

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

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February 2018

Best Newsletter Award 2nd Place

**Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
June 2017 Reunion**

Best Newsletter Award

**Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
June 2016 Reunion**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Milt Ojeman



Here we are in a new year and with a new rookie Commander. I want to thank Phil for the great job that he did as Commander. I pray that I am worthy to follow him and all of the Past Commanders. Please know that I am dedicated to the SCV Charge and to this camp. We find ourselves facing opponents whose arguments do not match the true history of the conflict. General Patrick Cleburne, before his untimely death at Franklin, is remembered as saying "Surrender means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the

enemy, our youth will be trained by Northern teachers, learn by Northern school books their version of the war, and taught to regard our gallant dead as traitors and our maimed veterans as fit subjects of derision". Sadly, Cleburne's prediction was fairly accurate.

As SCV members we are obligated to follow our charge and preserve the memory of our veterans. This does not mean that we promote diversion of the principles of this great country. It is my belief that we should continue to teach by example. We need to remain good citizens and show that we are not the "radicals" that certain groups claim that we are.

I would like to pursue some more community service projects. I want to continue to show support for our local

police and firefighters. I will ask for members to be on committees to suggest projects. I would also like to work with other camps on mutual projects. I also encourage anyone who is able to become a Guardian to contact Phil (it will make his day).

We have a great camp, my thanks to all of you for making it that way.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting

February 6, 2018 - 7 PM

Walking S Steakhouse

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

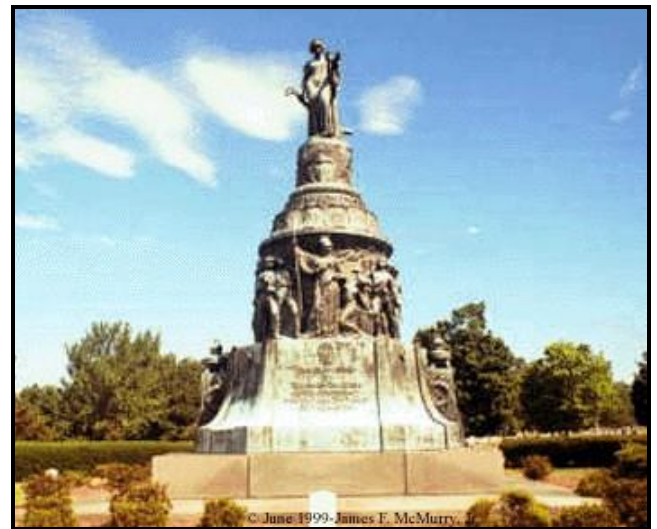


Camp Adjutant Rickie Gipson presents our Financial Report and minutes from the last meeting.



Thank you to Commander Sam Mercer and the Gen. John Gregg Camp #958 for organizing another wonderful Hero's Day Celebration this year.

"The Confederate soldier was zealously devoted to the South; they remained the embodiment of all that was good and noble in the Old South. Despite an ever-changing society they remained Southern Heroes."



Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery

This monument is the largest and most imposing one in Arlington Cemetery. It was commissioned, paid for, and has always been maintained by the United Daughters



of the Confederacy. Until this very day the U.S. Federal Government, regrettably and I believe disgracefully, refuses to maintain it. The United Daughters must raise the funds to maintain and preserve its beauty. Even the tour buses that traverse the cemetery do not stop to look at it as they do before other cemetery monuments. Yet surrounding it are the graves of over 450 Confederate soldiers, Southern civilians and some of their wives. Some of these soldiers and civilians who rest here took the oath of allegiance to the United States after the war. And some of them later even served in the United States Armed Forces.



The Confederate Soldier

By: Joseph Jones, M.D.

The Confederate soldiers who engaged in the struggle for constitutional liberty and the right of self-government were neither rebels nor traitors; they were true and brave men, who devoted their fortunes and their lives to the mothers who bore them, and their precious blood watered the hills, valleys and plains of their native States, and their bodies sleep in unknown graves, where they shall rest until the last great trumpet shall summon all alike, the conquered and the conqueror.

It has been well said that no country ever produced braver or more intelligent and chivalric soldiers or more industrious, law-abiding and honorable citizens, than were the soldiers who surrendered with the Confederate flag. The earth has never been watered by nobler or richer blood than that shed by those who fell beneath its folds.

