



# PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL

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

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AUGUST 2019

**NEXT MEETING**  
**AUGUST 6, 2019**



## A LETTER TO GRANDFATHER

*Source: John Griffin*  
**(I pray it is not too late)**



*Dear Grandfather:*

I am writing to beg your forgiveness. I have done a terrible thing. I had no intention of letting these matters get out of hand, but they did. I pray that you will forgive me and ask the Lord for guidance in these troubling times. See, back only a few years ago, there was still support for things Confederate and for the fond memory of men like you. There were organizations in place to defend your good name and remember the deeds you had done, and to honor the sacrifices you made. But I like others failed to support them and now it is too late. Now the Battle Flag is outlawed in public. You cannot find one in school or town. There are no Southern Crosses flying on any flag poles anymore. I could remember a few years ago they were flying on city, county, and state government buildings. Very few even dare to keep them at home for fear of losing their job or being arrested. We now have a state-approved flag which is more universal. All flags for states that were once proud of their Confederate heritage have been

changed. They have renamed all the streets, counties, buildings, and schools that once honored the brave men of the CSA with names of contemporary leaders. The monuments that once graced the courthouse lawns and parks have been taken to the museum. In fact, there is only a small part of the museum now dedicated to the Confederate sacrifice. It is not a positive exhibit. Your men in gray are labeled as criminals and traitors. There are no more references to Confederate veterans in the local cemetery. The stones have been modified to erase any commentary of that war service. Because of the ban on the Southern Cross, we can no longer place the dear flag on your final resting place. The school kids can't play Dixie in the band any more. The school board says it is racist. I guess we have to live with that because they don't know the words anyway. We are having a tougher time even finding things about the War unless they are published in the North. Our county library had to remove all the Southern history and Southern culture books because they were judged as harmful to children. The textbooks that are in the schools pretty much defame you and all the veterans for being hateful, nasty Rebels. I am sorry for

letting things get the way they are. The politically correct revisionists are a carry-over from the carpetbaggers and scalawags of your time. They have most of the country now believing the lies of the North. I could have done more, but I really didn't think my inaction would allow this to happen. See, Grandfather, I could have flown the Flag at home. I could have gotten more involved in the heritage organizations. I could have marched in parades, worked as a volunteer in schools, contributed a few hours and a few dollars when an SCV/CSA project was promoted, but I didn't. I should have checked on the kids' textbooks every year and offered corrections to the errors. I should have stood up against the lies. I could have written letters or spoken to politicians. I should have gotten my family, friends, and neighbors involved. Every time some group called the Confederates racists or traitors, I should have stood up and done something. I did not and I failed you.

I now know that I was wrong. It is all gone because of my sloth. I should have thought about all your sacrifice and the sacrifice of thousands of other Confederate veterans. I lost focus of what you gave for the Cause. Had I done something years ago before things really got bad, there would still be honor for you and me. Now there is nothing left of the Confederacy or your good name. I fumbled that away and not only for you and me, but for the generations to come.

I hope that when I leave this earth and we see each other face-to-face, you will have some pity on me and forgive me for the awful job I did as a Son of a Confederate Veteran.

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**UPSHUR COUNTY**  
**PATRIOTS CAMP #2109**

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# THE GUARDIAN

By Phil Davis



Almost 4 years ago to the day, I wrote an article on the passing of a friend, compatriot, and fellow Camp member. The day has come again, and I write on the passing of another friend, compatriot, and Camp member.

Few of you knew Ron Clark, as he lived in Oklahoma, but he chose to join the Upshur County Patriots because of the work each of you have conducted in the name of protecting history and preserving the founding fathers form of governance.

Ron too, was diligent in the caring and protecting of the final resting place of his selected Confederate Hero. Ron believed in us because of our work in the Guardian Program and the steady increase in the location of Confederate graves and members stepping forward to ensure their preservation.

As I have reported to you many times, upon the death or inability of a Guardian to perform their duties for the final resting place of a Confederate Hero, the guardianship may be retired, passed on to another SCV member or it can be passed on to a male family member. I must say it is with heavy heart when I am charged with the transfer or retirement of a Guardianship. I know it will happen from time to time, but you are never prepared for that time.

It does help me to know that the process is working and when it happens, someone will step up and see that a Confederate Hero's final resting place continues to be cared for.

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". We must, now more than ever, show the world that we care about our Southern Heritage and the Valiant Heroes that fought to preserve it.

