



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

©COPYRIGHT 2022

Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday  
of each month at 7 PM in the  
Historic Upshur Museum  
[www.upshurpatriots.org](http://www.upshurpatriots.org)

DECEMBER 2022



CHRISTMAS DURING  
THE CIVIL WAR



By the mid-19th century, most of today's familiar Christmas trappings—Christmas carols, gift giving and tree decoration—were already in place. Charles Dickens had published “A Christmas Carol” in 1843 and the Civil War saw the first introductions to the image of a jolly and portly Santa Claus through the drawings of Thomas Nast.

For many, the holiday was a reminder of the profound melancholy that had settled over the entire nation. Southern parents warned their children that Santa might not make it through the blockade, and soldiers in bleak winter quarters were reminded, more acutely than ever, of the domestic bliss they had left behind.

Christmas during the Civil War served both as an escape from and a reminder of the awful conflict rending the country in two.

CAMP LEADERSHIP  
**UPSHUR COUNTY**  
**PATRIOTS CAMP #2109**

COMMANDER  
**GREGG GIPE**  
(903) 353-0670  
[gregggipe@aol.com](mailto:gregggipe@aol.com)

1ST LT. COMMANDER  
EDITOR  
**DAVID PALMER**  
(903) 237-8941  
[david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org](mailto:david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org)

2ND LT. COMMANDER  
**JERRY AKIN**  
(903) 434-6318  
[jerrypakin@gmail.com](mailto:jerrypakin@gmail.com)

ADJUTANT  
Don Loyd  
(903) 797-6922  
[donrloyd@etex.net](mailto:donrloyd@etex.net)

CHAPLAIN  
**JERRY AKIN**  
(832) 434-6318  
[jerrypakin@gmail.com](mailto:jerrypakin@gmail.com)



## THE GUARDIAN

Few tasks could make a Civil War soldier tremble as much as burial detail in the aftermath of a major battle.

On the battlefields of America's bloodiest conflict, men fell in droves and to the victorious army went the unpleasant duty of burying the dead. With few ways of identifying the dead as they decayed in the sun, many of those who died in battle were laid in unknown graves near the places where they fell. This created an unbearable situation for families whose loved ones perished in service to their country, leaving them with little closure.

We owe these heroes perpetual care of their final resting places.

If you are interested in sponsoring an SCV Grave Marker, the Sons of Confederate Veterans Guardian Program helps to ensure preservation of a Soldier's final resting place.

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

Contact Guardian Program Chairman Bill Elliot for information at: [etaia@att.net](mailto:etaia@att.net)



## 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             | 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                       |
| Mitch Tyson     | Full                   | 3                       |
| Johnathan Tyson | Full                   | 1                       |
| Gregg Gipe      | GPT                    | 3                       |

W=Wilderness GPT=Guardian Pro Tem

## ALICE THOMPSON

*dixieoutfitters.com*



On the morning of March 3, 1863, the battle of Thompson Station, Tennessee was fought. Before the battle began, Alice Thompson, a young girl of sixteen, left home and started to a neighbor's, but the Confederate and Federal sharpshooters began shooting at one another, and, seeing her danger, she took refuge in Lieut. Bank's cellar with his family. The Confederates charged, but were driven back. As they passed the cellar where the women were, their color bearer was shot down. When Alice Thompson saw this, she sprang out of the cellar, caught the flag, and waved it over her head. Then the

Rebels raised a yell and drove the Yankees back. The soldiers pushed her back in the cellar. She took her skirts off, and gave them to bind up the wounds of the Confederates.

## 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.”



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





***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
John 3:16***

As you celebrate the miracle of this special season, may your heart be filled with joy and peace. May these holiday blessings linger in your home and stay with you throughout the year. May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of his love at Christmas and always. May the blessings of this season visit your home and grace you with lasting peace and happiness! Merry Christmas!

***If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?  
John 3:17***

***Merry Christmas! May Christ's love fill your home and life, and bring countless blessings upon you this festive season.***



## **HISTORICAL DATES IN DECEMBER**

**1860**

**December 27**-Confederate troops take over Fort Moultrie as well as Fort Johnson and Fort Pinkney in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.

**1861**

**December 10**-Union General Albin Schoepf's forces are run out of Somerset (Kentucky) by a Confederate force led by General Felix Zollicoffer.

**December 20**-Near Dranesville, Virginia, Union forces of the Army of the Potomac (led by General Edward Ord) are victorious over General Jeb Stuart and his Confederate elements.

