



PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL

UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS CAMP #2109
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
GILMER, TEXAS

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Meetings are held the
1st Tuesday of
Each Month at 7 PM
in the Historic Upshur Museum
upshurpatriots.org

FEBRUARY 2026

CHANGE OF COMMAND

By EP

It was another glorious meeting when four of our respected Compatriots stepped forward to serve as leaders for the Upshur County Patriots Camp. Administering the Oath of Office was Brigade Commander and Division Chief of Staff Bill Elliott. The new Officers are Commander Frank Smith, 1st Lieutenant Commander Rodney Love, 2nd Lieutenant Roger Hammett, and 3rd Lieutenant Phil Davis. These gentlemen agreed to serve in these positions that they were unanimously elected to by the membership of our Camp. Now it's our duty to assist them in every way possible to achieve their goals.

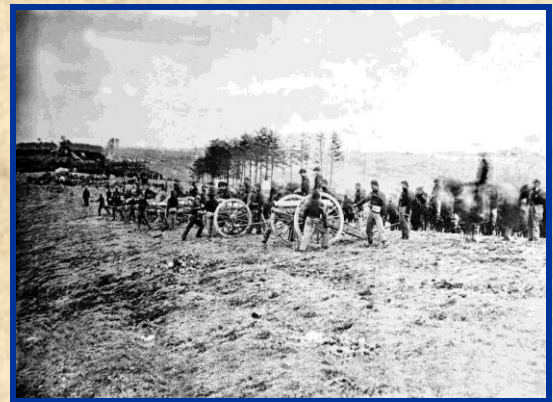
From the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Chaplain's Handbook, A Gentleman Defined...The epitome of compliments to a man of the Old South was to call him" a

gentleman of the old school." What did that mean? It meant a man was respectful

of true Christianity, honest in business, refined in his taste, courteous towards his inferiors, and chivalrous toward women and

children. Thus, one who was a man of honor, a guardian of the family name, a protector of ladies and children, a custodian of Biblical principles as well as many other noble obligations, this was a gentleman.

Let these next two years be the continued rebuilding of our Camp and the blessed furtherance of our Southern Ideals.





Confederate Hero's Day Vigils

Monday January 19, 2026, was Confederate Hero's Day and a Texas State Holiday. Members of the Upshur County Patriots Camp held vigils at 4 cemeteries near Gilmer. Our Compatriots also initiated Confederate Hero's Week and visited six cemeteries in total. The cemeteries visited Little Mound, Morris, and Shady Grove. Thirty-nine graves were visited, inspected, and flagged where necessary. Prayers were offered by Phil Davis and the Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans was recited by Eddie Pricer. Bill Starnes placed the majority of the flags. Photos were taken by Roger Hammett and Eddie Pricer.



Of special note, the graves of Emma Sansom, who famously rode behind General Nathan Bedford Forrest to guide him across a river ford, Stephen W. Beasley who represented Upshur

County at the convention to succeed from the Union and Colonel Cullen R. Earp were paid special homage. Colonel Earp's grave was being overcome by vegetation from the



area wilderness and soon to be lost to history. Members of the SCV, spearheaded by the Upshur County Patriots, undertook the disinterment and reinternment at Hopewell Cemetery to rescue his remains. It was a beautiful day befitting these heroes and their sacrifices. Lest we never forget!

PHOTOS OF GILMER FROM THE PAST



Davenports Store 1950's

CAMP LEADERSHIP
UPSHUR COUNTY
PATRIOTS CAMP #2109

COMMANDER
FRANK SMITH
(903) 340-3814
fsmith@etex.net

1ST LT. COMMANDER
RODNEY LOVE
(903) 733-0932
snakeman@aol.com

2ND LT. COMMANDER
ROGER HAMMETT
(903) 238-7152
hslawntexas@gmail.com

3RD LT. COMMANDER
PHIL DAVIS
(903) 790-7137
pdavis37@etex.net



Union forces of Benson's Battery 1862



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.



