



Patriots Periodical

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

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December 2016

Best Newsletter Award

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

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Phil Davis



Compatriots, it is December and 2016 is almost gone! I hope you, as well as our Camp; have made good advances in completing all that we had planned for 2016. We have completed many Grave Dedications, Parades, Living Histories, and other SCV activities that we do. I am proud of our Camp and our dedicated members. I feel that we have come a long way in our ten short years.

As you know we held our elections last month. All offices were filled and we will swear in the new officers at our January 2017 meeting. The new officers will be listed in an upcoming Newsletter.

The annual Christmas party will be December 6, 2016 at the Walking "S" Steakhouse. The meat will be furnished by

the camp. Please bring a side dish or dessert if you are able. We will be having a Roll Call so if you have a uniform please wear it. I hope everyone will come and bring a friend. There is always enough food to go around.

As Commander I want to thank each of you for your support and dedication in this past year. I look forward to serving you in the coming year. Working together we can accomplish all things. I covet your prayers and friendship.

As the Commander of the Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109, I wish you all a very *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

Until then, I leave you with this question, have you talked to some one about joining our camp or another SCV camp?

Well, Why Not?

Give What You Can to Heritage Defense

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gilmer Christmas Parade

December 1, 2016
Muster 5 PM-Parade at 6 PM

Ore City Christmas Parade

December 3, 2016
Muster 5 PM-Parade 6 PM

Upshur Co. Patriot's Christmas Party

December 6, 2016
6:30 PM
Walking S Steakhouse

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



The Guardian By Phil Davis

Here it is December, a time of the year where we should be spreading good cheer and Peace on Earth for all of mankind. As Guardians we pause to remember our fallen Confederate Heroes. This is a time to remember what they gave up to protect our beloved South. To instill in us a set of values that honors how we live and conduct ourselves as Southern Gentlemen. For us, it is a time to remember them by placing flags on their final resting place, to say thank you and say a prayer for them and to Honor their memory and gallant deeds.

Gentlemen this is the Guardian Program, we do these things all year!

As the Guardian Program Chairman, I say the program is growing and our Confederate Heroes' final resting places are secure and will be honored and tended to far beyond our life span. *"Lest We Forget"*.

***From Esther Linton:**

The Upshur Patriot Rose (OCR) will conduct a "Silent Auction" at the Upshur Co. Patriots Christmas Party Tuesday Dec 6th at 7 PM at The Walking S Steakhouse. The items for the Auction will be on display in the dessert room. Paper and pen will be next to the item. Just follow the directions on the form. There will be someone to help if needed.

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 Ancestors. 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 Status</u>	<u>Number of Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	29
Kim Duffey	Full	3
Jaime Eitson	Full	1
Larry Harper	Full	1
Jared Jones	Full	1
Justin Jones	Full	1
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	35
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
Grave

GPT=Guardian Pro
Tem

Camp Leadership **Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109**

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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.



Our Condolences and prayers go out to Compatriot Bruce Swinney on the loss of his brother Dale. Mr. Swinney passed away on November 12, 2016.



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.



[This Month's article contains excerpts from The Chaplain's Chronicles, December 2007 by SCV Editor H. Rondel Rumberg.]

Christmas time in the Confederacy would have had a variation in weather from snow to semitropical rains for the Confederacy covered a rather large land mass. And there would have been some variation of family rituals, but the essential understanding of the meaning of God becoming flesh and dwelling among men was practically the same. The following words were precious and believed.

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take, unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt

call his name JESUS: for he shall save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:18-21).

The first Confederate Christmas in 1861 was much like those wonderful times in the antebellum South with the tables laden with Southern foods most of which were native to the area where the celebrations were being observed. However, Christmases thereafter were to be plagued with empty family circles, because families had become refugees or because sons and/or husbands had been lost to the war (their bodies now occupying resting places in battlefield cemeteries); empty pantries, because food was scarce or too expensive; empty stomachs, because there was little to eat; empty sleeves and pant legs, because of war injuries.

Today, we must remember that most Old South people knew that this time of the year represented the coming of Jesus the Christ. Joseph was told by the angel that Mary should "bring forth a son," and that he should, "call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). This was general knowledge noised abroad in the civil government, in the local schools, in the homes, and, of course, in the churches.

Christmas, even in uncertain times, was evidenced in the letters of the day. So reading such letters allows the Southern people to witness to their views of the time.

Chaplain William Wiatt wrote in his diary on Thursday, December 25, 1862, "I have tried

to think about Christ today more than usually; this morning I read, as appropriate to the occasion, the 1st and 2nd Chapter of Luke..." [Confederate Chaplain William Edward Wiatt, 19]

Oh, that today we who are the descendents of such men would "think about Christ" often and glorify Him with our lives. May you and yours have a joyous time remembering the coming into this world of the eternal Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to whom be all glory and honor.



Compatriot Austin Moss gave a report at our November Meeting on his experiences at the Sam Davis Youth Camp last summer.



