

PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL
UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS CAMP #2109
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
GILMER, TEXAS

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FEBRUARY 2019

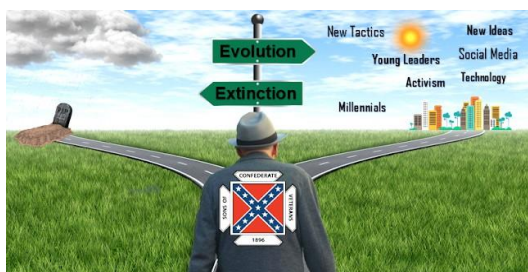


Best Newsletter Award 2nd Place

***Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
Camps Over 50 Members June 2017 Reunion***

Best Newsletter Award 1st Place

***Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
Camps Over 50 Members June 2016 Reunion***



SONS OF CONFEDERATE
VETERANS: AT A
CROSSROADS

Excerpts from: The Blockade

Since its founding the SCV has done incredible work preserving Confederate Heritage from erecting and maintaining monuments, to tending veteran's graves, to genealogy, to preservation of war relics. The Sons of Confederate Veterans has been the vanguard in the fight to defend Southern Heritage.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is becoming a visibly older organization. Visit any camp in any State and odds are you will find a room full of many near or beyond

retirement age. It's no secret that the divide between the generations is massive. Boomers, Generation-X, and Millennials are involved in a culture war of epic proportions, with majority of millennials appearing to be spoiled, entitled, selfish, brats. Believe it or not, they're not all bad. There are lots of young Southern millennials who are disgusted with what is happening across the South and have never heard of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Millennials have motivation, ambition, and energy that the Sons of Confederate Veterans are lacking terribly. Millennials can take the fight to the liberal enemy in ways a 70 year old man can't and they've got the bravado to do it.

Editor's note:

Perhaps it is time that we, the Protectors of Southern Heritage, embrace recruitment more and look to a younger generation to move forward.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting

February 5, 2019 – 6:30 PM
Walking S Steakhouse

CAMP LEADERSHIP **UPSHUR COUNTY PATRIOTS CAMP #2109**

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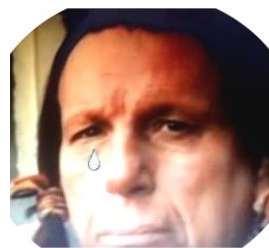
Phil Davis, Guardian Program Chairman (R) presents Certificates to his son Larry for his Guardianship of the Hunley Crew graves.

THE GUARDIAN

By: Phil Davis

Do you remember the TV commercial where an Indian was sitting on his horse looking over this great land of ours? If you recall as he was looking out over our land a tear was streaming down his cheek. This tear showed his feelings for our land and how we have desecrated it and failed to take care of God's creation.

In this day and time, I strongly feel that our Confederate ancestors must feel this way. Our flags are banned, our monuments are being removed and anything Confederate or Southern is banished from sight.



Even while all of this is happening there is still something we as individuals can do. We can honor and protect the final resting places of these Confederate Heroes. We, as members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, have a sworn obligation to Honor and protect these Final Resting Places. One way is to get involved in the Texas Division Guardian Program. The Confederate Hero you select does not have to be your

relative. But remember, all Confederate Soldiers are your Brothers.

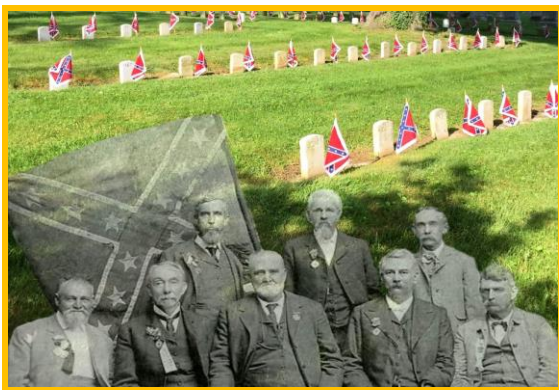
It is just like the Country Song, "Who's gonna fill their shoes?" You must!

