



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

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MAY 2019

NEXT MEETING

MAY 7, 2019

****Best Newsletter Award 2nd Place****

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

****Best Newsletter Award 1st Place****

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



WAGING WAR AGAINST
THE DEAD

Written by: Victor Davis Hanson

Destroying history will not make you feel good about the present. The 21st century is in danger of becoming an era of statue smashing and historical erasure. In the last two years there has been a rash of statue toppling throughout the American South, aimed at wiping out memorialization of Confederate heroes. The pretense is that the Civil War can only be regarded as tragic in terms of the present oppression of the descendants of Southern slaves.

There have been some unfortunate lessons from such vendettas against the images and names of the past.

One, such attacks usually revealed a lack of confidence. The general insecurity of the present could supposedly be remedied by

destroying mute statutes or the legacies of the dead, who could offer no rebuttal.

Two, opportunism, not logic, always seems to determine the targets of destruction. If mass slaughter in the past offered a reason to obliterate remembrance of the guilty, then certainly sports teams should drop brand names such as "Aztecs." Likewise, communities should topple statues honoring various Aztec gods, including the one in my own hometown: Selma, Calif.

Third, in the past there usually has been a cowardly element to historical erasure. Destruction was often done at night by roving vandals or was sanctioned by extremist groups who bullied objectors. Many Confederate statues were torn down or defaced at night. City councils voted to change names or remove icons after being bullied by small pressure groups and media hysteria. They rarely referred the issue to referenda. Destroying history will not make

you feel good about the present. Studying and learning from it might.

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THE GUARDIAN



By Phil Davis

Another April has come and gone. A month where we should have celebrated and honored our Confederate History. Did we do it? Some did, some did not and maybe some didn't even know it was Confederate History Month. There were parades that I read about. Some of us placed flags on the graves of our Southern Heroes. The John Gregg Camp in Longview held a living history exhibit at the Longview Museum. As always it was a great exhibit and had many visitors. I hope each of you made an effort to visit it.

Today with all the negative information being on the forefront, we must strive to try to change the thinking of our friends and neighbors. We must show them that we are not racist or anti-American, and that we are trying to preserve the Southland and our true history.

In the last few months, we have added to our rolls some new Compatriots. I hope that I will soon be getting Guardian Applications from them. If you are new to our camp or not found on the Guardian list in this newsletter you need to get involved in this program. There are only a few things for you to do; find a Confederate Soldiers Grave, fill out a Guardian Application, take

care of that grave by visiting it at least three times a year to keep it maintained and see that it is properly marked indicating that a Confederate Soldier is buried there. For information please contact me at any time.

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?

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



"We are not fighting for slavery. We are fighting for independence - and that, or extermination, we will have."

Jefferson Davis 1864

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.

"Fate is the course when men Fail to act."





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.



Gen. Stonewall Jackson

“TAMING THE TONGUE”

From: sermon archive

“..No one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.

From the same mouth comes blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.

Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water?”

James 3: 8b-11

Since it is obvious that one of humanity’s fatal frailties is the infliction of our untamable tongue, we have forever attempted to control its many mistaken words, or at times allowing venom to be spewed forth on purpose.

The business world sees a sea of civil lawsuits intended to halt the damage caused to reputations and careers. Candidates for public office must realize going in that they will be the target of groundless gossip. There seems to be no stopping the unbridled tongue. Or is there?



HISTORICAL DATES IN MAY

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

May 1-4, 1863 The Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia.

May 3, 1863 The Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

May 18–July 4, 1863 The Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

May 5–7, 1864 The Battle Of the Wilderness, Virginia.

May 6–7, 1864 Port Walthall Junction, Virginia.

May 7, 1864 – The Beginning of the Atlanta Campaign.

May 8–21, 1864 The Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, Virginia.

May 13–15, 1864 Battle of Resaca, Georgia.

May 15, 1864 Battle of New Market, Shenandoah County, Virginia.

