

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

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***\*Best Newsletter Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Place\****

***Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
 Camps Over 50 Members June 2017 Reunion***

***\*Best Newsletter Award 1<sup>st</sup> Place\****

***Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
 Camps Over 50 Members June 2016 Reunion***



**WE MUST STAY VIGILANT**

Editorial:

State and local governments have removed at least 110 monuments and other tributes to the Confederacy since 2015. There is an ongoing effort to remove Confederate monuments from the public square.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy and other groups have been responsible for erecting hundreds of statues at courthouses and other venues since the Civil War.

Of the 110 removals since the Charleston attack in 2015, we have had the removal of 47 monuments, four flags, and name changes for 37 schools, seven parks, three buildings and seven roads. Eighty-two

removals were in former Confederate states. Texas led the way (31), followed by Virginia (14), Florida (9), Tennessee (8), Georgia (6), Maryland (6), North Carolina (5) and Oklahoma (5).

President Trump said it is "sad" to see Confederate monuments come down because the act represents "the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart."

These monuments are a reminder of what our country had to go through to become whole again. Many of these monuments are not only in dedication to the men who served in the Confederacy but they also served in the US army pre-civil war. It is important to save these monuments for future generations to see these monuments and learn about them and the men who gave everything for several causes. These were brave men, good men and religious men. - *conservativefighters.com*

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Phil Davis, Guardian Program Chairman (R) presents Certificates to his son Larry for his Guardianship of the Hunley Crew graves.

**THE GUARDIAN**

By: Phil Davis

Compatriots, this article is written in order to help you understand the need of your Confederate Hero's grave to have a visible Confederate Marker of some type, making certain that every visitor to a cemetery can see which graves are Confederate Soldiers. This can only happen when there is a marker of some type indicating their Confederate Service. I have included some examples below.



From Camp Co. Monument



Simple Southern Cross



VA Issued Stone

These are just examples. The Rules and Guidelines state that anything **permanent** indicating Confederate Service may be used.

I, in no way wish to discourage you from becoming a Guardian, my intent is for you to understand the importance of the Confederate Marker. Those of you that are not in the Guardian Program, my intent is to help you to understand the need to join those of us that are Guardians or Guardian Pro-Tem.

Being a Guardian is very simple – Select the CSA grave, care for it, visit three times a year, place a Confederate Flag on it on Confederate Heroes Day, see that it is properly marked with a CSA Marker of some type and see that it is presentable at all times. If you have questions, please contact me.

Today, more than ever, we need visible presence of our love for our Glorious Southland. The Guardian Program helps to prove our devotion to the Cause.

As I always say, I believe with all my being in the Guardian Program and it is my hope and prayer that in some small way you will be convinced of its importance, not only in fulfilling “The Charge” but in honoring your sworn duty to your Confederate Forebears.

As always, I leave you with this question-

***Are you a Guardian? If not,  
Why not?***



***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 descendent of a Confederate veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces.***



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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian Status</u>	<u>Number of Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	29
Kim Duffey	Full	3
Jamie Eitson	Full/GPT	8
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	40
Tommy Mitchell	Full	5
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	33
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Bill Palmer	Full	10
Tommy Ray	Full/GPT	18
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2
Mitch Tyson	Full	3
Raven Baker	GPT	2

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.



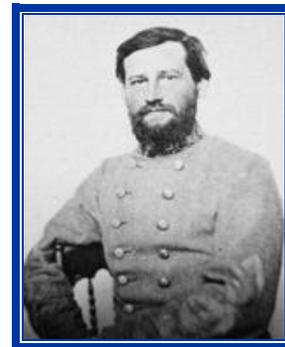
### CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

“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.”

***“Fate is the course when men  
Fail to act.”***



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



Mr. Jim Jones presented our February program on "Religion in the Camps" during the War Between the States.



Gen. Stonewall Jackson

## A GOOD LIFE

*Written by: Steve Goodier*

"If people sat outside and looked at the stars each night, I'll bet they'd live a lot differently."

I try to sit outside every night before bedtime to breathe the night air and look at the sky. For me, it's a time of deep relaxation and spiritual cleansing.

Year by bewildering year our world grows more complex. We crave peace in our souls. We long for simplicity in lives that too easily become relentlessly tangled in complicated webs.

One man, James, enjoyed the simple things of life. He sometimes took jobs in the American west at national parks and seasonal resorts.

His brother, however, wanted to entice him to get a "real" job and live in a world surrounded by things that only money can buy. So James' brother often sent him photos of himself enjoying the so-called "good life." He labeled his snapshots "My new sound system" or "My new car."

