



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
www.upshurpatriots.org

FEBRUARY 2023



WELCOMINE TO A NEW
MONTH

The beginning of a new month is another chance given to us in order to revive the state of happiness between you and your family and friends. Dare to be different this month. Dare to stand out. Dare to be the one with a voice. It is a new month with new adventures and unquantifiable opportunities.

Be the man that said, "it worked out, eventually." Not the man that gave up eventually. Enjoy the rest of the month.

Happy new month wishes from us! May these days not go to waste, make every second count, and don't let anyone make you negative or unhappy.

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THE GUARDIAN

Preventing Cemetery Vandalism

Texas Historical Commission



Be proactive! Anticipate days when trouble is likely to occur, such as Halloween or other evenings when community celebrations take place.

Partner with people in the community.

Create a Cemetery Watch group for cemetery protection that includes County Historical Commission appointees, local law enforcement, neighbors of the cemetery, and individuals who are interested in protecting the community's historic cemeteries.

Develop a cemetery protection plan.

The plan should include contact names and phone numbers for the Cemetery Watch group, area law enforcement contacts, instructions on what to do when vandalism or suspicious activity occurs, and any other information that the Cemetery Watch group members need to know.

Maintain the cemetery.

You can discourage unwanted visitors simply by picking up trash, clearing fallen branches, and

trimming grass and trees. Good maintenance can prevent vandalism because it signals that someone is actively caring for the cemetery.

If you are interested in sponsoring an SCV Grave Marker, the Sons of Confederate Veterans Guardian Program helps to ensure preservation of a Soldiers final resting place.

"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	31
Kim Duffey	Full	3
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	51
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	40
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Tommy Ray	Full/GPT	19
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2
Gregg Gipe	GPT	3

W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem



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.



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.”

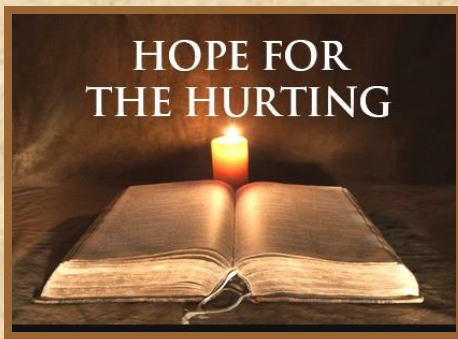


“Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.”

The Second Amendment guarantees Americans the fundamental right “to keep and bear arms”. The Supreme Court correctly interpreted this guarantee as an individual right as opposed to a collective right enjoyed only by colonial militias.



Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander
United Confederate Veterans
New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906



HOPE FOR
THE HURTING

STRENGTH IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Faith is a fundamental part of life in the South. Leaning on faith in difficult situations can help us overcome even the most trying and challenging times that we will face during our life. However, often things don't go according to plan, and we can be left feeling hopeless, broken, and desperate.

You may be finding yourself in a situation where you don't know how to carry on. Whether you are physical, financial, or emotionally weary, you can feel trapped and overwhelmed. It is in these difficult times that we were meant to trust in God and call upon Him for strength.

You may feel at a loss for words and not know how to pray for strength in the midst of so much frustration, heartache, and difficulty in the past year. Yet, we know that we have a God who can give us strength, in good times and hard. When you ask God for help, He promises to answer.

Psalm 50:15 Cry out to me whenever you are in trouble; I will deliver you, then you will honor me."

Psalm 73:26 "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."



HISTORICAL DATES IN FEBRUARY



1861

February 1-Texas declares it has seceded from the Union, joining a chorus of southern states in defiance of the north.

1862

February 6-Union Flag Officer Foote leads his gunboat flotilla against Fort Henry. The action takes place from 11:00AM until about 1:55PM. Fort Henry, in Tennessee, falls to forces under the combine efforts of land and naval forces under the direction of General Grant.

February 8-The Union Navy is victorious over Confederate forces at Roanoke Island in North Carolina.

February 13-Without order from General Grant, both General McClelland and General Smith launch unsuccessful attacks against Fort Donelson.

February 16-Union General Grant is victorious at Fort Donelson along the Tennessee River in Tennessee. 14,000 prisoners are taken after the General demands an "unconditional and immediate surrender" of the enemy.

February 20-The Battle of Valverde begins pitting 3,000 union troops against 2,590 confederates in New Mexico Territory. Confederate General Henry Hopkins Sibley leads with General Thomas Green against Edward Canby. They are supported by Texas cavalry as well as land militia forces. The result is a Confederate victory.

1863

February 14-After running aground in the Black River (Louisiana), USS Queen of the West is taken by Confederate forces.

February 24-The USS Indianola is grounded by Confederate warships and taken over. The action takes place near Warrenton in Mississippi.

1864

February 2-The USS Underwriter is claimed and destroyed by Confederate warships in the Neuse River (North Carolina).

February 3-Union General Sherman begins the Meridian Campaign, the taking of Meridian, Mississippi.

February 7-Jacksonville, Florida is the target of a Union force led by General Truman February 11-made up of black soldiers. The city is taken.

