

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

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August 2017

Best Newsletter Award 2nd Place

**Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
June 2017 Reunion**

Best Newsletter Award

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

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Phil Davis



With this August issue of our newsletter, it means that we only have five months left to accomplish the projects we had planned to do at the onset of 2017. Time seems to go by very fast and if you are like me, I get further behind each and every day.

We have accomplished many things this year, but as we complete one thing it seems like another pops up. We have marched in parades, held grave dedications, spoke in schools, and gathered in support of Heritage Defense. In fact, we have even started a golf tournament. I guess we will tackle anything that comes our way.

By the time this issue comes out Past Commander Eddie Pricer and I will have been to the National Reunion in Memphis, TN. This is not an election year, but there is always business that takes place. It will be good to meet old friends and Compatriots from all over the Confederacy that we have met in years past.

Almost every reunion that I have been too, Texas has the most compatriots in attendance. I would like to encourage you to attend one of these reunions. I think you will find it very interesting and a learning experience. In addition to the many seminars, there are many vendors selling almost anything you want to bring home.

On another note, we now have in place a Heritage Defense watch force in Texas. Each Brigade has an area of responsibility, and then each camp has been assigned counties that they are responsible to monitor and see that the monuments, historical markers, plaques, gravesites, and

any other historically Confederate items are protected with Heritage Defense violations being immediately reported. The Upshur County Patriots are responsible for Upshur and Wood Counties. There will be more information on this program later.

Patriots we are nearing our goal of \$1,000 to send to National in support of the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs. I know by now most of us have given to this project, but I ask you to sacrifice a little more so that we can reach this goal. I believe that we need a little over \$300 to succeed. It will be great to visit the Museum and see our name on a plaque and to know the Upshur County Patriots Camp # 2109 had a part in building our own Confederate Museum.

Just a short reminder, if you haven't paid your dues, the time is at hand. September 1, 2017 you will be delinquent and have to pay a \$5.00 reinstatement charge. Please remit your dues to our adjutant Rickie Gipson If you failed to receive a dues notice or if it was incorrect please contact Rickie. It is important that we maintain our strength in the Upshur County Patriots. If we lose members our heroes lose some of the support we owe them. Patriots let's have 100% reenlistment this year.

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

Well, Why Not?

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting

August 1, 2017 7 PM
Walking S Steakhouse

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



The Guardian

By Phil Davis

Chairman Texas Div. Guardian Program

Chairman National Guardian Program

Patriots, the Guardian Program is steadily growing, we have reached 765 applications now. That is up from the 751 I reported last month. We have five months left to reach 1,000 applications. If I receive all the applications that I have been promised, that will be an easy goal.

At the National Reunion I have plans to visit with other Guardians from other Divisions. I want to learn what they are doing and how their programs are progressing. Most of the programs are very similar and complement each other. Our Texas Guardian Program is most likely the fastest

growing program in the Confederacy. This is because of you!

Patriots if you have been thinking about taking care of a Confederate Soldier's final resting place, the time is now. It is not a hard task or even time consuming. Visiting the grave three times a year is a simple and rewarding venture. I think about the Soldiers that I take care of every day. It gives me a fulfilling feeling and I know that our fallen heroes are proud of us for this effort. I am honored to be taking care of two of my Grandfathers but am also honored to care for 27 men I know nothing of but their Rank, Name and Unit. Patriots do your duty and care for a Confederate Hero's final resting place.

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	40
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



Commander Phil Davis (L) presents Honor Awards to James "Raven" Baker (R) and Rick "Bear" Umfleet (not shown) at our July meeting.

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.

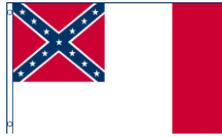


SALUTE TO THE CONFEDERATE FLAG:

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.



At our July meeting, Compatriot Michael Pepper gives the second part of his program on General Joe Shelby and his expedition into Mexico.



Prejudice against Others of Supposed Lesser Morals

By: Chaplain Larry Harper, and 2nd Sgt. Michael Pepper

The Bible teaches us not to Judge others; however, this is something that is part of the Human condition. The Bible teaches us this to better ourselves and through our Lord's guidance we are to strive to improve. This can lead, even the most religious among us, to strive so hard to live up to our Lord's teachings, to unconsciously look down on others faults to the point of becoming that which the Lord commands

us not to become, and become haughty rather than humble.

