

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

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March 2017

**\*Best Newsletter Award\***

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

**COMMANDER'S CORNER**

*by Phil Davis*



**Commander's Corner**

My fellow Compatriots March is upon us and based upon February's winds, I shudder to think of how forceful they will be. We were busy in February attending many camp meetings, marching in parades and just doing activities to forward the colors. I really think we skipped winter. As I announced in our February meeting, in January our Camp was involved in the most activities for the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade. You, my fellow brothers, are responsible for this effort and our recognition by the Brigade. My hat is off to you! Our camp has a very good reputation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade and also in the Texas Division. Keep up the good work Patriots.

In a previous edition of the Newsletter, I tried to stress the importance of communication between you and the Camp. Using Email is the fastest, most accurate way to communicate. If you have not given David Palmer your email address or have not updated it, please do so. It is not David's job to obtain it but yours to keep it updated. If you don't have an email address, try to use some ones that you know, maybe that of a family member. If you have a smart phone you can keep up that way. Borrow the grandkids, they're experts. There is a lot of information that is passed on. Don't miss out.

We are in a fight over HB 1359, Texas Heroes Protection Act. Contact your Congress person and ask them to please support it. Its passage will help us to win the battle over our monuments and plaques. Remember, they work for you.

Compatriots we have many activities going on in the near future. An important one is the Flag Rally at Camp Ford on March 4. Do your best to be there. We will be having grave dedications in May. They are

important in what we do. Whether in uniform or plain clothes it is important to make a good showing.

Again, I ask you to move around the room at our meetings and speak to everyone to make them feel welcome. I don't think there is anything worse than not making people feel welcome in our meeting. Remember it's the Southern Way. Put yourself in their position, think back to your first meeting (s).

As always, I leave you with this question, have you talked to someone about joining our Camp or another SCV camp?

**Well, Why Not?**

\*Give What You Can to Heritage Defense\*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Next Meeting**

March 7, 2017 7 PM  
Walking S Steakhouse

#### **Heritage Flag Rally**

March 4, 2017 12 Noon  
Camp Ford Tyler, Tx.

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



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## **The Guardian**

### **By Phil Davis**

February was a good month for the Texas Division Guardian Program. We have reached 702 applications as of February 16, 2017. I was extremely busy in logging the applications in and getting them out for approval. I am not complaining though as it makes me feel very blessed to have more compatriots taking care of the final resting places of our Confederate heroes. I feel that we will reach 1,000 in 2017.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, I was asked to speak to the Kiwanis club here in Gilmer. Although it was a small number in attendance, the meeting was great. I was invited to speak on the Guardian Program. I started out by telling them, before I could talk to them about the Guardian Program, I must tell them about the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I began by discussing who we are and what our purpose is. As the meeting went on, it turned into a round table discussion about what we do and how we as members of the community we fit in. The audience was culturally diverse and there were no negative comments or

question from any about the SCV or our activities. I was pleased with the discussion. I handed out our pamphlets to those who wanted one. I felt honored to explain a little of what we do and about the Guardian Program. I invited them to attend our meeting and just see what we are about.

Every time we march in a parade, do a grave dedication or place flags on a Confederate heroes grave, we show everyone that sees us who we are and how we try to preserve our Southern Heritage. Keep your flags flying!

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 duty to your Ancestors.

As always I leave you with this question-

**Are you a Guardian? If not, why not?**



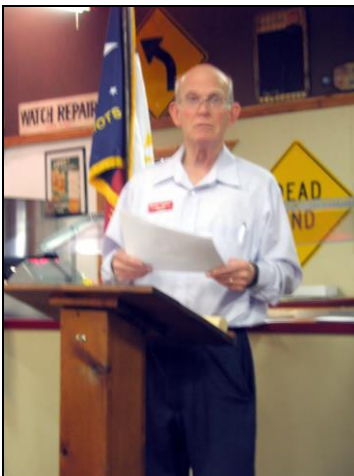
Never Forgotten

Upshur Co. Patriots Guardians

| <u>Name</u>    | <u>Guardian</u><br><u>Status</u> | <u>Number of</u><br><u>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



Welcome back to Adjutant Rickie Gipson. He is shown above giving our financial report at our February meeting.

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.



This month's Article comes from the Chaplain's Corp. Chronicles, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

### The Triumph of Truth by Ray L. Parker

The Bible has much to teach us about truth. The Scripture is identified as —the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15). The Lord Jesus stated that He is —the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). God is the —God of truth (Deuteronomy 32:4). Jesus taught, the truth shall make you free (John 8:32). David reminds us that we are to desire the truth (Psalm 51:6). The Apostle Paul directs us to speak —the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Paul's words establish two valuable principles. First, Paul reveals our message; our message is truth. We search for truth. We embrace truth. We speak truth. We do not retreat from truth even when truth is not popular. We cannot change truth to fit a current cultural whim. As Christians (and as Southerners) we are constrained to speak truth. Truth does not always make one feel comfortable. Truth often challenges popular beliefs and expectations.

