



# PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL

UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS CAMP #2109  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS  
GILMER, TEXAS

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FEBRUARY 2022

MEETINGS ARE  
HELD THE 1<sup>ST</sup>  
TUESDAY OF EACH  
MONTH 7 PM

[www.upshurpatriots.org](http://www.upshurpatriots.org)



The members of the Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109 welcome you to our Newsletter. Our camp is dedicated to preserving the true history of the South. If you have an interest in honoring your ancestor and/or learning more about the War Between the States, we invite you to consider membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The Sons of the Confederate Veterans is open to any male descendent of a confederate veteran regardless of race, creed, color, or religious preference. If you are uncertain as to your ancestor's service, we will try to assist you.

If you are looking for a hate group, look elsewhere! We only want those who Love the South, its traditions, its culture, and its People. If the Sons of Confederate Veterans sounds like an organization you would like to join, please contact one of our officers.

## SOUTHERN HERITAGE

*abbevilleinstitute.org*

Throughout the South, our Confederate Southern heritage is under attack. Demographics are against us. We have millions of people living here who don't have Southern roots nor seek to acquire any. Progressive intolerance is shown for everything that's part of the old Southern Heritage since, according to the American Left; we're "hateful, racist, sexist & homophobic".

Due to the political correctness and de-Southernification cultural programs going on throughout the South, this cultural deracination will continue to advance. One of the first things that totalitarian governments do upon seizing power is to eliminate history, installing their own fictions upon new generation and those to follow.

Let us pray hard To God, not only for our own redemption (the Confederate South was deeply Christian), but also for that of those who hate our culture and heritage.

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**PATRIOTS CAMP #2109**

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**Meetings of the Upshur County Patriots  
are held on the first Tuesday, 7 PM at the  
Historic Upshur Museum**



**THE GUARDIAN**

According to the Texas Historical Commission "If a historic cemetery is publicly owned by a state agency or political subdivision of the state (counties, cities, utility districts, etc.), the burials are protected as archeological sites under the Antiquities Code of Texas." The grave markers associated with interments may also be protected, either as part of the archeological deposits or as separate architectural features associated with the site as a whole. According to the Antiquities Code, no such deposits may be "removed, altered, damaged, destroyed, salvaged, or excavated without a contract with or permit" from the Texas Historical Commission, the state agency that administers the Antiquities Code. Cemeteries or graves that are 50 years or older are considered to be historic under the Antiquities Code of Texas. Unmarked graves are considered to be historic unless proven otherwise through historical research.

The Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has a special program to honor the memory of our Confederate Ancestors and to help ensure the preservation of their final resting places.

Make a commitment to the SCV Guardian Program to care for and honor a Confederate Soldier's grave. It only takes 3 gravesite visits per year.

Contact Guardian Program Chairman Phil Davis for information at:  
pdavis37@etex.net



**UPSHUR**  
**CO. PATRIOTS**  
**GUARDIANS**

	<u>Name</u>	Guardian
Number of		
	<u>Status</u>	<u>Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	29
Kim Duffey	Full	3
Jamie Eitson	Full/GPT	8
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	46
T. Mitchell/G. Linton	Full	5
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	40
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Bill Palmer	Full	10
Tommy Ray	Full/GPT	19
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2
Mitch Tyson	Full	3
Johnathan Tyson	Full	1
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.



*The Sons of Confederate Veterans is a non-profit, heritage organization whose mission is to preserve the history and legacy of Confederate Veterans. It is not associated with any anti-government or hate groups. Membership is open to any male descendant of a Confederate Veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces.*



## 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.”

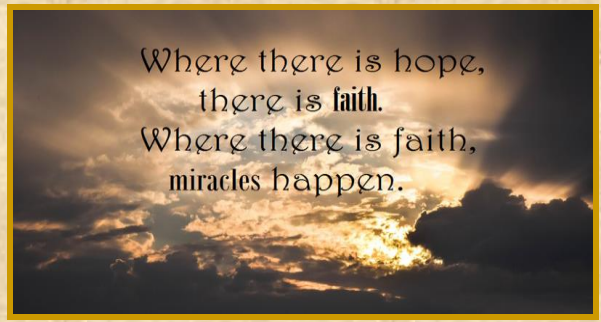


“Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.”



