



**PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL**  
**UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS CAMP #2109**  
**SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS**  
**GILMER, TEXAS**

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Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of  
Each Month at 7 PM  
at the Historic Upshur Museum  
[www.upshurpatriots.org](http://www.upshurpatriots.org)

**FEBRUARY 2024**

**CONFEDERATE HEROES**  
**DAY**



In Texas, Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthday (January 19) was made a state holiday in 1931. In 1973, "Lee Day" was renamed

"Confederate Heroes Day", consolidating it with a holiday celebrating Jefferson Davis.



On Saturday January 20, 2024, the Upshur County Patriots #2109

and Gen. John Gregg Camp #958 celebrated this day at the Little Mound Cemetery and Church in Upshur County Texas. Also, present were Captain Randal Yauch and members of Mechanized Cavalry 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Co. C and the Walker Texas



Rangers Camp. The Cemetery is the final resting place for Emma Samsom, noted for her actions

during the American Civil War, when she assisted Confederate Army General Nathan Bedford Forrest. There are 12 Confederate Soldiers buried here.

**CAMP LEADERSHIP**  
**UPSHUR COUNTY**  
**PATRIOTS CAMP #2109**

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## THE GUARDIAN

Winter weather over time can take a toll on a monument, whether they are made of granite, bronze or other materials. All the dust and debris resting on the monument sticks to the stone due to the moisture in the atmosphere. Sometimes, this makes it look like the monument is fading and the lettering is ageing. Cold temperatures, snow, and rain are just a few harsh winter conditions that monuments undergo.

It would seem like using a sealant would be a good idea to protect the monument from the winter weather, but these could do more harm than good. Sealants lock in the minerals and moisture inside the stone, preventing it from breathing. Studies show that this affects the structural integrity of any rock and causes it to deteriorate faster.

Join the SCV Guardian Program and give proper recognition to the brave ancestors that gave their lives to protect the South.

***"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>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



## RECRUITMENT

Step one in recruiting is to make sure potential members know who you are. Whatever events you hold or recruitment tactics you put in place, it won't work if they don't already recognize your organization or name.

Encourage members to bring a guest/friend to a meeting or event. Hosting events is a great way to increase membership recruitment and retention. Events can be for existing or potential members—a free, open event will allow potential members to see what your organization is about and decide if it's something they're interested in.

## 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.



**REST IN PEACE  
COMPATRIOT  
LELAND DAVIS  
AUGUST 1, 1964-  
DECEMBER 31, 2023**



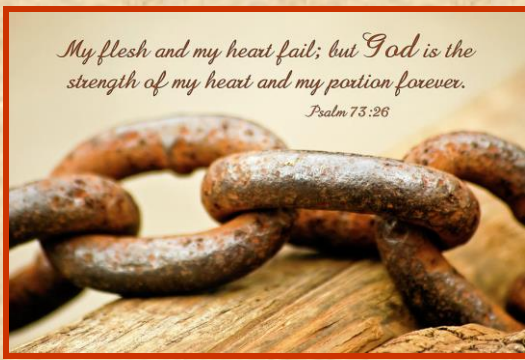
## CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

“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.



## GOD'S STRENGTH

[www.ibelieve.com](http://www.ibelieve.com)

**Isaiah 41:10** *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

There is a big difference between God's strength and human strength, and you will never make it by depending on human strength alone. The Lord is the one who will stand with us and strengthen us as we carry His Gospel to the whole world, so we must depend on His strength.

God's strength is part of God's character, illustrated in His acts towards us and directly through his promises. God's strength, unlike ours, has the power to consistently strengthen us as it is part of our relationship with Him. Even while we are weak. God sympathizes with our weakness and even asks that we place our burdens on Him as He goes with us through this journey called life because He has the ability to sustain us. God's strength is our inheritance, in that through Him we are born again creatures and death has no power. His Word highlights the many facets of his character, including His strength. This strength is available to us if we accept what He offers us.

## HISTORICAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY



### 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.

### 1862

**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.

### 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.

**February 29** - George Custer's cavalry fights skirmishes during a raid on Albermarle County, Virginia.



## CONFEDERATE COUNTERATTACK AT FORT DONELSON

*battlefields.org*



Early in the war, Union commanders realized that control of the major rivers would be the key to success in the Western Theater. After capturing

Fort Henry on the Tennessee River on February 6, 1862, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant advanced 12 miles to invest Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. Operations against Donelson were part of an amphibious campaign launched in early 1862 to push the Confederates out of middle and western Tennessee, thereby opening a path into the Southern heartland.

