



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**

MAY 2025

THE FINAL GAVEL

dayhist.com

Can you imagine the weight of despair that filled the chambers of the Confederate Congress on March 18, 1865? As members gathered for what would be their final session, they were acutely aware that their dream of a separate Southern nation was crumbling. It was an emotional scene marked not just by political defeat, but by profound personal loss and a disillusionment that enveloped them like a shroud. On this day, with Richmond under siege and Union forces advancing, the Confederate Congress adjourned for the last time.

In its last meeting, the Congress addressed several critical issues, including the formulation of policies to deal with the aftermath of war. However, discussions were largely futile, as many members were already considering how to navigate their futures in a post-war United States. The adjournment of the Confederate Congress was more than just a legislative end: it marked a profound shift in American society.



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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.



THE GUARDIAN

Have you taken the time to find a gravesite for each of your ancestors? If you haven’t, you could be missing a key part of your genealogy puzzle. Although we can dedicate a good amount of our family history research hours trying to find records that were created throughout our ancestors’ lives, it is sometimes the information about their deaths that can be the most revealing. This can be especially true when searching for your ancestors’ burial sites.

The journey to find the final resting place of your ancestor can leave you with a deeper bond to those who came before.

By Kate Jackson

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

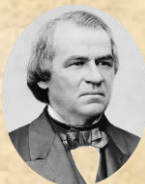
The last Southern troops surrendered on May 26, 1865. Afterward, survivors began decorating the graves of those who had died. They repeated the ritual each year on “The Decoration Day”—which is now known as Memorial Day.



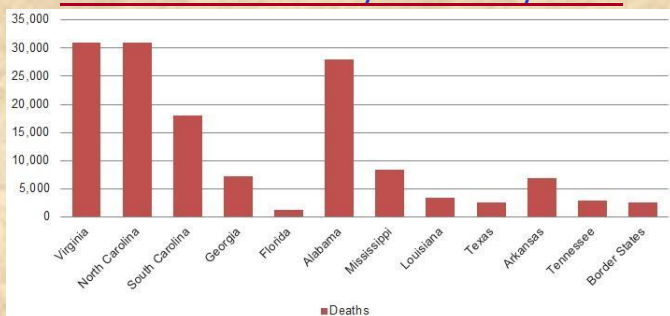
UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS GUARDIANS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian</u> <u>Status</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	37
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	54
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	48
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Tommy Ray	Full/GPT	19
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	8
Frank Smith	Full	2
Gregg Gipe	GPT	3
Rodney Love	Full	51
W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem		

***In the aftermath of the Civil War,
President Andrew Johnson on December
12, 1868 issued pardons to all
Confederate soldiers who fought
in that conflict. The president
extended "unconditionally, and
without reservation ... a full
pardon and amnesty for the offence [sic] of
treason against the United States, or of
adhering to their enemies during the late
Civil War, with restoration of all rights,
privileges, and immunities under the
Constitution and the laws."***



Confederate Military Deaths by State



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.

***A Civil War soldier's chance of surviving the
war was about 1 in 4***





"Do You Ever Think About Heaven?"

trusting-in-jesus.com

I genuinely believe God has provided a home for us in Heaven.

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).

There were "many mansions" in Heaven when Jesus made this statement, and He promised to create more. I believe there will be a place prepared for every child of God. Giving up this body will be painful only so far as it pertains to our earthly life, and even that is not as fearful as is typically portrayed, at least not for Christians.

The answer is to have absolute belief in God. Having complete confidence in His Word brings freedom and a new dimension to life, allowing us to look forward to whatever He has for us on this earth and for the rest of eternity.

Biblical descriptions and experiences of those who have visited or received visions of Heaven report a scene of unimaginable beauty. The colors convey incredible spiritual sensations and music of another dimension.

Heaven will not be a strange experience, but more natural than life on earth because our citizenship is in Heaven. This earth is not our home. Our home is in Heaven with our Father, brothers, and sisters, with whom we will spend eternity.



