



PATRIOT'S PERIODICAL

UPSHUR CO. PATRIOTS CAMP #2109
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
GILMER, TEXAS

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DECEMBER 2021



NEXT MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2021
www.upshurpatriots.org



CHRISTMAS IN 19TH CENTURY AMERICA

Penne Restad



Before 1850 many US citizens did not dream of Christmas at all. The Christmas that Americans celebrate today seems like a timeless

weaving of custom and feeling beyond the reach of history. Yet the familiar mix of carols, cards, presents, and trees, multiplicities of Santas and holiday neuroses that have come to define December 25th in the United States is little more than a hundred years old.

Americans did not even begin to conceive of Christmas as a national holiday until the middle of the 19th century. Like many other such 'inventions of tradition', the creation of an American Christmas was a response to social and personal needs that arose at a particular point in history, in this case a time of sectional conflict and civil war, as well as the unsettling processes of

urbanization and industrialization. The holiday's new customs and meanings helped the nation to make sense of the confusions of the era and to secure, if only for a short while each year, a soothing feeling of unity.

The Civil War intensified Christmas' appeal. Its sentimental celebration of family matched the yearnings of soldiers and those they left behind. Its message of peace and goodwill spoke to the most immediate prayers of all Americans.

Southern planters took the occasion to feast, dance, gamble, hunt and visit, perpetuating what they believed to be the old Christmas customs. By the end of the 19th century, the essential components of a modern Christmas, from Santa to the story of Scrooge to strings of electric lights were firmly established in America.

December 25, 1861 Gen. Robert E. Lee... "My Dear Daughter, Having distributed such poor Christmas gifts as I had to those around me, I have been looking for something for you. I have sent you what I

thought most useful in your separation from me and hope it will be of some service. May God guard and preserve you for me, my dear daughter! Among the calamities of war, the hardest to bear, perhaps, is the separation of families and friends. Yet all must be endured to accomplish our independence and maintain our self-government. Your old home, if not destroyed by our enemies, has been so desecrated that I cannot bear to think of it. I pray for a better spirit and that the hearts of our enemies may be changed. In your homeless condition I hope you make yourself contented and useful. Occupy yourself in aiding those more helpless than yourself. Think always of your father. R.E. Lee."

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We wish you a very Merry Christmas and holiday season. We know that this past year has been very difficult for you, and we pray that the coming year brings more certain times for your family. Sending all our love and good wishes for better days ahead.

**Meetings of the Upshur County Patriots
are held on the first Tuesday, 7 PM at the
Historic Upshur Museum**



THE GUARDIAN

Many Veterans of the Confederacy fought for the United States before the Civil War and went on to fight for the United States in future conflicts. Their lives were not defined by their service in the Confederacy, but they were individuals who were influenced by their time, location, and family. They made their own unique choices. We are not their judges, yet we can learn from the sacrifices they made. I choose to honor my Confederate soldiers by learning about their story and feeling compassion for them



In 1898 President of the United States William McKinley said "Every soldier's grave made during the unfortunate civil war is a tribute to the American valor. And while when those graves were made, we differed widely about the future of the Government, those differences were long ago settled by the arbitrament of arms and the time has now come in the evolution of sentiment and feeling under the providence of God, when, in the spirit of fraternity, we should share with you in the care of the graves of the Confederate Soldiers."

The SCV Guardian Program is in place to honor our Confederate Ancestors.

Contact Program Chairman Phil Davis for information at: pdavis37@etex.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	46
T. Mitchell/G. Linton	Full	5
Eddie Pricer	Full/GPT	40
Milt Ojeman	Full/GPT	4
David Palmer	Full	1
Bill Palmer	Full	10
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



If you are interested in perpetuating the ideals that motivated your Confederate ancestor, the SCV needs you.

Unless the descendants of Southern soldiers resist efforts to erase it, a part of our nation's cultural heritage will cease to exist.

"Our Constitution is a contract between the people and their government. It reflects that the government only derives its power from the people. It lays out the framework for the federal government and limits it to certain powers, so that it never becomes so powerful it threatens the freedoms it was instituted to protect."

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.

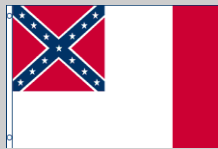


SALUTE TO THE CONFEDERATE FLAG:

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



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 descendant of a Confederate Veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces.



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

“The SCV’s Best Hope for Success is Knowledge of the Truth”



KEEP LOOKING UP

C. Robert Allred, Th.D

In any situation that comes our way we can "Keep Looking Up!" It may sound simplistic but it has proven to be true in the lives of many. In preparation for Christmas we hear Jesus encouraging us, caught in the midst of trouble, to "Keep Looking Up!" Luke 21 verse 28 says, "So when all these things begin to happen, stand straight and look up for your salvation is near!" In verse 36 Jesus instructs us to, "Keep a constant watch. And pray that, if possible, you may escape these horrors and stand before the Son of Man."

