



PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL

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

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www.upshurpatriots.org

FEBRUARY 2020

NEXT MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2020

Confederate Heroes Day was celebrated on January 18, 2020 at the Gregg County Courthouse grounds. The event was held beside the Monument of General John Gregg. The celebration is sponsored each year by the Gen. John Gregg Camp #958.



Heroes Day is a Texas State holiday. Confederate Heroes Day has been a state holiday since 1973, when Lawmakers voted to consolidate two state holidays: General Robert E. Lee's birthday on Jan. 19 and the June 3 birthday of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. Texas is one of nine states, along with South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Virginia, Tennessee and Louisiana that have holidays remembering Confederate soldiers.



This photo from Longview News Journal

**Upcoming Events may be found on the
Calendar at:**

www.upshurpatriots.org

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PATRIOTS CAMP #2109

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THE GUARDIAN

From an article by Katy Waldman

Frank Earnest, an SCV member and Vietnam Veteran, chokes up at Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery. He's describing his ritual of placing a fresh Confederate Flag on the grave of his ancestor, Capt. Eusebius Fowlkes. Fowlkes' rode alongside Col. J.E.B. Stuart, the "Knight of the Golden Spurs," before being killed in the Battle of Seven Pines on May 31, 1862. Earnest takes pride in the fact that his forefather fought on horseback. His people were horse breeders so he joined the Calvary.

Fowlkes implored his loved ones to care for his gravesite upon his demise, but over time they abandoned that charge. It took a little more than a century for Frank Earnest to realize his ancestor's wishes. In 1978 he erected a memorial to Fowlkes and adorned it with the banner of the Republic.

Through the graveyard, a burial ground that dates to 1847 and houses the bodies of 22 Confederate Generals, thousands of Confederate Soldiers and a great granite pyramid, 90 feet high, dedicated to the troops in gray in 1869.

Do we not owe our Ancestors the same respect and diligence in caring for their final resting places? Three graveside visits per year is not too much to ask for these brave men who fought for our homeland.

Please consider becoming a Guardian

Contact Program Chairman Phil Davis for information. userphill97@aol.com



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 Lee 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
Gregg Gipe	GPT	3

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.



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.



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 LAMP FOR MY FEET GOD IS CLOSE

From: christianmessages.net

“The Lord is near to all who call on him”

Psalm 145:18a

God is not as far away as the furthest star. He’s as close as your next heartbeat. He’s right there with you every moment. The Bible says in Acts 17:27, “God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us”.

God is never too busy for you. That’s how close he is. That’s the kind of love that he has. Psalm 145:18 says, “The Lord is near to all who call on him.” Every time you call, God is near. He thinks about you a lot more than you think about him. He thought about you before you were born. He thinks about you every moment of every day. The truth is that too many times, we get too busy for God. But he never gets too busy for us.

God loves to meet your needs. He doesn’t do it begrudgingly. He loves it! Mathew 7:11 says, “If you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to

those who ask him!" You can enjoy the fact that God enjoys giving good gifts to you. God is sympathetic to your hurts. Some of you are going through something tough this week, and you need this verse: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). God is close to you, and he understands. Turn to him.



HISTORICAL DATES IN FEBRUARY

February 1, 1861-Texas declares it has seceded from the Union, joining a chorus of Southern States in defiance of the north.

February 8, 1861-State troops of Arkansas take the official state arsenal.

February 9, 1861-the seceded Southern states form the Confederation appointing former Federal army officer Jefferson Davis of Kentucky as their President.

February 6, 1862-the Battle of Fort Henry, Tennessee.

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

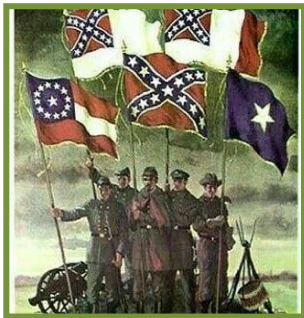
February 11-16, 1862- Siege of Fort Donelson, Tennessee.

February 18, 1861-The Confederate States of America reveal their national anthem, "Dixie".

February 20, 1864-Confederate Victory at Olustee.

February 22, 1864-Confederate Victory at Okolona.

February 22-27, 1864-Confederate Victory at Dalton I.



Heritage is a part of a culture, and can usually reflect the people itself, their beliefs, morals, and ways of thinking, acting and viewing the world.

