

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

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June 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



This past weekend I had the pleasure of participating in the annual Trail of Honor event in Jackson, Mississippi. This event was started 15 years ago as a stopover point for the Vietnam Veterans traveling, by motorcycle, to the Vietnam Wall in Washington D.C. for Memorial Day. It features historically accurate demonstrations of military life in a walking trail through history. It offers the public an opportunity to meet real life heroes such as former POW's, Medal of Honor Recipients, Gold Star Families, Tuskegee Airmen, and many others. I was honored to be able to talk to some of these people who were such

an important part of the history of this country.

As you walk the trail you can see Patriot Minutemen waiting for the redcoats. You can talk to men defending a wall at the Alamo or, see the crew of a Confederate artillery battery preparing to fire at the Union Lines. My section was the Spanish American War. I spent the weekend with my good friend, Jim Jones, as Roughriders fighting in Cuba. This war, although basically started by newspaper owners such as Randolph Hearst, established this country as a major world power and healed some of the wounds that still divided the north and south. You then progress through WWI, WWII, Vietnam skirmishes and to the Battlefields of the Middle East.

The importance of this is to remember the sacrifices of the few that benefit the many in this great country. This is why, while I honor the memory of my Confederate

Ancestor, I stand for the National Anthem and recite the pledge of allegiance to our flag. I guess that if you disagree you can take a knee. God bless our veterans.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

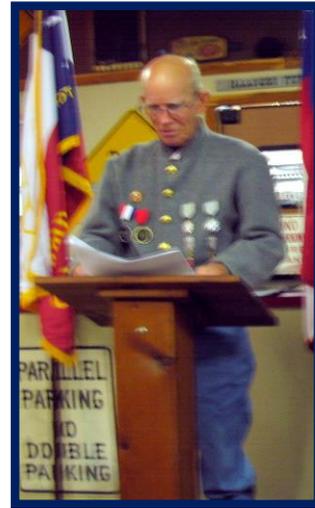
#### **Next Meeting**

June 5, 2018 - 7 PM  
Walking S Steakhouse

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

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

## IN MEMORY OF



R.I.P.

**RICKIE GIPSON**

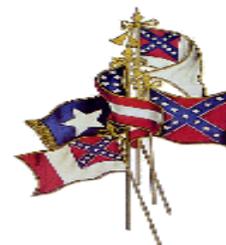
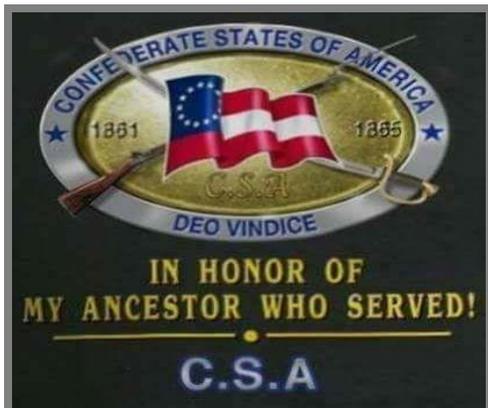
**FEBRUARY 14, 1948 - APRIL 12, 2018**



At our May meeting, an empty chair and table were set up at the entrance to honor our lost Compatriot and friend, Rickie Gipson.



Guardian Program Chairman Phil Davis (L) presents a Guardian Certificate to George Linton.



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

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### **Librarian**

Brandon Pricer  
(682) 552-5802



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

## **The Guardian**

*"Are You a Guardian...if not, Why Not" (Phil Davis)*

"He shall care for and protect the grave of a Confederate Veteran, ensuring that the site is kept clean and well maintained year round. He shall perform these duties personally, unless physically prevented from doing so by reason of health problems."

### **Editors' thoughts...**

There are Southern soldiers lying in unmarked and unattended graves throughout the South in cemeteries that have been long forgotten. Becoming a Guardian is one of those things that comes from one's heart. We all find ourselves busy with work, family, hobbies and a host of other things. We all have that deep feeling to honor and respect our family and ancestors. Every Confederate Soldier at one time had a family, some of whom never found out what the final resting place was for their loved one. Being a Guardian is a way for us to honor these men that defended our soil and give something back.

