



PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL

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

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NOVEMBER 2019

NEXT MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2019

HOW AGING CONFEDERATE VETERANS KEPT WARTIME MEMORIES ALIVE

By Richard Selcer

(Dr. Richard F. Selcer is a noted historian and author of several books. He is a professor at Texas Christian University where he received his PhD.)

IN JANUARY 1908, Confederate veteran Thomas A. Elgin wrote this description of his aging comrades: "Old veterans whose unsteady steps and gray hairs speak of the many years gone by since in their youth they went forth to battle for principles." Elgin was one of the elderly men who met regularly in Marshall, Texas, between 1900 and 1910 to reminisce about the events of 1861-65 and their lives since. They were members of the W.P. Lane Camp of United Confederate Veterans, whose failing bodies did not keep them from coming together faithfully every month. They shared their memories of the past, but there were also new battles to be fought for what they believed.



Top Row 3rd from L, Thomas Elgin
Top Row 5th from L, W.W. Heartsill
United Confederate Veterans, Walter P.
Lane Camp, Marshall, Texas circa 1900



The core of the Camp was formed by former members of the W.P. Lane Rangers, organized in Marshall on April 19, 1861, named for Brig. Gen. Walter P. Lane, "hero of three wars" (Texas Revolution, Mexican War, and Civil War). The Lane Rangers were the first company raised in east Texas' Harrison County for Confederate service.

One of Lane's original Rangers had been William W. Heartsill, who as orderly sergeant kept a daily journal of their activities that he turned into a limited-

edition book in 1876 that today is extremely rare and valuable. After the war, Heartsill returned home to Marshall to live out the rest of his days, starting a successful mercantile business and holding political office as alderman and mayor. It was 60-year-old Heartsill who in April 1900 issued a call to the surviving Rangers to have their first reunion in 35 years.

The twin missions of the W.P. Lane Camp were fellowship and keeping the memory of the Lost Cause alive. The war was the biggest thing that had happened in their lives, and it was still front and center in their minds. The oldest member of the camp, W.S. Allen (born 1811), was also the oldest person in Harrison County.

They honored the men in a unique way—by bestowing the Southern Cross of Honor on each one. These small bronze crosses had been created by the UDC in 1899 to recognize “loyal and honorable service to the South” during the war. Each cross bore the inscription, “*Deo Vindice*, 1861-1865,” loosely translated as “With God as Our Vindicator.” In 1903 they bestowed 55 crosses on the men of the W.P. Lane Camp. On January 6, 1908, Thomas Elgin was moved to write of the Daughters, “God bless them!”

As recorded in Thomas Elgin’s ledger, strong feelings of nostalgia and mortality come through loud and clear. The men muse about who’s going to carry on their good work after they are gone. Who’s going to preserve Southern history, honor the heroes of 1861-65, and defend the Lost Cause?

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THE GUARDIAN

WDP



"There should be in every life, a place where you can come and visit your past, and the past of your people, and know that whatever happened outside, here timelessness lived. All of us need a place like that, a place

where we can have history close at hand, where we can see it, touch it, learn from it."

It is about honoring the dead and our own link to those soldiers - those recognized American Veterans - many of whom share our last names. Their blood and courage are our birthrights. We honor them because they are family and there is no statute of limitations on respect, honor and love. They are a part of who we are, a link of where we came from. There is no forgetting that without losing your sense of who you are and where you are going.

Cleaning a gravestone may be one of the last acts of kindness we can show loved ones. Gravestones that are left uncleaned are slowly being destroyed by lichen, moss, mold, algae and other biological growth. This leads to chipping, flaking, and cracking.

No one lineage is better than another. Paying homage to one's ancestors is not in any way, shape or form racism. Rather it is a means of honoring the process of one's spiritual journey, honoring those whose actions and lives helped create and shape our own. It means honoring those who shed

blood for us, so that we might remember and also learn to craft lives of honor.

Contact Guardian Director Phil Davis, userphil97@aol.com about taking part in this worthwhile program.



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 Lee 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
Gregg Gipe	GPT	1

W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem



OUR PLEDGES



PLEDGE TO THE U.S. FLAG:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag
Of the United States of America, And to the
republic for which it stands, One nation,
under God, indivisible, With liberty and
justice for all.



PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG:

Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge
allegiance to thee Texas, one state under
God, one and indivisible.



SALUTE TO THE CONFEDERATE FLAG:

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

*"Those that can give up essential liberty to
gain a little temporary safety deserve
neither liberty nor safety."*



Benjamin Franklin

*I never considered a difference of opinion in
politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause
for withdrawing from a friend.*



Thomas Jefferson



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.



*George Washington
And Blueskin*

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER



*By: C. Robert
Allred, Th.D*

God loves a cheerful giver; one who lives a life of joy and gratitude. The First Pilgrims, of nearly four-hundred years ago, gave God credit for all that they had. They were grateful. Don't we love to surround ourselves with happy folks who love to give, not get, and who practice a giving attitude in their living?

