

**Patriot's Periodical**  
 Upshur Co. Patriots Camp #2109  
 Sons of Confederate Veterans  
 Gilmer, Texas

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May 2018



**\*Best Newsletter Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Place\***  
 Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
 June 2017 Reunion



**\*Best Newsletter Award 1<sup>st</sup> Place\***  
 Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans  
 June 2016 Reunion

**COMMANDER'S CORNER**

By Milt Ojeman



I write this with a heavy heart due to the passing of compatriot and friend Rickie Gipson. I am sad because I will miss his sincere smile and warm greeting before every meeting. I will truly miss his enthusiastic reading of our SCV Charge.

I attended Rickie's funeral which was an uplifting service conducted by his minister and longtime friend. He spoke of Rickie's devotion to God and his service to the church. Rickie's coffin was draped with the United States Flag honoring his army service. The funeral service confirmed the

fact that this was a good man and that he is now with God.

The words "modesty, gentleness, simplicity, benevolence, and Christian humility" were used to describe General Robert E. Lee. They can also be used to describe Rickie Gipson. We should not mourn for him, but be thankful that we knew him.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Next Meeting**

May 1, 2018 - 7 PM  
 Walking S Steakhouse

**Pilgrimage Parade May 5th**

Jefferson, Texas  
 10 AM

\*All upcoming events can be viewed at our website on the events calendar.

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



**Texas Division  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
2018 Annual Reunion  
Fredonia Hotel, 200 North  
Fredonia  
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961  
June 8, 2018 - June 10, 2018**



Compatriot Frank Smith gives our April program.



The SCV Texas Division's continuing mission is to preserve the history and protect the honor and memory of our Confederate Soldier ancestors. Please consider donating to our Heritage Defense Fund today. We see our flags, our monuments, and our historical sights attacked on a daily basis by those that have much more funding and undue influence with local government.

## **Camp Leadership** **Upshur County Patriots Camp #2109**

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## *Celebrating the Life of a True Compatriot and Friend*

Written by E. Pricer:

Compatriot Rickie  
Gipson, aged 70,  
crossed over the waters

to be with his Savior and Lord on Thursday April 12, 2018 in Longview, Texas. Rickie, a local boy, graduated from Union Hill in the Bettie community in 1966, before attending East Texas State University where he graduated with a degree in agriculture. Rickie then married his sweetheart and the love of his life, Nelda, beginning a 47 year journey of wedded bliss.

Rickie was an avid sportsman, enjoying hunting and fishing, especially with his brother Dennis. He also spent many pleasurable hours wood working, creating walking sticks, fishing poles, and decorative furnishings.

Rickie honorably served in the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This along with his keen desire to know history and learn from his genealogical research led him to join the Sons of Confederate Veterans and proudly stand for his ancestors and all veterans.

As an assistant cashier for 38 years at First National Bank in Gilmer, Rickie came into contact with the vast majority of the residents of Upshur County. They all knew that smile and cheerful demeanor that would greet them, along with some really dry and corny jokes. It created a loving bond though, that cannot be replaced.

At Concord Baptist Church where Rickie attended, he served as the Music Minister and a Sunday School Teacher. Children used to wait outside for “Mr. Rickie” to arrive and guide them on a level only he could reach.

As much as Rickie loved all of his activities, work, hunting, fishing, his church, he loved his family more and relished in the time spent with each of them. His family will miss him dearly, especially this fall, around Thanksgiving, when he’s not there to bring them together and serve up his famous squirrel stew.

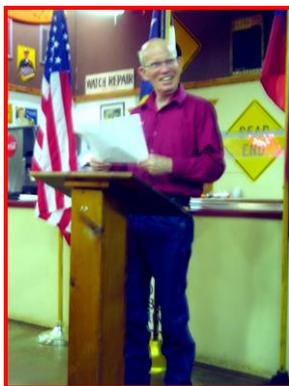
Even as his time on earth closed, he still managed that smile, a cheerful comment and still thought more of those around him, than himself. Rickie was still giving instructions on his Adjutant duties and where we could find the necessary documents and records to carry on. He was a true Compatriot and would remind us as he so frequently did,

“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."

