



# PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL

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

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Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of  
Each Month at 7 PM  
at the Historic Upshur Museum  
[www.upshurpatriots.org](http://www.upshurpatriots.org)

MAY 2024



## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Welcome to May and our Newsletter.

The Upshur Co, Patriots, Mechanized Cavalry and 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade had some very worthwhile events during April. We have had Cemetery Memorials, Dedications, and the Annual Trans-Mississippi Raid on the Border. Thank you to everyone who took part or were present.

These Events are exactly what we need to continue doing in the future. Honoring our Ancestors, education, and helping our Community are a win-win for all.

Let's continue to be active...



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**THE GUARDIAN**

**Honoring Fallen War Veterans**

Firing three rifle volleys over the grave was borrowed from ancient war times. It implies that the fallen warrior has been relieved of their duties officially. According to the old traditions from which the method was borrowed, the firing was done after getting the dead off the field. Once they had all been taken care of, the battle would proceed. It provided the soldiers on the field an opportunity to honor their fellow service members even amidst war.

Taps is a method of honoring fallen soldiers invented in the 1860s by General Daniel Butterfield. They started referring to it as "Taps" as it was frequently tapped out on a drum in the utter lack of a military band and was considered an acceptable alternative when firing three volleys for fallen soldiers. Loud rifle volleys could alert enemies, jeopardizing the mission. While Taps was discovered in the 1860s, the United States Army officialized it in 1874.

*The SCV Guardian Program honors the Fallen.*

*"If you're not a Guardian, why not?"*

Contact Guardian Program Chairman Bill Elliot for information at: [etaia@att.net](mailto:etaia@att.net)



**UPSHUR  
CO. PATRIOTS  
GUARDIANS**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian Status</u>	<u>Number of Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	31
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	51
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	40
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Tommy Ray	Full/GPT	19
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2
Gregg Gipe	GPT	3

W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem



1913 Gettysburg Reunion



More than 50,000 in attendance

## 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.



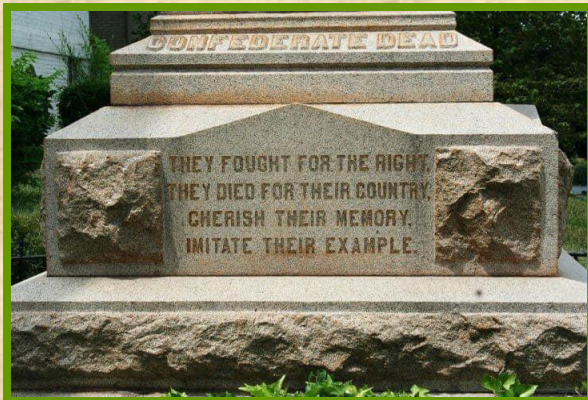
### PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG:

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 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.”



In 1906 General Stephen D. Lee, Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans, gave a charge to the next generation of Southerners. This charge has defined the mission of the Sons of Confederate Veterans ever since.

*“These gallant men in blue and gray sit all about us here. Many of them met upon this ground in grim and deadly struggle. Upon these famous fields and hillsides their comrades died about them. Fifty years have gone by since then, and I crave the*

*privilege of speaking to you for a few minutes of what those fifty years have meant."*

*President Woodrow Wilson...July 4, 1913*



Just like in nature so in the church springtime is a gift of God. No one can stop the coming of spring when God has appointed its time. And no one can bring forth the life of spring unless God sends it. *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all"* (John 6:63).

Think of a tucked away box that hasn't been opened in ages. That's what our sins can be like. We harbor all this guilt and shame over past mistakes and hide them away in the untouched corners of our hearts, never to see the light of day.

What if we unpacked all that baggage and laid it before God? What if we actively turned away from our sins (that's called repentance), and said, "Here you go, God. All the broken pieces of my life are yours now."