But, can we change those who are sad and selfish? There is always hope in the Lord who made heaven and earth, and all of us. A man and his wife were sitting in the living room and he said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug." His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all of his beer.

It's not the problems of life that destroy us, but a negative attitude steals away our hope. Negativity can more easily overtake us whenever we are vulnerable and during adversity. Yet, as we survive we truly can have a deep sense of respect for the way God used adversity to make us stronger.

Remember our thankful and grateful Pilgrim forefathers as we cut the turkey this Thanksgiving. Nearly all of the Pilgrims had buried family members during the cold New England winter. The Plymouth Colony has in a real sense become the religious forefathers of all Americans. Although most civilizations have had some manner of a celebration of Thanksgiving in gratitude to God for blessings, The Pilgrims, who stepped out of their tiny ship, The Mayflower, onto Plymouth Rock on the frigid Cape Cod Bay, where the ocean water is nearly freezing, even in summer, were beginning a tradition of worship that has come down to us nearly four-hundred years later.

Although, we have become somewhat "at ease in Zion," (Amos 6) we are still aware that a pleasant attitude is a by-product of our assurance of salvation and indwelling awareness of God's Spirit at work within our lives.

God can help us become more grateful and giving during this Thanksgiving Season, but we have to want to overcome our vegetative state of spiritual and inertia by getting up off of the couch.



"This is Thanksgiving Day—one of the best days of all the year. It has a mission all its own and a blessing all its own to bestow upon all who open their souls to its beauty and good cheer. It should not be wholly given up to turkey and cranberry sauce. To eat, drink and be merry is a good way to give thanks—better than long prayers rendered with long faces, but it is not all that one ought to do today. A kind word kindly spoken to someone in distress; a worthy gift worthily bestowed upon some one more unfortunate—these are thanks acceptable on earth and in Heaven alike . . . There is no man or woman so humble that their thanks to you for a gift bestowed to-day is not an incense that will rise to Heaven."



HISTORICAL DATES IN NOVEMBER

November 7–8, 1861 The Battle of Port Royal Sound, South Carolina. The battle of Port Royal was one of the earliest amphibious operations of the American Civil War.

November 7, 1861 The Battle of Belmont, Missouri.

November 4, 1862 Richard Gatling patented his first rapid-fire machine-gun which used revolving barrels rotating around a central mechanism to load, fire, and extract the cartridges.

November 23-25, 1863 The Battle Of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

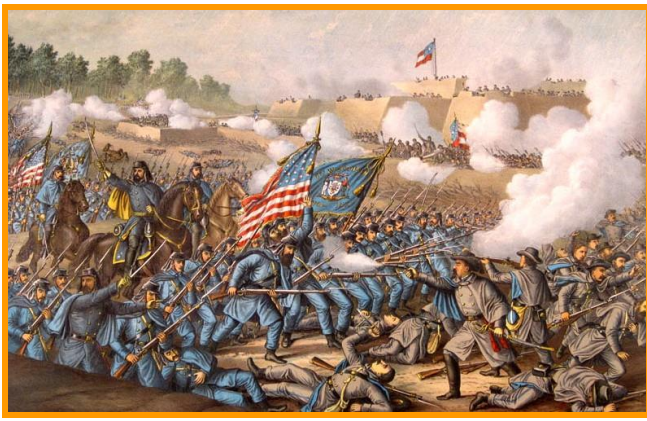
November 26-December 1, 1863 The Mine Run Campaign. Meade's Army of the Potomac marches against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia south of the Rapidan River, east of Orange Court House. Lee reacts and throws up a line of defenses along the banks of Mine Run Creek.

November 27 to December 3, 1863 The Siege of Knoxville, Tennessee. Confederate troops under General James Longstreet lay siege to the city of Knoxville held by Union forces under General Ambrose Burnside.

November 16, 1864 General Sherman's Army of Georgia begins the "March to the Sea".

November 30, 1864 Battle of Franklin, Tennessee. After a month of raiding Sherman's supply lines and attacking Union outposts, John Bell Hood's army confronts Union troops from General John Schofield's command, who they had encountered the day before near Spring Hill, Tennessee.

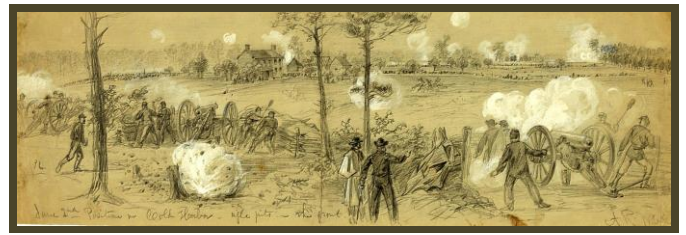
November 8, 1942 *Gone with the Wind* author Margaret Mitchell (1900-1949) was born in Atlanta, Georgia. Her romantic novel about the American Civil War sold over 10 million copies, was translated into 30 languages, and was made into one of the most popular movies of all time. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 1937 for the novel, her only book. She died after being struck by an automobile in Atlanta.