But the photographs stopped arriving after James responded with a picture of his own. He sent his brother a large poster with a breathtaking view of Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park. On the back was James' message: "My back yard."

I believe I understand how James feels. While his brother was striving for THE Good Life, James aimed for A Good Life. There's a difference.

THE good life requires that we take pleasure in new things; A good life requires that we take pleasure in moments.

To enjoy THE good life we have to get ahead; to enjoy A good life we have to make the trip worthwhile.

THE good life is supported by feeding our pocketbooks; A good life is supported by feeding our souls.

Over a century ago, John Burroughs put it like this: "To find the universal elements

enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter...to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird's nest or a wildflower in spring -- these are some of the rewards of the simple life." I call it a good life.

I don't want to collect more stuff at the expense of collecting memories. And I don't want to let making a buck interfere with my making a difference.

I'm already looking forward to tonight when I'll sit outside and look up at the stars.



## A POIGNANT STORY

Author Unknown

As I came out of the supermarket one sunny day, pushing my cart of groceries towards my car, I saw an old man with the hood of his car up and a lady sitting inside the car, with the door open. The old man was looking at the engine.

I put my groceries away in my car, and continued to watch the old gentleman from about twenty five feet away. I saw a young man in his early twenties with a grocery bag in his arm walking towards the old man. The old gentleman saw him coming too, and took a few steps towards him.

I saw the old gentleman point to his open hood and say something. The young man put his grocery bag into what looked like a

brand new Cadillac Escalade, and then turned back to the old man. I heard him yell at the old gentleman saying: "You shouldn't even be allowed to drive a car at your age." And then with a wave of his hand, he got in his car and peeled rubber out of the parking lot.

I saw the old gentleman pull out his handkerchief, and mop his brow as he went back to his car and again looked at the engine. He then went to his wife and spoke with her; he appeared to tell her it would be okay.

I had seen enough, and I approached the old man. He saw me coming and stood straight, and as I got near him I said, 'Looks like you're having a problem.' He smiled sheepishly, and quietly nodded his head.

I looked under the hood myself, and knew whatever the problem was, it was beyond me. Looking around, I saw a gas station up the road, and I told the old man that I would be right back. I drove to the station and I went inside. I saw three attendants working on cars. I approached one of them, and related the problem the old man had with his car. I offered to pay them if they could follow me back down and help him.

The old man had pushed the heavy car under the shade of a tree and appeared to be comforting his wife. When he saw us, he straightened up and thanked me for my help. As the mechanics diagnosed the problem (overheated engine), I spoke with the old gentleman.

When I shook hands with him earlier, he had noticed my Marine Corps ring and had commented about it, telling me that he had been a Marine too. I nodded and asked the usual question, 'What outfit did you serve with?'

He had mentioned that he served with the first Marine Division at Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal. He had hit all the big ones and retired from the Corps after the war was over. As we talked we heard the car engine come on and saw the mechanics lower the hood. They came over to us as the old man reached for his wallet, but was stopped by me. I told him I would just put the bill on my AAA card.

He still reached for the wallet and handed me a card that I assumed had his name and address on it and I stuck it in my pocket. We shook hands all around again, and I said my goodbye's to his wife.

I then told the two mechanics that I would follow them back up to the station. Once at the station, I told them that they had interrupted their own jobs to come along with me and help the old man. I said I wanted to pay for the help, but they refused to charge me.

One of them pulled out a card from his pocket, looking exactly like the card the old man had given to me. Both of the men told me they were Marine Corps Reserves. Once again we shook hands all around and as I was leaving, one of them told me I should look at the card the old man had given to me. I said I would and drove off.

For some reason I had gone about two blocks, when I pulled over and took the card out of my pocket and looked at it for a long, long time. The name of the old gentleman was on the card in golden leaf and under his name was written: 'Congressional Medal of Honor Society.'

I sat there motionless, looking at the card and reading it over and over. I looked up from the card and smiled to no one but myself and marveled that on this day, four Marines had all come together because one of us needed help.

Remember, OLD men like him protected FREEDOM for America Thanks to those who served and still serve, and to all of those who supported them, and who continue to support them.

Remember, Freedom is NOT free. Thousands have paid the ultimate price, so you can enjoy what you have today.

\*\*\*\*\*

We all know or are descended from someone like this and are blessed to be in their presence. Let's honor them by extending a helping hand now and then and standing up for our freedom.

