



# Patriots Periodical

Upshur County Patriots, Camp #2109  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Gilmer, Texas

Vol. 2, No. 3

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March 2015

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Eddie "Spook" Pricer



Spring is approaching and I for one am looking forward to trees in bloom, fresh flowers, and warmer weather. February was a month where I actually had time to reflect about friends, family and time itself. Yes, I still attended and enjoyed several SCV events, gave my girlfriend Valentine's roses and even began spring cleaning, inside and out, but I took time to reflect.

That reflection took on greater importance with the loss of several friends over the last few months. People I admired and respected, people who had lent an ear and guided me when I was lost or strayed. I thought, how could I impact others the way they had impacted me? Then it struck me, the one constant in each and every one was their ability and willingness to give of their time, time to listen, time to sit and say absolutely nothing at all and time to pass on the wisdom of their years.

Over the last few months, several members of our SCV family have been plagued by illness and injury, some have needed a helping hand to undertake a task that was a bit bigger than they could accomplish on their own or they just needed someone to lend an ear to let them know that they matter. I have checked on some, lent a hand and an ear, but probably not as much as I should. I witnessed others doing likewise and I'm proud of them and that they are my friends.

We are all busy, we have different interests, and naturally we are closer to some of our friends than others. That being said, if you haven't given some time, do so. If you have, give a bit more. Take a little time for yourself to reflect on those that have most impacted your life, grab some of what made you respect them and pass it on to someone else.

It's amazing what a little bit of time can mean to someone in need. Our ancestors were quite good at utilizing time and sharing it as well. So, as someone smarter than me once said, "Stop and smell the roses," and while you're at it, share the bouquet.

P.S. When we are standing around (or sitting as I'm prone to do), jacking our jaws while determining whether or not we need to be wearing rubber boots, make sure that if you called or went to visit someone, you pass on who you saw and what you did with them. When you give that time or know of someone who needs our time, speak up so we know that we have not missed anyone, our ancestor would.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Alvin "Rex" McGee**, 94 CR 1140, Mount Pleasant, TX 75455, (903) 577-3233, email:

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(Pvt. David Justine McGee, Co. G, 51st Alabama  
(Partisan Rangers))



*Alvin "Rex" McGee takes the Oath of Enlistment, administered by Camp Commander Eddie Pricer*

“Governor, if I had foreseen the use those people designed to make of their victory, there would have been no surrender at Appomattox Courthouse; no sir, not by me. Had I foreseen these results of subjugation, I would have preferred to die at Appomattox with my brave men, my sword in this right hand.”

*General Robert E. Lee, August 1870 to Governor Stockdale of Texas*

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## The Guardian

*by Phil Davis*

My article last month was about how proud I am of this Camp's involvement in the Guardian Program. This month I wish to, in part, continue this train of thought. At our meeting in February, we swore in Compatriot Rex McGee. By the next Saturday he had given me three, completely and correctly filled out applications for the Guardian Program. He was approved as Guardian Pro Tem. I feel that this is why our Camp has been so successful in doing what is expected of us in fulfilling this aspect of the Charge. **Great work Patriots!**

Throughout the Texas Division applications for guardianship are on the increase, with more and more being received every week. As I write this article, I have four additional applications awaiting some missing information and/or pictures. The number of approved applications is up to 351. It's catching on all throughout the State.

When I am in attendance and speaking at other camps or at a Division meeting, I always ask for any who are in the Guardian Program to stand up and be recognized. I do not do this to embarrass anyone, but to show that more and more Compatriots have joined the ranks of Guardians. 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 SCV member should be a Guardian.

If we are to continue this fight against political correctness we must continue fulfilling the Charge.

As I always say, I believe with all my being in the Guardian Program and I hope that in some small way I can convince you of its importance in fulfilling “The Charge”. As always I leave you with this question-

**Are you a Guardian?**

**If not, why not?**



*Joe Reynolds receives his Full Guardian Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster and Certificate from Phil Davis and George Linton*



*Eddie Pricer receives his Guardian Certificate from Phil Davis and George Linton*





*Kim Duffy receives his Guardian Certificate from Phil Davis and George Linton*



*Phil Davis receives his Guardian Certificate from Eddie Pricer and George Linton*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 3rd, at 7:00 p.m.  
Walking S Steakhouse  
Hwy 852, Gilmer, Texas

March speaker will be Charles Hayes of the James P. Douglas Camp # 124 in Tyler. He is a Lifetime SCV member and author. His most recent book is Civil War Limericks. The topic has not been

decided as of this time. He will have copies of his books available for purchase at the meeting.

