

PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL
UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS CAMP #2109
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
GILMER, TEXAS

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SEPTEMBER 2018

Best Newsletter Award 2nd Place

Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
Camps Over 50 Members June 2017 Reunion

Best Newsletter Award 1st Place

Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
Camps Over 50 Members June 2016 Reunion



COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Milt Ojeman



I have never understood vandalism. The willful destruction of private or public property makes absolutely no sense to me. This past week students of higher education at the University of North Carolina committed an act of malicious vandalism when they tore down the Confederate Statue "Silent Sam" which has stood on the campus for over 100 years. The statue was dedicated to the Confederate alumni of UNC.

As I watched the news coverage I couldn't help but wonder "What is next?" Will the monuments for other historical events be next? It is up to us to help ensure that the history of our country is preserved. To do

this we need to remain on a higher moral plain than that of our opponents. We are not the rioters or vandals. We are honest God fearing citizens.

I am proud to say that our camp delivered gift baskets to our local law enforcement agencies. These men and women are on the front lines and we have shown them our support. We are also planning several community improvement projects for the near future.

In his final address to his troops General Forrest told his men to "be good citizens, obey the laws and preserve your honor." It is my sincere hope that we follow his request.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting

September 4, 2018 - 7 PM

Walking S Steakhouse

CAMP LEADERSHIP
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CAMP #2109

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Phil Davis, Guardian Program Chairman (R) presents Certificates to his son Larry for Guardianship of the Hunley Crew graves.

THE GUARDIAN

By: Phil Davis

As I spoke to our Camp at the August meeting, it brought several things to mind. First, each of us that is a member of the SCV, have Confederate Blood coursing through our veins. As I think of this Confederate Blood, I ponder how I can best honor my birthright? Will we simply let the blood nourish our bodies and hang a certificate on the wall noting our ancestry and inclusion into the SCV or will we take up the mantle so proudly carried forth by our kin?

One way to pick up the mantle and carry it with pride is to become an active participant in the Guardian Program. I know I sound like a broken phonograph record at times, but it is our honor, right and duty to care for the graves of these great men. The Program Rules and Guidelines

essentially states that upon being accepted as a Guardian, you will care for the final resting place of the soldier as long as you are physically able. Our Guardians range in age from 14 to 95 years young.

Friends, we have many able bodied Guardians caring for graves, but we have a significant number who could hardly be classified as able bodied. They have friends or relatives take them to the cemetery, place flags, and any other sort of maintenance. Several are in wheelchairs, some on crutches, others with canes, and a whole host of other maladies that make the endeavor downright untenable, but yet they still go forth and carry the mantle and uphold their oath.

When you read our Newsletter, you see the names of active Guardians within our Camp, it matters not whether you tend only 1 grave or many, pick up the mantle, select a hero and be his Guardian.

Make a Confederate Soldier proud and Honor his 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?



UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS GUARDIANS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian</u> <u>Status</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	29
Kim Duffey	Full	3
Jamie Eitson	Full	1
Larry Harper	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	Full/GPT	18
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2
W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem		

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:

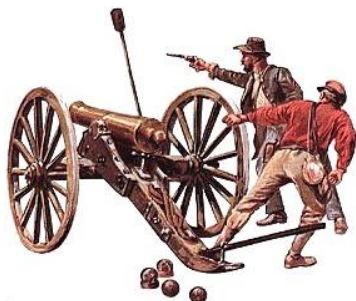
Honor the Texas Flag; I
pledge allegiance to thee Texas, one state
under God, one and indivisible.



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 THE 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."

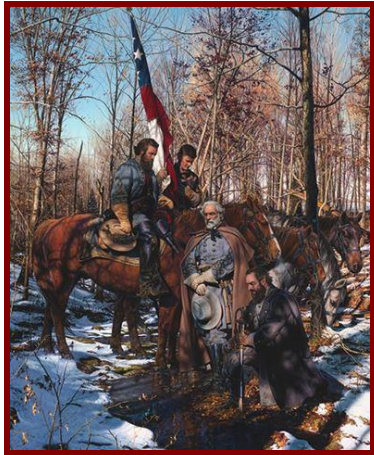


**"Remember, it is your duty to see that the
true history of the South is presented to
future generations."**



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

THOUGHTS FOR THE SOUL



DEATH OF A LOVED ONE

Excerpts from: Outreach, Inc.

