



Patriots Periodical

Upshur County Patriots, Camp #2109
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Gilmer, Texas

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Eddie "Spook" Pricer



The New Year is now fully upon us and beckons our energies in fulfilling the Charge. As we undertake a number of initiatives this year, we must remember that several of our members' time is occupied with significant medical issues requiring extensive treatment and lengthy recoveries. We must temporarily occupy their shoes in honoring our ancestors. Our duty to our Compatriots is to consistently keep them in our prayers, provide any other support they may need and continue to move forward as they would. Remember, as we strive to promote the "true history," we march onward lifting up our friends as they cheer us on.

As I mentioned at our January meeting, several committees will be created to ensure that we are successful in achieving Camp goals and thus continue our effort in fulfilling the Charge. The initial committees will deal with recruitment and retention, grave identification and registration, and fund raising. Each of these committees will be charged with creating goals and then planning and coordinating events to achieve their respective goals. Several of our members have already expressed interest in serving on one or more of the committees and I am grateful for their support.

Before anyone panics, I know from my days with the City of Fort Worth, that anytime someone mentioned goals or committees that everyone ran for cover, expecting the worst. Almost without fail, the committees were not the detestable ogres that we feared, but in fact brought in new ideas and resulted in improvements to our service to the citizens. In this case, we will be protecting and defending our ancestors.

If I call upon you to work on a committee, even if you are not quite comfortable with the idea, it's because I or another of your Camp Officers has seen something in your character, your demeanor, and your service that demonstrates to us that you can play a pivotal part in our fulfilling the Charge. The committees are there to ensure that your Camp Officers, and me especially, don't miss an opportunity to protect our heritage. So, if a committee calls upon you to help, it will be no different than other projects, such as parades or memorials. We are just expanding our scope of activities, sometimes into new areas, while strengthening the kinship we have developed with each other in honoring our ancestors.

NEW CAMP OFFICERS

New Officers for Camp 2109 were sworn in at our January Meeting!



Camp Commander Eddie Pricer reads the Oath of Office to New Color Sergeant Kim Duffy and Chaplain Jamie Eitson.

The Guardian

by Phil Davis

As I pondered on what I would write for The Guardian article this month, I kept coming back to how proud I am of the members of our Camp, that have stepped up to the Guardian Program and gone that extra mile in preserving the final resting places of our Confederate Heroes.

As of this writing, the Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109 is presently taking care of 94 Heroes' graves. Of these 94 applications, 41 are Full Guardians, with two wearing Silver Stars for Wilderness Graves. There are presently a total of 341 applications in the Texas Division. Do the maths, our Camp has almost 30% of the applications.

In January, we presented Medals and Certificates to two more of our members, Compatriot Jamie Eitson and Compatriot George Linton. Compatriot Linton also received the Silver Star for his work in locating and reclaiming the Terry Cemetery from the brambles and briars of the Arkansas wilderness (see pictures in this article).

This month I am pleased to announce we will present Medals and Certificates to two more of our members, one of which will receive an Oak Leaf for multiple graves. Also, two more of our members will receive Certificates for completion of the Pro Tem period and become Full Guardians for these Heroes. One will receive the Oak Leaf for multiple graves.

I hope this will be a continuing and regular event for our meetings. I never, ever, get tired of awarding our members, as well as other Texas Division Compatriots with the Guarding Medal. It is an Honorable thing to protect and care for our Confederate Heroes final resting place and I know it is one way we can fulfill the "Charge".

Keep up the good work Patriots and may God bless your endeavors.

As I always say, I believe with all my being in the Guardian Program and I hope that in some small way I can convince you of its importance in fulfilling "The Charge". As always I leave you with this question-



Jamie Eitson Receives his Full Guardian Certificate.



George Linton receives his Full Guardian Certificate.

Are You A Guardian?

If Not Why Not?

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 3rd, at 7:00 p.m.

**Walking S Steakhouse
Hwy 852, Gilmer, Texas**

Speaker for our February Meeting will be Mark Vogl talking about the Confederate Navy.

Saturday, February 7th, at 12:00 Noon

**Mardi Gras Parade
Jefferson, Texas**

Line up at 12:00 Noon, Downtown close to the railroad tracks, Look for our flags. Parade starts at 2:00 PM. Trailer will be provided

Saturday, February 28th, at 10:00 a.m.

