



**Patriots Periodical**

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

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[www.upshurpatriots.org](http://www.upshurpatriots.org)

September 2016

**\*Best Newsletter Award\***

**Texas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans  
June 2016 Reunion**

### **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

*by Phil Davis*



Greetings Compatriots, September is here and hopefully it will start to cool off a little. Our activities will be starting soon and we will begin to have Grave Dedications and some parades as well as other things that come our way.

Our membership is growing with the addition of new members each month. Do your part; make our new members feel welcome. Remember a friendly camp will gain you more members while retaining our present membership. Move around the room and greet everyone. If you don't know someone, introduce yourself and welcome them. Try sitting at a different table each meeting. If you see someone sitting by their self, go over and sit with them. We want everyone to feel at home.

This meeting, we should hear from Austin Moss and Bailey Loyd on their experiences at Sam Davis Youth Camp. It will be interesting to hear how they found this experience. Joseph Moss gave a good report and I liked his answer to my question "Joseph do you feel that the camp has made an impact on your life and made you a better man and to more understand why you are in the SCV?" If you remember, his answer was "Yes Sir!" I believe in the Sam Davis Youth camp and the campers are our future leaders of both our country and the SCV.

Even though it is only September, it's not too early to be thinking about our elections coming up in November. I hope each of you that are eligible to hold office will give it careful consideration. When the nominating committee contacts you, be ready to move forward. Don't worry; there will be others that are ready and willing to help you. If you are interested contact me and give us your intentions.

As you know by now our annual dues payments are upon us. ***We need to have a 100% reenlistment.*** If you are having trouble with your dues, call us and let's see

if we can work something out. We need you! Our worst foe is retention. We gain 40 new members but lose 50 each year. The future of the SCV is you.

Don't forget about our next meeting September 6. I always look forward to the first Tuesday of the month. Bring a friend with you. Until then, I leave you with this question, have you talked to some one about joining our camp or another SCV camp?

### **Well, Why Not?**

\*Give What You Can to Heritage Defense\*

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

##### **NEXT MEETING**

September 6, 2016

Meeting at 7 PM

Walking S Steakhouse

##### **5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Meeting**

Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM at the Pizza Inn in Pittsburg, Hwy 271. Commander Sam Mercer in charge.

Upcoming events and functions can be found on our calendar at [www.upshurpatriots.org](http://www.upshurpatriots.org)



Trans Mississippi Commander Johnnie Holley speaks at our August meeting.



#### **The Guardian**

By Phil Davis

In this September article I want to focus on us, the Upshur County Patriots, on our involvement and support of the Texas Division Guardian Program. I know you might be a little tired of me harping on this subject, but you see, it is very important to me. I am dedicated to the preservation of our Confederate Heroes Final Resting Place. They gave all for our beloved Southland and our way of life.

This month I am going to list those of us that have chosen to protect these final resting places of our Confederate Heroes. I

hope you find your name among the list. If it's not there, I urge you join us.

<u>Name</u>	<u>No. of Graves</u>	<u>Guardian Status</u>
Phil Davis	29	Full
Kim Duffey	3	Full
Jamie Eitson	1	Full
Larry Harper	1	Full
Jared Jones	1	Full
Justin Jones	1	Full
Chris Loyd	5	Full
George Linton	35	Full/W/GPT
Eddie Pricer	17	Full/GPT
Milt Ojeman	4	Full/GPT
David Palmer	1	Full
William (Bill) Palmer	10	Full
Tommy Ray	14	GPT
Bill Starnes	7	Full/W/GPT

W=Wilderness Grave      GPT=Guardian Pro Tem

As you can see our camp is taking care of 129 final resting places. **We can do more.** This is one of the easiest ways of doing your part to fulfill the Charge. If you are not sure or don't understand please contact me. Remember I will meet you at 2:00 AM in the morning.

