

***Patriot's Periodical***  
*Upshur Co. Patriots Camp #2109*  
*Sons of Confederate Veterans*  
*Gilmer, Texas*

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December 2017

**\*Best Newsletter Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Place\***

Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
June 2017 Reunion



**Merry Christmas**

**\*Best Newsletter Award\***

Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
June 2016 Reunion



**Merry Christmas**

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Phil Davis



as the time to bring our donations for the Christmas Food Drive.

Eugene Brown is the Food Drive Chairman, so let us support his efforts. We will need non-perishable goods. We can also bring children's socks. We need to bring our donations to the Christmas party and Eugene will do the rest.

I hope all will attend the Christmas party. Bring your favorite dish; the camp will supply the meat. If you have a uniform, wear it, as we will be having a Roll Call of our Ancestors. Invite a friend; you never know they might want to join us.

December is a time for family and friends. As we celebrate the Christmas Holidays, let us remember the reason for the season, the



December is here and many activities will take place this month. We will already have marched in the Gilmer Christmas Parade on November 30<sup>th</sup> and will march in the Ore City Parade on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our Annual Christmas party is on December 5<sup>th</sup>, as well

birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our Confederate leaders as well as the Southern soldier were God fearing men. This season is the time to remember those less fortunate than we are, a time of giving and sharing, a time for worship as we are led.

From Jane and me, we wish you a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Next Meeting**

December 5, 2017 - 7 PM  
Walking S Steakhouse



#### **Christmas Party**

\* All upcoming events can be viewed at our website on the calendar.



Camp Adjutant Rickie Gipson presents our financial report.

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

### Commander

Phil Davis  
(903) 790-7137  
[userphil97@aol.com](mailto:userphil97@aol.com)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander

Milt Ojeman  
(903) 762-1028  
[cavcw@yahoo.com](mailto:cavcw@yahoo.com)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander

#### Editor

David Palmer  
(903) 237-8941  
[david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org](mailto:david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org)

### Adjutant

Rickie Gipson  
(903) 762-2471  
[grassburacres@yahoo.com](mailto:grassburacres@yahoo.com)

### Deputy Adjutant

Eddie Pricer  
(817) 692-3388  
[spooky1522@etex.net](mailto:spooky1522@etex.net)

### Chaplain

Larry Harper  
(903) 918-2203  
[lmharper1952@aol.com](mailto:lmharper1952@aol.com)

### Librarian

Jared Jones  
(903) 877-0777  
[runjaju@yahoo.com](mailto:runjaju@yahoo.com)





## **The Guardian**

**By Phil Davis**

**Chairman Texas Div. Guardian Program**

**Chairman National Guardian Program**

As Guardians, we pledge ourselves to care for, protect, and honor the final resting place of a Confederate Hero, be it our ancestor or an unrelated Confederate Soldier buried in one of our local cemeteries. Remembering that this soldier was a Son, Brother, or Father in some Southern Family who left all to go and fight for a just cause.

As Guardians we serve an honorable duty in the Sons of Confederate Veterans and I hope all of us understand what a great thing it is to be a Guardian. At this time of Christmas, I hope you will examine yourselves and decide to become a Guardian.

I can't think of a better Christmas gift than to adopt a Confederate's grave to honor and preserve his final resting place. As I have explained before it's very simple but most rewarding.

As I always say, I believe with all my being in the Guardian Program and it is my hope and prayer that in some small way you will be convinced of its importance, not only in fulfilling "The Charge" but in honoring your duty to your Confederate Forebears. As always, I leave you with this question-

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



## **Upshur Co. Patriots Guardians**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian Status</u>	<u>Number of Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	29
Kim Duffey	Full	3
Jamie Eitson	Full	1
Larry Harper	Full	1
Jared Jones	Full	1
Justin Jones	Full	1
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	40
Tommy Mitchell	Full	5
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	33
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Bill Palmer	Full	10
Tommy Ray	GPT	17
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7

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:**

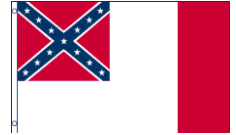
Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.