We need to re-hear this theme from Jesus as we prepare our hearts for Christmas because it is a busy time and we can forget about the true reason for the Season of preparation. Some already have their tree up and decorated and their gifts are already wrapped. But most of us feel behind in our preparation.

We Christians are caught between two Advents. The First Noel was the first Advent, the first coming of Christ into the world as the Babe of Bethlehem. Since we have lived through the story before, we know that the God-man Jesus gave up His life to redeem us, was Resurrected and was

soon received back into heaven at the Ascension. The Angels said that the same Jesus that was taken away would someday come again. So, in today's world we are caught between the two Advents of Christ. We look back on the historical event and we anticipate his return. The Second Advent, the Second Coming of Christ, is yet to be. It is said that the first liturgical prayer of the young Church was, "Maranatha," which means, "Come Lord Jesus!" (1 Cor. 16: 22) Those first believers looked forward to the return of their Lord with joyful expectancy.

And so we wait for Christmas and the annual pageantry of the remembrance of the first coming of the Savior of the World. And we lift up our heads for the next Advent of Christ, whether it is when we see Him at our death, or whether we are yet alive when the second coming of Christ occurs. And in the meantime, we keep looking up for Him as we journey through this life with the hope of Glory in our hearts.

Luke 2:8

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."



HISTORICAL DATES IN DECEMBER

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 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 Battle of Prairie Grove is had in Washington County, Arkansas. The one-day clash is a Union victory.

December 10-Dumbries, Virginia is raided by Confederate cavalry attached to General Wade Hampton's forces.

December 11-Fredericksburg, Virginia is bombarded by artillery under Union General Burnside's direction.

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). Confederate victory.

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

December 20-Confederate forces destroy General Grant's base at Holly Springs in Mississippi.

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.

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.

1864

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.

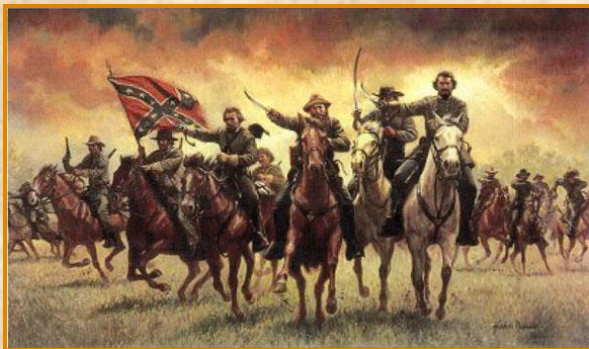
December 15-The Battle of Nashville (Tennessee) begins with a Confederate force of 30,000 under General Hood facing General Thomas and his 55,000-strong Union army.

December 27-Defenders at Fort Fisher, North Carolina, are successful in their defense against a Union offensive to retake the position.

1865

December 6-The 13th Amendment is ratified by the U.S. government, legally ending slavery in the United States of America.

December 13-Attention is now put towards reconstruction of the south and its reentry into the Union. A committee is formed to head the process.



THE BATTLE OF SACRAMENTO

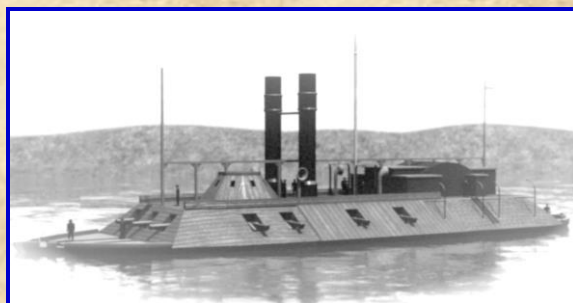
By Whitney Todd

Historical marker #523 in McLean County recounts the surprise attack by Confederate forces on Union troops near Sacramento, Kentucky. The Battle of Sacramento was Confederate Colonel (later general) Nathan Bedford Forrest's first significant victory.

In the fall of 1861, Union forces, led by Brigadier General Thomas L. Crittenden, took position on the Green River at Calhoun, Kentucky. Federal troops hoped that this position would help counter Confederate troop movements near Bowling Green, the site of Kentucky's provisional Confederate government. On December 26, 1861, Confederate Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest moved out from Hopkinsville, Kentucky, with his cavalry to

determine the strength of the Union forces in the area.

On December 28, 1861 the Southern cavalry engaged Union soldiers under the command of Major Eli H. Murray just outside of Sacramento. Forrest used the element of surprise to ultimately come out victorious at Sacramento. Forrest divided his forces to surround the enemy and personally led the front cavalry charge. These tactics became Forrest's signature fighting style during the Civil War.



USS CAIRO SUNK BY ELECTRONIC MINE

genealogybank.com

The U.S.S. *Cairo* was sunk by an electronic mine in the Yazoo River in Mississippi on 12 December 1862. This was a "first" in military history.