**Cemetery Memorial, Shelton-Rankin Cemetery
Cass County, TX**

Muster 10:00 AM and service starts at 11:00 AM. Directions: From Hwy 11 about 10 miles west of Linden and 5 miles east of Hughes Springs, turn north on CR 2921 for 2 miles, turn east on CR 2994 for .6 miles to cemetery sign on left, turn left up lane for less than .1 mile. Lunch will be provided following the memorial. Memorial is sponsored by Joyce Fountain

UPSHURPATRIOTS.ORG

This month the following changes have been made to our web site: <http://www.upshurpatriots.org>

- Thanks to Linda Duffy and Albert Colvin, I have added pictures of our Texas Confederate Hero's Day Celebration in Longview, Texas.
- For those of you who may have missed the News Coverage of the event, I have also added the newscast video from KETK television station.

I only added one ancestor to our Member's Page this month, Pvt. Francis Marion Scott, ancestor for David Palmer. We are still missing quite a few biographies of our ancestors so send yours to me as soon as you can. If you need any type of help in writing the bio. or doing research, also let me know.

If you have any suggestions, recommendations or comments you can send me an email to:

Joe.Reynolds@upshurpatriots.org and I promise to give it my full consideration.

A MAJOR VICTORY IN ARKANSAS FOR FREEDOM OF HERITAGE

On Wednesday, January 28th, 2015, the people of Arkansas witnessed a major victory in the struggle for heritage rights, common sense, and genuine brotherhood.

At the State Capitol in Little Rock, the House State Agencies and Government Affairs Committee rejected a proposal that would have removed Robert E. Lee from the State Holiday which jointly celebrates the lives of General Lee and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

According to news reports, "opponents of the measure packed the committee hearing room." The Arkansas Division of the S.C.V. was prominent in the opposition to this divisive piece of political correctness, and should be congratulated by all for their forthright actions.

John Crain, an attorney from Mountain Home, said that removing General Lee from the holiday would mean that, "my ancestry and my heritage is not worth honoring. I think Martin Luther King, if he were here today standing beside me, would tell you, 'Why can't we celebrate a birthday of two men, one of color and

a white man? Surely we've progressed that far in our race relations'."

This victory for all Americans is surely to confuse and anger the apostles of sanctimonious division and "identity politics". The national media, ever committed to generating heat rather than light, will belittle us once again as racist troglodytes, and "demand a recount".

But if we stand firm, and make our case sincerely, always taking the sensible high road, we will begin to make headway nationally as more people see that the "hate" in this debate is coming from those who wish to eliminate every vestige of our Confederate heritage.

I once had the privilege of spending a few days aboard the U.S.S. Coral Sea, one of our nation's most honored aircraft carriers. I was curious about the old question, "How long does it take to turn an aircraft carrier around?"

The Captain explained that it depended on any number of circumstances; the speed of the ship, the seas and the weather, the preparation of the deck and the readiness of the crew.

"But the simple answer is," he smiled, "that with every crewman working together, it doesn't take as long as you think."

With all of us working together in the concentrated effort to turn around the massive attack against us, it will take time, perhaps years. But it will not take as long as we think. And like the men on that great ship, it is our duty.

Ben Jones
Chief of Heritage Operations

JANUARY MEETING

For those who missed our January meeting you missed a very informative and interesting speech by our own Archie "Otter" Hass on his family and Cherokee connections.



Our Charge...

"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."

*Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander
General,
United Confederate Veterans,*

Our Honored Ancestors

Thomas Troup Swinney Private, Co. A, 13th Battalion Louisiana Partisan Rangers

Thomas Troup Swinney, the second child and second son of Marcus Boren and Dinah (Jackson) Swinney was born December 8, 1826 in Troup County, Georgia and the name of the county provided part of his name.

In 1850 Thomas Troup moved to Chambers, Alabama and on October 15, 1850 married Caroline Frances Day, daughter of Judge Mason and Susan (Hancock) Day. By 1860 Thomas Troup and wife Caroline had five children. In 1861 Thomas and family had moved to Louisiana.

When the war broke out in 1861 Thomas Troup and his brother William Marcus enlisted in the Confederate army on December 25, 1862 in Monroe, Louisiana. Both enlisted as Private's in Co. A, 13th Battalion Louisiana Partisan Rangers.

The 13th Regiment was organized during the spring of 1862 in Monroe, Louisiana. The unit skirmished in Louisiana until the winter of 1863-1864 when it merged into the 3rd Louisiana Cavalry. The 13th continued to fight throughout the war and ended its struggle after their overwhelming victory in the Red River campaign against union forces lead by General Benjamin "the beast" Butler.

During their service the 13th Regiment was alternately added to the 3rd Louisiana Cavalry as well as the 5th Louisiana Cavalry. A comparison of the rosters identifies some of the men as serving in all three unites.

The composite roster of the 13th Battalion contains 980 names.

