



# **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](http://upshurpatriots.org)

**JANUARY 2026**

## **COMMAND CHANGE**

WDP

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as the Commander of Camp #2109 for the past 2 years. Having some health issues, and recovery is not something I was expecting.

I want to thank my Lieutenant Commanders, other officers and the Whole Camp at Large for their support and loyalty. I have full confidence in In-Coming Commander Frank Smith. I would ask everyone to support him 100 percent.

As I swear in our new officers on January 6 and pass the gavel to Commander Smith I plan to continue to rehabilitate. I will continue to attend meetings and functions.

Thank you all.....  
David Palmer



## **CAMP LEADERSHIP**

### **UPSHUR COUNTY**

#### **PATRIOTS CAMP #2109**

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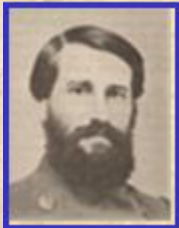




## CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

**"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.**



## 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.***



## THE GUARDIAN

### *Winter's Impact on Grave Sites*



Winter conditions can wear down grave markers and other features at a site. Water expands when it freezes, which means even small cracks in stone or concrete can grow deeper. Snow also adds weight, especially when it's piled up by plows or shovels. If the site isn't looked at often or prepared properly, bigger problems can build up over time.

Some common issues that come up during winter:

Shifting soil from the freeze-thaw cycle, which can push stones or markers out of place.

Cracks or tilting in headstones caused by uneven ground pressure.

Decorations like vases or lights being buried, lost, or blown away.

Delicate plants or shrubs getting damaged or dying off without proper care.

Even if a grave site looks fine in late fall, changes are already starting under the surface. Once frost gets into the ground, it can shift items up and out of place. Catching this early helps save time and trouble later.

### ***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](mailto:etaia@att.net)



## UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS GUARDIANS

| <u>Name</u>                       | <u>Status</u> | <u>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 |               |               |

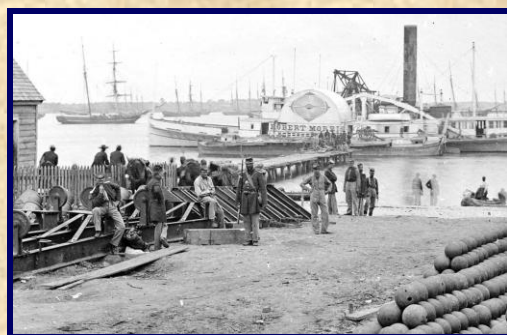
### **Upshur County Patriots Members that Were Guardians and have Passed Away**

**Paul Hamilton**

**Tommy Mitchell**

**Tommy Ray**

**William "Bill" Palmer**





## Ore City Christmas Parade

Members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans participated in the annual Ore City Christmas Parade on Saturday December 6. Twenty-Five Members from seven camps participated in the activities. Camps represented are from Canton, Gilmer, Longview, Marshall, Mt. Enterprise, Sulpher Springs and Palestine. Camps are involved in many civic activities including cemetery cleanups, monument repair and historical presentations to name a few.

*From: the gilmer mirror*



## JOHN GREGG CAMP #958 HELD THEIR CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>



John Hanisee



Commander Sam Mercer(L)  
John Hanisee (Rt)

*"Let your dreams be bigger than your fears." – Unknown*



*"For I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you hope and a future."*  
Jeremiah 29:11

"The beginning of a new year invites us to lift our eyes and look ahead with hope. As we reflect on the year behind us, we can see evidence of God's faithfulness woven into every season. Even in difficult moments, He was working for our good. God's promise in Jeremiah reminds us that our future is not random or uncertain—it is held in His loving hands. The plans He has for us are filled with hope, purpose, and direction. This year is not simply about turning a calendar page; it's about trusting God's vision for what lies ahead."