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9*



## HISTORICAL EVENTS IN MAY

### 1861

- May 6** - Arkansas and Tennessee adopt Ordinances of Secession. Tennessee schedules a referendum for June 8
- May 13** - U.S. troops occupy Baltimore, Maryland
- May 20** - North Carolina adopts an Ordinance of Secession
- May 20** - Kentucky declares its neutrality.
- May 23** - Virginia voters ratify the State Convention's decision to secede.
- May 24** - Federal troops seize Alexandria, Virginia

### 1862

- May 5** - Battle of Williamsburg, Virginia
- May 7** - Engagement at West Point (Eltham's Landing), Virginia
- May 8** - Battle of McDowell, Virginia
- May 9** - Bombardment of Pensacola, Florida
- May 10** - Naval engagement at Plum Run Bend, Arkansas
- May 10** - Union forces capture Norfolk, Virginia
- May 11** - Confederate sailors blow up the CSS *Virginia* to keep her from falling into Union hands.
- May 15** - Battle of Drewry's Bluff, Virginia
- May 23** - Engagement at Front Royal, Virginia
- May 25** - Battle of First Winchester, Virginia
- May 26** - Skirmish at Calico Rock, Arkansas
- May 29/30** - Confederates evacuate Corinth, Mississippi
- May 31** - Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks), Virginia begins.

## 1863

**May 1** - Battle of Port Gibson, Mississippi

**May 3** - Second Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia

**May 6** - Battle of Chancellorsville ends with Confederate victory.

**May 10** - Death of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

**May 12** - Battle of Raymond, Mississippi

**May 14** - Engagement at Jackson, Mississippi

**May 16** - Battle of Champion Hill (Baker's Creek), Mississippi

**May 17** - Battle of Big Black River Bridge, Mississippi

**May 19** - First assault on Vicksburg, Mississippi

**May 21** - Engagement at Plains Store, Louisiana

**May 22** - Siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana begins

## 1864

**May 5** - Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia

**May 6** - Day two of the Battle of the Wilderness, General James Longstreet is seriously wounded in combat

**May 7** - Sherman begins his Atlanta campaign

**May 7** - Union troops seize Tunnel Hill on the first day of the Atlanta Campaign, an important tunnel on the Western & Atlantic Railroad.

**May 8** - Battle of Spotsylvania, Virginia

**May 9** - Engagement at Swift Creek, Virginia

**May 11** - Battle of Yellow Tavern, Virginia on Sheridan's Richmond Raid

**May 12** - Battle of Spotsylvania continues with the fight for the Bloody Angle

**May 12** - Death of J.E.B. Stuart

**May 13** - Battle of Resaca, Georgia begins

**May 15** - Battle of New Market, Virginia

**May 18** - Engagement at Yellow Bayou (Bayou de Glaize), Louisiana (Red River Expedition)

**May 20** - Battle of Ware Bottom Church

**May 23** - Battle of North Anna River, Virginia

**May 25** - Battle of New Hope Church, Georgia

**May 27** - Battle of Pickett's Mill, Georgia

**May 28** - Skirmish near Jacksonville, Florida

**May 28** - Battle of Dallas, Georgia

**May 29** - Confederates capture wagon train at Salem, Arkansas

**May 31** - Combat at Bethesda Church, Virginia

## 1865

**May 2** - A \$100,000 reward offered for the arrest of Jefferson Davis

**May 4** - Surrender of Confederate General Richard Taylor's forces at Citronelle, Alabama

**May 10** - Confederate President Jefferson Davis captured by U.S. troops at Irwinville, Georgia

**May 12** - Skirmish at Palmito Ranch, Texas - the last engagement of the Civil War

**May 23 to 24** - Grand Review of Union armies in Washington, D.C.

**May 26** - Surrender of Confederate General E.K. Smith's Trans-Mississippi forces, New Orleans, Louisiana





## FEDERALS CAPTURE ALEXANDRIA

*civilwarmonths.com*

As May 1861 opened, Confederate forces held Alexandria, a largely pro-secession town across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The town was strategically valuable as a staging area for a Federal invasion of Virginia, but since the state had not yet formally seceded (a popular vote on the subject was to take place on the 23rd), the Lincoln administration had not yet made an effort to take it. The force holding Alexandria consisted of 481 largely untrained and ill-equipped Confederates under Lieutenant Colonel Algernon S. Taylor.

