



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

DECEMBER 2025



As we come to the end of another year. Some have had prosperity, and some have had difficult times during the last 12 months. The end of December will end my 2-year service as Camp #2109 Commander. It has been my honor and privilege to serve. At our November meeting we elected some highly qualified officers to lead our Camp for the next 2 years. Commander-Frank Smith, 1st. Lt. Commander-Rodney Love, 2nd Lt. Commander-Roger Hammett and 3rd Lt. Commander-Phil Davis. I have no doubt that Commander Smith is considering the Appointments he will make to his Command roster.

We have included some photos from the past in this Newsletter. Some are activities and events that we were involved with, and some photos are simply good people that we have lost too soon.



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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.

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.





Recently, our Camp was blessed with the return of Compatriot Roger Hammett to the organization. Although Roger had been absent for several years, he immediately upon his return picked up the mantle and is leading by example. He has joined the ranks of guardians and adopted 9 graves, two new burials and accepted responsibility for 7 that Compatriot John "Smitty" Smith of the Gregg Camp can longer care for due to health issues. Roger has contributed as our other members in the causes of charity and leadership, and we recognize his efforts.



The Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven

By: EP

Jesus to Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven..."



which leads us on a path of service and sanctuary. George and Esther Linton are the embodiment of having the "keys of the kingdom" in their service to family,

friends, and forebears.



They travel the nation to honor their ancestors and those of others even where there are no family

ties. George likes to refer to these travels and enterprise as his "bucket list." George and Esther have spent countless hours researching others as well as themselves, even more traversing the countryside while mending or marking graves, tending the sites and demonstrating their love for our Southern ideals.

One recent trip led them to Troy Alabama in Pike County where they honored family members as well as others. They traveled throughout the area saluting ancestors, leaving flags and tokens of remembrance. They surely have their own set of "keys to the kingdom of heaven," as evidenced by their Christian efforts.



THE GUARDIAN

*The True Meaning of
Guardian*

By: EP

Guardian is defined as a person who protects or defends something or someone, a custodian. At the beginning of our meetings, we recite the Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans which follows:

"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."

We strive to protect and defend our history, our genteel ways, and our Christian heritage. These efforts are important and valiant but we are not true Guardians unless we protect our forebears at their most vulnerable time. Although their souls reside in Heaven protected by the Lord, they are still tied to this planet through the vestiges of their mortal remains and no longer able to defend themselves.

Most of us have heard the phrase "ashes to ashes, dust to dust" which should remind us to cherish our time on earth by reflecting and acting on those ideals that truly matter, such as goodwill, faith, and legacy.

If you believe in the Charge then you should act upon it to the best of your ability. Protect and defend your family, including our Confederate heroes. Our Guardian Program exemplifies these ideals. Currently 11 members of our Camp watch over 222 graves of Confederate Heroes, only a fraction of which are blood relatives. Several Compatriots require some assistance to accomplish these duties, others do not. This laudable act of selflessness provides each one with great solace, however it also lends some sadness for those heroes that repose without their

champion, their steward, their caretaker. More can be done! Even a single grave, whether new or one that a member can no longer keep, is an oath fulfilled. Join the ranks and become that champion, that steward, that caretaker. Follow the Charge, become a Guardian!

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

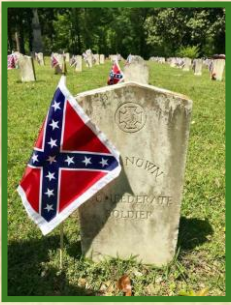


UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS GUARDIANS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian Status</u>	<u>Number of Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	37
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	51
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	48
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Roger Hammett	Full	9
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2
Gregg Gipe	GPT	3
Rodney Love	Full	51
W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem		



GUARDIAN REPORT



There are 1142 graves of Confederate Heroes that are identified and under the care of a Guardian. Several more are being processed and the number of identified final resting places will increase. This is a great

achievement; however, more can be accomplished.

One of the unfortunate aspects of the program is that sadly a number of our members have crossed over the river and the graves that they once provided the care and protection for, are now in need of a new Guardian. A number have been adopted, nevertheless many more need your help.

In the next few months, a list of those graves needing a new Guardian will be made available in an effort to make sure all of our identified graves have someone protecting and caring for them. Phil Davis and his chauffeur have offered to assist in this endeavor.

If you are not a Guardian, why not. Please contact me, Bill Elliott – Guardian Chairman.



