

Patriot's Periodical
Upshur Co. Patriots Camp #2109
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Gilmer, Texas

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June 2017

Best Newsletter Award

**Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
June 2016 Reunion**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Phil Davis



June has come around and we are almost to the halfway point of 2017. This year has gone by in a hurry. We have accomplished many endeavors in the past five months in order to fulfill the "Charge". As I look back on the number of Grave Dedications, Living Histories, Jefferson School Days and the many parades that we are involved with, The Upshur County Patriots Camp turned out in force to make them very successful. Thank you for your outstanding service to the "Cause".

By the time you read this newsletter your delegates will have left for the Texas Division Reunion in Fort Worth. We go with great expectations of good things to come

within our Texas Division. We will be electing new Division and Brigade Officers. All of which are well qualified candidates. There are two amendments that you have instructed us to vote against, of which we will do so. It is our feeling that both are contrary to the good of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

If you didn't make the Jefferson School Days this year you missed a very rewarding and uplifting time. The kids were some of the best behaved of any I had ever seen there in the past. They asked questions and seemed to be sincere in their efforts to understand what we were doing there. One young lady about 12 years old came up to me and questioned me about the War. One of her questions was what side I would have been on. As I talked to her she looked me straight in the eyes as to make sure she didn't miss a word. Before she went on to the next group she thanked me and shook my hand at least three times. I was very impressed with her. I told her about our website and how to get on it to learn more

about what we do. Compatriots I know why I was at Jefferson School Days and I hope you found out the same. I am looking forward to next year.

If you were at our May meeting you know that I was surprised by Past Commander Eddie Pricer. When he came around the corner with that beautiful Confederate Cake, you could have knocked me down. **HE GOT ME!** Since I was turning 80 the fire department wouldn't let him put candles on it. I thank all of you for helping me celebrate. As I said at the meeting, I was going to apply for Life Membership in the SCV. Well Monday May 15, on my actual birthday, when I got out of bed to my great surprise, Jane my wonderful wife had placed a big wrapped present on the bar. When I got it open, I found a beautiful framed Life Membership Certificate. I was totally surprised. (For some strange feeling I think she may have had a little help, maybe someone like Eddie Pricer). I had a very special 80th Birthday.

As always, I leave you with this question, have you talked to someone about joining our Camp or another SCV camp?

Well, Why Not?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting

June 6, 2017 7 PM
Walking S Steakhouse

All upcoming events can be viewed at our website on the calendar.

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The Guardian

By Phil Davis

Chairman Texas Div. Guardian Program

As I begin to write this month's article, I sit and stare at the monitor, pondering on what to write about this month. I know by now you are thinking as you open your newsletter, that Phil Davis is going to fuss at me again because I haven't filled out a Guardian Application. You all know how passionate I am about the program and I hope you have grown to expect and accept it.

I received two applications today (May 20). This makes 20 for the month of May and brings the total of Texas Division Guardian applications to 736. I feel that the applications are going to increase, as there is a renewed interest in honoring our Confederate Heroes with all the chicanery involving our historical monuments occurring around the country. As I write, this May is not over yet and I am looking forward to receiving more applications.

We held a Grave dedication on May 13 at Old Ming's Cemetery here in Gilmer. It turned out great, with about 15 family members in attendance. This soldier really

could use a Guardian. There is more than one Confederate buried in this cemetery.

Thursday May 18, I presented a Guardian Certificate to Compatriot John Hitt, Gen. John Gregg Camp. The certificate was for a Pvt. George W. Riley who happened to be the last survivor of the United Confederate Veterans Walter P. Lane Camp in Marshall, Texas. This was exciting for both John and me. Reviewing the Guardian Program applications you find many interesting facts about our Confederate Heroes.

As I always say, I believe with all my being in the Guardian Program and it is my hope and prayer that in some small way you will be convinced of its importance, not only in fulfilling "The Charge" but in honoring your duty to your Confederate Forebears. As always, I leave you with this question-

Are you a Guardian? If not, why not?



Never Forgotten

Upshur Co. Patriots Guardians

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian Status</u>	<u>Number of Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	29
Kim Duffey	Full	3
Jamie Eitson	Full	1
Larry Harper	Full	1
Jared Jones	Full	1
Justin Jones	Full	1
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	37
Tommy Mitchell	Full	5
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	33
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Bill Palmer	Full	10
Tommy Ray	GPT	17
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7

W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem



Compatriot Michael Pepper gives our May Program.