## JANUARY EVENTS DURING THE CIVIL WAR

### 1861

**January 2** - South Carolina troops seize Fort Johnson in Charleston Harbor

**January 3** - Georgia state troops seize Fort Pulaski

**January 4** - Alabama state troops seize the U.S. Arsenal at Mount Vernon, Alabama

**January 6** - The state of Florida seizes the Apalachicola Arsenal

**January 14** - Federal troops occupy Fort Taylor at Key West in order to prevent its seizure by secessionist forces

**January 20** - Mississippi state troops seize Ship Island in the Gulf of Mississippi

**January 24** - Georgia state troops seize the U.S. Arsenal at Augusta

### 1862

**January 10** - Engagement at Middle Creek, Kentucky

**January 19** - Battle of Mill Springs (Logan's Crossroads), Kentucky

**January 22** - Bombardment of Fort Henry, Tennessee by USS *Lexington*

### 1863

**January 1** - Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect

**January 9 to 11** - The Battle of Arkansas Post (Fort Hindman), Arkansas

**January 12** - Skirmish at Lick Creek, Arkansas

**January 22** - Union Major General Ambrose Burnside's "mud march" ends in failure

**January 31** - Confederate ironclads temporarily break the blockade in Charleston Harbor



### 1864

**January 11** - Rosser's Raid in West Virginia

**January 18** - Skirmish at Grand Gulf, Mississippi

**January 23** - Skirmish near Newport, Tennessee

**January 27** - Engagement at Fair Gardens (Kelly's Ford), Tennessee

**January 29** - Cavalry skirmish at Medley, West Virginia

*"A government that is strong enough to give us everything we want is strong enough to take everything we have."* –  
**Thomas Jefferson**



## TROOPS SEIZE THE MASSIVE ARSENAL AT MOUNT VERNON

*New York Times, January 12, 1861.*



On the orders of Governor Andrew B. Moore, Alabama state troops took over the Mount Vernon Arsenal in Mobile County. The depot's commander, Major Jesse L. Reno, was able to mount no resistance as twenty thousand small arms, hundreds of barrels of powder, and hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition fell into secessionist hands. Reno was to serve as a general officer during the war and was killed at the head of his IX Corps at the Battle of South Mountain in September 1862.

The Arsenal was turned over to the Confederate Army for the duration of the war.



## ROSSER'S RAID *hmdb.org*

On the morning of January 11, 1865, Confederate Gen. Thomas Rosser led 300 soldiers against Col. Robert Youart's Union troops at Beverly. Despite being severely outnumbered, Rosser's men captured the

town in under an hour. Though neither side suffered high casualties, Youart lost 580 Federals as prisoners who were sent to Richmond. It was the last major action in this part of the county.

**Mt. Iser Cemetery.** Marked by the remnants of Union entrenchments from the occupation of Beverly after the Battle of Rich Mountain, the Confederate cemetery



atop Mt. Iser contains the graves of at least 70 persons killed near here during

the Civil War. Calvin Collett donated the land after an 1870 request from Joseph Hart that Confederates buried on his farm be moved to a more suitable location.



## SKIRMISH AT MEDLEY

Eighty Union supply wagons en route for Fort Mulligan at Petersburg, escorted by Union Colonel Joseph Snider and the 4th West Virginia Cavalry, were attacked and all trains captured by the Confederate forces of Brigadier General Thomas Rosser.



The skirmish was part of the larger context of the Civil War, where both sides were engaged in numerous

small-scale battles and skirmishes. The Union's ability to repel a larger Confederate force demonstrated their resilience and tactical capabilities in the region.

This engagement is one of many that characterized the ongoing conflict in 1864, a year marked by significant military actions and campaigns across various theaters of the war.



## NEW YEAR'S IN THE CIVIL WAR

*By Tom Emery*



New Year's Eve and Day mark the traditional end of the holiday season and are celebrated by millions of Americans. But in the Civil War there was little cause for celebration as the calendar changed

from one year to the next.

On the last day of 1862, thousands of Union and Confederate soldiers clashed on the first day of battle at Stones River, Tenn., one of the bloodiest engagements of the western theater. After a successful effort on December 31, southern commander



Braxton Bragg sent a telegraph during a respite on the following day proclaiming "God has granted us a Happy New Year."

Though the Union enjoyed crucial victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in 1863, the

end of that year brought scant pleasure. Near Vicksburg on Jan. 2, 1864, Stephen Rollins of the 95th Illinois Infantry lamented that "my heart sickens at the thought of our once happy country, now wrenched by civil feuds, and weltering in the blood of brothers."

Those on the homefront also struggled for comfort. In North Carolina,



Catherine Edmondson wrote in her diary on Jan. 1, 1863, of New Year's dinner and "a quiet chat over glove knitting." The menu

included "goose, wild ducks (and the)...luxury of a Pudding." With a nod to food shortages, Edmondson added that "a dinner of four courses is...a rarity now-a-days, but New Year must have a face to welcome it."

