



PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL

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

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APRIL 2019

****Best Newsletter Award 2nd Place****

Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
Camps Over 50 Members June 2017 Reunion

****Best Newsletter Award 1st Place****

Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
Camps Over 50 Members June 2016 Reunion



DEFENDING SOUTHERN **HERITAGE**

From the writings of: Clyde Wilson

Many good people have been working in recent years to preserve public acknowledgment and celebration of our Confederate history. Our fights have been largely defensive reactions to the innumerable strokes of our enemies. Our enemies control most of the political, religious, educational, business and media institutions of American society, including nearly all 'Southern' institutions.

The people who want to do away with Confederate symbols are not people who will come around when you argue a little historical interpretation with them.

After reconstruction, Northerners acknowledged that Southerners had been brave and honorable in their war for independence, and their heroes, like Lee and Jackson, would be celebrated as

American heroes. Confederate flags were seen among American fighting men, in real life and film, during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. R.E. Lee and Lee's Lieutenants were celebrated as accounts of American military valor. In our current atmosphere you can choose to honor your Southern heritage and preserve your Southern identity, or you can give unthinking obedience to the America of today. You cannot do both without engaging in self-defeating contradiction.

Be worthy of your ancestors, you are a member of a great people under attack. Think like a Southerner. Lay claim to your entire heritage! Don't be discouraged. So beautiful and powerful is our heritage that it has taken decades to cut it away. It will take some time and hard work to recover lost ground.

April Events

Next Meeting April 2, 2019

Blackstone Ridge April 12 & 13, 2019

****Check the Calendar on Our Website***

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THE GUARDIAN

"Your tombstone stands among the rest
Neglected and Alone.
The name and date are chiseled out
On polished marble stone.
It reaches out to all who care
It is too late to morn.
You didn't know that I exist
You died and I was born.
Yet each of us are cells of you
In flesh and blood and bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse
Entirely not or own.
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled
One hundred years ago.
Spreads out among the ones you left
Who would have loved you so.
I wonder how you lived and loved
I wonder if you knew.
That someday I would find this spot
And come to visit you."

-Walter Butler Palmer-

The Texas Division has instituted a special program to honor the memory of our Confederate Ancestors and to help ensure the preservation of their final resting places.

Please consider becoming a Guardian and taking part in this wonderful program.

Contact Director Phil Davis for more information.

UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS GUARDIANS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian</u> <u>Status</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>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 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	18
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2
Mitch Tyson	Full	3
Raven Baker	GPT	2

W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem



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.

"We are not fighting for slavery. We are fighting for independence - and that, or extermination, we will have."

Jefferson Davis 1864

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:

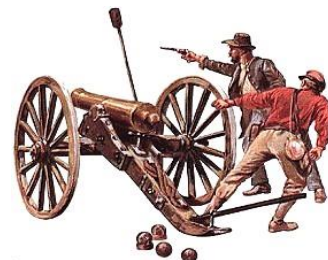
Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.



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."***



"We feel that our cause is just and holy... We seek no conquest... All we ask is to be left alone." – Jefferson Davis 1861



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.



Gen. Stonewall Jackson

EASTER

Easter 2019 occurs on Sunday, April 21. However, Easter falls on a different date each year.

Easter Sunday and related celebrations, such as Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday, are considered “moveable feasts,” although, in western Christianity, which follows the Gregorian calendar, Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th.

In some denominations of Protestant Christianity, Easter Sunday marks the beginning of Eastertide, or the Easter Season. Eastertide ends on the 50th day after Easter, which is known as Pentecost Sunday.

According to the New Testament, Jesus was arrested by the Roman authorities, essentially because he claimed to be the “Son of God,” although historians question this motive, with some saying that the Romans may have viewed him as a threat to the empire.

