



PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL
UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS CAMP #2109
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
GILMER, TEXAS

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Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of
Each Month at 7 PM
at the Historic Upshur Museum
www.upshurpatriots.org

NOVEMBER 2024



UPSHUR
PATRIOTS
AID
HURRICANE
RELIEF

By: EP



As we all have seen on the news the devastating loss of life and damage from Hurricane Helene, the Litchfield Camp of Conway South Carolina issued a request for help to aid the victims of this tragic event. The Litchfield Camp at that time had already gathered 3 truckloads of supplies for delivery to the hardest hit areas. The Upshur Patriots membership stepped up once again and voted to send \$400.00 to the Litchfield Camp to aid in their effort. An anonymous donor added an additional \$100.00 making the total donation \$500.00. A check was forwarded and received by the Litchfield Camp and put to good use. The Litchfield Camp expresses their heartfelt thanks for the assistance.

There will not be a December 2024 issue of the Patriot's Periodical



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PATRIOTS CAMP #2109

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THE GUARDIAN

The use of gravestones dates back thousands of years to when our ancestors were first learning how to bury their dead. They have been used to mark graves for centuries. The majority of early gravestones were simple slabs of stone or wood placed atop the grave. These rudimentary markers were often unadorned, with only the deceased's name and dates inscribed upon them.

As time went on, gravestones became more elaborate, with carved designs and symbols adorning them. This was especially true during the Victorian era when grieving families would commission lavish headstones as a way to remember their departed loved ones.

People began to add more information to these stones as time went on. This is where we get the epitaphs, or short sayings, that are often found on modern gravestones.

The SCV Guardian Program honors the Fallen.

"If you're not a Guardian, why not?"

Contact Guardian Program Chairman Bill Elliot for information at: etaia@att.net



UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS GUARDIANS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian Status</u>	<u>Number of Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	31
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	51
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	40
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Tommy Ray	Full/GPT	19
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2
Gregg Gipe	GPT	3

W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem



"Forever on Thanksgiving Day the heart will find the pathway home"

Sending good wishes to you this Thanksgiving! Good food that fills your table, good health as you work hard, and good times with family and friends. May you have all the best delights in life. Happy Thanksgiving!

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.

On October 3, 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation designating "the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving." Lincoln's announcement marked the culmination of a multi-decade campaign by Sarah Josepha Hale to make Thanksgiving into a national holiday.



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."



In 1906 General Stephen D. Lee, Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans, gave a charge to the next generation of Southerners. This charge has defined the mission of the Sons of Confederate Veterans ever since.

On June 23, 1864, Lee was appointed a lieutenant general, making him the youngest man to reach the rank in the Confederate Army. He took command of General John B. Hood's former corps within the Army of Tennessee.

Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good; His love endures forever.
- Psalm 118:1



protected harbor

During this holiday season when we reflect on everything God has placed in our lives, we have the unique opportunity to place emphasis on giving thanks. Believing in God allows us to be thankful when things go well and patient when things go against us. It is crucial at the times when things are going against us to thank God for granting us the learning experience he has placed in front of us. Sometimes at the moment, it is hard to see God's greater plan for you and to trust in him. Remaining patient during times of adversity allows us to completely retain the lesson that God is trying to teach us. Paul sums things up this way. He says it is God's will for us to be thankful "in all circumstances." Well, it may help to note that Paul is not saying we should be thankful for all circumstances, but *in* them. When things seem to go against us, God expects us to be grateful that his hand holds us and helps us to endure under the strain. That's a big challenge – to look for reasons to be thankful when the going is tough. Sometimes it can be equally difficult for us to be thankful when things are going well. The very nature of human beings, even if we are Christian, is to overlook the crowd of God's good gifts to us every day.

GRACE HILL CEMETERY

On Saturday October 19, 2024, an event honoring Confederate Soldiers was held at the Grace Hill Cemetery in Longview by the John Gregg Camp with Sam Mercer, Camp Commander officiating and organizing the event. Those present walked to each gravesite and a designated speaker identified the Soldier's name and who they were. The Event had members from the John Gregg Camp of Longview, The Heartsill Camp of Marshall and the Upshur Co. Patriots of Gilmer as well as decendants.

(All Photos courtesy of Albert Colvin)



5th Brigade Commander Bill Elliot



Gregg Camp Commander Sam Mercer





Upshur County Patriots Commander
David Palmer



Grace Hill Cemetery's history dates back to Jan. 21, 1904, when W.G. Northcutt declared he would fence part of his farm on Grace Creek for a cemetery. According to a history of the property provided by City Secretary Lois McCaleb, Northcutt said it was a model site with a natural grove of trees and good drainage. Additional space was added in 1926.