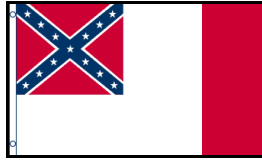
As I always say, I believe with all my being in the Guardian Program and I hope that in some way you will be convinced of its importance in fulfilling "The Charge". As always, I leave you with this question-

*Are you a Guardian? If not, why not?*

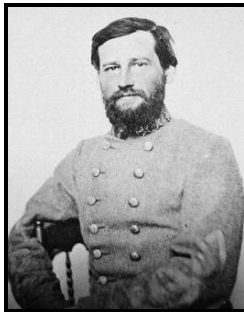


New member Corey Todd (on L) is sworn in by Trans-Mississippi Commander Johnnie Holley, 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander Sam Mercer and Camp Commander Phil Davis.

### 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.



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

"Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

### **Camp Leadership Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109**

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### 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.

Comments or suggestions should be made to: David Palmer, Editor

[david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org](mailto:david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org)



This month's article comes to us from:

Reverend M. Don Majors, Pastor  
Texas Division Chaplain

"In the shadow of your wings I will rejoice. My soul clings hard to you. Your right hand upholds me."— Psalm 63:3-5

A farmer and his 16-year-old son were plowing when a bull-horn sounded from the farm house summoning them with an urgent message. The teenage boy begged, "Dad, please allow me to operate the tractor alone." Dad relented. But, Dad gave clear instructions to his son. "The key to plowing a straight furrow lies in picking out an object across the field, then steadily driving the tractor in that direction."

When the father returned 20 minutes later, he was horrified at the squiggly S-shaped furrows. "Son, I told you the key to plowing straight furrows was keeping your eye on a distant object and plowing straight toward it!" Tearfully, the boy answered, "Dad, I did just what you told me, but there was no way I could get that cow to stand still."

If he could have admonished us, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, toward two things; First, let us keep our eyes on the author and



finisher of our faith. Two, let us keep our eyes on our Cause, which was given to us by General Stephen Dill Lee. We don't need "squiggly lines."

Here is an example.

The Holy Bible is full of stories regarding battles and wars. One of my favorite is regarding the conflict that Israel had with two of their distant cousins, the Midianites, and the Amalekites (Judges 6-8).

In Judges, chapter six, God found a young man by the name of Gideon who was the son of Joash, of the Abiezrite Clan of the tribe of Manasseh. He would become a judge of the Israelites, and he would win a decisive victory over the Midianite Army even though the Midianite and Amalekite Armies were vastly greater numerically than the Israelites with only their 300 men.

Gideon lived during troubling times in Israel's history. It was times of wickedness, times of disobedience, times of unbelief, and times of spiritual deterioration and bondage. It was a dark time in Israel's history.

"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes." – Judges 21:25

Each person was his own king, his own guide, the Law of God was ignored, men went their own way, and without a doubt, it was a dark day spiritually. It was a

depressing time in which to live. Sound familiar?

For seven years the Midianites and the Amalekites were constantly raiding Israel's land. They were constantly destroying their crops, stealing their livestock, and killing their people. The Israelites were forced to hide in the caves and mountains.

God saw something in Gideon that even Gideon did not see in himself. Interestingly, God chooses people on the basis of His grace. God sees something in a person that no one else can see. He simply did not see himself as a leader or warrior. In his eyes, he was a nobody. That's not the way God saw Gideon. God saw him for who he really was, a mighty "man of valor" who would bring deliverance to Israel and would be listed in the Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11).

What was true of Gideon is true for us. God wants us to discover who we really are. We can call this a "**Gideon Moment.**"

Unless we have our heads stuck in a hole somewhere, we all realize that we are living in a crucial moment in history. The challenge standing before us today is urgent, and it is time for us to rise up as men of faith and men of valor.

