



Patriot's Periodical
Upshur Co. Patriots Camp #2109
Sons of Confederate Veterans
P.O. Box 472
Gilmer, Texas

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www.upshurpatriots.org

January 2017

Best Newsletter Award

Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
June 2016 Reunion

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Phil Davis



Compatriots this edition of our newsletter finds us in a brand new year. It is our hope and prayer that the Upshur County Patriots will continue to prosper and do many new and innovative projects to honor our Confederate Ancestors and preserve our beloved Southland.

I felt that our annual Christmas party went very well, with many guests, as well as members, with their wives or girlfriends, attending. The meal was excellent with plenty of food and desserts. We have many good cooks in our Camp. We had an excellent program and the Roll Call was very inspiring, hearing our Confederate Ancestors names being called and us answering for them. I wish to convey a special thank you to all that helped with setting up and decorating the tables. It

looked very beautiful. Also thank you Bill and Becky Starnes for allowing us to use the Walking "S" Steakhouse for our meetings and our party.

During the Christmas Party we selected the winner of the Knife and Sheath donated by Compatriot Jamie Eitson and Compatriot Archie "Otter" Hass. We also owe Compatriot Chris Loyd for his support of this project. (There is more on this in another article). This fund raiser helped to payback the camp for money used to send campers to the Sam Davis Youth Camp this past summer. We are still taking donations so that we might have enough money for the 2017 Camp.

We entered a trailer full of Confederate Flags and riders in uniform and period dress in the Gilmer Christmas Parade. We had a good show of support with "Rebels" from many camps. There was even a new drummer, Roger Williams, from George and Ester Linton's Church. We were well received with salutes, yells, hand clapping and people standing at attention to support us. We need this kind of activity to help us

show the people in our community that we are not a racist organization.

We had our annual "Boogie Feagin" Christmas Basket food drive in December. With your support we gave four baskets to needy families, Compatriot Gene Brown was chairman of this drive and did an excellent job of collecting and coordinating these baskets. Compatriot George Linton and Esther took care of delivering the baskets to the needy families. To those of you who gave of yourselves to support this food drive, we give a big thank you.

Compatriots as we begin this 2017 year, I urge each of you to examine the work you are doing to fulfill the "Charge" and to see what you can do as Sons of Confederate Veterans to not only increase our numbers, but to prove to our friends and relatives just what we are about. We must show the people who are tearing down our monuments and our history, that all we want is to keep history as it occurred, not as progressives wished or dreamed it to be. History cannot be changed, only learned from. Our goal is to preserve the true history of the South and to be able to live honorably as our ancestors did. I ask you to look inward at your dedication, ask yourself, can I do a little more?

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

As always, 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



Drummer Roger Williams at the Gilmer Christmas Parade
Thank you for keeping a steady Cadence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting

January 3, 2017 7 PM
Walking S Steakhouse

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





The Guardian

By Phil Davis

As we begin 2017, I look forward to another great year for the Guardian Program. We are receiving new applications weekly. Many Compatriots with the Guardian Pro Tem status will become Full Guardians this year. In looking over my files I will be presenting many Medals and Certificates in 2017. That's a good thing!

As far as the Texas Division Guardian Program, we are almost to 650 applications. If you remember, it was this summer that I was telling someone in our Camp, that if he submitted his application, he would be #300. I hope we can reach 1000 this year.

I have included the names of our Camp members that are Guardians or Guardians Pro Tem in each issue of the Newsletter. I hope one day to find each of you listed there. I do not do this to embarrass anyone, but to remind them of what others are doing. I am proud of what our Camp has done, but we can do better. I hope that we

will realize, that we have Confederate Heroes' graves with no one to put a flag on their grave or to see that their headstone is cleaned and properly marked. Think about it!

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
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	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

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Sam Davis Youth Camp Donor Receives
Hand Crafted Bowie Style Knife and Sheath

Of the many activities that are undertaken by the membership of the Upshur County Patriots, the Sam Davis Youth Camp has a special place in the hearts of the Camp. Its importance on teaching our youth history and the fact that history cannot be changed, only reported and learned from, is a critical issue of our times. It further provides a wholesome environment, while educating the attendees in traditions and leadership, along with summer camp activities such as swimming, fishing, and archery to name a few.

During the past year, under the leadership of Commander Phil Davis, the Upshur County Patriots and the Patriot Rose Camp began an erstwhile endeavor to raise funds. They wanted to ensure that families wishing that their children could attend the Sam Davis Youth Camp would not be denied that opportunity because of financial reasons.

A number of projects were planned with several already being completed. Many people donated money to the Sam Davis Youth Camp Fund. Those donors "will be forever in our hearts and prayers and have our eternal thanks" said Fund raising Chairman Eddie Pricer. As a special thank



you, the names of the donors were placed in a hopper which was given many a turn over several weeks. A name would ultimately be selected to receive a Hand Crafted Bowie Style Knife and Sheath. The knife was created by Compatriot Jamie Eitson and the sheath by Compatriot Archie "Otter" Hass. Also assisting in this project was Past Commander Chris Loyd. Each of these men deserves three cheers for ensuring the success of the project.

At the annual Christmas Party of the Upshur County Patriots held on December 6, 2016, the grandson of Compatriot Bruce Swinney was asked to turn the hopper a few more times before reaching in and doing a superb job of digging through the names, selecting one card. That card belonged to Troy Benson of Overton. Associate member of the Upshur County Patriots and member of the General John Gregg Camp of Longview, Compatriot Ben Adkison was given the knife and sheath to make the formal presentation to Mr. Benson.