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

*“The SCV’s Best Hope for Success is  
Knowledge of the Truth”*



Where there is hope,  
there is faith.  
Where there is faith,  
miracles happen.

## HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

By: Michael Andrew

*“Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior, and my hope is  
in you all day long”...Psalm 25:5*

In life, there are many challenges. It’s a season of life. There is a time for mourning or celebrating, a time to fight or rejoice, a time to question or trust, but there is one thing we always hold onto, Hope. When you lose hope more often you become frustrated. You see there is no meaning in life, but when there is hope, you overcome so many things and challenges in life.

Every night we go to sleep, we have no assurance for the next day but we usually have plans for the day. That’s what we call hope. Where there is life there is hope, always stay focused, there is a better future ahead. No matter how many times you fall, you must always be determined to succeed. Rise up and try again and again. You must not lose hope. When you stop hoping, your life comes to a halt. It’s like everything in your life has come to a standstill.

As long as you believe in yourself, hope will always be in you.



## 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.

**February 4** - A provisional government arranged to head the affairs of the new south meet in Montgomery, Alabama.

**February 8** - State troops of Arkansas take the official state arsenal.

**February 9** - Jefferson Davis and Alexander H. Stephens are elected as provisional president and vice president of the Confederate States of America by the new government.

**February 23** - Texans go to the polls and overwhelmingly reaffirm their intent to secede from the Union.

### 1862

**February 10** - Confederate forces of the "Mosquito Fleet" fall to elements of the Union Navy near Elizabeth City, North Carolina as part of the Battle of Elizabeth City. The Mosquito Fleet was originally in service to the state and later passed to the Confederate Navy.

**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 ending in a Confederate victory.

**February 28** - The Battle of Island Number Ten (New Madrid, Missouri) begins. Union

forces are led by John Pope and Andrew Footer against Confederate foes headed by John McCown and William Mackall. Six Union gunboats are aided by eleven mortar rafts, facing a Confederate force of 7,000.

### 1863

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

**February 24** - 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 11** - A Union Army from Memphis, Tennessee crosses into Mississippi and marches on, destroying crop fields along their path.

**February 17** - CSS Hunley becomes the world's first submarine to sink a surface vessel. The target becomes USS Housatonic in Charleston Harbor. However, CSS Hunley is lost in the action.

**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 Okolona takes place in Chickasaw County, Mississippi.

Confederate forces, numbering 2,500 under the leadership of General Forrest, is victorious against a larger Union contingent of 7,000 under the direction of William Sooy Smith.

## 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.

**February 27** - Raids under the direction of Union General Sheridan begin against Confederate holdings across northern Virginia.

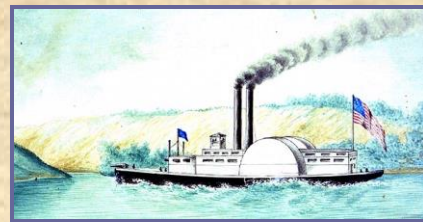
## TEXAS SECEDES



On February 1, 1861, the state of Texas becomes the seventh state to leave the Union. The state decided to leave the Union after a state convention voted 166 to 8 to secede. This was not unexpected and for some time the

Texans had been unhappy with the direction of the Union.

Abraham Lincoln's election was greeted with anger in Texas. This led to the calling of a convention that was to decide the future of Texas. Gov. Sam Houston was obliged to call the convention against his will. He only called it after intense pressure. The convention voted overwhelmingly for secession, much to the regret of Sam Houston.

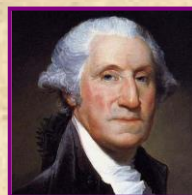


## USS QUEEN OF THE WEST

[americancivilwar.com](http://americancivilwar.com)

*Queen of the West*, a 406-ton side-wheel towboat built at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1854, was converted to a ram in 1862 for Union Colonel Charles Ellet's U.S. Ram Fleet.

On February 14, 1863 while operating on the Black River in Louisiana *Queen of the West* ran aground near an enemy shore battery and was captured. Repaired, she became the Confederate warship *Queen of the West*.



