

PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL

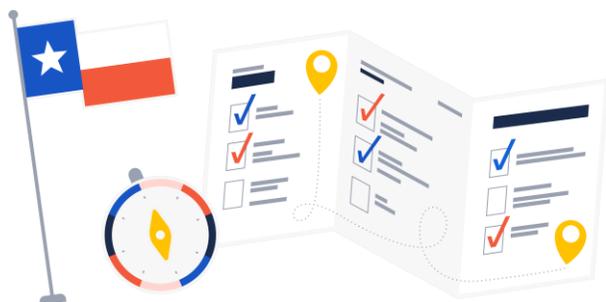
UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS CAMP #2109
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
GILMER, TEXAS

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www.upshurpatriots.org

MARCH 2020

NEXT MEETING
MARCH 3, 2020



VOTING IN TEXAS ON SUPER TUESDAY

Vote on March 3rd - Make Your Voice Heard

Texas voters will head to the polls March 3 for the Super Tuesday Primary. Each party will choose its candidate for U.S. president, U.S. Senate, congressional and legislative offices, the State Board of Education, the Railroad Commission and Judicial seats.

All Texans' ballots will include the statewide races, but the rest of the races on there will be determined by where you live.

On the federal level, Texans are divided among 36 congressional districts. On the state level, Texans are divided into 150 House districts, 31 Senate districts and 15 State Board of Education districts. Your address determines your district and who represents you. All congressional and Texas

House districts are up for election this year, along with one U.S. Senate seat, several Texas Senate seats and eight State Board of Education seats.

You'll need one of seven types of valid photo ID to vote in Texas:

- A state driver's license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety
- A Texas election identification certificate (issued by DPS)
- A Texas personal identification card (issued by DPS)
- A Texas license to carry a handgun (issued by DPS)
- A U.S. military ID card with a personal photo
- A U.S. citizenship certificate with a personal photo
- A U.S. passport



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

www.upshurpatriots.org

CAMP LEADERSHIP
UPSHUR COUNTY
PATRIOTS CAMP #2109

COMMANDER
EUGENE BROWN
(903) 759-4230
browneh1944@gmail.com

1ST LT. COMMANDER
GREGG GIPE
(903)353-0670
greggipe@aol.com

2ND LT. COMMANDER
EDITOR
DAVID PALMER
(903) 237-8941
david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org

ADJUTANT
Don Loyd
(903) 797-6922
donloyd@etex.net

DEPUTY ADJUTANT
EDDIE PRICER
(903) 692-3388
spooky1522@etex.net

CHAPLAIN
JAMES EITSON
(903) 592-4110
jeitson@aol.com

LIBRARIAN
BRANDON PRICER
(682) 552-5802
bpricer11b@gmail.com



THE GUARDIAN

From: agraveinterest.com_wdp



Throughout history it was believed that a cemetery had appointed guardians; a soul who was left there to protect the cemetery grounds and the departed.



Today you can take a stroll through a cemetery and find graves and monuments that are being "guarded" by stone sentries.

Cemetery and grave guardians are never caught looking down as many other statues are in mourning, but a guardian stands with head erect, watching over those they protect.

Eagles can be found guarding Civil War military graves. They are strong birds that represent faith, courage and generosity of spirit. A double eagle is usually found at the grave of a 33rd Degree Mason.

Most military cemeteries have guardians keeping watch over the soldiers. Usually it is a soldier standing with his rifle, gazing out over his band of brothers. Soldiers are especially popular in Civil War cemeteries, both at Union and Confederate graves.

The SCV Guardian Program honors the memory of our Confederate ancestors and will provide the preservation of their final resting places and will document for future generations their sacrifices.

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



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/GPT	8
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	40
Tommy L. Mitchell/ George Linton	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

"We do not impede honoring the ancestors or heroes of any group of people and we expect the same tolerance and understanding of diversity extended to us"...Sons of Confederate Veterans



In 2020, the spring equinox falls on Thursday, March 19. This event marks the astronomical first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. With the equinox, enjoy the increasing sunlight hours, with earlier dawns and later sunsets.

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.

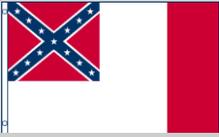


SALUTE TO THE CONFEDERATE FLAG:

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.