### **February 15, 1862**

Early in the morning, the Confederate assault strikes the Union right and drives it back from its positions on Dudley's Hill. Brigadier General John McClelland's division attempts to reform its lines, but the ongoing Rebel attacks continue to drive his forces to the southeast. The Union army retreats, but inexplicably, Confederate Brig. Gen. Gideon Pillow orders the attacking Rebel force back to their earthworks, causing them to abandon the hard-fought gains of the morning.

Seizing an opportunity, Grant orders McClelland and Brig. Gen. Lew Wallace to retake their lost ground and then rides to the Union left to order an attack upon the Confederate works opposite Brig. Gen. Charles F. Smith's division. Grant reasons, correctly, that the Confederate right must be greatly reduced in strength given the heavy assault from the Confederate left. Smith's division surges forward and overwhelms the lone Confederate regiment occupying the rifle pits in advance of the Confederate line.

**February 12, 1863, in West Indies** - On February 12, in the West Indies, the CSS Florida captured the USS Jacob Bell. The

Confederates found that the Jacob Bell contained more than \$2,000,000 worth of cargo. After unloading the Union cargo, the Confederates proceeded to destroy the Union ship.

**February 14, 1863, on the Red River, Louisiana** - On February 14, the USS Queen of the West was travelling along the Red River. It engaged the Confederate shore batteries when it was hit and ran ashore. The ship had its steam pipe severed. The crew managed to escape by floating on cotton bales and was picked up by the ship USS-Desoto. The Confederate soldiers went to the ship and captured it. They would soon repair the boat and make it into a Confederate ship.

**February 26, 1863, in Woodburn, Tennessee** - On February 26, a group of Confederate guerrillas halted a well-equipped 240-mule Union freight train. After stopping the train, the Confederates captured and burned the entire train.



## **ENGAGEMENT AT OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI**

*battlefields.org*

Meridian, Mississippi, near the Alabama border 130 miles east of Vicksburg, was an important Confederate railroad center and military facility. Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman set out for the town from Vicksburg in early February 1864, with 20,000 men. Hoping to augment his force with cavalry, Sherman ordered the 7,000 troopers of Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith to move from south from Memphis February 1st and meet him at Meridian. Smith inexplicably delayed his march for ten days. When he eventually left, he encountered Confederate cavalry outposts on February 18th, 20th and 21st, and on February 22nd became engaged in a running battle with Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry in and around the village of Okolona, halfway to Meridian. Dismounted and behind barricades, the Union cavalrymen were hit hard in front and on the flanks by Forrest's men. Withdrawing to high ground, Smith reformed his troopers. During the fighting there, Forrest's younger brother Jeffrey was killed. With Confederate reinforcements, Forrest routed Smith and chased the fleeing Yankees eleven miles, eventually running out of ammunition. Smith continued his retreat

and limped back over the state line to Tennessee on February 26th. Sherman burned much of Meridian to the ground and criticized Smith for putting the expedition in danger.



## COL. JOHN BURKE

On January 7, 2024, a Monument was dedicated to Col. John Burke at the Oakwood Cemetery in Jefferson, Texas. The event was organized by the W.W. Heartsill Camp #314.



Col. Burke, after the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted as a private in Company E, First Texas Infantry, Hood's Texas Brigade.

Burke's most daring adventure came after he was apprehended in Philadelphia for spying. He was placed under guard, in irons and handcuffs. As the train he was being transported on crossed a high trestle, he jumped into the river and made his way back to Lee.



Ancestors of Col. Burke Unveiling his Headstone



## UPSHUR COUNTY RAILROAD



The first railroad in the county was the main line of the Texas & Pacific, which was extended west from Longview beginning about 1871, and passes through the southwestern portion of the county, its first station being Big Sandy. About the same time the old Tyler Tap Railway, a narrow-gauge line, was built north from Tyler across the Sabine River into Upshur County to a connection with the Texas & Pacific, and a few years later was extended north to Mount Pleasant, reaching the latter place in 1878. This is now a part of the St. Louis Southwestern System. During the decade of the '90s the old Texas Southern, now the Marshall & East Texas, a portion of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas System, was constructed centrally through the county, giving Gilmer a station at the junction of two roads. The original railways did much to stimulate the lumber industry in the county, and later have promoted development along other lines.

***“The Constitution shall never be construed to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.” – Samuel Adams, Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, 1788***

## TEXAS DEFENDING ITSELF



Governor Gregg Abbott has declared an “invasion” of Texas’ borders,

invoking the state’s “constitutional authority to defend and protect itself” – in essence the right to wage war when invaded.