In one of his lighter moments, Benjamin Franklin penned his own epitaph. "The Body of B. Franklin, printer, like the Cover of an old Book its contents torn out, and stripped of its Lettering and Gilding, lies here, Food for Worms. But the Work shall not be wholly lost: For it will, as he believes, appear once more in a new & more perfect Edition"

Everyone will one day face grief because of the loss of a loved one or someone close to us. This knowledge in itself does not offer us condolences or comfort.

However, there are many comforts we can receive from scripture and the life of Jesus Christ. One such incident in the life of Christ is found in John 11. Here the death of Lazarus gives us insight into death, grief, purpose, and hope as Christians.

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Death is a grief producing event or process but it can serve to remind us, who claim Jesus as Lord and Savior that we do not really lose a loved one who passes away. We are only separated for a time while we remain in these temporal bodies. We will one day be together again before the Lord.

Some points to reflect on:

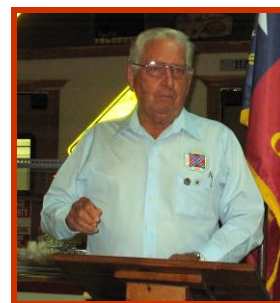
Everyone will one-day feel the pain of grief and loss.

As Christians we know that our loved ones who die are in a better place.

They are not really lost to us, only separated from us for a time.

Doubt and questioning are normal in these situations.

Jesus offers eternity with him if we believe.



By: E. Pricer

At the August meeting of the Upshur County Patriots, those attending were honored with the presence of 5th Brigade Commander Sam Mercer who graciously

presented the program that evening. Commander Mercer talked of Texas Pioneer Charles Turner who came to Texas in 1848. Mr. Turner was a mercantilist as well as a farmer. He was active in the formation of the fort which later became the City of Fort Worth. Charles Turner served in several capacities in the Confederate Army.

A call for gold was sent throughout the South to be exchanged for Confederate money. Although he supported the confederacy, he was a shrewd businessman and Mr. Turner buried his gold under an oak tree on his property. After the war concluded, he retrieved his gold and used a substantial portion to create and secure the future of Fort Worth, Texas. The Turner Oak, as it is now called is alive and well, located on what is now Greenwood Cemetery, northwest of downtown Fort Worth.

The tree is nationally recognized and has been scientifically tested and properly authenticated as being alive during the Revolutionary War.

Upon his death, Charles Turner was buried in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery just a few miles east of the Turner Oak, along with many other early Fort Worth pioneers and honored Confederate heroes.



The Turner Oak – Ft. Worth, Texas

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



September 30, 1950

On September 30th, "Real Grandson" Bill and Amelia Palmer would celebrate their 68th Anniversary.

Rest In Peace Mom, you are Loved and Missed.



HISTORICAL DATES IN SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 12-15, 1862 The Battle at Harpers Ferry, (West) Virginia.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1862 The Battle of South Mountain, Maryland.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1862 Battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg.

SEPTEMBER 19-20, 1862 The Battle of Shepherdstown, (West) Virginia.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1863 The Battle Of Chickamauga, Georgia.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1864 Atlanta is captured by Sherman's Army.

SEPTEMBER 21-24, 1864 The Battle of Fisher's Hill, Virginia.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons.



BATTLE OF ANTIETAM

From: wikipedia.org

The Battle of Antietam, also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg, was a battle of the American Civil War, fought on September 17, 1862, between Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and Union General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac, near Sharpsburg, Maryland and Antietam Creek. Part of the Maryland Campaign, it was the first field army-level engagement in the Eastern Theater of the American Civil War to take place on Union soil. It was the bloodiest day in United States history, with a combined tally of 22,717 dead, wounded, or missing.

Despite having superiority of numbers, McClellan's attacks failed to achieve force concentration, which allowed Lee to counter by shifting forces and moving along interior lines to meet each challenge. Therefore, despite ample reserve forces that could have been deployed to exploit localized successes, McClellan failed to destroy Lee's army. McClellan's persistent but erroneous belief that he was outnumbered contributed to his cautiousness throughout the campaign. No other campaign and battle in the war had such momentous, multiple consequences as Antietam.

UPSHUR COUNTY PATRIOTS MEMBERS RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY AND IN TEXAS

By: E. Pricer

Members of the Upshur County Patriots Camp # 2109 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans were honored for their dedication and hard work promoting and furthering the ideals of the Organization and for their work within the community. Their public service activities included cemetery surveys, educational lectures, public service meetings, time and monetary donations to the Historic Upshur Museum, and many other endeavors. Those recognized, along with others have worked tirelessly to see that History is preserved and taught as it happened, in an effort to see that the foresight of the founding fathers prevails while our mistakes are avoided in future generations. They strive to create lasting friendships with all, while creating a bond that builds upon our common interests.