Memorials may be made to the Simpsonville Cemetery Association, 7982 FM 2088 Gilmer, TX 75644 or Concord Baptist Church building fund 6492 FM 2796 Gilmer, TX 75644.

The Photos Below Show Rickie Speaking at Meetings of the Upshur County Patriots



**The Guardian**

By Phil Davis

Chairman Texas Div. Guardian Program  
Chairman National Guardian Program

For this month's article I decided to reach back to 2011 to show you what inspired me to have so much interest in the Guardian Program. This article impressed me so much I contacted then Texas Division Commander, Granvel Block, to see if our division could begin a similar program as this one. He agreed and also saw the need for a program such as this. At the March 2012 Division Executive Committee meeting I introduced the program and the Texas Division Guardian Program was born.

Since I was the one who suggested this program I was appointed Chairman. I immediately started the task of designing the medal, certificate, rules and guidelines and in short just building the program. I also had to begin the task of record keeping. Compatriot Dennis E. Todd, the National Chairman and writer of the article below, was so graciously helpful in all that was done.

I hope you will read and gain a better understanding of the Guardian Program, and why the Guardian Program means so

much to me and why I feel it is so important to be a Guardian.

Reprinted in part from the September/October 2011 Issue of the Confederate Veteran National Guardian Program.

The care of the Confederate Soldier's final resting place, his grave, for as long as the member is physically able to do so; and to insure the grave is marked so people know here rests a Confederate Soldier: that is the Guardian Program. There are Southern soldiers lying in unmarked and unattended graves throughout the world in cemeteries which have been long forgotten. It is the accepted duty of the Sons to search out these cemeteries and graves and give them the care which they deserve.

Talk first started in January of 1992 in South Carolina when a few members of the division were returning from the funeral of Real Son Motte Junius Yarbrough. They stopped by an old cemetery. E.M. Clark, Jr. and I started talking with then-SC Division Commander Robert L. Brown (1990-1994) about all the hard work being done by SCV members in these old cemeteries, caring for Confederate graves. We all agreed there should be some way to recognize these men for their work.

Commander Brown, over the next few months, came up with the idea of starting a state program to recognize members who took on the care of a Confederate Soldier's grave for life. One of the main responsibilities was to ensure the grave was marked as a Confederate Soldier's.

After discussions with Clark and me, the program moved forward. The rules and guidelines were worked out over the next few months. It became an official SC Division program March 27, 1993, at the SC Division reunion in Folly Beach, SC. The first member and chairman for years was E.M. Clark, Jr. The other three committee members were Robert L. Brown, William Grissop and I. We were also the first four Guardian members. By 2011, the SC program has 250-plus guardians caring for more than 700 graves.

Alabama started its division program in August of 2008, with Compatriot Jimmy Hill as the chairman and their first guardian member. The Louisiana Division has the newest program, with Milton Todd Owens as its chairman. Both of these programs are based on the one in South Carolina.

In July 2010, Commander-in-Chief Givens asked me to start a national program and I immediately asked these men (Clark, Hill and Owens) to help head the new National Guardian Program (NGP). The NGP was approved by the SCV General Executive Council (GEC) on March 19, 2011, and the first two applications were then approved (they are out of Arkansas).

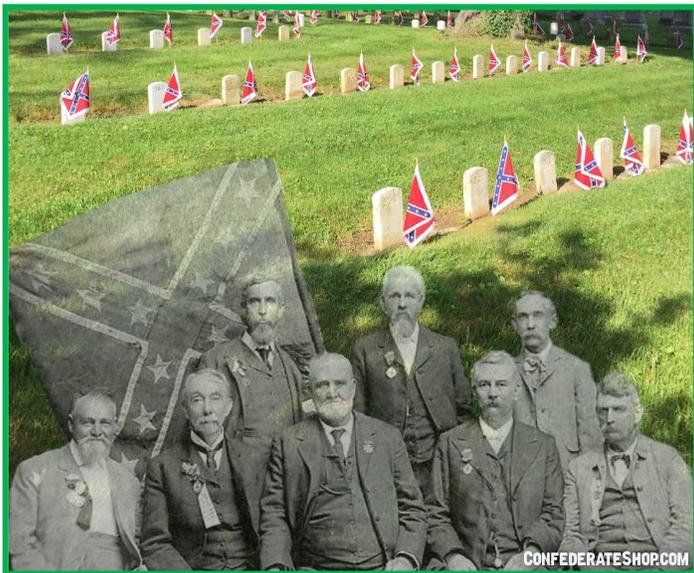
The national program is being established for members of camps that do not come under a division command (such as HQ camp) AND those divisions without a Guardian Program. If there is a Guardian Program within a division, the members of that division will apply to that division and NOT to the national program. However, once a division has granted a member full