Please take a stand and do your part, the South depends on you!

I am proud to announce that Compatriot James "Raven" Baker has joined the ranks of Guardian Pro Tem for two soldiers in the Kilgore City Cemetery. Congratulations Compatriot Baker on stepping up to help fulfill our "Charge".

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 sworn duty to your Confederate Forebears. As always, I leave you with this question-

Are you a Guardian? If not, why not?



"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"



The Sons of Confederate Veterans is a non-profit, heritage organization whose mission is to preserve the history and legacy of Confederate veterans. It is not associated with any anti-government or hate groups. Membership is open to any male descendent of a Confederate veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces.



UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS **GUARDIANS**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian</u> <u>Status</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	29
Kim Duffey	Full	3
Jamie Eitson	Full/GPT	8
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	Full/GPT	18
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2
Mitch Tyson	Full	3
Raven Baker	GPT	2

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.

***"Fate is the course when men
Fail to act."***



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."**



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



A LITTLE MORNING MUSIC

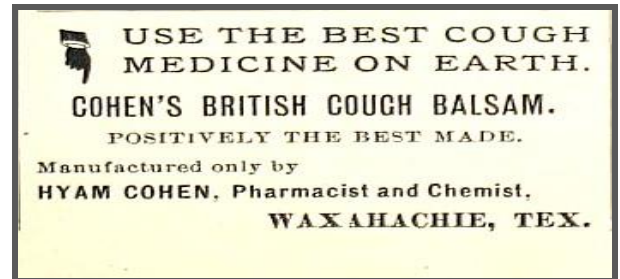
From: skywriting.net

I walked out on my porch this morning to the wonderful sight of the sun rising over the mountains. I smiled as its golden beams lit up the clear, blue sky. My light jacket was unbuttoned and the morning breeze felt warm and comforting. The trees were still bare of any buds, but I could feel a sense of the coming Spring on this February day. I breathed in the fresh air and thanked God for this glorious day to be alive. I thought that only one thing was missing that would make this a perfect moment: a little morning music.

Then suddenly I heard it. God had granted my wish. The morning music had arrived. It was the first birdsongs of the year. After the cold and silent mornings of Winter nothing could have sounded sweeter. The music was coming from every direction. The birds were singing for love, for joy, and for God. They were calling on Spring to hurry along and life to return to this world once more. I stood still and just listened. I could feel my own soul awakening to Heaven's joy and my own heart filling with God's love. It truly was a perfect moment.

Sometimes we all go through the harshness of winter in our lives. Sometimes we all feel cold, dead, and quiet inside. Sometimes we all wonder where the music has gone. It is then, however, that we need to tell the little bird in our souls to sing once again. It is then that we need to ask God to fill us with His love and His music. It is then that we need to awaken our inner spring and share its life and warmth with the world.

I hope that you always take the time to hear the birds singing in the trees and the bird singing in your soul. I hope that you fill your days with songs of joy, acts of love, and thoughts of God. I hope that you start everyday of your life here with a little morning music and carry its Heavenly melody in your heart all day long.



From: The Confederate Veteran Magazine
February 1895



Civil War Women 1860-1865



HISTORICAL DATES IN FEBRUARY

February 1, 1861 - Texas adopts an Ordinance of Secession and schedules a referendum for February 23.

February 4, 1861 - Delegates from the seceded states meet to establish the Confederate government.

February 9, 1861 - Jefferson Davis elected provisional Confederate President.

February 16, 1861 - Texas state troops seize the U.S. Arsenal at San Antonio.

February 19, 1861 - Louisiana state troops seize the U.S. paymaster's office in New Orleans.

February 7-8, 1862 - Battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina.

February 14, 1862 - Union ironclad gunboats attack Fort Donelson, Tennessee.

February 20-21, 1862 - Battle of Val Verde, New Mexico Territory.

February 23, 1862 - Federal troops occupy Fayetteville, Arkansas.

February 25, 1862 - Federal troops occupy Nashville, Tennessee.