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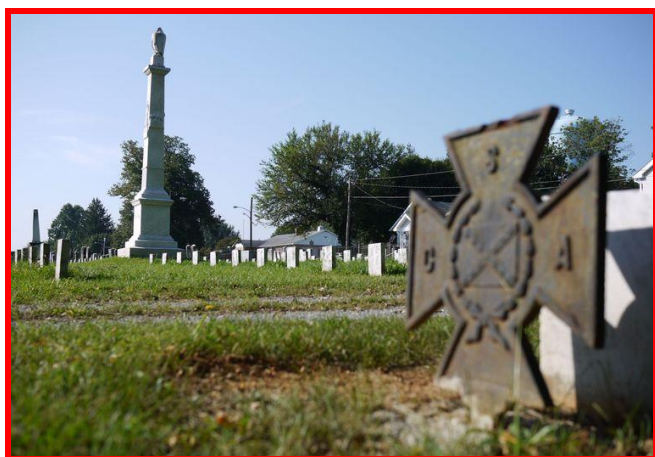
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The Guardian Program

Grave Etiquette:

When ever you first approach a stone, think of one, what the Veteran would have wanted; two, the spirit and emotions behind the wife or immediate family that placed the stone; and/or; three, the organization, UCV, UDC or SCV that may have marked the Veteran in the absence of a family. The stone represents the Veteran and/or the people that placed it. On a personal level, consider that stone as sort of sacred, definitely historical, and actually a part of the Vet. To restore a stone is to remember and honor the veteran, to discard a stone no matter what condition it's in, is to discard a part of the veteran and his honor or discard his history. Another thought to keep in mind is that materials are affected by time, acid rain, maintenance crews and vandalism, and will deteriorate in time. As with us, the material is "dust to dust, ashes to ashes". Nothing is permanent.

Mortal Sins:

1. Disposing of "OLD" or "ILLEGIBLE" stones; Never, never. Please! Don't point fingers on this one; it's done by a few so called preservation experts, monument companies, SCV, UDC groups and even family descendants.
2. Discarding broken stones or any small pieces, in many cases, it should be restored, not replaced. A professional can usually repair it to almost normal.
3. Pressure Cleaning: with sand or water. If seen, please shoot them on sight! This should never be done under any condition.
4. Strong chemicals: Bleach, ammonia, acetone or industrial soap for cleaning stones should never be used.

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	40
Tommy Mitchell	Full	5
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

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.



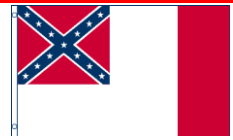
PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG:

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 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."

"Fate is the course when men fail to act."



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



Stay the Course

By: Larry Harper
Camp Chaplain



At many points in time we southerners see that as Christians we can compare our existence as free Americans to our northern states, such as Maryland. As Gen. Robert E. Lee wrote; "We have seen with profound indignation our sister state: "Maryland reduced to a conquered province as she has been denied of all rights under the pretense of supporting the constitution. Your citizens have been arrested and imprisoned upon no charge and contrary to all law the government of your chief city has been usurped by armed strangers; your legislature has been dissolved by unlawful arrest of its members. This army will respect your choice." Gen. Lee chose not to hate but to love, bless, do well, and pray. As we urge the nation to stay the course and love their forefathers in word and deed so those who don't think in terms of the Lord's love might have their eyes opened. The Confederate States of America was birthed in the spirit of the American Revolution with a vision of freedom, liberty, and justice. One of the same complaints

was no taxation without representation: the Morrill Tariff imposed a 47.5 cent tax on 114 million dollar cotton crop of 1860, to fill the empty government coffers that President Lincoln found when he was elected to office. Did we really loose the war? After being burnt out, raped and pillaged, the South not only bound up its wounds, but rebuilt, re-planted, no matter what the North continued to steal. The war was over and still our forefathers continued to suffer under the abuses placed on them. Through all this their faith sustained them, and they restored this land to its original beauty in the name of God. Brothers, threats scare only nonbelievers let all of us "Stay the Course." Amen



Facts about the Month of February

From: Wikipedia.org

February is the second month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. It is the shortest month of the year as it is the only month to have a length of less than 30 days. The month has 28 days in common years or 29 days in leap years, with the quadrennial 29th day being called the "leap day."

Having only 28 days in common years, February is the only month of the year that can pass without a single full moon.

Observances in February include: Ash Wednesday/Lent, Valentine's Day

President's Day, Groundhog Day, National Tater Tot Day, and National Frog Legs Day.



Commander Phil Davis (Rt.) swears in new officers (standing L to Rt.) Eugene Brown-1st. Lt. Commander, Rick "Bear" Umfleet-surgeon, Milt Ojeman-Commander, Ron Jones-Quartermaster, and Don Loyd-Deputy Adjutant.



At our January meeting Commander Phil Davis (Rt.) passes the Commander's Medal to our incoming Camp Commander Milt Ojeman (L). It is an Upshur Co. Patriots tradition to pass forward the same Commander's medal that our first Commander wore.