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.

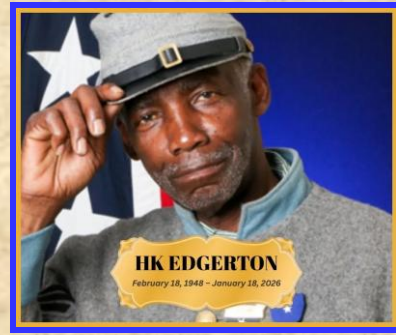


SALUTE TO THE CONFEDERATE FLAG:

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



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



*From: Kenny Bage
Virginia Division, SCV Commander*



Harold Kenneth "HK" Edgerton, 77, went to be with his Lord and Savior, his ancestors, and Southern heroes, on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at the Asheville Veterans Administration Medical Center in Asheville, NC.

He was born in Asheville, NC, on February 18, 1948, to Roland Roger Edgerton and Anna B. Edgerton.

Mr. Edgerton is survived by his brothers, Rashad Hasan of Stone Mountain, Georgia, Terry Lee Edgerton, and sister Obra Elaine Hall, and "Favorite Niece" Danielle Hall, niece Shykita Hill, nephews Corey Edgerton and Darius Edgerton, and a host of great-nieces and nephews of Asheville, North Carolina.

He was best known for his Southern civil rights activism. He saw the people of the South being discriminated against, and he fought vigorously to support them.

He passed away peacefully in his sleep after a prolonged illness arising from the COVID vaccine. Final arrangements will be announced in the future, and planning is underway.



THE GUARDIAN

Honoring our ancestors is a profound way to connect with our heritage, deepen our spiritual roots, and cultivate a sense of continuity and belonging. Across cultures and throughout history, rituals dedicated to remembering and venerating those who came before us have helped individuals maintain a link between past, present, and future. These practices can provide guidance, wisdom, and strength while fostering personal growth and community cohesion.

The Texas Division Guardian Program is a special initiative designed to honor the memory of Confederate veterans by ensuring their final resting places are well-preserved and maintained. Through this program, members of the Texas Division SCV are given the opportunity to protect the gravesites of these soldiers, ensuring their legacy endures for future generations.

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

"Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company."-- George Washington

"You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."-- John Adams

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
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		

Upshur County Patriots Members that Were Guardians and have Passed Away

Paul Hamilton

Tommy Mitchell

Tommy Ray

William "Bill" Palmer



"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." Psalm 32:8

"God, I am not sure which direction you have planned for my life. I appear to have reached a crossroads at which an important decision must be made. I pray you give me the strength to press on in the

midst of this decision. I also ask that the Holy Spirit guide me and help me to navigate through a mirror I see dimly in right now. Amen."



FEBRUARY EVENTS IN THE CIVIL WAR

1861

February 1 - Texas adopts an Ordinance of Secession and schedules a referendum for February 23.

February 16 - Texas state troops seize the U.S. Arsenal at San Antonio

February 19 - Louisiana state troops seize the U.S. paymaster's office in New Orleans

February 23 - Voters in Texas approve referendum to secede

1862

February 6 - Surrender of Fort Henry, Tennessee

February 7/8 - Battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina

February 10 - Union forces destroy the Confederate "Mosquito" fleet at Elizabeth City, North Carolina

February 14 - Union ironclad gunboats attack Fort Donelson, Tennessee

February 15 - All-out Confederate counterattack at Fort Donelson

February 16 - Fort Donelson surrenders unconditionally to Ulysses S. Grant

February 20/21 - Battle of Val Verde, New Mexico Territory

February 23 - Federal troops occupy Fayetteville, Arkansas

February 25 - Federal troops occupy Nashville, Tennessee

1863

February 5 and 7 - Skirmish at Olive Branch Church, Virginia

February 13 - Skirmish near Washington, North Carolina

February 15 - Skirmish at Arkadelphia, Arkansas

February 26 - Confederate guerrillas attack freight train near Woodburn, Tennessee

