



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

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Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of
Each Month at 7 PM

NOVEMBER 2023

www.upshurpatriots.org



Hello, November! Thank you for reminding us we have so much to be grateful for. November is here and for many, the pace begins to pick up as we head toward the holidays and end of the year. This last month of fall is a great time to reflect, be thankful for what has happened this year and ponder upon goals that you may want to work on.

Our Confederate ancestors would point us to eternal values: God, Family, Friends, Neighbors, State, Nation — pretty much in that order. We are not called to take the field as our ancestors did. But we must stand up for truth without fear or favor.

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THE GUARDIAN

Proper Cemetery Etiquette

While cemeteries can be sweet places of reflection and memory, they deserve a certain level of respect. People go to cemeteries to mourn and honor their loved ones. Consequently, it is important to understand cemetery etiquette.

Keep your voices down.

Loud, boisterous laughing or talking will likely disturb anyone else who may be visiting the cemetery.

Avoid walking over graves.

Try not to step over anyone's grave if possible.

Respect the personal space of other visitors.

Other visitors might not be emotionally prepared to uphold a conversation. Be courteous and keep a respectful distance.

Respect the cemetery's rules.

Always educate yourself on the cemetery's rules and standards.

Why shouldn't you touch the headstones?

Headstones are often sentimental to the deceased individual's loved ones. They summarize an individual's life, who they were, and some even have a meaningful quote or message. Custom gravestones provide a wonderful way of honoring someone's memory.

The biggest take away in proper cemetery etiquette boils down to respect – respecting other guests, respecting the deceased, and respecting the individuals who take care of the grounds.

"If you're not a Guardian, why not?"

Contact Guardian Program Chairman Bill Elliot for information at: etaia@att.net



UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS GUARDIANS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Guardian Status</u>	<u>Number of Graves</u>
Phil Davis	Full	31
Kim Duffey	Full	3
Chris Loyd	Full	5
George Linton	Full/W/GPT	51
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	40
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Tommy Ray	Full/GPT	19
Bill Starnes	Full/W/GPT	7
Frank Smith	Full	2
Gregg Gipe	GPT	3

W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem





James Albert Spicer, Virginia's last living Confederate Veteran. This picture was taken in September of 1930 in the town of Orange, VA in a parade. He was 86 years old. He died at

the age of 103 in 1947.

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:

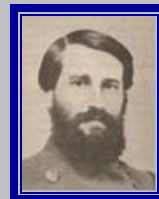
I salute the Confederate Flag With affection, reverence, and Undying devotion to the cause for which it stands.



CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

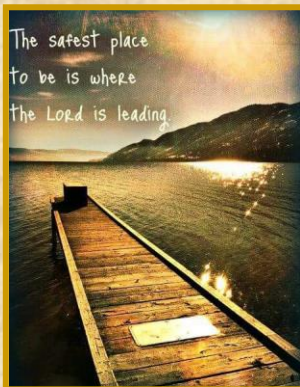
"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved 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."



In 1906 General Stephen D. Lee, Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans, gave a charge to the next generation of Southerners. This charge has defined the mission of the Sons of Confederate Veterans ever since.

"The patriot volunteer, fighting for country and his rights, makes the most reliable soldier on earth." Stonewall Jackson.



A SLOW AND SAFE PLACE

By: Sarah Freymuth

*"Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."...
Psalms 51:12*

It's been a struggle, The strain of slogging through has worn me out for many months. I'm left in the middle of this marathon but I wonder if I'm making any progress at all. These seasons of waiting when we are worn from holding on to certain promises of God that have not yet come to pass.

God can restore the joy of our salvation and bring us back to where we began believing in Him. He urges us in the softest ways to hold firmly to our trust in Him, assured that He who set off from the starting line with us still weaves through the weeds right now as we make our way along the trail. His presence is our promise, and *this* we can hold on to as our guarantee. When the road is long and our lungs are on the brink of collapse, let's pull away for a moment to a slow and safe place and let our hearts rest in Him. The longer we endure, the deeper we go with Him into those weary places, we receive the reward of His grace again and again.

"Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."

Hebrews 10:35-36

GREENWOOD CEMETERY

Longview, Texas



Commander Sam Mercer speaking at the program.

On Saturday October 21, 2023, a Memorial was held honoring the memory of those buried at Greenwood Cemetery who served in the Confederacy. Burials in Greenwood include a veteran of the war of 1812 and 37 known Confederate veterans. Eight specific graves were honored, however there are many more resting here. The Ceremony was led by Sam Mercer, Commander John Gregg Camp #958 and Camp Members. The Upshur Co. Patriots, Mechanized Cavalry and W. W. Heartsill, Camp were also represented.

