



PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL

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

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Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of
Each Month at 7 PM
at the Historic Upshur Museum
www.upshurpatriots.org

FEBRUARY 2025

Celebrating Confederate Heroes Day

By: EP



Each year, we take the time to celebrate our Confederate forebears and preserve, protect and honor their sacrifices both during and after the war. On January 19th the State of Texas has set aside this day as a holiday to remember our beloved ancestors.

With that in mind, Phil Davis, George Linton and Eddie Pricer placed flags on 31 Confederate graves during the week preceding January 19th as a special recognition. On January 18th a trip was made to Hopewell and Little Mound Cemeteries in Upshur County. At Hopewell Cemetery a prayer and reading of the Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans was conducted at the grave of Colonel Cullen Earp. Next, the group traveled to Little Mound Cemetery where another vigil was held at the graves of Emma Sansom who aided General Nathan Bedford Forrest in a spring 1863 defensive campaign and her Husband Confederate soldier Christopher Johnson. A prayer and the

reading of the Charge was also provided at the gravesite.

It was a cold, cloudy and blustery day, but the event provided warmth and brightness to celebrate Confederate Heroes Day.



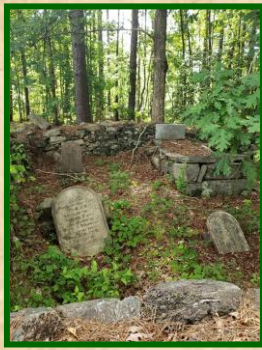
CAMP LEADERSHIP UPSHUR COUNTY PATRIOTS CAMP #2109

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THE GUARDIAN

Buried Headstones and Unmarked Graves

imscemeterysoftware.com

Cemeteries are home to a lot of history, with many US cemeteries having been around for hundreds of years. The passage of time affects each cemetery differently. Thanks to meticulous record-keeping and oversight, some historic cemeteries have pristine records. These cemeteries are, unfortunately, the exception and not the rule.

The fact is that unmarked graves and buried headstones are somewhat common problems for older cemeteries. But just because this information has been lost (at least temporarily) to history doesn't mean it's lost forever. In fact, finding lost graves and markers should be a priority for today's cemeterians.

The most effective way to locate unmarked graves and lost headstones on cemetery grounds is to use ground penetrating radar. Ground penetrating radar (also known as GPR) allows cemeteries to investigate large areas of land for underground anomalies, including buried markers, caskets, utilities, and other subsurface materials.

The SCV Guardian Program honors the Fallen.

"If you're not a Guardian, why not?"

Contact Guardian Program Chairman Bill Elliot for information at: etaia@att.net



UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS GUARDIANS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian Status</u>	<u>Number of Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	31
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	51
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	40
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Tommy Ray	Full/GPT	19
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2
Gregg Gipe	GPT	3
Rodney Love	Full	51

W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem



Confederate encampment near Petersburg, Virginia, in June of 1864



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.

"WHAT BEGAN AS A BITTER DISPUTE OVER UNION AND STATES' RIGHTS, ENDED AS A STRUGGLE OVER THE MEANING OF FREEDOM IN AMERICA. AT GETTYSBURG IN 1863, ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID PERHAPS MORE THAN HE KNEW. THE WAR WAS ABOUT A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM..."

BRUCE CATTON



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."

In 1906 General Stephen D. Lee, Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans, gave a charge to the next generation of Southerners. This charge has defined the mission of the Sons of Confederate Veterans ever since.



On June 23, 1864, Lee was appointed a lieutenant general, making him the youngest man to reach the rank in the Confederate Army. He took command of General John B. Hood's former corps within the Army of Tennessee.



Finishing the Job of Setting a Military Stone

By: EP

Most of our Members scour cemeteries near and far to locate the graves of Confederate Heroes. We do this for a multitude of reasons including honoring our ancestors, protecting their final earthly resting place, historical knowledge and maintenance to name just a few.

Over the years, it's become apparent that this dedication extends past just Confederate Heroes as Compatriots also honor all veterans from any conflict. This is an act that our ancestors would hold chief as proof of honorable nature and adherence to their Charge to us.

On January 16th, Compatriots Phil Davis, George Linton and Eddie Pricer undertook the honor of setting a military stone for a recently deceased former member of the U.S. Navy. Sadly, when his stone was delivered it was simply placed teetering on top of his grave. The individual normally charged with placement of stones not delivered and erected by monument companies was unfortunately and understandably dealing with a family hospice situation. To fill this void, our Compatriots stepped forward completed the task to ensure that this veteran received the proper respect and honor he deserved.