February 3, 1863 - Union General William T. Sherman begins the Meridian Campaign in Mississippi.

February 5-7, 1863 - The Skirmish at Olive Branch Church, Virginia.

February 13, 1863 - Skirmish near Washington, North Carolina.

February 15, 1863 - Skirmish at Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

February 17, 1864 - Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley sinks the USS Housatonic.

February 20, 1864 - Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond), Florida.

February 22, 1864 - Engagement at Okolona, Mississippi.

February 28, 1864 - Kilpatrick's Raid on Richmond begins.

February 1, 1865 - Sherman's march through the Carolinas in "full swing".

February 17, 1865 - Columbia South Carolina burned.



THE BATTLE OF VAL VERDE, N.M.

From: history.com

On February 20, 1862, at the Battle of Val Verde, Confederate troops under General Henry Hopkins Sibley attack Union troops commanded by Colonel Edward R. S. Canby near Fort Craig in New Mexico Territory. The first major engagement of the Civil War in the far West, the battle produced heavy casualties but no decisive result.

This action was part of the broader movement by the Confederates to capture

New Mexico and other parts of the West, and thereby secure territory that the Rebels thought was rightfully theirs but had been denied them by political compromises made before the Civil War. Furthermore, the cash-strapped Confederacy could use Western mines to fill its treasury. From San Antonio, the Rebels moved into southern New Mexico (which included Arizona) and captured the towns of Mesilla and Tucson. Sibley, with 3,000 troops, now moved north against the Federal stronghold at Fort Craig on the Rio Grande.

At Fort Craig, Canby was determined to make the Confederates lay siege to the post. The Rebels, Canby reasoned, could not wait long before running low on supplies. He knew that Sibley did not possess sufficiently heavy artillery to attack the fort. When Sibley arrived near Fort Craig on February 15, he ordered his men to swing east of the fort, cross the Rio Grande, and capture the Val Verde fords of the Rio Grande. He hoped to cut off Canby's communication and force the Yankees out into the open.

At the fords, five miles north of Fort Craig, a Union detachment attacked part of the Confederate force. They pinned the Texans in a ravine and were on the verge of routing the Rebels when more of Sibley's men arrived and turned the tide. Sibley's second in command, Colonel Tom Green, filling in for an ill Sibley, made a bold counterattack against the Union left flank. The Yankees

fell back in retreat, and headed back to Fort Craig.

The Union suffered 68 killed, 160 wounded, and 35 missing out of 3,100 engaged. The Confederates suffered 31 killed, 154 wounded, and 1 missing out of 2,600 troops. It was a bloody but indecisive battle. Sibley's men continued up the Rio Grande. Within a few weeks, they captured Albuquerque and Santa Fe before they were stopped at the Battle of Glorieta Pass on March 28.

H.L. HUNLEY SINKS THE USS HOUSATONIC.



On the clear night of February 17, 1864, John Crosby stood on the deck of USS Housatonic a little less than six miles and three years removed from the launching point of the Civil War. The Housatonic patrolled the South Carolina waters as part of the Union naval blockade that was slowly strangling the Confederacy.

As Crosby gazed out at the placid harbor around 8:45 p.m., Housatonic's officer of

the deck suddenly saw something shatter the water's glassy surface only 100 yards away on the starboard side. At first, Crosby thought it could be a surfacing porpoise or perhaps a log. But as the murky shadow rippled closer to the warship, the Navy officer sounded the alarm as he realized that the strange object closing in on Housatonic was actually a cutting-edge naval weapon—a submarine.

Union ships had been on alert for undersea vessels lurking in Charleston Harbor. Only four months before, USS New Ironsides had been partially damaged in an attack by the semi-submersible CSS David, and this moonlit winter night offered perfect conditions for operating the approaching submarine, H.L. Hunley.

As all hands raced to their stations on Housatonic, seven Confederate sailors inside the primitive submarine turned a hand crank that powered the propeller as another man steered toward the 1,240-ton sloop-of-war. Even if they hadn't been bearing down on a mighty warship, the eight men were already undertaking a dangerous mission simply by being inside the submarine that had already claimed the lives of 13 men, including its inventor, during training exercises.

