



Patriots Periodical

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

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December 2015

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Eddie "Spook" Pricer



Christmas Tidings

As many of us are still a bit stuffed from Thanksgiving, it's time to ponder the Yule Tide season. When I was younger, I remember the season with great anticipation. I thought of presents under the tree, shiny new toys and new clothes. I longed for that vacation and time away from school. (My kids seemed to enjoy school. I'm not quite sure where I went wrong with them.)

What I miss the most were the nights after Thanksgiving, when we sang Christmas songs accompanied with our piano; and of the drives my parents took us on through the city to see the decorations and visit with friends and family. Most of all, I remember watching my parents, our family, the neighbors and our friends as they undertook all manner of giving of themselves and their good and bountiful fortunes that they had been blessed with during the year. This act of giving that I witnessed growing up was not limited to the Christmas season, although it did take on special significance as we honored Jesus.

I have been blessed to be a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for about six years and the kindness and generosity of my fellow Compatriots and their families has rekindled that youthful spirit in me once again. I am thankful for being surrounded by such giving and caring Southern Ladies and Gentlemen. It's this love for each other, which makes me proud to be a member of the Upshur County Patriots and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Merry Christmas to all! God Bless each and every one of you.

Give What You Can to Heritage Defense



Merry Christmas General Lee

Photo by: Mort Kunstler



Upshur County Patriots
Election of Officers for 2016

By Eddie Pricer

Another year has come and is drawing to a conclusion. At the end of our year's activities, we look forward to the election of our fellow Compatriots to represent us in the upcoming year. This is an extremely important part of our Camp business as each of these men are the visible face of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in our public efforts to fulfill the Charge. The results of the election are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Commander | Phil Davis |
| 1 st Lt. Cmdr. | Don Loyd |
| 2 nd Lt. Cmdr. | David Palmer |
| 3 rd Lt. Cmdr. | Bill Starnes |
| Adjutant | Rickie Gipson |
| Color Sgt. | Justin Jones |
| Chaplain | Larry Harper |
| Judge Adv. | Kim Duffey |
| Qtr. Master | Joseph Moss |
| Historian | Bruce Swinney |
| Surgeon | Archie Hass |

In the election for the office of Color Sergeant, there was a tie vote. Initially, I thought we could use a coin toss or draw straws to break the tie. Then I had one of those epiphany moments, in other words the light bulb came on and it occurred to me, why not let both of these young men serve. However, there was something that

kept nagging me about tie votes. Finally, I reviewed our bylaws and discovered that in the event of a tie vote, the Compatriot with the greatest seniority in the Camp would be declared the winner. Had I been a little quicker on the uptake on election night, I could have solved that issue then. I apologize for my lapse of memory.

Let's give each of these men, our new officers for 2016, our complete support in their endeavors and let's thank all of those who threw their name in the ring to make our Camp strong by giving us a choice.

The Guardian

By Phil Davis



As the chairman of both the National and Texas Division Guardian Program, I must say that I am well pleased with the progress of each. The National Program is increasing in participation at a steady rate. Since I have been Chairman, two other States, Oklahoma and Arkansas have developed their own Guardian Program. I am told that North Carolina is also working towards developing its own Guardian Program.

As far as the Texas Division Guardian Program, we have now reached 405 completed applications. I think this is very good, as we began after March of 2012. However, I won't be satisfied until ever Texas SCV member turns in an application. Every time I ask the "Guardians" to stand less and less are left sitting. Keep up the good work Compatriots.

This is the time of the year for giving. Won't you please take one of our Confederate Heroes and be his Guardian?

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.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you and yours,

As always I leave you with this question:

Are you a Guardian? If not, why not?



UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 1st, at 7:00 p.m.

Supper 7 p.m.

Walking "S" Steakhouse
Gilmer, Texas

Gilmer Christmas Parade

Thursday, December 3rd.

Parade starts at 5PM

Muster 5PM on Titus St.

Ore City Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 5th.

Parade starts at 5PM

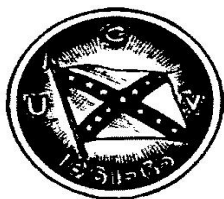
Muster at 4PM on Peach St.

