

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

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April 2018

Best Newsletter Award 2nd Place

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

Best Newsletter Award 1st Place

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

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Milt Ojeman



During my 35 year career I often found myself asking someone "why did you do it?" These were most often unpleasant situations that I had hoped I had left behind me. The irony is, if I could talk to my Great Grandfather that is exactly what I would ask him. Granted, in his case it would not be an unpleasant situation and would not be proceeded by the reading of his rights.

I would love to ask him why he, in early 1862, enlisted in Co. B, Waul's Texas Legion

and stayed for the duration of the war. Why would this young man, John Ojemann, who came to this country as a child, volunteer to leave his family and go to war. It was a decision that would put him in the trenches at Vicksburg. He was a farmer who worked the land to provide for his family. There had to be a reason why he would fight. I would love to hear his answer. It had to be because he felt that it was important.

All of us have ancestors that did basically the same thing. They were not, for the most part, rich plantation owners or business men. But they all felt that it was important. General "Stonewall" Jackson said, "The patriot volunteer, fighting for country and rights, makes the most reliable soldier on earth". Gentleman, those were our ancestors.

Therefore I consider it a duty to honor them. If anyone asked me why I do it, my answer would be "because it is important".

At our next meeting we will be discussing the State Reunion. We need delegates to represent our camp. Please consider stepping up "because it is important".

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting

April 10, 2018 - 7 PM
Walking S Steakhouse

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

www.upshurpatriots.org



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

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The Guardian

The Guardian Program in Texas has been a great success due in part to the diligent efforts of our own Phil Davis, Chairman of the program. Review Committee Members of the Texas Program are as follows:

Chairman Phillip L. Davis
First Brigade Rocky "Jim" Sprott
Second Brigade Don Taylor
Third Brigade J. Barry Turnage
Fourth Brigade Wayne E. Johnson
Fifth Brigade James Graham
Sixth Brigade Gary Cornett
Seventh Brigade Robert F. Rubel
Eighth Brigade Charles Marc Robinson
Ninth Brigade Frank Dietz
Tenth Brigade Sid Holt
Eleventh Brigade Larry Figley

As we are all aware, a Guardian shall care for and protect the grave of a Confederate Veteran, ensuring that the site is kept clean and well maintained year round. He shall perform these duties personally unless physically unable to do so by reason of health problems.

Other information that is worth noting:

A) Multiple grave sites: GUARDIANS may care for more than one Confederate Veterans, grave, and will be so recognized by the Guardian Review Committee. Special certificates or indications on the Guardian Pin may be authorized to signify the care of multiple veterans' graves. Normally no more than 25 gravesites will be awarded per compatriot. More than 25 may be authorized on case-by-case bases with approval of the Guardian Committee.

B) Retirement of GUARDIAN Position: A Guardian must notify the Guardian Review Committee when he is no longer able to carry out his duties for reasons of health or relocation. Under such circumstances his Guardian "will be honorably retired, unless passed on under the provisions of section "C" below.

C) Bequeathing of GUARDIAN Position: In lieu of retiring his Guardian position, a Guardian may bequeath his position and pass on his responsibilities to another SCV Member in good standing or a blood, male family member. All such transfers must be reviewed and approved by the Guardian Review Committee.

D) Revocation of GUARDIAN Status: The Guardian Review Committee may revoke a GUARDIANS status if he fails to carry out his duties and responsibilities. The Guardian Review Committee has the power to inspect, with or without notice, any GUARDIAN'S Confederate Veteran's gravesite to confirm compliance with all rules and regulations.

E) Wilderness Grave Site: Is defined as a completely neglected and abandoned gravesite in a wooded area. Application must be accompanied by before and after pictures of the gravesite along with all other requirements set forth in these rules. If this status is approved, applicant will be approved to wear a silver star on the ribbon of the Guardian medal.

Being a Guardian is a special way to honor our Confederate Ancestors, who gave and endured so much to preserve our Southern Heritage.

As always, the question of the month...from Phil:

Are you a Guardian? If not, why not?



