



Patriots Periodical

Upshur County Patriots, Camp #2109
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Gilmer, Texas

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Eddie "Spook" Pricer



May has come and gone and the last of our Sesquicentennial events along with it, leaving us with poignant thoughts of bygone times. We have honored our Ancestors with ceremonies and reenactments portraying the struggles encountered before and during the War of Northern Aggression.

Members of our Camp traveled across the Country to demonstrate that the ideals of the original Founding Fathers and those of our Southern Ancestors were true, forthright and the cornerstone of our Nations. During my travels, I met and made new friends, most of whom were willing to hear and learn of the southern history and the causes of the conflict. However, occasionally I encountered someone that used a phrase that I had not heard since childhood, "When are you going to let that war die?"

I answered quickly. I told them that "that war" as they referred to it, died in 1865. Then I added that we do still fight today. We fight the same heavy handed policies of government run amok with excessive taxation and regulation that brought us to the original formation of the United States and then the Confederate States. We still fight the brutality of Reconstruction and its punitive policies of imminent domain and routine orchestrated violations of the Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, and Tenth Amendments to the Constitution.

Strangely, when you mention a few abstract issues, they wanted to quickly change the subject without so much as a question towards and explanation as to what I referred to. Typically, they then became politically correct and blamed the entire conflict on slavery. When I would then point out that as corruptible as slavery was then

and is today, it occurred under the flag and regulation of the United States. Then I got the frown, or the sullen huff or moan as I offered to discuss my reasoning.

Try as I might, those conversations did not usually last long or amount to much. I mention this because it is time to focus all our efforts on educating the public. We have forty six years before we again honor Ancestors as we have done over the last four years. It is time to use the chip away theory, take short steps and select common areas of interest with the politically correct crowd, learn something about them, then using what concerns them, link it to the current and past events. Sadly, all too many of those who think they know what's best for us, "can't see past the end of their nose," as our grandparents used to say.

CONFEDERATE HERO'S DAY UPDATE

Compatriots:

It appears at this time that both bills to change Confederate Hero's Day have died. I want to thank all of you who wrote letters and made phone calls on this issue. Special thanks go to all who made the trip to Austin to speak at the hearing on the House bill. I feel they were overwhelmed by the turn out and the quality of the speakers. Several Senators dropped by the hearing and this may have been why the Senate bill never came to a hearing. This proves what we can do if we work together to protect our Heritage.

We have been monitoring the Jefferson Davis Statue question in Austin. This presents a special problem since it is on a college campus which restricts our

access. The news media reports that nothing is going to go forward on this issue until the new UT administration comes on board. There have been articles in the news against the removal. The statue was marked with paint but the UT maintenance personnel cleaned it the next day. We will hear more of this and must be prepared to respond in an appropriate manor. The best approach is through the Alumni Association and any of you who are UT graduates need to be ready to voice your opinions. This will continue to be monitored and the Division will respond at the proper time.

Thank You All for your GREAT work.

Johnnie Holley
Cmdr.TxDiv

The Guardian

by Phil Davis

By the time you read this Memorial Day will have come and gone. Memorial Day is a very special day for us as we honor ALL of those who gave their all to keep us free and living the lifestyle we know today. No matter what war you think about we have our fallen Heroes, whether it was in battle or serving in another capacity. As you may not know our Confederate Heroes are American Veterans. An act by Congress in 1958 authorized them as American Veterans. The Confederate Army always served as Americans, simply Confederate Soldiers fighting for their Southern rights and way of life.

On this Memorial Day I think The Guardian Program gives us a better feeling of how we can honor the final resting place of all our veterans as we place our flags and tend to their final resting place.

I hope that we as ancestors of our beloved Confederate Soldiers are able to honor all Veterans

of all wars. Each Veteran fought for a just cause in which he believed.

As I always say, I believe with all my being in the Guardian Program and I hope that in some small way I can convince you of its importance in fulfilling "The Charge". As always I leave you with this question -

Are You A Guardian?