### **SALUTE TO THE CONFEDERATE FLAG:**

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

"Fate is the course when men fail to act"



## Charge to 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.



## A Prayer for the Christmas Season

By: Mel Lawrenz

Lord God,

In these weeks leading up to Christmas we long to know the meaning, the power, and the mystery of that great mission whereby you came to save us from our sins.

Help us to focus on the good news that has caused great joy for people around the world and across the ages. We are in awe that the coming of the Lord Jesus has shaped the history of the world and has changed untold millions of lives. We need this gospel in troubled times lest we become cynical, doubtful, fearful, or vengeful. Strengthen our faith during challenging times.

We rejoice in the proclamation of Immanuel, God with us. As Isaiah said, "to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace." [Isaiah 9:6]

We need the governing of the Lord Christ because humanity is so out of control.

We need the "Wonderful Counselor" because we wander in ignorance and foolishness so much of the time.

We need the savior who is "Mighty God," able to save and preserve.

We need an "Everlasting Father" who protects us and provides not what we think we need but what we truly need.

We need the "Prince of Peace" because of the tensions between the nations of the world, because there are thousands of people whose hearts are dark with thoughts of murder and terrorism, and because even friends and family members so often battle with each other.

We have always needed a savior. Now more than ever.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. Amen.



**Wishing Everyone a Merry  
Christmas and a Prosperous New  
Year**



Compatriot Tommy Ray presents the second part of his program on the Battle of Corinth, Mississippi.



**\*Fund Raiser Upshur  
County Patriots**

Replica Model 1851 Confederate Navy .44  
Caliber  
Black Powder Revolver  
\$1.00 per Ticket  
6 Tickets for \$5.00  
25 Tickets for \$20.00

Drawing January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

All proceeds go to the Upshur County  
Patriots to preserve our history.  
Must be 21 years old to purchase a  
ticket.



At our November meeting Mrs. Esther Linton updates us on the Upshur County Museum.



### Historical Dates in December

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Day  
commemorating the birth of Jesus.

**December 20, 1860** South Carolina secedes.

**December 11-15, 1862** the Battle of  
Fredericksburg.

**December 31-January 2, 1862** the Battle of  
Stones River.

**December 15-16, 1864** the Battle of  
Nashville.

**December 21, 1864** Sherman reaches  
Savannah in Georgia leaving behind a 300  
mile long path of destruction.

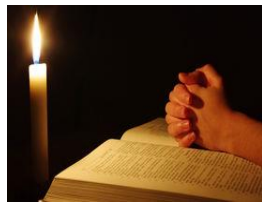
**December 24-27, 1864** the Battle of Fort  
Fisher, N.C.

**December 2, 1859** Abolitionist leader John  
Brown was hung for treason.

**December 6, 1865** 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was  
ratified abolishing slavery.

**December 7, 1941** Pearl Harbor was  
attacked by Japan.

## Celebrating Advent



Celebrating Advent involves spending time in spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. In Western Christianity, the season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24.



### Christmas during the Civil War

From: Civil War Saga

Many of the current Christmas traditions celebrated today actually started during the Civil War era.

Although Christmas wasn't an official holiday until President Ulysses S. Grant made it one in 1870, many Americans observed the holiday throughout the war as a way to find comfort and bond with family members through long-lost traditions.

Christmas was widely celebrated in Europe for centuries but when the Puritans came to

the New World they brought with them their distaste for the holiday.

Instead of the joyful, family-oriented holiday that it is today, they turned Christmas into a solemn occasion that involved praying and reflecting on sin.

In the early 1800s, a growing religious revival spurred the return of Christmas celebrations in many states.

In 1830, Louisiana became the first state to make Christmas a holiday. Other states followed suit and soon families started sending Christmas cards, singing carols, preparing special holiday meals and attending winter dances.