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.

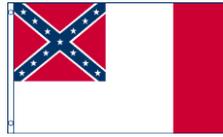


SALUTE TO THE CONFEDERATE FLAG:

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

“Fate is the course when men fail to act.”



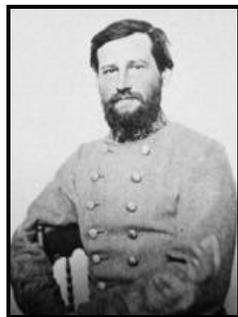


Charge to Sons of Confederate Veterans

"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."



"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
United Confederate Veterans
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.



Tempting Fate

By: Chaplain Larry Harper, and 2nd
Sergeant Michael Pepper

One should avoid the practice of tempting Fate, and therefore the Lord's will. Sadly this happens far too often in our world, but it is a fact of life that is commonplace in all of our lives. In this months Chaplain's Corner we shall look back to what is perhaps the most notorious incident of one man not heeding the age old advice of "Don't tempt Fate". That man was Major General John Sedgwick of the U.S. Army. John Sedgwick was a career officer of the U.S. Military who had graduated from West Point 24th in the Class of 1837, going on to serve as an artillery officer in 2nd Seminole War and in the Mexican War of 1846-48, earning brevet promotions for bravery. After the Mexican War he would later transfer to the Cavalry serving in many campaigns against various Indian tribes, and then later under Albert Sidney Johnston during the Mormon Expedition. On the eve of the War for Southern Independence, he was serving in Texas as second in command of the 1st U.S. Cavalry, having been promoted to Colonel and commanding said regiment after the previous commanding

officer, Robert E. Lee, resigned his commission to follow his home-state, Virginia, into the Confederacy. From that point on John Sedgwick's career would only go upward until his death during the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, in 1864, which by that time he had risen to Corps commander VI Corps, as a Major General. This man, referred to as "Uncle John" by his men, was a veteran of almost every U.S. conflict from 1837 till his death, serving as a respected second-in-command to a pious man, Robert E. Lee. Apparently, he let his mouth get the best of him, literally at the moment of his death by tempting fate. The scene was complete chaos as "Uncle John" rode up to Laurel Hill. The position had been the site of some of the bloodiest fighting at Spotsylvania and would be the site of bloodier assaults still to come. At that time Confederate Sharpshooters had been firing on the position, killing an officer with nearly every shot. At first Sedgwick had been warned against going to that position, and had replied that "Well, I don't know that there is any reason for my going there". He wisely avoided going to a position that seemed to be extremely dangerous for officers. An hour later Sedgwick went to Laurel Hill, coming upon the chaotic scene, he couldn't help but chide his men who were wisely taking cover, as C.S. sharpshooters were firing from 500 yards away. "What! What! Men, dodging single bullets!" Sedgwick said laughing from his horse, added "What will

you do when they open fire along the whole line? They couldn't hit an elephant from this distance!" Shortly after making such a brash and bold statement, he would repeat this exclamation of "They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance". After one man was bold enough to tell his General that he believed in dodging around, one sharpshooter had Sedgwick dead in his sights. Sedgwick would go on to state his famous last words a third time, without even being able to finish his statement. His exact last words were "They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist-" before a bullet tore into his head, directly below his left eye, he was dead before he fell from his horse. The circumstances of Major General John Sedgwick's death have become infamous among many. He was the highest ranking Union officer to die in battle, shocking many who knew him by not only his death, but also dumbfounding many of them with his famous last words. General Grant even asked twice, "Is he really dead". Thus ended one of the most notorious incidents of the War, many laughing at it to this day. But General Sedgwick's death shouldn't be funny, it should serve as a warning to all that the Lord's judgment may never be far off, and that we shouldn't tempt the Fate that the Lord has set for us.

The Lord will come for you in His own good time.





Our newest member, Gregg Gipe (2nd from R) is sworn in by Trans-Mississippi Army Commander Johnnie Holley (dark shirt) and Camp Commander Phil Davis (far L). We were proud to have Gregg's wife Roxanne, (far R) with us as well.



Commander Phil Davis (white shirt holding his birthday cake) is shown above with Guardians present at our May meeting.