If Not Why Not?

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 7th, at 7:00 p.m.
Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.
Walking S Steakhouse
Hwy 852, Gilmer, Texas

Texas Division 2015 Reunion

June 5th - June 7th, 2015

Temple, Texas

See

http://scvtexas.org/State_Convention_6YY5.html

for full information

Hood's Texas Brigade 2015 Tour

June 9th - June 12, 2015

Petersburg & Appomattox, VA

See

http://scvtexas.org/uploads/FootstepsTour20152pW_EB.pdf

for full information

120th SCV National Reunion

July 15-19, 2015

Richmond, Virginia

See

<http://www.jebstuartcamp.org/jebstuartcamp.org/2015reunion/>

for full details

Four State Training Seminar

August 1st, 2015

Hooks, Texas

See

<http://5thbrigade.org/reddiamond/training.html>

for full details

Our Honored Ancestors

Julius Honesta Stevens

Private

Co. I, 17th Mississippi Infantry

UPSHURPATRIOTS.ORG

This month the following changes have been made to our web site: <http://www.upshurpatriots.org>

- I've added pictures of the Rankin Shelton Grave Dedication as well as all three Days of the Civil War Weekend at Jefferson, Texas.
- I'm running out of Biographies of our Heroes to run in this newsletter. Please consider sending me a short Bio of your ancestor so that I can add it to our web page and in the newsletter.

If you have any suggestions, recommendations or comments you can send me an email to: Joe.Reynolds@upshurpatriots.org and I promise to give it my full consideration.

Our Charge...

"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."

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

Julius Honesta Stevens was born about January 1837 in Johnston County, North Carolina. He was the first child of William Henry Stevens and Elizabeth Smith Allen. His family moved to Mississippi sometime prior to 1845. By 1850, William Henry Stevens had passed away.

In the spring of 1861, Julius enlisted with the 17th Mississippi Infantry, Company I at Cockrum, Mississippi. He was listed as having been present in several battles throughout the war including Gettysburg.

During the war, he served with some of his family including his cousin, Hannibal Honestus who was a 3rd Lieutenant of his company. The captain of his company later married Julius' sister. He was captured at the battle of High Bridge in Virginia in April, 1865 and from there taken to a federal prison in Point Lookout, Maryland until June 30th, 1865 at which point he was put on a ship that took him to Hernando, Miss.

He lived with his mother for some time and didn't get married until he was 57 years old to Liddie Dora Watterson in 1894. He had six children including my grandfather, William Harry Stevens who was the oldest son. William Harry was born in Byhalia, Miss. in 1895.

Julius' uncle's family was close to them for some time, because for a while, his mother lived with them and then after his mother died, both Julius and a cousin from that family who was also named William

Henry Stevens moved to Texas about the same time in 1897 or 1898. At first Julius lived in Cleburne, before moving to Upshur county and settling somewhere near Indian Rock where he died on April 4th, 1912. He was a farmer and in his obituary it stated that he was a member of Indian Rock Baptist Church.

Julius is buried along with several of his family in Glenwood cemetery.

The Lincoln Conspirator Who Got Away



John Harrison Surratt, Jr. was born on April 13, 1844, to John Surratt, Sr. and Mary Surratt, in what is today Congress Heights. His baptism took place in 1844 at St. Peter's Church, Washington, D.C. In 1861, Surratt was enrolled at St. Charles College. When his father suddenly died in 1862, John Jr. was appointed the postmaster for Surrattsville Maryland.

Surratt was to serve as a Confederate Secret Service courier and spy and had been carrying dispatches about Union troop movements across the Potomac River for some time. Dr. Samuel Mudd introduced Surratt to John Wilkes Booth on December 23, 1864, and Surratt agreed to help Booth kidnap Abraham Lincoln. He was suspected of subsequent involvement in Lincoln's assassination.