## CONFEDERATE SWASTIKA

If you seek a flag to compare to the swastika flag, look no farther than the thirteen-stripe United States flag.

Under that flag, hundreds of thousands of Africans were transported to slavery in the New World in the 1700s and 1800s.

*No Confederate-flagged ship ever made a slaving-run.*

Under that flag, non-combatant women and children and old men both black and white were robbed, raped, and slaughtered between 1861 and 1865 for the unpardonable sin of wanting a government of their own choosing rather than having a government crammed down their throats.

*No government was ever forced upon anyone under a Confederate flag's authority.*

Under that flag, an Army Order (General Order No. 12) was issued by Ulysses S. Grant 17 December 1862 forcibly removing all Jewish people from parts of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky.

*No Confederate authority ever practiced anti-Semitism. To the contrary: Jews served as both officers and enlisted men in Confederate service, and Judah Philip Benjamin of Louisiana served in the Confederate Cabinet during the entire War. (The first Jewish member of a United States Cabinet was Oscar Straus, Secretary of Commerce and Labor from 1906 to 1909.)*

Under that flag, thousands of men, women, and children were systematically hunted down and killed, and other thousands forcibly removed from

their homelands and relocated to less-hospitable environs in the 1800s for the shocking offense of being Native Americans/Indians.

*No such actions ever occurred under a Confederate flag. To the contrary: Many Native Americans/Indians served in Confederate forces, and the last Confederate general to cease fighting was Stand Watie, a Cherokee.*

Under that flag, thousands of American citizens were placed in concentration camps in the 1940s for the heinous crime of being of Japanese ancestry.

*The Confederate States of America never put anyone into a concentration camp based on his ethnicity.*

So, if you seek a flag to compare to the swastika flag, go for Old Glory.

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## UPSHURPATRIOTS.ORG

This month the following changes have been made to our web site: <http://www.upshurpatriots.org>

- I've added pictures of the Jefferson Mardi Gras Parade.
- The pictures of the Grave Dedication on the 28<sup>th</sup> will be added next month.
- Only one member sent me information on their ancestor. Please don't be left behind, send me the bio of your ancestor hero today! If you need help with the bio then by all means just ask.
- I've update the Chaplain's Page to include the comments from the Newsletter.

If you have any suggestions, recommendations or comments you can send me an email to: [Joe.Reynolds@upshurpatriots.org](mailto:Joe.Reynolds@upshurpatriots.org) and I promise to give it my full consideration.

## Our Charge...

**"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."**

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

## MONTHLY PROGRAM

Our program for the Month of February was on the Confederate Navy. A very informative, interesting, and enjoyable program presented by Mark Vogl, one of our Charter Members and a former Camp Commander for the Upshur County Patriots, Camp #2109.



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"Every man should endeavor to understand the meaning of subjugation before it is too late... It means the history of this heroic struggle will be

written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern schoolteachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the war; will be impressed by the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit objects for derision... It is said slavery is all we are fighting for, and if we give it up we give up all. Even if this were true, which we deny, slavery is not all our enemies are fighting for. It is merely the pretense to establish sectional superiority and a more centralized form of government, and to deprive us of our rights and liberties."

*Maj. General Patrick R. Cleburne, CSA, January 1864*

## *Our Honored Ancestors*

### **Wellington Jackson Eidson Private Company K, 29th Tennessee Infantry**

Wellington Jackson Eidson was born January 11, 1819 in Iredell County, North Carolina to Edward and Elizabeth Eidson.

In 1841 Wellington married his first wife Susana Freeze and had four children. By 1850-1851, Wellington left Iredell County, and moved to Hawkins County, Tennessee. His wife and children remained in Iredell County. Wellington then married my Great-Great-Grandmother Mary Louisa McIntosh.

July 31, 1861 Wellington age 42 enlisted in the Confederate Army. He enlisted at Camp Powell, as a Private, Company K, 29th Tennessee Infantry. This company was comprised of men from Hawkins

County under the command of Col. Samuel Powell and Captain George A. Edmonds.

