



# Patriots Periodical

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

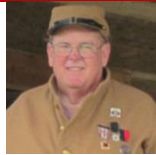
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July 2015

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Eddie "Spook" Pricer



Greetings to all as we approach this 4th of July weekend. Although we are steadfastly an organization dedicated to the preservation of our Southern Heritage and to honoring our Confederate Ancestors, we should take some time to consider the 4th of July and its significance to our lives.

Many in this country will enjoy the holiday weekend because they are off work without regard to why we celebrate the 4th. It's just a holiday where we can go to the lake or have a cookout at home. Sadly, far too many don't have a clue as to the significance of the 4th of July.

Watching television, we laugh when comedians and news reporters interview people on the street and they quite seriously can't identify the current President, much less the first. These are the same people that have no concept of the history of this Country. In fact they make me look like a genius. That aside, we need to take every opportunity to review, compare, and demonstrate the actions that led to the Colonies declaring independence. It is those same issues that brought about the secession of the States, the declaring of independence and subsequently another war.

The values that our Colonial Ancestors so prized were the same values that our Confederate Ancestors held most dear. We should celebrate the 4th of July and the ideals that it represents as did our Confederate forbears. I will remind my children and grandchildren of the struggles as they did.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NEXT MEETING

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

### 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

## 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](mailto:Joe.Reynolds@upshurpatriots.org) and I promise to give it my full consideration.

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## **The Guardian**

*by Phil Davis*

Gentlemen of the Upshur County Patriots, if you have been keeping up with the news you have witnessed the attack on our Confederate Heritage. The Supreme Court gave in to the lies about our flag and ruled against us on license plates, the State of South Carolina voted to remove our flag from the Confederate Monument. Meanwhile, Wal-Mart and Sears are taking anything Confederate off their shelves (don't tell them that the Texas flag is Confederate). EBAY is removing Confederate items from their website and the list goes on and on. What is next, are they going to make us remove the headstones from our Confederate Ancestors graves?

I know I preach the "Guardian Program" a lot, but I feel that now it is more imperative than ever to keep our flag flying on our Confederate Heroes' final resting places. We must help keep the Southern Heritage alive and in the forefront of the public and in the eyes and minds of those who want to destroy us. Look into your heart and help us keep our way of life alive. Act as our Southern leaders did, with respect and determination, being ever a Southern gentleman while never surrendering our ideals.

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?**

## **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*

"If you bring these [Confederate] leaders to trial it will condemn the North, for by the Constitution secession is not rebellion. Lincoln wanted Davis to escape, and he was right. His capture was a mistake. His trial will be a greater one."

*Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, July 1867 (Foote, The Civil War, Vol. 3, p. 765)*

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## **2015 TEXAS DIVISION REUNION, TEMPLE, TEXAS**

The 2015 Texas Division Reunion was held on June 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> in Temple, Texas. Upshur County Patriots had several member in attendance, including Camp Delegates, Commander Eddie Pricer, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander Phil Davis, George Linton, Tommy Orms and Joe Reynolds.

It was a fast paced two days of meeting where we elected new Division and Brigade Officers, Voted on

Constitutional Revisions, attended Awards Luncheon, and some attended the Southern Ball on Saturday night.

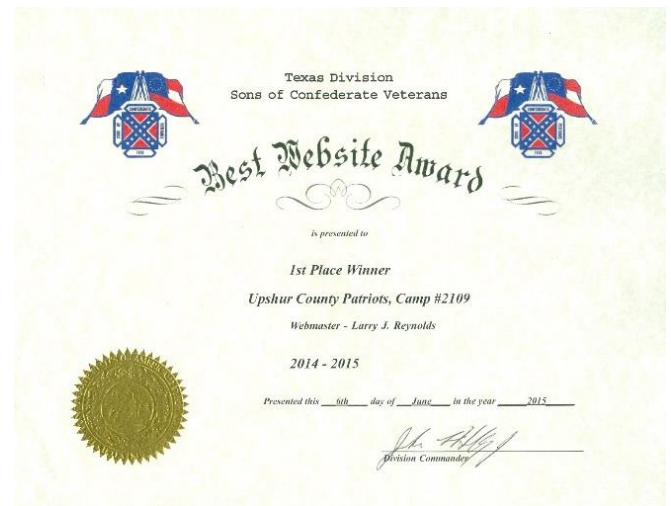
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander – George Linton



### New Division Officers

The new Division Officers are as follows:  
 Texas Division Commander - Gary Bray  
 1st Lieutenant Commander - David McMahon  
 2nd Lieutenant Commander - Bob Rubel  
 3rd Lieutenant Commander - Ray Wainner

### Upshur County Patriots Takes First Place Best Website Award



On Saturday Night, the Upshur County Patriots, Camp #2109 was awarded the Best Website in the Division Award.



