



Patriots Periodical

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

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January 2016

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by *Eddie "Spook" Pricer*



Happy New Year!

Well, the time has finally arrived and this is my last article as Commander of the Upshur County Patriots. As our Christmas season wanes and we begin to contemplate the New Year, I thought I would speak of a time some 62 years ago.

My parents were married in August of 1953 and embarked on their life together not knowing what the future held. Unlike many of that time period, they both had careers, my Dad a police officer and my Mom a teacher. Although both worked, that first year together was particularly tough financially as they already had a home with a mortgage and all the associated living expenses. Both were raised to honor their debts and responsibilities, thus everyone and everything else came before themselves.

A few short days before Christmas, with all the bills paid and all obligations tended to, they had twenty five cents to their name. This would have to last another week, until my Dad and then a few days later my Mom,

would receive their next pay checks. Now twenty five cents would actually buy bread, milk and some lunch meat to stretch what they already had in the cupboard, but there would be nothing for Christmas.

They were not deterred, my Mom, the art teacher, sent forth my Dad to garner a dead tree branch she had seen in the park behind their house and attach it to a base made of crossed boards taken from a packing crate in the garage. Dad then got the only can of spray paint he had and painted that pitiful limb and wooden base black. Mom was standing close by and while the paint was still wet, she sprinkled copious amounts of gold glitter she had taken from her art kit, which then stuck to the paint.

While the painted tree (I use that word tree very loosely) dried on the porch and the aroma of fresh paint dissipated, Mom cut a star from a piece of cardboard and wrapped it in foil to top the tree. Dad spent the evening popping what would become our favorite treat, his popcorn. Well they spent the rest of that evening with needle and thread stitching one popped kernel to the next, until they had a garland to wrap that scrawny branch from top to bottom.

My parents knew what was important, and made use of the tools and meager materials available to them to celebrate the season of

Jesus. It is incumbent upon us to know what is important and to use those tools and materials at hand to protect and fight for the respect that our forebears deserve.

Happy New Year to each and every one. Lend your support and prayers to our new Camp Officers for 2016. God Bless You!

Give What You Can to Heritage Defense



Upshur County Patriots
Election of Officers for 2016

By Eddie Pricer

Another year has come and is drawing to a conclusion. At the end of our year's activities, we look forward to the swearing in of our fellow Compatriots to represent us in the upcoming year. This is an extremely important part of our Camp business as each of these men are the visible face of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in our public efforts to fulfill the Charge. The results of the election are as follows:

Commander	Phil Davis
1 st Lt. Cmdr.	Don Loyd
2 nd Lt. Cmdr.	David Palmer
3 rd Lt. Cmdr.	Bill Starnes
Adjutant	Rickie Gipson
Color Sgt.	Justin Jones
Chaplain	Larry Harper

Judge Adv.	Kim Duffey
Qtr. Master	Joseph Moss
Historian	Bruce Swinney
Surgeon	Archie Hass

In the election for the office of Color Sergeant, there was a tie vote. Initially, I thought we could use a coin toss or draw straws to break the tie. Then I had one of those epiphany moments, in other words the light bulb came on and it occurred to me, why not let both of these young men serve. However, there was something that kept nagging me about tie votes. Finally, I reviewed our bylaws and discovered that in the event of a tie vote, the Compatriot with the greatest seniority in the Camp would be declared the winner. Had I been a little quicker on the uptake on election night, I could have solved that issue then. I apologize for my lapse of memory.

Let's give each of these men, our new officers for 2016, our complete support in their endeavors and let's thank all of those who threw their name in the ring to make our Camp strong by giving us a choice.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

January 5, 2016

Meeting at 7 PM

Swearing In of New Officers

Walking S Steakhouse

The Guardian

By Phil Davis



Happy New Year! In this new year of 2016, our goal is to have many more Compatriots taking the stand to become a Guardian of a Confederate Hero. A New Year's resolution to become a Guardian would be a very easy one to keep. If you are like me, New Year's resolutions are very hard to keep, most of the time impossible, especially one that has something to do with food.

The Christmas parties are over and now we begin 2016. It is my hope that we will band together by adopting a Confederate Heroes' grave. Gentlemen they are out there waiting to have a Guardian, watching over them. Think about it, we are the only ones that care about the cause for which they fought and died

As I always say, I believe with all my being in the Guardian Program and I hope that in some small way I can convince you of its importance in fulfilling "The Charge". We must, now more than ever, show the

world that we care about our Southern Heritage and the Valiant Heroes that fought to preserve it.

For those of us that are Guardians, don't forget to place Confederate Flags on our Heroes graves by January 19 or if not, then April 26.

As always I leave you with this question:

Are you a Guardian? If not, why not?