His mother Mary Surratt was one of the conspirators convicted and hanged by the United States Federal Government. She owned the boarding house where

Booth and fellow conspirators planned the scheme. John Harrison Surratt, Jr. avoided arrest immediately after the assassination by fleeing the country. He served briefly as a Papal Zouave before his arrest and extradition. By the time he returned to the United States the statute of limitations had expired on most of the potential charges and he was not convicted. He lived a long life dying on April 21, 1916.



A WISE MAN IS SOON FORGOTTEN *ECCLESIASTES 9:13-18*

This story is about a little city which had few men as citizens. A powerful king with his army came against the city, with only a few men to protect it. The king set up an offensive position that could have filled the city with great fear.

Although the city had only a few men, there was one very wise man: a poor wise man. And he by his wisdom, delivered the city. "...Yet no man remembered that same poor man." v.15

No record is given as to how the city was spared through the wisdom of this poor man. Only some things concerning the behavior of man is learned. "...nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard." v.16. Apparently someone else took credit for saving the city.

We must recognize that while we live on this earth, justice and fairness will be imperfect at best. Human nature doesn't always appreciate wise counsel, even if the value of it can be proved. Good advice is often neglected and forgotten when once the problem is no more.

"Wisdom is better than strength:" V.16..." wisdom is better than weapons of war" V.18. We learn the value of wisdom, and it doesn't come easy.

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"I loved the old government in 1861. I loved the old Constitution yet. I think it is the best government in the world, if administered as it was before the war. I do not hate it; I am opposing now only the radical revolutionists who are trying to destroy it. I believe that party to be composed, as I know it is in Tennessee, of the worst men on Gods earth – men who would not hesitate at no crime, and who have only one object in view – to enrich themselves."

Nathan Bedford Forrest, in an interview shortly after the war

UNIT SPOTLIGHT

THE THIRD TEXAS CAVALRY REGIMENT

The Third Texas Cavalry Regiment was recruited by Elkanah Greer, a farmer from Marshall, in Harrison County. It was organized in Dallas on June 13, 1861, and mustered into Confederate service at Dallas on June 13, 1861. Greer was elected Colonel, Walter Paye Lane from Harrison County was Lt Colonel and George W. Chilton from Smith County was elected Major.

The following were elected company commanders by County and Company; Thomas W. Winston, Harrison, Co. A; Robert H. Cumby, Rusk, Co. B; Francis M. Taylor, Cherokee, Co. C; Stephen M. Hale, Hunt and Fannin, Co. D; Daniel M. Short, St

Augustine and Shelby, Co. E; Isham Chism, Kaufman, Co. F; Hinche P. Mabry, Marion, Co. G; Jonathan L. Russell, Upshur, Co. H; John Arthur Bryan, Cass, Co. I; David Y. Gaines, Smith, Co. K.

(See David Hale's book for better data and description of these captains.)

From this regiment came three brigadier generals; Whitfield, Lane and Ector and Mabry who should have made general under Forrest.

By August the unit headed into the Indian Territory to fight for General McCulloch in northern Arkansas and southern Missouri. Their first battle was at Wilson's Creek, Missouri, where they woke on the 10th of August 1861 to the sound of cannon fire of Union artillery and seeing Union troops advancing. Though the regiment was thoroughly surprised and was initially raddled, it managed to regroup. The Confederate forces drove the Union forces back to Springfield, but failed to follow and crush them. The regiment lost 6 killed, 23 wounded and 6 missing.

The 3rd's next battle was in the Indian Territories at Chustenahlah with a five company detachment, led by Lt Colonel Lane, on December 26, 1861. This was the first time the 3rd fought with the 6th and 9th Texas Cavalries, but it was not their last. The Southern force quickly overcame a Union Indian force and ended Union control of the IT for a couple of years, but the units did suffer some hunger and extreme cold. The 3rd lost Lt Durham and 4 others.