Children received small, homemade gifts such as hand-carved toys, fruit and cakes. Families had Christmas trees, which were small and sat on top of a table that they decorated with strings of dried fruit and popcorn.

During the Civil War, soldiers celebrated by decorating their camp Christmas trees with hard-tack and salt-pork and singing carols such as "Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night."

Although some soldiers, especially Union soldiers in the beginning of the war, enjoyed special Christmas dinners of turkey, oysters and pies, other soldiers were not as lucky: *"And when I turned from these musings upon the bill of fare they would have at home to contemplate the dreary realities of my own possible dinner for that day – my oyster can full of coffee and a quarter ration of hard-tack and sow-belly*

*comprised the menu”* wrote one soldier in a book titled *The Story of a Common Soldier of Army Life in the Civil War, 1861-1865*.



1917 Confederate Reunion in North Carolina.



### **General Lee and Santa Claus**

From the book *General Lee and Santa Claus*, originally published in 1867.

An old Southern story tells of Robert E. Lee, General in the Confederate Army, meeting Santa Claus. According to the tale, 3 little girls wrote the General a letter.

Dear General Lee:

We think you are the goodest man that ever lived, and our auntie says you will go right straight to heaven when you die; so we want to ask you a question, for we want

to know the truth about it, and we know that you always speak the truth.

Please tell us whether Santa Claus loves the little rebel children, for we think he don't; because he did not come to see us for four Christmas Eves. Auntie thinks you would not let him cross the lines, and we don't know how to find out unless we write and ask you. We all love you dearly, and we want to send you something; but we have not any thing nice enough; we lost all our toys in the war. Birdie wants to send you one of our white kittens-the one with black ears; but auntie thinks maybe you don't like kittens. We say little prayers for you every night, dear General Lee, and ask God to make you ever so happy. Please let us know about Santa Claus as soon as you can; we want to know for something very, very, very particular; but we can't tell even you why until Christmas time, so please to excuse us.

Your little friends,  
Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie

In about a week the answer was received:

My dear little friends:

I was very glad to receive your kind letter, and to know by it that I have the good wishes and prayers of three innocent little girls, named Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie.

I am very glad that you wrote about Santa Claus for I am able to tell you all about him. I can assure you he is one of the best friends that the little Southern girls have. You will understand this when I explain to you the reason of his not coming to see you for four years.

The first Christmas Eve of the war I was walking up and down in the camp ground, when I thought I heard a singular noise above my head; and on looking to find out from whence it came, I saw the queerest, funniest-looking little old fellow riding along in a sleigh through the air. On closer inspection, he proved to be Santa Claus.

"Halt! Halt!" I said; but at this the funny fellow laughed, and did not seem inclined to obey, so again I cried "Halt!" and he drove down to my side with a sleigh full of toys. I was very sorry for him when I saw the disappointed expression of his face when I told him he could go no further South; and when he exclaimed, "Oh, what will my little Southern children do?" I felt more sorry, for I love little children to be happy, and especially at Christmas. But of one thing I was certain - I knew my little friends would prefer me to do my duty, rather than have all the toys in the world; so I said: "Santa Claus, take every one of the toys you have back as far as Baltimore, sell them, and with the money you get buy medicines, bandages, ointments, and delicacies for our sick and wounded men; do it and do it quickly - it will be all right with the children." Then Santa Claus sprang into his sleigh, and putting his hand to his hat in true military style, said: "I obey orders, General!" and away he went. Long before morning he came sweeping down into camp again, with not only every thing I had ordered, but with many other things that our poor soldiers needed. And every Christmas he took the toy money and did the same thing; and the soldiers and I blessed him, for he clothed and fed many a poor soul who otherwise would have been

cold and hungry. Now, do you not consider him a good friend? I hold him in high respect, and trust you will always do the same.

I should be pleased to hear from you again, my dear little girls, and I want you ever to consider me,

Your true friend,  
General Robert E. Lee



### **We Can't Run From History By Removing Confederate Statues**



By: Carl S. Asszony

In a New Orleans junkyard among the scrap iron and rusting cars sits a massive shed. Inside that shed is a segment of American history hidden from the world.