Thank You

From the Davis Family

Jane and I wish to thank you, our camp, Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109 for your prayers, cards, phone calls and flowers in the time of our loss. It was a time of great sorrow as we lost my brother, Charles Davis and Jane's brother, Richard Yocom. We gratefully acknowledge the caring and love of this camp.

Phil & Jane Davis



**To you,
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 he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Are you also ready to die for your country? Is your life worthy to be remembered along with theirs? Do you choose for yourself this greatness of soul?"

"Not in the clamor of the crowded street,
Not in the shouts and plaudits of the throng,
But in ourselves are triumph and defeat." . . .

From a speech by
Confederate Gen. Stephen D. Lee,
presiding officer at the 16th Annual Reunion
of the United Confederate Veterans,
New Orleans, Louisiana,
April 25th - 27th, 1906.



Lt. General Stephen D. Lee

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**If you are not receiving the Newsletter by e-mail, and would like to be added to the distribution list, contact:
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david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org**



Eddie Pricer, Commander of The Upshur County Patriots (on L) being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Joe Reynolds (on R) Commander of The David R. Reynolds Camp. The Certificate is for assistance and a \$500 dollar donation from the Upshur County Patriots for a new camp start up.



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.



General Robert E. Lee



Fraud Exposed and Condemned

Proverbs 20:14

"It's no good, it's no good!" Says the buyer-then goes off and boasts about the purchase." (from the quest study bible)

Most likely this was not a bad purchase, but something kin to the bartering system...or an unruly habit of the individual.

The man who would be honest, must be influenced by honesty In every part of his conduct, and, on all occasions. Conducting business in our world in a fair and upright manner is most important in building a life of honesty.

The number one rule: "love thy neighbor as thyself..." another rule forbids us to "covet." We are not forbidden to desire the property of another on fair and equitable terms. It forbids every desire to increase our property at our neighbor's expense. We all enjoy getting a good deal or a bargain if the process insures our neighbor is content. As members of a civil society,

We care for the well-being of our neighbor. Often we are tempted to deviate from this position, but then we act as we should; as if our fellow-citizen could see our hearts.

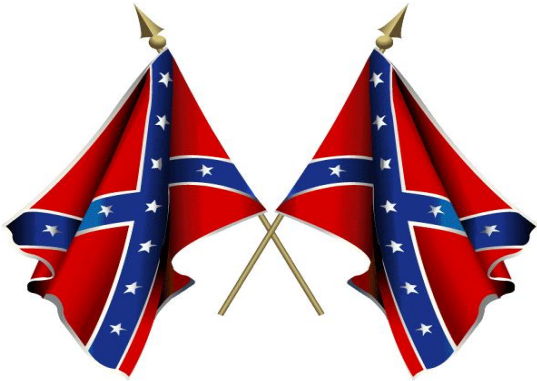
The inconsiderate thirst for bargains, and good-deals, is one of the social curses of this present age we live in. We have observed how the influence for cheapness spreads. Attempting to relieve the person of his goods by deception is mean-spirited and should be abhorred by the honest citizen. When closing the deal, we should determine if the other person is satisfied with the process of buying and selling.

We may give ourselves to buying cheap, only if advantages are lawful, and will not compass unrighteous and unfair gains.

Honesty rules!

Jamie Eitson, Chaplain





Famous Confederate Quotes

From the American Revival

Surrender means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the War; will be impressed by all the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit subjects for derision.

General Pat Cleburne, CSA



Upshur County Patriots Cemetery Survey

On November 12, 2015, the Upshur County Patriots' Cemetery Survey Committee continued their work at the Old Gilmer Cemetery. Graves of Confederate Soldiers and Able Bodied Men from the era were documented. Those taking part were: Kim Duffey, committee chairman, George and Esther Linton, Eddie Pricer, Phil Davis, David Palmer and Ben Adkison.

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

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Thomas Nast "A Civil War Christmas"

From the original 1863 Print

The image shows a family split apart by the Civil War. The left image shows a scene of a woman, late at night on Christmas Eve, on her knees in earnest prayer.