George Washington was born February 22, 1732



While on a European trip for Christmas and New Year's, Compatriot Phil Davis and his family took time to visit the Epinal American Cemetery in Dinozé, France. The Cemetery contains the graves of 5,255 of the

United States' military dead, most of whom lost their lives in the campaigns across northeastern France to the Rhine and beyond into Germany during World War II. Phil is pictured above at the grave of Sgt. Jack Palmer of Marshall, Texas. Jack Palmer is the brother of Compatriot Bill Palmer and Uncle of Compatriot David Palmer. Jack lost his life during an inland battle shortly after the Normandy Invasion in 1944.



Phil Davis (L) and Krist Swimberghe (R) presented a US Flag to Bill Palmer (C) on January 21<sup>st</sup> that had flown

over his Brother Jack's grave. Bill and Jack are Real Grandsons. Also present were Compatriots Eddie Pricer and David Palmer.

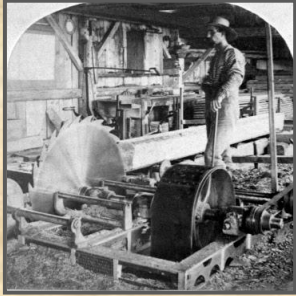
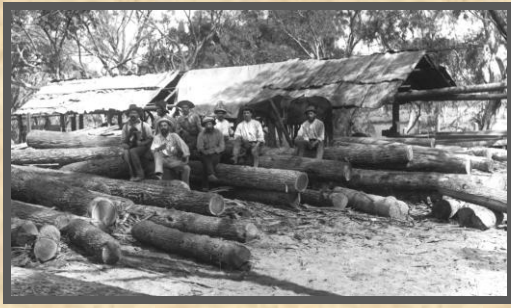


## MAN AND HIS AGING DOG SEEK OVERGROWN VETERANS GRAVES

*Jerry Carino*

Whiskey is a 16 year old Miniature Pinscher and is a faithful companion to Pete Szybel — and a partner in an unusual quest. The 63-year-old Szybel, a Toms River, N.J. resident searches cemeteries for overgrown graves of military veterans. When he finds one, often with the help of Whiskey's expert nose, he cleans it up and plants a small American flag. Last Memorial Day, as they examined Old Whiting Cemetery, Whiskey staked out an unmarked patch of ground. "He sat down and would not move until I cleaned it off," Szybel said. They uncovered the footstone of Glen Shaul, who was buried in 1991. The engraving told the story: A first sergeant in the U.S. Army, Shaul served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars and earned citations for bravery, including the Silver Star — the armed forces' third-highest decoration for valor in combat.

Szybel estimates they've found and spruced up 150 forgotten graves. "Cemeteries do the best they can, and I don't blame the families," he said. "It's just the way things go." Pete Szybel describes his quest as "nothing spectacular" and "just something I do," but that's underselling it.



## SAWMILLS IN UPSHUR COUNTY

The earliest recorded East Texas sawmills began operating in 1819. By the 1850s, the sawmill industry had greatly expanded in both number and geography across East Texas. From two animal-and-man-powered mills in 1819, at least 229 sawmill plants were documented in East Texas during the decade before the Civil War. The expansion of sawmills in East Texas was enhanced by a significant shift from animal and human muscle to steam or water power. By the Civil War, almost ninety percent of the mills had been converted to steam. By the 1880s, 87% of East Texas counties were involved with the lumber industry with 20% having 21 or more mills that operated during the decade. The period from the 1890s-1920s was characterized by an explosion in the number of sawmills; many capable of producing hundreds of thousands of board feet per day.

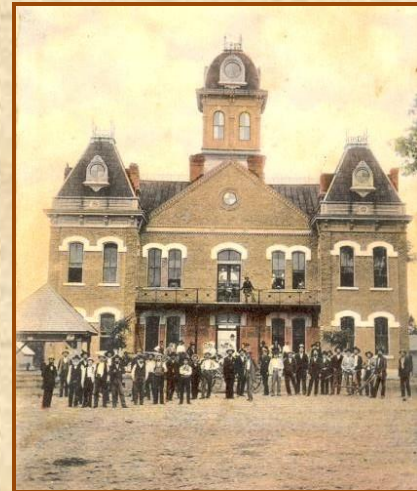
### Some of the local mills were:

The C. B. Johnson shingle mill at Calloway 1884.