HISTORICAL EVENTS IN MAY

1861

May 24 - Federal troops seize Alexandria, Virginia

1862

May 5 - Battle of Williamsburg, Virginia

May 7 - Engagement at West Point (Eltham's Landing), Virginia

May 8 - Battle of McDowell, Virginia

May 9 - Bombardment of Pensacola, Florida

May 10 - Naval engagement at Plum Run Bend, Arkansas

May 10 - Union forces capture Norfolk, Virginia

May 11 - Confederate sailors blow up the CSS *Virginia* to keep her from falling into Union hands

May 15 - Battle of Drewry's Bluff, Virginia

May 23 - Engagement at Front Royal, Virginia

May 25 - Battle of First Winchester, Virginia

May 26 - Skirmish at Calico Rock, Arkansas

May 29/30 - Confederates evacuate Corinth, Mississippi

May 31 - Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks), Virginia begins

1863

May 1 - Battle of Port Gibson, Mississippi

May 3 - Second Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia

May 3/4 - Chancellorsville Campaign continues with the Battle of Salem Church

May 6 - Battle of Chancellorsville ends with Confederate victory

May 10 - Death of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

May 12 - Battle of Raymond, Mississippi

May 14 - Engagement at Jackson, Mississippi

May 16 - Battle of Champion Hill (Baker's Creek), Mississippi

May 17 - Battle of Big Black River Bridge, Mississippi

May 19 - First assault on Vicksburg, Mississippi

May 21 - Engagement at Plains Store, Louisiana

May 22 - Second assault on Vicksburg

May 22 - Siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana begins

May 27 - First assault on Port Hudson

1864

May 5 - Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia

May 7 - Sherman begins his Atlanta campaign

May 7 - Union troops seize Tunnel Hill on the first day of the Atlanta Campaign, an important tunnel on the Western & Atlantic Railroad.

May 8 - Battle of Spotsylvania, Virginia

May 8 - Engagement at Dug Gap, Georgia

May 9 - Engagement at Swift Creek, Virginia

May 11 - Battle of Yellow Tavern, Virginia on Sheridan's Richmond Raid

May 13 - Battle of Resaca, Georgia begins

May 15 - Battle of New Market, Virginia

May 18 - Engagement at Yellow Bayou (Bayou de Glaize), Louisiana (Red River Expedition)

May 20 - Battle of Ware Bottom Church

May 23 - Battle of North Anna River, Virginia

May 25 - Battle of New Hope Church, Georgia

May 27 - Battle of Pickett's Mill, Georgia

May 28 - Skirmish near Jacksonville, Florida

May 28 - Battle of Dallas, Georgia

May 29 - Confederates capture wagon train at Salem, Arkansas

May 31 - Combat at Bethesda Church, Virginia

1865

May 2 - A \$100,000 reward offered for the arrest of Jefferson Davis

May 4 - Surrender of Confederate General Richard Taylor's forces at Citronelle, Alabama

May 10 - Confederate President Jefferson Davis captured by U.S. troops at Irwinville, Georgia

May 12 - Skirmish at Palmito Ranch, Texas - the last engagement of the Civil War

May 26 - Surrender of Confederate General E.K. Smith's Trans-Mississippi forces, New Orleans, Louisiana

May 29 - President Andrew Johnson proclaims amnesty for most ex-Confederates

Most Southerners were not slaveholders. In fact, less than a quarter of "whites" had any direct connection to slavery. However, there were between 3 and 4 million African American slaves, which accounted for more than 1/3 of the total population in the South.



DREWRY'S BLUFF

nps.gov

As capital of the newly formed Confederate States of America, Richmond, Virginia, became the constant target of northern armies. During the four years of the Civil War, Union generals made repeated attempts to capture the city by land. Richmond, however, was vulnerable by water as well.

Drewry's Bluff, named for local landowner Captain Augustus H. Drewry, rose 90 feet above the water and commanded a sharp bend in the James River, making it a logical site for defensive fortifications.

On May 9, 1862, Norfolk fell to Union forces. The crew of the *C.S.S. Virginia*, forced to scuttle their vessel to prevent her capture, joined the Southside Artillery at Drewry's Bluff. Commander Ebenezer Farrand supervised the defenses of the fort. He ordered numerous steamers, schooners, and sloops to be sunk as obstructions in the river beneath the bluff. Six more large guns occupied pits just upriver from the fort. Men worked around the clock to ensure a full state of readiness when the Union fleet arrived.