Spiritually we know that there are those who (for whatever reason) refuse the good news of the Gospel of Christ. They will not embrace that truth and may even have a substitute. Historically this is also the case. There are many substitutes for historical truth, especially when one explores the history of 1861-65. Our challenge, therefore, is to defend the Confederate soldier's good name, guard his history, emulate his virtues and perpetuate the principles he loved. To do this we will speak the truth. The second principle established by the Apostle Paul highlights our method. We are to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). We are not to be arrogant, belligerent, hostile, hateful, or disrespectful. Others may (and often do) respond to us in these ways; but as General Lee instructed his soldiers moving into Northern regions (to paraphrase), —We will not do what our enemies have done. Our task, in our current culture, is to speak the truth in love. The voices against us at times seem loud and overwhelming. We, however, will not be silent. As long as we have breath, we will speak the truth in love.



### Historical Dates in March

March 3, 1863 The U.S. Congress enacts a draft, affecting male citizens aged 20 to 45, but also exempts those who pay \$300 or provide a substitute. "The blood of a poor man is as precious as that of the wealthy," poor Northerners complain.

March 8/9, 1862 The Confederate Ironclad "Merrimac" sinks two wooden Union ships.

March 25, 1865 The last offensive for Lee's Army of Northern Virginia begins with an attack on the center of Grant's forces at Petersburg. Four hours later the attack is broken.

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Compatriot Tommy Ray gives our February program on the Battle of Corinth.



Commander Phil Davis (on L) presents Guardian Certificates to Tommy Mitchell (2<sup>nd</sup> from RT) and Milt Ojeman (on RT) with Eddie Pricer (2<sup>nd</sup> from L) and George Linton (3<sup>rd</sup> from L) assisting.

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In Memory of Julian H. Harper  
Father of Camp Chaplain and Compatriot  
Larry Harper

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"The fact that one army was fighting for the union and the other for disunion is a political expression; the actual fact on the battlefield, in the face of cannon and musket, was that the Federal troops came as invaders, and the Southern troops stood as defenders of their homes, and further than this we need not go."- Confederate General P. G. T. Beauregard.



Friends and Compatriots of the TX Div.:

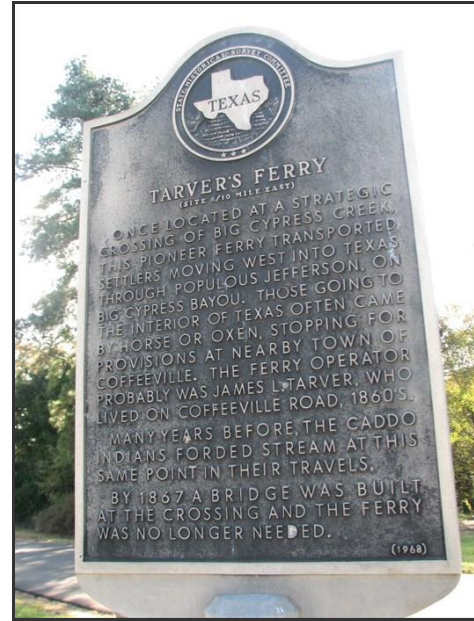
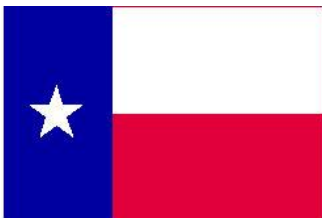
As a historical group founded upon the works of our ancestors, everything we hold dear is under attack. Every monument is fair game to hate mongers; each park, building, hall, dormitory, and street is an object of hate that must be done away with by so many of our fellow citizens. I am not here to tell you that we live in times where the past is easily forgotten and wiped clean by a name change or the removal of all signs of our heritage; these things you already know and you have already seen. I feel very strongly that we are at a crossroads in our American Experiment and that we are at a juncture where we either stand up and be counted as our forefathers did or we sit back quietly and watch while all they held dear is removed, destroyed, and replaced by a different version of history.

Today I write you to tell you about Texas House Bill 1359. HB 1359 is relating to monuments and memorials for Texas heroes and penalties for unauthorized removal, relocation, or alteration of a monument or memorial; thereby, creating a criminal offense. The bill was introduced by Representative James White who

represents Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Polk, Tyler counties. While the bill is not specifically aimed at Confederate Heroes; however, Confederate Heroes and Monuments would fall under this legislation. You, your fellow camp members, your families and your friends are encouraged to contact your State Senator and Representative and ask that they co-sponsor and support this Bill. This Bill is about all veterans and notable figures. There is no need to specifically identify yourself as a descendant of a Confederate veteran. Identify yourself as a concerned citizen, a veteran, teacher, historian or whatever. We need maximum effort on this initiative, by phone, by email and by snail mail.