1864

February 2 - Southern navy captures U.S. gunboat *Underwriter* but is forced to burn and flee

February 3 - Union General William T. Sherman begins the Meridian Campaign in Mississippi

February 11 - Skirmish at Lake City, Florida

February 14 - Federal troops capture Meridian, Mississippi



February 17 - Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* sinks the USS *Housatonic*

February 20 - Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond), Florida

February 22 - Engagement at Okolona, Mississippi

February 28 - Kilpatrick's Raid on Richmond begins

1865

February 1 - Sherman's march through the Carolinas in "full swing"

February 3 - Union and Confederate officials meet to discuss peace

February 5 - Battle of Hatcher's Run (Armstrong's Mill), Virginia begins

February 17 - Columbia South Carolina burned

February 17 - Evacuation of Charleston, South Carolina

February 22 - Wilmington, North Carolina captured



ORDINANCE OF SECESSION

texasalmanac.com

On February 1, 1861 Texas approves an ordinance withdrawing Texas from Union.

"Whereas, the Federal Government has failed to accomplish the purposes of the compact of union between these States, in giving protection either to the persons of our people upon an exposed frontier, or to the property of our citizens; and, whereas, the action of the Northern States of the Union is violative of the compact between the States and the guarantees of the Constitution; and whereas the recent developments in Federal affairs, make it evident that the power of the Federal Government is sought to be made a weapon with which to strike down the interests and prosperity of the people of Texas and her Sister slaveholding States, instead of permitting it to be, as was

intended, our shield against outrage and aggression."

BATTLE OF VALVERDE

Wikipedia

The Battle of Valverde, also known as the Battle of Valverde Ford, was fought from



February 20 to 21, 1862, near the town of Val Verde at a ford of the Rio Grande in Union-held New Mexico Territory, in what is today the state of

New Mexico. It is considered a major Confederate success in the New Mexico Campaign of the American Civil War, despite the invading force abandoning the field. The belligerents were Confederate cavalry from Texas and several companies of Arizona militia versus U.S. Army regulars and Union volunteers from northern New Mexico Territory and the Colorado Territory.



Confederate Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley envisioned invading New Mexico with his army, defeating Union forces, capturing the capital city of Santa Fe, and then marching westward to conquer California for the Confederacy.

With the objective of capturing Fort Craig and the supplies in the fort and defeating the Federal army under Colonel Edward Canby. Sibley left El Paso with three regiments and one partial regiment of mounted Texans comprising 2,510 officers and men.

By early afternoon, the remainder of the Confederate force, the 5th Texas Mounted Rifles under Colonel Thomas Green and a battalion of the 7th Texas Mounted Rifles under Lieutenant Colonel John Sutton, arrived at the battlefield, much in need of water and denied access to the river by the defending Union forces. Sibley, who during the morning had remained with the wagons, relinquished command of the brigade and Green took over, who then handed command of the 5th Texas over to Major Samuel Lockridge. Around 2:00 pm, Green authorized a lancer company to attempt a charge on what they thought was an inexperienced New Mexico company on the Union extreme right; however, the Union soldiers turned out to be a Colorado company called "Pike's Peakers" which was able to defeat the charge without breaking.



"The Pike's Peakers were a group of Colorado volunteers who played a significant role in the Civil War, particularly in the New Mexico Campaign. They were involved in various battles and helped to secure the western territories for the Union."

By 4:00 p.m., the Union appeared to have the advantage in the battle. Canby decided that a massive frontal assault would fail and instead decided to attack the Confederate left; to do so, he ordered one of his batteries on his right to redeploy closer to the Confederate line and moved several companies to his right, including Carson's First New Mexico Regiment which crossed

the river and took its place in line. However, this repositioning of the troops weakened the center of the Union line and the battery on Canby's left. Hoping to stall the Union attack, Green ordered Major Henry Raguet to attack the Union right with his battalion; this attack was repulsed by frontal fire and a flank attack from the 1st New Mexico, and the Union right advanced after the retreating Confederates. When some of the Union soldier's ammunition ran low, they began to throw stones and other objects at the rebels. Eventually, the large Confederate charge was able to capture the six artillery pieces and break the Union battle line.