Commander Phil Davis, on L, is presented with a Confederate Birthday Cake by Past Commander Eddie Pricer.



Camp Commander and Texas Div. Guardian Director Phil Davis (on L) presents Guardian Certificates to Tommy Mitchell (center) and George Linton (on R)



Color Guard Sgt. George Linton (on L) presents certificates to 2nd Sgt. Michael Pepper and 3rd Sgt. Kim Duffey.





Historical Dates in June

June 3, 1861 Philippi, W.V. first clash of Confederate and Union troops in the East.

June 10, 1861 Battle of Big Bethel

June 20, 1861 W. Virginia accepted as 35th State.

June 6, 1862 Battle of Memphis, Tn.

June 9, 1863 Battle of Brandy Station, Virginia.

June 14-15, 1863 Battle of Second Winchester, Virginia.

June 28, 1863 The Gettysburg Campaign.

June 1-3, 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia.

June 10, 1864 Battle of Brice's Crossroads, Ms.

June 15-18, 1864 Assault on Petersburg, Virginia.

June 27, 1864 Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia.



History of the United Daughters of the Confederacy Military Service Awards

From: udc.org

After the War Between the States, there was no official recognition of the service of Confederate Veterans, as the U.S. War Department did not, until much later,

recognize these men as Veterans. Furthermore, metal was scarce, so none were awarded by the Confederate Government during the War. Around the turn of the 20th century, the United Daughters of the Confederacy created a medal appropriate for the defenders in grey; one which would show their appreciation to their Confederate ancestors and also honor their heritage. The medal would be called the Southern Cross of Honor. Thousands of these medals were awarded. Winnie Davis, a daughter of Confederate President, Jefferson Davis, an original Daughter of the Confederacy, traveled around the South bestowing this medal on aging Confederate Veterans.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy has always come to the aid of the nation in times of crisis. At the beginning of WWI, the President General of the UDC wrote to President Woodrow Wilson and offered the loyal support of the 100,000 members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in whatever capacity their services would be needed. During the war, the UDC supported 70 hospital beds at the American Military Hospital at Neuilly, France, at a cost of \$42,000 per year. It contributed \$82,069 for French and Belgian orphans. On the home front, UDC members purchased \$24,843,368 worth of war bonds and savings stamps. In addition, \$841,676 was donated to the Red Cross and other war relief work.

During WWII, the United Daughters of the Confederacy was the first national women's organization to offer its service to the United States government for war relief. The work of the UDC was recognized by its

inclusion at various national conferences held by the War Department. The UDC assisted the National Nursing Association by giving financial support for student nurses until the Bolton Act was passed by the United States Congress creating the first Cadet Nurse Corps. The UDC also donated ambulances for use at European battle sites and donated a blood plasma unit through the Red Cross. Daughters sold \$18,534,213 in war bonds. The Red Cross commended the UDC for its outstanding work and contributions. During the Korean War, the Vietnam Conflict, and Desert Shield/Desert Storm – and in the aftermath of September 11 – the United Daughters of the Confederacy has continued its patriotic work. Daughters donate thousands of dollars and spend countless hours every year working with the nation’s veterans in Veterans Affairs (VZ) facilities and nursing homes. The UDC presently has representatives and deputies in VA medical centers in 18 states.



Southern Cross of Honor

The “Southern Cross of Honor” was made in the shape of a Maltese Cross with a wreath of Laurel surrounding the words Deo Vindice 1861-1865 (God our Vindicator) and the inscription Southern Cross of Honor was on the face. On the reverse was a Confederate Battle Flag surrounded by a laurel wreath and the words United Daughters of the Confederacy to the UCV (United Confederate Veterans). Only a Confederate veteran could wear the Southern Cross of Honor, and it could only be bestowed through the UDC. Money could not buy the cross. They were bought

by loyal, honorable service members to the South and were given in recognition of this devotion. The UDC kept a record of each man who received this precious award. These records are on file in the UDC Business Office in Richmond, Virginia.

Great God of Hosts Be With Us Yet, Lest We Forget, Lest We Forget



UDC Medals from L to R: WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War



Bestowal of Military Service Crosses

By: Eddie Pricer

On Saturday May 20th, the Emma Sansom Chapter No. 2701 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy presented three Military Service Crosses honoring World War II and Vietnam service by living and deceased descendants of Confederate Servicemen.