After the war by 1868, Thomas Troup and wife Caroline moved to North East Texas along with their eleven children and lived in Smith County till their death.

With great Pride and Honor I salute my G-G-Grandfather Private Thomas Troup Swinney for his service in defending our Southland and fought for what he believed in.

Thomas Troup Swinney crossed over to the other side July 12, 1896 and was laid to rest beside his wife Caroline in the Bascom Cemetery, Bascom, Smith County, Texas.

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.

STARNES EXPLORES CIVIL WAR HISTORY OF UPSHUR COUNTY

Taken from the 2000 Gilmer Mirror



BILL STARNES, who spoke to the Gilmer Rotary Club Tuesday, brought with him miniature flags representing all 115 Upshur County soldiers in an Upshur County Civil War Confederate infantry company.

The history of one Upshur County Confederate Army company in the Civil War was described for Gilmer Rotarians Tuesday by Bill Starnes, who is a student of this period and a past commander of the Upshur County Patriots, the area Sons of Confederate Veterans chapter.

Company B, Seventh Infantry, was organized early and, unlike some of the other 14 that included Upshur County men, took part in combat east of the Mississippi River, Starnes pointed out.

According to the 1860 census, he said, Upshur County then had about 7,000 people living in 1,147 households. There were 946 farmers working an average of 50 acres; 60 were in manufacturing (shoes, wagons, etc.) and there were 23 churches.

The enlistees included 13 farmers, two lawyers, one grocer, five laborers, two clerks, one mechanic, one printer, one mason, one “loafer” and 34 who listed no occupation. They proceeded to Marshall, where nine companies were formed by November, 1861.

Starnes said there were problems with disease from the outset, with 27 lost to measles, dysentery and other ailments.

By February, 1862, the company was in position to take part in the important battle of Fort Donelson, Tenn. in which Union forces led by U.S. Grant overran the Confederate forces and took many prisoners, who were sent to the U.S. Camp Douglas at Chicago, Ill., with no winter clothing. Disease struck again and there was reportedly prisoner abuse. Nine more of the Upshur County men died and three went over to the Union side, Starnes said.

Prisoner exchanges made it possible for some to rejoin their Upshur County Company or other units, while some of the older prisoners returned home and stayed.

Starnes went on to describe other battles the Upshur troops took part in, including the Siege of Port Hudson, La. in the summer of 1863, and the battle of Raymond, Miss. in which the Confederate troops were outnumbered by six to one.

More casualties were incurred as the company fought in the Battle of Chickamauga in September, 1863; the Battle of Missionary Ridge; the Battle of Jonesboro, which was the final battle of the Atlanta, Ga. Campaign, and the Battle of Franklin, Tenn. in November, 1863.

Near Franklin, as part of the Army of Tennessee commanded by Gen. John Bell Hood, the company was dug in on a 2-mile open area. The men were so pessimistic that they wrote their names on pieces of paper secured in their pockets so they could be identified in case they were killed, Starnes noted. Seven were killed and seven more taken prisoners in a battle which saw the entire Confederate leadership lost, including five generals.

By late 1864, the soldiers' shoes were worn out and they used cowhide to improvise foot coverings, Starnes pointed out.

After being in the thick of action throughout the war, the Upshur County infantry company saw its last action in the Battle of Bentonville, N.C. fought in March 1865, just days before the Confederate Army surrendered and the war ended in April.

Starnes commented that 90 percent of the company's men did not own slaves. (At that time, Upshur included what are now Gregg and Camp Counties.)

Of the company's roster of 115, records show that at the time of their enlistment, three were as young as 12 to 14 years of age and six were 15 to 16; four were more than 41. Their average age at the time of surrender was 26 1/2 years.

DEFINITION OF A GENTLEMAN

“The forbearing use of power does not only form a touchstone, but the manner in which an individual enjoys certain advantages over others is a test of a true gentleman. The power which the strong have over the weak, the employer over the employed, the educated over the unlettered, the experienced over the confiding, even the clever over the silly — the forbearing or inoffensive use of all this power or authority, or a total abstinence from it when the case admits it, will show the gentleman in a plain light. The gentleman does not needlessly and unnecessarily remind an offender of a wrong he may have committed against him. He cannot only forgive, he can forget; and he strives for that nobleness of self and mildness of character which impart sufficient strength to let the past be but the past. A true man of

honor feels humbled himself when he cannot help humbling others.”