*Special Thanks!!!!

To all those who helped at the Yamboree Booth this year.

The booth was staffed by members of the General John Gregg Camp, Longview, the 2nd Lt. David Richard Reynolds Camp, Mt. Pleasant, and the Upshur County Patriots Camp, Gilmer.

Sam Mercer, 5th Brigade Commander

Ben Adkisson

James Baker

Eugene Brown

Phil Davis, Commander, Upshur Co. Patriots

Kim Duffey

Larry Harper

Ron Jones

George Linton

Don Loyd

Milt Ojeman

Eddie Pricer

Joe Reynolds, Commander 2nd Lt. David Richard Reynolds Camp



Christmas during the Civil War served both as an escape from and a reminder of the awful conflict rending the country in two. Soldiers looked forward to a day of rest and relative relaxation, but had their moods

tempered by the thought of separation from their loved ones. At home families did their best to celebrate the holiday, but wondered when the vacant chair would be filled again.

[From: Civil War Trust]



Joe Reynolds, Commander of the David R. Reynolds Camp speaks at our November meeting on Masons in the Confederacy.



Esther Linton (L) and Billie Johnson (2nd from L) are presented Certificates of Appreciation by Joe Reynolds, Commander of The David R. Reynolds Camp (on L) with

Commander Phil Davis holding the Certificates.



The final verse of a poem “By the Christmas Hearth” published in the Christmas 1865 edition of Harper's Weekly reflected the sentiments of many:

Bring holly, rich with berries red,
and bring the sacred mistletoe;
Fill high each glass, and let hearts
With kindest feelings flow;
So sweet it seems at home once more
To sit with those we hold most dear,
And keep absence once again
To keep the Merry Christmas here.



Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas of Augusta, Ga., in 1865, told how a simple act of faith on the part of her children caused her to dig deeper for a holiday offering on Christmas Eve:

“I have written so much that it is now after 9 o'clock and yet I have said nothing of

Turner's and Mary Bell's party which we gave them last week in lieu of the Santa Claus presents. Mary Bell has been told that Santa Claus has not been able to run the blockade and has gone to war--Yet at this late hour when I went upstairs Thursday night of the party I found that the trusting faith of childhood they had hung their little socks and stockings in case Santa Claus did come. I had given the subject no thought whatever but invoking Santa Claus aid I was enabled when their little eyes opened to enjoy their pleasure to find cake and money in their socks. Santa Claus apparently had a much easier time visiting homes in the North than those in the South that Christmas. According to a letter Sarah Thetford sent to her brother George, Santa arrived in Michigan dressed in a buffalo coat "with presents fastened to his coat-tail... [And] a corn-popper on his back." She continued that she had "often heard Santa Claus described, but never before saw the old fellow in person."



Historical Dates in December

Dec. 20, 1860 South Carolina Secedes

Dec. 1, 1861 Skirmish at Camp Goggin

Dec. 10, 1861 Kentucky admitted as 13th State of the Confederacy

Dec. 7, 1862 Battle of Prairie Grove, AR

Dec. 13-14, 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg

Dec. 31, 1862 Battle of Murfreesboro, TN.

Dec. 26, 1863 Port Lavaca, TX. Is looted and burned

Dec. 29, 1863 Battle of Chickasaw Bayou

Dec. 3, 1864 Skirmish at Thomas Station

Dec. 15-16, 1864 Battle of Nashville

Dec. 20, 1864 Savannah, GA. Evacuated

Dec. 6, 1889 Jefferson Davis dies in New Orleans





Upshur County Patriots H. C. "Boogie"
Feagin Memorial Food Drive Food

The Upshur County Patriots will again collect food donations and continue the Christmas Food Basket ministry begun by the late Boogie Feagin in his honor. The H.C. "Boogie" Feagin Memorial Christmas Food Basket Ministry last year was again a success, based on the smiles and tears of joy from those receiving a helping hand.

With that in mind, please open your hearts again and bring non-perishable can and box goods to the November and December meetings. Please make your donations as soon as possible; it makes it much easier on those preparing the baskets and determining what last minute items are needed to complete the bounty. As last year, we expect to prepare and donate 5-7 baskets.

Thanks in advance.

Phil Davis

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



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.



TEXAS SOCIETY OF CONFEDERATE ROSE

The Texas Society Order of Confederate Rose (TSOCR) is an independent support group to assist the Texas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans (TDSCV) and the local camps in their historical, educational, benevolent and social functions.

The TSOCR is a nonprofit Texas Corporation and does not discriminate by race, sex, religion or creed. It is independent from other OCR state societies; however it does assist them whenever possible.

Membership is open to both men and women who wish to promote "truth in Southern history" and to preserve and protect Confederate monuments and markers.

Southern Heroes are never forgotten!
Esther Linton- President
Upshur Patriot Rose, Chapter #45



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.



Best Newsletter Award
June 2016
Camps Over 50 Members



Best Website Award
June 2016
Camps Over 50 Members