guardian status, that member will be allowed to wear the National Guardian pin (see rules). It is not the goal of the NGP to take away from the division programs. The NGP will help work to start programs within all divisions (putting the NGP out of work, with the exception of Headquarters' camp and a few others).

The Guardian program is a life commitment of the member or as long as he is physically able.

This was originally penned by then National Guardian Program Chairman Dennis E. Todd.

Are you a Guardian? If not, why not?



## 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	1
Larry Harper	Full	1
Jared Jones	Full	1
Justin Jones	Full	1
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	17
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2

W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem



Guardian Program Chairman Phil Davis (L) presents Frank Smith with his Guardian Certificates at our April meeting.

## 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.



## Ten Guidelines from God

### Inspirational Christian Story

Author Unknown

Effective immediately, please be aware that there are changes YOU need to make in YOUR life. These changes need to be completed in order that I may fulfill My promises to you to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I apologize for any inconvenience, but after all that I am doing, this seems very little to ask of you. Please, follow these 10 guidelines.

1. QUIT WORRYING: Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

2. PUT IT ON THE LIST: Something needs to be done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do-list. Let ME be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to Me. And although My to-do-list is long, I am after all... God. I can take care of anything you put into My hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.

3. TRUST ME: Once you've given your burdens to Me, quit trying to take them

back. Trust in Me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on My list. Problem with finances? Put it on My list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster? For My sake, put it on my list. I want to help you. All you have to do is ask.

4. LEAVE IT ALONE: Don't wake up one morning and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you are feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave Me your burdens and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. Don't you know that if I give you these problems back, you will be right back where you started? Leave them with Me and forget about them. Just let Me do my job.

5. TALK TO ME: I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But there's one thing I pray you never forget. Please, don't forget to talk to Me - OFTEN! I love YOU! I want to hear your voice. I want you to include me in on the things going on in your life. I want to hear you talk about your friends and family. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with me. I want to be your dearest friend.

6. HAVE FAITH: I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in Me that I know what I'm doing. Trust Me; you wouldn't want the view from My eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your

needs. You only have to trust Me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

7. SHARE: You were taught to share when you were only two years old. When did you forget? That rule still applies. Share with those who are less fortunate than you. Share your joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in such a long time. Share your tears with those who have forgotten how to cry. Share your faith with those who have none.

8. BE PATIENT: I managed to fix it so in just one lifetime you could have so many diverse experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn many trades, travel to so many places, meet thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient then when it takes Me a little longer than you expect to handle something on My to-do-list? Trust in My timing, for My timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I should always rush, rush, and rush.

9. BE KIND: Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for My sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be too boring if you were all identical. Please, know I love each of your differences.

10. LOVE YOURSELF: As much as I love you, how can you not love yourself? You were created by me for one reason only -- to be loved, and to love in return. I am a God of Love. Love Me. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. It makes My heart ache when I see you so angry with yourself when things go wrong. You are very precious to me. Don't ever forget.....