By preserving and keeping one's heritage, one is also creating a legacy for future generations, to inherit, a pillar for them to base their views on the world.

It is up to each person to decide if are we to preserve heritages, which parts, if not all, and how to pass them to future generations.

Still, this legacy, other than giving the young ones a moral base, also is giving them an identity, which they might or not choose to change as they evolve.

Invite someone to one of our meetings or events. Place a phone call to a member that has become inactive. The future of our Camp depends on us.



"The Second
Amendment to our



Constitution is clear. The right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed upon" ...*Donald Trump*



TEXAS SECESSION FEBRUARY 1, 1861

Texas abandoned her separate national existence and consented to become one of the Confederate States to promote her welfare, insure domestic tranquility and secure more substantially the blessings of peace and liberty to her people. She was received into the confederacy with her own constitution, under the guarantee of the federal constitution and the compact of annexation, that she should enjoy these blessings.

The controlling majority of the Federal Government, under various pretenses and disguises, has so administered the same as to exclude the citizens of the Southern States for the avowed purpose of acquiring sufficient power in the common government to use it as a means of destroying the institutions of Texas.

"They have invaded Southern soil and murdered unoffending citizens, and through the press their leading men and a fanatical pulpit have bestowed praise upon the actors and assassins in these crimes, while the governors of several of their States have refused to deliver parties implicated and indicted for participation in such offences, upon the legal demands of the States aggrieved.

For these and other reasons, solemnly asserting that the federal constitution has been violated and virtually abrogated, seeing that the federal government is now passing under the control of our enemies to be diverted from the exalted objects of its



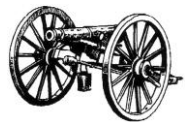
creation to those of oppression and wrong, and realizing that our own State can no longer look for protection, but to God and her own sons--We the delegates of the people of Texas, in Convention assembled, have passed an ordinance dissolving all political connection with the government of the United States of America and the people thereof and confidently appeal to the intelligence and patriotism of the freemen of Texas."



THE BATTLE OF OLUSTEE

From: battleofolustee.org

Early in the morning of February 20, 1864, Union General Seymour's army left Barbers' Plantation and moved westward towards Lake City, Florida. Because of the necessity of posting garrisons at Jacksonville and elsewhere, the Union force consisted of approximately 5,500 men. The small army was divided into three brigades of infantry, one brigade of mounted troops, and supporting artillery.



The Federals advanced in three columns along the Lake City and Jacksonville Road, which ran roughly parallel to the Florida Atlantic and Gulf-Central Railroad. The Federal cavalry was in the vanguard, followed by the slower-moving infantry. By

mid-day the Federals had reached Sanderson, where they briefly stopped for lunch. While at Sanderson, Seymour and his staff were warned by a defiant southern woman: "You will come back faster than you go." The Union officers were amused at her boldness.

In the early afternoon of February 20, a few miles west of Sanderson, the advance elements of the Union cavalry began skirmishing with a few southern horsemen that appeared to their front. This skirmishing was maintained for several miles, with the Federals driving the Confederates westward towards the railroad station at Olustee, about ten miles east of Lake City. Southern resistance intensified as the Federals neared Olustee.



The battle threatened to turn rapidly into a rout for the Federals. While Colonel Hawley was positioning the 7th New Hampshire, a wrong command was given and the unit fell into confusion. The 7th soon collapsed, with some men running to the rear and others milling about in a disorganized mob.

By late afternoon, General Seymour had realized the battle was lost. By dusk, the Union forces had begun their long retreat back to Jacksonville. Union casualties were 203 killed, 1,152 wounded, and 506 missing. Confederate losses were 93 killed, 847 wounded, and 6 missing.

Olustee ranks as the second bloodiest for the Union when comparing the casualties to the number of men engaged. Letters and diaries from the men involved indicate that

the battle was the equal of, if not worse than, the savage fighting a number of the veteran regiments had experienced in the campaigns in Virginia or the Western theater.



1st Lt Commander Gregg Gipe (L) and Camp Commander Eugene Brown (C) being sworn in by 5th Brigade Commander Eddie Pricer (R) at our January meeting.



Compatriot Frank Smith gave our January Program on the Manual of Arms.



FANNY H. GORDON

Some of the most remarkable Civil War women were the wives of officers who accompanied their husbands to battle. One example of such a wife was Fanny Gordon, the wife of Confederate General John Brown Gordon.

