami Grandberry McLendon (firstborn son of Martin Maxwell McLENDON and Catherine Carolina CAMPBELL) was born 15 June 1835 at Cuthbert, Randolph County, Georgia. Shortly thereafter, the family removed to Barbour County, Alabama, near Louisville, where Loami grew to manhood and received his education, both scholastically and as a carpenter.

Loami answered the call to defend his country in early June 1862, when he enlisted in Dale County, Alabama. He was made a private in Hilliard's Legion, which was mustered in as light artillery but served as infantry. Before the month was out, he was discharged for defective vision.

On 15 February 1863, he re-enlisted at Clopton, Dale County, Alabama, again as a private in Hilliard's Legion, attached to Gracie's Brigade. Hilliard's Legion was later divided into the 59th and 60th Alabama Infantry Regiments, and Loami was made a private in Company E of the 59th Regiment.

About July 1863, Loami (still ranked a private) was made the Regimental Ordnance Sergeant.

In late January 1864, Loami was furloughed home to Dale County where, on 4 February, he married Lydia Ann Damaris BRIDGES (daughter of Nathan S. BRIDGES and Nancy HARDIE). A few days after the wedding, he rejoined his command.

In the early days of 1865, the 59th Alabama Infantry was made a part of Gordon's Corps, Bushrod Johnston's Division, and was engaged in battles around Appomattox County, Virginia.

On Palm Sunday 1865 (9 April), while Generals LEE and GRANT sat in Wilmer McLEAN's parlor in the town of Appomattox Court House and did the paperwork whereby General LEE and the Army of Northern Virginia ceased resistance, Loami and the 59th Alabama Infantry were camped on the

outskirts of the town. Some days later, Loami made his way back to Dale County.

Sometime before March of 1867, Loami and his family moved to Troy, Pike County, Alabama, where for a time Loami served as the County Superintendent of Schools. About 1885, Loami moved his family to Texas, stopping for a time at Marshall, Harrison County, with his brother George Hamilton McLENDON and at Clayton, Panola County, with his brother John Franklin McLENDON. Loami and his family settled at Center, in Shelby County, in 1889, where he spent the rest of his days farming and serving as a pillar of the local Baptist community.

On 19 November 1923, Loami died at the home of his son Martin Bartow McLENDON. His obituary called him "one of Center's most prominent citizens." He was buried in Center's Fairview Cemetery.

When his country was invaded, and his State was threatened, Loami volunteered his services -- not once, but twice. Not content to take his medical discharge in June 1862 as final, he offered himself for service again the following February. From what is known of his later life, his vision -- far from having improved -- had most probably further worsened.

Of the twelve cards in Loami's file at the National Archives, six of them show him sick or in hospital. The life of a soldier is never easy. Besides being shot at, there is the endless round of mud, weather, poor rations, foul drinking water, and sickness. Loami endured all these things and more, bravely and cheerfully, in the hope that his family might live free. I am richly-blessed to be his great-grandson. Through me he speaks, though he be silent.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- The File of Loami Grandberry McLENDON at the National Archives
- Confederate Pension Applications 22751 (Loami Grandberry McLENDON) and 39596 (Lydia Ann Damaris BRIDGES McLENDON) at the Texas State Library and Archives
- The Family Bible of Loami Grandberry McLENDON in possession of Clifton Palmer McLENDON at Gilmer, Upshur, Texas
- The Diary of Loami Grandberry McLENDON for 1914 (noting his 50th wedding anniversary on 4 February and his 79th birthday on 15 June) in possession of Clifton Palmer McLENDON at Gilmer, Upshur, Texas
- The Scrapbook of Will Clifton McLENDON in possession of Clifton Palmer McLENDON at Gilmer, Upshur, Texas
- A History of the 59th Alabama Infantry Regiment at tarleton.edu/~kjones/gracie.html



Members of the Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans staffed an informational and recruitment booth at this year's Yamboree. The goal was two-fold, one to provide information on the Camp's activities in both historical education and public service efforts and the other to recruit new members.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, like the Sons of Union Veterans, is a fraternal organization open to the ancestors of Confederate Veterans that served honorably during the tumultuous years of 1861-1865. Both groups strive to correct the misconceptions and distortions of the past 150 years surrounding the causes of the War, including but not limited to constitutional issues, slavery, trade and taxation to mention just a few of the oft misunderstood dynamics of our shared cultural history.