***As always I leave you with this question-  
Are you a Guardian? If not, why not?***



## 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



## OBITUARY FOR RONALD H. CLARK

Ronald "Ron" Harold Clark, 78, of Eufaula, passed away on Monday, July 1, 2019 at the Cornerstone Hospital in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Ron was born on October 27, 1940 in Inola, Oklahoma to Herbert Harold and Virginia (Walker) Clark. On April 2, 1982, he married Christine "Chris" Marie Klimeck in Norman, Oklahoma. They were happily married for thirty-seven years. Ron served in the United States Army for twenty years, where he was a First Sergeant. He also worked for the State of Oklahoma as the director of training. Ron was a member of the St. Paul's Catholic Church in Eufaula. Survivors include: his wife, Christine "Chris" Clark, and two daughters: Catherine Michelle Nelson and husband, Christopher Ryan Nelson, of Waco, TX; and Tamela Christy Clark, of Eufaula, OK. He is preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Virginia Clark.

### Memorial Service

October 5, 2019 10:00 AM (CDT)  
Kelley Memorial Chapel  
401 N. Main  
Eufaula, OK, 74432



## 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:

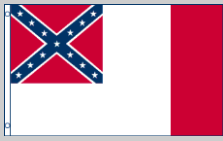
I salute the Confederate Flag With affection, reverence, and Undying devotion to the cause For which it stands.

***"Fate is the course when men Fail to Act."***

*If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.*



*George Washington*



## 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

## A POIGNANT STORY

*Author Unknown*

*Submitted by: E. Pricer*

As I came out of the supermarket one sunny day, pushing my cart of groceries towards my car, I saw an old man with the hood of his car up and a lady sitting inside the car, with the door open. The old man was looking at the engine.

I put my groceries away in my car, and continued to watch the old gentleman from about twenty five feet away. I saw a young man in his early twenties with a grocery bag in his arm walking towards the old man. The old gentleman saw him coming too, and took a few steps towards him.

I saw the old gentleman point to his open hood and say something. The young man put his grocery bag into what looked like a brand new Cadillac Escalade, and then turned back to the old man. I heard him yell at the old gentleman saying: "You shouldn't even be allowed to drive a car at your age." And then with a wave of his hand, he got in his car and peeled rubber out of the parking lot.

I saw the old gentleman pull out his handkerchief, and mop his brow as he went



back to his car and again looked at the engine. He then went to his wife and spoke with her; he appeared to tell her it would be okay.

I had seen enough, and I approached the old man. He saw me coming and stood straight, and as I got near him I said, 'Looks like you're having a problem.' He smiled sheepishly, and quietly nodded his head.

I looked under the hood myself, and knew whatever the problem was, it was beyond me. Looking around, I saw a gas station up the road, and I told the old man that I would be right back. I drove to the station and I went inside. I saw three attendants working on cars. I approached one of them, and related the problem the old man had with his car. I offered to pay them if they could follow me back down and help him.

The old man had pushed the heavy car under the shade of a tree and appeared to be comforting his wife. When he saw us, he straightened up and thanked me for my help. As the mechanics diagnosed the problem (overheated engine), I spoke with the old gentleman.

When I shook hands with him earlier, he had noticed my Marine Corps ring and had commented about it, telling me that he had been a Marine too. I nodded and asked the usual question, 'What outfit did you serve with?'

He had mentioned that he served with the first Marine Division at Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal. He had hit all the big ones and retired from the Corps after the

war was over. As we talked we heard the car engine come on and saw the mechanics lower the hood. They came over to us as the old man reached for his wallet, but was stopped by me. I told him I would just put the bill on my AAA card.

He still reached for the wallet and handed me a card that I assumed had his name and address on it and I stuck it in my pocket. We shook hands all around again, and I said my goodbye's to his wife.

I then told the two mechanics that I would follow them back up to the station. Once at the station, I told them that they had interrupted their own jobs to come along with me and help the old man. I said I wanted to pay for the help, but they refused to charge me.

One of them pulled out a card from his pocket, looking exactly like the card the old man had given to me. Both of the men told me they were Marine Corps Reserves. Once again we shook hands all around and as I was leaving, one of them told me I should look at the card the old man had given to me. I said I would and drove off.

For some reason I had gone about two blocks, when I pulled over and took the card out of my pocket and looked at it for a long, long time. The name of the old gentleman was on the card in golden leaf and under his name was written: 'Congressional Medal of Honor Society.'

I sat there motionless, looking at the card and reading it over and over. I looked up from the card and smiled to no one but

myself and marveled that on this day, four Marines had all come together because one of us needed help. He was an old man all right, but it felt good to have stood next to greatness and courage, and an honor to have been in his presence.

Remember, OLD men like him protected FREEDOM for America. Thanks to those who served and still serve, and to all of those who supported them, and who continue to support them.

Remember, Freedom **IS NOT** free. Thousands have paid the ultimate price, so you can enjoy what you have today.