General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, one of the most devout of soldiers in all of history, famously humble in declaring the name "Stonewall" belonged to his men and not himself, was even guilty of looking down on others. In this article we shall explore the unknown battle for the leadership of the vaunted "Stonewall Brigade", a battle between General Jackson and Colonel Andrew Jackson Grigsby of the 27th Virginia Infantry in the aftermath of the Maryland Campaign of 1862. At this point of the War General Jackson was commander of a Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia, but nonetheless held special interest in the leadership of his old Brigade. After the campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley, Peninsula, 2nd Manassas, and Maryland, the "Stonewall Brigade" was not only short on men, but also senior officers. The most senior officer left of the Brigade was Colonel Grigsby of the 27th, and he had been in command of the Brigade since 2nd Manassas, and had actually proven himself an extremely capable commander. But when the time came to name a new commanding officer, a Major from Gen. Jackson's staff, Maj. Elisha B. Paxton, a man of almost no field command experience, was given command. Colonel Grigsby, and even the men of the Brigade, were VERY upset.

Colonel Andrew Jackson Grigsby was a man of many profane words, something uncommon to Southerners of the time, known as "the gallant Grigsby, who knew no fear", and as "a bluff soldier, much given to swearing", was a man well known back then. Gen. Jackson had a very low opinion of him. The animosity between the two was so much that when the conflict of leadership came about, even President Davis had to be brought in. The clashes of personality first came after the Battle of Kernstown, when General Richard Garnett was Court-Marshaled by Gen. Jackson after the "Stonewall Brigade" broke apart and fled after a heavy Yankee fire. After "Stonewall" disgraced Gen. Garnett, (an event that would later lead to Garnett essentially committing suicide at Gettysburg during "Pickett's Charge"), Grigsby went straight to "Stonewall" to protest. The incident led to Gen. Jackson and Col. Grigsby having a very strong distaste of one another. During the confrontation, Gen. Jackson asked Grigsby if the Brigade could have held 5 minutes longer, Grigsby, very angry at that point, snapped back, "No sir! They could not have stood a damned second longer!" Thus a mutual hatred was borne. Gen. Jackson, naturally because of his devoutness to the Bible and our Lord, looked down and subsequently judged people who used curse words and drank. Grigsby's canteen was almost always filled with whiskey and the Gen. held such people in very low regard as incapable. This was

not the case with Col. Grigsby; he was well noted as fearless, smart, and as stern disciplinarian, qualities Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson was well known for as well. Such similarities should have endeared Grigsby to the great "Stonewall", but he came to despise and snub him, leading to a mutual hatred. This was a sign that Gen. Jackson was human, and as a human was unconsciously judging others based on character rather than capability. When Gen. Jackson promoted Maj. Paxton to personal staff officer, Grigsby felt slighted and intended to challenge Gen. Jackson to a duel, AFTER the War was over. The issue spread as a scandal in the Army to the point where General Robert E. Lee had to inquire why to Jackson, who replied that "He didn't think any of the Brigade's officers were capable", which only served to anger Grigsby even more. Subsequently, Grigsby ventured to bring the issue to President Davis, who had more important things to do, who jumped from his desk after listening to Grigsby rant and said, "Do you know who I am? I am the president of the Confederacy!" Grigsby replied back "And do you know who I am, sir? I am Andrew Jackson Grigsby of Rockbridge County Virginia, late Colonel of the Bloody 27th Virginia of the Stonewall Brigade and as good a man as you or anyone else, by God!" And with that Grigsby resigned, probably to Gen. Jackson's delight.

After Grigsby left the Army he returned to his farm, his days in uniform over. However, the respect he'd earned as a great leader remained among those who had served with him. The following spring, shortly before the Battle of Chancellorsville, a petition for Gen. Jackson to bring back Grigsby to command not only the "Stonewall Brigade", but also the entire "Stonewall Division" with a full promotion to Brigadier General was issued. The number of officers included Gen. A.P. Hill, Gen. Jubal Early, and none other than now Colonel Paxton, the very man Gen. Jackson had promoted from Major to replace Grigsby. This shows to illustrate that even men as devout and pious as Gen. Jackson could recognize the capability of less than righteous others, but as for the petition, Gen. Jackson essentially trashed it, showing that he was prone to the same prejudice that all of us humans can feel.

Don't look down on others, don't become prejudice against others, don't judge them, try to do this with all your being, and even if you fall short you can hold your head high. Don't make the same mistake as General "Stonewall" Jackson, TRY, which is all the Lord asks of us and nobody can think less of you.

As far as General Jackson, this "Has been the rest of the story".



Historical Dates in August

August 10, 1861 Battle of Wilson's Creek Mo.

August 28-29, 1861 Fort Hatteras, N.C. falls.

August 30-31 Battle of Second Bull Run.

August 21, 1863 Quantrill's men destroy Lawrence, Kansas.

August 5, 1864 the Battle of Mobile Bay.

August 18-19, 1864 Battles on the Weldon Railroad Virginia.

August 25, 1864 Battle of Ream's Station.

August 31, 1864 Battle of Jonesborough, Ga.



The Upshur Co. Patriots and the Lone Star Color Guard were awarded "Best in Show" at this year's Ore City Freedom Parade.



The Upshur Co. Patriots and the Lone Star Color Guard proudly took part in the Ore City Freedom Parade on July 2nd. Thank you to all who participated.