Next the unit fought at Elkhorn Tavern until General Van Dorn decided to retreat his forces after losing three senior officers and running short of ammunition. The 3rd initially made a charge and then was held in reserve. Col. Greer was the deputy commander of the western side of the battle after the deaths of two generals and the capture of the senior Colonel and did not learn this till late in the day. He sent runners to Van Dorn's command and offered to fight on, but was too late.

April 1862, General Van Dorn decided to dismount nearly all cavalry to fight as Infantry. In May all regiments reorganized and R. H. Cumby was elected

Colonel and Colonel Greer returned to Texas because of his wounded arm suffered at Elkhorn Tavern. Lt Colonel Lane resigned because he would not lead Infantry. H. P. Mabry was elected Lt Colonel and J.J.A Barker was made Major. Because Cumby was ill, Lane stayed until Cumby could command.

The regiment's next serious event was deception in covering the retreat from Corinth. It went well except for the loss of Major Barker, who on his horse became a main target, along with a few others.

At the Battle of Iuka, Mississippi on September 19, 1862, the 3rd ran head on into a Union division and lost 23 men killed and 74 wounded, of the 388 men who were engaged. Captain Green of Co. I was killed. Three other company commanders and Col. Mabry, who had assumed command when Lane left, received wounds and were captured. Two were quickly released by signing their paroles and were returned to their unit. Mabry and one Lieutenant refused to sign the parole because it referred to the "So called Confederacy". They were paroled a year later. The unit retreated by order of Van Dorn and the units continued to work toward Corinth. At Corinth and Hatchie Bridge on October 3-5th, the unit did not get into the battle as they were too far back in the reserve.

In December after being remounted in late October 1862, the 3rd was attached to a new brigade. This force to be led by Col. Whitfield of the 27th Texas Cavalry Regiment was made up of the 3rd, 6th, 9th and 27th Texas Cavalries. Their first operation was a raid to Holly Springs Union Supply Depot, and was led by an acting brigade commander, John Summerfield Griffith of the 6th with Lt Col Jiles Boggess leading the 3rd. The 3rd was detailed to seal off the town square. This they did well. Boggess was the only commander able to control his troops when looting broke out. This raid led by General Van Dorn was one of the best from the standpoint of its value

and its strategic importance. The raid continued on into Tennessee where troops destroyed the railroad track and did its best to disrupt the communications of Grant. Following this the regiment returned to Grenada. Coupled with General Forest's raid in Tennessee Grant's march toward Vicksburg was slowed for many months and the war delayed for almost a year.

Next the regiment went with General Van Dorn's Corps into Tennessee. As part of Whitfield's Brigade they assisted in the destruction of a Union cavalry regiment at Thompson's Station. This was the first time the brigade fought with General Forrest. Major Stone was the commander during this period due to Lt Colonel Boggess extended leave and Colonel Mabry still being in Union hands. They fought several other skirmishes before Van Dorn was killed by a jealous husband. Following this the corps was disbanded and the brigade returned to help at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

The unit was deployed in picket and guard duty, while a detachment of the 6th and the 3rd Mississippi led by Ross went to eastern Tennessee to stop a Union raid. As part of Jackson's Division they were assigned in Big Black River area between Jackson and Vicksburg, Mississippi as a part of General Joseph Johnston's Army for the relief of Vicksburg. Before this could happen General Pemberton surrendered and Vicksburg was lost.

Next they were part of the defense of Jackson, Mississippi and the subsequent evacuation and escape of Johnston's Army. Sherman's Army was over 65,000 men.

The 3rd remained along the Big Black River conducting small harassment raids in the Vicksburg area. Morale suffered during this period, due to Whitfield's health. Colonel Mabry was the acting Brigade Commander for a short period, until he was transferred to General Forest's Division. In

December General Sul Ross became commander of the Texas Cavalry Brigade. The regiment began to find new life. They took part in smuggling several thousand rifles across the Mississippi under Union noses. Under Ross none of the regiments rested nor did the Union units along the Mississippi. The Brigade operated along the Big Black and Yazoo Rivers in west central Mississippi. In February 1864 the Brigade tried to stop Sherman's moves in Mississippi, but was only able to harass such a large force. The regiment was more successful in repelling attempts by Union regiments and river forces to capture Yazoo City. In May they moved into northern Alabama to suppress Unionism and to collect deserters.