As descendants of Confederate Veterans and men of Southern heritage, are we not tired of the "Midianites?" Are we not tired and weary of the "Amalekites?" I'm also tired of the secular-progressives raiding our

land, changing the names of our streets and schools. I'm tired of them destroying our ancestors' Confederate markers and our Confederate monuments. We have hid in the "caves and mountains" way too long.

Many of my wife's brothers and sisters graduated from Reagan High School in Houston, Texas. They just sent word to us that the progressives in Houston, Texas have changed the name of the high school. They will not stop there. They will keep raiding and robbing our heritage from us.

It is time for a **"Gideon Moment."**

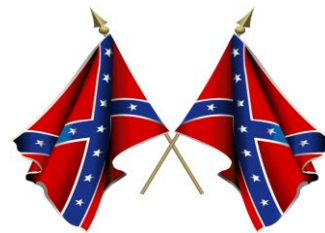
Against insurmountable odds (300 men against thousands), Gideon approached the Midianite Camp during the night. Each man had a shofar, jar clay, and a torch hidden inside. The Book of Judges tells us that they gave a battle cry, and the Midianite Army fled. It is time for the "Rebel Cry" again.

Like Gideon, our numbers are limited, and our resources are few, but we have a righteous Cause. It is time to stand up and have a "Gideon Moment." It is time to take it to the enemy who wants to destroy everything that is sacred to our Southern culture.

Deo Vindice,  
Reverend M. Don Majors, Pastor  
Chaplain Texas Division  
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Compatriot Joseph Moss discusses his experiences at the Sam Davis Youth Camp at our last month's meeting.



#### Historical Dates in September

September 14, 1862 Battle of Sugar Mountain

September 4-9, 1862 Lee invades the North with 50,000 troops headed for Harper's Ferry

September 17, 1862 Battle of Antietam

September 19-20 Battle of Sheperdstown

September 18, 1863 Battle of Chickamauga

September 21-24, 1864 Battle of Fisher's Hill

#### A Proud Heritage

General Lee viewed duty as sublime, but what is our duty today, as Americans? As you go, take advantages of opportunities to discuss the Battle Flag and the truth of Confederate Heritage. Present the symbols

of Confederate Heritage in the proper manner representing the people of the South and their sacrifices to the Confederate Cause. Educate yourself and your families to the historical truths of the War period, and when you see the Battle Flag, pause to reflect on the honored heritage it means for all Americans.

From: The Education Committee of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.



2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander David Palmer is presented with a Guardian Certificate by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Don Loyd, Kim Duffey and Commander Phil Davis.

### Dues Renewal

It's that time again. Most of you will have received your dues invoice within the last month. Some of our newest members paid the prorated amount and will not receive an invoice as they have paid through July 2017.

Please remit your dues payment to Adjutant Rickie Gipson or his assistant as soon as possible. If you are a bit of a foot dragger, don't be surprised to receive a reminder call or letter. Also, additional donations may be made to help fund several other ongoing projects. Please give generously as these are worthwhile endeavors.



Our August program was presented by Compatriot Michael Pepper.

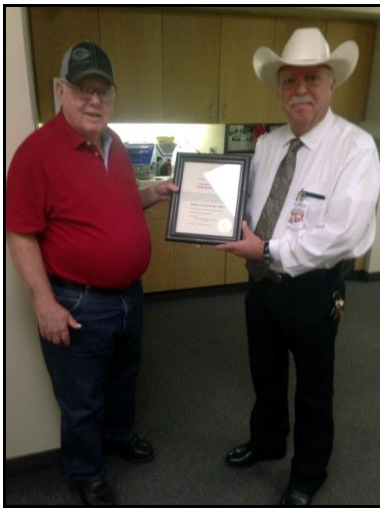


Gen. Robert E. Lee 1807 - 1870



### Civil War Money Fact

The Confederate States of America didn't want to use money that had the United States of America printed on it, so they produced money with images of C.S.A. officials and southern symbols such as slave labor, cotton bales, and ships.



