



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

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February 2017

Best Newsletter Award

Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
June 2016 Reunion

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Phil Davis



Commander's Corner

Greetings Compatriots, spring is on the horizon, but don't let those dreams of warmer days, budding trees and blooming plants cloud your vision and cause you to forget to give that special gift to your boss on Valentine's Day. Our wives and girlfriends give us the strength to go forth in our commitment to vindicate the Cause for which our forebears dedicated themselves.

I had the great and distinct pleasure to swear in new Camp Officers at our last meeting and I want to congratulate them and thank them for their willing service to the Patriots and the Cause.

Thanks to all who supported and braved the elements to attend the Confederate Heroes

Day celebration at the Gregg County Courthouse in Longview. This is a special day to honor our ancestors publicly, but everyday should be a remembrance of their sacrifices to God, family and Country.

The Texas Division Reunion will be upon us soon in Fort Worth, Texas. This year's reunion will be June 2-4 and is an important election year. The Reunion is sufficiently close to allow day travel or a single night stay to attend most functions and the all-important business meeting. The W. T. Lanham Camp #586 of Weatherford is this year's host and has provided an easy to use web page to guide you through registration, activities and agenda. You can access via the Texas Division Website.

This past year saw our Camp undertake a number of fund raising initiatives and make excellent strides toward implementing a permanent plan to raise donations to aid in our abilities to fulfill the Charge. Be prepared to join in on these activities and for those that can't, I ask that you reach into your pocket and make an extra

donation above those that you so generously already contribute.

Lastly, don't forget the Mardi Gras Parade in Jefferson on February 25th. If you can attend, please do so. If you are young and can march, definitely attend, this is a great chance before a large audience to honor our ancestors and forward the Colors.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting

February 7, 2017 7 PM
Walking S Steakhouse

Mardi Gras Parade

Jefferson, TX.
February 25th
Muster 1 PM – Parade 2 PM

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



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The Guardian

By Phil Davis

January was a modest month for SCV and Guardian activities. I feel blessed when I have the opportunity to present the Guardian Program to others within the Confederation. This month, I was requested and have the distinct pleasure to speak about the SCV and Guardian program at the February Kiwanis meeting in Gilmer. I look forward to meeting with a public service organization and let them know who we are and how we strive to enhance our community and honor our forebears.

As I said at last month's meeting, throughout the Texas Division applications for guardianship are on the increase and are being submitted every week. It's so great to see the increased interest in this aspect of fulfilling the Charge. As I said nearly two years ago our members are always striving to fulfill the Charge through the placement of flags, erection of monuments, living history presentations and correcting the false or incorrect statements with documented facts. Nevertheless, the Guardian Program seeks to ensure that the final resting places of our

Heroes always have an identified individual willing to monitor and care for that sacred site.

As I often say, I believe that every **Honorable Man** that has a Confederate ancestor should be a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and that every able bodied SCV member should be a Guardian.

As I always say, I believe with all my being in the Guardian Program and I look forward to helping you step up and join the other Guardians in fulfilling "The Charge".

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
Tommy Mitchell	Full	3
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

GPT=Guardian Pro Tem



From Johnnie Holley
Commander, Army Trans-Mississippi

Compatriots of the ATM:

First, I would like to express my thanks for the confidence shown by all who voted for me for ATM Commander. I am humbled by the support I have been shown and hope that I can serve you in a way to validate your decision.

Several events have taken place that you should find pleasing and rewarding:

- 1) In October, I was honored to take part in the ground breaking for the SCV Museum at Elm Springs. Hopefully, this project will move forward quickly and be ready for your inspection at the 2018 SCV Reunion at Franklin, Tennessee. The pictures and plans have been published in the **Veteran** and I hope they meet with your approval. I was proud to present checks in the amount of \$11,000 from the Texas Division, the 2016 Reunion Committee, and

several members from the Capt. James P. Douglas Camp in Tyler at the GEC meeting. Hopefully, many of you will consider donating to the Museum.

- 2) I am working with a compatriot to establish an SCV camp in Hawaii and hope to add them soon. (My wife wants to go when I charter the camp.)
- 3) We have an ATM Symposium scheduled on February 25 in Texarkana which will cover recruiting, retention, and Heritage operation. I hope you will attend.

Serving on the GEC has been interesting in several ways. I have been very impressed by the dedication and knowledge of its members. Commander Strain is a devoted, dedicated, and impassioned leader and I feel we can look forward to great things in the future. I have seen that the problems we face in Texas are generally the same as those that all Divisions encounter. We, the SCV, are under attack in all areas by the same enemies and dedicated compatriots continue to step forward to fight these attacks. We MUST remain united and stop fighting among ourselves over small personal differences. This only aids our enemies.

We are working on a Texas Heroes Act and we will be calling on each of you to contact your Senators and Representatives to garner their support. The University of Texas statue issue is approaching in the Texas Supreme Court and we pray for a ruling in our favor.

Thank you for your work and support. Please feel free to call upon me at any time. I hope to be attending your meetings as often as possible.

God Bless the South,

Johnnie Holley, Commander, ATM



Thank you to 5th Brigade Commander Sam Mercer (on R) and everyone involved in making Confederate Heroes Day 2017 a success.

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.



