

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

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May 2017

Best Newsletter Award

Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
June 2016 Reunion

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Phil Davis



Patriots as you know, April was very busy with memorials and dedications, as well as Confederate History Month activities at the Longview Museum. After looking at the calendar, I don't expect May to be much different. This will be the last month for our grave dedications as the weather will be turning very hot. As I have mentioned before, we have been leading the Brigade in activities for the past few months. In fact, I received a phone call from Brigade Commander Sam Mercer expressing his appreciation for the Camp's continued involvement in SCV and community activities. I appreciate all of the hard work you have done and urge you to keep it up. I wish to give a big "Thank You" to 1st Lt. Commander Milt Ojeman for stepping up

and filling in for me at the April meeting. All of the reports I was given were very positive. Thanks again, Milt!

Next month, June, is the Texas Division Reunion. I urge any of you that can attend to please do so. You can learn a great deal about how the Division works, or in some cases doesn't work. There should be many vendors to help you rid yourself of some of your money. Since May is the last time we will meet before we leave for the reunion, we will have to finalize how our camp will vote and who our delegates will be. We will be voting on Brigade Officers this time, as well as our Division Officers. I will try to have a list of who is running, so we can decide who to support. Also, I know of two amendments that will be voted on. If you have any input on any of this, feel free to voice it at our May meeting.

As always, I leave you with this question,

Have you talked to someone about joining our Camp or another SCV camp?

Well, Why Not?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting

May 2, 2017 7 PM
Walking S Steakhouse

Jefferson Pilgrimage Parade

May 6, 2017
Muster 9 AM

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



Johnnie Holley, Commander, Trans-Mississippi Army gives our March program.



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The Guardian

By Phil Davis

Patriots, May is here and the 2017 year is moving forward rapidly. I continue to steadily receive more applications for Guardianship. I will be presenting certificates to two more of our members at the May Meeting. I certainly enjoy this endeavor. I still have not reached my goal of every Upshur County Patriot being involved in the Guardian Program. Examine your devotion and see if there is a place for the Final Resting Place of a Confederate Hero in your life. If you need help I will be proud to assist you.

In April, we had many opportunities to Forward Our Colors. I think we were doing some SCV activity each Saturday. As I have said before, every time we march in a parade, do a grave dedication or place flags on a Confederate heroes grave, we show everyone that sees us, who we are and how we are trying to preserve our Southern Heritage. Keep your flags flying!

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?



Never Forgotten

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	37
Tommy Mitchell	Full	5
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	33
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Bill Palmer	Full	10
Tommy Ray	GPT	17
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7

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.



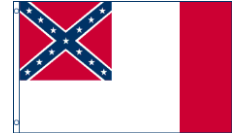
PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG:

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.



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.



The Human Blindness of God's Grace

By: Chaplain Larry Harper and 2nd Sgt.
Michael Pepper

The Grace of our Lord is a beautiful thing, however many of us poor sinners can fail to see the beauty and Love of our Lord when he grants our prayers. The struggle of our Confederate forebears is a great example of this for they, and many of us today fail to see the Glory of our Lord's blessings upon our ancestor's struggle. Here we shall try understanding the meaning of this proposed idea that our Lord granted the prayers for Southern Independence.

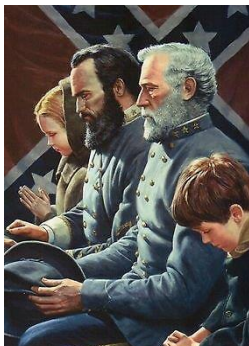
Matthew 7:3 asks us "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" In this verse we are told not to judge others without acknowledging our own faults, and to truly understand ourselves before judging others, which we should avoid. Our Southern ancestors fighting for Southern Independence can be very guilty of this in relation to prayer to the Lord for that Independence, and many of us fail to see the answered prayers and have allowed them to slip away.