THE BATTLE OF BELMONT

From: civilwarwiki.net

On November 6, 1861, Brig. Gen. U.S. Grant left Cairo, Illinois, by steamers, in conjunction with two gunboats, to make a demonstration against Columbus, Kentucky. The next morning, Grant learned that Confederate troops had crossed the Mississippi River from Columbus to Belmont, Missouri, to intercept two detachments sent in pursuit of Brig. Gen. M. Jeff Thompson and, possibly, to reinforce Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's force. He landed on the Missouri shore, out of the range of Confederate artillery at Columbus, and started marching the mile to Belmont. In the morning, an engagement began. The Federals routed the Confederates out of their Belmont cantonment and destroyed the Rebel supplies and equipment they found. The scattered Confederate forces reorganized and received reinforcements from Columbus. Counterattacked by the Confederates, the Union force withdrew, reembarked, and returned to Cairo.



THE BATTLE OF MINE RUN

From: battlefields.org

Payne's Farm and New Hope Church were the first and heaviest clashes of the Mine Run Campaign. In late November 1863, Gen. Meade attempted to steal a march through the Wilderness and strike the right flank of the Confederate Army south of the Rapidan River. Maj. Gen. Jubal Early, in command of Ewell's Corps, marched east on the Orange Turnpike to meet the advance of William French's III Corps near Payne's Farm. Carr's division (US) attacked twice. Johnson's division (CS) counterattacked but was scattered by heavy fire. After dark, Lee withdrew to field fortifications he had prepared along Mine Run. The next day, the Union army closed on the Confederate position. Skirmishing was heavy, but a major attack did not materialize. Meade concluded that the Confederate line was too strong to attack and retired during the night of December 1-2, ending the winter campaign.

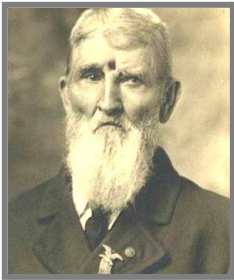


The Sons of Confederate Veterans is a non-profit, heritage organization whose mission is to preserve the history and legacy of Confederate veterans. It is not associated with any anti-government or hate groups. Membership is open to any male descendent of a Confederate veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces.

BRANNON CEMETERY MEMORIAL

The Battle of Chickamauga was fought in northwest Georgia, near Missionary Ridge, on September 19–20, 1863. During the conflict, Jacob Miller, a private in the Union army, sustained a bullet wound to the forehead. He survived and carried the bullet in his head for many years afterward.

"After being shot," Jacob says, "I was left for dead when my company fell back from that position. When I came to my senses sometime after, I found I was in the rear of the Confederate line."



Determined not to become a prisoner, Jacob got up using his gun as a staff and made his way through the Confederate troops and off the field of battle. "I suppose I was so covered with blood that those that I met, did not notice that I was a Yank."

After nine months of suffering, Jacob finally got two doctors to agree to operate on his wound. They took out the musket ball and Jacob remained in the hospital until the expiration of his enlistment on September 17, 1864.

There was more than just a musket ball in Jacob's forehead. "Seventeen years after I was wounded," he says, "a buck shot dropped out of my wound. And thirty one years after, two pieces of lead came out."

**Upcoming Events may be found on the
Calendar at:**

www.upshurpatriots.org



GILMER YAMBOREE PARADE



THE HISTORY OF GILMER

Excerpts from the writings of Hettye Calloway (Feb. 1926)

In this story of my town I have tried to give an interesting and true history. It is a town that we all love, and we realize that its history is fast fading away. My story is based on the stories of the few old citizens that still live here.

It was in about 1860 or 1861, on the old Cherokee Tract about two and one-half miles northwest of its present site, and in what is now the W. C. Barnwell farm, that Gilmer had its beginning.

Court in the old days of Gilmer was held under an old oak tree. There are many amusing stories told about those days and the system of court. One day a trial of a drunken man was being held. Suddenly he began to yell, "I'm a horse, I'm a horse!" The judge called: "Mr. Sheriff, tie that horse!" and the trial was dismissed.

Stories are told of how notorious criminals were captured and held. One criminal was tied to a tree by a chain. People thought him to be safe, but when morning dawned, he had gone. The small sapling which he had been chained to proved insufficient to hold him. He had bent it so as to slip the chain over it.