Robert E. Lee

UNIT SPOTLIGHT

SEVENTH TEXAS INFANTRY

On October 2, 1861, at Marshall, Texas, nine infantry companies were organized into a regiment. The driving force behind this organization was John Gregg, a district judge from Fairfield, Texas. Gregg had received a colonel's commission and authority to raise an infantry regiment. The regiment was sent by train to Shreveport and then marched to Memphis, Tennessee. By November 10, 1861, the regiment was at Hopkinsville, Kentucky, where they were mustered into Confederate service as the Seventh Texas Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The lieutenant colonel of the regiment was Jeremiah M. Clough, previously, the district attorney of Harrison County. The major was Hiram Bronson Granbury, formerly a Texas Ranger and chief justice of McLennan County.

The regiment suffered severely due to inclement weather in Hopkinsville, and by mid-February 1862, more than 130 men had died of disease. On February 9, 1862, the Seventh marched to Clarksville, Tennessee, and by February 13, 1862, arrived at Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. Two days of fighting ensued, in which the regiment lost twenty killed and forty wounded. Among the killed was Lieutenant Colonel Clough. On February 16, 1862, the garrison of Fort Donelson surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant, including the balance of the Seventh Texas; however, many of the men escaped and served with

Terry's Texas Rangers or with the Ninth Texas Infantry.

More than 300 officers and men of the Seventh Texas were sent north to prisons, where sixty-five of them died. In September 16, 1862, they were exchanged at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The next few months were spent at Port Hudson, where the regiment was stationed. The Seventh Texas was so reduced in numbers that it was consolidated with the Forty-ninth and Fifty-fifth Tennessee regiments, which had also been captured at Fort Donelson.

Colonel Gregg was promoted to brigadier general effective August 29, 1862. Major Granbury was promoted to colonel. William L. Moody, a merchant from Fairfield, was promoted to lieutenant colonel, and Khleber M. Van Zandt, a young lawyer from Marshall, was promoted to major.

The regiment received enough recruits in January and February 1863 to regain its own regimental status and was placed in Brigadier General Gregg's brigade, which also contained the Third, Tenth, Thirtieth, Forty-first and Fiftieth Tennessee regiments; the First Tennessee Battalion; and Bledsoe's Missouri Battery. On May 12, 1863, the brigade was sent to Raymond, Mississippi, where the Seventh Texas lost 22 killed, 66 wounded, and 70 captured, out of a total strength of 305, for a loss of over 50 percent. Gregg's brigade had fought so well, the Federal commander believed he had been attacked by a division.

In July 1863 the brigade was sent to Jackson, Mississippi. Here, Lieutenant Colonel Moody was severely wounded and disabled for further field service. Afterwards, the brigade was sent to north Georgia, where on September 19–20, 1863, the great battle of Chickamauga was fought in which the Seventh Texas lost 8 killed, 78 wounded, and one man captured, out of 177 engaged. The Seventh

participated in the final charge that drove the Union Army from the field into siege at Chattanooga.

Colonel Gregg was severely wounded at Chickamauga but, in a strange twist of fate, was rescued by members of Hood's Texas Brigade. After recovering from his wound, Gregg was called upon to command the famous brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia. General Gregg was killed in battle on the Darbytown Road near Richmond in October 1864.

After Chickamauga, the Seventh Texas was placed in the brigade of James A. Smith, of Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne's division, which contained the Sixth and Tenth Texas Infantry, and the Fifteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Twenty-fourth, and Twenty-fifth Texas Cavalry regiments, dismounted. The Seventh would remain in this organization to the war's end.

On November 25–26, 1863, the battle of Missionary Ridge was fought. There, the Seventh Texas helped defend the Confederate right. General Smith and his second-in-command were both wounded, elevating Colonel Granbury to brigade command. After Bragg's center and left collapsed, the army retreated. Cleburne's men occupied the post of honor, the rear guard. On November 27, 1863, Cleburne won additional glory at the battle of Ringgold Gap. For their action in the campaign, Cleburne's Division won the thanks of the Confederate Congress. In addition, on February 29, 1864, Colonel Granbury was promoted to brigadier general and command of the brigade.

Beginning about May 14, 1864, the Army of Tennessee opposed Sherman's advance on Atlanta. Fighting for over 100 days, the Seventh Texas gained new glory at places like Pickett's Mill, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jonesboro, and Lovejoy's Station. During the campaign, the Seventh Texas lost

seventeen killed, seventy-six wounded, and seven men captured or missing.

On November 30, 1864, the Seventh fought at Franklin, Tennessee. Charging, without the benefit of artillery, entrenched Federal positions, the Seventh was basically finished as an effective fighting force, losing at least eighteen killed, twenty-five wounded, and twenty-two captured. Brigadier General Granbury and Major General Cleburne were among the killed. The commander of the Seventh Texas, John William Brown, was captured, and at the end of the day Capt. Edward Thomas Broughton of the Seventh Texas commanded the brigade.