Gregg Camp Commander Sam Mercer
Was Presented with a Leadership Award
from SCV National Headquarters





HISTORICAL EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

1861

November 7 - Engagement at Belmont, Missouri

November 8 - The Confederate emissaries to England and France are removed from the British vessel RMS *Trent*, initiating the "Trent Affair" and endangering the United States' relationship with Great Britain

November 8/9 - Engagement at Ivy Mountain, Kentucky

November 12 - The blockade runner *Fingal*, bought by Confederates in England, arrives in Savannah

November 22 - Union begins bombardment of Fort McRee in Pensacola, Florida

1862

November 28 - Engagement at Cane Hill, Arkansas

1863

November 3 - Engagement at Grand Coteau (Bayou Bourdeau), Louisiana

November 4 - Knoxville Campaign begins

November 7 - Battle of Rappahannock Station, Virginia

November 16 - Battle of Campbell's Station, Tennessee

November 17 - Longstreet lays siege to Knoxville, Tennessee

November 19 - President Lincoln delivers the "Gettysburg Address"

November 23 - Battle of Orchard Knob begins near Chattanooga, Tennessee

November 24 - Battle of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee

November 25 - Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tennessee

November 26 - Mine Run Campaign begins in Virginia

November 27 - Engagement at Payne's Farm, Virginia

November 29 - Assault on Fort Sanders, Tennessee

1864

November 2 - Affair at Hazen's Farm near Devalls Bluff, Arkansas

November 4 - Engagement at Johnsonville, Tennessee

November 11 - Battle of Bull's Gap, Tennessee

November 15 - William T. Sherman departs Atlanta on the March to the Sea, leaving Atlanta in ruins

November 24 - Skirmish at Columbia, Tennessee

November 25 - Confederates fail at attempt to set fire to New York City hotels and Barnum's Museum

November 28 - Rosser's Raid on New Creek near Keyser, West Virginia

Massacre in the Colorado Territory

November 29 - Battle of Spring Hill, Tennessee

November 30 - Battle of Franklin, Tennessee

November 30 - Engagement at Honey Hill, South Carolina

*There will not be a December 2024 issue of
the Patriot's Periodical
Have a Wonderful Christmas season!
A new issue will be published in January
2025*

Trent Affair



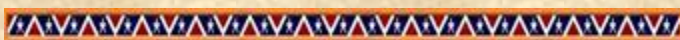
The Trent Affair was a diplomatic crisis that took place between the United States and Great Britain from November to December 1861, during the U.S. Civil War (1861-65). The crisis erupted after the captain of the USS San Jacinto ordered the arrest of two Confederate envoys sailing to Europe aboard a British mail ship, the Trent, in order to seek support for the South in the Civil War. The British, who had not taken sides in the war, were outraged and claimed the seizure of a neutral ship by the U.S. Navy was a violation of international law. In the end, President Abraham Lincoln's administration released the envoys and averted an armed conflict with Britain.

surprised 2,000 Confederate cavalry and six cannon under Confederate brigadier general John S. Marmaduke while they were gathering winter supplies. The struggle lasted nine hours and covered about twelve miles over the wooded and rocky terrain between Cane Hill (Washington County) and the Cove Creek valley. While it was a Union victory, casualties were light on both sides. Blunt's decision to remain at Cane Hill set in motion the entire Confederate force at Fort Smith (Sebastian County), leading to the Battle of Prairie Grove.



Major General Thomas C. Hindman, commander of the Confederate Army of the Trans-Mississippi, ordered Marmaduke to advance into the fertile agricultural region known as Cane Hill on November 9. The Southerners arrived without incident and scoured the communities of Boonsboro and Newburg along with the area's gristmills for food. After five days, the Confederate cavalry returned to the Arkansas River Valley hauling a large supply of much-needed meat, grain, and forage.

A Confederate patrol spotted Union cavalry near the community of Cincinnati, northwest of the Cane Hill ridge, on November 27 and reported its findings to Marmaduke. He decided to send the food supplies toward Fort Smith and await the arrival of the Union command. At about 10:00 the next morning, the fighting began in earnest when Colonel William F. Cloud, in command of Major James G. Fisk's battalion of the Second Kansas Cavalry, and the two mountain howitzers of Lieutenant Elias S.



ENGAGEMENT AT CANE HILL

encyclopediainarkansas.net



The Engagement at Cane Hill on November 28, 1862, was the prelude to the Battle of Prairie

Grove fought on December 7, 1862. Union brigadier general James G. Blunt, with 5,000 men and thirty cannon in the Kansas Division of the Army of the Frontier,

Stover's Second Kansas Battery engaged Confederate pickets near Boonsboro, a village on the north end of the Cane Hill ridge.

The relentless advance against the Southern position forced the Confederates to withdraw farther east into the Cove Creek valley, then south along the stream. Lieutenant Colonel Lewis R. Jewell's battalion of the Sixth Kansas Cavalry took over the Union chase, hounding the Southern troops down Cove Creek Road as the daylight faded.

Blunt's troops outnumbered and outgunned the Southern cavalry, but General Marmaduke's soldiers saved the much-needed supply train. Blunt's decision to remain at Cane Hill set in motion the next phase of the campaign when Hindman's Confederate Army of the Trans-Mississippi headed north to attack the Federal Army of the Frontier.