He was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, the Roman prefect in the province of Judea from 26 to 36 A.D. Jesus' death by crucifixion, marked by the Christian holiday Good Friday (the Friday before Easter), and subsequent resurrection three days later is said, by the authors of the gospels, to prove that he was the living son of God.

In varying ways, all four of the gospels in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) state that those who believe in Jesus' death and resurrection are given "the gift of eternal life," meaning that those of faith will be welcomed into the "Kingdom of Heaven" upon their earthly death.



Our March program was given by Compatriot Frank Smith on Col. John Mosby.



Camp Chaplain James Eitson (L) was presented with 7 Guardian Certificates by Chairman Phil Davis (C) and George Linton (R)



HISTORICAL DATES IN APRIL

April 21, 1836 - The Battle of San Jacinto between Texans led by Sam Houston and Mexican forces led by Santa Anna took place near present day Houston. The Texans decisively defeated the Mexican forces thereby achieving independence.

April 3, 1860 - In the American West, the Pony Express service began as the first rider departed St. Joseph, Missouri. For \$5 an ounce, letters were delivered 2,000 miles to California within ten days.

April 12, 1861 - At 4:30 a.m. Confederates under Gen. Pierre Beauregard open fire with 50 cannons upon Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. The Civil War begins.

April 17, 1861 - Virginia secedes from the Union, followed within five weeks by Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, thus forming an eleven state Confederacy.

April 19, 1861 - President Lincoln issues a Proclamation of Blockade against Southern ports.

April 20, 1861 - Robert E. Lee resigns his commission in the United States Army. "I cannot raise my hand against my birthplace, my home, and my children." Lee then goes to Richmond, Virginia, is offered command of the military and naval forces of Virginia, and accepts.

April 6/7, 1862 - Confederate surprise attack on Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's unprepared troops at Shiloh on the Tennessee River results in a bitter struggle

with 13,000 Union killed and wounded and likewise 10,000 Confederates.

April 24, 1862 - 17 Union ships under the command of Flag Officer David Farragut move up the Mississippi River then take New Orleans.

April 2, 1863 - A bread riot occurred in the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, as angry people demanded bread from a bakery wagon then wrecked nearby shops. The mob dispersed only after Confederate President Jefferson Davis made a personal plea and threatened to use force.

April 10, 1863 – The Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

April 12, 1864 - Battle of Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

April 2, 1865 - Grant's forces begin a general advance and break through Lee's lines at Petersburg. The Confederate Capital, Richmond, is evacuated.

April 9, 1865 - Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders his Confederate Army to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at the village of Appomattox Court House in Virginia. Grant allows Rebel officers to keep their side arms and permits soldiers to keep horses and mules.

April 14, 1865 – President Lincoln and his wife Mary see the play "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater. At 10:13 p.m., during the third act of the play, John Wilkes Booth shoots the president in the head.

April 15, 1865 - President Abraham Lincoln dies at 7:22 in the morning.

April 26, 1865 - John Wilkes Booth is shot and killed in a tobacco barn in Virginia.

April 6, 1917 - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe.



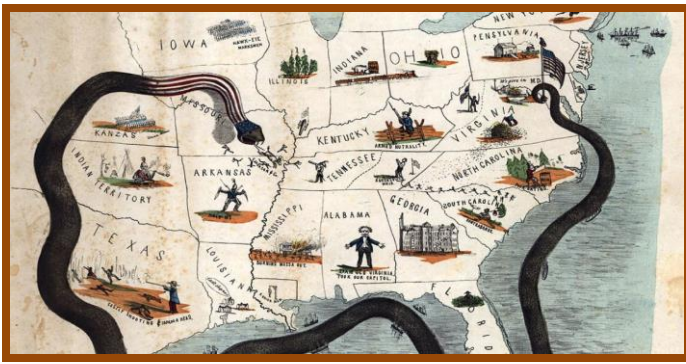
BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO

On April 21, 1836, during Texas' war for independence from Mexico, the Texas militia under Sam Houston launched a surprise attack against the forces of Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto, near present-day Houston, Texas. The Mexicans were thoroughly routed, and hundreds were taken prisoner, including Santa Anna. In exchange for his freedom, Santa Anna signed a treaty recognizing Texas' independence.