AN OLD PAIR OF SHOES

by: Joseph J. Mazzella

I woke up with a stiff and sore back this morning. This was not unusual since my back has given me problems for years now, but today no amount of stretching or moving would loosen it up. Still, I had a dog waiting patiently by the door to go out for a morning walk, so I slowly bent down, put on the leash, and started to pull my shoes on. When I did, though, I saw that my shoes like my body were showing signs of wear. A split along the seam of a sole let me know that it wouldn’t be too long before I would have to replace this pair. I only wished I could replace my back along with them.

Watching the sunrise, eating breakfast, and talking with God I was feeling a lot better on the inside. My back pain had faded too and my smile had returned. It was then that I remembered a letter a friend had sent me recently. Inside of it was pasted a delightful picture of an old, worn-out pair of work boots sitting on the ground by a porch.



Their leather was cracked, their soles were spilt, and their laces were worn, but they still looked great because inside of them someone had planted a beautiful bunch of Impatiens. The flowers had grown tall and strong in spite of their

curious container. This picture reminded me again that while my body may feel like a worn out pair of shoes at times, inside of it was a soul that continued to grow every day in love, joy, peace, happiness, goodness, and oneness with God.

At some point in your life you need to decide who you really are. Are you the body that grows older every day or are you the soul within it that remains forever young? One day the loving spirit within you will have to step out of its' worn out pair of shoes and walk on without them. May it walk lightly along the path of love until it reaches its Heavenly Home. And may it bless everyone it meets along the way.



Our February Program was given by author Mark Vogl on Mysteries of the Confederate Submarine Service.



5th Brigade Commander Eddie Pricer (Rt) briefs our Camp on the recent 5th Brigade Meeting.



HISTORICAL DATES IN MARCH

March 2, 1793-American soldier and Politician Sam Houston was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

March 6, 1836 - Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna.

March 3–April 8, 1862 Siege of New Madrid and Island No. 10, Missouri.

March 8, 1862-The Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas.

March 11, 1861-The Constitution of the Confederate States of America is signed in Montgomery, Alabama.

March 9, 1862-The historical battle of the U.S.S. Monitor against the C.S.S. Virginia.

March 5, 1868-The U.S. Senate convened as a court to hear charges against President Andrew Johnson during impeachment proceedings. The effort to remove him failed and he remained in office.

IMPEACHMENT OF ANDREW JOHNSON

From: Wikipedia



The impeachment of Andrew Johnson was initiated on February 24, 1868, when the United States House of Representatives resolved to impeach Andrew Johnson, the 17th president of the United States, for "high crimes and misdemeanors," which were detailed in 11 articles of impeachment. The primary charge against Johnson was

violation of the Tenure of Office Act, passed by Congress in March 1867, over his veto. Specifically, he had removed from office Edwin M. Stanton, the secretary of war—whom the act was largely designed to protect—and attempted to replace him with Brevet Major General Lorenzo Thomas.

Johnson became the first American president to be impeached on March 2–3, 1868, when the House formally adopted the articles of impeachment and forwarded them to the United States Senate for adjudication. The trial in the Senate began three days later, with Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase presiding.

The Senate did not convict Johnson on one of the articles, with the 35–19 vote in favor of conviction falling short of the necessary two-thirds majority by a single vote. On May 26, the Senate did not convict the president on two articles, both by the same margin, after which the trial was adjourned without considering the remaining eight articles of impeachment.

The impeachment and trial of Andrew Johnson had important political implications and maintained the principle that Congress should not remove the President from office simply because its members disagreed with him over policy, style, and administration of the office.



BATTLE OF THE ALAMO

From: Wikipedia

The Battle of the Alamo was a pivotal event in the Texas Revolution.

Following a 13-day siege, Mexican troops under President General Antonio López de Santa Anna reclaimed the Alamo Mission near San Antonio de Béxar (modern-day San Antonio, Texas).

Aware that his garrison could not withstand an attack by such a large force, Travis wrote multiple letters pleading for more men and supplies from Texas and from the United States, but the Texians were reinforced by fewer than 100 men.

I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism, and everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid with all dispatch. ... Victory or Death... William B. Travis 1836.