The battle represented Canby's low point in his military career and Sibley's high point. The two men would go in opposite directions in terms of reputation after the battle. It was rumored following the battle that the two commanders of these battles, Canby and Sibley, who had been allies and trained together earlier, were actually brothers-in-law.



This old photograph captures Robert E. Lee beside his horse, Traveler, not as a distant symbol but as a weary man pressed down by his circumstance. Mud clings to his boots and uniform, and his posture suggests exhaustion more than authority. Traveler stands patiently at his side, head lowered,

as if sharing the burden of long days and uncertain outcomes. The usual polish of command is absent here, replaced by something raw and unguarded.

Lee's face tells a story that words often soften—eyes dulled by sleepless nights, features drawn tight by responsibility and loss. This is not the image of parades or speeches, but of pauses between decisions, when the weight of command settles heavily and there is no audience to impress. The ground beneath them looks churned and unforgiving, mirroring the strain etched into his expression. In this moment, even legend seems to step aside, allowing fatigue and doubt to show through.

What makes the image rare is not only its scarcity, but its honesty. It freezes fleeting instant when history's pace slowed just enough to reveal its cost. Lee and Traveler stand still, caught between past orders and future consequences, offering a quiet reminder that behind every sweeping narrative are moments of silence, mud, and human endurance that rarely make it into memory.



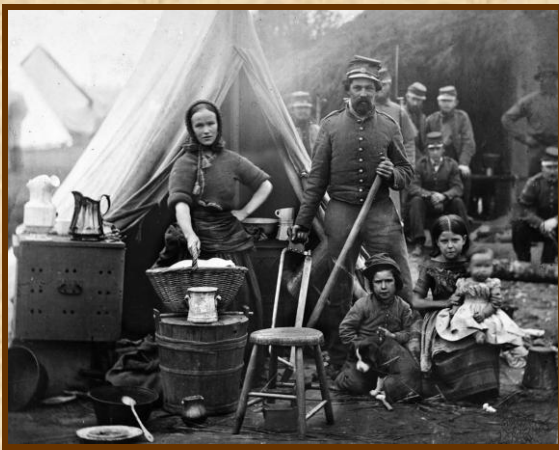
Soldiers of the South Reunion



rarehistoricalphotos.com

Rose O'Neal Greenhow, "Wild Rose," poses with her daughter inside the old Capitol Prison in Washington, District of Columbia. Greenhow, a Confederate spy, used her social ties in the Washington area to help her pass information to the South. She was apprehended by Allan Pinkerton in 1861 and held for nearly a year. She was released, deported to Richmond, Virginia, and welcomed heartily by southerners. She served as a diplomat for the Confederacy, traveling to Europe, and profiting from a popular memoir she wrote in London in 1863. In October of 1864, she was sailing home aboard a blockade runner, pursued by a Union ship near North Carolina. Her ship ran aground, and Greenhow drowned during an escape attempt, after her rowboat capsized.





Camp life of the 31st Penn. Infantry at Queen's farm, vicinity of Fort Slocum, Washington, District of Columbia, during the Civil War in 1861.



Union General Herman Haupt, a civil engineer, moves across the Potomac River in a one-man pontoon boat that he invented for scouting and bridge inspection.



The magic of Mardi Gras Upriver 2026 in historic Jefferson, Texas.

This year's theme celebrates the unforgettable 80's movies—bright colors, big energy, and plenty of throwback fun.

*Parade is on February 7
Beginning at 2 PM*

"The American Civil War had a profound impact on American history, and its legacy continues to shape the country today. From its economic impact to its social and cultural significance, the civil war continues to influence American society and politics. As we move forward, it is essential that we continue to learn from and preserve the history of the Civil War, in order to understand its impact on our past, present, and future."