

May 3, 2016

Upshur County Patriots Camp 2109

Minutes from meeting held April 5, 2016

Members present; Dick Brassell, Eugene Brown, Mark Davis, Phil Davis, Kim Duffey, Jamie Eitson, Rickie Gipson, Larry Harper, Archie Hass, Ronnie Hill, James Jones, Jared Jones, Justin Jones, George Linton, Chris Loyd, Don Loyd, Mack McLendon, Joseph Moss, Milt Ojemon, Bill Palmer, David Palmer, Michael Pepper, James Plumley, Eddie Pricer, Butch Ragland, Thomas Ray, Mathew Roach, Bill Starnes, Larry Bruce Swinney

Guest: Norma Holley, Johnnie Holley, Esther Linton, Wade Cole, TW "Buffalo", Jane Davis, Rex McGee, Billie Johnson, Larry Joe Reynolds, Fred Parsons, Jerry Haymes, Patsy Ojeman, Sam Mercer, Raymond Denton, Jerald Walton, Randy Hill, Lewis Bishop, Keith Wills, John Hanisee

Opening prayer--Chaplain Larry Harper

Pledges to US & Texas flags & salute to the Confederate flag led by Color Sgt Larry Harper

Guest were welcomed by Commander Phil Davis

Norma Holley read a poem written by John Trotwood Moore. The poem was not given a title. It was written about the courage of women, especially Emma Sansom. As a result Emma Sansom was awarded a 600 acre grant, thus the poem has been called "The Poem That Won A Pension" It was published in the July 1897 Confederate Veteran magazine.

Third LTC Bill Starnes introduced the speaker for the evening Fred Parsons who is the president of the Board of New London Texas school museum. Fred spoke on the New London school explosion which occurred on March 18, 1937. Approximately 300 were killed. It has been called the day that a generation died. At the time ^{gas} was used directly from pipelines from the gas well in the area. The natural gas had no odor, thus none at the school had a hint that gas had been building up in the school building. Discussion had been going on in the Texas government not too long before the explosion occurred to have a substance added to the gas in order to give it an odor. Shortly after the explosion the Texas government passed a bill making it mandatory to have an odor added. A new reporter at the time, Walter Cronkite, was on the site shortly after the explosion. Many years later after he had become a very famous reporter ^{Walter Cronkite} spoke on national television about the explosion remembering in ^{detail, 70's} video destruction, death, and the help that came from far and wide. Many, many letters and cards of condolences were sent from around the world to the folks in New London affected by the explosion. A note of condolence from Adolf Hitler was among those sent. Fred encouraged all who have not been to the explosion site and the museum there to do so.

Regular meeting was called to order by Commander Phil Davis

Adjutant Rickie Gipson gave the charge to the sons of confederate veterans

Minutes & financial report were given by Adjutant Gipson & were approved

Old Business

Commander Davis mentioned the upcoming Chautaugua celebration at the Longview Library on April 16, 2016

Minutes continued on next page

Continuation of minutes of regular meeting held April 5, 2016

New Business

New camp members C. C. "Dick" Brassell and James C. Plumley were sworn in

NE Brigade 2nd LTC George Linton gave his report on upcoming events

Esther Linton, OCR, mentioned the Sam Davis Youth Camp

Norma Holley, UDC, announced the UDC meeting Thursday April 7, 2016. Scott Bowden will be speaking on "Spirit Under Fire". There will be refreshments

Johnnie Holley reminded everyone of the Texas Division SCV reunion in Kerrville, Texas June 2nd thru 4th 2016 as well as the National SCV reunion in Dallas, Texas July 13-16, 2016.

OCR will have a silent auction at the Texas reunion

Brigade Commander Sam Mercer thanked everyone who helped with the Camp Ford event. Sam said April was Texas history month and that the John Gregg Camp will be having an event in regard to this at the Gregg museum on April 9, 2016. Sam asked for volunteers

Commander Davis gave the guardian report. Said there now were 501 guardians. Phil said he recently received a guardianship application from 97 year old real ^{GRAND} _{SON} of a confederate veteran

Larry Joe Reynolds commander of the Mt. Pleasant SCV camp displayed their new camp flag which they purchased for \$124.00. Motion & second that our camp purchase a camp flag at the same price. Motion carried

Quartermaster Joseph Moss conducted the door prize drawing. Donations were \$36.00

"Jar donations were \$26.00

Chaplain Larry Harper gave the closing prayer

The meeting was concluded with the singing of "Dixie"

Rickie Gipson Adjutant