Federal troops continued pouring into Washington, and rumors soon circulated that they were about to march on Taylor's tiny, unprepared force. Brigadier General Philip St. George Cooke, Taylor's superior, was aware of these rumors, and so he sent strict orders to Taylor: "You will not move the troops out of Alexandria unless pressed by overwhelming and irresistible numbers." If Taylor had to fall back, he was to break up the Orange & Alexandria Railroad as he went to slow the Federal advance.

Against orders, Taylor retreated without being "pressed by overwhelming and irresistible numbers" on the 5th. When Cocke demanded an explanation why he did so, Taylor asserted that he lacked guns, ammunition, and troop discipline to hold Alexandria against the thousands of Federals massing across the Potomac. The secession vote would most likely result in Virginia leaving the Union, so Federals were poised to cross the river, then move along the Orange & Alexandria line toward Richmond, while another Federal force moved into the Shenandoah Valley from Pennsylvania or Maryland. Taylor had no intention of waiting for the enemy to come.



## BATTLE OF DREWRY'S BLUFF

*wikipedia.org*

The Battle of Drewry's Bluff, also known as the Battle of Fort Darling, or Fort Drewry, took place on May 15, 1862, in Chesterfield County, Virginia, as part of the Peninsula Campaign of the American Civil War. Four Union Navy warships, including the ironclads USS *Monitor* and *Galena*, and the United States Revenue Cutter Service's ironclad USRC *Naugatuck* steamed up the James



River to test the defenses of Richmond, Virginia, the Confederate capital. They encountered submerged obstacles, and deadly accurate fire from the batteries of Fort Darling at Drewry's Bluff, which inflicted severe damage on *Galena*, forcing them to turn back.


The massive fort on Drewry's Bluff had blunted the Union advance just 7 mi (11 km) short of the Confederate capital, at a loss of seven Confederates killed and eight wounded. Richmond remained safe. Rodgers reported to McClellan that it was feasible for the navy to land troops as close as 10 mi (16 km) from Richmond. Some amateur researchers think the Union Army never took advantage of this observation, yet the entire purpose of the expedition was to obtain such information.

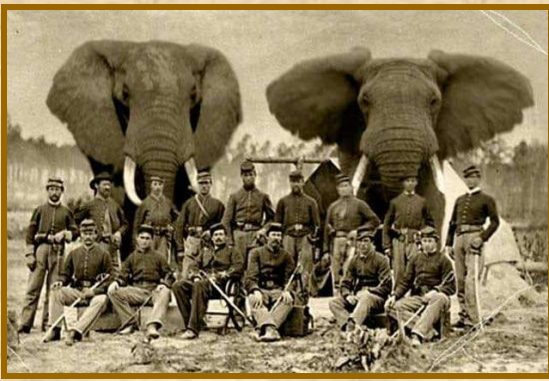
**PHOTOS FROM THE  
BATTLE OF MANSFIELD  
WEEKEND APRIL 8, 2024**

Thanks to Compatriot Red Yauch



**SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS  
MECHANIZED CAVALRY  
NATIONAL ANNUAL  
JUNE 12 - 16, 2024  
DUVOIR, THE LAST HOME OF  
JEFFERSON DAVIS  
BILOXI, MS.**





*listverse.com*

## LINCOLN'S ELEPHANTS

Before the war, King Rama IV of Siam found out that the US did not have elephants. King Rama IV felt, was a tragedy and one that needed to be righted as soon as possible.

When the Civil War began, Rama IV jumped on the opportunity. He wrote to Abraham Lincoln, offering to send him as many war elephants as he required. These, King Rama IV explained, would not only help him crush the Confederates but could also be put to work on construction projects or just set loose in the forests.

Lincoln did his best to be polite. "I appreciate most highly Your Majesty's tender of good offices," he wrote back. "Our political jurisdiction, however, does not reach a latitude so low as to favor the multiplication of the elephant."

In 1855, the U.S. Army began testing camels for use as pack animals instead of horses or mules. One soldier reported he'd rather have one camel than four mules. However, before the Army could invest heavily in camels, the American Civil War broke out.