The citizens of the Lone Star Republic elected Sam Houston as president and endorsed the entrance of Texas into the United States. On December 29, 1845, Texas entered the United States as the 28th state.



Adjutant Don Loyd reviews our monthly financial report.



THE BLOCKADING OF SOUTHERN SEAPORTS

From: *history.net*

On April 19, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln announced the establishment of a Union blockade of Confederate ports. The purpose of the blockade was to prevent the import of essential supplies, as well as the export of cash crops, into and out of the Confederacy. The plan was designed to weaken the South and force the Confederacy to surrender and rejoin the Union.

As a result of the blockade, infections and disease were made worse by lack of drugs and a scarcity of Southern pharmaceutical laboratories. Throughout the war, Confederate blockade-runners managed to import some drugs from Europe. The capture of Union supplies also served as a source of some medicines. However, because of few reliable sources of drugs the Confederate Army established medical laboratories in cities across the South, including one in Columbia, South Carolina.



EVACUATION AND CAPTURE OF RICHMOND


From: *Wikipedia*

After a long siege, Gen. Grant captured Petersburg and Richmond in early April 1865. As the fall of Petersburg became imminent, on Evacuation Sunday (April 2), President Davis, his Cabinet, and the Confederate defenders abandoned Richmond and fled south on the last open railroad line, the Richmond and Danville.

The retreating soldiers were under orders to set fire to bridges, the armory, and warehouses with supplies as they left. The fire in the largely abandoned city spread out of control, and large parts of Richmond were destroyed, reaching to the very edge of Capitol Square mostly unchecked. The conflagration was not completely extinguished until the mayor and other civilians went to the Union lines east of Richmond on New Market Road (now State Route 5) and surrendered the city the next day. Union troops put out the raging fires in the city. The event became known as the Evacuation Fire. The occupation was overseen by General Godfrey Weitzel and later General Edward Ord.



CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH

The Senate of the State of Texas, 76th Legislature, Senate Resolution No. 526 hereby recognize April as Confederate History and Heritage Month in the State of Texas and encourage all Texas schools and citizens to join in efforts to become more knowledgeable of the role of the Confederate States of America in the history of our country. 

April is the month in which the Confederate States of America began and ended a four-year struggle for states' rights, individual freedom, and local government control.

The State of Texas declared herself to be a free and independent state and subsequently joined the Confederate States of America of which it was a member state from 1861 until 1865.



FT. SUMTER AND FT. MOULTRIE ARE OFFICIALLY NATIONAL PARKS

By Abbey O'Brien March 15, 2019

This week President Donald Trump signed U.S. Senator Tim Scott's Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park Act. Scott wrote the bill to revamp protections overseeing some of South Carolina's historic

locations as well as give them more notoriety.

Specific details of the bill include:

- *Establishes Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park

- *Codifies clear and defining boundaries of federally managed land at Fort Sumter

- *Recognizes the importance of Fort Sumter, Fort Moultrie, and the Sullivan's Island Life Saving Station Historic District in American history and the role they played in protecting the Charleston Harbor during the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the development of the United States coastal defense system from 1776 to 1947

- *Commemorates the lives of the free and enslaved workers who built Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie, the soldiers who defended the forts, the prisoners held there, and the captive Africans brought to America as slaves

- *Bolsters the tourism potential of the community by increasing the visibility, prestige, and notoriety of the sites by upgrading the federal designation to national park

Each year, nearly a million people visit Ft. Sumter National Monument and Ft. Moultrie.

