



PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL

UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS CAMP #2109
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
GILMER, TEXAS

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www.upshurpatriots.org

DECEMBER 2019



NEXT MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2019



Merry Christmas



"A message of Christmas greetings to my Comrades and the Women of the South, whose unselfish devotion to us has been ever abiding. May we be glad in our own hearts and bring joy to the hearts of others in the season celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. To one and all, my sincere appreciation." *W.B. Haldeman, Commander in Chief, U.C.V.*

Confederate Veteran Magazine, Dec. 1923



Our Thanks and Appreciation to outgoing Commander Milt Ojeman. Over the last 2 years, his leadership has

been a credit to the Upshur Co. Patriots and the SCV. We look forward to your continued involvement in the future.



Incoming Commander Eugene Brown and his staff of Officers will be sworn in at our January 2020 meeting.

**GILMER CHRISTMAS
PARADE
DECEMBER 7TH 5 PM**

A CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS CHRISTMAS LETTER

From: Tally Simpson, Camp near
Fredericksburg
To: Anna Simpson
Dec 25th, 1862

My Dear Sister

This is Christmas Day. The sun shines feebly through a thin cloud, the air is mild and pleasant, [and] a gentle breeze is making music through the leaves of the lofty pines that stand near our bivouac. All is quiet and still, and that very stillness recalls some sad and painful thoughts.

This day, one year ago, how many thousand families, gay and joyous, celebrating Merry Christmas, drinking health to absent members of their family, and sending upon

the wings of love and affection long, deep, and sincere wishes for their safe return to the loving ones at home, but today are clad in the deepest mourning in memory to some lost and loved member of their circle. If all the dead (those killed since the war began) could be heaped in one pile and all the wounded be gathered together in one group, the pale faces of the dead and the groans of the wounded would send such a thrill of horror through the hearts of the originators of this war that their very souls would rack with such pain that they would prefer being dead and in torment than to stand before God with such terrible crimes blackening their characters.

Yet they do not seem to think of the affliction and distress they are scattering broadcast over the land. When will this war end? Will another Christmas roll around and find us all wintering in camp? Oh! That peace may soon be restored to our young but dearly beloved country and that we may all meet again in happiness.

I have often read of sacked and pillaged towns in ancient history, but never, till I saw Fredericksburg, did I fully realize what one was. The houses, especially those on the river, are riddled with shell and ball. The stores have been broken open and deprived of everything that was worth a shilling. Private property was ruined. Such a wreck and ruin I never wish to see again.

Write to me quick right off. I wish to hear from you badly. Remember me to my friends and relatives, especially the Pickens and Lignons. Hoping to hear from you soon.
Tally

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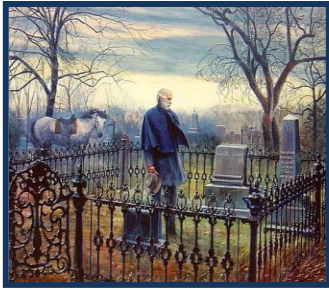
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THE GUARDIAN

WDP



Ancestor denial has been epidemic in America but fortunately the Internet has made what was once a grueling process much

easier. SCV members are now doing DNA work to connect with lost relatives, while others are finding fellow SCV men whose ancestors fought in the same unit as their Confederate ancestors.

"...every soldier's grave made during our unfortunate civil war is a tribute to American valor... And the time has now come... when in the spirit of fraternity we should share in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers."...President William McKinley, 1898

The Congressional Act of March 9, 1906 authorized the furnishing of headstones for the graves of Confederates who died, primarily in Union prison camps and were buried in Federal cemeteries. This act formally reaffirmed Confederate soldiers as military combatants with legal standing. It granted recognition to deceased Confederate soldiers commensurate with the status of deceased Union soldiers.

Speaking as a proud descendant, it is about honoring the dead and our own link to those soldiers -- those recognized American Veterans -- many of whom share our last names. Their blood and courage are our birthrights. We honor them because they

are family and there is no statute of limitations on respect, honor and love.

Become a "Guardian". These Veterans are a part of who we are and a link to where we came from. There is no forgetting that without losing your sense of who you are and where you are going.

Contact Chairman Phil Davis,
userphil97@aol.com, for more information.



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/GPT	8
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	40
Tommy Lee 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
Mitch Tyson	Full	3
Gregg Gipe	GPT	1
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.



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.”



The Sons of Confederate Veterans is
a non-profit, heritage organization whose
mission is to preserve the history and legacy
of Confederate veterans. It is not
associated with any anti-government or
hate groups. Membership is open to any
male descendent of a Confederate veteran
who served honorably in the Confederate
armed forces.