Christmas Party December 2015



**To you,
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 he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Are you also ready to die for your country? Is your life worthy to be remembered along with theirs? Do you choose for yourself this greatness of soul?"

"Not in the clamor of the crowded street,
Not in the shouts and plaudits of the throng,
But in ourselves are triumph and defeat." . . .

From a speech by
Confederate Gen. Stephen D. Lee,
presiding officer at the 16th Annual Reunion
of the United Confederate Veterans,
New Orleans, Louisiana,
April 25th - 27th, 1906.



Lt. General Stephen D. Lee

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The Upshur County Patriots local camp of The Sons of Confederate Veterans held our annual Food Drive in December. Turkeys and food baskets were presented to needy families and shut-ins. Those pictured are: Ronnie Hill, Jaime Eitson, Kim Duffey, Phil Davis, David Palmer, Eddie Pricer and George Linton. Not pictured (behind the camera) is Esther Linton. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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.



General Robert E. Lee



Congratulations to our 2016 Camp Chaplain Larry Harper. We look forward to his articles and thoughts in future News Letters.

From: A Southern View of History

Too often we limit our study of history to those who were famous. Men and women, great as they were, were the celebrities of their era, and we tend to think in terms of them and how they impacted history. While we do not wish to diminish the accomplishments of those famous statesmen and soldiers of the past, we

would also like to remember our (your) ancestors. Whether they were a soldier, a sailor, a farmer, a shopkeeper, housewife, it makes no difference. If they lived through the War of Northern Aggression in the South they were heroes in one way or another.

Upshur Co. Patriots

Cemetery Survey Committee

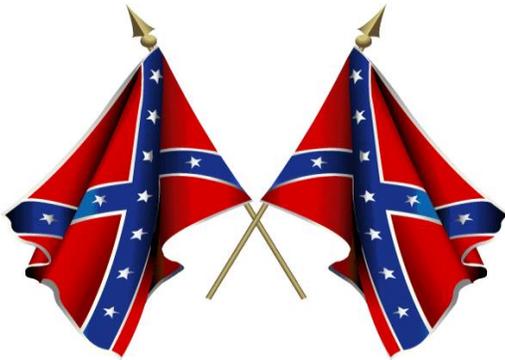
Chairman: Kim Duffey

Our Cemetery Committee and volunteers were busy during 2015. On December 2, 2015 the committee was at the Hopewell Cemetery conducting a survey to identify all Veterans and Able Bodied Men of the War for Southern Independence era. Those taking part on this day were: Kim Duffey, Eddie Pricer, Archie "Otter" Hass and Ben Adkinson. Others who have taken part in the past year are: George and Esther Linton, Phil Davis, David Palmer and Mac McClendon.

During the year 2015, the Committee completed surveys at the following cemeteries in Upshur County: Ashland, Bethlehem, Brumley, Christian Hope, Coffeetown (old and new), Concord, Enon, Floyd, Gilmer (old), Glenwood, Hopewell,

Lafayette, Mattox, Ore City, Pace, Pleasant Grove and Simpsonville.

A special thank you to Esther Linton for her talent and hard work on research with this committee.



Comments or suggestions should be made to: David Palmer, Editor
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Famous Confederate Quotes

From the American Revival

Our government is an agency of delegated and strictly limited powers. Its founders did not look to its preservation by force; but the chain they wove to bind these States together was one of love and mutual good offices ... – Jefferson Davis

Noteworthy January Events

States seceding from the Union

January 9, 1861 Mississippi Secedes
 January 10, 1861 Florida Secedes
 January 11, 1861 Alabama Secedes
 January 19, 1861 Georgia Secedes
 January 26, 1861 Louisiana Secedes
 January 29, 1861 Kansas Secedes



Sam Mercer, 5th Brigade Commander, Speaking at our December 2015 Christmas Party. Commander Mercer spoke on stories and letters from Confederate Soldiers sent home to their families and loved ones at Christmas time.



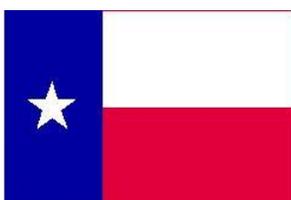
Christmas Party December 2015



A Banner in honor of the late Paul Hamilton was presented to the Lone Star Color Guard at our December 2015 Christmas Party.



The Lone Star Color Guard won 1st Place in the Special Entry category in this year's Ore City Christmas Parade.



On a daily basis, there are those in our country that are trying to do away with our history, monuments and heritage. May we always remember that our Confederate

Ancestors are Rightfully and Legally recognized as True Veterans of War. This is true of the past and will be true in the future.

Photos from our Christmas Party 2015