May 15, 1864, the brigade was assigned to the left flank of General Johnston's Army and began to skirmish almost daily for the next one hundred days. One regiment would come off the line and another would take its place. Because of the daily fighting, the regiments slowly lost men until they began collapsing units, joining two companies together. Not all men were killed. Many wounded and were left in homes and hospitals across Georgia. From its arrival in Rome, Georgia on May 12th, until the siege of Atlanta began on July 9th fighting and rain did not stop for any extended period. During the siege they fought several sharp engagements at Lovejoy's Station, Flat Shoals, Brown's Mill and Newman, Georgia.

While engaging with General McCook's Union Cavalry Corps the regiment with its strength about 300 was over run and 23 men were captured and the horse holders scattered and the horses were captured. This could have been a devastating defeat, were it not for the bravery of the men, the size of the enemy force, and the fact the unit came back together after being over run. Even Ross was captured for a short period. Had the enemy not been running in fear, they could have completely destroyed the Ross's Brigade.

Most of the supplies, horses and captured men were retrieved and the Brigade was able to refit.

Within two weeks it happened again as Kilpatrick's Union Division was placed in similar straits, but chose to charge over Ross with the 3rd and 27th. Again they were on the edge of disaster. The 6th and 9th charged into the melee but to no avail. The 5000 man Union forces just moved through capturing horses and men, but not slowing down. the 3rd had many officers and men captured. The units were beginning to lack the manpower to take on big units. Many men and horses were recovered as Jackson's other regiments and chased the Union force back to Union Lines.

After the fall of Atlanta, the Brigade moved to attack Sherman's supply line on the railroad from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Following this they joined Hood's force for an attack at Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee. Here they were part of General Forest's Corps, but they were not in the vanguard of the fighting. Following Hood's loss at Nashville, the regiment and brigade as part of Forest's Cavalry provided rear guard for the Army, thus allowing Hood to retreat back into Alabama.

The Brigade moved back into Mississippi and was only involved in minor skirmishes until the end of the war. The regimental strength was about two hundred men.

The Brigade was surrendered by Lieutenant General Richard Taylor, commanding the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, at Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865. The regiment was released about the 15th. Major Stone was the acting commander and led the regiment home. None had lost so many, fought so hard, and received so little recognition. It seems history has lost the 3rd. Those buried in the mass grave at Iuka, MS.

MONTHLY PROGRAM

Last month's program was "The Veterans Plaza in Longview, Texas, brought to us by Richard and Gail Jurkowski, They spoke about the new Veterans Plaza honoring all Wars, all Branches, All Generation, being built in Teague Park in Longview.

They also explained how we can honor our heroes by purchasing a Grey Brick for the CSA.



NATIVE AMERICAN CONFEDERATE UNITS

Cherokee Nation

- 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles
- 1st Regiment of Cherokee Mounted Vol.
- 2nd Regt. of Cherokee Mounted Vol.
- 1st Cherokee Batt. of Partisan Rangers
- 1st Squadron of Cherokee Mounted Vol.
- 2nd Cherokee Artillery
- 3rd Cherokee Regiment of Vol. Cavalry
- Cherokee Regiment (Special Services), CSA
- Cherokee Special Services Battalion
- Scales Battalion of Cherokee Cavalry
- Meyer's Battalion of Cherokee Cavalry
- Cherokee Battalion of Infantry

Creek Nation

- 1st Battalion Creek Confederate Cavalry
- 1st Regiment Creek Mounted Volunteers
- 2nd Regiment Creek Mounted Volunteers

Seminole Nation

- 1st Battalion Seminole Mounted Volunteers
- 1st Regiment Seminole Mounted Volunteers

Chickasaw Nation

- 1st Regiment of Chickasaw Infantry
- 1st Regiment of Chickasaw Cavalry
- 1st Battalion of Chickasaw Cavalry
- Shecoe-s Chickasaw Batt. of Mounted Vol.