Legal experts have called it “a constitutional crisis in the making”, but half of America’s governors have

sided with Mr. Abbott in the standoff with the federal government. “We do it in part because the Biden administration is refusing to enforce immigration laws already on the books and is illegally allowing mass parole across America of migrants who entered our country illegally,” the 25 GOP governors said in a joint statement. Many have also pledged to provide Texas with additional resources, with South Dakota’s governor Kristi Noem and Ohio’s governor Mike DeWine offering up their states’ national guard troops.

Under an initiative named “Operation Lone Star”, Mr. Abbott has deployed the Texas department of public safety, Texas National Guard troops and other personnel to enforce the border.



## GOVERNOR'S LETTER

GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 24, 2024

The federal government has broken the compact between the United States and the States. The Executive Branch of the United States has a constitutional duty to enforce federal laws protecting States, including immigration laws on the books right now. President Biden has refused to enforce those laws and has even violated them. The result is that he has smashed records for illegal immigration. Despite having been put on notice in a series of letters—one of which I delivered to him by hand—President Biden has ignored Texas's demand that he perform his constitutional duties.

- President Biden has violated his oath to faithfully execute immigration laws enacted by Congress.

Instead of prosecuting immigrants for the federal crime of illegal entry, President Biden has sent his lawyers into federal courts to sue Texas for taking action to secure the border.

- President Biden has instructed his agencies to ignore federal statutes that mandate the detention of illegal immigrants. The effect is to illegally allow their en masse parole into the United States.

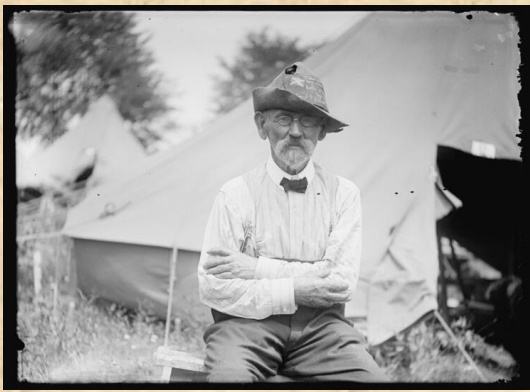
- By wasting taxpayer dollars to tear open Texas's border security infrastructure, President Biden has enticed illegal immigrants away from the 28 legal entry points along this State's southern border—bridges where nobody drowns—and into the dangerous waters of the Rio Grande.

Under President Biden's lawless border policies, more than 6 million illegal immigrants have crossed our southern border in just 3 years. That is more than the population of 33 different States in this country. This illegal refusal to protect the States has inflicted unprecedented harm on the People all across the United States.

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and the other visionaries who wrote the U.S. Constitution foresaw that States should not be left to the mercy of a lawless president who does nothing to stop external threats like cartels smuggling millions of illegal immigrants across the border. That is why the Framers included both Article IV, § 4, which promises that the federal government "shall protect each [State] against invasion," and Article I, § 10, Clause 3, which acknowledges "the States' sovereign interest in protecting their borders." *Arizona v. United States*, 567 U.S. 387, 419 (2012) (Scalia, J., dissenting).

The failure of the Biden Administration to fulfill the duties imposed by Article IV, § 4 has triggered Article I, § 10, Clause 3, which reserves to this State the right of self-defense. For these reasons, I have already declared an invasion under Article I, § 10, Clause 3 to invoke Texas's constitutional authority to defend and protect itself. That authority is the supreme law of the land and supersedes any federal statutes to the contrary. The Texas National Guard, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and other Texas personnel are acting on that authority, as well as state law, to secure the Texas border.

Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas



C.S.A. Veteran, Sgt. T. J. Duckett, Co. I. 3rd S.C.V., wearing hat with bullet holes received in the Battle of Chickamauga Sept. 20, 1863.

“Born in 1842 in Lauren District, South Carolina, went off to war April 14, 1861. A veteran of two years’ worth of battles and campaigns, from the bitter Seven Days through Gettysburg. Sgt. Duckett had served through all of them until that September when he was seriously injured in the Battle of Chickamauga. Captured at Bentonville, North Carolina, in March 1865, Duckett was imprisoned at Johnson’s Island during the final days of the war. He returned home to Laurens that summer, having survived the war and many close calls. He lived long enough to see old enemies come together as comrades at Gettysburg in 1913.”



Upcoming Events may be found on the Calendar at: [www.upshurpatriots.org](http://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](mailto:david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org)



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