### Historical Dates in May

**May 31, 1862** the Battle of Seven Pines.

**May 25–30, 1862** Siege of Corinth, Corinth, Mississippi.

**May 1-4, 1863** the Battle of Chancellorsville.

**May 10, 1863** Stonewall Jackson dies from his wounds.

**May 18, 1863** Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi

**May 5-6, 1864** the Battle of the Wilderness.

**May 6–7, 1864** Battle of Port Walthall Junction, Virginia

**May 8-12** the Battle of Spotsylvania.

**May 15, 1864** the Battle of New Market, Shenandoah County, Virginia

**May 13, 1865** the last land battle of the Civil War was fought at the Battle of Palmito Ranch in south Texas.

**May 1865** the Remaining Confederate forces surrender and the Civil War ends. Over 620,000 Americans died in the war.

## Road Trip – Try it, you’ll have a Great Time!

Written by: Caballero #3

Tuesday April the 10<sup>th</sup>, was a beautiful day, when the three caballeros (Phil Davis, Bill Starnes, and Eddie Pricer) saddled up and hit the trail heading to the uncharted parts of central Texas in search of fame and fortune. Actually, the 466 mile round trip was to honor Confederate soldiers by placing flags on their graves and inspecting their final resting place.



### One of 28 identified internments Riverside Cemetery, Iredell Texas

The trip began with the usual greetings and small talk which quickly turned into tall tales and jokes, ancestral remanences, the occasional political jab, and some interesting historical lessons.



### Johnsonville Cemetery near the ghost town of Duffau, Texas

Three cemeteries were visited and 40 Confederate flags prominently placed to demonstrate our resolve to their memory. As we strolled through the monuments, trying to glimpse the essence of those brave souls, we began to realize what great hardships they endured and appreciated how truly significant their contributions were to the South. Mind you, a wary eye and a keen ear were ever present as we traipsed through prime rattlesnake county. Sadly, we found no free samples to bring home to our friends.



### Chalk Mountain Cemetery, overlooking the picturesque Hill Country

After walking the cemeteries, traveling through a ghost town, we stopped for a late lunch. With bellies full and thoughts of a nap, we made the journey home. The comradery, the fellowship, and the trip through time made for a great adventure. Try it; you’ll have a great time.



Phil



Bill



Eddie

## The Battle of the Wilderness

May 5 to May 7 in 1864

From: totalhistory.com



The Battle of the Wilderness was one of the battles that took place during the American Civil War between Union and Confederate armies. The opposing forces met in Orange County and Spotsylvania County, Virginia, and the battle lasted from May 5 to May 7 in 1864.

Union President, Abraham Lincoln, had become increasingly frustrated with the performance of his leading generals. Despite several changes to the command of the Union forces, the Civil War had dragged on, and the early objective of capturing the rebel capital at Richmond, Virginia had never been achieved.

Lincoln attributed the successive failures to indecision and lack of aggression amongst his generals. He had also come to the conclusion that the priority should be the destruction of the Confederate army rather than the taking of Richmond. He believed that once the army was defeated,

Richmond would have no option but to surrender.

The Wilderness was a 70 square mile region of rough terrain covered in brush and brambles. Lee's deployment of troops was based on his correct assessment that the Union army would advance through this area. He felt that the inhospitable terrain would work against the Union soldiers, and he planned to attack the Union forces there.

The Confederates launched an attack on the morning of May 5, taking Grant by surprise, because he was unaware that the Confederates had so many troops in the Wilderness area. The Confederates had been concealed in the woods near Saunder's Field.

Even though Grant ordered his army to immediately counterattack, it was almost 1pm before the offensive was launched. In previous battles, Union leaders had adopted a much more cautious approach, preferring to engage in meticulous preparation and ensuring supply lines before attacking, and this probably explains the delay before Grant's orders were carried out.

Grant entertained no excuses from his generals, who protested that the army could not move effectively through the brambles, and he insisted his troops move forward over the hostile terrain. They suffered heavy casualties because of the impediments, but gradually began to overcome the Confederates as more and more Union men were brought in.

Over the remaining two days of the battle, heavy fighting took place and the Union army was losing more soldiers than the Confederates. But Grant maintained his aggressive stance and continued to push extra troops into the field.

On May 7, Grant realized that several units of the Confederates had positioned themselves in areas that would be difficult to take with a straightforward attack. They had taken cover behind earthworks that had survived from previous military encounters in the area, and also had used an incomplete railway track to provide strongholds.

Grant opted instead to try to draw the Confederates out by seeming to threaten Richmond. He intended to move his troops to the Spotsylvania Court House, which would position his army between the Confederate army and Richmond.