\*\*\*\*\*

*GOD OUR FATHER, WALK THROUGH MY HOUSE AND TAKE AWAY ALL MY WORRIES; AND PLEASE WATCH OVER AND HEAL MY FAMILY; AND PLEASE PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS, AND WATCH OVER OUR TROOPS, WHO ARE DEFENDING THOSE FREEDOMS. AMEN.*



## HISTORICAL DATES IN MARCH

**March 6, 1836** - Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna.

**March 4, 1861** - Abraham Lincoln is officially inaugurated as the next President of the United States, succeeding James Buchanan.

**March 4, 1861** - The "Stars and Bars" is named as the first official flag of the Confederate States of America by the Confederate Congress.

**March 6, 1861** - The Provisional Army of the Confederate States is established by the Confederate government.

**March 11, 1861** - The Constitution of the Confederate States of America is adopted by the south.

**March 8/9, 1862** - The Confederate Ironclad 'Merrimac' sinks two wooden Union ships then battles the Union Ironclad 'Monitor'.

**March 16, 1861** - The Confederate States Marine Corps is founded by the Confederate Congress.

**March 12, 1864** - The Red River Campaign.

**March 25, 1865** - The last offensive for Lee's Army of Northern Virginia begins with an attack on the center of Grant's forces at Petersburg.

**March 6, 1862** - The Battle of Pea Ridge begins. It involves Confederate-aligned Cherokee units. 10,500 Union elements face off against 16,500 confederates in northwestern Arkansas.

**March 8, 1862** - In a naval encounter at Hampton Roads, Virginia, USS Cumberland and USS Congress fall to the confederate warship CSS Virginia.

**March 13, 1862** - General Robert E. Lee begins his term as a military adviser to Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

**March 23, 1862** - The First Battle of Kernstown (Winchester, Virginia) is had.

**March 10, 1865** - The Battle of Monroe's Crossroads is recorded on this date. Fighting takes place near Fayetteville in North Carolina.

**March 16, 1865** - The Battle of Averasborough takes place in North Carolina.

**March 19, 1865** - The Battle of Bentonville takes place in Bentonville, North Carolina.

**March 27, 1865** - The Battle of Spanish Fort (Alabama) begins.



### BATTLE OF MONROE'S CROSSROADS

*From: ncpedia.org*

Monroe's Crossroads, west of Fayetteville, N.C. and situated within the present Fort Bragg, was the site of one of the last battles of the Civil War, fought on 10 Mar. 1865.

Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton led the Confederates and Brevet Maj. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick commanded the Union forces in

the cavalry engagement. On 4 Mar. 1865 Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's Union army entered North Carolina, headed for Goldsboro. Riding ahead of Sherman's infantry was the cavalry under the controversial Kilpatrick. Known as "Kill Cavalry" to his hard-driven men, Kilpatrick was a small, brave, cocky, and often unpredictable officer. General Hampton, at 46, was an aristocrat without formal military training, but by 1865 he had emerged as perhaps the finest cavalry commander in the Confederate army.

At dawn on 10 March, the Confederates overran the Union camp, capturing cannons, freeing Confederate prisoners, and driving back the bewildered Federal horsemen. Kilpatrick was only half-dressed when a Confederate captain asked for his whereabouts. He obliged by pointing to a cavalryman fleeing on horseback. Kilpatrick thus escaped and began rallying his men, many of whom had fled to a swamp at the edge of their camp.

Kilpatrick claimed victory because his men had retaken their camp. He put his losses at 19 killed, 68 wounded, and 103 captured, but he was known for his fanciful battle reports, so these numbers are probably low. He also claimed to have found the bodies of 80 enemy soldiers. The Confederates, who reported capturing 500 Federals, claimed victory because they had accomplished their goal of clearing the road to Fayetteville.



## THE BATTLE OF HAMPTON ROADS

*From Wikipedia*

The Battle of Hampton Roads often referred to as either the Battle of the Monitor and Merrimack was the most noted and arguably most important naval battle of the American Civil War from the standpoint of the development of navies. It was fought over two days, March 8–9, 1862, in Hampton Roads, a roadstead in Virginia where the Elizabeth and Nansemond rivers meet the James River. The battle was a part of the effort of the Confederacy to break the Union blockade, which had cut off Virginia's largest cities and major industrial centers, Norfolk and Richmond from international trade.

The major significance of the battle is that it was the first meeting in combat of ironclad warships.