February 20-The Battle of Olustee (Florida) is had. 5,500 Union troops face 5,000 Confederates. The battle is a Confederate victory with 1,861 Union wounded to the South's 946. Commanding officers are Truman Seymour (Union) and Joseph Finnegan (Confederate).

February 22-The Battle of Olustee (Florida) is had. 5,500 Union troops face 5,000 Confederates. The battle is a Confederate victory with 1,861 Union wounded to the South's 946. Commanding officers are Truman Seymour (Union) and Joseph Finnegan (Confederate).

1865

February 5-The Battle of Hatcher's Run begins in Dinwiddle County, Virginia. A 34,517 strong Union force faces a 13,835 strong Confederate army. Union forces are headed by General Andrew Hunmphreys

and General Gouverneur Warren.

Confederate forces are directed by John B. Gordon.

February 11-The Battle of Wilmington (North Carolina) begins between 12,000 Union and 6,000 Confederate troops. Generals Schofield and Porter lead the Union against General Bragg of the Confederacy. Fighting would last until February 22nd.

February 21-The Battle of Douglas Landing takes place in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. It is a Confederate victory.



TEXAS SECESSION

texasproud.com

On February 1, 1861 Texas formally seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy.

"Texas abandoned her separate national existence and consented to become one of the Confederate States to promote her welfare, insure domestic tranquillity and secure more substantially the blessings of peace and liberty to her people. She was received into the confederacy with her own constitution under the guarantee of the federal constitution and the compact of annexation, that she should enjoy these blessings. The Federal Government, while but partially under the control of these our

unnatural and sectional enemies, has for years almost entirely failed to protect the lives and property of the people of Texas against the Indian savages on our border, and more recently against the murderous forays of banditti from the neighboring territory of Mexico; and when our State government has expended large amounts for such purpose, the Federal Government has refused reimbursement therefor, thus rendering our condition more insecure and harassing than it was during the existence of the Republic of Texas”.

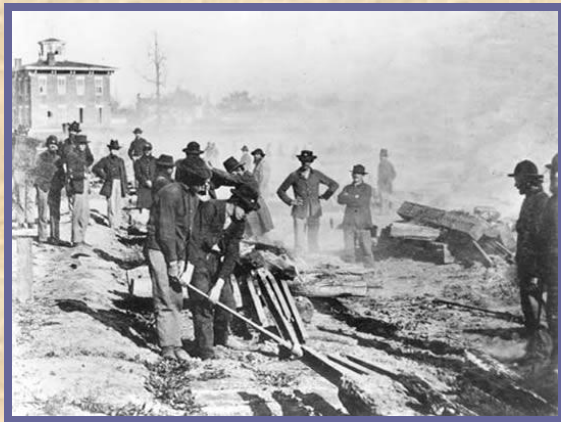
“Not a tent will be carried, from the commander-in-chief down.”



Oposing General Sherman, was Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk, commanding the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, had fewer than 10,000 Confederate troops under his command, including about 3,000 stationed at Meridian, commanded by Major General Samuel G. French. The rest were scattered around the state.

Faced with Sherman’s overwhelming numbers, Polk ordered the evacuation of Meridian, and the Yankees occupied the railroad hub on February 14, 1864. Still awaiting Sooy Smith’s cavalry, Sherman spent the next five days wreaking havoc on the town and adjacent areas. Deploying his men in four directions, Sherman ordered them to “do the enemy as much damage as possible.”

Women’s lives in the Confederacy were dramatically changed right from the breakout of war in April 1861. The very notion of womanhood underwent a transformation, as men were called up to fight in the army, and women from the upper-class were forced to look after plantations, women from the middle-class were forced to flee their homes and seek refuge, and women of the lower-class and widows gained social standing as a result. There was no growing suffrage movement as there was in World War One (WWI), it was the first time such an event had occurred



MERIDIAN CAMPAIGN

americanhistorycentral.com

On February 3, 1864, Major General James B. McPherson and his 17th Army Corps and Major General Stephen A. Hurlbut and his 16th Army Corps departed from Vicksburg in two columns under Gen. Sherman’s command. Roughly 5,000 cavalry



troopers and artillerymen accompanied Sherman’s 20,000 infantrymen. Believing that the success of the campaign hinged upon speed, General Sherman instructed his men to travel light. He ordered that



THE BATTLE OF DOUGLAS LANDING

mycivilwar.com

On the morning of February 21, 1865 Capt. Gurney W. Davis led a detachment of 50 men of the 13th Illinois Cavalry from Pine Bluff down the Arkansas River to Douglas Landing. While there, Davis learned that Confederates had been seen down the river about 3 miles and were expected to move on the landing to burn cotton to prevent it from being captured by Union troops.

With the rain too heavy to allow him to move out, he doubled his pickets and decided to wait out the storm. The Confederates, however, moved first and about 1:00 A.M., attacked his outposts on both sides, then sent a volley directly into the main body of his small command, huddled for protection under a shed. The Federals returned fire, holding the Confederates long enough to get their horses out into line. Davis mounted his command, cared for his casualties and ordered his men to retire. They returned to Pine Bluff that night after encountering several other roaming parties of Confederate cavalry.

