



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

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Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of  
 Each Month at 7 PM  
 Historic Upshur Museum

DECEMBER 2023



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



*history.com*

As the Civil War's first Christmas neared, a pair of young lovers, Nathaniel Dawson and Elodie Todd, a Confederate soldier and his eventual bride, wrote to one another with increasing melancholy "I wish I could be with you at Christmas, the festal season, where age is rejuvenated and lives again in the merry carols of youth," They were separated by hundreds of miles, and their communication was often interrupted by delays in the mail and the desperation of the Civil War. By the end of the war in 1865, Christmas had gone from a relatively unimportant holiday to the opposite—a day rooted in an idealized vision of home. The way Americans observed the holiday changed too, setting the stage for the more modern Christmas holiday we know today.

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**PATRIOTS CAMP #2109**

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**THE GUARDIAN**

Losing a loved one is never easy. The grief can be so overwhelming that you may want to steer clear of anything that reminds you of them. Memorials can help shift the focus from the deep sad feelings to a more balanced emotional journey, especially if you share them with family and friends.

Memorials can be incredibly helpful in moving through grief because they help preserve memories in ways that allow those close to them to remember and honor the person who died.

The Texas Division has instituted a special program to honor the memory of our Confederate Ancestors and to help ensure the preservation of their final resting places.

***“If you’re not a Guardian, why not?”***

Contact Guardian Program Chairman Bill Elliot for information at: [etaia@att.net](mailto:etaia@att.net)



**UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS**  
**GUARDIANS**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian Status</u>	<u>Number of Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	31
Kim Duffey	Full	3
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



## 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.

*"I want my army to be an army of the living God."...Stonewall Jackson*

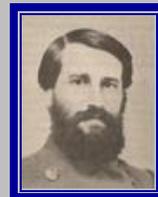
*"The principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form."  
Jefferson Davis*



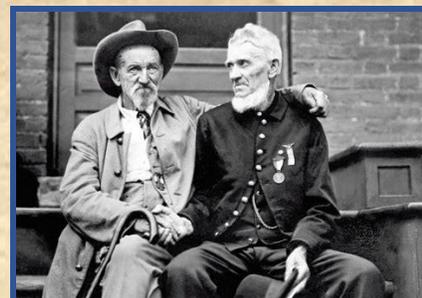
## CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

**"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."**

**"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.**





Christmas is a time to remember old prayers. What did you ask God for in the past, but you haven't prayed that prayer in a while? Is there a dream that feels "too late" or lost to you? It's time to start praying those prayers again.

*Isaiah 7:14*

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*

Father lord in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, we ask you to bless those who are sick or in need. We thank you that these are signs of your great love towards your creation and fellow children on earth.

We ask that you bless their bodies and souls to help them overcome this struggle and pain. We ask that you bless every part of their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual being so as to give them strength, courage and peace. We thank you for blessing us with these difficulties so that we may learn from them to make our lives easier or more fulfilling. Lord, we ask that you help us always to be the best friend we can be to each other in this home away from home.

Amen

## ADOPT A HIGHWAY



On Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Upshur County Patriots along with our Mechanized Cavalry members conducted a clean-up at our Adopt A Highway section of highway 271 in Gilmer. Thank you to Jerry Akin, George Linton, Gregg Gipe, Eddie Pricer, Randall Yauch, Red Yauch, David Palmer and James Lock for your work.



### Adopt-a-Highway

**Adopt-a-Highway volunteers keep this Texas-born program going strong – two miles at a time. The program has approximately 3,800 groups across the state, which is a testament to our volunteers and their passion to keep Texas beautiful.**

## HISTORICAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER



### 1861

**December 9** - Engagement at Chusto-Talasa (Bird Creek), Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

**December 23** - Skirmish at Dayton, Missouri.

**December 26** - Engagement between Confederate forces and Unionist Native Americans at Chustenahlah, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

**December 27** - Skirmish near Hallsville, Missouri.

### 1862

**December 2** - Skirmish at Leed's Ferry on Virginia's Rappahannock River.

**December 5** - Engagement at Coffeeville, Mississippi.

**December 7** - Engagement at Hartsville, Tennessee.

**December 7** - Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas.

**December 11 to 15** - The Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

**December 18** - Skirmish at Lexington, Tennessee.

**December 20** - Confederate cavalry led by General Earl Van Dorn raids Holly Springs, Mississippi.

**December 22** - Confederate cavalry under James Hunt Morgan crosses the Cumberland River to begin the Christmas Raid in Kentucky.