5th Brigade Commander Sam Mercer conducts "Roll Call" at our December Party. This is our way of honoring our Confederate Ancestors.

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.



"For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world." - Jesus (John 18:37)

"For this cause" is a statement of certainty and conviction. It is obvious that Jesus knew who He was, and what the purpose of His life was. He also knew why He would die. He spoke of it in John 12:27, when He said, "for this cause I came to this hour." His entire life was encapsulated in that one powerful phrase, 'for this cause.'

In the 1950's, a young actor by the name of James Dean became famous in a movie called, "**Rebel Without a Cause.**" It was a story centered around delinquent youth.

I love the story of David (I Samuel 17). In verse one, the Scripture says that the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together. The big guy a/k/a "Giant Goliath" stood out in the field and talked trash. "I defy the armies of Israel this day." In verse 24, it tells us that all the men of Israel when they saw the big guy, they were dreadfully afraid.

A Jewish teenager by the name of David came by to give his big brothers something to eat. When David saw what was going on, he said, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Then this young man said something powerful when he said to his brothers and their fellow Israeli soldiers **"Is there not a cause?"**

What a sad title for a 1950 movie, **"Rebel Without A Cause."**

What is more important, a vision or a cause?

It is essential for us to have a vision. It is important for us to be people of vision, but a cause is much more powerful. We talk about visions, destiny and dreams, but it is on the foundation of a cause that vision is birthed. Proverbs 29:18 says that without it the people perish. A vision is much more powerful when it serves a cause. When we are committed to a cause, we don't have to make up a vision, because that cause is the foundation out of which the vision flows. A vision is essential, but the Cause is powerful. A vision is something you possess, but a cause is something that possesses you. You would not die for a vision, but you would die for a cause. Jesus did. He willingly gave His life for the Cause. His disciples gave their life for the Cause as well. Christians down through the history

of the Church have given their lives, and are being martyred more today than ever before. The Cause burns within them.

If I was a movie producer, I would dream up a story line of going back into the past. One was popular several years back like "Back to the Future." Hollywood likes to come up with these movies where people go back into the past and they became great heroes.

Have you ever had that dream? I have too. I'd get on the time machine of 2016 and I would travel back to 1860 or 1861, and I'd find a way to meet up with President Jefferson Davis and General Robert E. Lee. I would tell them how to correct things that happened to their Southern Army, and what to do different. If we could only go back, we could help them correct many things, and perhaps today we would still be the **Confederate States of America!!** But, I can't do that. You can't do that. We can't go back. Boy, would I ever like to go back just for a day and have a great conversation with those Southern Heroes. I cannot do it. Neither can you.

Time has moved on. I wish I could move back the clock, but I can't. I cannot relive my yesterdays. I will never be eighteen again, and I cannot borrow on tomorrow, because I may not be given another birthday by our Sovereign God. "Now" is upon me. "Now" is upon you. We know that **A.D. 2017** is upon us.

As a believer in Jesus Christ, I have a Cause. As a son of the South, and a son of Confederate Veterans, I have a cause. I will stand and defend both of these Causes with my life. We cannot fight the cause of 1861, but we can fight and defend the Southern Cause that faces us all in 2017. We have a new year. We have a new opportunity. Let us be "Rebels With A Cause," not "Rebels Without A Cause." Fight the good fight of faith.

Eternally Southern,

Rev. M. Don Majors, Pastor
Texas Division Chaplain & ATM Chaplain



We had a nice gathering and plenty of food at our annual Christmas Party. Compatriot and owner of the Walking S Steakhouse, Bill Starnes, attends the buffet.



Commander Phil Davis (R) presents Guardian Certificates to Past Commander Eddie Pricer (L). This brings Eddie's total up to 33. Thank you for your hard work in the Guardian Program.



The Order of Confederate Rose held a "silent auction" at our December party. Thank you to all who participated for your fundraising efforts.



Historical Dates in January

January 19 Confederate Heroes' Day

Jan. 9, 1861 Mississippi Secedes

Jan. 10, 1861 Florida Secedes

Jan. 11, 1861 Alabama Secedes

Jan. 19, 1861 Georgia Secedes

Jan. 26, 1861 Louisiana Secedes

Jan. 1-2, 1862 Battles of Murfreesboro

Jan. 18, 1862 Confederate Territory of Arizona is formed

Jan. 19, 1862 Battle of Mill Springs, Ky.

Jan. 19, 1807 Robert E. Lee is born

Jan. 1, 1863 Battle of Galveston

Jan. 1, 1863 Emancipation Proclamation

Jan. 2, 1863 Battle of Stones River, Ga.

Jan. 8, 1821 Gen. James Longstreet's birthday

Jan. 31, 1863 Naval Battle at Charleston



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.

Confederate Heroes Day

Confederate Heroes Day is a Texas State Holiday created by Chapter 221, Senate Bill 60, of the 63rd Texas Legislature. Approved June 1, 1973 and Effective August 27, 1973, this bill deleted June 3rd as a holiday for Jefferson Davis' birthday and combined it with Robert E. Lee's Birthday, January 19th. It is the last holiday in the State of Texas dedicated to Confederate Veterans. We as "Sons of Confederate Veterans" are dedicated to the preservation of this holiday, 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 we love also, and those ideals which made him glorious. We celebrate this day in remembrance of those gallant individuals who bravely defended their families and their homeland in the war for southern independence.



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.

“A new year is like a blank book, and the pen is in your hands. It is your chance to write a beautiful story for yourself. Happy New Year.”



Best Newsletter Award
June 2016
Camps Over 50 Members



Best Website Award
June 2016
Camps Over 50 Members

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