There seems to be a movement among certain southern communities to remove, or dismantle, memorials and statues depicting Confederate heroes of the American Civil War. Among the latest events is the removal of the statues of General Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, and General P.G.T. Beauregard from public areas and placed in the New Orleans junkyard.

Do we demolish Mount Vernon, George Washington's home, which housed over 100 slaves, or Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home, which also held hundreds of slaves? Should we blast apart the massive stone carving of three famous Confederate heroes at Stone Mountain Park, Georgia which is 400 feet above ground, and 90 by 190 feet, and recessed 42 feet into the mountain? Do we burn the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution because they were written and signed by slave owners?

Trying to hide or revise history is a dangerous path to travel. When you attempt to erase certain areas of history this year, what part of history will be subject for demolition next year or the year after, until the only history that remains will be the one chosen by the few, the loudest, the most ignorant, and the most dangerous? Soon we will not teach history at all. By selectively removing historic symbols we are extremely close to censoring speech and knowledge. Do we then burn books that contain historic facts that might be offensive to someone? By abolishing, or hiding symbols of the past, the past will become forever lost from future generations.

We should heed the words inscribed below the statue Future, located at the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. which states, "What is past is prologue," which means America's past history has set the stage for the present. To understand how we got to the present we must understand what was occurring in American history in the context of those times, and how it

affected the characters of the Confederates whose images are being torn down.

It is a tragedy that American history is being tossed into a junkyard like so much scrap. Soon there will be little of this nation's history to remember. The harshness of history cannot be covered over by the niceties of political correctness, nor can history be changed by dismantling monuments and statues. The past is prologue.



### Pearl Harbor

When we think of historical events during the month of December, one day in 1941 stands out; the surprise attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

From history.com:

On December 7, 1941. Just before 8 a.m. on that Sunday morning, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes descended on the base, where they managed to destroy or damage nearly 20 American naval vessels, including eight enormous battleships, and over 300 airplanes. More than 2,400 Americans died in the attack, including civilians, and another 1,000 people were

wounded. The day after the assault, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.

On December 8, 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress, the day after the crushing attack on Pearl Harbor.

“Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.”

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is located near the center of the Pacific Ocean, roughly 2,000 miles from the U.S. mainland and about 4,000 miles from Japan.

By the time the attack was over, every battleship in Pearl Harbor—*USS Arizona*, *USS Oklahoma*, *USS California*, *USS West Virginia*, *USS Utah*, *USS Maryland*, *USS Pennsylvania*, *USS Tennessee* and *USS Nevada*—had sustained significant damage. (All but *USS Arizona* and *USS Utah* were eventually salvaged and repaired.)

“No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.”

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

## WWII Veteran Statistics

### THE PASSING OF THE WWII GENERATION



Every day, memories of World War II—its sights and sounds, its terrors and triumphs—disappear. Yielding to the inalterable process of aging, the men and women who fought and won the great conflict are now in their late 80s and 90s. They are dying quickly—according to US Department of Veterans Affairs statistics, 558,000 of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II are alive in 2017. At the beginning of 2017, there were 30,232 WWII veterans living in Texas.



### Thank Goodness for the Bill of Rights

From: Confederate  
American Pride



When our Founders proposed the Constitution (and the new federal government) to the American people in 1787, many people objected that the document did not contain express guarantees of due process of law and protection of fundamental liberties. Those who advocated the adoption of the Constitution responded that there was nothing to fear because the powers of federal officials would be limited to those enumerated in the original document. Since those powers didn't include the power to deprive a person of fundamental liberties or

due process of law, their argument went, there was no reason to have an express prohibition on the exercise of such power.

That wasn't good enough for the American people. They understood the nature of government and they knew their history. They knew that the federal government would inevitably attract people who, even with the best of intentions, would run roughshod over their liberties if there were no express constitutional provisions prohibiting them from doing so.