The undersea vessel had been privately constructed in Mobile, Alabama, based on the plans of marine engineer Horace Lawson Hunley. It was constructed out of a

40-foot-long cylindrical iron steam boiler with a tapered bow and stern. After successful tests on the Mobile River, the submarine was transported to Charleston in August 1863 amid hopes by the Confederate navy that it could be a secret weapon in breaking the Union blockade.

Once again, the submarine was pulled to the surface, and even though he knew its tragic history, Lieutenant George Dixon agreed to take command of the vessel in November 1863 and raised a crew of courageous volunteers. As Dixon led his men on the daring attack on Housatonic, he carried with him his good luck charm, a bent gold coin that had saved his life by slowing a bullet that wounded him two years before at the Battle of Shiloh.

Although Confederate P.G.T. Beauregard had instructed Dixon to remain on the surface during any attacks, given Hunley's previous accidents, most of the submarine still remained below the water line as it moved so close to Housatonic that the warship's 12 cannons were useless. The captain and crew fired their rifles and shotguns in a futile attempt to halt the approaching vessel, but the bullets merely bounced off Hunley's armor as a spar torpedo mounted at the end of a 16-foot rod that protruded from the submarine's bow struck the warship.

The spar tore into Housatonic's starboard quarter near its powder magazine, and the

rebel torpedo laden with 135 pounds of gunpowder exploded. Housatonic took on water immediately, and within minutes it was a loss, the first warship to have ever been sunk by a submarine.

Most of Housatonic's 155 crewmembers saved themselves by launching lifeboats or climbing the rigging, which remained above the harbor's shallow 27-foot depth in time for rescue boats from a nearby Union warship to arrive. Five Union sailors died, but the outcome was even more devastating for the Confederacy as Hunley never returned to port.

HUNLEY GUARDIAN



The graves of the Hunley Crew
Magnolia Cemetery Charleston, S.C.



The Guardian over the Brave
Crew of the Hunley is Compatriot
Larry Davis of the

Horry Rough & Readys Camp #1026

Larry is the son of our own Phil Davis.

Thank you, for your service and Dedication.

CONFEDERATE DIVERSITY MONTH

From: The SCV Telegraph
News for SCV members



For several years, the month of February has been proclaimed Black History Month in this country. SCV camps and divisions have tried to educate the media in local arenas about the diversity of the Confederate Veterans, with little to no success.

I am proclaiming the month of February as Confederate Diversity Month. We, as members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, should do everything in our power to spread the word of diversity in the ranks of the Confederate Forces. Please visit makedixiegreatagain.com, where Donnie Kennedy and I discuss the vast diversity of the Confederacy.

During the month of February, we will be showing three ten-minute segments that can be used to forward this truth. Feel free to share and advance this information to those that need it most.....the media and uneducated.

Paul Gramling, Jr.
Commander-In-Chief
Sons of Confederate
Veterans



ANOTHER ROAD TRIP STORY

By: Eddie Pricer



The saga continues, the intrepid explorers (Phil & Eddie) ventured out to place flags on the graves of Confederate Soldiers in Oak Hill and Pleasant Hill Cemeteries in Upshur County. We came to the conclusion that 15 gravesites at Oak Hill and 16 gravesites at Pleasant Hill does not equal 29 flags and that we should return to school and receive remedial training in mathematics.

After a few solemn words and a hearty laugh, we determined to make a trip to central Texas on Wednesday the 16th of January. After great planning, making sure that we had more flags than needed, we proceeded down the highway of life.

Our first stop was at Ash Cemetery in Athens, Texas. Yes, I had to make a U-turn, I missed the Cemetery. You would think that the State could afford to put a sign up on both sides of the divided highway, or at least in the center median. We successfully placed flags and paid homage to each soldier, including one of George Linton's ancestors.