In the early morning hours of March 6, the Mexican Army advanced on the Alamo. After repelling two attacks, the Texians were unable to fend off a third attack. As Mexican soldiers scaled the walls, most of the Texian fighters withdrew into interior buildings. Occupiers unable to reach these points were slain by the Mexican cavalry as they attempted to escape.



MOVING THE ALAMO CENOTAPH

From: citynews1130.com
Jan. 20, 2020



A state historical review panel delayed a vote Tuesday on whether to move the Alamo Cenotaph, a memorial to the 200 Alamo defenders killed by the Mexican army in an 1836 assault during the war for Texas independence.

The Texas Historical Commission put off its vote for at least two months, saying commissioners want more information on where the monument might be moved and what restoration work it may need.

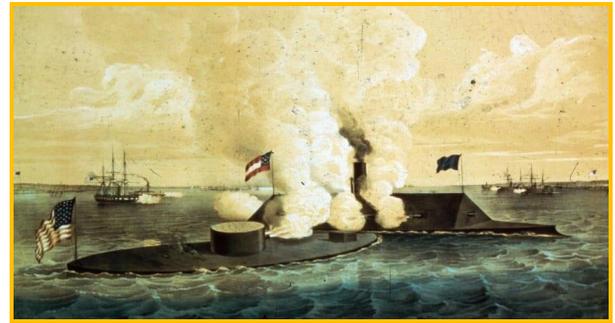
The 58-foot-tall marble slab has been a focal feature of Alamo Plaza in downtown San Antonio since 1939.

Planners of a \$450 million Alamo renovation project have proposed moving the monument to a place about 500 feet to the south of its longtime home, a proposal that has drawn fierce opposition from descendants of the Alamo's 1836 defenders.

The Alamo Defender Descendants Association is fighting to keep the Cenotaph

within the area once surrounded by the Alamo's walls. It hopes to have the monument declared a cemetery in the hope of stopping the move.

The commission's next meeting is scheduled for March 24-25 in the Dallas suburb of Plano.



BATTLE OF HAMPTON ROADS

From: *Wikipedia*

The Battle of Hampton Roads, also known as the Battle of the ironclads, occurred on March 9, 1862 between the U.S.S. Monitor and the Merrimack (C.S.S. Virginia) during the American Civil War (1861-65) and was history's first naval battle between ironclad warships. It was part of a Confederate effort to break the Union blockade of Southern ports, including Norfolk and Richmond, Virginia, that had been imposed at the start of the war. Though the battle itself was inconclusive, it began a new era in naval warfare.

Though they had short lives, the naval battle between the two ironclads ushered in a new era in naval warfare. By the end of the Civil War, the Confederacy and Union launched over 70 ironclads, signaling the end of wooden warships.



THE RIGHT TO FREE EXPRESSION

From: ala.org

Freedom of expression is an inalienable human right and the foundation for self-government. Freedom of expression encompasses the freedoms of speech, press, religion, assembly, association, and the corollary right to receive information without interference and without compromising personal privacy.

The rights of privacy and free expression are not derived from any claim of political, racial, economic, or cultural hegemony. These rights are inherent in every individual. They cannot be surrendered or subordinated, nor can they be denied, by the decree of any government or corporate interest. True justice and equality depend upon the constant exercise of these rights. Any effort to restrict free expression and the free flow of information through any media and regardless of frontiers aids discrimination and oppression.

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, or to attacks upon his honor or reputation.

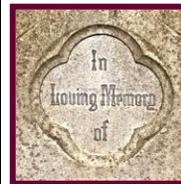
Censorship, ignorance, and manipulation are the tools of tyrants and profiteers. Everyone benefits when each individual is treated with respect, and ideas and information are freely shared, openly debated, and vigorously tested.



"Everyone should do all in his power to collect and disseminate the truth, in the hope that it may find a place in history and descend to posterity. History is not the relation of campaigns and battles and generals or other individuals, but that which shows the principles for which the South contended and which justified her struggle for those principles." Robert E. Lee

The biggest way someone can help the cause to Save Southern Heritage is by learning all they can about the South and Southern history. It is important to be versed in history so that you may share that history with future generations and be able to discuss it should someone begin a conversation with you regarding the south, Confederate flags or any such similar subject.

"Take it down! That symbol must go!"
I Don't Think So!