New Divisions Officers being sworn in by Army of Trans Mississippi

### 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Officers

The 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Officers all remained the same:  
 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander – Sam Mercer  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander – Phil Maynard



Joe Reynolds accepts the award on behalf of the Camp from Division Commander Johnny Holly and Division Awards Representative Dennis Brand

### Constitutional Revisions

As most of you are aware, there were 6 revisions or amendments to the Division Constitution that were



considered and voted on at the Reunion this past month. Revisions must receive a 2/3 majority of the delegates voting to be approved and adopted. The delegates from the Upshur County Patriots voted in accordance with the wishes of the Camp as discussed at the May 2015 monthly meeting.

Revision #1 dealt with using the Current Edition of Robert's Rules of Order except where altered by the Convention. - - - **Passed**

Revision #2 dealt with raising Division Tax (dues) from \$5.00 to \$10.00. This revision had a majority vote in favor, but did not reach the 2/3 threshold. - - **Failed**

Revision #3 dealt with authorizing a \$10.00 registration fee to attend the Reunion and further defray any costs to the host camp. This revision had a majority vote in favor, but did not reach the 2/3 threshold. - - - **Failed**

Revision #4 dealt with removing the \$5.00 fee for prospective Cadets to join the SCV, -- - **Passed**

Revision #5 dealt with using the Current Edition of Robert's Rules of Order at the Division Executive Council meetings except where altered by a minimum 24 hour prior approval by the Council. - - **Passed**

Revision #6 dealt with being a member of the Division Executive Council and holding more than one voting office. In other words, a member could not be both a Brigade level and Division level officer at the same time. - - - **Failed**

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**Our Honored Ancestors**

**Francis "Frank" Marion Palmer**

## **Private Co. B, 7th Alabama Infantry**

Francis "Frank" Marion Palmer was born September 9th, 1834 in Alabama. He served in Company B, 7th. Alabama Infantry during the Civil War. He married Sarah Elizabeth Best Palmer in 1870 in Calhoun Co. Alabama. Sarah lived until 1940 and died at the age of 98 in Alabama. Frank and Sarah had 9 children. One son was Charles Whitney Palmer, he was Bill's father. Frank died on February 16, 1917 in Gadsden, Etowah County, Alabama.



Frank Palmer(center), his wife Sarah and a nephew.



**WHAT DOES CHASING AFTER THE  
WIND MEAN?**

*Ecclesiastes 1:14, 17*

"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. (Chasing after the wind)"

"And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly; I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. (Chasing after the wind.)"

This phrase is a figure of speech we sometimes use to indicate an idea of futility. For instance, "you are just chasing after the wind, so give it up! Forget it, etc."

As the wind cannot be chased down, and captured, so there are, in life, those ideas appearing to be impossible.

Never quit dreaming big! Don't give up on an idea so quickly! Give it your best shot...your biggest shot!

The solution may require "tweaking" the idea; or, seeking advice from a professional. Take an idea as far as it will go before abandonment. Often we surprise ourselves when we discover an idea that really works. We have seen this happen in our own camp: Upshur County Patriots. Good ideas remain available.

So, get in the chase and present your ideas. Good things still happen!

*Jamie Eitson*

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## **Supreme Court Rules Against SCV License Plate Issue in Texas**

*By Eddie Pricer*

As most of you know by now, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled against the Plaintiff and The Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in their effort to have a specialty auto license tag bearing the SCV logo. Although lower Federal Courts ruled in favor of the Plaintiff and The Texas

Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 split decision with Justice Clarence Thomas casting the tie breaking vote that the State of Texas had the right to determine what tags would be approved based on local criteria and that this was not a free speech issue.



The majority opinion was essentially two-fold and held that the flag emblem (SCV Logo) was divisive and was linked to the pro-slavery South and that the State of Texas was within their rights or standing to prohibit words or symbols that the State felt might be offensive. Their rationale effectively was that anything on the license tag was considered speech by the State and that the State had the exclusive right to regulate said speech.

Thus as a result of this ruling, anything allowed by the State of Texas on an official license tag is the officially sanctioned position of the State. Strange how the State of Texas approves of the Texas flag, an official flag of the Confederacy to be in the background of many of its license plates. Stranger yet that the State of Texas flies the First National Flag of the Confederacy at its official visitors centers greeting people as they enter the State. I wonder what their rationale and justification is for those two flags.