* A Special thank you to Trans-Mississippi Commander Johnnie Holley for pulling his artillery in the Ore City Parade.





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.



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.



Military Communication during the Civil War

From an article by: Nick Hohman

Messengers have been employed in war since ancient times and still constitute a valuable means of communication.

The development of communication during the early 19th century greatly advanced the way Americans communicated. With the invention of the telegraph and Morse code by Samuel F.B. Morse, communication

allowed for messages to be sent quickly and over long distances, something that had never seemed possible.

Samuel Morse took the basics of his teachings at Yale on electricity and electrical devices with the experiments demonstrated by Christian Orsted in Europe to create the first modern telegraph. Morse displayed his invention to members of Congress, all of whom immediately backed the further advancement of the telegraph. The actual telegraph functioned by a series of on and off connections that traveled across a wire from the sender to the receiver.

A development for light signaling at night placed a movable shutter, controlled by a key, in front of a strong light. An operator, opening and closing the shutter, could produce short and long flashes to spell out messages in Morse code.

Major Albert J. Myer, the inventor of signal flags and founder of the United States Signal Corps, joined Morse among the forefathers of military and civilian communications. Myer studied at the Geneva College and later the Buffalo Medical College to obtain his medical degree. Myer wanted to develop a means of communication for the hearing impaired. Through various experiments, Myer eventually invented the signal flag communication system.

The military took notice of Myer's creation and wanted to use his invention for military purposes. Myer agreed and formed the United States Signal Corps.

Another basic, yet important, form of communication during the Civil War existed many years before but had only taken shape during the Civil War. Balloon signaling, led by a team of expert balloon signalers, served mainly as a back-up or emergency communicator; however, certain situations required a close range communicator. In most cases, the number and color of the balloons represented the amount of troops and the direction in which those troops traveled.

The watchtower, built quite easily from wooden boards and lumber, stood several stories high. The look-out guard, usually a Signal Corpsman, stood on the top of the platform and sent and received messages from other signalmen on the ground and from other watchtowers. These watchtowers ran along roads and surrounded battle fields as to give an overlooking view upon the entire field of battle.

Finally, with the invention of the photograph to keep picture records of current events and daily occurrences, advanced communication technology proved to be a major but overlooked aspect of the American Civil War.



2017 Reunion Awards

At this years' Texas Division Reunion, the Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109 were honored with the following awards:

*Best Newsletter 2nd Place, Camps over 50 members.

*Best Website 2nd Place, Camps over 50 members.

*Camp Growth Award for Camps over 50 members.

*Advance the Colors Award. This Award is presented to a business (or individual) which regularly flies one of the flags of the Confederacy in a respectful manner. The Certificate was presented to Bill Starnes and the Walking S Steakhouse.

*4 Star Camp Award. This is presented to Camps that meet regularly and participate in a wide range of activities.



The Battle Flag the 1st Texas Regiment carried into the most ferocious two hours of the Battle of Antietam flew the colors of the State of Texas.



Coffeeville
Upshur County Texas

From: TexasEscapes.com

Coffeeville used to be considered the destination when people headed west from the then-booming river port of Jefferson. It was an important town of 1850's, with an academy, 2 dry goods stores, 2 groceries, drug store, 3 doctors, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, a hotel and Masonic lodge. Wagon trains resupplied there.

Between 1845 and 1866 Coffeeville received an influx of plantation owners from southern states who had decided to sell their expensive land back east and buy new holdings in the much cheaper area. A post office was opened by 1852.

During its heyday, Coffeeville had several blacksmiths and recreational activities including a pool hall and more than one saloon. Governor Edward Clark suggested that Coffeeville host a Confederate Training camp - which was done. The Camp was one of three in Upshur County, established in response to June 8, 1861, call of Governor Edward Clark for such camps to be set up at expense of local citizens. It trained infantry and cavalry. But after the war when the

railroad came through Upshur County, the town was bypassed. From 200 people in 1887, it had already shrunk to 153 by 1904. The Coffeyville post office closed in 1915. During the Great Depression, fifty die-hard residents kept the town on the map - it remained at that level through 1990. Today nothing resembling a town remains - it is now considered a dispersed rural community.



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.



Travis Park Confederate Monument

Compatriots and friends, it seems that on a weekly basis our Heritage and Ancestry are under a new attack.

Travis Park in San Antonio has been the home to the 40 ft. Confederate Monument shown above since 1899 when it was erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. An inscription on it says “Lest we forget our Confederate dead.” At the top is an unnamed Confederate Soldier with a finger pointed upward toward Heaven.

An organizer named Mike Lowe of the group “SATX4”, a group that says it exposes “systematic racism” wants it removed. Apparently this group has caught the attention of two Councilmen. Three other Councilmen would be needed to sign on to the “Council Consideration Request.”

We must all stay vigilant to protect our Ancestors and the memory of the South.



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



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.

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