Historical Dates in February

February 1 1861 Texas secedes from the Union.

February 8-9, 1861 The Confederate States of America are formed.

February 18, 1861 Jefferson Davis is appointed President of the Confederacy.

February 6, 1862 the Surrender of Fort Henry, Tn.

February 8, 1862 the Battle of Roanoke Island, N.C.

February 16, 1862 the Surrender of Fort Donelson, Tn.

February 9, 1864 109 Union officers made their escape from the notorious Libby Prison.

February 14-20, 1864 Union capture and occupation of Meridian, Ms.

February 17, 1864 The CSS *H.L. Hunley*, a seven-man submergible craft, attacked the USS *Houstonic* outside of Charleston, South Carolina.

February 17, 1865 Sherman's Army captures Columbia, South Carolina.

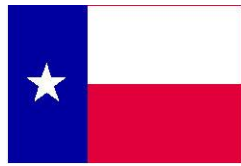
February 22, 1865 Wilmington, NC, falls to Union troops, closing the last important southern port on the east coast.



Founding member Bill Starnes speaks at our January meeting.

The Secession of Texas 1861

From: history.com



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.

However, events swayed many Texans to the secessionist cause. John Brown's raid on the federal armory at Harper's Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), in October 1859 had raised the specter of a major slave insurrection, and the ascendant Republican Party made many Texans uneasy about continuing in the Union. After Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency in November 1860, pressure mounted on Houston to call a convention so that Texas could consider secession. He did so reluctantly in January 1861, and sat in silence on February 1 as the convention voted overwhelmingly in favor of secession. Houston grumbled that Texans were "stilling the voice of reason," and he predicted an "ignoble defeat" for the South. Houston refused to take an oath of

allegiance to the Confederacy and was replaced in March 1861 by his lieutenant governor.

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. Four more states; Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas waited until the formal start of the Civil War, with the April 1861 firing on Fort Sumter at Charleston, South Carolina, before deciding to leave the Union. The remaining slave states Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri never mustered the necessary majority for secession.



Discipline in the Civil War

From: civilwar.com

Discipline in the military was very strict. The Provost Marshal of the army was responsible for enforcing military rules, but regimental commanders also had the authority to dole out punishments for minor offenses. Petty offenses such as shirking camp duty or not keeping equipment in good order were usually treated with extra duties such as digging latrines, chopping wood, or standing extra hours on guard duty. Insubordination, thievery, cowardice, or other offenses were more serious and the guilty party was usually subjected to embarrassing punishments such as carrying a log, standing on a barrel, or wearing a placard

History has shown that governments, if given the chance, will not hesitate to take away citizens' rights, often citing they are doing it "for the common good." History has

also shown the propensity of government to expand control if left unchecked. By enumerating certain rights, without excluding unlisted rights, Mason, Madison, Jefferson, and others sought to limit government and protect natural rights that they believed were granted by God. On their face, it is obvious that the amendments apply to actions by the federal government, not to actions by the states.



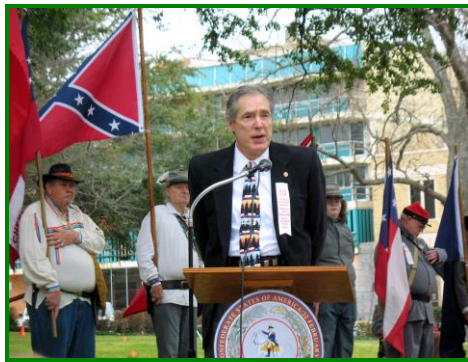
The monument to General John Gregg was the location of this year's Confederate Hero's Day celebration.

This monument is located on the Gregg County Courthouse lawn in Longview, Texas.

Photos from Confederate Hero's Day

January 20, 2018

Photos by: D. Palmer



Milt Ojeman, Commander, Upshur Co. Patriots



**Laying of a wreath at the
Gen. John Gregg Monument**



**Terrell Lane Pearson,
Chaplain, John Gregg Camp**



Rev. Don Majors



John Hanisee reads the "Charge"



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



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.



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.

Immigrants, Not Americans, Must Adapt

From: Confederateamericanpride.com

I am tired of this nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their culture. Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Americans. However, the dust from the attacks had barely settled when the "politically correct" crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others.

As Americans, we have our own culture, our own society, our own language and our own lifestyle. This culture has been developed over centuries of struggles, trials, and victories by millions of men and women who have sought freedom.

If you wish to become part of our society, learn the language! "In God We Trust" is our national motto. This is not some Christian, right wing, political slogan. We adopted this motto because Christian men and women, on Christian principles, founded this nation.

We are happy with our culture and have no desire to change, and we really don't care how you did things where you came from.

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