In accordance with a Proclamation by our National Commander in Chief, Thos. V. Strain Jr., the Upshur Co. Patriots showed our support to our local Law Enforcement on August 18, 2016 for National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Snacks, coffee and a framed certificate were presented to the Upshur Co. Sheriff's Department (above), the Department of Public Safety (top right) and the Gilmer Police Department (bottom right). This recognition was presented by Commander Phil Davis with 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander David Palmer and Past Commander Eddie Pricer in attendance.



Appreciation presentation to the Department of Public Safety, Gilmer Office.

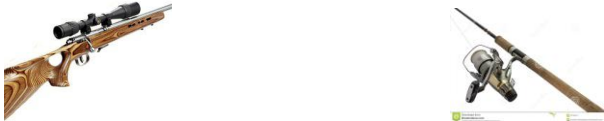


Appreciation presentation to the Gilmer Police Department.

### From the Declaration of Independence

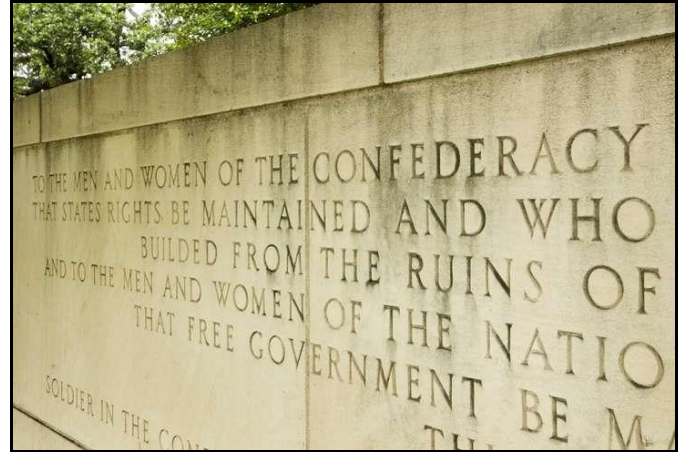
"Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it and to institute new

Government, laying it's Foundation on such Principles, and organizing it's Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness."



### Reminder

On August 31<sup>st</sup> our Texas Hunting and Fishing licenses expired. Don't forget to purchase another license before going on your next outing.



### UT removes Confederate Inscription that it previously said would stay

From: Texas Division SCV

Published in the American Statesman,  
August 25, 2016

The University of Texas has quietly removed an inscription honoring the Confederacy and Southern pride from the South Mall nearly a year after UT President Gregory L. Fennes said that the inscription "will remain in place."

"It is inappropriate for our goal of diversity and inclusion on campus," Fennes said.

Fennes told the American-Statesman this week that he decided this past spring that the inscription had to go. The inscription is dedicated to "the men and women of the Confederacy who fought with valor and suffered with fortitude that states rights be maintained" and who were "not dismayed by defeat nor discouraged by misrule." It makes no mention of slavery.



Photo from the Baton Rouge Advocate

Louisiana has been devastated by flooding from the heavy rains during the last few weeks. Let's all take a moment and say a prayer for our Louisiana neighbors.

In deciding at that time to retain the inscription, Fenves rejected an advisory panel's recommendation to remove it. Instead, Fenves said he would consider placing a plaque near the fountain to provide historical context for the inscription and the remaining statues



Awards from Texas Division Sons of  
Confederate Veterans

Best Newsletter Award

**\*1<sup>st</sup> Place\***

Upshur County Patriots  
Camp #2109  
David Palmer - Editor

Best Website Award

**\*1<sup>st</sup> Place\***

Upshur County Patriots  
Camp #2109  
Joe Reynolds - Webmaster

Political Correctness Strikes Again

Dixie Dropped from Ole Miss Game Day

From: The Huntsville Times

In a continuing effort to distance itself from symbols of the Confederacy, the University of Mississippi's marching band will no longer play "Dixie" at athletic events.