Unknown Confederate Soldier's graves on the Natchez Trail near Tupelo.



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



At our March meeting, Mrs. Esther Linton presented a generous check to Camp 2109 Adjutant Rickie Gipson on behalf of the Order of Confederate Rose. By a motion and vote, the Camp decided to donate half to the Upshur Co. Museum and designate the other half for Heritage Defense.



Confederate Chaplains

By: By Dr. H. Rondel Rumburg

One political figure of the newly formed Confederacy said that the chaplains should only be paid \$300 a year because they only preach one sermon a week. Little known to this was the real task of the chaplain, which was virtually endless. Some chaplains left accounts of their labors which were similar to the duty of a pastor except with the complications of war and the threat to life almost daily. Not only did many preach many times on a Lord's Day, but also during the week, speaking at graveside services, visiting the dying on battlefield and in hospitals, marching all night or marching sixteen to eighteen miles in all kinds of weather, holding services upon arrival in the form of prayer meetings or preaching, distributing literature, writing condolence letters, making reports, collecting funds to assist in the needs of the wounded, building or assisting in building shelters, fighting personal sickness or carrying the burdens of family needs at home, reading Scripture to those who could not do so, dressing wounds, nursing the sick, hungering for lack of food or because it had been given away

to a suffering soldier and on we could go with the tasks.

When the war first began, ministers of all ages wanted to be of help and realizing the spiritual need sought to help. Some of them found that the infirmities of age greatly limited them so they eventually had to find other ways of helping. This was evident in the number of chaplains in their 50s and 60s that spent only part of 1861 and 1862 as chaplains. The task of the chaplain was ominous and not one sermon a week as the squirrely politician supposed.

Certainly all chaplains were not what they should have been. Some did not last long because the soldiers were adept at recognizing and rejecting phonies. One such phony responded improperly when he was not provided forage for a horse. Since he did not have a horse he appropriated one from a Virginia farmer. Upon being confronted over this misdeed he tried to justify himself by saying he was imitating Jesus Christ. Being contradicted over such sacrilege the man replied that Jesus "took an ass from his owner, whereon to ride to Jerusalem." The officer reprimanded him by pointing out, "You are not Jesus Christ, this is not an ass; you are not on your way to Jerusalem; and the sooner you restore that horse to its owner, the better it will be for you"

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.



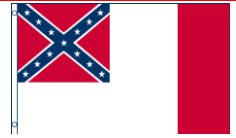
PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG:

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.



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."

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



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



Historical Dates in April

April 12, 1861 Southern forces fire upon Fort Sumter, S.C.

April 15, 1861 President Lincoln issues a public declaration that an insurrection exists and calls for 75,000 militia to stop the rebellion.

April 6-7 1862 the Battle of Shiloh.

April 24-25, 1862 A Union fleet of gunships under Admiral David Farragut passes Confederate forts guarding the mouth of the Mississippi River.

April 1863 Union forces in the east begin a new campaign in Virginia to flank Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Fredericksburg. In the west, a Union army has begun a campaign to surround and take Vicksburg, Mississippi.

April 8, 1864 the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana, the first major battle of the Red River Campaign in Louisiana.

April 9, 1864 The Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

April 12, 1864 the capture of Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

April 1, 1865 the Battle of Five Forks, Virginia.

April 2, 1865 the fall of Petersburg and Richmond.

April 6, 1865 the Battle of Sailor's Creek, Virginia.

April 9, 1865 the Battle of Appomattox Court House and General Lee's surrender.

April 14, 1865 President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated by actor John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC

April 26, 1865 General Joseph Johnston signs the surrender document for the Confederate Army of the Tennessee.



Founding Member Bill Starnes presents our March program on Colonel Matthew Locke and the 10th Calvary.