Greenwood Cemetery was established in 1877.



5th Brigade Commander Bill Elliot speaking at the Memorial.



Mechanized Cavalry Promotions

1st Lt. Commander, 2nd Platoon – Red Yauch

Sgt. 3rd. Squad, 2nd Platoon – Chris Brown

Corporal 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon – Larry Lour

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN NOVEMBER



1861

November 7 - Engagement at Belmont, Missouri.

November 8/9 - Engagement at Ivy Mountain, Kentucky.

November 22 - Union begins bombardment of Fort McRee in Pensacola, Florida.

1862

November 28 - Engagement at Cane Hill, Arkansas.

1863

November 3 - Engagement at Grand Coteau (Bayou Bourdeau), Louisiana.

November 4 - Knoxville Campaign begins.

November 7 - Battle of Rappahannock Station, Virginia.

November 16 - Battle of Campbell's Station, Tennessee.

November 17 - Longstreet lays siege to Knoxville, Tennessee.

November 23 - Battle of Orchard Knob begins near Chattanooga, Tennessee.

November 24 - Battle of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee.

November 25 - Battle of Missionary Ridge, Tennessee.

November 26 - Mine Run Campaign begins in Virginia.

November 27 - Engagement at Payne's Farm, Virginia.

November 29 - Assault on Fort Sanders, Tennessee.

1864

November 2 - Affair at Hazen's Farm near Devalls Bluff, Arkansas.

November 4 - Engagement at Johnsonville, Tennessee.

November 11 - Battle of Bull's Gap, Tennessee.

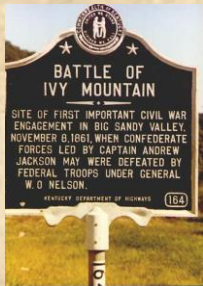
November 24 - Skirmish at Columbia, Tennessee.

November 28 - Rosser's Raid on New Creek near Keyser, West Virginia.

November 29 - Battle of Spring Hill, Tennessee.

November 30 - Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

November 30 - Engagement at Honey Hill, South Carolina.



THE IVY MOUNTAIN ENGAGEMENT

civilwarmoments.com

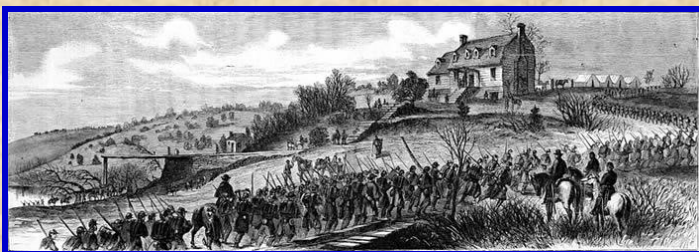
Brigadier General William "Bull" Nelson had begun raising a Federal force in September "to end treason" in eastern Kentucky. By this time, the force numbered about 5,500 troops. These troops occupied Prestonburg on their way to confront Colonel John S. Williams, who had recruited about 1,010 Confederate volunteers around Piketon, 28 miles southeast of Prestonburg.

Nelson's goal was to stop Williams from recruiting men and cut off his line of retreat into Virginia. He detached a regiment, a small battalion, and a cannon under Colonel Joshua W. Sill from Louisa on a circuitous

route behind Williams's troops near the state line. Meanwhile, Nelson led three regiments and two batteries down the state road directly toward Williams at Piketon.

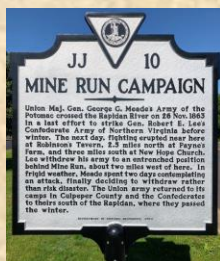
Nelson moved out at 5 a.m. on the 8th. The Confederates, most of whom had only shotguns or flintlock muskets, quickly fell back toward Ivy Mountain as Williams tried to buy enough time to escape into Virginia. Confederate cavalry skirmished briefly with the advancing Federals before falling back. Williams had not finished evacuating when the Federals approached, so he positioned his men at a gorge between Ivy Creek and Ivy Mountain, which overlooked a sharp bend in the state road northeast of Piketon. As the Federals blindly rounded the bend, the Confederates opened fire. An 80-minute engagement ensued in which both sides mostly used small arms. Nelson could not use his numerical superiority or his artillery because of the road's narrowness. And Sill's Federals never arrived in Williams's rear as planned.

The Confederates managed to break away and continue their retreat, felling trees along the way to slow their pursuers. The Federals advanced four miles before halting for the night in heavy rain. Williams reached Abingdon, Virginia, the next day. Sill remained at Louisa, unable to stop him. Nelson reported that his men sustained 30 casualties (six killed and 24 wounded). The Confederates lost 75 (10 killed, 15 wounded, and 50 captured or missing). Nelson won a minor victory, but he failed to destroy the enemy as hoped. Williams's force remained intact.