**December 28**-The Battle of Sacramento is fought in Sacramento, Kentucky. 500 Confederates square off against 200 to 300 Union troops. The battle ends as a Confederate victory.

**1862**

**December 7**-The Union garrison at Hartsville, Tennessee falls to cavalry led by Colonel John Morgan.

**December 11**-The Battle of Fredericksburg begins encompassing actions in Spotsylvania and Fredericksburg counties. The clashes pit a much smaller Confederate force of 78,513 against 122,009 Union troops. Commanders are General Lee (Confederate) against General Burnside (Union).

**December 12**-The USS Cairo is sunk by an electrically-detonated Confederate naval mine. The action takes place at Yazoo River near Haines Bluff, Mississippi.

**December 16**-Beginning on December 16th, 1861 and running into the New Year,



cavalry raids led by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest across eastern Tennessee are had.

**December 25**-The Confederate "Christmas Raid" cavalry raid into Kentucky begin under the leadership of General John Morgan.

**December 26**-Union forces are beaten back at Chickasaw Bayou in Vicksburg, Mississippi. This two-day engagement marks the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou. Again, a much smaller Confederate force bests a larger Union army. The battle spans into December 29th.

**December 31**-The Battle of Stones River begins. Union General Rosecrans leads a force of 43,400 against 35,000 Confederates under General Bragg at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The battle is also known as the Second Battle of Murfreesboro.

## 1863

**December 7**-The Union steamer USS Chesapeake is taken over by Confederate soldiers in civilian clothing. The brazen action takes place off the Massachusetts coast. The vessel is relocated to Canadian waters of Nova Scotia.

**December 15**-A Confederate attempt fails against Union cavalry elements at Bean's Station, Tennessee forcing General Longstreet to rearrange his subordinate command.

## 1864

**December 1**-Confederate forces under the command of General John Hood of the Army of Tennessee amass outside of Nashville. Numbers will soon reach 30,000 for the Battle of Nashville by mid-month.

**December 6**-The Battle of Tulifinny takes place near Yemassee, South Carolina. 5,000 Union face off against 900 Confederates in what becomes a Confederate victory for leader Sam Jones. Fighting runs into December 9th.

**December 21**-Sherman's "March to the Sea" campaign ends as a Union victory. It began in captured Atlanta and ended with the fall of Savannah, Georgia.



## BATTLE OF SACRAMENTO

*Wikipedia*

The Battle of Sacramento was an engagement of the American Civil War that took place in Sacramento, Kentucky on December 28, 1861. Confederate cavalry under Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest, numbering between 200 and 300, attacked, encircled and defeated a Union force of 500 under Major Eli H. Murray which had been watering south of the town after moving across the bank of the Green River. Though

exact casualty information is disputed, with differing accounts from each side, several eyewitnesses attested to the personal courage of Forrest, and the Confederate commander was praised by his superiors for his bravery.

The battle was Forrest's first combat victory, and during it he demonstrated several tactics for which he would later become known: in particular, the division of his forces into groups, employment of deception and encirclement, and leading the cavalry charge personally.



### BATTLE OF TULIFINNY

*Fandom.com*

The Battle of Tulifinny was an American Civil War engagement fought December 6–9, 1864 in South Carolina during General Sherman's March to the Sea, also known as the Savannah Campaign. Outnumbered 5-1 a Confederate force successfully defended a critical section of the Charleston-Savannah railroad allowing troops and supplies from Savannah to be evacuated. The battle was historically significant because it was one of the rare occasions when United States

Marines fought in combat during the Civil War, in addition the Confederate forces included the entire Corps of Cadets from the South Carolina Military Academy (now The Citadel).



### CONFEDERATE CHRISTMAS

*by Harnett T. Kane*

For four harsh years most Southerners approached the holidays with mixed feelings. Would the war never end? How would they be living — if, indeed, they were still alive — when Christmas came again?

Hundreds of thousands greeted the December season with a sense of growing catastrophe, of the impending destruction of the life they had known. Whatever happened, things could never be the same again; whether or not they spoke of it, all of them accepted this fact. Many, alone and friendless at the “happy season” in Richmond or Atlanta or Mobile, took their fun where they could find it; and shocked Virginians and Marylanders, Georgians and Texans shook their heads at the reeling men

who were observing the holidays in the company only of the bottle, or were shouting and fighting in the saloons and dives of the war-crowded cities. Still others, affecting a cheerfulness they did not feel, went to work to lighten the holidays for those around them. A fortunate few had the gift of laughter, of a smiling composure between interludes of pain.