I realize that many hate groups have misused the Confederate Battle Flag and that their actions have caused grievous harm to many of our fellow citizens, but take a close look at pictures of these groups when

they protest or worse and you will almost always find two other flags, The United States Flag, and a Christian Flag (usually white field with blue cross). Strange that we get our collective hackles raised over one flag but not the others.

The SCV Logo supposedly causes some to feel they are reliving past times and that it represents racial bigotry and thus is offensive. If that is the case, then we should educate those who feel this oppression and help to remove all flags that were inextricably linked together during this period of our history. These are the flags of slavery in 1859 prior to beginning of secession and the war.



The Flag of America circa 1859

I bet everyone was waiting to see all of the Southern State Flags and the handful of Northern Flags from slave holding states. Very few States (those that would become Union or Confederate) had state flags prior to the War, in fact many did not have flags for quite a few years after the War. Most had State seals. Whatever your position on why the War began, the flag above was the flag of slavery.

At best, some in positions of power are woefully lacking in their historical perspective and at worst as I fear, this just another case of Reconstruction again punishing those with ties to the Confederacy

regardless of when they were born or how they treat and respect others.

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# UNIT SPOTLIGHT

## SEVENTH TEXAS

### INFANTRY REGIMENT

The Seventh Texas Infantry was formed on October 2, 1861, at Marshall, Texas, nine infantry companies were organized into a regiment. The driving force behind this organization was John Gregg, a district judge from Fairfield, Texas. Gregg had received a colonel's commission and authority to raise an infantry regiment. The regiment was sent by train to Shreveport and then marched to Memphis, Tennessee. By November 10, 1861, the regiment was at Hopkinsville, Kentucky, where they were mustered into Confederate service as the Seventh Texas Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The lieutenant colonel of the regiment was Jeremiah M. Clough, previously, the district attorney of Harrison County. The major was Hiram Bronson Granbury, formerly a Texas Ranger and chief justice of McLennan County.

The regiment suffered severely due to inclement weather in Hopkinsville, and by mid-February 1862, more than 130 men had died of disease. On February 9, 1862, the Seventh marched to Clarksville, Tennessee, and by February 13, 1862, arrived at Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. Two days of fighting ensued, in which the regiment lost twenty killed and forty wounded. Among the killed was Lieutenant Colonel Clough. On February 16, 1862, the garrison of Fort Donelson surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant, including the balance of the Seventh Texas; however, many of the men escaped and served with Terry's Texas Rangers or with the Ninth Texas Infantry.

More than 300 officers and men of the Seventh Texas were sent north to prisons, where sixty-five of them died. In September 16, 1862, they were exchanged at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The next few months were spent at Port Hudson, where the regiment was stationed. The Seventh Texas was so reduced in numbers that it was consolidated with the Forty-ninth and Fifty-fifth Tennessee regiments, which had also been captured at Fort Donelson.

Colonel Gregg was promoted to brigadier general effective August 29, 1862. Major Granbury was promoted to colonel. William L. Moody, a merchant from Fairfield, was promoted to lieutenant colonel, and Khleber M. Van Zandt, a young lawyer from Marshall, was promoted to major.

The regiment received enough recruits in January and February 1863 to regain its own regimental status and was placed in Brigadier General Gregg's brigade, which also contained the Third, Tenth, Thirtieth, Forty-first and Fiftieth Tennessee regiments; the First Tennessee Battalion; and Bledsoe's Missouri Battery. On May 12, 1863, the brigade was sent to Raymond, Mississippi, where the Seventh Texas lost 22 killed, 66 wounded, and 70 captured, out of a total strength of 305, for a loss of over 50 percent. Gregg's brigade had fought so well, the Federal commander believed he had been attacked by a division.

In July 1863 the brigade was sent to Jackson, Mississippi. Here, Lieutenant Colonel Moody was severely wounded and disabled for further field service. Afterwards, the brigade was sent to north Georgia, where on September 19–20, 1863, the great battle of Chickamauga was fought in which the Seventh Texas lost 8 killed, 78 wounded, and one man captured, out of 177 engaged. The Seventh participated in the final charge that drove the Union Army from the field into siege at Chattanooga.



Colonel Gregg was severely wounded at Chickamauga but, in a strange twist of fate, was rescued by members of Hood's Texas Brigade. After recovering from his wound, Gregg was called upon to command the famous brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia. General Gregg was killed in battle on the Darbytown Road near Richmond in October 1864.