The Patriots had a great time meeting new people, making new friends and visiting with old ones. It was great to share information and perspectives with all that stopped by the booth. There was even fun to be had taking playful jabs back and forth with their new friends from above the Mason-Dixon Line. All in all, the fellowship was enjoyed by everyone and the Patriots look forward to future events. A Commemorative D-Guard Bowie knife honoring the Gray Ghost, Colonel John S. Mosby

“Our country demands all our strength, all our energies. To resist the powerful combination now forming against us will require every man at his place. If victorious, we will have everything to hope for in the future. If defeated, nothing will be left for us to live for.”

Robert E. Lee

was given away by the Upshur County Patriots Camp. Lynn Davis of Gilmer was the lucky winner. The knife was presented to Lynn by Upshur County Patriots 1st Lieutenant Commander Phil Davis (not related).

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“Duty is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less.”

Robert E. Lee

OUR PLEDGES



PLEDGE TO THE U.S. FLAG:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag Of the United States of America, And to the republic for which it stands, One nation, under God, indivisible, With liberty and justice for all.



PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG:

Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.



SALUTE TO THE CONFEDERATE FLAG:

I salute the Confederate Flag With affection, reverence, and Undying devotion to the cause For which it stands.

UNIT SPOTLIGHT

9TH TEXAS INFANTRY

By Tim Bell

(continued from last month)

Allatoona

Following the loss of Atlanta, Confederate strategy changed. It was determined that an invasion of Tennessee was in order. French's division was ordered to take the Union supplies and garrison at Allatoona, near the old battlefields of Marietta and

New Hope Church. On October 5, 1864, Cockrell's brigade attacked the rifle pits and breastworks in the front, and Sears brigade was ordered to attack from the other side. After taking the first set of works, Cockrell's men were leap-frogged by Young's Texans and North Carolinians.

The following is the order of battle for Young's Brigade at Allatoona:

(reading left to right)

29th N.C.	10th Texas Cavalry	14th Texas Cavalry	9th Texas Infantry
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Regarding the desperate fighting, Cpl. John E. Logsdon of Company C stated, "We went with our guns loaded, or rather ran, like we were in a foot race, to the edge of the ditch and shot right down on them, then clubbed our guns and had a regular hand to hand fight."

The fight did not last more than 30 minutes in the trenches until the Federals were forced to their last, but strongest line of works. The Confederates paused to catch their breath and replenish their ammunition for the final assault that never materialized. Federal commander John Corse received word that help from Sherman was on the way, and Confederate cavalry warned French that he had better pull his men out.

The fight had been a severe one for the 9th Texas. Major McReynolds, commanding the regiment, was wounded. His official report noted how severely the officers of the 9th Texas suffered in the short, but desperate, assault: Capt. Jesse Bates, Adjutant Griffin, and Lt. Dixon Wetzel were all killed, as was Sgt. C.B. Dale. Of 101 men in the regiment who participated in the fight, 43 were killed or wounded, and two listed as missing. Several other officers were wounded, including Captains Van Noy of Company D, and Ridley of Company K; and Lts. Agee of Company F and D. P. Tunnell of Company I.

Brig. Gen. William Hugh Young, formerly of the 9th Texas and now commanding the brigade, participated in his last battle of the war. He was severely wounded in the foot, which later had to be amputated, and left to the discretion of the enemy. He was captured a few days later and sent to Johnson's Island, a P.O.W. camp for officers in Ohio. He would not be released until mid-July, 1865. The brigade was commanded for the remainder of the day by Col. C. R. Earp of the 10th Texas Cavalry.

Young's conduct at the battle did not go unnoticed. In his official report, Gen. French stated, "Most gallantly he [Young] bore his part in the action. I am indebted to Young for his bravery, skill, and unflinching firmness."

Nashville

Ector's Brigade, now under the command of Col. Julius Andrews of the 32d Texas, was nearly finished as an effective fighting force. The brigade was ordered to guard the pontoon bridges of the Army of Tennessee when they crossed the river to begin their invasion of Tennessee. They did not arrive with the army until December 1, the day following the battle of Franklin. Cockrell's and Sears brigades both participated in the attack, and Cockrell's brigade had lost nearly all of its' officers and over 60% of its' men. Colonel Andrews was wounded on December 4, and Col. Coleman, of the 39th North Carolina took command of the brigade as the senior Colonel present. Now fighting with only about 400 effectives, Ector's men fought at Nashville on December 15 and 16. Ector's brigade was first assigned to picket duty on th Hardin Pike, but by the morning of December 15 had been placed behind the stone fence along the Hillsborough Pike. Hopelessly outnumbered and almost surrounded, they were ordered to retreat to avoid capture.

(Continued next month)