The 29th regiment remained in east Tennessee until October 1861 then marched toward Barbourville and Loudon Kentucky. On Jan 7, 1862 the 29th reported 493 present for duty in spite of 854 that were on the roll. On January 19, 1862 the 29th participated in the battle of Fishing Creek, suffering 29 casualties.

February 1862, the 29th retreated with others in the brigade through Tennessee to Mississippi and was stationed in Luka, Mississippi while the battle of Shiloh was being fought.

On August 19, 1862 Wellington was discharged after one year in the war for "overage" in age.

After his discharge, Wellington settled back in Hawkins County. He was listed in the 1870 census as W. J. Eidson, age 54, occupation, shoemaker. One family story is, Wellington while in the war made and repaired soldier's shoes.

Wellington Jackson Eidson age 63 died January 25, 1882 in Hawkins County, Tennessee. Resting place is believed to be in Shanks Cemetery.

Wellington had three sons who served in the North Carolina Confederate Army. Manuel F. Eidson enlisted August 1862 as a private in Company C, 48th North Carolina Infantry. He was wounded June 15, 1864 in Richmond Virginia. His left leg was amputated at upper third of thigh. This ended his service in the war. Barnabus L. Eidson age 18 enlisted January 31, 1863 as a private in Company C, 48th North Carolina Infantry. In 1864 Barnabus was a prisoner of war and was sent to Point Lookout, MD. He was released June 26, 1865 after more than a year of captivity. After taking the Oath of Allegiance he was admitted into General Hospital at Point Lookout, MD where he died July



15, 1865 of chronic dysentery. William Boyd age 17 enlisted May 16, 1864 at Camp Vance North Carolina as a private in Company A, 8th Battalion North Carolina Junior Reserves. He was a prisoner of war and sent to Point Lookout, MD the same prison camp in which his brother Barnabus was being held. William was released June 12, 1865 after signing the Oath of Allegiance.

Wellington Jackson and sons, Manuel, Barnabus and William sacrificed all and endured all for the cause in which they believed in.

With great pride and honor, I salute my Great-Great-Grandfather for his service in defending the southland.



**James 5:16**

**"...Pray ye one for another..."**

What a pleasant word to encourage thoughtfulness among friends and acquaintances; and yes, strangers. We are supposed to include others in our daily prayers.

The Patriots have much to be thankful for in the way we make friends out of acquaintances. Our monthly meetings have a way of drawing us closer until "The Acquaintance" becomes "A Friend," and the friend becomes "A Patriot."

Thank you for making everyone welcome at the meetings by showing friendship. A firm handshake seals the deal. Amen!!!

Our Patriots: Paul Hamilton, Jack Hamil, and Mac Overton, have a desire to be at the meetings, but cannot. Let's not forget them while they are recovering. Let us do as we have been encouraged to do:

"Pray ye one for another."

Mention their names when you pray. Amen!

Jamie Eitson, Chaplain

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## CHAPLAINS' CONFERENCE

The annual SCV Chaplains' Conference (FREE) will be held June 18-19, 2015 at the Providence Baptist Church, 1441 Erickson Avenue, Harrisonburgh, Virginia. All Chaplains and wives are encouraged to attend. All compatriots, families, and friends are invited to attend. The Conference begins that Thursday evening at 7 PM and continues on Friday morning at 9 AM. Lunch is provided on Friday. Don't miss these exciting two days!

**Southern Music  
Southern Preaching  
Southern Cooking**

**It cannot get any better than this!**

Spread the word and make your plans to attend and why not bring a car-load with you. It would be outstanding to fill the auditorium for every service. See you in the Old Dominion, June 18-19.

Ray L. Parker  
Chaplain-in-Chief  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

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were east of the Mississippi, more men were needed to defend Texas from expected invasions by Federal forces. The draft age was expanded and the call went out for all able bodied men to report. Men from around Upshur and adjoining counties were assembled in Gilmer. George E. Warren, the Upshur County Clerk, became their captain.

In September and October 1863, the scattered companies of Liken's and Burns' Battalions were ordered to report to Houston. They were combined and given the numerical designation as the 35th Texas Cavalry Regiment with Colonel James Likens in command. Communication and record keeping being what it was in 1863, another new regiment was also given the same number and commanded by Colonel Brown. Captain Warren's company was identified as "G". By late November Liken's Regiment was assembled together and stationed near Houston, Texas.