Many of the current Guardians look after multiple graves, some as many as 40 or more. Some Guardians travel great



distances to guard their ancestor's graves. We have a Guardian in our camp that takes care of 10 graves and is 94 years old. I would hazard to guess that there is an unguarded Confederate grave within 25 miles of each person reading this article.

My point here is that the Guardian Program is a very worthwhile and personally rewarding thing to do. I hope everyone who is not yet participating will consider becoming a Guardian.



**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

**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."*



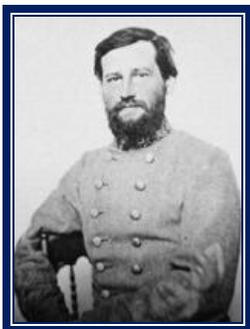


## Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

“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.



## From: The National Civil War Chaplains Museum

Written by: Richard G. Williams, Jr.

*“There is a protracted meeting going on in camp. We have preaching in the forenoon and prayer meeting in the evening . . . and it is my opinion it will do us a great Deal of Good.”*- Private John Meredith Crutchfield, Virginia Infantry, Princeton, Va. 1863.

For the overwhelming number of Union and Confederate soldiers, religion was the greatest sustainer of morale in the Civil War. Faith was a refuge in great time of need. Troops faced battle by forgetting earthly pleasures and looking heavenward . . . Guarding and guiding the spiritual well being of the soldiers was the primary responsibility of army chaplains.

For many of the young men who fought in the Civil War, it was their first time away from home for any extended period of time. For these same men - away from the influence of father and mother and exposed to a number of vices - Chaplains often served as surrogate parents in keeping a young soldier on the righteous path.

To the Confederacy belongs a first in the history of military chaplains - the first black man known to minister to white soldiers. A Tennessee regiment was having



## Historical Dates in June

June 21, 1788 – The United States Constitution goes into effect after the necessary 9 states have ratified it.

June 18, 1812-Congress declares war on Britain beginning the War of 1812.

June 3, 1861- A skirmish near Philippi in western Virginia, is the first clash of Union and Confederate forces in the east.

June 10, 1861- Battle of Big Bethel, the first land battle of the war in Virginia.

June 20, 1861-At the Wheeling Convention, the region that composed the northwestern counties of Virginia broke away from that state to form West Virginia the thirty fifth state of the Union on June 20, 1863.

June 6, 1862-The Battle of Memphis, Tennessee. The city of Vicksburg stands as the last southern stronghold on the great river.

June 25-July 1, 1862- The Seven Days' Battles before Richmond, the largest artillery battle of the war. General Lee's army attacks the "Army of the Potomac" under General George McClellan.

June 14-15, 1863- Battle of Second Winchester, Virginia. Confederate troops under General Richard Ewell defeat Union troops under General Robert Milroy, clearing the Shenandoah Valley of Union forces.

June 27, 1864- Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia. After weeks of maneuvering and battles, Sherman's Army of the Cumberland and Army of the Tennessee clash.

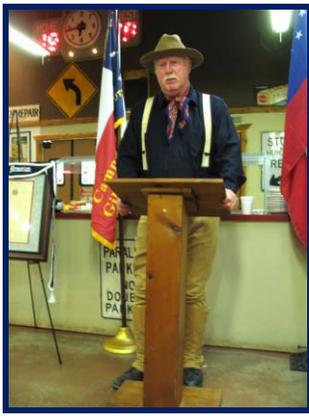
difficulty securing a chaplain to conduct religious services for its soldiers. "Uncle Lewis" Nelson enjoyed a reputation among the men of being devout. He was asked to fill in temporarily and conduct a worship service. According to Nelson's grandson, Nelson Winbush, his grandfather told him that a number of Yankee soldiers once joined the Tennesseans during a worship service and, after its conclusion, "all shook hands and went back to fighting."