The Federal squadron steamed around the bend in the river below Drewry's Bluff early

on the morning of May 15. The force, under Commander John Rodgers, consisted of five ships. The ironclad *Galena* and gunboats *Port Royal*, *Aroostook*, and *Naugatuck* joined the famous Monitor to comprise Rodgers' force. At 7:15 a.m. the *Galena* opened fire on the fort, sending three giant projectiles toward the Confederate position. The five Union ships anchored in the river below the fort. When Confederate batteries in the fort replied, the whole vicinity shook with the concussion of the big guns. Southern infantry lined the banks of the river to harass the sailors. On the *Monitor*, the rifle balls of the sharpshooters "pattered upon the decks like rain."

After four long hours of exchanging fire, the "perfect tornado of shot and shell" ended. With his ammunition nearly depleted, Federal Commander Rodgers gave the signal to discontinue the action at 11:30. His sailors suffered at least 14 dead and 13 wounded, while the Confederates admitted to 7 killed and 8 wounded.



HUNTING JEFFERSON DAVIS

americanhistory.si.edu



In the spring of 1865, the Union Army increased its efforts to capture the Confederate President Jefferson Davis after the surrender of Lee and assassination of Lincoln. Suspecting him to be complicit in Lincoln's murder, the U.S. War Department issued a \$100,000 reward for the capture of

Davis and his aides. Without his capture or surrender, many in the Union War Department would not recognize the war as officially ended. After fleeing Richmond, Davis was caught by members of Michigan and Wisconsin cavalry units at his camp outside Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10, 1865.



BATTLE OF CHAMPION HILL

wikipedia.org

The Battle of Champion Hill (aka Champion's Hill) of May 16, 1863, was the pivotal battle in the Vicksburg Campaign of the American Civil War (1861–1865). Union Army commander Major General Ulysses S. Grant and the Army of the Tennessee pursued the retreating Confederate States Army under Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton and defeated it twenty miles to the east of Vicksburg, Mississippi, leading inevitably to the Siege of Vicksburg and surrender. The battle is also known as Baker's Creek.

At around 7:00 am on May 16, Union forces engaged the Confederates and the Battle of Champion Hill began. Pemberton's force

formed into a three-mile (5 km)-long defensive line that ran southwest to northeast along a crest of a ridge overlooking Jackson Creek. Grant wrote in his *Personal Memoirs*, "... where Pemberton had chosen his position to receive us, whether taken by accident or design, was well selected. It is one of the highest points in that section and commanded all the ground in the range."

When Grant arrived at Champion Hill at about 10:00 a.m., he ordered an attack to begin. John A. McClernand's corps attacked on the left and James B. McPherson's on the right. William T. Sherman's corps was well behind the others, departing from Jackson. By 11:30 a.m., the Union forces had reached the Confederate's main line. At 1:00 p.m., they took the crest, the troops from Carter L. Stevenson's division retiring in disorder. McPherson's corps swept forward, capturing the crossroads and closing the Jackson Road escape route. The division of John S. Bowen counterattacked in support of Stevenson, pushing the Union troops back beyond the Champion Hill crest before their surge was halted.

Grant's troops seized the Bakers Creek Bridge, and by midnight they had occupied Edwards. The Confederates fell back to a defensive position at the Big Black River in front of Vicksburg. The Battle of Big Black River Bridge the next day would be the final chance for Pemberton to escape.





THE GLOWING SOLDIERS

listverse.com

The Battle of Shiloh was one of the bloodiest in the entire Civil War. It was a constant two-day struggle that left little time for the medics to tend for the wounded, and the massive amount of wounded soldiers meant that many of them would be left just lying on the battlefield for days. As the wounded men lay in agony, a strange thing happened: Some of their wounds started glowing. The eerie sheen was clearly visible in the dark, and no one could understand what was happening. However, the strangest part happened when the medics actually started treating the wounded: The soldiers with glowing wounds were healing much better than the ones with normal, non-glowing injuries.