Ole Miss Athletic Director Ross Bjork told the Clarion-Ledger that the discussion to pull the song, which served as the Confederate's battle anthem, began early last year.

"We want everyone who steps foot on campus to feel welcome, and that they're part of the Ole Miss family," he said. "There wasn't one defining moment (that led to the decision). It was a collaborative process where we felt we needed to move forward and do the right things. This is another step in that direction to make sure we're welcoming to people."

The Ole Miss band, known as the Pride of the South, has been performing "Dixie" since around 1948, but it had been performing the song less and less in recent years.

According to reports, former Chancellor Dan Jones asked the marching band to stop playing "From Dixie with Love" in 2009 because some fans chanted "the South will rise again" in response.

Mississippi's state flag, which contains a Confederate battle flag, was taken down from Ole Miss Campus in October 2015.

Former mascot "Colonel Reb" was removed from games in 2003, and sales of merchandise featuring that mascot stopped in 2010.

Confederate flags were prohibited from being waved at football games in 1997 when former Chancellor Robert Khayat banned sticks from being carried inside the stadium.



### I am the Confederate Battle Flag

By: Charles H. Hayes

I am the Battle Flag  
of the Confederate States of America.

I am a proud flag.  
I have led great armies to great victories.  
From tall masts I have saluted,

and been saluted by,  
The ablest generals in history.

I am a potent symbol.  
I have the power to stir the blood  
of those who carried me in battle  
Though that blood be continents away  
And generations removed from those  
battles.

I am an honorable flag.  
Do not use me for ignoble purposes.  
I am a symbol of pride, not arrogance.  
I represent love of homeland, not hatred  
toward anyone.  
But no matter who carries me  
Or for what purposes, I cannot be  
dishonored.

I secured my honor in a hundred battles  
Where good men dying passed me to good  
men still struggling;  
Where we prevailed against almost  
impossible odds;  
Where we were beaten by overwhelming  
numbers;  
Where I was as bloody, torn, tired, and  
soiled  
As the men who carried me.

I am a worthy flag.  
I have stood watch over the graves of  
patriots.  
I have comforted widows in their  
loneliness.  
As a blood-stained rag I have been passed  
as a rich legacy



To the heirs of those who had lost all for  
my sake.

I am the Battle Flag of the Confederate  
States of America.  
Do not forsake me.



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

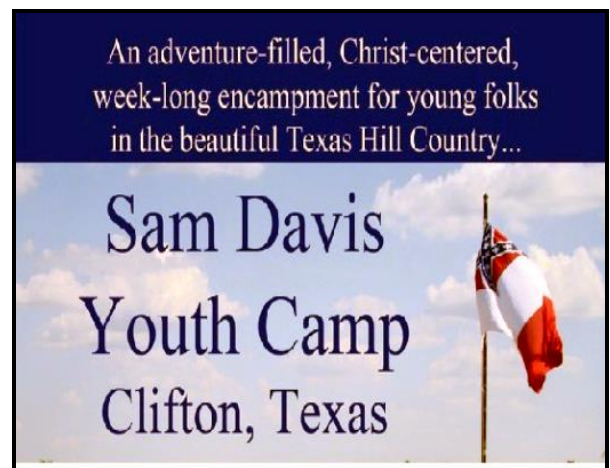


#### Editor's Note

Some of our camp members and others  
perform an Acoustic Music Jam twice a  
month. This takes place at the Walking S  
Steakhouse on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of  
each month from 6pm – 8pm. Bring your  
instrument and join in or just come and  
enjoy the music. A family friendly  
environment.



Thank you to the Starnes family and  
everyone at the Walking S Steakhouse for  
their hospitality and providing a great  
meeting place for the Upshur County  
Patriots. Serving great food on Thursday,  
Friday and Saturday.



Donations for the Sam Davis Youth Camp  
fund may be made to: Upshur Co. Patriots,  
P.O. Box 472, Gilmer, TX. 75644  
Phil Davis, Commander