The following members were recognized by the Texas Division and awarded the following medals by Commander Milt Ojeman:

Brigade 2nd Lt. Commander George Linton -
Gold Cross for Outstanding Service
Camp 1st Lt. Commander Eugene Brown –
Silver Cross for Exemplary Service
Camp 2nd Lt. Commander David Palmer -
Gold Cross for Outstanding Service
Camp 3rd Lt. Commander Bill Starnes –
Gold Cross for Outstanding Service

Camp Judge Advocate Kim Duffey - Gold Cross for Outstanding Service
Camp Adjutant Don Loyd - Gold Cross for Outstanding Service

The following members were recognized nationally by the Sons of Confederate Veterans and awarded the following medals:

Guardian Chairman Phil Davis – Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service to the Camp, Brigade, or Division
Past Camp Commander Eddie Pricer - Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service to the Camp, Brigade, or Division

The entire Camp Membership was awarded the 4 Star Camp Award for their participation in a wide range of SCV activities while adhering to the “Charge” as given by Lt. General Stephen D. Lee.



SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Thomas Jefferson was an American Founding Father, author of the *Declaration of Independence* and America's third president. In his *First Inaugural Address*, Jefferson encouraged citizens to be “enlightened by a benign [kind] religion...” and hoped God would “lead our [government] councils to what is best...”

The Danbury Baptists wrote Jefferson to warn him that some in government positions would seek “power and gain” and “make Laws to govern the Kingdom of Christ.” In his response, Jefferson described how the U.S. Constitution constructed a wall around our National government to prevent it from taking any action concerning religion.

Jefferson understood freedom of religion was a matter of conscience and a natural right under the oversight of state or church officials. “Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should ‘make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ thus building a wall of separation between Church & State [National]. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of

those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties. I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection & blessing of the common father and creator of man, and tender you for yourselves & your religious association, assurances of my high respect & esteem." Thomas Jefferson, Letter to the Danbury Baptists, January 1, 1802

"In our village of Charlottesville... We have four sects [doctrines], but without either church or meeting-house. The court-house is the common temple, one Sunday in the month to each. Here, Episcopalian and Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist, meet together, join in hymning their Maker, listen with attention and devotion to each other's preachers, and all mix in society with perfect harmony." Thomas Jefferson, Letter to Dr. Thomas Cooper, November 2, 1822

"In matters of religion, I have considered that its free exercise is placed by the constitution independent of the powers of the general [National] government. I have... left them, as the constitution found them, under the direction and discipline of state or church authorities..." Thomas Jefferson, *Second Inaugural Address*, March 4, 1805.

"... should we wander from [the Founding Principles]... let us hasten to retrace our steps and to regain the road which alone leads to peace, liberty, and safety." **Thomas Jefferson**, *First Inaugural Address*, March 4, 1801

Reprinted from James Still (August 2018), RetraceOurSteps.com



Kim Duffey, Raven Baker, George Linton

Congratulations to George Linton, Ronnie Hill, Austin Moss, Raven Baker, and Kim Duffey for being recognized by the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce for their participation in the Jefferson School Days Living History event in Jefferson, Texas. They provided much needed factual historical information to the visiting students. Great job men! Another job well done.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

By Z. Hereford

Whether we like it or not, adversity is part of life. Overcoming adversity is one of the biggest hurdles we face. Psychologists agree that "Pain and death are part of life. To reject them is to reject life itself."

When you respond positively and constructively to your biggest challenges the qualities of strength, courage, character and perseverance emerge from deep inside of you.

Determination, resilience, and persistence enable people to push past their adversities and prevail.



"Silent Sam" August 20,2018

From: triadconservative.com, wikipedia.org,
atlantic.com

HAD ENOUGH YET ?

College students are just returning to school in North Carolina. And a move was orchestrated to take place immediately upon return to tear down the historic "Silent Sam" statue at the UNC campus in Chapel Hill. Police apparently stood by, watched, and allowed it to happen.

Of course, the cultural Marxists at the Greater Greensboro Politics page are expressing satisfaction at this vicious act of lawlessness.