The *Cairo*, along with three other Union gunboats, was on a mission to destroy a Confederate battery on Haines Bluff, Mississippi. The Southern cannon posed a threat to Union shipping and the decision was made to destroy them. Before reaching the bluff, the Northern ships encountered a series of "torpedoes" (mines) the Confederates had strung across the Yazoo River. The mine had been set off

by men hiding nearby in the bushes who sent a spark via a galvanic battery to detonate the mine. The mine exploded under the bow of the *Cairo*, sinking the powerful armored ship in 12 minutes. There were no casualties, but something very significant had occurred. It was the first time in history a ship had been sunk by a mine detonated electronically, and a new military weapon was born.



“It is sometimes said that our cause is lost. Some causes are never lost. They may be crushed in defeat, they may go down in seeming ignominy, but in the end, like truth crushed to earth, they rise again. The Confederate Soldier is always and under all circumstances true to principle. There was no selfishness in his heart, no thought of the morrow with him. He put all upon his country's altar, and went forth and gave his time and his heart and his life to the cause. What did that cause represent? I said it was not lost, and I repeat the assertion - It could not be Lost.”

It was not the passage of the “personal liberty laws,” it was not the circulation of incendiary documents, it was not the raid of John Brown, it was not the operation of unjust and unequal tariff laws, nor all combined, that constituted the intolerable grievance, but it was the systematic and persistent struggle to deprive the Southern States of equality in the Union – generally to

discriminate in legislation against the interests of their people; culminating in their exclusion from the Territories, the common property of the States, as well as by the infraction of their compact to promote domestic tranquility”



PEARL HARBOR DECEMBER 7, 1941 “A DAY OF INFAMY”

History.com

Pearl Harbor is a U.S. naval base near Honolulu, Hawaii, that was the scene of a devastating surprise attack by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941. Just before 8 a.m. on that Sunday morning, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes descended on the base, where they managed to destroy or damage nearly 20 American naval vessels, including eight battleships, and over 300 airplanes. More than 2,400 Americans died in the attack, including civilians, and another 1,000 people were wounded. The day after the assault, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.

“There’s nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.”—Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle

TEXAS AND THE ART OF UNDERSTATEMENT

By W. F. Strong



Understatement is oblique. It arrives unexpectedly, glancing off the unobserved side of things. It provides you with less so you feel more.

Something that doesn't get much attention in Texas, as a core part of Texas culture, is the common use of understatements. We're used to being pegged as exaggerators, tellers of tall tales – like Pecos Bill who roped tornadoes and shot stars from the sky. We have plenty of tall tales resting on mythic exaggeration. I always liked Pecos Bill, but I also liked the opposite kind of cowboy, like the one who rode up on the Grand Canyon, unexpectedly, for the first time, and said, "Well, somethin's gone on here." It's as if he knew the old journalistic principle "the bigger, the smaller."

When I recall the Westerns I love most, understatement is appreciatively present in those films. Take "Shane," for instance. He was a gunman who didn't much wear a gun and never bragged about himself. He was quiet, reserved, and on the whole understated. When asked if he knew how to shoot, he said, almost inaudibly, "Little bit."

And who can forget the best moment of "Lonesome Dove" when Captain Woodrow Call explains his violent outbreak to the stunned townspeople with these words: "I hate rude behavior in a man. I won't tolerate it." His description of the army

scout's behavior and his own response were both greatly understated.

Real cowboys I knew as a kid were not often exaggerators; they were for the most part modest, gently spoken, "ah shucks" guys who mostly claimed that the incredible thing they'd just done was no big deal. That ethic was taught, at least culturally, and it seeped into you.

As my father always said, "If you're smart or successful or talented, no need to tell people, they'll know." But he also advised that if you must promote yourself, you should do it with the unadorned truth so that you're not being immodest. "And that's OK," he'd say, "because, as Will Rogers said, 'If you done it, it ain't braggin'.'"



ATTACK ON OUR FREEDOMS

Today our freedom and liberties are under assault. Identity politics is fundamentally incompatible with the principle of equality enshrined in the Declaration of Independence.

The Bill of Rights protects the individual from government. The 1st amendment and so the 2nd amendment, the 4th, the 5th, the 9th and 10th amendments all aid in protecting you in your sphere of liberty as an individual. Government through consent of the governed is what has made the American social contract work.

Americans talked about their differences, listened to one another and

debated and compromised. It was all made possible by mutual respect for the rights of others to dissent and disagree. We must enforce the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and our Bill of Rights.



LIFE'S UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

- ➔ Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?
- ➔ How come when you are driving through a neighborhood looking for an address, you turn the radio down?
- ➔ Why do fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?
- ➔ Why do you have to "put your two cents in"... but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?
- ➔ Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting dead?
- ➔ What is a near-miss? If you nearly miss something, don't you hit it?
- ➔ Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

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, 2nd Lt. Commander/Editor david.palmer@upshurpatriots.org



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