We are sad to announce the passing of two of our Members. Compatriot Tommy Lee Mitchell and Compatriot Lee Tillman

Please keep their families in your prayers.



STREETS IN GILMER

From: *Brief History of Upshur County by G.H. Baird 1946*

The town of Gilmer had no set rule or pattern in naming its streets, but as the town grew and what had been an opening between a few rough-boarded houses became a street, the name followed later on, and indicated the character or location of the street. For example: Titus street was the road northward to Mount Pleasant and Titus County. Marshall Street merged into the road to Marshall. Tyler Street was so named because it connected with Montgomery Street and thence to the Big Sandy road.

The principal residence street of the town, Montgomery, was named for one of the village's early citizens that lived on that street where Dr. Madison Ragland's new residence is located.

"Silver Alley" in the downtown section, leading from the square to the city hall, may have had another name, but no one can remember it. This cognomen came from a bunch of town wags. The Gilmer Mirror was at one time located on the corner of Silver Alley and Harrison Street. Mr. Holmes was editor at that time and he would always come up this alleyway to the square. His opening remarks, when he was collecting, were invariably, "Can you let me have a little silver today?" He probably remembered the paper money of Civil War days and his preference for "hard money" inspired the wags to call the street "Silver Alley."

One of the most picturesque names, no longer belonging to a street, but to a

country road, is that of the "Cherokee Trace." This road was probably the first road ever made through Upshur County from the north. It was the trail followed by the Indians in getting to the old fort at Nacogdoches. Later it became a wagon road. Now the Trace loses its name and identity at Walnut street, but in olden days it wound on down to the spring in the present Roosevelt Park. This spring was the site of a camping ground and from there the Trace went southward. During the Texas Centennial year, 1936, a marker was placed at the old camping ground in the park.



SACRED LAND: THE DICKSON ORPHANAGE CEMETERY IN GILMER

From: *tylerpaper.com*

Editor's note: At our February meeting, the Upshur County Patriots approved a monetary donation to this worthwhile project.

The historic site of the Dickson Cemetery was largely forgotten, until recently. It was located amid a thick bramble of dense undergrowth and timber that protected it

from mischief and removed it from the public's consciousness.

Some in the community suspect at least 25 people, including babies, are interred there, but there are no cemetery records to suggest the contrary. All are believed connected to the old Dickson Orphanage, recalled as the state's only home for black children between 1901 and about 1943.

The facility was shuttered in the 1940s and the children sent elsewhere to start new lives in an unfamiliar city far away, leaving their dead and memories behind.

There are few reminders of this largely unfamiliar chapter in Gilmer's history, save for a state marker, old photographs, two crumbling headstones and scattered remains of the unknown, buried and then lost amid the passage of time.



Eddie Turner and his two brothers, Gene and Wilson, along with their friend, Huey Mitchell, are among a group of locals

concerned about protecting the graves.

The men are securing a state marker to commemorate the site they, and many others, view as a sad chapter in the lives of many innocents. "It's the history of Gilmer, it was here," Eddie Turner said. "The little babies had no idea what was going on. Let's not forget them."

The Orphanage operated as a private endeavor, based on plans executed by the

Rev. R.C. Buckner and supported by Dallas-based Baptist organizations and donors.

Gilmer was selected as the preferred site for the orphanage, created on a 70-acre tract purchased from Upshur County. It opened in January 1901 under Buckner's direction, operating as a private charity with fewer than a dozen children.

The project grew over time, as did the number of youngsters in its care - more than 200 within the first five years. The orphanage and farmland encompassed close to 700 acres with several dozen structures. By 1943, the state closed the doors and moved the children to the Texas Blind, Deaf and Orphan School in Austin. The buildings and bulk of the land were sold the following year.

The Turners started looking for the graveyard after hearing stories about the orphanage and its lost cemetery.

During a recent visit, numerous crosses were lined up in a tidy row, a gift from Mrs. Johnny Mae Carter, who wanted a remembrance for each person buried there. "They are just scattered out through here," Gene Turner said, pointing to an area designated for babies. "To me, this was personal."

Plans in the works include putting up a fence and creating appropriate access for visitors. "It's a wonderful feeling and the people of Upshur County know we did the right thing," Wilson Turner said.



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.



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
to: David Palmer, 2nd Lt. Commander/Editor

david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org