

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

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March 2018

**\*Best Newsletter Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Place\***

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

**\*Best Newsletter Award 1<sup>st</sup> Place\***

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

## **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

**By Milt Ojeman**



Our meeting, on March 6th, will be the 182nd Anniversary of the fall of the Alamo. These brave men fought, against overwhelming odds, for what they believed in. Santa Anna called them traitors. A month and a half later, Sam Houston whipped Santa Anna like a "borrowed mule" and the Texas soldiers were, and still are, heroes.

Our Confederate ancestors fought for what they believed in also. They fought a brutal

war that lasted four years. They faced defeat and surrender like men. They suffered through reconstruction and worked to rebuild the country and bind the wounds of war. In 1913, at the 50th anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg, Union and Confederate veterans came together. Veterans of Pickett's Charge retraced their steps of that day in 1863. When they reached the stone wall these former foes shook hands and embraced each other. And now, 105 years later these Confederate veterans are called evil traitors by some. There are attempts to erase their memory from history. Friends, we can't let that happen. Like the men of Gettysburg, the Alamo, Valley Forge, San Juan Hill, Verdun, Normandy Beach, Iwo Jima, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan or any place that

American Soldiers have fought and died, they are our heroes.

As SCV members your efforts are to be commended. No matter how involved you are in the activities of the camp you are important. Work and family schedules can prevent some of us from participating in every event. Please know that if you can only make it to meetings you are still an important member of the camp. The State and National reunions are coming up in the next few months so please consider attending.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### **Next Meeting**

March 6, 2018 - 7 PM  
Walking S Steakhouse

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

**Texas Division  
Sons of Confederate  
Veterans  
2018 Annual Reunion  
Fredonia Hotel, 200 North  
Fredonia  
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961  
June 8, 2018 - June 10, 2018**



Mrs. Glenda Mosley (L) was the winner of our Black Powder Revolver. She is presented with her prize by Compatriot Kim Duffey (Rt.) Congratulations Mrs. Mosley.



Compatriot Michael Pepper gives our February program on the Battle of Fort Derussy.

**Camp Leadership**  
**Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109**

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**The Guardian**

**By Phil Davis**

**Chairman Texas Div. Guardian Program**

**Chairman National Guardian Program**

Compatriots of the Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109, the March Newsletter finds us with a couple of changes in the list of Guardians' found elsewhere in our newsletter. Compatriot Tommy Ray has completed his requirements for Full Guardian and will be presented his Guardian Medal and certificates at this month's meeting. Compatriot Frank Smith has submitted two applications for soldiers' graves which he has been tending to for many years and will receive his Medal and certificates. Thanks for a job well done Compatriots!

Along with these I have also had the honor of presenting twelve medals and certificates in our Brigade and throughout the Texas Division.

I am also receiving more applications for National Guardian. If you are a Texas Guardian and would like to be a National Guardian, please contact me.

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 Confederate Forebears. As always, I leave you with this question-

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



### Upshur Co. Patriots Guardians

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian Status</u>	<u>Number of Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	29
Kim Duffey	Full	3
Jamie Eitson	Full	1
Larry Harper	Full	1
Jared Jones	Full	1
Justin Jones	Full	1
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	40
Tommy Mitchell	Full	5
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	33
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Bill Palmer	Full	10
Tommy Ray	Full/GPT	17
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	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:**

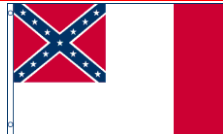


I salute the Confederate Flag With affection, reverence, and Undying devotion to the cause For which it stands.

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







### Charge to 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.



### The Power of God

By: Len Patterson, Th.D

I can't understand how anyone could have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and not want everyone to know it. In writing to the Church in Rome, Paul says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is The Power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." (Rom. 1: 16) The Apostle Paul may have been called a lot of things, but no one ever called him a sissy. He knew where he stood, and for almost two thousand years, so has everyone else.

I also wear my SCV pin. I do this because I'm proud to be a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I'm proud of my Southern heritage, and I'm especially proud of my brave Confederate forefathers, and the flag they fought under. I'm also proud of my SCV Brothers who share my love and concern for our Southern Cause, and work to preserve our heritage and the honor of our Confederate veterans who so bravely fought the Union invaders.