May 31-June 12, 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia.

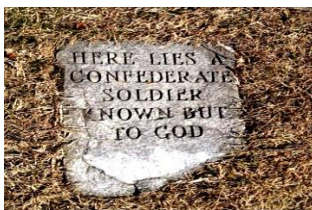
May 27, 2019 Memorial Day.

Self-renunciation is the very core of Christian ethics. Renunciation is when a Christian decides to draw closer to God by resisting evil and setting one's mind on becoming the best that one can be, with God as our helper. And, the promise of God is that when we decide to draw closer to Him, He will draw closer to us.

God has implanted His Spirit into us to help us overcome. Although it seems impossible that a person, even a dedicated believer, can ever overcome occasionally saying something improperly. Each of us needs to be aware of not only what we say but how our words might be taken by another person. And when we find out that we have offended another person we must make every effort to go to that person and ask forgiveness. Asking for forgiveness is often a good way of making a new and trusted friend.



Guardian Director and Past Commander Phil Davis speaks on the Guardian Program at our April meeting.



Guardian Director Phil Davis (L) presents 3 Guardian Certificates to Compatriot George Linton.



THE BATTLE OF RESACA, GEORGIA

From: *history.com*

On May 14 1864, Union and Confederate troops clash at Resaca, Georgia. This was one of the first engagements in a summer-long campaign by Union General William T. Sherman to capture the Confederate city of Atlanta. The spring of 1864 saw a determined effort by the Union to win the war through major offensives in both the eastern and western theaters. In the east, Union General Ulysses S. Grant took on Confederate General Robert E. Lee, while Sherman applied pressure on the Army of the Tennessee, under General Joseph Johnston, in the west.

The Union army would not assault Resaca until May 14, triggering two days of combat. On the first day, the Federal troops gained important ground but failed to break the Confederate lines. The second day also saw no result. But because the Confederates maintained their position and thwarted the Union offense, the Battle of Resaca was considered a tactical victory for the South.

In the days after the battle, Sherman sent McPherson's men on another swing around Johnston's left flank. When these troops crossed the Oostanula River south of Johnston's army, he had to withdraw

further south. The armies inched closer to Atlanta.



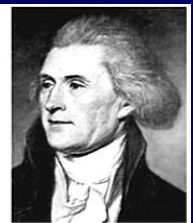
The Great Seal of the Confederate States of America was adopted by the Confederate Congress February 22, 1862. The Meaning of the Symbols is Clear, an Equestrian Statue of George Washington Surrounded with a Wreath Composed of the Principal Agricultural Products of the Confederacy - Cotton, Tobacco, Sugar Cane, Corn, Wheat and Rice. The Confederate States of America, 22 February, 1862, with the following Motto: "Deo Vindice" (God Favor our Cause)



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.

A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have

- Thomas Jefferson
(1743 - 1826)





BATTLE OF CHANCELLORSVILLE

From: history.com

The Battle of Chancellorsville, fought from April 30 to May 6, 1863, is widely considered to be Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's greatest victory during the American Civil War. Facing an enemy force nearly twice the size of his own, Lee daringly split his troops in two, confronting and surprising Union Gen. Joseph Hooker. Though Hooker still held numerical superiority, he did not press this advantage, instead falling back to defensive positions. When Lee once again split his forces and attacked, Hooker was forced to retreat across the Rappahannock River. Lee's victory came at a high cost, however. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, one of his most trusted generals, was mortally wounded by friendly fire during the battle.

Fought in the Wilderness region of Virginia, Chancellorsville was General Robert E. Lee's greatest defensive victory, an outstanding example of command partnership and the misuse of strategic initiative. On April 30, Lee (whose 60,000 men occupied the Fredericksburg heights) found 80,000 enemy troops behind him, thanks to a brilliantly executed march and river crossing by Union major general Joseph Hooker,

who proclaimed Lee could either "ingloriously fly" or give "battle on our ground." Unnerved by sharp counterattacks delivered by the outnumbered Confederate rear guard, Hooker squandered his advantage by halting to erect defenses near the Chancellor farm. Lee arrived on May 1, and together with his able subordinate Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, planned his own flank movement.