The South has always been known for its fealty and devotion to our Lord and savior, so much so that to this day we carry the

name "Bible Belt", yet even in our devotion we are only human, and subject to human sight, which is dim compared to the sight and wisdom of our Lord. After the fall of Atlanta one North Carolinian Confederate soldier said in a letter home "All will be well, I cannot believe Providence intends the Confederate States for a subjugated Nation." Many a nonbeliever would laugh at this, and many a compatriot, for the preservation of our Heritage may even say he was wrong. But I ask an open mind to this revelation that the prayers were answered and the C.S.A. wasn't a subjugated nation, until we let bygones be bygones and allowed our independence to be taken away for the greater good of all Americans in the aftermath of the Second World War.

Many of you will say the War ended in Southern defeat when General Robert E. Lee first climbed the steps of Wilmer McLean's house in Appomattox Courthouse VA, some, may point out, as President Jefferson Davis said, when "the last Confederate flag was lowered in Shreveport", but the war didn't end there, or even 1865. The period following that fateful year in history has been called Reconstruction, (although it was more of an attempted destruction), that era saw the coming of the Carpetbagger, the betrayal of the Scalawag, and while the South suffered this indignant fate, our Lord and Savior heard our prayers, watched our suffering, and showered his blessing upon our ancestors and "Reconstruction" was deemed a failure by our ancestors' enemies, even their decedents, just as we are the descendents of our ancestors,

recognize "Reconstruction" as failure. After that blight upon our nation's history, after our ancestor's struggle for independence lasted though 16 years of war and retribution, the prayers for Independence were answered. Former Confederate soldiers and politicians achieved this Independence though not as we hoped. After "Reconstruction", the South was allowed the very State's Rights and freedom from taxes it had fought for, and the dreaded Yankees finally gave up and the South was an Independent entity in everything but name. In short, the sacrifice of blood, sweat, tears, lives, and treasure our Lord answered those prayers. Many of our ancestors and many of us today have failed to notice this. We've built up a myth of the "Lost Cause" when it was never lost. We've allowed ourselves to lose much of our distinct culture, because we were beaten, when we were victors. We proclaim ourselves Americans in every way as the Yankee, when they should be the ones ashamed. Here and now I tell you we should recognize our Lord's blessings when so many have never been noticed! We should thank our Lord for his blessings! And above all we should strive to fulfill the Charge leveled to us by Stephen D. Lee, thank you for your time and God bless you all.



Adjutant Rickie Gipson reviews our Camp Minutes and Financial Report.



Music of the American Civil War

From: Wikipedia

During the American Civil War music played a prominent role on both sides of the conflict: Union and Confederate. On the American Civil War battlefield, different instruments including bugles, drums, and fifes were played to issue marching orders or sometimes simply to boost the morale of one's fellow soldiers. Singing was also employed as a recreational activity, and as a release from the inevitable tensions that come with fighting in a war. In camp, music was a diversion away from the bloodshed, helping the soldiers deal with homesickness and boredom. Soldiers of both sides often engaged in recreation with musical instruments, and when the opposing armies were near each other, sometimes the bands from both sides of the

conflict played against each other on the night before a battle.

The Civil War was an important period in the development of American music. During the Civil War, when soldiers from across the country commingled, the multifarious strands of American music began to cross-fertilize each other, a process that was aided by the burgeoning railroad industry and other technological developments that made travel and communication easier. Army units included individuals from across the country, and they rapidly traded tunes, instruments and techniques. The songs that arose from this fusion were "the first American folk music with discernible features that can be considered unique to America". John Tasker Howard has claimed that the songs from this era "could be arranged in proper sequence to form an actual history of the conflicts; its events, its principal characters, and the ideals and principles of the opposing sides."

Musicians on the battlefield were drummers and buglers with an occasional fifer. Buglers had to learn forty-nine separate calls just for infantry, with more needed for cavalry. These ranged from battle commands to calls for meal time. Some of these musicians were drummer boys not even in their teens, which allowed an adult man to instead be a foot soldier.

Many soldiers brought musical instruments from home to pass the time at camp. Banjos, fiddles, and guitars were particularly popular. Aside from drums, the instruments Confederates played were either acquired before the war, or imported, due to the lack of brass and the

industry to make such instruments. Musical duels between the two sides were common, as they heard each other and the music traveled across the countryside.