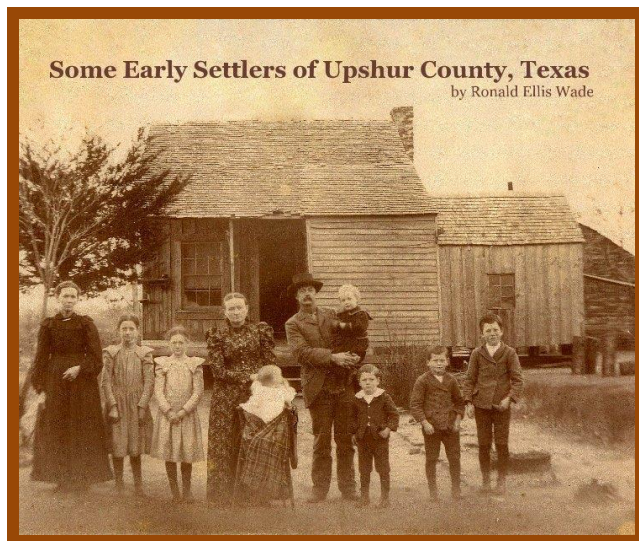


Commander Milt Ojeman (L) and Guardian Chairman Phil Davis (C) present 14 Guardian Certificates to Tommy Ray (R). Thank you Tommy for your tireless efforts.

"We remember you, the fallen, and the ones who gave their lives for our freedom. You are not forgotten. Your love lives on in our hearts. We cherish the time we had with you. Memories so sweet. And always, we love you."



Compatriot and 5th Brigade 2nd Lt. Commander George Linton (standing) briefs our Camp on upcoming events.



Following the Civil War little was left for southern families to survive on. Southerners were looking for a new life in an area which could offer them virgin farmland and safety from the carpetbaggers and past. Word quickly spread that Upshur County, Texas offered dense virgin forests and land that could produce far more than the old states. Families packed their ox-drawn wagons and made the long journey to the piney woods of East Texas.

Upshur County Texas Some Historical Information

From: Relvovv

Humans have inhabited what is now Upshur County since at least 10,000 years ago. The Caddoan people lived in this area, but were driven out about 1750, probably due to losses from new infectious diseases carried chronically by Europeans.

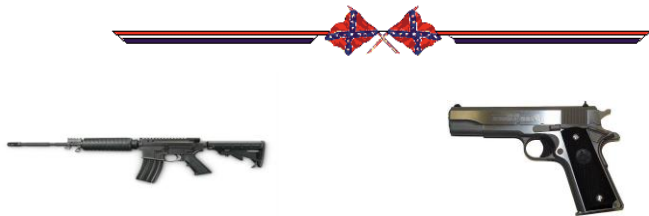
Later some Cherokee migrated to the area from their territories in the Southeast - Georgia and Alabama. The Cherokee were driven out of here by European-American settlers in 1839, after having been removed from the Southeast.

The first European-American settler in Upshur County was probably Isaac Moody, who settled there in 1836. Upshur County was named for Abel Parker Upshur, Secretary of State under John Tyler.

Upshur County has the distinction of being the county that has the largest settlement in Texas organized by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 1904 the Latter-day Saint South-western States Mission organized a colony at Kelsey, Texas.

By 1850 there were 3,934 people, including 682 slaves, living in Upshur County. According to the agricultural census for that year, local farmers produced 31,000 bushels of corn, 673 400-pound bales of cotton, and 1,061 pounds of tobacco, along with smaller amounts of wheat, rice, and oats. As the county grew and prospered, new social institutions evolved, and by the mid-1850s schools such as the Gilmer Masonic Female

Institute, the Murray Institute, and the Gilmer Male Academy had been established. By 1860 the population had increased to 10,645, including 3,794 slaves. That year 404,000 bushels of corn and 8,000 bales of cotton were produced, and 11,000 cattle were also reported in the area. Lumbering was another important part of the local economy, and by the beginning of the Civil War there were ten to twelve water-powered lumber mills operating in the county.



Our Nation Is a Gun Culture, and Anti-Gun Activism and Laws Are as Unnatural to It as Cancer Is to the Body

Written by: Brandon Morse

The Anti-gun activism we see on the news and marching through the streets is a lot like a car trying to get unstuck from the mud. There's a lot of engine revving, a lot of noise and mud flinging. In the end, however, it's just a lot of spinning wheels and no movement, with the problem only getting worse the more the gas is stepped on.