The consensus among historians is that religion and revivalism, while present in both armies, was much more widespread and influential in the Confederate Army than it was in the Union. Historian Drew Gilpin Faust suggests that this was due to "the greater homogeneity of religious outlook within the overwhelmingly evangelical and Protestant Southern army" as well as "the more profound stresses on Southern soldiers, who because of shortages of manpower and material served for longer periods of time, with fewer furloughs, and with greater physical deprivation."

### **HARPER'S WEEKLY, OCTOBER 19, 1861**

#### **ELLIOT'S POCKET REVOLVER.**

**THE MOST COMPACT AND POWERFUL PISTOL EVER MADE, WEIGHS ONLY EIGHT OUNCES, WHOLE LENGTH FOUR INCHES. ITS PENETRATION IS 1 INCH OF PINE AT ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YARDS. PRICE \$10, WITH 100 CARTRIDGES. ENCLOSE STAMP FOR ILLUSTRATED CIRCULAR.**



Mr. Jim Jones speaks at our May meeting on the Spanish-American War.



### The Seven Day's Battles

From: *history.net*

The Seven Days Battle or Seven Days Campaign took place from June 25 to July 1, 1862 and featured six different battles along the Virginia Peninsula east of Richmond. The Union Army of the Potomac, led by Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, was over 100,000 men strong yet was steadily driven away from the ultimate goal of Richmond and back to the James River by Confederates led by a new field commander—Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Lee had been serving as military adviser to Confederate president Jefferson Davis, but

when Gen. Joseph E. Johnston was wounded May 31 during the Battle of Seven Pines (Battle of Fair Oaks), Davis asked Lee to take command of the army in the field. Lee immediately set the men to work building defensive positions around Richmond, leading his grumbling soldiers to dub him "the Prince of Spades." But Lee knew he could not protect the Confederate capital for long against such overwhelming odds. After Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson arrived with troops from the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, Lee prepared to strike McClellan's Army. McClellan struck first, sending two divisions of the III Corps to secure the Richmond & York River Railroad. The fighting on June 25 in the swamps around Oak Grove proved indecisive.

Lee took the initiative the next day, assaulting Federal positions along Beaver Dam Creek, north of the Chickahominy River. The plan depended on a rapid movement by Jackson's tired men, who arrived too late. Major General A. P. Hill's Confederate troops attacked as planned but were beaten back. However, the Federals, with Jackson on their right flank and Hill and Lt. Gen. James Longstreet to their front and to the left fell back behind Boatswain Creek east of Gaines Mill.

On June 27, the Confederates attacked those positions in a series of costly charges. On the south side of the Chickahominy, the Confederate forces from Maj. Gen. "Prince John" Magruder's command attacked the Federals at Garnett's Farm but were repulsed. The savage attacks convinced the cautious McClellan that he needed to give

up his plan to capture Richmond and fall back along his line of supply.

The 28th saw little fighting except for a failed Confederate reconnaissance attempt at Golding's Farm. On June 29, Magruder struck the Union rear guard at Savage's Station but with little effect.

On the 30th, three Confederate divisions hit Union positions in a battle known as Glendale or Frayser's Farm. The Union division of Brig. Gen. George A. McCall routed, and their commander was captured, but counterattacks stopped the Rebel advance. Farther north, an assault by Jackson stalled in White Oak Swamp, and to the south, a half-hearted attempt by Maj. Gen. T. H. Holmes was turned back by Federal gunboats.

McClellan took up a strong defensive position on Malvern Hill a little north of the James River. Lee hammered the defenders with repeated assaults that cost the Confederate army 5,600 men but failed to carry the position. Strategically, however, Lee had won. McClellan retreated down the peninsula. Richmond was saved. Lee, whose reputation had previously suffered as a result of campaigns in Western Virginia over which he had little control, emerged as the Savior of the South. By August, he will have carried the fight back to Northern Virginia and, the following month, he and McClellan will clash again, this time along Antietam Creek outside Sharpsburg, Maryland.



Karla McDonald Jones speaks at our meeting on events of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.