The Confederates pursued the Federal army to the environs of Nashville, where on December 15–16, 1864, two days of battle ensued. The Seventh Texas and the rest of the brigade fought well but were forced back and driven from the field, with the rest of the army, to Franklin. Two officers were wounded, and at least twenty-three members of the Seventh Texas, mostly wounded or sick men left at Franklin, were captured after the battle.

After crossing the Tennessee River, the army's men received furloughs. At least one-fourth of the Seventh Texas was furloughed. The regiment accompanied the Army of Tennessee into the Carolinas, where on April 26, 1865, they surrendered to Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman. The Seventh Texas had two surgeons, six officers, and only fifty-seven men—a mere fraction of those who had served in the regiment.

After the war, many of the men of the Seventh Texas distinguished themselves as business and civic leaders, particularly, William L. Moody and K.M. Van Zandt. The people of Texas memorialized John Gregg, as Gregg County in East Texas is named in his honor. Granbury in Hood County is named in honor Gen. Hiram B. Granbury.

The last known survivor of the Seventh Texas was Charles W. Trice, of Company A. Trice, who had lost an arm at Kennesaw Mountain, died in Lexington, North Carolina, on December 1, 1936.

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Tim Bell

CLERGYMEN "FOUGHT LIKE HELL"

Because Federal conscription laws provided for employment of substitutes and payment of commutation fees, only about 6 percent of men drafted actually went into uniform. Also, requiring the clergy to fight remained a vexatious issue throughout the war. Governor A. G. Curtin of Pennsylvania wrestled with the issue in September 1864. About the same time, Bishop William H. De Lancey of New York asked Secretary of War William H. Stanton for a ruling. They learned that under a congressional act, "The clergy stand in the same position as members of other pursuits and professions." However, provost Marshal General James B. Fry offered to "entertain the question of detailing them for charitable and benevolent duties."

Wearers of the cloth fared differently in the Confederacy. A congressional act "to exempt certain persons from military duty" applied to "every minister of religion authorized to preach according to

the rules of his sect." Some of the many other vocations to which conscription laws did not apply included: postmasters, members of state legislatures, merchant marine pilots, tanners, blacksmiths, wagon makers, millers, millwrights, and shoemakers.

In a special ruling made on November 6, 1861, Jefferson Davis said "necessities of the public defense" caused him to refuse to authorize the discharge from the army "young men who are candidates for the ministry."

Milton L. Haney was one of many Northern clergymen who went to war as a chaplain. During the July 22, 1864, battle of Atlanta; however, he relinquished his role as spiritual mentor of the Fifty-fifth Illinois Regiment. When another Federal unit withdrew from the field, leaving a gaping hole in the line, Haney took command of about fifty soldiers and stopped a potentially dangerous counter-attack. Once the crisis was over, he resumed the normal duties of a chaplain and was awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor for his battlefield heroism.

Episcopal priest William N, Pendleton exchanged his robe for a gray uniform and at age fifty-one became a captain in the Rockbridge Artillery. Quickly promoted, he became chief of artillery on the staff of Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. Inordinately proud of four 6-pounder brass smoothbore cannon, he said they "spoke a powerful language." Hence he named them Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

On March 26, 1862, the priest-gunner became a brigadier general and was placed in charge of Robert E. Lee's artillery. Once the shooting stopped, Pendleton returned to Grace Church in Lexington, Virginia, where Robert E. Lee was briefly a member of the vestry.

Without relinquishing his title as bishop of Louisiana, Leonidas Polk became a Confederate lieutenant general. His military career, launched one

grade lower, started on June 25, 1861. He fought at Columbus, Kentucky, and at Shiloh before winning a promotion just in time to be second in command to Gen. Braxton Bragg at Perryville. After having fought at Stones River and Murfreesboro, he quarreled with Bragg, who tried to send him before a court-martial.

(Continued next Month)

Camp Leadership Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109

Commander

Eddie Pricer
(903) 762-6395
spooky1522@etex.net

1Lt. Commander

Phil Davis
(903) 790-7137
userphil97@aol.com

2Lt. Commander

Don Loyd
(903) 797-6922
donloyd@etex.net

Adjutant

Rickie Gipson
(903) 762-2471
grassburacres@yahoo.com

Editor

Jamie Eitson
(903) 592-4110
jeitson@aol.com

Web Master / Associate Editor

Joe Reynolds
(903) 717-8608
Joe.Reynolds@upshurpatriots.org