MINE RUN PAYNE'S FARM

battlefields.org

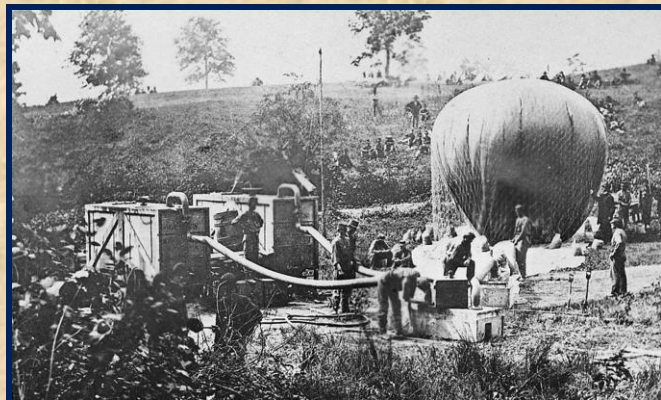


Orange County, VA. Nov 27 - Dec 2, 1863

After the inconclusive Bristoe Campaign in the fall of 1863, Maj. Gen. George

G. Meade planned one more offensive against Gen. Robert E. Lee in northern Virginia before winter weather ended military operations. In late November, Meade attempted to steal a march southeast from Culpeper Courthouse, turn south through the Wilderness and strike the right flank of the Confederate army south of the Rapidan River. On November 27th, Maj. Gen. Jubal A. Early, in command of Ewell's Corps, marched east on the Orange Turnpike to meet the advance of Maj. Gen. William French's Third Corps near Payne's Farm. French moved slowly, giving Lee and Early time to reposition their line. Brig. Gen. Joseph B. Carr's division, supported by Brig. Gen. Henry Prince's division, attacked twice. Maj. Gen. Edward Johnson's Confederates counterattacked but were scattered by heavy fire and broken terrain. After dark, Lee withdrew to field fortifications he had prepared along Mine Run. The next day, the Union army closed again on the Confederate position. Skirmishing was heavy, but a major attack did not materialize. Meade concluded that the

Confederate line was too strong to attack and retired during the night of December 1-2nd, ending the winter campaign of 1863.



Inflation of the Intrepid, a hydrogen gas balloon used by the Union Army Balloon Corps for aerial reconnaissance. The Balloon Corps operated a total of seven balloons, with the Intrepid being favored by Chief Aeronaut Thaddeus Lowe.



Rebel fortifications in front of Atlanta, Georgia, in 1863 or 1864.



CIVIL WAR CULTURE: THE ROLE OF NEWSPAPERS

history.com

With the invention of the telegraph (1837) and a better mechanical printing press (1847), the newspaper business had begun to explode in the years leading up to the Civil War. By 1860, the country could boast some 2,500 publications, many of them published weekly or daily. Widespread use of the telegraph meant that war-related news reached Americans across the country, in both rural and urban areas, in an extremely short time. The Civil War would become the most well-reported conflict in history: Reporters traveling with the armies sent dispatches directly from the field, and many soldiers wrote letters for their hometown newspapers.

Circulation increased exponentially during the war, as Americans across the country avidly followed their armies' fortunes in the field. Additionally, mass-produced newspapers were selling for just a penny, enabling them to reach a much greater audience than ever before. In addition to straight reporting, newspapers (particularly pictorial ones) published a wide variety of political cartoons. By satirizing controversial leaders, celebrating victories and laying blame for defeats, the cartoons became an integral part of how many Americans processed the staggering events of the war.



ROBERT E. LEE STATUE MELTED IN SECRET

By: Alexander Hall

The statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee that once stood in Charlottesville, Virginia, was secretly melted down at a ceremonial event. After both cultural and legal battles, the statue of Lee that sparked the infamous Charlottesville "Unite the Right" rally was reportedly melted in a secretive ceremony in order to ensure the safety of those involved. The Washington Post reported that the statue met its end "in a 2,250-degree furnace" when it was "secretly melted down" to become a new piece of public art.

The Washington Post reported that "Swords into Plowshares," a project led by University of Virginia religious studies professor Jalane Schmidt and Charlottesville's Black history museum executive director Andrea Douglas, "will turn bronze ingots made from molten Lee into a new piece of public artwork to be displayed in Charlottesville. They made arrangements for Lee to be melted down while they started collecting ideas from city residents for that new sculpture."

The Post went on to say that due to "past threats" and "worries about legal action" the project went to great lengths to keep itself secret until now. The article made note that Schmidt, "who directs the Memory Project at U-Va.'s Karsh Institute of Democracy, said she felt like she was preparing for an execution of sorts," and quoted her comparing the destruction of the monument to putting down a rabid dog that has been harming people.