Being anti-firearm — or even just restrictive is frankly unnatural to the U.S., especially since we've held firearms in such esteem since even before its founding. It's written into our very Constitution as a right given to

us by God. Our nation was shaped, crafted, and secured with the help of gunpowder. We are, despite what some would like to say, a people of the gun.

Furthermore, we have a history of experience that shows us that problems are often solved with the help of just having a gun nearby. It deters evil, but should evil persist and we be forced to draw the gun, evil is often stopped. Either by surrender or death, evil desists.

For the majority of America, it seems an awful lot like the anti-gun crowd is nonsensical. They call for change, yet the changes they call for aren't helpful and are frankly wholly unrealistic. They feel more like knee-jerk reactions that only deprive Americans of the time-honored and proven best line of defense against a world that is proven to be chaotic and unsafe at the drop of a hat. Calls for banning this or restricting that feel more like sacrificial lambs to make people feel safe, while in reality, they do little to actually make the situation better.

Anti-gun laws and activism runs contrary to the established order of the nation in the same way cancer runs contrary to the human body. It's destructive to the body, and the more of it you have the deadlier it becomes.

Instead of fearing our gun culture, and attempting to deconstruct something that has been hundreds of years in the making, we should be embracing it, and promoting education and training. Introduce firearms at a younger age, and inject a feeling of responsibility, precaution, and safety. This

idea of teaching kids and their parents to just simply fear firearms, and convincing the populace that there's safety in ignorance will only open them up for disaster.

Anti-gun activism is unnatural to our nation, and its best we face that fact before we open up for more atrocity to happen.



My South

By Robert St. John
Executive chef and owner of the Purple Parrot Cafe,
Crescent City Grill
And Mahogany Bar of Hattiesburg, Miss.

Thirty years ago I visited my first cousin in Virginia. While hanging out with his friend, the discussion turned to popular movies of the day. When I offered my two-cents on the authenticity and social relevance of the movie Billy Jack, one of the boys asked, in all seriousness; "Do you guys have movie theaters down there?"

To which I replied, "Yep. We wear shoes too."

Just three years ago, my wife and I were attending a food seminar in Aspen, Colorado. We were seated with two couples from Las Vegas. One of the Glitter Gulch gals was amused and downright rude when I described our restaurant as a fine-dining restaurant.

"Mississippi doesn't have fine-dining restaurants!" she demanded and nudged her companion.

I fought back the strong desire to mention that she lived in the land that invented the 99-cent breakfast buffet. I wanted badly to defend my state and my restaurant with a 15-minute soliloquy and public relations rant that would surely change her mind. It was at that precise moment that I was hit with a blinding jolt of enlightenment, and in a moment of complete and absolute clarity it dawned on me-my south is the best-kept secret in the country.

Why would I try to win this woman over? She might move down here.

I am always amused by Hollywood's interpretation of the South. We are still, on occasion, depicted as a collective group of sweaty, stupid, backwards-minded and racist rednecks. The south of movies and TV, the Hollywood south, is not my south.

This is my south:

My south is full of honest, hardworking people. My south is the birthplace of blues and jazz, and rock n' roll. It has banjo pickers and fiddle players, but it also has B. B. King, Muddy Waters, the Allman Brothers, Emmylou Harris and Elvis.

My south is hot.

My south smells of newly mowed grass.

My south is creek swimming, cane-pole fishing, and bird hunting.





One of the last known photos of an Upshur County Confederate Veterans reunion.