We continued our journey, admiring the countryside and all of the new lakes (flooded pastures), until we arrived at our next destination. We parked at the front of the HEB store, obtained a basket, went inside and stocked up on Frenches Mustard in the glass jar. It is sad that a person has to



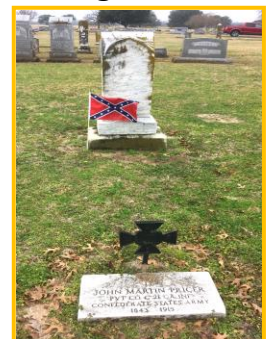
travel from East Texas all the way to Corsicana, just to get mustard in a glass jar. Did I mention that neither Phil nor I like mustard in squirt bottles, must be something about the water that collects on top that you never forget to mix back in before squirting the mustard on your bread, disgusting! At least the employees at the store remembered us from previous trips, they don't even act surprised at the purchase, they just get a good laugh.

The next stop was at the Memorial for the Battle Creek Burial Ground where 18 Texans are buried after failing to heed a warning from the local Kickapoo Tribe not to hunt their buffalo. Brigade Commander Sam Mercer places a Texas flag at the Memorial several times a year. It's amazing how much history is just off the road if you only take the time to look.



my Great-Great Grandfathers and a Great-Great Uncle. We had a pleasant visit with the cemetery caretaker who thanked us for remembering. After a few

Our next stop was the Wilson Valley Cemetery in Little River / Academy Texas, just east of Temple. There we placed more flags on Confederate graves including one of



words of remembrance, we headed on our way again.

After a sumptuous lunch of chicken nuggets and waffle fries in Temple, we headed to the house where my father was born. Of course, it was torn down about two years ago, however it was only three blocks from where we dined and I thought Phil might enjoy looking at the vacant lot. He was impressed. After a quick trip around town to refresh our memory of the



location where this year's reunion will be held, we started back home.

We were making good time and enjoying the trip

until just outside of the City of Hubbard, where we were ambushed by a strategically placed nail strip. After incurring 14 wounds, to my right front tire, we limped home, stopping occasionally for air. Thank goodness for tire insurance, that was one expensive tire.

The trip was once again a great experience and we had the distinct pleasure of honoring good God fearing men.

TO VIEW SOME CONFEDERATE HISTORY

Click on the Link Below

Gettysburg Civil War Veterans
Film Broadcast 1938

<https://youtu.be/ZDKoLH2Rqlw?list=PLO7bQPABH-JSqsekFZ2IfDaMNGg3x8vcy>

CONFEDERATE HEROES DAY JANUARY 19, 2019

A Texas State Holliday

On a cold and blustery Saturday, members, friends, family, and guests of the SCV 5th Brigade gathered on the Gregg County Courthouse Lawn at the Gen. John Gregg Statue.



Sam Mercer, 5th Brigade Commander



BURIAL RITUAL FOR VETERANS

*From: The Confederate Veteran Magazine
February 1895*

Comrades generally in Tennessee are so well pleased with the Ritual in use by them that it is submitted in the faith that Veterans in other States may be pleased to adopt it in whole or in part. Because of discomfort in winter weather, it is suggested that the principle part be performed at the residence or church of the deceased.

At the hour and place appointed by the Bivouac of which the deceased was a member will meet. All members are to be supplied with a badge of crape and evergreen to be worn. The Bivouac will pass in procession from the place of meeting to the place of interment.

On arriving there, the members will open ranks, stand uncovered, with hat in left hand, and with the right hand raised as if making a military salute while the cortege will pass between the two lines after which the members will reform in reverse order. After the performance of such religious services as desired and before closing of the grave, members will silently approach as near the grave as convenient, the President at the head, the Chaplain at the foot, all uncovered. The President will read the following address:

Comrades: We are here to pay the last tribute of friendship in the presence of the honored dead.

Response by Comrades: Our honored dead.

Commander: We are here to commit to the grave the body of a comrade whose life was drawn very close to our lives by a bond of love which was formed amidst common perils and hardships, and welded in the fires of battle.

Response: The fires of battle.