After the war, General Gordon wrote about the fact that "Mrs. Gordon" was with him throughout the entirety of the war, and he credited her for keeping him alive on more than one occasion.

On one occasion, when the Confederates were in retreat, General Gordon rode to the rear with his men where, to his horror, he found Mrs. Gordon trying to stop the retreat:

"I saw Mrs. Gordon ... under fire, her soul aflame with patriotic ardor, appealing to retreating Confederates to halt and form a new line to resist the Union advance. She was so transported by her patriotic passion that she took no notice of the whizzing shot and shell, and seemed wholly unconscious of her great peril."

"Mrs. Gordon," is just one example of brave Civil War women who did all they could to aid the side they supported in the war.



APPEALS COURT RULING

January 5, 2020

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a lawsuit filed against the University of Texas over the removal of Confederate statues from the institution's campus in 2017. According to a report from The Hill, the federal court upheld the district court ruling, which stated that the Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans "lacked proper standing to sue the university over the removal." The same

appeals court made a similar ruling on a lawsuit filed by the Sons of Confederate Veterans who attempted to force San Antonio to return a Confederate monument and two cannons to a park.

The University's president, Gregory L. Fenves, ordered that the statues of Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston and John Reagan be removed in 2017 following the violent white supremacist demonstration that took place in Charlottesville.



WHAT WOULD GENERAL LEE THINK

theguardian.com

"Virginia Democrats won an election. Gun owners are talking Civil War"

When Democrats won control of Virginia's state government for the first time in 26 years in November 2019, they pledged to pass a series of standard gun control laws, including universal background checks and bans on military-style "assault weapons" and high-capacity ammunition magazines. The agenda was no surprise: state Democrats had run for office on a platform backed by funding from national gun control groups.

So far, Ralph Northam, the state's Democratic governor, has said that plans to pass new gun violence prevention laws will move forward despite the public backlash. At least 125 counties, cities and towns across Virginia have passed some version of

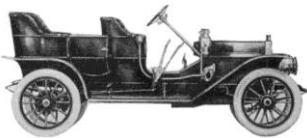
a second amendment sanctuary resolution since November, 2019.

Virginia Citizens Defense League President Philip Van Cleave, said that sanctuary resolutions have been spreading across the state even faster than his group's attempts to organize them. Talk of civil war is not only circulating online, or among anti-government groups coming into Virginia from elsewhere. Van Cleave said he had heard concerns about civil war in phone calls, emails, and in-person conversations at events across the state.

These are people who are concerned that this is where we're headed. Van Cleave said. "They're very much aware that this is a powder keg."

"The constitution shall never be construed...to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms."

Alexander Hamilton



GILMER'S FIRST AUTOMOBILE

As reported by Mr. J. M. Hays

Along about the spring of 1909, there were rumors that Judge Barney Briggs was losing his mind, as some said he had no more sense than to think that one of those horseless carriages could run on the streets of Gilmer. Some said he had already

ordered one; others that he was just talking about it.

One Sunday, as we came out of church, we heard a noise like a young cyclone! The sky didn't seem to be too overcast, but the noise persisted, and seemed to be coming nearer! We started for home with an uneasy feeling. The noise seemed to be coming from the west, so we looked back and, to our utter amazement, we saw a horseless vehicle careen around the corner in the deep sand at the Jim Mings place. It came toward town! Christine tried to hide behind us as there were no sidewalks to speak of, and the thing was wobbling from one side of the sand bed road to the other. To escape it, we ran upon the high board walk at Ray Brothers, and when it ran alongside, we saw it was Judge and Mrs. Briggs and the two Seagle girls, and they were holding on for dear life! There was a crowd of people running along on each side to see how the thing looked and how it navigated. When it would come down the street people would hunt cover, as they never knew which side it would be on when it reached them. Sometimes it would stall in the sand and spectators would have to push and pull it out. More often it took a span of mules to make it budge!

Of course there were no garages or filling stations in those days, and Mr. Will Bauman, who ran a blacksmith shop, repaired the best he could, but it was in the shop so much folks decided that the blacksmith had taken it over to pay the repair bills! But a milestone in Gilmer's history was that first automobile, to brave the sand beds of the city's streets.



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



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.



**SUPPORT THE UPSHUR
COUNTY MUSEUM**



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
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