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



CHRISTMAS JOY

From the writings of: Robert Allred, Th.D.

Christmas was just the beginning of the Savior's work in the hearts of humanity. We have entered into one of our most beautiful Seasons all decked out for Christmas; and who among us can deny that we have not felt the Christ Child enter into our hearts? He has come through story, and song, and sights, and sounds. The Word has become flesh anew through our flesh, and it will be transmitted to others as we follow the leading of the Christ in knocking on closed doors. And this is what all the joy is about at Christmas--- it infiltrates us!

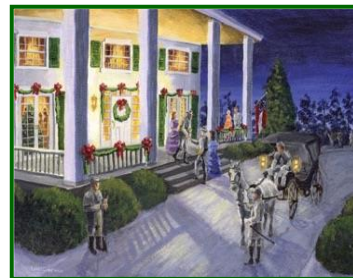
Jesus came into the world as a person and in him we beheld the fullness of God. Jesus promised that whenever two or more of us gather in his name he would come be with us in worship. He most often comes alive in our lives as we allow him to use us in ministry to others. This is our great source of joy!

You often hear it asked, "Why can't we have Christmas joy all year long?" Well, we should, and we can, and for many of us it is a reality. We are endowed with an eternal joy because Jesus lives in us and works through us daily. We could sing "Joy to the

World" in June, July, or January. He is our victory and strength. He uses us daily as his instruments of grace to knock on the doors of folks closed hospital doors and closed heart doors too. What greater thrill could there be than to have the eternal Word to come alive through our very lives? This is our Christmas Joy 365 days a year!



Our November Program was given by Bill Elliot, Commander of the W.W. Heartsill Camp.



There's nothing like Christmas in Dixie, where the roots of Southern Christmas celebrations run deep. The American South was making merry long before it became the standard practice in other areas of the country. Alabama was the first state to declare it a legal holiday in 1836, with Louisiana and Arkansas following a couple of years later. Christmas wasn't declared an official holiday in the United States until June 26, 1870.

Upcoming Events may be found on the
Calendar at:

www.upshurpatriots.org



HISTORICAL DATES IN DECEMBER

December 11, 1861 – A Disastrous fire in Charleston, South Carolina.

December 7, 1862 - the Battle of Prairie Grove.

December 11–15, 1862 - the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

December 23, 1862 - Jefferson Davis issues a general order proclaiming Benjamin Butler an "enemy of mankind" and authorizing his immediate execution if captured.

December 29, 1862 – the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou.

December 31–January 2, 1862 - the Battle of Stones River / Murfreesboro, Tn.

December 15–16, 1864 - the Battle of Nashville, Tn.

December 24–27, 1864 - the Battle of Fort Fisher, North Carolina.

December 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.



BATTLE OF CHICKASAW BAYOU

From: Wikipedia

The Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, also called the Battle of Walnut Hills, fought December 26–29, 1862, was the opening engagement of the Vicksburg Campaign during the American Civil War. Confederate forces under Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton repulsed an advance by Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman that was intended to lead to the capture of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

On December 26, three Union divisions under Sherman disembarked at Johnson's Plantation on the Yazoo River to approach the Vicksburg defenses from the northeast while a fourth landed farther upstream on December 27. On December 27, the Federals pushed their lines forward through the swamps toward the Walnut Hills, which were strongly defended. On December 28, several futile attempts were made to get around these defenses. On December 29, Sherman ordered a frontal assault, which was repulsed with heavy casualties, and then withdrew. This Confederate victory frustrated Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's attempts to take Vicksburg by a direct approach.





CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA FIRE

From: postandcourier.com

No one would ever know for sure how the fire started.

Sometime before 10 p.m. on Dec. 11, 1861, the flames seemed to appear in three places simultaneously. The Charleston Mercury said the first blaze began at Russell & Co.'s Sash and Blind factory at the foot of Hasell Street, but others believed it was burning just as early at Cameron & Co.'s Immense Machine Shops on the other side of the street.

No sooner than the fire was spotted, it was on the march. There was never any chance to put it out. Firefighters dispatched to the scene had scant water to fight the fire; it started at dead low tide, which significantly cut down on their water supply. By 11 p.m., the out-buildings behind Institute Hall, nearly a half-dozen blocks south of Hasell Street, were aflame.

The fire burned 145 acres of the peninsula, a swath that was one mile long and one seventh of a mile in width. Locals estimated the fire's damage at up to \$8 million, nearly half of that in real estate alone.

Charleston would spend the rest of the year, and much of the next, cleaning the

streets of debris. But it would take much longer to repair the city's façade. For the remainder of the war, Charleston would lay in ruins, looking as if the city had already lost the war.