### The Trail of Honor

Camp Commander Milt Ojeman recently traveled to Jackson, Mississippi for the annual Trail of Honor festivities

The three photos below depict some of the displays on the Trail.



Civil War Navy



Spanish-American War-Commander M. Ojeman(L)



World War I



## Bless the Beasts Animals of the Civil War



*From: The Civil War Omnibus*

For soldiers on the march during the Civil War, fresh food was often a delicacy that had to be obtained by less than honest means. Yet Confederate General Robert E. Lee was guaranteed one fresh egg every day, but this honor was not due to the fact that Lee was the commanding general of the Confederate Army; rather, it was because Lee had befriended a hen who traveled along with him, gifting him with an egg she laid under his cot every morning. When his pet hen was lost during the Battle of Gettysburg, Lee and the rest of his men were highly distressed until she could be found.

Civil War regiments took animals along as mascots or pets. Dogs, cats, donkeys, even camels, bears, eagles and pelicans traveled along with Union and Confederate armies into the thick of battle, providing companionship, and comfort along the way.

Dogs were by far the most popular army mascots during the Civil War. Valued both for the companionship they provided and the fact that most dogs could be trained to help their masters' forage for food, carry supplies, or even search for dead and wounded soldiers when the need arose. Man's best friend, indeed.

Fort McAllister was part of the defensive ring protecting the Confederate city of Savannah, Georgia. It was built of earthworks, sods and mounds of mud from the nearby Ogeechee River. McAllister's cherished mascot was Tom Cat, a large black cat adored by the garrison. Tom Cat would run back and forth along the defenses during battle, dodging the hail of musket fire. Early in 1863 the Unionists began a series of determined naval assaults on the fort. The Commander, Major John B. Gallie was decapitated. About a month later on March 3, Tom Cat's luck ran out when a stray bullet ended his life. Tom was buried with full military honors.

Bears were also popular mascots. Both Wisconsin and Minnesota boasted brigades who had bears in their numbers. When Union forces took West Liberty, Kentucky in 1861, their captured list included 52 horses, 10 mules and "one large bear."

The 43rd Mississippi Company "A" became known as "the Camel Company" for their mascot, a camel named Old Douglas. Old Douglas made himself useful by carrying supplies for the company, and even managed to make friends with the regiment's horses, but found himself in trouble after he wandered into a wagon

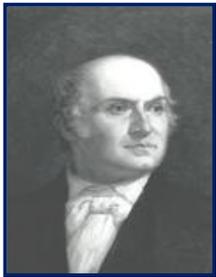
train, causing havoc and injury. Old Douglas was killed at Vicksburg.

Other regiment Mascots included badgers, squirrels, raccoons, wildcats, and even pigs.

Animals adopted as mascots during the Civil War enjoyed the attention and devotion of entire regiments, but provided something even more important to the men who claimed them – comfort and joy during a turbulent time.



Guardian Program Chairman Phil Davis(C) presents Certificates to John Mars (L) with Commander Rex McGee(R) at the Lt. David R. Reynolds Camp #2270



Able Parker Upshur

### A Brief History of Upshur County

Printed in the Gilmer Mirror, August 1946

From the writings of:  
G.H. Baird

As one drives over our modern highways, through our towns and villages, and passes the beautiful country homes by the wayside, he can hardly realize the condition of the country one hundred years ago. No towns, no homes, no roads, with this vast

expanse of territory occupied by wild animals and a few Indians. The hoot of the owl and the yell of the savage were the only sounds that broke the lonely solitude.

After the War Between the States, all roads leading to Texas were crowded with immigrants to the Lone Star State. Upshur County, in the eastern part of the state, lay in their path, and was settled at an early date and by a high class of citizens. This part of the state was well watered and timbered, and was well stocked with wild game, so the early settler had little trouble in building his home and procuring food for his family.

The living conditions in Upshur County were very simple in the early days. They had few luxuries and knew nothing of modern conveniences. But they made the best of what they had and were contented and happy. Little money was possessed by the settlers and little was needed. Homemade wagons, with wheels cut from large black gum trees, with wooden spindles, were common in those early days.