HONORING OUR CONFEDERATE ANCESTORS

By Martin K. O'Toole

When the Confederate commemoration began, it was as a memorial to people who were known to the living. Today, it is unlikely that there is anyone here who knew an actual Confederate veteran. The last verified Confederate died in 1951.

Our ancestors who fought and suffered for the Independence of the Southland had an honored place in the nation's history once the immediate post-war hysteria had passed. The victorious Federals were happy to absorb Confederate heroism and honor as part of the mutual patrimony of the reunited nation. But people who never heard a rebel yell are unwilling to accept the verdict of those who did. The America that Robert E. Lee urged all Southerners to support after the War is vanishing. It has

been revised, reinterpreted, contextualized and re-written.

Most of our ancestors could see beyond the glitter of a fancy casket. They could see and sense the heroic and make the heroic a part of their lives. By doing so, they became heroes themselves. Their virtues are within us all. They are human virtues. But today these values are buried under the slag and filth of modern life.

Until comparatively recently, our ancestors who fought and suffered for the Independence of the Southland were given an honored place in the entire nation's history once the immediate post-war hysteria had passed. Today they are routinely called losers, traitors and Nazis.

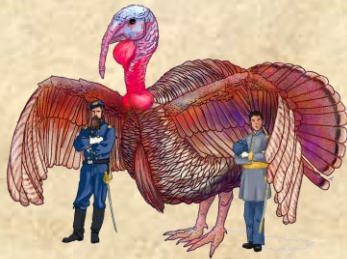
Confederates were among the noblest Americans in history and deserve (and desired) nothing less and nothing more than "that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."



Photo of General William T. Sherman's men tearing up railroad tracks before leaving Atlanta, Georgia.



Photo of General Sherman's men after capturing an Atlanta Confederate Fort 1864.



THANKSGIVING SEWARD'S IDEA

By: Michelle Kondrich

As the Civil War raged in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln and his secretary of state, William H. Seward, issued a proclamation on Oct. 3 calling for a national holiday to be observed on "the last Thursday of November." That proclamation, a document of unusual literary grace, might do good service again in a nation that could use words of healing.

Seward had a reason for proposing a national holiday. As he and Lincoln knew well, Thanksgiving was celebrated erratically around the country, with the

dates set state by state, by governors. Seward had proclaimed four Thanksgivings of his own as governor of New York. But there was no uniform practice.

Part of the problem was that the South distrusted a holiday tied to the early history of New England.

In the fall of 1863, Seward saw an opening. After two years of brutal fighting, the tide had turned, with Union victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg. Seward joked that if the South was always going to accuse the federal government of "stealing away the rights of the States," Washington ought to at least steal something valuable. Lincoln looked up, "with a quizzical expression," and asked, "Well, Governor, what do you want to steal now?" Seward answered: "The right to name Thanksgiving Day! We ought to have one national holiday, all over the country, instead of letting the Governors of States name half a dozen different days."

The Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863, written by Seward and Lincoln is not all sweetness and light. Atypically for a government document, the proclamation expresses a sense of penitence, acknowledging "national perverseness and disobedience," even "sins." Then it concludes with a dose of generosity to the disadvantaged, particularly "widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers." And in perhaps the most important line, it celebrates one country, not two.

"There is a Southern heritage, and it has nothing to do with the colonel in the whiskey ad. It has to do with the

conservative tradition of a predominantly agrarian society, a tradition which at its best enshrined the humane aspects of living for rich and poor, black and white. It gave first place to a stable family life, sensitivity and good manners between men, chivalry toward women, an honor code, and individual integrity."...Walker Percy

DID YOU KNOW?

10% of the world population is left-handed.

A person will sleep an average of 25 years in their lifetime.

Cows cannot climb downstairs.

The most commonly used letter in the English alphabets is E.

Around 8% of the world population has an extra rib.

Any member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is welcome and encouraged to join the Mechanized Cavalry. First and foremost, we are the Sons of Confederate Veterans. There are currently no annual dues or fees. The Mechanized Cavalry is a Heritage group and is not a motorcycle club. We follow a set of standing orders necessary to uphold the ethics and values of our organization. Every member of the Mechanized Cavalry knows what it is to "Ride as you would with Forrest."

Upcoming Events may be found on the Calendar at: www.upshurpatriots.org



Thank you to the Historic Upshur Museum for providing our meeting location.

The Patriot's Periodical is a multi-award-winning Publication by a Camp in the Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Comments or suggestions should be made to: David Palmer, 1st Lt. Commander/Editor david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org



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