Choctaw Nation

- 1st Choctaw & Chickasaw Mounted Rifles
- 1st Regiment of Choctaw Mounted Rifles
- 2nd Regiment of Choctaw Cavalry
- 3rd Regiment of Choctaw Cavalry
- Deneales Regiment of Choctaw Warriors
- Folsom's Batt. of Choctaw Mounted Rifles
- Capt. John Wilkins Co. of Choctaw Inf.
- Northwest Frontier Command of I. T. 1st Osage Battalion
- Major George Washington's Frontier Batt.
- Major James W. Cooper's Battalion

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Editor Charles H. Smith, DCS*

murmuring. He was a public officer without vices; a private citizen without reproach; a Christian without hypocrisy and a man without guile. He was a Caesar without his ambition; Frederick without his tyranny; Napoleon without his selfishness, and Washington without his reward. He was obedient to authority as a servant, and loyal in authority as a true king. He was gentle as a woman in life; modest and pure as a virgin in thought; watchful as a Roman vital in duty; submissive to law as Socrates, and grand in battle as Achilles!"

War-era Georgia Senator Ben Hill's tribute to Robert E. Lee

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.

“He possessed every virtue of other great commanders without their vices. He was a foe without hate; a friend without treachery; a victor without oppression, and a victim without

FREEMASONRY AND THE CIVIL WAR - A HOUSE UNDIVIDED

by Justin Love

"My father had been a soldier in the Union Army. . . He was made a Mason in a military Lodge. . . Taken prisoner at Arkansas Post, he was carried up the Mississippi River to Rock Island, Illinois. . . My father became. . . desperately ill, and made himself known as a Mason to an officer of the camp. The officer took him to his own home and nursed him back to life. When the war ended, he loaned Father money to pay his way back to his Texas home, and gave him a pearl-handled pistol to protect himself. . . This experience of my father, when I learned about it, had a very great influence upon my life. . . ; the fact that such a fraternity of men could exist, mitigating the harshness of war, and remain unbroken when states and churches were torn in two, became a wonder; and it is not strange that I tried for years to repay my debt to it."

-- Joseph Fort Newton, D.D. in *River of Years* --

The Civil War was the single most divisive event in our nation's long history. No other war, political event, or national crisis has ever approached the levels of animosity and hatred that the Civil War caused. Brother fought against brother. Fathers against sons. Families were forever split over the idealism of the War. They were not alone. Major national organizations, notably the Baptist Churches, also broke up over the issues of slavery and States' Rights. The War seemed to destroy the bonds of any organization it touched.

All the organizations, that is, except one: Freemasonry. While the War raged around them, Freemasons held on to the ties and the idealism that brought them together in the first place. Thousands of Masons fought in the War, and many died. But the tenets of the Craft, those ideals and moral codes that

we, as Freemasons, strive to abide by, were able to overcome the hatred and the animosity that the War generated.

There are a number of reasons why this organization, more than any other, was able to survive the tumult that was the Civil War. A major reason is the long and storied history of the Craft. The beliefs and tenets of the Lodge predate not only the Civil War, but the Constitution, the discovery of the New World, and, according to some, even the birth of Christ. When a tradition of that many years exists, it is difficult to ignore.

A second reason why Masonry held together is that membership in a Masonic Lodge is by choice only. No man has ever been recruited into joining a Lodge. Our rules in fact prohibit Masons from actively pursuing someone for initiation. Instead, a man interested in becoming a Mason must, "of his own free will and accord," actively seek out a member of the Lodge which he wishes to join and ask him for a petition for membership.

(continued next month)

"The Northern onslaught upon slavery was no more than a piece of specious humbug designed to conceal its desire for economic control of the Southern states."

Charles Dickens, 1862

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