MARCH TO THE SEA

By: Kennedy Hickman

"The destruction was not just material. Sherman's troops also engaged in widespread looting and vandalism, burning homes and churches, and terrorizing the civilian population. In his memoirs, Sherman defended these tactics as necessary to break the South's will to fight."

In the autumn of 1864, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman embarked on a controversial campaign that would become known as the March to the Sea. This military operation, which lasted from November 15 to December 21, saw Sherman lead his army of 60,000 men across 285 miles of Georgia, from Atlanta to Savannah. Employing a "scorched earth" strategy that targeted the Confederacy's economic and psychological foundations, Sherman's march dealt a devastating blow to the Southern cause and helped hasten the end of the American Civil War.

As Sherman's army advanced through Georgia, they left a trail of destruction in their wake. Under Sherman's orders, the troops were to "forage liberally" off the land, seizing livestock, crops, and other supplies from the civilian population. They were also instructed to destroy any infrastructure that could be used by the Confederate military, including railroads, bridges, and factories.

The results were devastating. Over the course of the march, Sherman's troops tore up over 300 miles of railroad track, seized 5,000 horses, 4,000 mules, and 13,000 head of cattle, and destroyed numerous cotton gins, mills, and warehouses. In his official report, Sherman estimated that his army had caused \$100 million in damage (equivalent to about \$1.6 billion in today's dollars).

On December 10, Sherman's army arrived at the outskirts of Savannah. After a brief siege, the city surrendered on December 21, and Sherman telegraphed President

Lincoln to offer him the city as a "Christmas present."

"War is cruelty. There is no use trying to reform it. The crueller it is, the sooner it will be over."...W. T. Sherman

Sherman's March remains a controversial and divisive episode in American history. Some historians have criticized Sherman's tactics as unnecessarily brutal and indiscriminate, arguing that they targeted civilians and violated the laws of war.

Gilmer's Water Supply

Up to 1903, Gilmer's water supply was obtained from shallow wells. Each household maintained a shallow well on its premises from which water for all purposes was supplied. In the business district there were three shallow wells that supplied water for the streets and for the public. One was located on the courthouse square, one on Henderson Street near the entrance of Croley Brothers, and one on the west side of the square just off the sidewalk. This well proved to be a popular resort, as it was shaded in the afternoon, and was near the sidewalk. The men would sit on the edge of the sidewalk and whittle in the afternoons, getting their material to whittle on from a nearby grocery store. When the supply gave out, they would stand up and whittle on the well curb. Some of these men became expert whittlers. In a few years the city put in waterworks and these shallow wells were filled up.

Cherokee Trace Marker on the Courthouse Lawn



Inscription: "Near this site the Cherokee Indians blazed an early Texas trail. They wanted a road from their settlements near Nacogdoches to their home reservation on the White River in Arkansas."

About 1821 they selected a man known for his uncanny sense of direction. Mounting a horse and dragging buffalo skins behind him, he set a northward course. A group of Indians followed, blazing the trees to mark the trail. Another group cleared away the heavy underbrush and trees. A third group established camping grounds by springs and planted Cherokee roses which still mark the route today.

Sam Houston, friend of the Cherokee, travelled to it on his first Texas visit. David Crockett and other Texas revolution fighters as well as thousands of settlers from northeastern United States first saw Texas from the road, many establishing homes nearby.

The Cherokee remained peaceful as long as friend Sam Houston was President of the Republic. In June 1839 they were ordered from Texas because of raids and intrigues with Mexican agents. A two-day battle ensued on the Neches River where their chief was killed. The tribe retreated, fighting, leaving Texas



GILMER

countyofupshur.com

First located near the Little Cypress Creek, residents decided to change locations because of frequent floods. On the day of the election a flood kept voters north of the creek from getting to the polling place, so the south side voters won.

Gilmer was named after Thomas W. Gilmer who was born in Virginia in 1802. He was



elected Governor of Virginia in 1840. In 1844 President John Tyler appointed him Secretary of the Navy. He was a strong advocate of the annexation of

Texas to the Union. He was killed on February 28, 1844 in the same explosion on the Battleship Princeton that Able Parker Upshur died in, so the Texas Legislature requested that the Upshur County seat be named Gilmer in honor of this great statesman.

Gilmer has a history closely entwined with the founding and early days of the Texas Republic more than 100 years ago. First settled by white men about 1835, this area, which became Upshur County a dozen years later, was filled with Cherokee Indians. A historical marker now marks this site.

In addition to becoming a leading trade center in Northeast Texas before the Civil War, Gilmer became an educational center. In 1850 the Methodist Church organized a Male Institute and a Female Institute. In 1858 the Gilmer Masonic Lodge took over

the Women's Institute, but the Civil War interrupted their plans for enlarging the school. After the war Morgan Looney, a Mason and one of the greatest of the early Texas educators, came here from Georgia and took over the Masonic School and established Looney School. Two governors, Charles Culberson and Oran M. Roberts, were graduates.

Upcoming Events may be found on the Calendar at: www.upshurpatriots.org



Thank you to the Historic Upshur Museum for providing our meeting location.

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, Commander/Editor goya1@etex.net



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