During the winter of 1863-4, Liken's Regiment was stationed at various camps along the Gulf coast. They were attached to General Bee's Division and performed reconnaissance of Federal troops who were landed to make demonstrations near the mouth of Caney Creek and along Matagorda Peninsula. In March, Liken's and five other regiments were ordered to Louisiana to repel General Banks' army and Admiral Porter's navy of gunboats moving up the Red River towards Shreveport and ultimately, east Texas.

General Richard Taylor, CSA, conducted a delaying withdrawal until his forces were large enough to make a stand. On April 9, 1865 the Confederate forces dealt the invading army a decisive defeat at battle of Mansfield. General Banks was forced to retreat and his army began moving back down the Red River to safety. For six weeks, the men in gray tried to stop, capture, or destroy an army 5 times their size. Banks finally reached safety and the 35th

## **UNIT SPOTLIGHT COMPANY "G", LIKEN'S 35TH TEXAS CAVALRY,**

As the War Between the States wore on and many of the Texas units organized early in the conflict

spent the next several months skirmishing Federal forces in the swamps and bayous of southern Louisiana. Disease, sickness, hunger, and the poorest of living conditions took a toll on the men of Texas. Most of their mounts were unfit for service and there were few replacements. In February of 1865, Liken's Regiment was dismounted and sent back to Texas.

In May of 1865, 322 men and officers of the 35th were in Galveston, Texas. The struggle for Southern Independence was over and the remnants of the Confederate army were discharged and told to go home. The Upshur County men received their discharges in Navasota, Texas in late May. General Kirby Smith of the Trans-Mississippi Department, CSA, surrendered all remaining forces west of the Mississippi on June 2. As an officer Captain Warren was required to sign a parole in July at Marshall, Texas. A complete roster of Company "G" does not exist. The men below are the only ones known who served with the "Wild Riders of Texas" as members of Company "G", Liken's 35th Texas Cavalry Regiment.

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## CLERGYMEN "FOUGHT LIKE HELL"

(continued from last month)

Jefferson Davis came to the rescue of his longtime friend by assigning him to Mississippi. From that state he led his corps into Georgia in order to try to help stop Sherman's advance toward Atlanta. A Parrott gun, far more deadly than Pendleton's 6-pounders, practically took off the head of the bishop-general at Pine Mountain, Georgia, on June 14, 1864.

On August 25, 1862, Union Secretary of War Edwin Stanton gave a clear signal that Washington was dropping its opposition to the use of black

soldiers. That day, Stanton authorized Brig. Gen. Rufus Saxton to recruit and train not more than five thousand former slaves.

In command at Beaufort, South Carolina, Saxton put Col. Thomas W. Higginson, a minister, at the head of the First South Carolina Colored Infantry. Many high-ranking officials in Washington, strongly opposed to the use of black soldiers, made life difficult for the colonel and his men. In spite of his fervent pleas, they were not paid for months. Following a near mutiny, the unit was disbanded.

Although Higginson failed to win distinction on battlefields, in post-war years the clergyman who had been in uniform wrote *Army Life in a Black Regiment*, which continues to hold the interest of readers today.

Father Abram J. Ryan, a Catholic priest, tried to win a Confederate commission but was turned down. Undaunted, he became a freelance chaplain who wandered from one battlefield to another to administer last rites to the dying. Within a year after the war ended, he won national recognition for his poem "The Conquered Banner" and is remembered as the "poet-priest of the Lost Cause."

At the battle of Mine Run, chaplain Lorenzo Barber won the nickname "Fighting Parson." Members of an artillery battery were wasting ammunition by shooting over the heads of their foes. Barber took charge of a gun and with a single shot dropped a razorback hog that was rooting near the Confederate line.

Having demonstrated the proper elevation at which to fire, Barber relinquished the weapon to gunners only minutes before taking a hit from a Confederate sharpshooter.

William G. Brownlow had been a Methodist circuit rider for about ten years before becoming editor of



the Knoxville *Whig*. Universally called "Parson," Brownlow was the leader of bridge-burning Unionists in East Tennessee. He never donned a uniform, but when banished to Federal territory he became sought after as an orator. As a platform speaker, his fiery messages persuaded hundreds of men to volunteer for Union service.

Perhaps the strangest facet of the extraordinary life of the parson who became a post-war governor of Tennessee and a U. S. senator was his combination of ideas. Fiercely loyal to the Union and violently opposed to secession, he minced no words in his insistence that slavery was the right and natural condition of "persons of color."