MEMORIAL DAY

From: Wikipedia.com

Memorial Day (or Decoration Day) is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering and honoring persons who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The holiday is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day was previously observed on May 30 from 1868 to 1970.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day, particularly to honor those who died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

The practice of decorating soldiers' graves with flowers is an ancient custom. Soldiers' graves were decorated in the U.S. before and during the American Civil War.

Some believe that an annual cemetery decoration practice began before the American Civil War and thus may reflect the real origin of the "memorial day" idea. Annual Decoration Days for particular cemeteries are still held on a Sunday in late spring or early summer in some rural areas of the American South, notably in the mountain areas. In cases involving a family graveyard where remote ancestors, as well as those who died more recently, are buried, this may take on the character of an extended family reunion to which some people travel hundreds of miles. People gather, put flowers on graves, and renew contacts with relatives and others. There often is a religious service and a picnic-like "dinner on the grounds", the traditional term for a potluck meal at a church.

On June 3, 1861, Warrenton, Virginia, was the location of the first Civil War soldier's grave ever to be decorated, according to a Richmond Times-Dispatch newspaper article in 1906. In 1862, women in Savannah, Georgia decorated Confederate soldiers' graves according to the Savannah Republican.

Across the South, associations were founded, many by women, to establish and care for permanent cemeteries for the Confederate dead, organize commemorative ceremonies, and sponsor appropriate monuments as a permanent way of remembering the Confederate dead. The most important of these was the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which grew from 17,000 members in 1900 to nearly 100,000 women by World War I. They were "strikingly successful at raising

money to build Confederate monuments and lobbying legislatures and Congress for the reburial of Confederate dead.

In 2000, Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act, asking people to stop and remember at 3:00 PM.

On Memorial Day, the flag of the United States is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. It is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day.

This year Memorial Day will be observed on May 27.



"All the South has ever desired was that the Union, as established by our forefathers, should be preserved, and that the government, as originally organized, should be administered in purity and truth."

General Robert E. Lee



2019 TEXAS DIVISION REUNION

May 31 - June 2, 2019

Temple, Texas

BLACKSTONE RIDGE

UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS

APRIL 12, 2019

Photos by: Albert Colvin

Taking part were Upshur Patriots members Bill Starnes, George Linton, David Palmer, Ron Jones, Milt Ojeman, Kim Duffey and Jerry Akin. Gregg Camp member Albert Colvin and Douglas Camp Member Rev. Don Majors. Thanks to Eddie Turner for portraying Meshack Roberts.



Compatriot and Past Commander Phil Davis presents a Yeti Cooler to Jon Williamson. John was the winner of our Fund Raiser. It is suspected that Eddie Pricer is behind the camera.

LEGISLATION AIMS TO PROTECT TEXAS MONUMENTS

By: iHeart Media's Corey Olson - Apr 12, 2019

State Rep. James White (R-Hillister) has introduced House Bill 583, which would restrict the ability of local or state lawmakers to remove historical monuments. Specifically, the bill would bar the removal of any monument over 40 years old. Monuments between 20 and 40 years old could only be removed if approved by voters in local jurisdictions, or if approved by the Legislature for state monuments. Monuments less than 20 years old would remain under the current system.

Miller believes the public has too often been shut out of the process when it comes to local jurisdictions removing monuments or changing names of schools. "The people of these cities and school districts in local

areas almost never get a real say in the form of a referendum or a vote," he says. "When these issues are put to the citizens, the citizens are going to make the right call...if (a monument) is so offensive, then the citizens will vote to remove it, but if it does not offend then it will stay."