Most of Upshur County was formerly occupied by the Caddo Indians but about the year 1800, one tribe of Cherokee Indians migrated to this section and drove all other Indians out. The Cherokees continued to occupy this county until 1839, when General Thomas J. Rusk drove them out of Texas.

In the early part of 1931, oil was discovered in southeastern Upshur County, and there are over one thousand producing wells in the county now. This industry brought great

wealth into the county as well as increased the population by several thousand.

Iron ore has been found near the surface in different parts of the county. One deposit, near Ore City, contains between 80 and 120 millions of tons of ore.

For entertainment, the settlers had house-raising, log-rolling, square dances, speech-making, patriotic meetings celebrating some holiday, or gathering in some home and listening to some versatile fiddler.

The first deed recorded in Book 1 of Upshur County records is: Britton Smith to Bond J. Bowman, October 2, 1846. Smith sold Bowman 320 acres of land lying on Little Cypress. In 1846, three-fourths of the records pertained to slaves. Negroes were worth from \$300 to \$1,000 each. On December 28, 1846, B. M. Hampton mortgaged to A. B. Denton one Negro boy named Grant for \$348. The deed made by Mary Ivey was made while Texas was still a republic, and Upshur County was a part of Harrison County, but was not recorded until Upshur became a separate county.

In the summer of 1910, J.O. Allen, with the help of some of the leading citizens of the county, organized the first Upshur County Fair. The Fair was held in buildings constructed around the court house square, and with the traveling shows and carnivals, a great show was produced. Everyone looked forward to the opening day, and they came from all the surrounding country for three days recreation.

The East Texas Yamboree was organized in the fall of 1935, with W. C. Barnwell

president, and J. A. Brogoitti, manager. It was a modest beginning, but it continued to grow until it became quite an extensive Fair, with a number of other exhibits than the yam. About forty counties of East Texas took part in the exhibits, and it continued to grow in interest and popularity, until it became one of the outstanding events of East Texas.



## **The Destruction of American History through the Eradication of Confederate Monuments**

*From: [truthandaction.org](http://truthandaction.org)*

America doesn't need a whitewashing of history, it needs a renewed commitment to the leaders and inspiring people, heralded and unheralded, who made this country what it is today—and an understanding of those who may have caused it harm. New monuments and reinterpretations of the past will undoubtedly arise, but this should not necessitate the bulldozing of priceless and irreplaceable works of art.

The current efforts to fundamentally transform history are fueled by people who believe America has been rotten since day one and want nothing less than total political and Cultural Revolution. It would be a travesty and a foreboding sign for America's future if there is no attempt to preserve these monuments against the push of a temporary majority or—more

accurately—an incredibly vocal and insistent minority.

In the last few years alone, leftist activists have been relentless and often successful in their pursuit of dismantling this country's past in an attempt to recreate the nation in their own image. Perhaps most disturbing of all is the effort to dig up Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife from their graves in a park in Memphis, Tennessee. Even the dead are not allowed to rest.



## **The Erosion of the Bill of Rights**

An Opinion by: Robert Charles

***“Let me add that a bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular, & what no just government should refuse, or rest on inferences.”***  
– Thomas Jefferson, 1787.

***“We will not, under any threat, or in the face of any danger, surrender the guarantees of liberty our forefathers framed for us in our Bill of Rights.”***  
Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1941.

***“On Bill of Rights Day, we recognize the importance of the first 10 Amendments to our Constitution to protect our liberty and freedom against the inevitable encroachment of government.”*** Donald Trump, December 8, 2017

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution make up the Bill of Rights. These amendments are the foundation of our liberty and the lasting legacy of the Founding Fathers who so wisely created a Constitution designed to protect the freedom of generations far into the future.

These rights are a major factor in what makes America an exceptional nation and a beacon for freedom that attracts people from the world over.

The idea that we should correct an absence of responsibility by the few through empowering government to strip rights from the many is more medieval than modern – a license to lawlessness, not a defense of legal and moral rights.