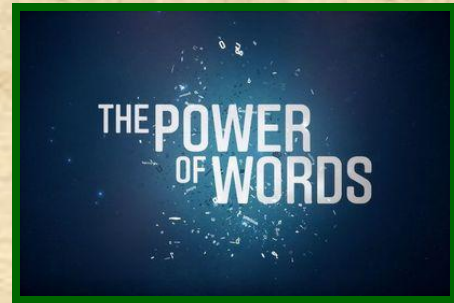


Presentation of the Last Roll Certificate

By: EP

Presenting the Last Roll Certificate to Jan Ray, the widow of Compatriot Thomas Milton Ray, is Commander Emeritus Phil Davis. The certificate is a Resolution commending the service of Compatriot Ray to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The presentation was made at the Ray home in Upshur County, Texas on January 24, 2025.



By: Darlene Zschech

"If a person is religious but can't control his tongue, he is fooling himself. That person's religion is worthless." James 1:26

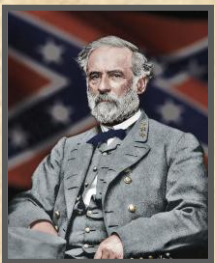
In Psalm 64 David calls to God for deliverance, not from whom would do him bodily harm but from those conspiring against him and speaking ill of him. In verse 3 he says, "They sharpen their tongues like swords. They aim bitter words like arrows."

The tongue is a powerful and creative force. Through His words, Jesus forgave sins,

healed the sick, and even raised the dead to life. In the very same moment, we can use our words to build others up or to bring about destruction. David speaks of those who conspired against him as a “noisy crowd of evil doers” (64:2 NIV 1984). It is possible it was only a few people, but I find that when evil words are spoken against me, even if by only a couple of voices, it feels like a crowd.

One of the reasons words do so much damage is that all of us have the need to belong, to know we are loved and approved of. I hope you will be surrounded by that affirmation. But approval addiction can be dangerous too. There will be many times when the choices we need to make are not going to make us popular.

Maybe you have been damaged to the core by the blade of unjust talk. Or maybe you have been the one who wielded the sword. The only way to move on in either case is forgiveness. You might need to offer it or seek it.



I CAN ANTICIPATE NO
GREATER CALAMITY FOR
THE COUNTRY THAN THE
DISSOLUTION OF THE
UNION. IT WOULD BE AN
ACCUMULATION OF ALL
THE EVILS WE COMPLAIN OF, AND I AM
WILLING TO SACRIFICE EVERYTHING
BUT HONOR FOR ITS PRESERVATION...
ROBERT E. LEE



HISTORICAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

1861

February 1 - Texas adopts an Ordinance of Secession and schedules a referendum for February 23

February 4 - Delegates from the seceded states meet to establish the Confederate government

February 8 - The convention of seceded states adopts a provisional constitution

February 16 - Texas state troops seize the U.S. Arsenal at San Antonio

February 18 - Jefferson Davis inaugurated as provisional president of the Confederacy

February 19 - Louisiana state troops seize the U.S. paymaster's office in New Orleans

February 23 - President-elect Lincoln arrives in Washington, D.C.

February 23 - Voters in Texas approve referendum to secede

1862

February 6 - Surrender of Fort Henry, Tennessee

February 7/8 - Battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina

February 10 - Union forces destroy the Confederate "Mosquito" fleet at Elizabeth City, North Carolina

February 14 - Union ironclad gunboats attack Fort Donelson, Tennessee

February 15 - All-out Confederate counter-attack at Fort Donelson

February 16 - Fort Donelson surrenders unconditionally to Ulysses S. Grant

February 20/21 - Battle of Val Verde, New Mexico Territory

February 23 - Federal troops occupy Fayetteville, Arkansas

February 25 - Federal troops occupy Nashville, Tennessee.

1863

February 5 and 7 - Skirmish at Olive Branch Church, Virginia

February 13 - Skirmish near Washington, North Carolina

February 15 - Skirmish at Arkadelphia, Arkansas

February 26 - Confederate guerrillas attack freight train near Woodburn, Tennessee

1864

February 2 - Southern navy captures U.S. gunboat *Underwriter* but is forced to burn and flee

February 3 - Union General William T. Sherman begins the Meridian Campaign in Mississippi

February 11 - Skirmish at Lake City, Florida

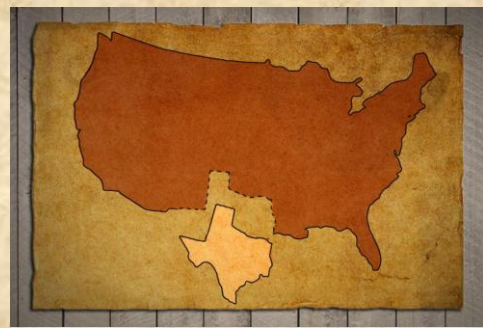
February 14 - Federal troops capture Meridian, Mississippi

February 17 - Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* sinks the USS *Housatonic*

February 20 - Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond), Florida

February 22 - Engagement at Okolona, Mississippi

February 28 - Kilpatrick's Raid on Richmond begins



TEXAS SECESSION

wikipedia.org

On February 1, 1861, delegates to a special convention to consider secession voted 166 to 8 to adopt an ordinance of secession of Texas. The ordinance was ratified by a popular referendum on February 23, making Texas the seventh and last state of the Lower South to do so.