A. S. Murrell mill, 1884 in Coffeerville.

A.J. Wood mill in Upshur Co. 1893-1923. Steam engine and boiler, all the machinery, including belts and pulleys, four horses, two mules, one 8-wheel wagon, and one 4-wheel wagon.

Brunson L. Lee 1928 in Gilmer including a circular sawmill, planing mill, edgers, trimmers. Lee was one of the few mills to make it at Gilmer during the Depression. This may have evolved into the W. H. Lee sawmill, which was greatly damaged by fire in 1947.



Upshur County Courthouse circa 1909



Downtown Gilmer, late 1800's





## STATE SOVEREIGNTY

from an article  
by: James Ronald Kennedy

State sovereignty is the ultimate bulwark against Federal tyranny. Our founding fathers understood this truth and accepted it as a “given.” Today we live in the era of Federal supremacy and find it difficult to conceive of an American political society in which “we the people” acting through our sovereign state would be the final judge as to whether the Federal government has the Constitutional authority to encroach upon our rights, liberties, or property. But, from 1776 to 1861, such a society did exist. It existed because the founding fathers and the generations immediately following them understood the history of American liberty.

Political sovereignty in America is original only to the states; the Federal government has no original sovereignty! When the Constitution was offered to the states in 1787, the Anti-Federalists were determined that the powers delegated—as opposed to surrendered—to the Federal government would be specifically limited, thereby, it was hoped, preventing the Federal government from abusing its conditional grant of power.

The Original Constitution created a limited Federal government. The sovereign states through a compact we refer to as the Constitution of the United States, created an agent—the Federal government—to serve the will of “we the people” within our respective sovereign states. The Federal

government created by the separate acts of sovereign states was not intended to be a centralized, all-powerful, supreme, national government.

Real States’ Rights is the only way to guarantee that “we the people” enjoy such a government. Real States’ Rights is the only means available to “we the people” to enforce the limitations imposed by the Constitution upon the Federal government.



## TEXAS RECONSTRUCTION

[texasalmanac.com](http://texasalmanac.com)

On June 19, 1865, Gen. Gordon Granger, under the command of Gen. Philip M. Sheridan, arrived in Galveston with 1,800 federal troops to begin the Union occupation of Texas. Texas was in turmoil. Thousands of the state’s men had died in the conflict. Indian raids had caused as much damage as the skirmishes with the Union army, causing the frontier to recede up to 100 miles eastward in some areas.

Violence was rampant in Texas. One study found that between the close of the Civil War and mid-1868, 1,035 people were murdered in Texas.

The Southern states were declared to have no legal government and the former Confederacy was divided into districts to be administered by the military until satisfactory Reconstruction was effected. Texas and Louisiana made up the Fifth Military District under the command of Gen. Philip H. Sheridan. Governor J.W.

Throckmorton clashed often with Gen. Sheridan. Throckmorton and other state officials were removed from office by Sheridan because they were considered an “impediment to the reconstruction.” E.M. Pease, the former two-term governor and a Unionist, was named provisional governor by military authorities.

A new constitutional convention was called by Gen. Winfield S. Hancock, who replaced Sheridan in November 1867. Meeting in February 1870, the Legislature created a state militia under the governor’s control; created a state police force, also controlled by the governor; postponed the 1870 general election to 1872; enabled the governor to appoint more than 8,500 local officeholders; and granted subsidized bonds for railroad construction at a rate of \$10,000 a mile. For the first time, a system of public education was created. The law required compulsory attendance at school for four months a year, set aside one-quarter of the state’s annual revenue for education and levied a poll tax to support education.

The political turmoil ended with the gubernatorial election of 1873, when Richard Coke easily defeated Davis. Davis tried to get federal authorities to keep him in office, but President Grant refused to intervene. In January of 1874, Democrats were in control of state government again. The end of Reconstruction concluded the turbulent Civil War era, although the attitudes that developed during the period lasted well into the 20th century.

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.