**December 26 to 29** - Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi.

**December 27** - Skirmish at Dumfries, Virginia.

**December 31** - Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest's clash at Parker's Crossroads, Tennessee.

**December 31** - Battles of Stones River begins near Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

### 1863

**December 1** - Mine Run Campaign concludes in Virginia.

**December 3** - Siege of Knoxville, Tennessee concludes.

**December 14** - Engagement at Bean's Station, Tennessee.

**December 21** - Skirmish at Hunter's Mill, Virginia.

**December 23** - Fight at Culpepper Court House, Virginia.

### 1864

**December 1** - Union General John Schofield's army evacuates Franklin and retreats to Nashville.

**December 4** - Engagement at Waynesborough, Georgia.

**December 10** - Federal Army arrives in front of Savannah, Georgia.

**December 13** - Storming of Fort McAlister, Georgia.

**December 15** - Battle of Nashville, Tennessee begins.

**December 19** - Skirmish at Rutherford Creek, Tennessee.

**December 20** - Confederates evacuate Savannah, Georgia.

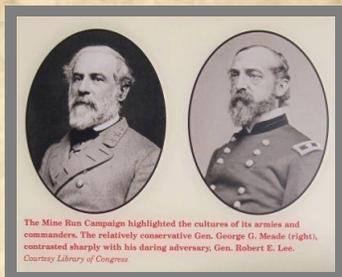
**December 24** - First attack on Fort Fisher, North Carolina.

**December 25** - Federals abandon first attack on Fort Fisher, North Carolina.

## HARTSVILLE, TENNESSEE



On December 7, 1862, Confederate cavalry commanded by Col. John Hunt Morgan conducted a surprise attack on the Union garrison at Hartsville and captured the entire brigade of Col. Absalom Moore. Before Union reinforcements could arrive, Morgan withdrew across the Cumberland River with 1844 prisoners including Col. Moore, captured wagons and supplies. Union casualties included 1844 prisoners. Following the battle, Morgan was subsequently commissioned the rank of brigadier general.



## MINE RUN ORANGE COUNTY, VA NOV 27 - DEC 2, 1863

[battlefields.org](http://battlefields.org)

After the inconclusive Bristoe Campaign in the fall of 1863, Maj. Gen. George G. Meade planned one more offensive against Gen. Robert E. Lee in northern Virginia before winter weather ended military operations. In late November, Meade attempted to steal a march southeast from Culpeper Courthouse, turn south through the Wilderness and strike the right flank of the Confederate army south of the Rapidan

River. On November 27th, Maj. Gen. Jubal A. Early, in command of Ewell's Corps, marched east on the Orange Turnpike to meet the advance of Maj. Gen. William French's Third Corps near Payne's Farm. French moved slowly, giving Lee and Early time to reposition their line. Brig. Gen. Joseph B. Carr's division, supported by Brig. Gen. Henry Prince's division, attacked twice. Maj. Gen. Edward Johnson's Confederates counterattacked but were scattered by heavy fire and broken terrain. After dark, Lee withdrew to field fortifications he had prepared along Mine Run. The next day, the Union army closed again 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 1-2nd, ending the winter campaign of 1863.



## CIVIL WAR LETTERS

In 1861, Union leaders began to develop ways to isolate the mutinous southern states. In addition to erecting a blockade meant to keep supplies from reaching the South, Postmaster General Montgomery Blair cut off mail service to states that had seceded. Confederate stamps were valueless in the North, and mail addressed to the Confederate states was taken to the

Dead Letter Office and subsequently returned to the sender.

**CIVIL WAR  
LETTERS**  
*The Heart of A Soldier*

Suspended mail service to the South caused significant problems for the many families who were split by the country's division. Although the purpose of stopping mail service to the South was to isolate and corner the Confederate states, some mail still managed to cross the border in what were known as "flag-of-truce" ships. When the Union began blockading southern ports, letters were often carried across the border by blockade runners or routed through foreign ports. While these methods meant that letters often took a long time to reach their intended recipient on the other side of the border, they still allowed friends and families to stay connected as their divided country raged around them.

Soldiers in the Civil War also had a difficult time sending mail to and receiving mail from their loved ones at home. While it was relatively easy for the army post to find soldiers when they were encamped for several weeks, periods of intense action saw both armies in perpetual motion. This continued shifting of location made delivering the mail a very real challenge.