During the war, Texas was spared most of the actual fighting, with only Galveston seeing any military engagement with Union forces. However, the war did take a serious toll in the way of chronic shortages, absence of men at home to run the economy, military setbacks and fear of invasion. Although Lincoln recognized Texas's history as an independent nation, his definition of the Union meant that Texas forever ceded this to be subject to the Constitution.

After the end of the Civil War, Texans maintained a "rebel" or Confederate identity instead of a completely Texan one as a way of still defying the United States. After the Civil War, it provided a haven for others in the Confederacy leaving claimed devastation. From that time to the present.



SAN ANTONIO ARSENAL

tshaonline.org

Confederate forces overtook the Arsenal after Texas lawmakers voted Feb. 1, 1861, to secede from the United States.

The San Antonio Arsenal was founded in 1859 to furnish arms and munitions to the frontier forts in Texas. During the Civil War the twenty-one-acre reservation was occupied by Confederate forces and the supplies were used for the Confederate war effort.

After the war the United States Army once again took possession of the complex, and over the course of the next half century it was gradually enlarged; by the end of World War I the arsenal comprised thirty-eight buildings. During both world wars it served as a major supply depot. The volume of operations reached its height during World War II, when it shipped more than 337,000,000 pounds of ammunition. The arsenal was closed in 1949, although its buildings continued to be used as federal government offices. In 1972 two acres and three buildings were transferred to the city of San Antonio to be used as parkland under the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.



SKIRMISH AT ARKADELPHIA

encyclopediaofarkansas.net

During the winter of 1862–1863, Union sympathizers avoiding Confederate conscription officers fled their homes throughout western Arkansas and hid in the Ouachita Mountains, where they joined Confederate deserters. These bands stole supplies from the local population. Civilians in the area were uneasy with this development and urged the Confederate government to act. One of these bands was led by Andy Brown—who was called “Captain”—of Arkadelphia (Clark County). Brown’s band had eighty-three members and was most active in the Ouachita Mountains northwest of Arkadelphia, stealing horses and wagons from nearby civilians.

In response to these events, a group of mounted and armed civilians organized in Arkadelphia under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William A. Crawford. Divided into two companies, the men departed Arkadelphia on February 12, 1863. On February 13, the group was joined by eighty men from Sevier County under the command of Major James Woosley. Following the trail of Captain Brown’s men, the Confederate Homeguard traveled to Blakely Mountain, northwest of Hot Springs (Garland County) and then to McGraw’s (or

McGrew's) Mill, located on the Walnut Fork of the Ouachita River in what was then Montgomery County.

The Homeguard attacked Brown's force early on the morning of February 15, 1863. Outnumbered, the Unionists assumed a defensive position that required the Confederates to attack uphill on foot. The steep terrain forced the Homeguard to dismount from their horses and engage the Unionists. This maneuver reduced the number of men available to engage Brown's band, as every fourth man was required to hold the horses. Even with this reduction in numbers, the Confederates still enjoyed a more than two-to-one advantage. The Unionists were slowly forced to retreat, and after several hours of battle, Brown and twenty-seven of his men fled the field, pursued by members of the Homeguard.



The first newspaper published in Gilmer was known as the Gilmer Sentinel. This paper was edited by Mr. J. L. Terry and his son. A few years after its establishment the paper became known as The Mirror and was edited by Judge Joseph Lion, who was then county judge. Judge Lion was murdered and the assassin escaped. Twenty years later, when Mr. S. J. Moughon was sheriff, the fellow was caught by the Humane Society of New York. The man was charged with beating his daughter, and the Humane Society wrote back to Gilmer for information concerning him; and it was in this manner he was captured. He escaped from jail, however, and his trial was never

held. The paper is now edited by Mr. George Tucker and is still known as The Mirror. But in addition to the weekly paper, we also have a daily paper by the same name.

Upcoming Events may be found on the Calendar at: www.upshurpatriots.org



Thank you to the Historic Upshur Museum for providing our meeting location.

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 to: David Palmer, Commander/Editor goya1@etex.net



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