The Texas Division is in complete support of this House Bill and we need your support. The TX Div. Commander Gary Bray has asked all of our members to write to each of your State Representatives and ask them to support HB 1359.

Best regards,  
Ray Wainner  
3rd Lt. Commander  
Texas Division  
Sons of Confederate Veterans



### Tarver's Ferry

From: free pages

Location: Latitude & Longitude: 32° 50' 35.9959000002", -94° 43' 8.32171000008"

Once located at a strategic crossing of Big Cypress Creek, this pioneer ferry transported settlers into Texas through populous Jefferson, on Big Cypress Bayou. Those going to the interior of Texas often came by horse or oxen, stopping for provisions at the nearby town of Coffeeville. The ferry operator probably was James L. Tarver, who lived on Coffeeville Road, 1860's.

James Lafayette Tarver, a civil war (CSA) veteran, having enlisted on May 6, 1862 in Co. H, 18th Texas Volunteer Infantry, serving in Walkers division, Ochil trees Regiment and Dave Culberson's Company. His service records indicate he had a full

face and broad shoulders and weighed 190lbs. He was discharged in 1865 after three years of service. He moved to Coffeerville, Upshur Co., Texas 1855-57, where he ran the mercantile store at Coffeerville. In 1860, he married his wife, Julia Virginia Sanders who had come to Upshur Co., Texas from Mississippi in 1855. In addition to the Coffeerville store, which James Lafayette ran, he operated a ferry known as Tarver's Ferry. It is located 14 miles northeast of Gilmer on Highway 155 in Upshur Co., Texas.

Many years before, the Caddo Indians forded stream at this same point in their travels. By 1867 a bridge was built and the ferry was no longer needed.

A Texas Historical Marker was placed at the site of the ferry in 1968. The marker is entitled Tarver's Ferry

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From National Headquarters:

## Confederate Flag Day

March 4th, 2017

### National Event

The SCV will be celebrating the 2nd annual Confederate Flag Day, which is in the SCV Standing Orders as March 4. Last year was a huge success. Let us strive to make it bigger and better this year! Each member is

encouraged to fly a Confederate Flag on March 4, 2017. The logic behind this date is that March 4, 1861 is when First National Flag (Stars and Bars) was hoisted over the Confederate Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama Confederate Veteran and on March 4, 1865 President Jefferson Davis signed a bill into law creating the Third National Flag.

On Saturday, March 4, 2017 every Division and every camp without a Division will sponsor a Flag Day observance somewhere within their state. Past Commander-in-Chief Chuck McMichael has agreed to be the national coordinator of this occurrence and will be sending out a format for all Divisions and camps without Divisions to follow. Once times and locations are determined, PCIC McMichael will make them public so members are aware of the particulars. Be sure to mark your calendar now so you and your family can attend.

Thomas V. Srain, Jr  
Commander-in-Chief  
Sons of Confederate Veterans





### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



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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### Why We Exist

From: A Southern View of History

They left their homes and families to defend their loved ones from a brutal foreign invader. They survived 4 years of a horrible war, suffering not only from the battles with the foreign invader but also the lack of resources to support them. Not only did they suffer from the horrors of war but also the stories of the treatment of their families by the invading horde. They stood by their obligation to the end. They returned home from this horrible experience to find their homes destroyed and their families starving. These brave men survived 10 years of being denied their civil rights during the bayonet rule that some call "reconstruction". These Confederate Veterans survived this all to raise their families and rebuild their South Land. We are here today with their strength of character passed on to us due to their sacrifices. It is our duty to ensure their true history is passed on. This is not some modern attempt to rewrite history but is a sacred obligation given to us by these brave men who knew the truth.



We are proud to be associated with the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Order of Confederate Rose.



The Sons of Confederate Veterans broke ground at Elm Springs for a new building "The National Confederate Museum." The museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. A building fund for this purpose is ongoing. One of the goals is to provide an accurate portrayal of the common Confederate Soldier, something that is currently absent in most museums and the media. We are invited to take a stand for the future by contributing to this fund.

\*The Upshur Co. Patriots have a designated fund to help with this project. Please donate what you can.

Below are some photos from the Jefferson  
Mardi Gras Parade held February 25, 2017.  
We had a good turnout and beautiful  
weather.

Thank you to Roger Opiela for the use of  
his truck and trailer.