After Chickamauga, the Seventh Texas was placed in the brigade of James A. Smith, of Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne's division, which contained the Sixth and Tenth Texas Infantry, and the Fifteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Twenty-fourth, and Twenty-fifth Texas Cavalry regiments, dismounted. The Seventh would remain in this organization to the war's end.

On November 25–26, 1863, the battle of Missionary Ridge was fought. There, the Seventh Texas helped defend the Confederate right. General Smith and his second-in-command were both wounded, elevating Colonel Granbury to brigade command. After Bragg's center and left collapsed, the army retreated. Cleburne's men occupied the post of honor, the rear guard. On November 27, 1863, Cleburne won additional glory at the battle of Ringgold Gap. For their action in the campaign, Cleburne's Division won the thanks of the Confederate Congress. In addition, on February 29, 1864, Colonel Granbury was promoted to brigadier general and command of the brigade.

Beginning about May 14, 1864, the Army of Tennessee opposed Sherman's advance on Atlanta. Fighting for over 100 days, the Seventh Texas gained new glory at places like Pickett's Mill, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jonesboro, and Lovejoy's Station. During the campaign, the Seventh Texas lost seventeen killed, seventy-six wounded, and seven men captured or missing.

On November 30, 1864, the Seventh fought at Franklin, Tennessee. Charging, without the benefit of artillery, entrenched Federal positions, the Seventh was basically finished as an effective fighting force, losing at least eighteen killed, twenty-five wounded, and twenty-two captured. Brigadier General Granbury and Major General Cleburne were among the killed. The commander of the Seventh Texas, John William Brown, was captured, and at the end of the day Capt. Edward Thomas Broughton of the Seventh Texas commanded the brigade.

The Confederates pursued the Federal army to the environs of Nashville, where on December 15–16, 1864, two days of battle ensued. The Seventh Texas and the rest of the brigade fought well but were forced back and driven from the field, with the rest of the army, to Franklin. Two officers were wounded, and at least twenty-three members of the Seventh Texas, mostly wounded or sick men left at Franklin, were captured after the battle.

After crossing the Tennessee River, the army's men received furloughs. At least one-fourth of the Seventh Texas was furloughed. The regiment accompanied the Army of Tennessee into the Carolinas, where on April 26, 1865, they surrendered to Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman. The Seventh Texas had two surgeons, six officers, and only fifty-seven men—a mere fraction of those who had served in the regiment.

After the war, many of the men of the Seventh Texas distinguished themselves as business and civic leaders, particularly, William L. Moody and K.M. Van Zandt. The people of Texas memorialized John Gregg, as Gregg County in East Texas is named in his honor. Granbury in Hood County is named in honor Gen. Hiram B. Granbury.

The last known survivor of the Seventh Texas was Charles W. Trice, of Company A. Trice, who had lost



an arm at Kennesaw Mountain, died in Lexington, North Carolina, on December 1, 1936.

## MONTHLY PROGRAM

Our Monthly Program for June was an informative talk and presentation by Don Majors, Division Chaplain:



## AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Several Awards were presented to our members during our last regular meeting.



George Linton receives yet another Full Guardian Certificate from Phil Davis



Jamie Eitson receives a Purple Heart Medal from Joe Reynolds



Esther Linton receives a Purple Heart Medal from Joe Reynolds

## A SPECIAL AWARDS CEREMONY

On June 11<sup>th</sup> a group of Upshur County Patriots made a surprise visit to the home of Compatriot Paul and Lottie Hamilton. This small group consisted of Eddie Pricer, Phil Davis, George Linton, David Palmer, Larry Harper, Otter Hass, Bear, Joe and Keesie Reynolds.



Eddie Pricer presents the Gold Cross



Otter presents him with a Warriors necklace in the traditional colors of the Blackfoot Nation



Joe Reynolds presents Paul with the Purple Heart Medal



George Linton presents him with a Reunion Medal

## 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.



## **HELP WANTED**

This edition of the Patriot Periodical marks one year of newsletters published for the Upshur County Patriots. It was on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 that the first issue was published. That being said, I would like to announce that I'm looking for a replacement as the Newsletter Editor. As many of you know, I'm working on starting a new Camp in Mount Pleasant, Texas and although it's still a few months away, I thought this would be a good time to help train someone new to take my place. Eddie and Phil, actually do most of the work, I just sorta put things together. I will be happy to give anyone my templates and help in any way possible. If you are interested at all, please let Commander Pricer know or if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

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