The phenomenon soon became known as Angel's Glow. Its nature remained a mystery, and many suspected the healing shine was actually divine in origin.

The strange secret of Angel's Glow was finally solved in 2001 by two high school students who were investigating the phenomenon for a science fair project. They figured out that the glow on the wounded soldiers was most likely *Panellus stipticus*, a "good" bacteria with bioluminescent properties that was transported to the

wounds by the many insects that were infesting them. Although *P. stipticus* wouldn't usually survive in human body temperature, it was able to survive in the hypothermic wounded soldiers, allowing it to fight the bad bacteria that were trying to infect their wounds.



*The following three articles are from **THE HISTORY OF GILMER** by Hettye Calloway published 1926*

The First Railroad in Gilmer

The first railroad, a narrow gauge, came to Gilmer in about 1880. It was first called the Tyler Tap, but later when the standard gauge was built it became the Cotton Belt Route. Several years later the M. & E. T., or Marshall & East Texas road, came through Gilmer. This road was started by the Commercial Lumber Company, which was then located in Gilmer. The tram was later connected with the Winnsboro & Marshall Road and was called the Marshall & East Texas Railroad.

The First Paper in Gilmer

The first paper published in Gilmer was known as the Gilmer Sentinel. This paper was edited by Mr. J. L. Terry and his son. A few years after its establishment the paper became known as The Mirror and was edited by Judge Joseph Lion, who was then county judge. Judge Lion was murdered and the assassin escaped. Twenty years later, when Mr. S. J. Moughon was sheriff, the

fellow was caught by the Humane Society of New York. The man was charged with beating his daughter, and the Humane Society wrote back to Gilmer for information concerning him; and it was in this manner he was captured. He escaped from jail, however, and his trial was never held. The paper is now edited by Mr. George Tucker and is still known as The Mirror. But in addition to the weekly paper we also have a daily paper by the same name.

Some Gilmer History

Judging from the number of factories that were in Gilmer at this time, it must have been a very busy place. There was a spinning factory where Mitchell's gin now stands, north of the square. Just across the street, on what is known as The Clayton place, there was a hat factory. And there was also a shoe factory and a harness factory here. The shoe factory was located on the south side of the square where the Jim Crowley store now stands. The harness factory was a two-story building and was just down the street from the shoe factory, where Winn's Drug Store is now located. More things than the factories helped to make Gilmer famous during this early period, however. One of these was the Looney School. The Interscholastic Leaguer, a paper published in Austin, Texas, has said that it was "one of the most successful schools of Texas during the Civil War period and following it." This school had its beginning in 1861. It was first held in the building that had been the home of the Upshur County Masonic Institute. This home was originally built by the Methodist

Church, and for some time, beginning in 1854, it was the home of Gilmer Female College. This school was under the direction of the Reverend David Stovall, and later Mrs. Martha Weathered. The building was rented by Mr. Morgan H. Looney in 1862. The school building burned, however, in 1863 and Mr. Looney took up temporary quarters in a building located near where the ward school now is. The school was held in this building until 1866, when a new building was erected where the other one had burned.



INFRINGEMENT ON THE 2ND AMENDMENT

By: Joseph T Drammissi



Most Americans understand that *"the right of the people to keep and bear arms"* means just what it says and refers to the right of an individual. It's worth pointing out that the 2nd Amendment does not create the right to keep and bear arms but instead prevents the government from infringing upon that right. The right of self-protection is a natural right of all people and firearms are an integral part of that.

When the government bans common firearms or makes their purchase unnecessarily difficult for law-abiding citizens, *that's infringement*. When exorbitant fees or taxes are levied against firearms and ammunition, *that's infringement*. When firearms related businesses are overregulated and heavily taxed, *that's infringement*. When law-abiding citizens are severely restricted from having a firearm for personal protection when out in public, *that's infringement*.

"Whether due to legal loopholes or overregulation, erosion of our Second Amendment rights is unacceptable."

"Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples' liberty's teeth."

George Washington

"Free people ought...to be armed"

George Washington

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.