Photo by Phil Davis

Steakhouse Hoedown

By
Phil Davis

As most of you know, twice a month, at the Walking "S" Steakhouse, a group of musicians gather together to have an old fashion "Pickin' and Grinnin'" time of fun and fellowship. There are musical instruments of all types, acoustic guitars, electric guitars, dulcimers, fiddles and even a bass fiddle made from a box. These folks play for Bill's dinner guests, as they relax and get fed, while being entertained. They meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

If you wonder why I have included this in our Newsletter, it's because two of our own

Patriots, David Palmer and James Barham, are there almost every time they meet. This group sits around in a circle, while taking a turn, leading in either playing or singing their song. The music ranges in time from the 1940's to the present. The music is mostly Country, but Bluegrass and the old Mountain ballads are played and sung also. Sometimes we all join in the singing. A relaxing and enjoyable time is had by all.

And oh yes, the food is great also!

Thank you, Bill, for allowing these musicians a venue to entertain us.

*Story Update: As of Thursday, April 27, Otter joined the group with his unique repertoire.



Compatriot Joseph Moss conducts our Door Prize drawing at our April meeting.



Historical Dates in May

May 6, 1861 Arkansas Secedes

May 7, 1861 Tennessee Secedes

May 20, 1861 North Carolina Secedes

May 31, 1862 Battle of Seven Pines

May 1-4, 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville

May 10, 1863 Stonewall Jackson dies from battle wounds

May 5-6, 1864 Battle at the Wilderness

May 8-12, 1864 Battle of Spotsylvania

May 13, 1865 Battle of Palmito Ranch Texas. The last battle of the Civil War.

May 1865 Remaining Confederate forces surrender. Over 620,000 Americans died in the war, with disease killing twice as many as those lost in battle. 50,000 survivors return home as amputees.

120th Texas Reunion

**Governor Samuel W. T.
Lanham Camp #586
Weatherford, Texas**

**Texas Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans
2017 Annual Reunion
Radisson Hotel, 2540 Meacham
Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76106**

June 2, 2017 - June 4, 2017



Jefferson Pilgrimage Parade and Town Skirmish

In celebration of the 70th Annual Pilgrimage, "Homecoming", Jefferson welcomes as the honored Grand Marshall, Maughan Anthony (Tony) Gould, the Great-great Grandson to Jay Gould.

As with each year, a highlight of the parade is the Town Skirmish in which Confederate and Union re-enactors put on a dramatic show for visitors.

Saturday, May 6, 2017 10:00am, Downtown Jefferson, Texas.



The Sons of Confederate Veterans broke ground at Elm Springs for a new building "The National Confederate Museum." The

museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. A building fund for this purpose is ongoing. One of the goals is to provide an accurate portrayal of the common Confederate Soldier, something that is currently absent in most museums and the media. We are invited to take a stand for the future by contributing to this fund.

*The Upshur Co. Patriots have a designated fund to help with this project. Please donate what you can.



Photo from: Texas Military Forces Museum

The Battle of Palmito Ranch Texas May 13, 1865

Called the "Last Action of the Civil War." The action began when Federal troops stationed on Brazos Island, just south of Padre Island and north of the Rio Grande, moved onto the Texas mainland on the night of May 11–12. Inconclusive skirmishing on May 12 and the morning of May 13 drove a battalion of Rebel cavalry

west of Palmetto Ranch, near Brownsville, where it was reinforced by artillery and cavalry commanded by Colonel John S. "Rip" Ford. The last battle of the war was a resounding Confederate victory, but it could not change the strategic reality that the South had been defeated. A few days after the battle, Ford disbanded his command and sent his troops home.

From an article published in TexasMilitaryForces.org



New Orleans Liberty Place Monument

(Photos from: New Orleans Advocate)



Under Cover of Darkness

On April 24, 2017 at 1:30 A.M., the Liberty Place Monument in New Orleans was removed. This was done in secret during the night by masked workers. It is your

editor's opinion that this was a cowardly act done with an obvious attempt to hide the actions from public scrutiny. Do we now have a generation in our society that is unable to cope with the truth of our history? We must not allow our History to be erased.