By Larry Harper
Camp Chaplain

As we watch the inauguration of the newest President of the United States of America on January 20, 2017, we stop to think "how did we get here." In America today we enjoy "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." It is at all times necessary that we frequently refresh our Patriotism as the Puritans did in their courageous pursuit of Liberty. It was this great struggle against tyranny that created America.

The Puritans had been so tortured by the ruling powers of those days that they at last fled to the wilderness for relief. No fear of punishment or even of death had been sufficient to conquer that courageous, unshakeable spirit that opposed the tyrants of the day on Church and State.

Our Government was established by Christian and Puritan tenacity. The Puritans accomplished their primary goal in God's name to glorify him. The first book Congress funded was the Bible. It should also be noted that its use was for the

schools so that our children would be equated with the truth of God. If you believe in God, then you also believe in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit that he leaves with us.

Let us strive together as Americans to make the Nation strong again in the names of Jesus Christ and his father Jehovah.



Pecans, God's Gift to the South

Submitted by Eddie Pricer

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts. "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me," said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he had heard voices and one said, "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me"

His eyes grew wide as he just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend, he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along the lane.

"Come here quick," said the boy, panting furiously with a terrified look in his eyes,

"you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord, they are down at the cemetery. They are dividing up the souls!" The man said, "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk." When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery.

Standing by the fence they clearly heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me." The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord?" Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done." They say the old man had the lead for a good half-mile before the kid on the bike passed him.



New Camp Officers Jared Jones-Librarian (L) and Milt Ojeman-1st Lt. Commander are sworn in by Commander Phil Davis (Rt) at our January meeting.



Compatriot Bill Starnes speaks at our January meeting about upcoming programs.



Historical Dates in February

Feb. 1, 1861 Texas Secedes.

Feb. 18, 1861 Jefferson Davis appointed President.

Feb. 8, 1862 Battle of Roanoke Island.

Feb. 22, 1862 Jefferson Davis is inaugurated.

Feb. 27, 1864 Andersonville Prison Camp opens.

Feb. 17, 1864 CSS Hunley attack on USS Houstonic.

Feb. 14-20, 1864 Union capture of Meridian, Ms.

Feb. 22, 1865 Wilmington NC falls.

Ceremony pays tribute to Confederate soldiers who fought for the South

From The Longview News Journal
Sunday Jan. 22, 2017 edition

By Meredith Shamburger



The threat of rain wasn't going to deter Sam Mercer from remembering his Confederate ancestors. After all, he said, they had to dodge bullets even when it was raining and snowing.

"The least we can do is come out and honor them today by being here," Mercer, the Sons of Confederate Veterans' 5th Bridge commander, said Saturday at the Gregg County courthouse during the annual Confederate Heroes Day ceremony.

Members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Order of the Confederate Rose gathered for the event.

Confederate Heroes Day is an official Texas holiday and is celebrated Jan. 19, Robert E. Lee's birthday. Saturday's ceremony was intended to honor the Confederate soldiers who fought and died during the Civil War, organizers said.

Confederate soldiers "remained the embodiment of all that was good and noble in the Old South," organizers said.

Texas officially seceded from the Union in February 1861.

Longview's Confederate monument was funded by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. UDC President Barbara Gilbert talked Saturday about efforts to honor Confederate veterans in the early 1900s.

"They got together and decided they wanted to do something to help the veterans: put markers at their graves, recognize them if they were still living," she said.

A three-year fundraising effort netted \$3,000 in 1908, and UDC members unveiled the new monument on the birthday of Jefferson Davis. It originally stood where the Glover-Crim Building stands today, but was moved to the courthouse in the 1930s oil boom as more office space was needed, Gilbert said.

The monument, inscribed with the message "Lest We Forget," is a reminder that the South's history needs to be kept, Gilbert said. She noted Saturday that many of the people gathered there were older and that they needed to do more to reach younger generations.

"You need to talk with your children, your grandchildren," she said. "We're going to be down to no one if we don't work with the young people."

Saturday's ceremony included the placing of memorial wreaths, a gun salute and an honor roll call for those who fought for the South. Representatives from numerous East Texas Confederate groups were on hand and encouraged each other to see that the "true history of the South" was presented to future generations.

"They fought and died for Southern rights," 1st Lt. Commander John Hitt said. "We need to continuously honor them."

Mercer said it was important to remember that Confederate soldiers were American soldiers and the Confederate flags were American flags.

"These are American flags carried by American soldiers," he said. "Don't ever forget that."



Texas Division Chaplain Don Majors performs Dixie at Confederate Heroes Day.





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.



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.

Photos below are from Confederate Heroes Day celebrated on January 21, 2017 on the Gregg County Courthouse grounds.

Photos courtesy of Albert Colvin





Best Newsletter Award
Texas Division June 2016
Camps Over 50 Members



Best Website Award
Texas Division June 2016
Camps Over 50 Members

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Comments or suggestions should be made
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We are proud to be associated with the
United Daughters of the Confederacy and
the Order of Confederate Rose.

Texas Secedes

On February 1, 1861, Texas becomes the seventh state to secede from the Union when a state convention votes 166 to 8 in favor of the measure.

The Texans who voted to leave the Union did so over the objections of their governor, Sam Houston. A staunch Unionist, Houston's election in 1859 as governor seemed to indicate that Texas did not share the rising secessionist sentiments of the other Southern States. Texas' move completed the first round of secession. Seven states; South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas left the Union before Lincoln took office.