John Eaton, Jr., marched off to war as chaplain of the Twenty-seventh Ohio Regiment. Soon made a colonel and placed at the head of a regiment of black fighting men, he later became a brevet brigadier general. That honorary rank came to him as a reward for his work with runaway slaves. These fugitives had flocked to U. S. Grant's army in such numbers that they seriously hampered its movements until Eaton took charge of them.

Eaton insisted that contrabands were desperately in need of both education and jobs, so he did his best to provide both. Even in the North, public opinion was only mildly favorable concerning "experiments with former slaves." This factor made it impossible for Eaton to achieve spectacular results; yet it was his work that provided a model for the Freedman's Bureau, established on March 4, 1865.

Methodist clergyman David C. Kelly was elected major when the 650 men who made up the command of Nathan B. Forrest were organized in October 1861. Early in November, Kelly's battalion left Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and soon met a Federal invasion party. Forrest achieved lasting renown as the finest cavalry leader of the war, but the only

recorded victory of the Rev. Major Kelly was seizure of a fine herd of Kentucky hogs.

The Rev. B. C. Ward, pastor of a Congregational church in Geneseo, Illinois, conceived and announced a unique plan. Early in 1862 he received from the governor permission to recruit a company of infantry, all of whom were to be ordained clergymen. Ward solemnly called on "the fighting stock of the Church militant" to join him. Ministers, he urged, should "come out from behind velvet-cushioned barracks" in order to face "the hot shot of rifled artillery."

Despite wide publicity, ranks of the "clerical regiment" expanded so slowly that it was never called into service.

The Rev. Dr. Cox, a Chicago Methodist, believed his personal contribution could best be made behind battle lines. Hence he went to St. Louis and paid \$37,000 for a former Presbyterian sanctuary in order to form "a purely Union church."

As announced in the St. Joseph, Missouri, Journal, his plans called for placing the Stars and Stripes on top of the bell tower and beginning every service by singing "Hail, Columbia!" Persons desiring to become members of his new flock would be required to say "Yes" to customary questions, in addition to the following: "Are you for the Union, and have you always been true to the flag?"

Known to his men as "the Fighting Parson," John M. Chivington was a minister who became major of the First Colorado Infantry. When the Federal unit was converted to cavalry, Chivington became its colonel. Leading his men in blue against a Cheyenne camp late in November 1864, he and his troops caught the Native Americans by surprise.

Disregarding a white flag shown by Cheyenne chieftain Black Kettle, soldiers killed right and left.

In one of the least-heralded atrocities of the war, Union soldiers led by "the Fighting Parson" butchered at least 133 Native Americans.

Dozens of regiments first "saw the elephant," or went into battle, armed with flintlock muskets. Soon, however, a few fortunate units had weapons equipped to use percussion caps. Few who were delighted to get the more modern weapons, which were fired by means of the small metal caps, knew that they were the product of a clergyman's genius.

In 1805, the Rev. Alexander J. Forsyth of Scotland perfected this improvement in the firing system of a weapon. By 1865, nearly all fighting men on both sides were using the product of a Scottish pastor's brain.

Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, and adherents of other Protestant denominations experienced North-South divisions well before the war began. Sectional animosity among divided clergy was sometimes as fierce as that displayed in hand-to-hand combat.

According to the Mobile Tribune, the Rev. H. A. M. Henderson of Alabama vented his rage in an 1862 letter to the New Orleans Christian Advocate. Writing of a fellow Methodist named Black who was stationed in Newport, Kentucky; Henderson reported that he prayed that the Union may be preserved "even though blood may come out of the wine-presses even unto the horses' bridles."

Urging the speedy capture of Jefferson Davis and P. G. T. Beauregard, Black knew what to do with them. In an impassioned sermon he gave worshippers his formula for their treatment: "Hang them up on Mason and Dixon's Line that traitors of both sections may be warned. Let them hang until the vultures shall eat their rotten flesh from their bones; let them hang until the crows shall build their filthy nests in their skeletons."

Henderson soon decided that actions speak louder than words. According to the Richmond Dispatch, by November 1861 he was busy raising a regiment. According to the newspaper published in the Confederate capital:

He was driven from Kentucky because he would not take upon him the Lincoln yoke. It argues well for the Southern confederacy to see the clergy flying to arms.

It is stated here that one-half of the Baptist ministers of this state are in the army, so that in the convention many vacant seats are to be found.

(continued next month)

## 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.