As of now, HB 583 is still pending in committee, with no timetable for if or when it will receive a vote.



CALLOWAY TEXAS

From: tshaonline.org

Calloway, one of the earliest settlements in Upshur County, was on Calloway Hill, near Farm Road 49 some ten miles west of Gilmer. The settlement was established around 1853 as a way station on the road from Jefferson and named for pioneer settler R. E. Calloway. In antebellum Texas Calloway served as a shipping and trading center for farms and plantations in the western part of the county. A post office opened there in 1855, and by the eve of the Civil War the town had a cotton gin, a blacksmith shop, and several stores and saloons. After the war, Calloway continued to prosper. In 1885 it had an estimated population of 250, three steam gristmill-cotton gins, three churches, two blacksmith shops, a general store, and a district school. Among the town's prominent citizens was James B. Cranfill, an influential Baptist

leader. By the mid-1890s the population of Calloway reached 300. After 1900, however, the community began to decline. Its post office was closed, and many residents moved away. By the mid-1930s the town was no longer shown on county highway maps.



CONFEDERATE MONUMENT ON TYLER SQUARE VANDALIZED

From: kltv.com April 24, 2019

A historic Smith County monument on the Tyler square has been defaced.

The Smith County CSA Confederate monument has been tagged with the initials M.R. or M.B., and a corner brick was taken from the base. When KLTV reported the damage to Smith County and Tyler officials, they were not aware of the damage. The damage was not present on the monument as of Tuesday evening.

The county is going to look into it and we have requested surveillance footage from courthouse cameras that face the square.

Tiffany Wright with the Smith County Historical Society said that the monument was placed on the square in 1936 as part of the Texas Centennial Celebration. Several other monuments were placed around Tyler at that time, including at Oakwood Cemetery, near Goodman Museum, and at Camp Ford.



BRIEF HISTORY
OF MURRAY
LEAGUE

By: David Williamson

Present Day Ore City, Texas

Before there was a Murray League, or Ore City; even before there were any people here at all there was the land: streams, creeks and rivers, hills and forests. This area has been called, "The Land Between the Forks of the Cypress."

France, Spain and Mexico all laid claim to the land where we now live at various times, but the first people to settle here in permanent homes came from the United States. After Texas gained independence, and even more after Texas became a state of the Union in 1845, many people from the Southern states poured into the area. It was at this time that towns such as Coffeerville and Jefferson began to prosper.

In the early 1850s some friends, neighbors and relatives from Haywood County in

Western Tennessee settled on a large tract of land which had been divided into individual homes and farms. The land was part of a grant of a "league and labor of land" made by the Republic of Texas to a "William Murray." As far as we know, he never saw the land, but he had it surveyed and the survey still bears his name.

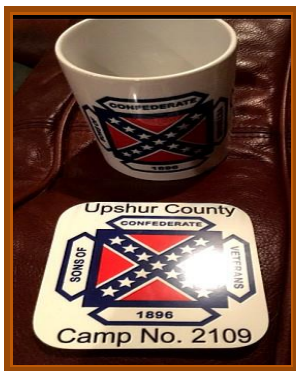
The settlers from Tennessee were all members of the same church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South. They immediately formed a congregation and school in their new community in East Texas which they named, "The Murray League Methodist Episcopal Church, South" and "The Murray Institute."

Murry League had the first school in Upshur County from 1853-1861. This was a coeducational boarding school famous for excellence and taught engineering, higher mathematics, Greek, Latin, along with common subjects.

Around 1910, a commercial company led by Col. F. E. Featherstone was formed to mine the iron ore in the East Texas hills. During the Second World War, the federal government built a steel plant (Lone Star Steel) just 10 miles north of Ore City to mine the same ore that had brought Col. Featherstone to found his new city. Many new families moved into Ore City as a result of the new plant, and in 1951, the city was incorporated.



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**



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.



Comments or suggestions should be made
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