2019 TEXAS DIVISION REUNION



**May 31 – June 2, 2019
Temple, Texas**



CONFEDERATE MOTHERS MONUMENT

The Confederate Mothers Monument, also known as simply Confederate Memorial, Confederate Monument, or Texarkana Confederate Memorial is an outdoor Confederate memorial installed at 500 State Line Road in Texarkana, TX.

The monument was dedicated on April 21, 1918. It was designed by Henry Allen and constructed by Allen Monuments. The two figures were obtained from Italy. Thought to be the only Confederate monument to include a woman in Texas, it is carved from marble.

The monument's inscription for the Confederate mother statute reads: "O Great Confederate Mothers, we would print your names on monuments, that men may read them as the years go by and tribute pay to you, who bore and nurtured hero sons and gave them solace on that darkest hour, when they came home with broken swords and guns". The inscription for the Confederate soldier reads, "To our loyal Confederates". The soldier faces north.

The chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy that built the Confederate Mothers Monument was disbanded and a new chapter does not own the monument so the city is responsible for maintenance.

YOU CAN'T FLY THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

By: Tim Donnelly



According to the left, it's not OK to fly the Confederate flag. But it is OK to protest the American flag and disrespect the national anthem.

Not a day goes by when you don't hear about a new "safe space" being afforded at our expense where common-sense, reason and the Constitution are suspended in order to appease some offended group.

Just because an action is popular, doesn't make it right. Banning flags as "offensive" and guns as "dangerous" sounds good as a sound bite to many who've never contemplated freedom. Freedom is a risky proposition.

When it comes to ideas, symbols, or even personalities that are unpopular or severely mischaracterized, the media stands up for the "right to not be offended." The only problem is that the so-called "right to not be offended" does not exist. It does not exist in our society, nor is it acknowledged anywhere in the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights.

Whether you want to fly the Stars and Bars or the Confederate Flag we as a free people should defend your right to do it. No matter how much we might disagree or even hate you're doing it.

That's freedom. That's the meaning of the First Amendment.



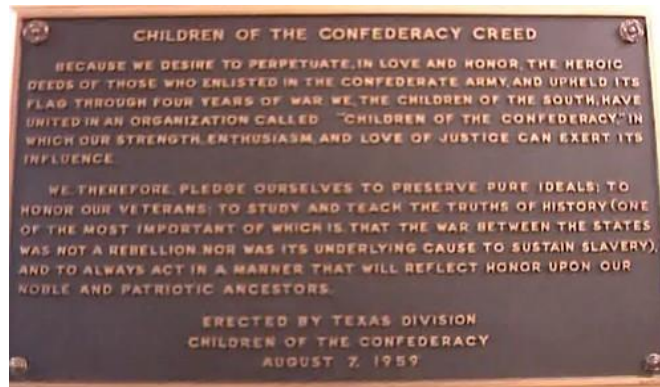
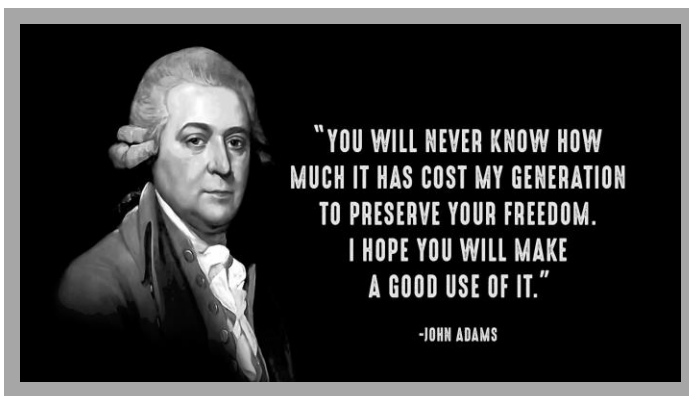
JOHN AND EVA O'BRYNE HOUSE

The Big House is the family name for the O'Byrne plantation home that John O'Byrne built after he moved to Upshur County from Ireland in 1870. The family home was completed in 1888.