Once we begin whittling away at one of our rights in the Bill of Rights, what's to stop the erosion of the others? Freedom of Speech? The Right to Bear Arms? Freedom of Religion? Changes like this wouldn't be minor tinkering – they would amount to major disfigurement of America's foundational document, equivalent to amputating a person's arm or leg.

America's Founders, who fought to win our freedom from Britain and to secure ratification for our Constitution and Bill of Rights, would be dumbstruck by a default to trust in an all-powerful government, rather than in the good sense and responsibility of “We, The People.”

Ending the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendments would allow the federal government to go after any person the government suspected, doubted or disliked; search and seize life and effects at will; force confessions of crimes; and do away with fair trials, confrontation and protections against imprisonment.

Alas, life of a free citizen is hard. It is not about repealing rights, but about learning to use our God-given, constitutionally

protected freedoms responsibly. The fault is not in the Bill of Rights, but in us.



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



### 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.



**Stone Mountain Georgia**

Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. The North face of Stone Mountain was deeded to the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1916. In 1958, Georgia purchased the mountain for \$1,125,000. The carving is 400 feet above the ground.



We thank 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  
[david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org](mailto:david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org)

We hope everyone had a safe and happy Memorial Day. We honor those died for our freedom.



Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial  
Dinoze, France

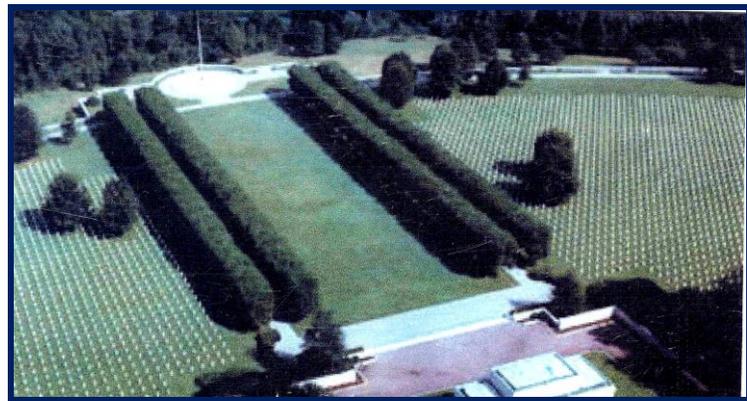
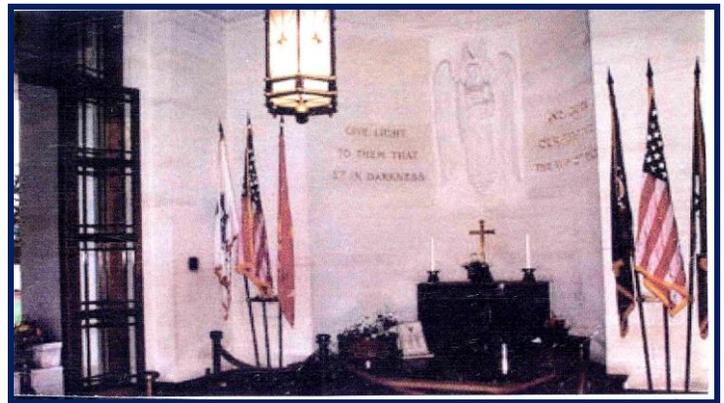
The Cemetery was established in October 1944 by the 46<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Graves Registration Co. of the U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Army. It is 48.6 acres in extent and sited 100 feet above the Moselle River in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains. The Cemetery contains the graves of 5,255 of our U.S. Military Dead.



S.Sgt. Jack Palmer, older brother to our Real Grandson and WWII Veteran Bill Palmer. Jack Palmer is buried in the Epinal Cemetery after giving his life at one of the beaches in the Normandy Invasion.



Jack W. Palmer  
S.Sgt., 30 Inf. 3rd Div.  
Texas October 28, 1944



When a Foreign Country Guards and Honors our Ancestor's graves in this way, don't we owe it to our Confederate ancestors to be a "Guardian" over them?