I can't imagine a member of our Confederation not wanting to tell people about the SCV, or trying to recruit others to serve with us. I can think of no reasonable excuse why so many Southerners have never even heard of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. People need to know who we are, what we do, and just exactly where we stand.

I believe to be successful in our mission, the Sons of Confederate Veterans need to follow the example of the Apostle Paul and the early Church, which ultimately captured the Roman world for Christ. This means doing four things. First, we need to unite as one band of Brothers in our common Cause. The Bible tells us that the early church was, "all with one accord," (Acts 1: 14 & 2: 1) and as a result, thousands were "saved." (Acts 2: 41)

Second, every member should be a crusader and recruiter for our Confederation. Again, the Bible tells us that the first members of the Lord's Church talked to others about the Lord Jesus as they traveled. Their efforts produced "great numbers" of new church members.

Third, Like the Apostle Paul and the early church, we must seek the guidance, strength, and blessings of God in our efforts. To do less means stagnation. To do less means failure. To do less means being neutralized. To do less means not having the greatest asset for our success: The Power of God.

And forth, we must never be ashamed or timid about who we are, what we stand for, or fearful of what some others may think. In the last letter of his life, the Apostle Paul writes, "Be not thou ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the Gospel according to The Power of God."

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless every member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans as we seek to serve Him and our just and most worthy cause. Amen



### Historical Dates in March

**March 8-9, 1862** the Battle of Hampton Roads, Va.

**March 3 – April 8, 1862** the Siege of New Madrid. Mo.

**March 8, 1862** the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas.

**March – April 1865** the Appomattox Campaign



### Attempted Murder of the Truth

By: Jeff Paulk

I started to call this "The Murder of Truth", but then after rethinking the issue, can truth actually be murdered? As long as there are those of us who know the truth, and are willing to communicate it, the truth will continue to live. Even with all of the attacks upon all things Confederate and Southern in the attempt to completely wipe out our culture, history, and symbols, those attacks only serve to strengthen the resolve in many of us, and, hopefully, awakens a need in many to determine just what actually is the truth.

Let us all be vigilant in the defense of our heritage, history, and symbols, and not let the attempted murder of the truth go unanswered.

As President Jefferson Davis said, "Truth crushed to the earth is truth still and like a seed will rise again."

May we continue to water that seed and see it grow and spread throughout this land.

## Mardi Gras Upriver 2018

### Jefferson, Texas

Jefferson's annual Mardi Gras Upriver has been celebrated for many years. The tradition goes back to the old steamship days of Port Jefferson when the boats would travel upriver from New Orleans. Today the festivities last a whole weekend and feature parades, bands, food, frosty beverages and of course beads.

Photos by: Mac Gammill







## Easter 2018

From: Old Farmer's Almanac

Easter is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar—and has been regularly observed from the earliest days of the Church.

Easter Sunday celebrates Christ's resurrection from the dead, following crucifixion. It marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, and the last day of the Easter Triduum (starting from the evening of Maundy Thursday, through Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday), as well as the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

The resurrection represents the triumph of good over evil, sin, death, and the physical body.

The date of Easter is related to the full Moon. Specifically, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full Moon that occurs on or just after the vernal equinox. This full Moon is referred to as the "paschal full Moon."

Easter folk symbols include:

**Eggs**, traditionally forbidden during Lent, symbolize new life.

The **Easter Bunny** recalls the hare, the Egyptian symbol of fertility.

The **lamb** is said to symbolize Jesus, as it embodies purity and goodness, but also represents sacrifice.

The **Easter lily**, with its sheer white petals, symbolizes purity and innocence, as well as the resurrection of Jesus.



### 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.



## Upshur County Texas

The History of Gilmer

From the writings of Hettie Calloway  
First appearing in  
The University of Texas Bulletin  
Dec. 8, 1927

In this story of my town I have tried to give an interesting and true history. It is a town that we all love, and we realize that its history is fast fading away. My story is based on the stories of the few old citizens that still live here, and all the stories have been agreed upon by these men.