After the presentations were made, the keynote speaker, Dr. R.D. Plato gave a rousing talk on the importance of heritage and service. Of particular note, was that

the United States Military only allows two medals bestowed by civilian organizations to be worn on the uniforms of the various branches of service. One of those is presented by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

To this day, the United States Military understands and recognizes the heroism and sacrifice of the Confederate Serviceman and the depth of compassion for our Military as demonstrated by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The Emma Sansom Chapter No. 2701 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy provided us the opportunity to witness this sacred ceremony and were as ever, gracious hosts.



Stop the Madness

Removing monuments that honor our ancestors is not the answer. These monuments are a reminder of what our country had to go through to become whole again. Many of these monuments are not only in dedication to the men who served in the Confederacy but they also served in the US army pre-civil war. It is important to

save these monuments for future generations to see and learn about them and the men who gave everything for several causes. These were brave men, good men and religious men.



DEMOCRATS ERASING HISTORY IN AMERICAN SOUTH

From: wnd.com

David Barton, a historian, said the crusade against Confederate monuments is simply an attempt by the left to erase history. He said even monuments that some might think are offensive can be used for a good purpose.

Scott Greer, author of “No Campus for White Men” says the answer is obvious. While he agrees with Barton that the destruction of the statues is an attempt by the left to erase history, he argues what is happening has nothing to do with political parties but is something more primal.

“It’s an attempt to wipe out any pride Southerners should have in their heritage,” said Greer. “It’s the same kind of process we see on college campuses, where anything white people did in the past tends to be demonized. The left is driven by a desire to interpret all of history through the eyes of 21st century progressive dogma. In their eyes, everything about the American past is bad and shameful and must be driven into the dirt.”

Barton agrees the intolerant atmosphere on leftist dominated college campuses has

spread to the larger society. He believes the left's militancy will eventually backfire.

"We have created a snowflake environment that demands safe spaces for things that challenge the politically correct bias of the month," he said.

We are creating a culture where we believe we have a right not to be offended or even have our misconceptions challenged; and we're willing to use coercion to keep 'me' from being offended, even if that offends 'you.' What offends us now is so routinely redefined that probably no statue now will survive more than a generation before it becomes offensive to someone who will demand its removal."

"Too many conservatives think they will be able to draw a distinction between figures such as Robert E. Lee, or Andrew Jackson or George Washington," he said. "But to the left, there is no distinction between any of these figures, any of these dead white men they so hate. Conservatives cannot support taking down Confederate monuments and think somehow the statues and monuments to the slave-owning Founding Fathers will still remain up. Nor will it stop there. The anti-Confederate push will eventually swell to consume all of American history.

"It's not about politics or 'limited government' or Republicans versus Democrats," said Greer. "Just listen to the words of those agitating for this. They always want more and they aren't going to

stop with the Confederate flag. They aren't going to stop with George Washington or Thomas Jefferson either. They want to take away our entire history. And unless conservatives stop apologizing and actually start pushing back, they're probably going to win. The whole country will look like one far-left college campus."



The photos below are from a Cemetery Memorial honoring Sgt. William Henry Tuel and Pvt. Hugh J.M. Simpson. This was held May 13, 2017 at the Old Mings Cemetery in Gilmer. (Photos by Albert Colvin)





The new Guardian pins are available. If you are a Guardian and would like to own one; contact Phil Davis, Guardian Program Director, Texas Div.



The Sons of Confederate Veterans broke ground at Elm Springs for a new building "The National Confederate Museum." The museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. A building fund for this purpose is ongoing. One of the goals is to provide an accurate portrayal of the common Confederate Soldier, something that is currently absent in most museums and the media. We are invited to take a stand for the future by contributing to this fund.

*The Upshur Co. Patriots have a designated fund to help with this project. Please donate what you can.



Acoustic Music Night

Some of our Camp members and others perform an Acoustic Music Jam twice a month at the Walking S Steakhouse. This takes place every 2nd & 4th Thursday nights from 6pm – 8pm. Bring your instrument and join in or just come by for the music.



Thank you to the Starnes family and everyone at the Walking S Steakhouse for their hospitality and providing a meeting place for the Upshur Co. Patriots. Open for dining Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.



We are proud to be associated with the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Order of Confederate Rose.



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Texas Division June 2016
Camps Over 50 Members



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