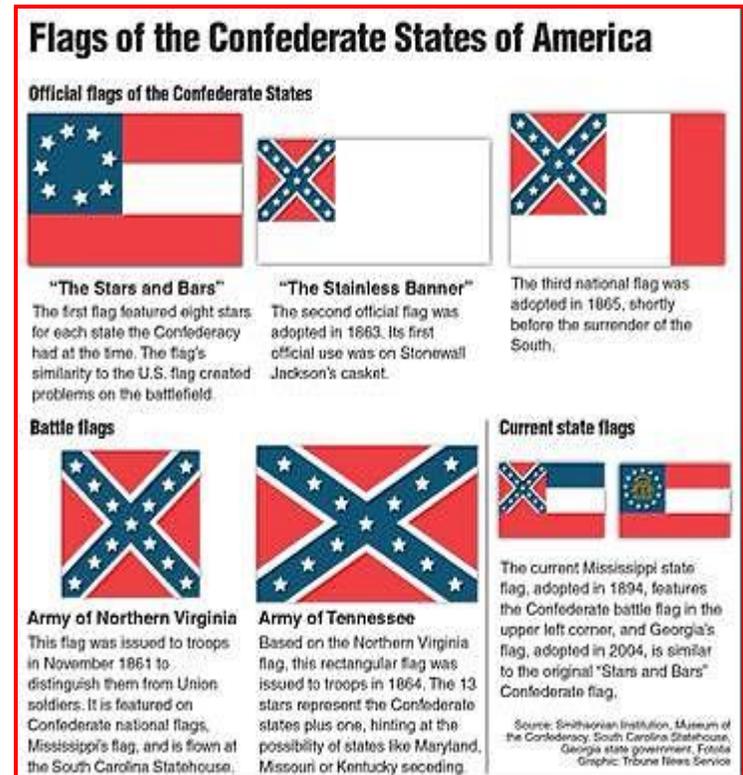
However, by the time the Federal troops arrived there, Lee had already taken control of the crossroads. The theater of war had now moved away from the Wilderness. Grant's Overland Campaign would resume the next day with the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.



Written by: Michael Andrew Grissom

"If it cannot be said of the Southerner that his culture represents a legitimate, established place among the peoples of the world, then it cannot be said of the French in France or the Swedes in Sweden, for the

Southerner can validate his exemplary inheritance not only on one shore but upon two. His legitimacy of race was established in the Old Country and confirmed in the Old South. Not only does he have the right to exist but he has the right to exist well."



## Early Court Records Upshur County Texas

From: A History of Upshur County

On the whole Upshur County people were law-abiding citizens, from 1846-1855 every Grand Jury indicted several people for playing cards where money was bet. In 1853, there were several incidents where the defendants were fined 25 cents. In April 1855 there were 17 indictments for "Not Repairing Public Roads". Some of the persons were very prominent citizens. In

the early days everybody was supposed to give from 5 to 7 days per year free labor on the roads or hire somebody to work in their place. Every community had "Road Overseers" who saw to it that you were warned.

The county had very little money in those days. For example - In 1855 men were paid \$2.04 in cash and \$5.46 in scrip for 5 days jury service. A year later they were paid \$1.55 cash and \$5.95 in scrip.

### Some Court Cases of District Court

1854-1871

1880-1910 about half of indictments were for carrying a pistol, there were many cases of selling whiskey on Sunday.

1856, a man was sent to prison for 2 years for enticing a slave.

1858, a man was fined one cent for assault to murder on a slave.

1859, James COURTNEY was indicted for murdering John, a Negro slave, belonging to Martha MONTGOMERY. Many prominent people went on his bond & in 1861 he was tried and found not guilty.

1862, State of Texas vs. Horace the slave for burglary and assault to rape. He was convicted and his punishment was 250 lashes with 50 given each day for 5 days by the sheriff on the courthouse steps, the whipping was not to endanger his life.

1867, they called many men for jury service but none could serve on the jury

because they would not take the oath that they had not served nor taken part in the Civil War.

1871, there was a case against a Longview man (Longview was in Upshur County then) for "Keeping disorderly house known as the 'Lady Gay Saloon'."

1880, the Commissioners Court gave permission for the Cotton Belt Railway to come thru Gilmer with the understanding it must stay 1 mile from the courthouse.