She is at the window looking up at the night sky, obviously distressed about the absence of her husband. In the background can be seen a small bed with her two children in it. On the wall, a picture of the woman's husband can be seen hanging. On the inset image on the right, the woman's husband can be seen sitting with his rifle around a lonely campfire. In his hand is a small album with photographs of his wife and children. He is obviously lonesome, missing his wife and kids on a cold winter night.

From: www.sonofthesouth.net aus can be seen. Santa is crawling into a chimney. In the lower left is an image of soldiers marching in the snow. The upper right



Christmas in the Civil War

By Kevin Rawlings

Christmas was an especially difficult time for soldiers and the families they left at home. On the home front, many women and children widened their responsibilities and suffered hardships caused by the absence of their Husbands, Fathers and Sons.

It was not until Christmas 25 days afterwards (after the Battle of Franklin Nov. 30th 1864) that I was enabled to borrow a yoke of oxen, and spent the whole of that Christmas Day hauling seventeen dead horses from this yard. Moscow Carter "Carter House resident" - Speaking about Christmas Day 1864.

The Same year in Central Virginia, young William Nalle hurried to his grandmother's farm, which Union Cavalrymen were ransacking. Arriving, the boy witnessed "a spectacle I shall not shortly forget." All the

stock and forage were snatched up by the Union troopers. Doors were ripped off during the greedy search for provisions and some of the troopers grabbed his grandmother's collar demanding money. Christmas had come to the barren Virginia countryside, one that young William and many others in the region would never forget.

Most southern children endured meager living during the war, and Christmas only accentuated the hardship.

3yr old Robert Martin said he was "tired of the war" because Santa Clause forgot to come to the Shenandoah Valley"

Many southern children were told that "Santa was a Yankee" so Confederate pickets would not let Santa through.

By contrast though, many northern children still received gifts and treats because the northern economy actually flourished and expanded as the war dragged on.

Historical December Events



The Battle of Fredericksburg, Va.

From: Civil War Trust

December 11 – 15, 1862 was one of the largest and deadliest of the War. Robert E. Lee, Watching the great Confederate victory unfolding from his hilltop command post exclaimed, "It is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it."



Attack on Pearl Harbor

On December 7, 1941 at 7:55AM (local time), "a date that will live in infamy," nearly 200 Japanese aircraft attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, long considered the US "Gibraltar of the Pacific." The raid, which lasted little more than one hour, left nearly 3,000 dead. Almost the entire US Pacific Fleet was at anchor there, and few ships escaped damage. Several were sunk or disabled, while 200 US aircraft on the ground were destroyed. The attack on Pearl Harbor brought about immediate US entry into WWII, a declaration of war being requested by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and approved by Congress December 8, 1941.

On December 8, 1941, one day after the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Congress declared war against Japan and the US entered WWII.

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



The United Daughters of the Confederacy

From: <http://www.hqudc.org/>

The General Organization of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was founded in Nashville, Tennessee, on September 10, 1894, by Mrs. Caroline Meriwether Goodlett of Tennessee as Founder and Mrs. Lucian H. (Anna Davenport) Raines of Georgia as Co- Founder. The UDC is the outgrowth of numerous ladies' hospital associations, sewing societies and knitting circles that worked throughout the South during the War Between the States to supply the needs of the soldiers. After the War, these organizations kept pace with the changing times and evolved into cemetery, memorial, monument and Confederate Home Associations and Auxiliaries to Camps of Confederate Veterans. Out of these many local groups, which for nearly 30 years rendered untold service to the South and her people, two statewide

organizations came into existence as early as 1890: the Daughters of the Confederacy in Missouri and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Confederate Soldier's Home in Tennessee. The association with these two organizations makes the UDC the oldest patriotic lineage organization in the country.



The Order of The Confederate Rose

From: <http://www.scocr.org/>

The Order of The Confederate Rose is a historical organization whose main purpose is to support the Sons of Confederate Veterans in their service to the South. Other functions include, but are not limited to, education history, heritage research, and preservation of the Sacred Symbols of the Confederacy and remembrance of the valiant soldiers who fought for freedom from northern aggressors.

The Order of The Confederate Rose is named after Rose O'Neil Greenhow (1814 – 1864) a brave, beautiful and successful spy who lost her life in the quest for Southern Freedom.