**"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone."  
Charles M. Schulz**



**Chaplain Rev. J.M. Greene  
Co. D, 13<sup>th</sup> Ga. Infantry  
Linden, Tx. Cemetery**

**Before and After photos:**

**The repair of the  
Monument was  
done by  
Compatriot  
Rodney Love  
with help from  
Wayne Hall and  
Glenn Kessler.**





## CONFEDERATE CHRISTMAS

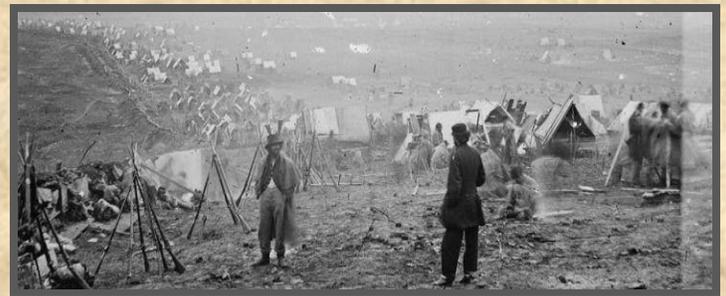
*menofthewest.net*

For four harsh years most Southerners approached the holidays with mixed feelings. Would the war never end? How would they be living — if, indeed, they were still alive — when Christmas came again? Some met the crisis with sacrifice and sustained courage, others with bitterness and tears. As do all wars, the Confederate conflict brought out the best in one, the worst in another. Hundreds of thousands greeted the December season with a sense of growing catastrophe, of the impending destruction of the life they had known. Whatever happened, things could never be the same again; whether or not they spoke of it, all of them accepted this fact.



For hundreds of thousands of Southern children there was tragedy in the non-appearance of Santa Claus during the later war years. Explanations were attempted: the Yankees had captured the old Saint this year. Or perhaps Santa had been caught in the blockade. In the journals were tales and poems designed to make the situation less gloomy for the young.

For some soldiers there was disappointment. After waiting for many hours, one company received its supply — a sandwich for each man — two slices of bread and a minute sliver of ham. Several hungry soldiers asked: “Is that all?” A moment later, as one reported it, they felt ashamed. Finishing his sandwich, a corporal lighted his pipe and asked God to bless the women responsible for the day’s offering. “It was all they could do; it was all they had....”



Winter 1864

Nashville, Tn.

*"We bivouac on the cold and hard-frozen ground, and when we walk about, the echo of our footsteps sound like the echo of a tombstone. The earth is crusted with snow, and the wind from the northwest is piercing our bones. We can see our ragged soldiers, with the sunken cheeks and famine-glistened eyes."*

Sam Watkins, Co. H., First Tennessee Regiment



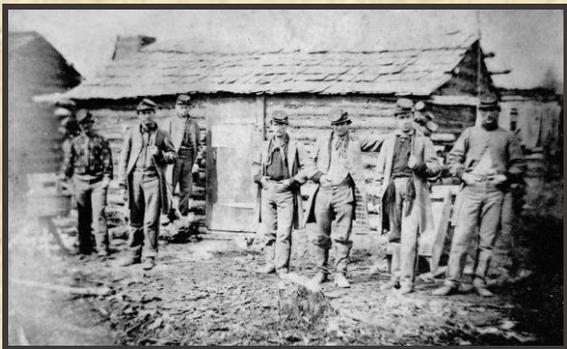
## EDITOR COMMENT



An attempt was made to have an entry in this year's Gilmer Yulefest Christmas Parade. I made a visit to the Chamber of Commerce and obtained the entry forms and rules. After the forms were submitted, I received a phone call with Chamber President Sara Jennings and board member Matt Pool. I was informed that we, the Upshur Co. Patriots, were being excluded.

I was at first told that no political organization was allowed. "That is fine" was my reply and informed them that we are not political, and our Constitution prohibits political activity. These 2 individuals, Sara and Matt, were angry and argumentative. They then referred to parade rule #8 "Parade chairman has the final decision on any entry." As I attempted to press further no progress was made.

The Gilmer Chamber of Commerce has resorted to, in my opinion, censorship, discrimination and a ban on freedom of expression. "Wokeness" is abound.



Soldiers of the 1st Texas Infantry, Hood's Texas Brigade in winter



## THE GILMER MIRROR

Established in 1877, *The Gilmer Mirror* is Upshur County's oldest business institution and was originally founded as a weekly newspaper, *The Upshur County Democrat*. Early owners included W. C. Paul, the Rev. S. R. Chadick, and J. P. Hart, who re-titled the newspaper *Texas Mirror* in 1882, and later *The Gilmer Mirror*, in 1895. *The Mirror* has been owned since 1915 by the family of George Tucker, a veteran of journalism in

New York and other cities. *The Mirror* has been added to The Portal to Texas History through the support of the Tucker Foundation.

The Historical Marker was placed in 1968 by State Historical Survey Committee.



***“Do you want to know who you are? Don’t ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you.” Thomas Jefferson***

***“Always stand on principle...even if you stand alone.” John Adams***

***“There are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.” James Madison***



Upcoming Events may be found on the Calendar at: [www.upshurpatriots.org](http://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, 1st Lt. Commander/Editor [david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org](mailto:david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org)



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