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*We all know or are descended from someone like this and are blessed to be in their presence. Let's honor them by extending a helping hand now and then and standing up for our freedom.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**GOD OUR FATHER, WALK THROUGH MY HOUSE AND TAKE AWAY ALL MY WORRIES; AND PLEASE WATCH OVER AND HEAL MY FAMILY; AND PLEASE PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS, AND WATCH OVER OUR TROOPS, WHO ARE DEFENDING THOSE FREEDOMS. AMEN.**

*"We want to recognize, not antagonize. We are not confrontational; we wish to honor our families and their heroes. We have the right to do so without harassment or condemnation as we respect other people's rights to honor whomever they desire."*



## **HISTORICAL DATES IN AUGUST**

**August 2, 1776** -In Philadelphia, most of the 55 members of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the Declaration of Independence.

**1861**

**August 6**-The first Confiscation Act is passed by the U.S. Congress. The Act allows for the confiscation of enemy property, including slaves.

**1862**

**August 9**-The Battle of Cedar Mountain, Virginia.

**Aug 17**-Bands of Sioux engage the US troops concurrent with the Civil War.

**August 28–30**-The Second Battle of Bull Run Manassas, Virginia.

**August 29**-The Battle of Richmond, Kentucky.

**1864**

**August 29** - Democrats nominate George B. McClellan for president to run against Republican incumbent Abraham Lincoln.

**August 6, 1945**-The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., by the American B-29 bomber *Enola Gay*.

**August 9, 1945**-The second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred at Nagasaki.

**August 19** National Aviation Day, chosen for the birthday of Orville Wright who piloted the first recorded flight of a powered heavier-than-air machine in 1903.



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.

## SUFFERING IN SILENCE



### Psychological Disorders and Soldiers in the American Civil War

*Excerpts from an article by:  
Sarah A.M. Ford*

Did soldiers of the American Civil War suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological disorders? It has only been several decades since mental illness attributed to war conditions was clinically recognized.

Data compiled from diaries and letters will affirm the presence of psychological disorders in soldiers who fought in the war. From this body of evidence, it is clear that soldiers of the American Civil War did indeed suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological disorders.

The most common disorder that results from exposure to combat is called post-traumatic stress disorder or more commonly known as PTSD. Another common and relatively novel disorder is Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

The Civil War had revolutionary weapon and technological developments that negatively affected soldiers physically and mentally.

The Civil War is unique in that it took place during a time of great weaponry and technological developments but it was decades shy of medical advancements that could have saved countless lives. Disease rather than bullets proved to be a significant factor in the death toll of the Civil War. In a society that relied on physical labor for maintaining a livelihood, living without a limb meant a lifetime of unemployment. The anticipation of failure to provide for themselves and their families conjured major stress and anxiety.

Arguably one of the most intense contributing factors to psychological effects and disorders were the prisoner of war (P.O.W) camps. Some of the most detestable incidences in the war occurred inside these camps. Psychologically, people are put in situations with numerous traumas, such as ubiquitous death, fighting and abuse, making P.O.W camps a minefield for psychological disorders.

The amount of hand to hand combat in the Civil War left soldiers particularly vulnerable to PTSD, depression or any battery of psychological illnesses. This is the last major American war and one of the last major wars in the world to significantly utilize hand to hand combat.

Did soldiers in the American Civil War suffer from psychological effects and disorders? Through revolutionary weaponry developments, horrific medical procedures, psychological warfare, and the great deal of ferocious hand to hand combat, there



appears to be a great deal of evidence for psychological effects in civil war soldiers.

The Civil War psychologically scarred and damaged its soldiers. Those brave men put their "sacrifices upon the altar of freedom" and endured a fate worse than death by living their lives in silent suffering.



## THE BATTLE OF CEDAR MOUNTAIN

*From: military.wikia.org*

The Battle of Cedar Mountain, also known as Slaughter's Mountain or Cedar Run, took place on August 9, 1862, in Culpeper County, Virginia.

Union forces under Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks attacked Confederate forces under Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson near Cedar Mountain as the Confederates marched on Culpeper Court House to forestall a Union advance.

Just before noon, Brig. Gen. Jubal Early's brigade, the vanguard of Ewell's division, came upon Federal cavalry and artillery occupying the ridge above Cedar Run, just to the north-west of Cedar Mountain.

A little before 5:00 p.m. as the artillery fight began to wane; Confederate Brig. Gen. Charles S. Winder fell mortally wounded.



He had been ill that day and was

taken onto the field in an ambulance wagon. While attempting to direct his troops, he was struck by a shell fragment. Winder's left arm and side were torn to pieces, and he died a few hours later. As a result, command of the division devolved on William Taliaferro, who was completely ignorant of Jackson's battle plan.

The Federal advance was swift and threatened to break the Confederate line.



The Federals came from the woods directly into the flank of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry, who under the pressure from attack on two fronts broke for the rear. The Stonewall Brigade came up and was swept aside by Crawford's troops before it had a chance to react. Jackson ordered the batteries withdrawn before they were captured, but Taliaferro and Early's left were hit hard by the Union advance and threatened to break. At this dire point, Gen. Jackson rode to that part of the field to rally the men and came upon his old brigade finally being brought up to reinforce the line. The Stonewall Brigade heartened by their commander, launched into the Union troops and drove them back.