I am especially thankful to Mr. J. M. Marshall, Judge S. J. Moughon, and Mr. Lou Derrick for the information they gave me, and I also wish to thank my teachers, Mrs. J. S. Scaief and Miss Irma Brown, for the help that they have given me in preparing my story.

People cherish their family traditions and their state and national traditions; but what thought do they give to the traditions of their native town? Not much. Only now and then do we hear talk of the "use-to-be" days, and this is among the very old settlers. Speak to one of these grey-haired veterans about the town he loves and watch the sparkle in his eyes and the glow in his wrinkled countenance as he relates and lives again the history that is dear to him. Gilmer is no exception to the pioneer town of the Civil War days. It has its interesting stories, its traditions, and its share of important personages. But some day these old-timers will pass on and the history will be forgotten if it is not recorded. This is the story of Gilmer as I have gathered it here and there.

It was in about 1860 or 1861, on the old Cherokee Tract about two and one-half miles northwest of its present site, and in what is now the W. C. Barnwell farm, that Gilmer had its beginning. I am not certain as to the exact time Gilmer remained in this location, but I do know that it was only for the duration of two sessions of court. Court in those old days of Gilmer was held under an old oak tree. There are many amusing stories told about those days and the system of court. One day a trial of a drunken man was being held. Suddenly he

began to yell, "I'm a horse, I'm a horse!" The judge called: "Mr. Sheriff, tie that horse!" and the trial was dismissed.

The story of the election that was held when Gilmer was moved to its present site is very amusing. There was a small creek, or perhaps it could be called a brook, that separated a great many of the voters from the polls. On the day before the election was to be held there was a big rain. This creek was made impassable, and as a consequence, the people on the opposite side could not get to the polls to vote. Gilmer was moved. But this early history is fading away fast, and will soon be told as a legend to the children.

Gilmer was named by Mr. Isaac Van Zandt for Captain Gilmer. Captain Gilmer was a member of President Tyler's Cabinet, and a naval officer. Abel P. Upshur, for whom our county was named, was also a member of President Tyler's Cabinet at the same time. Both of these men were accidentally killed at the same time when an explosion occurred on their boat.

The first settlement of the present site was around the town spring which was located near where the high-school building now stands. The water for the town was supplied by this spring, and the negroes also came here to do the washing for the white people. The original plan for the town was recorded on February 25, 1852. Gilmer was then a small village of some three hundred or four hundred people. The square around the small log courthouse was covered by forest. The business houses were built of logs from the forest, but some few were built of rough, small boards.

Gilmer, in those days, was considered a "wild and woolly" town. There were several saloons around the square. One of these was where Hogg's Pharmacy now is, and another was in the Walton Building. There is a story told of a murder that took place in this saloon, which proves to us that Gilmer must have been a rough town. A man by the name of Cleveland stabbed a man whose name was Miller. While Miller's life blood was gushing out he yelled for his son to kill Cleveland. With a double-barreled shotgun Miller's son shot Cleveland, who died before Miller. The boy was exonerated by the courts for killing his father's slayer.

About a year later, probably in 1855 or 1856, a new court house was built. This house was built of rough lumber, but was some improvement over the old building. This building stood until after the Civil War.

About this time the town was incorporated. There was one ordinance that said: "No man shall ride horseback on sidewalks of the city of Gilmer, if they do they shall be fined not less than \$5 or more than \$25."

There were two churches in early Gilmer, the Baptist and the Methodist. The Baptist Church then stood near where Mr. E. C. Lyle's rent houses now stand, north of town near the Cotton Belt tracks. The Methodist Church was on the east end of the block it now occupies. During those days the slaves worshipped in the same house with the whites. A place was set aside especially for them.

The Civil War history of Gilmer is especially interesting. Although there were no battles fought near here, there was a training camp

about three miles from the town. This camp was J. L. Camp's regiment.