The battle began when the large and unwieldy CSS Virginia steamed into Hampton Roads on the morning of March 8, 1862. At this time, the Union Navy had five warships in the roadstead, in addition to several support vessels. Virginia headed directly for the Union squadron. Virginia did not open fire until she was within easy range of Cumberland. Return fire from Cumberland and Congress bounced off the iron plates without penetrating. Virginia

rammed The Cumberland below the waterline and she sank rapidly.

Over the two day battle, the Virginia went on to engage the USS Minnesota, Congress, and Monitor as well as support ships.

Confederate Secretary of the Navy Stephen Mallory wrote to Confederate President Davis of the action:

*"The conduct of the Officers and men of the squadron ... reflects unfading honor upon themselves and upon the Navy. The report will be read with deep interest, and its details will not fail to rouse the ardor and nerve the arms of our gallant seamen."*

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### COFFEEVILLE, TEXAS TEXAS GHOST TOWN UPSHUR COUNTY

From: [texasscapes.com](http://texasscapes.com)

Despite colorful stories (like coffee trees growing from spilled beans), Coffeerville is named after early settlers.

Coffeerville used to be considered the destination when people headed west from the then-booming river port of Jefferson. Wagon trains resupplied there. Between 1845 and 1866 Coffeerville received an influx of plantation owners from southern states who had decided to sell their expensive land back east and buy new holdings in the much cheaper area. A post office was opened by 1852 and during that decade, the town thrived with three doctors, a large hotel, four stores, a Masonic lodge and even an academy.

During its heyday, Coffeerville had several blacksmiths and recreational activities

included a pool hall and more than one saloon. Governor Edward Clark suggested that Coffeerville host a Confederate training camp - which was done. But after the war when the railroad came through Upshur County, the town was bypassed. From 200 people in 1887, it has already shrunk to 153 by 1904. The Coffeyville post office closed in 1915.

During the Great Depression, fifty die-hard residents kept the town on the map - it remained at that level through 1990. Today nothing resembling a town remains - it is now considered a dispersed rural community.



### THE FALL OF THE ALAMO MARCH 6, 1836

From: [history.com](http://history.com)

In December 1835, during Texas' war for independence from Mexico, a group of Texan volunteer soldiers occupied the Alamo, a former Franciscan mission located near the present-day city of San Antonio. On February 23, 1836, a Mexican force numbering in the thousands and led by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna began a siege of the fort.

For Texans, the Battle of the Alamo became an enduring symbol of their heroic resistance to oppression and their struggle

for independence, which they won later that year.

On February 23, a Mexican force commanded by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna began a siege of the fort. The Texans held out for 13 days, but on the morning of March 6, 1836 Mexican forces broke through a breach in the outer wall of the courtyard and overpowered them.

On April 21, 1836, Sam Houston and some 800 Texans defeated Santa Anna's Mexican force of 1,500 men at San Jacinto shouting "Remember the Alamo!" as they attacked.



### STATE COLORED ORPHANS' HOME

From: tshaonline.org

The State Colored Orphans' Home was located 1½ miles south of Gilmer in Upshur County. The orphanage was founded by African American Baptists in 1900 as a private institution and was known for many years as Dickson (Dixon) Colored Orphanage after longtime administrator W. L. Dickson. Plans for the foundation of the orphanage were first made at a meeting of the state's African American Baptist leadership. The site south of Gilmer was chosen after

citizens from Upshur County offered to donate seventy acres of land.

In March 1913 the legislature changed the name from the Gilmer Home to the Dickson State Colored Orphanage. A fire on December 15, 1922, completely destroyed the boys' dormitory, while the girls' dormitory burned in October 1929. The orphanage continued to operate as a private charitable institution until 1929, when the Texas legislature voted to take over control under the provision that it would eventually be moved to Austin. At that time the physical plant consisted of 700 acres, with twenty-eight buildings on the main campus and farm.



### CONFEDERATE WAR MEMORIAL VANDALIZED

The Confederate War Memorial in Dallas was vandalized days after the City Council voted to remove it from public view.

The vandal or vandals spray painted the western side of the 65-foot-tall obelisk with what appears to be a misspelled expletive. Beneath that, in similar capital red letters, someone painted an expletive altered to

contain a reference to Ku Klux Klan; below that, the words "TRUMP" and "FREEDOM."

The City Council voted 11-4 to authorize city staff to spend up to \$480,000 to take down the monument. But the monument could remain up for a while. First the Landmark Commission has to approve the removal.

Preservation Dallas has long protested its removal from Pioneer Cemetery.



**FROM SCV EUROPE**  
**CAMP #1612**

[www.scveuropecamp.jimdo.com](http://www.scveuropecamp.jimdo.com)



Achim Bänsch  
Commander Camp #1612

Dear Members, Associates and Friends of the Camp.