For two days, Jackson maintained his position south of Cedar Run on the western slope of the mountain, waiting for a Federal attack that did not come. Finally, receiving news that all of Pope's army had arrived at Culpeper Court House, on August 12, Jackson fell back on Gordonsville to a more defensive position behind the Rapidan River.



Weather and poor communication with his divisional commanders had robbed Jackson of the initiative in the fight. Still expecting

to face the same cautious opponent from the Valley, he was taken by surprise and very nearly driven from the field. Excellent commanding by the Confederates at the crucial moment of the battle staved off defeat, eventually allowing their numerical superiority to drive the Federals from the field.

Losses were high in the battle: Union casualties of 2,353 (314 killed, 1,445 wounded, 594 missing), Confederate 1,338 (231 killed, 1,107 wounded).



The 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade  
By Eddie Pricer  
5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander

The 5th Brigade, although geographically similar is as varied as a candy store. Many different flavors, many to choose from, but still a group. Thus far, I have visited 5 of the 8 Camps within the Brigade. Some camps are blessed to have a younger group of men to aid in carrying on the tradition of demonstrating history and protecting the good name of our forebears. Whether young or experienced (old), play to your strengths, they will serve you well.

The Northeast Texas 5th Brigade consists of the following Camps:

J. M. 'Matt' Barton #441, Sulphur Springs  
General John Gregg #958, Longview  
General Sam Bell Maxey #1358, Paris  
W. W. Heartsill #2042, Marshall  
Upshur County Patriots #2109, Gilmer  
Red Diamond #2193, Texarkana  
Colonel Charles DeMorse's 29th Texas  
Cavalry #2269, Grand Saline

1st Lieutenant David Richard Reynolds  
#2270, Mt. Pleasant

Fortunately, most were experiencing an increase in membership, sadly though we continue to lose a member here and there each year. Many years we barely maintain our roster levels as compared to the previous year. I know in the hand full of years that I have been a member, this issue was frequently discussed, however little has been accomplished to stem the tide of those abandoning ship. I don't yet have the answer but am open to suggestions as to determining the cause or plugging the leak in the ship.

I encourage each of you to bring a new member or at least save an existing member from leaving this great organization. My door will always be open. God Bless!

### AUGUST FOLKLORE

*Observe on what day in August the first heavy fog occurs, and expect a hard frost on the same day in October.*

*If the first week of August is unusually warm, the winter will be white and long.*

*So many August fogs, so many winter mists.*

*For every fog in August, there will be a snowfall.*

*Don't ridicule our Southern manners. We say sir and ma'am. We hold doors open for others. We offer our seats to old folks because such things are expected of civilized people.*



## Happy Birthday

To Compatriot  
Bill Palmer  
August 11, 1924  
"Real Grandson"



Our July Program was given by Compatriot  
Bruce Swinney on Slavery beginning with  
the Israelites.



Commander Milt Ojeman (L) presents a  
Silver Cross Award to Otter Hass.



Ron Jones (L) receives a Bronze Cross Award  
from Commander Milt Ojeman.



Color Guard Sgt. George Linton (R) presents  
Certificates of Appreciation from Jefferson  
School Days to Ben Adkison, Bill Starnes,  
and Ronnie Hill.



Color Guard Sgt. George Linton (L) presents  
Certificates of Appreciation from Jefferson  
School Days to Dena and Raven Baker.

*"The Confederate soldiers who engaged in the struggle for constitutional liberty and the right of self-government were neither rebels nor traitors; they were true and brave men, who devoted their fortunes and their lives to the mothers who bore them, and their precious blood watered the hills, valleys and plains of their native States. Their bodies sleep in unknown graves, where they shall rest until the last great trumpet shall summon all alike, the conquered and the conqueror."*

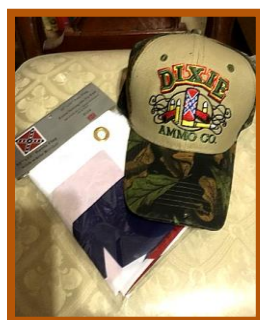


The Patriot's Periodical is a multi-award winning Publication by a Camp in the Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Comments or suggestions should be made to: David Palmer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander/Editor  
david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org



We thank Bill Starnes  
And the Starnes Family for  
providing a meeting Place  
for the Upshur Co. Patriots



Coffee Mugs and Coasters  
Caps and Flags are available for a donation  
to our Camp fund. Contact Eddie Pricer or  
any Camp Officer.



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



**SUPPORT THE UPSHUR  
COUNTY MUSEUM**