Commander: Not in the pomp and circumstance of war, not with musket and shot and roll of drum, do we bury our comrade. The roar of the cannon and the din of the conflict are hushed, and in this time of solemn peace we lay the citizen-soldier in his last resting place - an honorable grave.

Response: An honorable grave.

Commander: He was a veteran Confederate soldier, true and tried. Freely and cheerfully he risked his life in defense of his home and his people; bravely and grandly he bore himself amidst all the dangers and privations of an unequal contest. He answered to the last roll call that summoned him to duty as a soldier, and when he yielded to the arbitrament of war, it was not as a conquered slave, but as a hero - one of the gallant spirits who have immortalized the Southern Arms. He fought the good fight, and has left a record of which we, his surviving comrades, are proud, and which is a heritage of glory to his family and their descendants for all time to come.

Response: A glorious heritage!

Commander: With equal courage and fortitude and patience our comrade accepted the fortune of peace, made arduous by losses and reproaches, and as a citizen of a reunited country, true to his innate manhood, he evinced a loyalty which, making no apology for the past, was

true in every quality of patriotism and which none can question without aspersion.

Response: He was tried and true.

Commander: Rest, soldier, rest! Impartial history will vindicate thy motives and write thy deeds illustrious. Comrade and friend, we give thy body to the dust and command thy spirit to God.

Response: Rest, soldier, rest!

Chaplain shall pray some short prayer suited to the occasion. Each comrade deposits a twig in the grave.

UPSHUR COUNTY COURT RECORDS

On the whole Upshur County people were law-abiding citizens, from 1846-1855 every Grand Jury indicted several people for playing cards where money was bet. In April 1855 there were 17 indictments for "Not Repairing Public Roads". Some of the persons were very prominent citizens. In the early days everybody was supposed to give from 5 to 7 days per year free labor on the roads or hire somebody to work in their place.

1880-1910 about half of indictments were for carrying a pistol, there were many cases of selling whiskey on Sunday.

1867, they called many men for jury service but none could serve on the jury because they would not take the oath that they had not served nor taken part in the Civil War.

1880, the Commissioners Court gave permission for the Cotton Belt Railway to come thru Gilmer with the understanding it must stay 1 mile from the courthouse.

1883, the Upshur County jury returned a verdict of death by hanging against a man. The county paid W.A. Roberts \$64 to build a gallows and everything was set up and ready for the hanging. Later the man went completely crazy, was tried for insanity and sent to Terrell.

1890 - 1912 when a person was put in jail or was fined and could not pay it; they put him on a chain gang, where he was allowed 50 cents a day to work off his fine.

THE VALUE OF CONFEDERATE CURRENCY

Confederate Veteran Magazine February 1900



Gold compared with Confederacy currency from 1861-1865:

"It was par with gold until May 1861; then to October it was \$1.10, where it advanced in October, November, and December respectively to \$1.12, \$1.13 and \$1.20.

In January, 1862 it was \$1.20, February \$1.30 advancing for 6 months to \$1.50. In September and October it was \$2.00; November and December \$2.50.

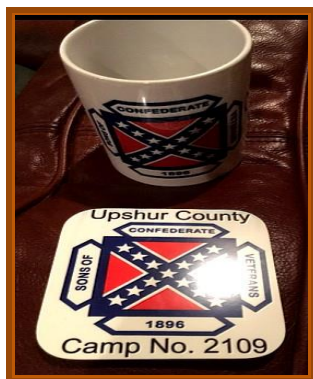
For 1863 it rose to: March \$4.00, June \$6.00, November \$15.00 and December \$20.00.

During 1864: January \$21.00, June \$18.00, September \$25.00 and December \$35.00.

In 1865: January \$50.00, March \$60.00, and April \$100.00.



Coffee Mugs and Coasters
Caps and Flags are available for a donation
to our Camp fund. Contact Eddie Pricer or
any Camp Officer.



**SUPPORT THE UPSHUR
COUNTY MUSEUM**



We thank Bill Starnes
And the Starnes Family
for providing a meeting
Place for the
Upshur Co. Patriots



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



**Comments or suggestions should be made
to: David Palmer, Editor
david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org**