

September 6, 2016

Upshur County Patriots Camp 2109

Minutes from meeting held August 2, 2016

Members present: Phil Davis, Kim Duffey, Jamie Eitson, Archie Hass, Ronnie Hill, Jared Jones, Justin Jones, Ron Jones, George Linton, Don Loyd, Austin Moss, Joseph Moss, Milt Ojeman, David Palmer, Michael Pepper, Eddie Pricer, Bill Starnes, and Larry Bruce Swinney.

Guest: Ben Adkison, James Baker, Jane Davis, Jacob Gearhart, Jerry Haymes, Caleb Hill, Johnnie Holly, Billie Johnson, Karla Jones, Esther Linton, Bailey Loyd, Rex McGee, Sam Mercer, Joe Reynolds, Cory Todd, and Rick "Bear" Umfleet.

Regular meeting was called to order by Commander Phil Davis.

Greeting to members and guests. Recognition of ATM Commander Johnnie Holly and 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander Sam Mercer. Request for thoughts and prayers for Larry Harper (illness) and Rickie Gipson (illness) by Commander Phil Davis.

Introduction of guests by Commander Phil Davis.

Opening prayer led by Past Chaplain Jamie Eitson.

Pledges to U.S. & Texas flags and salute to Confederate flag led by Color Sgt. Justin Jones.

Reading of the Charge by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. David Palmer along with information regarding life of Lt. General Stephen D. Lee.

Third Lt. Cmdr. Bill Starnes introduced the speaker for the evening, Upshur County Patriot Compatriot Michael Pepper.

Michael began by discussing the activity he had seen recently at Camp Ford in Tyler. At first he thought the historical significance was finally catching on, unfortunately he later sadly learned that it was another Pokémon site.

Michael then provided the Camp with a talk on Colin Montgomery Baker. He related how Baker was thought by some as a deserter, others a raider and murderer. Baker was described as a courier with an ill temper and quite the salty language. Colin Baker was known to hunt down deserters and black Union soldiers and was quite vicious in his treatment of them. At the conclusion of the War, he did not take the Oath of Allegiance and continued to hunt down carpet baggers, kill them and destroy their property. The United States and Texas both put bounties on

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Baker. In return, Baker put his own bounty on the carpet bagger governor. Furthermore, Baker wrote a lengthy letter identifying what he had done in an effort to distance himself from others blaming their misdeeds on him. Baker was later killed by his own family after they plied him with alcohol. The family disliked him greatly and also wanted the reward.

Michael then answered a few questions and received a well-deserved ovation.

Break

Business meeting called to order by Commander Phil Davis.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Eddie Pricer and approved as amended.

Financial report was read by Eddie Pricer and approved.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws were provided to the Camp.

Old Business:

Commander Davis opened a discussion on the Sam Davis Youth Camp, its importance as well as funding and fund raising and associated camp expenditures. Joseph Moss provided a program on this year's Camp activities. One of the highlights included hanging a huge Battle Flag over the Brazos River and they received over 60,000 internet hits on the project.

A report on the National Reunion was provided by ATM Commander Johnnie Holly and Commander Phil Davis.

New Business:

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day was discussed with a motion and second to provide a gift to local law enforcement agencies.

A brief preparatory discussion of the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws was provided by Eddie Pricer.

Installation of Cory Todd into the SCV and Upshur County Patriots was conducted by ATM Commander Johnnie Holly, 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander Sam Mercer, and Commander Phil Davis.

A motion and second was then made to accept Rick "Bear" Umfleet and James "Raven" Baker into the Camp. The motion carried unanimously.

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Brigade 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander George Linton provided information on the East Texas Color Guard receiving a third place trophy in the Ore City 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. He also mentioned that he took the trophy and visited the grave of Color Guard Sergeant Paul Hamilton as this parade held a special place in Paul's heart.

Commander Phil Davis provided a Guardian Report update.

A Guardian Medal was presented to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. David Palmer by Commander Phil Davis, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Don Loyd, and Judge Advocate Kim Duffey.

Commander Davis then reminded everyone that had not yet paid their dues to please get them in ASAP.

A discussion concerning SCV involvement at Camp Ford was provided by ATM Commander Holly and although he was not enthusiastic about our continued association, he was still working behind the scenes.

A discussion concerning the Scottsville Cemetery and Confederate Monument was provided by 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander Mercer concerning an upcoming memorial. He also indicated that a brigade officers meeting would be scheduled sometime next month.

Otter discussed a future memorial at the Morgan Cemetery to honor Confederates and Cherokees buried there.

Quartermaster Joseph Moss conducted the door prize drawing.

Closing comments were made by Commander Phil Davis.

Benediction was provided by Brigade Chaplain Jerry Haymes.

Singing of Dixie was led by Jamie Eitson.

Donations: Door Prize \$18.00, Jar \$10.00, Sam Davis Camp \$27.00, Purple Heart \$26.00

Eddie Pricer, Acting Adjutant