Davis had been both scouting and foraging but returned without the cattle he sought and with little information other than that small parties of Federals like his were in constant danger in the Arkansas outback. The identity of the Confederates who



attacked him was uncertain, though he believed their leader to be the notorious Col. John B. Clark, Jr., one of scores of partisan and raider leaders who constantly tormented the Federals in Arkansas and throughout the Trans-Mississippi. These leaders were largely responsible for making it almost impossible for Pres. Lincoln to effectively take and hold the western Confederacy.



TEXAS CONSCRIPTION

Texas.gov

The lesson of Shiloh was that the war was going to be long and costly. Within days, the Confederate Congress passed a conscription act, drafting men between the ages of 18 and 35 into service. Eventually it encompassed men from ages 17 to 50.

Conscription met with immediate loathing in Texas. Slaveholders with more than 20 slaves were exempt, meaning that some of the richest counties in Texas contributed the fewest men to the fighting. The burden fell heaviest on small farmers, whose families were often left indigent when the men departed. On the frontier, the draft meant that settlements were left

defenseless against Indian attack. Texas created the Frontier Organization to shelter at least 25% of able-bodied men from frontier counties from the draft.

The Confederate draft exempted government officials, railroad workers, clergymen, and schoolteachers from service. Governor Francis Lubbock was flooded with petitions from communities seeking exemptions from the draft for other men who provided critical services such as blacksmiths, doctors, and shoemakers.



ENCOUNTERS WITH NATURE (IN THEIR OWN WORDS)

battlefields.org



Between camping, marching and battle, Civil War soldiers had plenty of contact with the natural world. Civil War rations were modest and monotonous; at

worst, they were scarce. Soldiers would go to great lengths to supplement their diets, sometimes with harrowing and/or comical results.

“There was a persimmon tree loaded with rich fruit about 4 rods in front of the line. Its fruit had often been coveted by our men. I concluded to go & get some. I was busily knocking them off with a pole when a rascal fired at me, the ball striking abt 20 feet short & a little to one side. I grabbed up my

hands full of persimmons & made no unnecessary delay in returning inside the lines to my proper place.” **Lieutenant John P. Sheffey, 8th Virginia Cavalry**

“A huge old mosquito with claws like a ground hog and a bill half as long as a sergeant’s sword was seated on my shoulder trying to run his bill through my neck and pin me to the ground—fortunately it had lodged against my backbone and before he could make another trial the sentinel came to my relief at a ‘charge bayonets’—when ‘old skeeter’ flew off saying he ‘would be happy to repeat the call.” **Lieutenant John G. Earnest, 79th Tennessee Infantry**

“The country is not so bad after all as I was at first led to believe. There are not so many snakes or other infernal machines as was represented. The alligators eat some soldiers but if the soldiers would keep out of the river they would not be eaten.” **Captain Charles B. Haydon, 2nd Michigan Infantry**





THE UNION MINDSET

By Keith Preston

While being perhaps the most famous war in America History, the Civil War is one of the most misunderstood conflicts in all of history. Specifically, the view of the Union is that they were virtuous heroes who fought to free enslaved men. This could not be farther from the truth; the Civil War was fought to preserve the union.

When the war did not end as soon as predicted, Lincoln changed the military strategy to abandon all international law and the Union's own military code to wage war on Southern citizens. Having been taught at West Point, it is almost certain

that both Lincoln and the men who lead the Union army knew that they were committing war crimes. Before Sherman's March, the Union had already committed systematic bombardments of several southern cities. These included cities such as; Vicksburg, Mississippi where the army would destroy farms in order to induce the destruction of the Southern economy; Jackson, Mississippi, where the city and surrounding plantations were sacked and citizens were held at gunpoint by Union soldiers; and Randolph, Tennessee, where the city was burned because of Sherman's anger at not being able to gather Confederate prisoners of war.

Lincoln is not the man who fought for the rights of Americans like we were taught he was in government schools. Rather, Lincoln is the father of the barbaric war tactics of which the most totalitarian states and their militaries have favored.

Mary Stickley of the Shenandoah Valley, commented after the war about her families struggles, "Yankees were here in '62. They broke into our granary and smokehouse in the night, and the doors were all open in the morning when our folks were astir. Besides, they destroyed the bolting cloths in the flouring mill. One army or the other got all of our horses, and we couldn't use our sawmill anymore because we had no teams to draw logs. We couldn't keep anything that was good, and we were having a hard time. We planted our garden every year, but we never knew who'd gather what we raised in it."

OBSERVATIONS ON AGING



Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me! My theory on aging is that I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way and many of the roads weren't paved.

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper.

Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, remember Algebra.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is better than being young.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, martini in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"

I live in my own little world. But it's okay --- they know me here.

Upcoming Events may be found on the Calendar at: www.upshurpatriots.org



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

The Patriot's Periodical is a multi-award winning Publication by a Camp in the Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Comments or suggestions should be made to: David Palmer, 1st Lt. Commander/Editor
david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org



We are proud to be associated with the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