Historical marker on High-way 79 in Rusk County marking a section of Trammel's Trace.

## TRAMMEL'S TRACE

*countylinemagazine.com*

From about 1819 into the 1850s, Trammel's Trace was the primary route for entry into Texas for Anglo immigrants coming by way of Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and Arkansas. After Texas statehood in 1845, the population of East Texas grew substantially, and roads began to spring up all around. Through the middle of all of them was Trammel's Trace.

Trammel's Trace crossed the Sabine at the point where Rusk, Panola, and Harrison counties connect. Francis Ramsdale's ferry crossing there in 1835 was likely little used. The ground in seven Texas counties contains the main path of Trammel's Trace—Bowie, Cass, Marion, Harrison, Rusk, Panola, and Nacogdoches. Another leg of the trail originated at Pecan Point in what is now Red River County.

Though most of the route is on private land, some of the ruts are still visible from public roadways. A short segment of double ruts south of Maud in Bowie County shows a





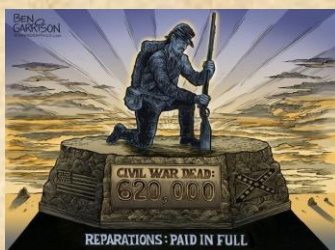
feature seen often along old trails, perhaps an example of a turnout around an eroded path. A deep swale just north of Avinger, in Marion County between Hughes Springs and Jefferson, illustrates how use over time can wear down the trail below ground level. Shadows of an old road across a pasture just east of Dalton in western Cass County on Highway 77 are easily recognizable from the roadway. Existing roads down the same corridor used by Trammel's Trace are easily driven to provide a sense of the landscape. Visible ruts along those current roads often expose the old trail weaving back and forth across a newer, straighter road.

### Ramsdale's Crossing/Ferry (Harrison County).



Francis Ramsdale's Crossing/Ferry on the Sabine River was located

approximately twelve miles south of Marshall at the point where the modern-day counties of Harrison, Panola, and Rusk converge (at 32° 24' N, 94° 30' W). In addition to serving as the point at which Trammel's Trace crossed the Sabine River, the ferry was an important landmark in area boundary history and was mentioned as a corner in the creation of Harrison County in 1839 and Rusk County in 1843.



## TRANS-MISSISSIPPI RAID ON THE BORDER

The "Raid on the Border" is an annual event of the SCV Mechanized Cavalry. The event draws members from multiple States to Johnsons Creek at Lake 'O the Pines for a full weekend April 26-April 28 under Captain Randy Yauch.

Friday April 26, a Ceremony was held at the Shady Grove Cemetery near Winnsboro Texas. Ms. Sherry Finney, cemetery overseer, coordinated with David Palmer and Newell Rambo in preparation for the event. This ceremony honored the 14 Confederate Soldiers interred there. There were Ancestors of these brave men present. 1<sup>st</sup> National Flags were placed on the graves.

### Photos From Shady Grove Cemetery





Johnsons Creek Homebase  
Raid on the Border



One of the items for auction was the above 1858 Colt .44 with 2 cylinders.



## RUDE SAYINGS YOUR SOUTHERN MAMA HATES

The deadly expressions guaranteed to get you on Mama's bad side in a hurry:

"I can't! The response was always, 'Can't never could do anything.'"

"Cuss words unless they're turned into Southernisms, like 'hell's bells,' thereby neutralizing the profanity."

"Any crass or overt mention of bodily functions, particularly those involved with reproduction—human, animal, or botanical. Mama had a sweet neighbor who made my cousin and me turn our backs to her lilies while she cross-pollinated them."

'Uh-huh' or 'unh-unh.' Those two are like fingernails to a chalkboard."

"Saying 'what?' instead of 'ma'am?'"

"Yes' or 'no' without the obligatory 'ma'am' following."

"Saying that something 'sucks.'"



Upcoming Events may be found on the Calendar at: [www.upshurpatriots.org](http://www.upshurpatriots.org)



Thank you to the Historic Upshur Museum for providing our meeting location.

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, Commander/Editor [goya1@etex.net](mailto:goya1@etex.net)



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