The southern plantation home on what is now FM 1844 in Union Grove has been owned by the family for most of its 125 years.

The O'Byrne house is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and was awarded the Texas Historical Medallion in 1964.

The O'Byrnes are one of Upshur County's earliest pioneer families, and before Union Grove gained its name, the settlement was known as O'Byrne's Mill, named after the saw mill that John O'Byrne looked after.



CONFEDERATE PLAQUE REMOVED FROM TEXAS STATE CAPITOL

A Confederate plaque has been taken down from the Texas state Capitol after a bipartisan effort from lawmakers to have it removed.

The plaque states that the Civil War was "not a rebellion, nor was its underlying cause to sustain slavery."

Its removal marks the latest development in efforts nationwide to remove statues and other monuments honoring the Confederacy. At least 113 Confederate monuments have been removed since 2015.

EAST TEXAS GOLD FROM MEXICO

From: www.legendsofamerica.com



In 1839 Mirabeau B. Lamar, the newly inaugurated successor to Sam Houston as President of Texas, sent the Texas Army out to get rid of the Cherokees. A huge battle ensued between the two groups near what is now known as Tyler. The Cherokees

started getting their butts kicked and they began retreating.

The Indians' retreat carried them through present day Upshur County, where many of them scattered into the swamps and underbrush along what is now known as Little Cypress Creek, north of the present city of Gilmer. In the meantime, the Mexicans, fearing for their lives, were eager to off-load the heavy gold and silver coins they carried, which made the quick escape impossible. According to the legend, the Mexicans hid their cache in a deep spot in Little Cypress Creek.

Many believe that the treasure continues to lie beneath the mud of Little Cypress Creek in Upshur County.



SIMPSONVILLE, TEXAS **(UPSHUR COUNTY)**

From: tshaonline

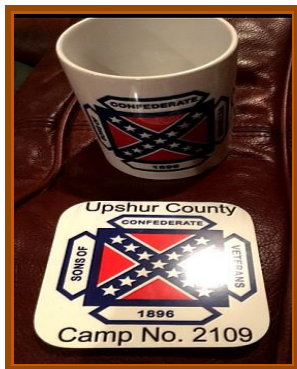
Simpsonville, also known as Thomas, at the junction of Farm roads 2088 and 556, twelve miles northwest of Gilmer in northwestern Upshur County, was first settled in the late 1850s. The community was originally known as Chelsea, and a post office under that name operated briefly in 1858. On April 22 of the same year the town's name was changed to Simpsonville, after an early settler. Over the course of the next half century the post office was

discontinued and reestablished several times; it was closed in 1866, reopened in 1867, closed in 1879, and reopened again the same year. The first church in the community, the Missionary Baptist Church, was established in 1853, and the first school opened around the time of the Civil War. By 1885 Simpsonville was a thriving town with four gristmills and cotton gins, a school, two churches, three general stores, a wagon shop, a cotton-press factory, and a population of 300.

The town continued to prosper after the turn of the century, and in 1906 the school had an enrollment of 114. Postal officials, however, discontinued the post office that year. Late in 1913 citizens of the town applied for another post office. By that time, however, a Simpsonville in Matagorda County had been granted a post office, so postal officials denied the application. The townspeople decided to rename the post office Thomas, in honor of O. Thomas, who had served as postmaster for many years. The new post office opened in 1914 and operated until 1954. During the 1930s and 1940s the town was shown as Thomas on highway maps, but was still generally known as Simpsonville. The population reached 400 in 1929 but began to decline in the 1930s. By the mid-1930s the community consisted of a school, six or seven stores, and a number of houses; the estimated population in 1936 was 220. After World War II the population continued to dwindle, and by the mid-1960s only a church, a cemetery, three stores, and a few houses remained. In 1990 Simpsonville was a dispersed rural community. The population grew to 100 in 2000.



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



Blackstone Ridge



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.



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