Silent Sam is a bronze statue of a Confederate soldier by sculptor John A. Wilson, erected in 1913 on the campus of the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Establishing a Civil War monument at a Southern University became a goal of the North Carolina division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) in 1907. UNC approved the group's request in 1908 and thus, with funding from UNC alumni and the UDC, Wilson designed Silent Sam, so called because he has no ammunition to fire his gun. The unveiling of Silent Sam was on

June 2, 1913, when it was dedicated to Confederate alumni of UNC.

Around 9 p.m. on August 20th Silent Sam was felled and the crowd cheered. "People were screaming and jumping in disbelief." Holding signs and chanting "stand up, fight back" and "This is what democracy looks like", protesters stomped on the statue, tried to cover it with dirt, and then marched down Franklin Street.

This was an act that repudiated, rebuked and assaulted the history and memory and heritage of millions of North Carolina citizens. The act was based in profound ignorance because it presumes that slavery was the primary reason southerners fought during the Civil War. In fact, the very idea this act could take place is an indicator of how poorly public high schools and the university itself are teaching history.

Thoughts: Have you had enough yet? Do you honestly think this anarchy and destruction will stop here? I think not. We as a law abiding people, proud of our heritage and ancestors, must not give up.

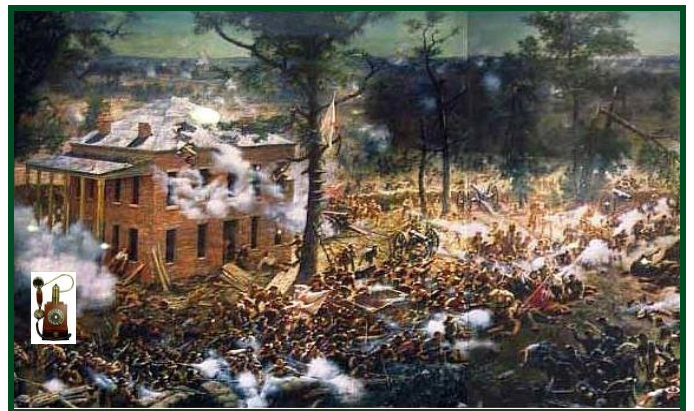
UPSHUR COUNTY HISTORY

Excerpts from the writings of: Mary Laschinger Kirby

During the Civil War hat and leather factories in Gilmer made clothing for the Confederacy, and new Confederate recruits were trained at Camp Tally, near Coffeeville. Many local men enlisted to support the Confederate cause, and the

resultant manpower drained and other disruptions related to the war caused a decline in agricultural production. According to one account about half of the men from the county who left to join Confederate forces during the Civil War never returned; those who did found a different county than they remembered. After the war the emancipation of the many slaves in the area made it difficult for many local planters to continue operations, and a number of plantations were abandoned or divided. Most ex-slaves became sharecroppers, though some acquired land of their own. Production of corn and cotton dropped significantly during and just after the war and remained below prewar levels as late as 1870, when 7,362 bales of cotton were produced in the area. Nevertheless, the population increased somewhat during the 1860s; by 1870 there were 12,695 people, including 4,867 blacks. Blacks briefly held a number of political offices in the county after the Civil War, but by the late 1860s the white majority was again firmly in control, partly because the Ku Klux Klan intimidated black leaders. Meshack Roberts, for example, moved from Upshur County to Marshall after a Klan beating in 1867. Upshur County's economy began to develop more rapidly during the 1870s, especially after railroads tied the region to national markets and encouraged more immigration into the area. On April 7, 1870, O. H. Methvin, Sr., a citizen of the county since at least 1846, sold 100 acres to the Southern Pacific Railroad, which was then building through the county, and in November 1871 the plan for the town of Longview (then in the southeastern corner of Upshur County) was filed. In 1877 the rail

link known as the Tyler Tap was built from Tyler to Big Sandy; by 1880 the line had become part of the Texas and St. Louis Railway (also known as the Cotton Belt Route) and had been extended to Gilmer and Mount Pleasant. Meanwhile, the railroad construction of the early 1870s had led to a population boom in the southeastern parts of Upshur County, which led to the division of the county. In June 1873 the Texas legislature carved Gregg County out of southern Upshur and northern Rusk counties, and in April 1874 they formed Camp County by lopping off the northern section of Upshur County below the bend in Big Cypress Creek. On January 1, 1877, a newspaper, the Upshur County Democrat, began publication. Although other newspapers had existed briefly in the Gilmer area, this newspaper was the first to become firmly established.



THE FALL OF ATLANTA, GA.