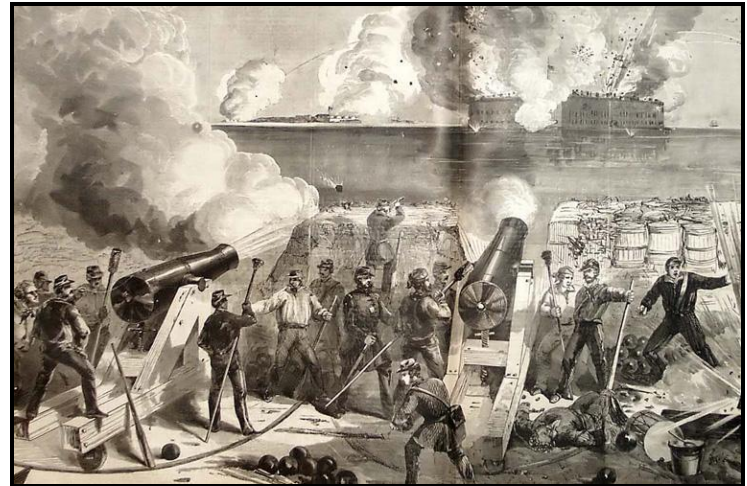
The Arrogant Bureaucrat

A Department of Agriculture representative stopped at a farm and talked with the old farmer. I'm going to inspect your farm. I'm going to inspect your farm." The old farmer said, "You better not go in that field." The Agriculture representative said in a wise tone, "I have the authority of the Government with me. See this card? I am allowed to go wherever I wish on agricultural land." So, the old farmer went about his farm chores. Later, the farmer heard loud screams and saw the Department of Agriculture representative running for the fence and close behind was the farmer's prize bull. The bull was madder than a full nest of hornets and the bull was gaining at every step. The old farmer called out, "Show him your card!"



Acoustic Music Night

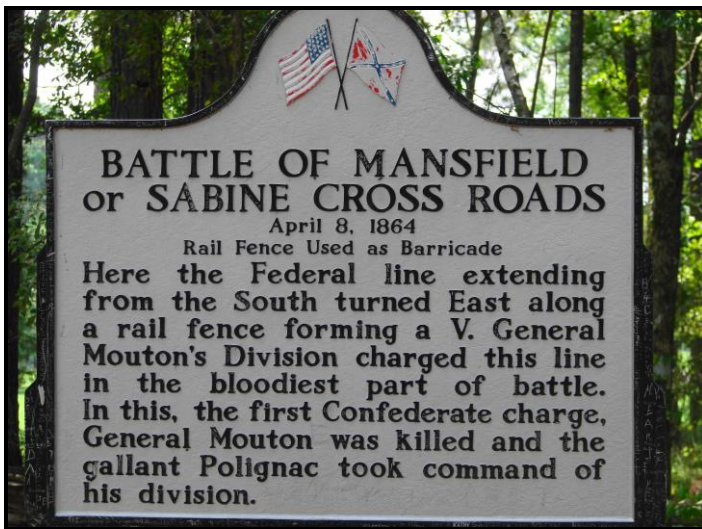
Some of our Camp members and others perform an Acoustic Music Jam twice a month at the Walking S Steakhouse. This takes place every 2nd & 4th Thursday nights from 6pm – 8pm. Bring your instrument and join in or just come by for the music.



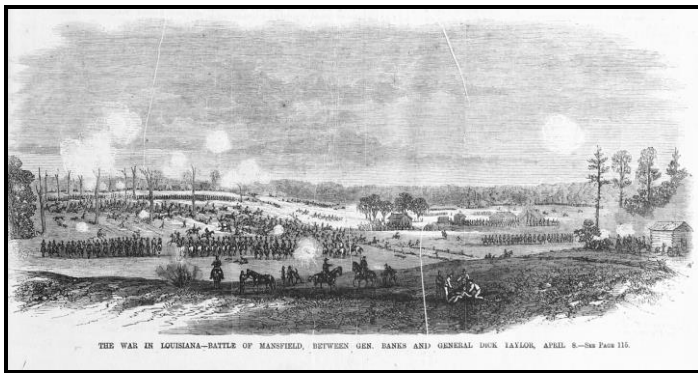
The Firing on Fort Sumter April 12, 1861



Fort Sumter Today



The Battle of Shiloh
April 6–7, 1862



The Battle of Mansfield



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



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

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