1881, there were 5 indictments for killing unmarked hogs.

1883, the Upshur County jury returned a verdict of death by hanging against a man. The county paid W.A. ROBERTS \$64 to build a gallows and everything was set up and ready for the hanging. Later the man went completely crazy, was tried for insanity and sent to Terrell.

1886, there were 74 indictments 44 for "Betting on Chuckluck", a game played with dice, 16 cases for selling whiskey on Sunday.

1890 - 1912 when a person was put in jail or was fined and could not pay it; they put him on a chain gang, where he was allowed 50 cents a day to work off his fine.

In 1895, convicts could work off their fines on streets, roads, bridges and cutting wood. The county hired a guard and paid him \$1 a day to work the convicts. In 1912 the chain gang system ended.

1901, J.F. CROLEY was granted permission to build telephone lines along the streets in Upshur County.

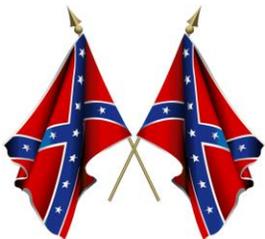
1916, the entire town of Graceton was burned to the ground and all businesses were lost.

1919, the 19th Amendment to allow women to vote was voted against in Upshur County with 565 for and 867 against.

1919, a young Negro was accused of raping a white woman. He was captured and placed in jail. Soon after a large crowd gathered, people lost all reason, went to the jail, broke down the door and tied a rope around his neck and led him to an elm tree on the south side of the courthouse and hanged him.

The Grand Jury indicted several of the leaders. Later one received a suspended sentence and the others were freed.

A Negro boy burned a house belonging to Jasper SCARBOROUGH. He was tried, convicted and hanged from a large hickory tree.



Written by: Mike Scruggs

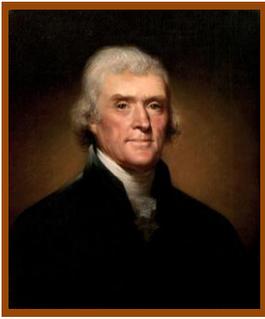
“The Confederate Battle Flag, sometimes called the Southern Cross, is held in disfavor by many who are unfamiliar with its origin and true symbolism. Many have been taught to treat it as an object of moral horror and political

infamy. A deadly combination of ignorance and arrogant self-righteousness is constantly engaged in shouting down its true history and meaning. Demagogues freely defame it, while moral cowardice acquiesces to their outrageous distortions of the truth. The apathetic allow its true history to be buried under decades of slanderous propaganda. It is incumbent upon those who value truth, fairness, good will, reasonable tolerance, and charity in society to educate themselves on the true history and meaning of this famed banner.”



Civil War .58 cal. "Bullet Worm"  
Extractor/Wiper - Model 1861  
Found at Gettysburg

This Civil War tool was used to extract a .58 caliber bullet from the barrel of a rifle or musket. Bullet worms were used to pull bullets from jammed musket barrels. Imagine in the heat of battle and your bullet gets stuck in the barrel. This may be because your powder was insufficient or maybe just got damp. Soldiers on both sides had to "pull" the bullet from the musket to clear the round from the gun while being shot at. The ramrod had a head on it which screwed off and the bullet "worm" screwed onto the ramrod and the soldier would literally screw the sharp points of the worm into the lead bullet and then pull or extract the bullet from the barrel. This was not a position a soldier looked forward being in.



"The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature that they disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes.... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."  
 Thomas Jefferson, Commonplace Book  
 1774

"The Constitution of most of our states (and of the United States) assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed."  
 - Thomas Jefferson, letter to John Cartwright, 5 June 1824



Acoustic Music Night

Some of our Camp members and others perform an Acoustic Music Jam twice a month at the Walking S Steakhouse. This takes place every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday nights from 6pm – 8pm. Bring your instrument and join in or just come by for the music.



Thank you to the Starnes family and everyone at



the Walking S Steakhouse for their hospitality and for providing a meeting place for the Upshur Co. Patriots. Open for dining Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.



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

Comments or suggestions should be made to: David Palmer, Editor  
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