There were several saloons around the square. One of these was where Hogg's Pharmacy now is, and another was in the Walton Building. There is a story told of a

murder that took place in this saloon, which proves to us that Gilmer must have been a rough town. A man by the name of Cleavland stabbed a man whose name was Miller. While Miller's life blood was gushing out he yelled for his son to kill Cleavland. With a double-barreled shotgun Miller's son shot Cleavland, who died before Miller. The boy was exonerated by the courts for killing his father's slayer.

About the time the town was incorporated, there was one ordinance that said: "No man shall ride horse back on sidewalks of the city of Gilmer; if they do they shall be fined not less than \$5 or more than \$25." There was a man who lived just on the outside of town that owned a large long-horned Texas steer by the name of Lamb. Old Lamb's horns were about six feet from tip to tip. This gentleman saddled old Lamb and came to town. After visiting the saloon and getting drunk, he mounted Lamb and rode up and down every sidewalk of the small city and none dared molest or make him afraid.

The census of 1920 gave Gilmer a population of 2,280. It is the center of a large trade territory, and about eighteen thousand bales of cotton are marketed here annually. In February, 1926, the new Federal Post office was occupied, and now the streets of Gilmer are being paved. Although it is an old town, its life, we think, has only begun; and its citizens are loyal to their home town, Gilmer.



*During these hard
times when all
God's people are*

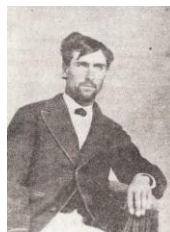


*suffering, let us be thankful of the blessing
that we have. We have the love of our
brothers and sisters and we have our rich
Southern heritage. But of all our blessings,
nothing is sweeter than the promise of
God's love and redemption.*

*During this Thanksgiving season, we should
all remember the sacrifice of our noble
Confederate forebears. We can learn much
from their example made during their time
of trial...Michael Givens*



PARSON MCCLELLAND SCHOOL



The school was built
about 1869 on FM
726, Southeast of
Gilmer by the Rev.



Wm. Henry McClelland, a Baptist minister and teacher. He lived here and operated a private school, with day and boarding pupils, until the 2 story frame building burned on Dec. 14, 1876. Family lore records that on the same night, his son Lee died in a fire, step-daughter Nancy Skaggs wed R. M. Keasler, and his first grandson Mack Florence was born. McClelland (1831-1897) was born in Virginia; baptized 1,324 persons in 40 years in the ministry. He married 4 times: To Jane Stanley, Margaret E. Blaine, Martha D. Skaggs, Lula Wilkinson.

Had 16 children: 3 with Nancy Jane Standley -Martha Esther and George, 2 with Margaret Elizabeth Blaine - Robert and Troy Lee, 4 with Martha Davis Skaggs - Virgia, William, Perry and an un-named girl who died at birth, and 7 with Lula Wilkinson - Faye, Charles, May, DeLou, Bidwell, Ruth and Grace.



THE SOUTH: WHERE IS IT? **WHAT IS IT?**

From: John Shelton Reed

The South is like my favorite pair of blue jeans. It's shrunk some, faded a bit, got a few holes in it. There's always the possibility that it might split at the seams. It doesn't look much like it used to, but it's more comfortable, and there's probably a lot of wear left in it.

Clearly, the South has been "part of a national domain which is, geographically and socially, sufficiently unified to have a true consciousness of its own unity, to feel a pride in its own ideals and customs, and to possess a sense of its distinction from other parts of the country."

Regional institutions play a part in sustaining the South, as both idea and reality, tying the region together economically and socially and contributing to a sense of distinctiveness and solidarity. Southerners have their own social and professional organizations, methods of communication, colleges and universities,

and so forth. In fact, they probably have more of them now than they ever did before.

So where is the South? Well, that depends on which South you're talking about. Some places are Southern by anybody's reckoning, to be sure, but at the edges it's hard to say where the South is because people have different ideas about what it is.

The South is also set apart by its people and their distinctive ways of doing things. Mass society has made some inroads, but Southerners still do many things differently. Some are even inventing new ways to do things differently.

Because its history and its culture are somewhat different from the run of the American mill, the South also exists as an idea, moreover, that people can have feelings about. Many are fond of the South (some even love it); others have been known to view it with disdain. In either case, the South exists in people's heads and in their conversations. From this point of view, the South will exist for as long as people think and talk about it, and as for its boundaries well, the South begins wherever people agree that it does.

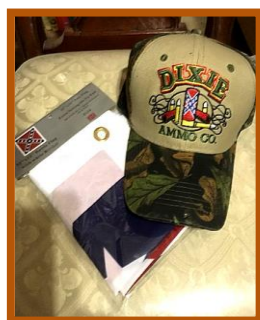
The South is a social system, perhaps more now than ever before. A network of institutions exists to serve it, and an ever increasing number of people have a crass, pecuniary interest in making sure that it continues to exist.

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

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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.



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COUNTY MUSEUM**