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



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DECEMBER EVENTS DURING THE CIVIL WAR

1860

December 20 - South Carolina adopts an Ordinance of Secession

December 26 - Major Robert Anderson evacuates Fort Moultrie for Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor

1861

December 9 - Engagement at Chusto-Talash (Bird Creek), Indian Territory (now Oklahoma)

December 11 - Disastrous fire in Charleston, South Carolina

December 23 - Skirmish at Dayton, Missouri

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

December 26 - United States releases Mason and Slidell, ending the Trent Affair

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 12 - USS *Cairo* sunk on the Yazoo River, Mississippi

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 - Confederate cavalry under JEB Stuart leaves winter encampment to raid the rear of the Army of the Potomac in Stafford County, Virginia

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 Cross Roads, 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 16 - Skirmish at Salem, Virginia

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 6 - Salmon P. Chase named Chief Justice of the United States

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 17 - Action near Franklin, Tennessee

December 19 - Skirmish at Rutherford Creek, Tennessee

December 20 - Confederates evacuate Savannah, Georgia

December 24 - First attack on Fort Fisher, North Carolina

December 28 - Engagement at Egypt, Missouri.





BIRD CREEK

Wikipedia



The engagement at Chusto-Talasah, also known as Bird Creek, occurred on December 9, 1861, during the American Civil War. It was a battle between Confederate forces led by Colonel Douglas H. Cooper and Unionist Native Americans under Chief Opothleyahola, resulting in a Confederate claim of victory despite significant casualties on both sides.



The battle began around 2:00 PM, with Cooper's forces attacking Opothleyahola's positioned troops. The engagement lasted nearly four hours, with both sides experiencing heavy fighting. Despite the Confederates driving the Union forces across Bird Creek, they did not pursue due to ammunition shortages.



BATTLE OF WAYNESBORO **GEORGIA**

Wikipedia.com



The Battle of Waynesboro was an American Civil War battle fought on December 4, 1864, in

eastern Georgia, towards the end of Sherman's March to the Sea. Union cavalry forces under Brig.



Gen. Judson Kilpatrick defeated Confederate cavalry led by Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, opening the way for William T. Sherman's armies to approach their objective, Savannah.

Annoyed by Wheeler's constant harassment, Kilpatrick set out on the morning of December 4 with his full division to attack Waynesboro and finally destroy Wheeler's small command.

Finding Wheeler's Confederates deployed astride the road, Kilpatrick attacked, driving the Confederate skirmishers in front of them. The Union force then came up against a strong defensive line of barricades, which they eventually overran. As the Union advance continued, they encountered even more barricades that required additional time to overcome. After hard fighting, Wheeler's outnumbered force retired into Waynesboro and another line of barricades hastily erected in the town's streets. There, Wheeler ordered a charge by Texas and Tennessee troops in order to gain time to withdraw across Brier Creek and block the road to Augusta, which, at the time, appeared to be the objective of General Sherman's army. After furious fighting, the Union troops broke through and Wheeler's force hastily withdrew.





VETERAN'S DAY REMEMBERED

By: EP

This past Veteran's Day marked another year where we remembered and thanked those individuals that gave of themselves to protect our freedom and way of life. Many were family members, some were friends, and others we never met, yet they all served and deserved our respect and gratitude.



Veteran's Day this year blessed us with an added bonus, The Aurora Borealis or as many call the "Northern Lights." For many of us, if not most of us, this was a once-in-a-lifetime event. I for one watched the lights as they played across the sky and thanked the Lord for such a wonderful gift. While watching from my porch on the first night (Veteran's Day), I pondered the significance of what I was witnessing.



I was struck by the brilliant red and my thoughts went to those who had sacrificed so much for our Southern Heritage and way of life. I was humbled by the experience and felt a sense of awe in how this beautiful sky brought those thoughts to me. The next night, the red had disappeared and was replaced by white. Again, from my porch I gazed at the heavens and thought of the purity of our ancestor's gift of character, sacrifice, and love. This was truly a Veteran's Day to remember and one that brought hope that our Southern Heritage

will always prosper and be protected by our valiant heroes.

**In this holiday season we give thanks
for all our blessings and praise the
Lord for our friends and
family.**



**Merry Christmas to All
Enjoy this Blast from the Past**





"On this site during the Civil War, a shoe factory converted leather into footwear for the Confederate Army. A harness factory nearby made bridles and saddles and leather lines and breechings that hitched horses and mules to gun carriages, wagons and ambulances, to move armies through campaigns and battles. Leather was obtained from a local Tanyard that treated over 2,000 hides a year. East Texas plants furnished the South 900 sets of harness and 300 saddles monthly during the war."



The process of Christmas becoming a national holiday in the U.S. began when Representative Burton Chauncey Cook of Illinois introduced a bill in the U.S. Congress after the U.S. Civil War (1861–1865). It passed in both houses of Congress, and President Ulysses S. Grant signed it on June 28, 1870. During the Civil War, Christmas was celebrated in the Confederate States of America (the South.)