The following are excerpts from the New Orleans Advocate written by Jeff Adelson:

"Three other monuments targeted by Mayor Mitch Landrieu memorializing Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and P.G.T. Beauregard and Confederate President Jefferson Davis are scheduled to come down, though the timing and other details of their removal are closely guarded secrets."

"The process involved cranes' lifting the obelisk in pieces and loading them onto a flatbed truck. As dawn broke, all that remained was the base of the pedestal. The truck carried the pieces to a city warehouse."

"Workers wore bullet-proof vests, helmets and face masks as they went about their work. The logos on their trucks and equipment were covered in cardboard, and the license plates on the vehicles had been removed." Still, one man opposed to removing the monuments told others in his group, "We'll find out who they are."

Mayor Landrieu said of the Battle of Liberty Place monument, "We will no longer allow

the Confederacy to literally be put in the heart of our city. The removal of these statues sends a clear message, an unequivocal message to the people of our nation that our city celebrates our diversity,” he added.



The Photos Below are from Recent Cemetery Memorial Services

Photos by: Albert Colvin



Benjamin Stout at the Pine Forrest Cemetery



Green Allison at the Hubbard Chapel Cemetery



J.R. Finley & J.M. Harty at the Oak Ridge Cemetery



Thank you to 1st Sgt George Linton, the Lone Star Color Guard and everyone who participated in these events.



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.

Response to New Orleans Monument Removal



From: Thos. V. Strain Jr.
75th Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans

The recent events in New Orleans have been heartbreaking and, honestly, completely insane. The current mayor, Mitch Landrieu, and the City Council have completely derailed and are destroying the history of the very city they were elected to protect. Ironically, in the early morning hours on Monday, Mr. Landrieu, according to reports, had local firemen dismantle one of four monuments that he and other elected officials (not the citizens) alleged to be offensive to the citizens of New Orleans. The irony here is that Landrieu himself was placed under house arrest for owing the firefighters pension fund over \$190 million dollars; yes, \$190 million dollars. In 2015 word was received that the Mayor and his council started laying the groundwork for their plan, much like ISIS, to destroy monuments of our ancestors. With this information, the local Camp and Louisiana Division entered into litigation to stop this insanity. The National SCV entered into the litigation at a later date in an attempt to block the removal of historical monuments placed in the city. Thus far, after over thirty thousand dollars and countless hours of discussion and litigation, the fine men of Louisiana have basically been railroaded by Landrieu and his cronies over the years. What I personally find to be so ironic in all of this insanity is that for thirty two years the City was run by people of color who

respected historical monuments, but now Mr. Landrieu chooses to create division among the people for some perceived political gain or notoriety. It is reported that Landrieu now has a list of over one hundred streets and school names he wishes to change. After much consultation with the Division Commander of Louisiana and members of my staff I am calling for a BOYCOTT of the City of New Orleans by the members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and all right-minded people. Please visit Confederate Memorial Hall in this once fine Southern city but do not spend any of your hard earned dollars otherwise in the City. We must stand strong and let the historical terrorists and haters know who we are and what we stand for! New Orleans is no different than any other large town in the Southeast, and tourism dollars are what they thrive upon. New Orleans' busiest time of the year is Mardi Gras, and the money raised every year is used to promote the Mayor and City Council's agenda. While I encourage you to visit Louisiana and the countless towns and communities that host Mardi Gras festivals, please avoid New Orleans. Let our voices and dollars be heard!!! Therefore, I call for a BOYCOTT of New Orleans, LA and highly encourage each of you to spread the word to friends and family. We need to show Mr. Landrieu and his cronies that we will not stand for his ISIS tactics and the absolute destruction of OUR history under the cloak of darkness with snipers on rooftops. We must collectively let the powers that be know that we will not allow OUR HISTORY and the world's history to be destroyed or re-written by a few despicable people in power.



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.



We are proud to be associated with the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Order of Confederate Rose.

Comments or suggestions should be made to: David Palmer, Editor
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Best Newsletter Award
 Texas Division June 2016
 Camps Over 50 Members



Best Website Award
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