SEPTEMBER 1-2, 1864

From: wikipedia.org

The fall of Atlanta was a critical point in the Civil War, giving the North more confidence, and (along with the victories at Mobile Bay and Winchester) leading to the re-election of President Abraham Lincoln

and the eventual surrender of the Confederacy.

During the early part of August, several attempts were made to cut the two remaining rail lines to Atlanta using cavalry. Even though the Union cavalry successfully tore up sections of the rail line, they were not able to do sufficient damage to prevent the Confederate forces from easily repairing the affected sections of railroad. Union forces also continued to probe the Confederate lines looking for weak spots. Even though no frontal assault was ever made on Atlanta there was a constant skirmishing between the lines and casualties occurred on both sides.

With all of his supply lines cut, General Hood abandoned Atlanta. On the night of September 1, his troops marched out of the city to Lovejoy, Georgia. General Hood ordered that the 81 rail cars filled with ammunition and other military supplies be destroyed. The resulting fire and explosions were heard for miles.

ANNOUNCEMENT

**The Walking "S" Steakhouse will be closing
it's doors to the public effective
September 1st at 9 PM.**

**The Upshur County Patriots will continue
to meet there as usual and the Walking "S"
will continue to be available for Private
Events.**



REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

By: Matthew DeBord

It's been 14 years since the attacks of September 17, 2001. But for millions of Americans, haunting memories of that day are still fresh, and many lives were changed forever.

On 9/11, terrorists hijacked four planes and were able to crash two of them into the World Trade Center's twin towers in New York and one into the Pentagon. The remaining jet crashed in Pennsylvania when passengers overpowered the hijackers.

A day that started out with clear blue skies ended with a mass of twisted, smoldering metal where the Twin Towers once stood, leaving 2,977 people dead in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, along with the 19 hijackers.

On every anniversary, in New York City, the names of the victims who died there are read out against a background of somber music. The President of the United States attends a memorial service at the Pentagon, and asks Americans to observe Patriot Day with a moment of silence. Smaller services are held in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, which are usually attended by the President's spouse.

"Lest We Never Forget"



CONFEDERATE WOMAN'S HOME

From: tshaonline.org

The Confederate Woman's Home was opened in 1908 to care for widows and wives of honorably discharged Confederate soldiers and other women who aided the Confederacy. Many of these women were related to men at the Texas Confederate Home in Austin. Residents were required to be at least sixty years of age and without means of financial support. The home was initially acquired and operated by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. In 1903 the organization established a Wives and Widows Home Committee, which raised funds for the home and oversaw its

construction. In 1905 the organization purchased property north of Austin, and in 1906 A. O. Watson was hired to design a building on the site. The two-story facility, constructed in 1906–07, had fifteen bedrooms. At its opening on June 3, 1908, three women were admitted to the home; by 1909 it housed sixteen. The United Daughters of the Confederacy operated the home until 1911, relying solely on donations to cover expenses. A bill to confer the home to the state was vetoed by Governor Samuel Willis Tucker Lanham in 1905. In 1907 a constitutional amendment providing for state ownership of the home was rejected by Texas voters. The amendment was resubmitted to the voters in 1911 and passed by a wide margin. The property was deeded to the state. At the time of the transfer, the institution had eighteen residents.

To accommodate the growing number of ailing patients, a brick hospital building was built in 1916, with a hospital annex added eight years later. The institution was placed under the Board of Control in 1920, and housed between eighty and 110 residents from 1920 through 1935. By the late 1930s new admissions to the home were decreasing and most of the surviving women were in poor health. From 1938 to 1945, the population of the home fell from eighty-seven to fifty-five. In 1949 the home fell under the jurisdiction of the Board of Texas State Hospitals and Special Schools. During the late 1950s, the nine remaining residents were consolidated into one hospital wing. In 1963 the last three residents were moved to private nursing homes at state expense, and the facility was

closed. The state sold the property in 1986. The home cared for more than 3,400 indigent women over a period of fifty-five years. It was popular with the Austin community, and was the site of many community events over the years.



We thank Bill Starnes and the Starnes family for providing a meeting place for the Upshur Co. Patriots.

Coffee Mugs and Coasters
Caps and Flags are available for a donation to our Camp fund. Contact Eddie Pricer or any Camp Officer.



We are proud to be associated with the United Daughters of the Confederacy.



Support the Upshur County Museum



Comments or suggestions should be made to: David Palmer, Editor
david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org