How right our ancestors turned out to be! When we see how our federal police today operate when they are not constrained by the Constitution, we are able to more deeply appreciate the wisdom of our ancestors in insisting on the protections outlined in the Bill of Rights as a condition for permitting the federal government to come into existence.



#### Acoustic Music Night

Some of our Camp members and others perform an Acoustic Music Jam twice a month at the Walking S Steakhouse. This takes place every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday nights from 6pm – 8pm. Bring your instrument and join in or just come by for the music.



#### Post Turtle

While at the doctor's office the other day, my 86 year old neighbor was getting his hand treated after catching it in a gate working cattle. Yes, he still breeds, herds and sells cattle.

As this was not a scheduled appointment, he was seeing a rather youthful doctor from an Ivy League medical school. As the doctor treated his hand, the conversation got around to the more mundane topics of our everyday life and naturally politics slipped into the discussion. It became apparent quite quickly that neither my neighbor nor the doctor saw eye to eye on our elected officials in Washington D.C. The doctor asked my neighbor why he was so negative on our national leaders, to which he replied, "They are all like a post turtle".

The doctor looked puzzled and told my neighbor he was not familiar with the term, post turtle and asked him what it meant. My neighbor said, "When you're driving down a country road and you come across a fence post with a turtle balanced on top, that's a post turtle." Seeing the continued look of puzzlement on the doctor's face, he continued to explain, "You know he didn't get up there by himself, he doesn't belong up there, and he doesn't know what to do while he's up there, and you just wonder what kind of dumb butt put him up there to begin with."

The following is an excerpt as reprinted from the Gilmer Mirror's November 9, 2017 issue that encompasses the idiocy we currently deal with regarding history.

Submitted by: Eddie Pricer

### **Heard About Town**

By Vic Parker

Remember Marion Barry, the Washington D.C. mayor, crack head and womanizer? Yeah, the one who went to prison. Vince Gray, the council member Ward 7 and also a former mayor of DC, is spearheading an effort to erect a statue of Barry. He said he expects the council vote to be unanimous in favor of installing the statue. "It's the right thing to do," Gray said. What a glorious reflection of heroism on our fair capital city. Coming at the time when statues and plaques of Robert E. Lee are being taken down, erecting a new statue to the crack-smoking, whore-mongering, tax-cheating mayor certainly is the embodiment of "progressives" and their values. Frankly, it defies belief. Barry was the emblem of the crime-plagued shambles the capital city became as the Democratic mayor beginning in the late 1970s and extending through the 1990s. He started out as the first emblem of the civil rights movement to be elected to the city's highest office and was given quite a pass for his failings as mayor because of it. The city turned into a one-party state, and from there, the blight followed. Barry himself was caught smoking crack cocaine with a woman not his wife, and when he was caught, he became forever famous for his candid-camera hollering: "B---- set me up!"



Then he went to the can. After that, he got elected mayor again, showing that no bad deed goes punished. The shambles continued, and now Barry is getting his own monument. It shows that the crimes normal peoples stay away from like the plague, such as crack-smoking, don't bother the left, nor do they merit any consequences. It also shows that the left has a soft spot for its own history, and a civil rights past supersedes anything one has done in the afterward. Couple it with the left's zeal for destroying statues of Washington, Jefferson and Lee and it shows that the left is historical in orientation and is unable to appreciate any history it cannot remember itself. It also shows contempt for real heroism, a desire to rewrite history in its own image, with only leftists as heroes, replacing real history with someone like Barry's version of heroism.



The Historic Upshur County Museum will be closed through December 2. It will re-open December 7, 2017.

Make plans to visit soon and donate what you can.



As you celebrate the miracle of this special season may your heart be filled with joy and peace. May blessings of the holiday linger in your home and stay with you throughout the year.



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



Thank you to the Starnes family and everyone at the Walking S Steakhouse for their hospitality and providing a meeting place for the Upshur Co. Patriots. Open for dining Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Comments or suggestions should be made to: David Palmer, Editor  
[david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org](mailto:david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org)