SANCTUARY COUNTY

From: kltv.com

The Upshur County Commissioners Court on Friday, November 15, 2019, approved a resolution to become a "sanctuary county" for Second Amendment gun rights.

Item 4 on the commissioners' agenda, "to approve declaring Upshur County, Texas a Second Amendment County", was passed with a unanimous vote.

A similar resolution was passed by Smith County on Oct. 29. The resolution read, in part, *"Be it further resolved that this Commissioners Court will not authorize or appropriate government funds, resources, employees, agencies, contractors, buildings, detention center or offices for the purpose of enforcing laws that have been found to unconstitutionally infringe on the rights of Citizens."*



DEFENDING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

From: ammoland.com

One of the biggest problems we have as Second Amendment supporters is that the vast majority of national media outlets often work to distort the issues surrounding

our right to keep and bear arms. They also look to put us in the worst possible light or to cheerlead for certain policies. That makes how Second Amendment supporters come across to their fellow Americans a very important matter. All too often, too many of them help the media smear us with comments that are intemperate at best.

The real work of defending the Second Amendment come on three fronts: Passing down the knowledge needed to defend our rights to future generations, encouraging effective activism by other Second Amendment supporters, and convincing the majority of our fellow Americans, particularly those in the suburbs or who may be indifferent or even slightly hostile to our rights, to change their views and not view a pro-Second Amendment voting record as a deal-breaker at the very least.



HONOR IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH

By: Brett & Kate McKay

The code of honor for Southern men required having: 1) a reputation for honesty and integrity, 2) a reputation for martial courage and strength, and 3) self-sufficiency and “mastery,” defined as patriarchal dominion over a household of dependents. Anthropologists and social psychologists believe this form of classical honor survived and thrived in the American South and died in the North because of cultural differences between their respective early settlers, as

well as the North’s and South’s divergent economies.

While industrialization transformed the Northern landscape in the 19th century and sparked the rise of urbanization, the antebellum South remained largely agrarian and rural. This created two important effects in the region: economic opportunities were fewer in number and less diverse, and kinship ties remained very strong.

While for many, slavery is the first thing that comes to mind when they think of the Old South, only 25% of the white population owned slaves, and 73% of those who did held fewer than ten. In other words, three-quarters of the white population were non slaveholders.

Northern men were celebrated for having the pluck and initiative to leave home in pursuit of personal goals, Southerners wished to stay close to hearth and home.

While the North equated honor with economic success, and economic success with moral character, honor in the South hinged on hitting a more basic threshold.

The Southern ideal, in theory, if not always in practice, was that the rich man was no better than the poor man; all whites of all classes considered themselves part of the same honor group.

That a man’s public reputation remained the basis of his honor, as opposed to shifting towards private conscience as in the North, was due to the close communities and kinship ties in the South. Southerners preferred to live physically close to their relatives, and the foundation

of every community was one's extended family.

As a result of the close-knit, more homogenized nature of Southern society, two fundamental requirements of traditional honor remained in place: a cohesive honor code that everyone in the group understood and ascribed to, and frequent face-to-face interactions that allowed members to judge each other's reputations. This also left in place traditional honor's mechanism for dealing with social deviants: public shame and group justice. As in all traditional honor societies, a Southerner's relations with others and their inclusion in the community were the heart of life; one could not separate their personal identity and happiness from their membership in the group.

"As far as it can be done, we should live peaceably with our associates; but, as we cannot always do so, it is necessary occasionally to resist. And when our honor demands resistance, it should be done with courage."...North Carolinian William Pettigrew

A society governed by mutual respect requires everyone in the society to know each other and interact face-to-face. Honor cannot exist in a society where anonymity dominates.

Honor means being true to a set of personal ideals, or being a man of integrity.



A DAY OF INFAMY DECEMBER 7, 1941

President Franklin Roosevelt called the unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor a "date which will live in infamy," in a famous address to the nation delivered after Japan's deadly strike against U.S. naval and military forces in Hawaii. He also asked Congress to declare war.

"Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7th, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."

The attack on Pearl Harbor immediately galvanized a divided nation into action. Public opinion had been moving towards support for entering the war during 1941, but considerable opposition remained until the attack. Overnight, Americans united against the Empire of Japan in response to calls to "Remember Pearl Harbor."

It spurred the United States into a determination to fight to complete victory. The war resulted in the destruction of the Japanese armed forces, the occupation of the home islands and the occupation of Okinawa and the Ryukyu Islands by the United States until 1972,



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**

The Patriot's Periodical is a multi-award
winning Publication by a Camp in the Texas
Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Comments or suggestions should be made
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