Judging from the number of factories that were in Gilmer at this time, it must have been a very busy place. There was a spinning factory where Mitchell's gin now stands, north of the square. Just across the street, on what is known as the Clayton place, there was a hat factory. And there was also a shoe factory and a harness factory here. The shoe factory was located on the south side of the square where the Jim Crowley store now stands. The harness factory was a two-story building and was just down the street from the shoe factory, where Winn's Drug Store is now located. More things than the factories helped to make Gilmer famous during this early period, however. One of these was the Looney School. The Interscholastic Leaguer, a paper published in Austin, Texas, has said that it was "one of the most successful schools of Texas during the Civil War period and following it." This school had its beginning in 1861. It was first held in the building that had been the home of the Upshur County Masonic Institute. This home was originally built by the Methodist Church, and for some time, beginning in 1854, it was the home of Gilmer Female College. This school was under the direction of the Reverend David Stovall, and later Mrs. Martha Weathered. The building was rented by Mr. Morgan H. Looney in 1862. The school building burned, however, in 1863 and Mr. Looney took up temporary quarters in a building located near where the Ward school now is. The school was held in this building until 1866, when a new

building was erected where the other one had burned.

An interesting feature of post-Civil War history of this little town was the method that was used in voting. The whole county voted at Gilmer, and two or three days were usually required to hold an election. The people were forced to vote under the bayonet. These bayonets were held by two negroes. After the Civil War a new courthouse was built at Gilmer. This structure, although it was wooden, was much better than the old structure. Several years later the building burned. Bonds were voted to replace the building by a brick structure. The bonds carried, but it caused much dissatisfaction among the people. The popular cry was that it would be a debt that would be held against their grandchildren. But notwithstanding this, the building was built and paid for. In fact, we now have another building that is a credit to the town, and it has also been paid out. When the present building was erected, the old building was torn from under the roof and the walls were replaced by reinforced concrete.

The first railroad, a narrow gauge, came to Gilmer in about 1880. It was first called the Tyler Tap, but later when the standard gauge was built it became the Cotton Belt Route. Several years later the M. & E. T., or Marshall & East Texas road, came through Gilmer. This road was started by the Commercial Lumber Company, which was then located in Gilmer. The tram was later connected with the Winnsboro & Marshall road and was called the Marshall & East Texas Railroad. This railroad was

discontinued about eight years ago, however, and the only road that is now in operation is the Cotton Belt branch of the St. Louis & Southwestern Railway.

The first paper published in Gilmer was known as the Gilmer Sentinel. This paper was edited by Mr. J. L. Terry and his son. A few years after its establishment the paper became known as The Mirror and was edited by Judge Joseph Lion, who was then County Judge. Judge Lion was murdered and the assassin escaped. Twenty years later, when Mr. S. J. Moughon was sheriff, the fellow was caught by the Humane Society of New York. The man was charged with beating his daughter, and the Humane Society wrote back to Gilmer for information concerning him; and it was in this manner he was captured. He escaped from jail, however, and his trial was never held. The paper is now edited by Mr. George Tucker and is still known as The Mirror. But in addition to the weekly paper we also have a daily paper by the same name.

The first officials of Upshur County and Gilmer were Mr. W. H. Hart, county and district clerk, and Mr. F. D. Brooks as first county judge. Mr. J. M. Simpson was the second judge.

But Gilmer is no longer a small settlement of two or three hundred people. It has grown to be a town of about three thousand people. The census of 1920 gave it a population of 2,280. It is the center of a large trade territory, and about eighteen thousand bales of cotton are marketed here annually. In February, 1926, the new Federal Post office was occupied, and now



the streets of Gilmer are being paved. Although it is an old town, its life, we think, has only begun; and its citizens are loyal to their home town, Gilmer.



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



Thank you to the Starnes family and everyone at the Walking S Steakhouse for their hospitality and providing a meeting place for the Upshur Co. Patriots. Open for dining Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

## Confederate Flag Day

**March 3, 2018**

**National Event**

The SCV will be celebrating the 3rd 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 3-4, 2018. The logic behind this date is that March 4, 1861 is when the First National Flag (Stars and Bars) was hoisted over the Confederate Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama. On March 4, 1865 President Jefferson Davis signed a bill into law creating the Third National Flag.

This year's observance will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018. 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.



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