For hundreds of thousands of Southern children there was tragedy in the non-appearance of Santa Claus during the later war years. Explanations were attempted: the Yankees had captured the old Saint this year. Or perhaps Santa had been caught in the blockade. In the journals were tales and poems designed to make the situation less gloomy for the young.

For some soldiers there was disappointment. After waiting for many hours, one company received its supply — a sandwich for each man — two slices of bread and a minute sliver of ham. Several hungry soldiers asked: “Is that all?” A moment later, as one reported it, they felt ashamed. Finishing his sandwich, a corporal lighted his pipe and asked God to bless the women responsible for the day’s offering. “It was all they could do; it was all they had....”



## **BILL OF RIGHTS DAY** **DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

*nationaltoday.com*

The Bill of Rights Day is observed on December 15 in the United States. It’s an important day to celebrate America’s Constitution and the framework of society that ascribes rights and freedoms to society. Bill of Rights Day commemorates the ratification of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The Bill was introduced by James Madison, who later became the fourth President of the United States. Now, The Bill of Rights is displayed in The Rotunda of the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., as a reminder to all Americans of their constitutional freedoms.

Former President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation that dedicated December 15 as Bill of Rights Day. This was made in honor of the Constitution and to celebrate the document’s 150th anniversary. The first Bill of Rights Day took place just eight days after the Pearl Harbor attack and America’s entry into World War II.



## LINCOLN STATUE VANDALIZED IN CHICAGO

*foxnews.com*

A statue of young Abraham Lincoln has been defaced with red paint and words referencing troubles with Native American tribes.

The statue has stood in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood since the city donated it to Senn Park in 1997.

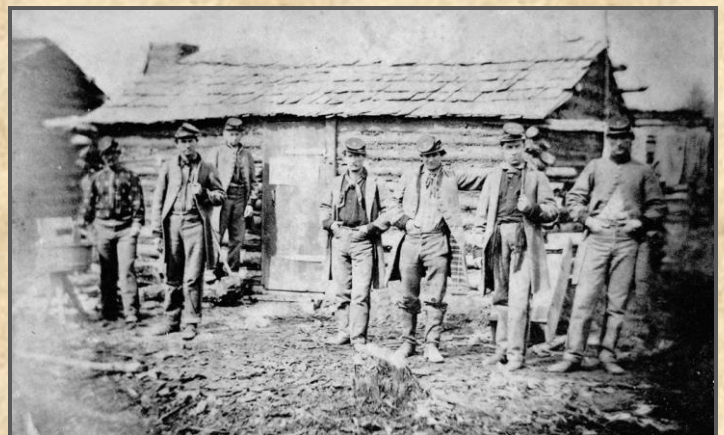
Over Thanksgiving weekend residents around the park found the statue covered in splashes of red paint along with the words "COLONIZER" and "LAND BACK." The vandals also may have written "Dakota 38" in possible reference to 38 Dakota Sioux members executed on Lincoln's order following the U.S.-Dakota war in 1862, the Chicago Tribune reported.

The statue was one of many in the city examined as part of a commission set up after protests in 2020 that targeted statues of figures with controversial histories. Debate over former American presidents has proven especially contentious.

## CHRISTMAS LETTER HOME

*Henry Allen of the 9th Virginia Infantry*

"I am quite well at this time we have had some very cold weather here we feel it much more seriously here than we would in a much colder climate and have suffered much as we have but few articles of bed clothing we are not allowed to receive money clothing or boxes of any kind and see quite a hard time generally. How are my dear little ones kiss them for me my love to all at home and to all other relatives and friends I wrote to John this morning. I know you will think of the absent me while eating the Christmas dinner I have nothing but dry bread for mine. Good by and God bless you my darling from your affectionate husband Henry A Allen write soon."



Members of the Texas Brigade also known as Hood's Brigade. Established in 1861





A captured Confederate encampment near Petersburg, Virginia, in June of 1864.

Upcoming Events may be found on the Calendar at: [www.upshurpatriots.org](http://www.upshurpatriots.org)



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



Cliff Davis' Shingle Mill Wagons on Gilmer's Town Square

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](mailto:david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org)



Big Sandy Commercial Hotel 1911 - It was between the T&P and Cotton Belt Railroads on the north side of the tracts facing south.



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