Although we are far away from the Southland, we, too, have the blood of Southern Patriots in us.

Why do so many Americans want to believe that the War was about slavery? If they are thinking individuals and if the evidence says that it cannot be true, then the only explanation for believing this fairy tale is that they want to believe it.

With concern I look over the pond and see the inexpressible attacks on our southern history in the news. I'm frightened how aggressive groups, supported by a biased press, destroy our southern history.

So it is much more important that we hold together and speak with as many people as we can about the true ideals and the motivation of the soldier who fought for the South.

Please stay strong as a rock in the storm!



**UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**CRIME NEWS**

From: [genealogytrails.com](http://genealogytrails.com)

**May 12, 1853 FATAL AFFAIR**

A few weeks since at Gilmer, Upsher County, Texas, a man named Robert Bledsoe, was shot on the public square, by three citizens of that place. The deceased is said to have been a notorious and abandoned outlaw, and a source of perpetual annoyance and apprehension to the whole community. The Texas Star says that he was accustomed to ride over the public square every day with a volley of oaths against all good people. He was warned not to come again on the square, but, careless of all remonstrance, he did so, and was coolly shot down. The actors in the scene forthwith surrendered themselves, and, upon the testimony of the whole community, were instantly acquitted.

**1923 Not Satisfied to Let Case Go To Trial**

Simpsonville, Tex., Jan 27 – Mrs. Eve Tillery, wife of W. B. Tillery, farmer, is at liberty on \$1,500 bond today and Charles Pilkington at the point of death as the result of pistol wounds sustained in the court house at Gilmer yesterday just previous to the time set for the trial of Pilkington upon a charge of attempted criminal assault preferred by

Mrs. Tillery. The attempted assault is said to have occurred last July.

As Pilkington entered the court house, Mrs. Tillery confronted him drawing a pistol from a blanket in which was wrapped her infant child shot twice, the first bullet lodging in Pilkington's side, the other striking a bystander, J. W. Nelson, inflicting a minor wound in the arm.

Following the shooting, Mrs. Tillery, accompanied by her husband, went to the county attorney's office and was released on bond.



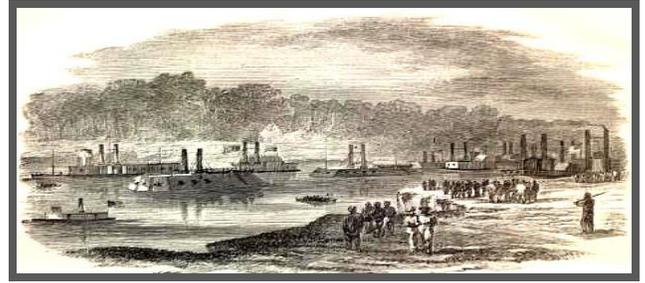
## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In the United States we have the right to express ourselves in any way we wish, even if that expression is considered by some to be racist, discriminatory, or otherwise offensive.

"If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all." All this political correctness and suppression of expression is getting tiresome and is starting to threaten our basic freedoms.

As a society, we've become increasingly intolerant of opposing points of view and increasingly willing to deny people the very right of expression that we claim exclusively for ourselves. To preserve our right to

express ourselves, we need to push back against that tide.



## THE RED RIVER CAMPAIGN

*From: history.com*

In March of 1864, one of the biggest military fiascos of the Civil War begins as a combined Union force of infantry and river boats starts moving up the Red River in Louisiana. The month-long campaign was poorly managed and achieved none of the objectives set forth by Union commanders.

The campaign had several strategic goals. The Union hoped to capture everything along the Red River in Louisiana and continue into Texas. Union officials wanted to capture cotton-producing regions, as cotton was in short supply in the North.

The plan called for U.S. Admiral David Dixon Porter to take a flotilla of 20 gunboats up the Red River while U.S. General Nathaniel Banks led 27,000 men along the western shore of the river.

Banks traveled nearly 20 miles from the Red River, too far for the gunboats to offer any protection. On April 8, Banks' command was attacked and routed by Confederate General Richard Taylor, son of former U.S. president Zachary Taylor.



Coffee Mugs and Coasters  
Caps and Flags are available for a donation  
to our Camp fund. Contact Eddie Pricer or  
any Camp Officer.



Support the Upshur County Museum



Confederate Museum Elm Springs, Tn.  
February 24, 2019



We thank Bill Starnes  
And the Starnes Family for  
providing a meeting Place  
for the Upshur Co. Patriots



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



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