Edmondson's celebration reflected the Southern cause. "We wound up the old year with all the customary honors, had our Egg Nog, and the attendant good wishes," she wrote as the man of the house wished the servants "Happy New Year, Good Luck, and death to the Yankees."

The press reflected the concerns of the day. Eight months into the conflict, the New York Times declared on Jan. 1, 1862, that "the darkest and gloomiest year in our country's history has passed away." As 1862 drew to a close, the Illinois State Register, in President Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, reported that "not a hearth in the land will be exempt from emotions the most sickening in reviewing this closing year 1862. Its record is blood red."

## CIVIL WAR-ERA DISHES THAT SURVIVED THROUGH TIME

By Adam Garcia



Hardtack was a staple for soldiers during the Civil War. This tough, cracker-like bread was

made with just flour, water, and salt. Its simplicity and long shelf life made it a lifesaver during long marches and sieges.



Johnnycakes, sometimes referred to as cornmeal flatbreads, were a Southern staple during the Civil War. Made from

cornmeal, water, and a pinch of salt, these cakes were simple to prepare and could be cooked over an open fire.



Corn pone was the no-fuss cousin of cornbread. With no milk, eggs, or sugar, it was pure simplicity: cornmeal, water, and lard.

Baked over a fire, it was dense and filling, perfect for survival. Today, corn pone has evolved into sweeter, fluffier versions but still holds its rustic charm in traditional Southern homes.



Hoppin' John, a mix of black-eyed peas, rice, and pork, was an iconic Southern dish during the

Civil War. Simple ingredients, combined for flavor and sustenance, made it an essential meal. It's still a favorite today, particularly

on New Year's Day, where it symbolizes good luck and prosperity.

*"May 2026 be a year of generosity, kindness, and abundance for everyone. Here's to a year filled with meaningful moments!"*

*Unknown*



## LETTERS FROM HOME

In his book, *I Remain Yours: Common Lives in Civil War Letters*, historian Christopher Hager estimates that from 1861 to 1865 "somewhere close to half a billion" letters were sent between the almost three million Civil War soldiers who served and their home front families and friends. Soldiers wrote home for connection and comfort, both emotional and physical. Their missives abound with references to letters and letter writing that shed significant light on their experience as soldiers and their relationships with those at home.

The ink and paper links between the home front and the war's battle fronts and vice versa were strong ones that soldiers and their loved ones usually worked hard to maintain. Time and time again soldiers informed their loved ones back home how much joy came from receiving letters.

The 1st Texas Infantry's Pvt. Henry Waters Berryman expressed his delight in a December 22, 1862, letter to his mother from camp near Fredericksburg: "I received yours of the 22nd of November. We had just come out of line of battle into the woods to camp for the night when it came to hand. You can't imagine how happy we were to hear from home, and on such a critical occasion too. You don't know how it buoyed me up."

Despite the logistics involved in moving such an enormous volume of mail, and the potential hazards that existed between the sender and the receiver, it is a wonder that so much mail successfully found its intended recipients. Additionally, for the most part, the efficiency of both the United States and Confederate States mail systems was impressive for much of the war.



Receiving love and support from home not only came through written words on paper and sealed in envelopes. Sometimes it came packed in a wooden

box filled with supplemental food and clothes. Thousands of care package boxes—going both directions—made their way through the mail and the express services serving the Union and Confederate armies that provided a measure of physical comfort too often unavailable with issued uniforms and rations provided by their respective governments.

As joyful as receiving letters was for soldiers, not receiving them was extremely vexing. Irish Brigade soldier Peter Welsh writing to his wife from near Falmouth in

mid-November 1862, penned. "I feel very uneasy at not hearing from you, the last letter I got was on the 18th of October. I have written three letters to you since and I would have written oftener but I did not have time as we have been marching nearly all the time." Writing again about two weeks later, Welsh, again dismayed, castigated her: "I feel very uneasy about not getting any letters from you. I have not received any letter from you for over a month. We got orders to strike tents and move camp last Saturday."

Maintaining relationships with loved ones on the home front was extremely important to Civil War soldiers. Soldiers and civilians relied primarily on writing letters and sending gifts to maintain important connections.

Overwhelming evidence is found within the pages of multitudes of surviving letters sent back and forth between soldiers and family and friends. These important primary sources clearly prove that the emotional and material support that flowed through the mail was vital toward maintaining soldiers' commitment to their respective causes.

