



THE BRIDGE

"It is our duty to keep the memory of our heroes green." Jefferson Davis



February 2012

Deo Vindice

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Hello Fellow Sons

It is good to be back in the CSA. I missed being with you last month, but I am pleased to hear that everything went well. There is not much to report on from up north.

I hope you will make plans be at to the Hunley Monument Dedication. The date for this is Saturday February, 18 at 10:00 am. I hope each one of you can make it and bring a friend.

I would like to give a special thanks

to all who made the Banquet a success, and to say, "Welcome aboard," to Ken Evans, Jr., our new First Lieutenant Commander.

I look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting. More will be said about this at our next meeting, but let me emphasize the importance of attending the DOT Public Meeting in Orangeburg on the 23rd. If the flag and the monument are important to us, we'll be there. If they are not important, any excuse will be sufficient for not attending. Please stand with us.

In Service to 842 and the CSA

Peter D. Boineau

My Fellow Compatriots,

Words alone cannot convey my appreciation of your trust in me to carry out the duties of 1st Lt. Commander. I am honored and humbled and will strive to maintain your trust. This month's meeting will feature Jennifer Sutton as the guest speaker. She will be discussing the Samuel Davis Youth Camp and the opportunities it offers for our youth. A date has been set by SCDOT concerning the road expansion project that will impact our Memorial in Orangeburg. It will

be at the Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce located at 155 Riverside Dr. on Feb. 23rd from 5:00-7:00 pm. A strong show of support will be needed to have some satisfactory resolution to this issue.



Ken Evans, Jr.

1st Lt. Commander

In Service to the Cause,

Ken Evans Jr.

February 18, 2012

You are cordially invited to attend the Hunley Monument dedication ceremony. Details of the ceremony are enclosed.

Monument Dedication for the First and Third Hunley Crews

When: Saturday, February 18, 2012, 10:00 am

Where: The Hunley Plot at back of Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC

What: Dedication of Memorial Monuments dedicated to the memory of the First And Third Hunley Submarine Crews

Hunley Commission

And

Confederate Heritage Trust

A CONDENSED LOOK AT THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE CIVIL WAR

By

Michael Griffith

This is the sixth installment of this article which will appear in coming issues of the Bridge. As previously stated, it is done in this way to allow the presentation of articles of a lengthier nature. In this way we may examine more closely some very interesting history. It is my hope that this piecemeal approach has not detracted too greatly from your appreciation of the subject matter.—
Editor

Republicans, the North, and Racism

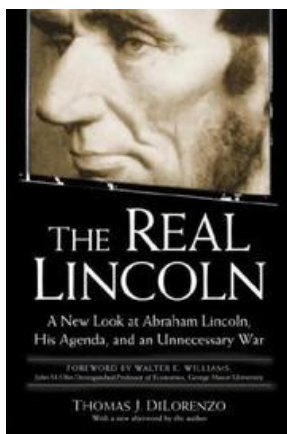
(NOTE: In this section it will be necessary to quote some offensive words and statements from the Civil War era. I apologize to those readers who are offended by them.)

The same Republican-controlled Congress that eventually made forceful emancipation a secondary goal of the war and that imposed oppressive Reconstruction rule on the South after the war, also sanctioned the federal government's terrible mistreatment of the American Indians. Historian C. Vann Woodward put it this way:

The same Congress that devised Radical Reconstruction . . . approved strict segregation and inequality for the Indian of the West. (In Blum and Catton et al, editors, *The National Experience*, p. 416)

With the Republicans firmly in control of the federal government, the Union army began a series of brutal campaigns against the American Indians a few months after the Confederate commanding general, Robert E. Lee, surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia. Federal forces and Northern militias cheated and abused the Indians on certain occasions during the war, but the federal campaigns against the Indians that started with the Sioux War in 1865 were vicious and remain a stain on our history. Under Republican rule, the federal government ordered forced relocations, engaged in shameful treaty violations, and authorized merciless attacks in which thousands of Indians, including many women and children, were killed. Generals William Tecumseh Sherman and Phil Sheridan, fresh from having ravaged the South, were responsible for many of those attacks. The general who ordered the first post-war campaign against the Indians was Ulysses S. Grant. Much of the worst mistreatment of the Indians occurred when Grant was president (1868-1876). Republicans oc-

cupied the White House for all but seven of the thirty-one years from 1861 to 1892 (three of those seven years were under Lincoln's vice president, Andrew Johnson, and the remaining four years didn't come until 1884-1888). The Republicans controlled Congress for the majority of that period as well, especially from 1861 to 1874.



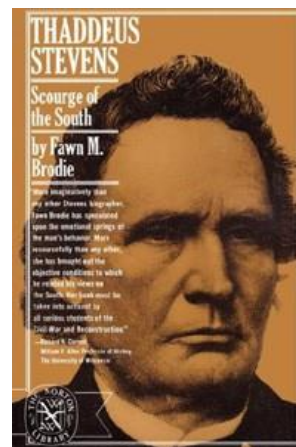
I agree with Thomas DiLorenzo's point that the Republicans' treatment of the Indians raises questions about their professed concern for social justice: "The fact that the war

against the Plains Indians began just three months after Lee's surrender calls into question yet again the notion that racial injustices in the South were the primary motivation for Northerners' willingness to wage such a long and destructive war. No political party purporting to be sensitive to racial injustice could possibly have even contemplated doing to the Indians what the United States government did to them. Both the Southern Confederates and the Indians stood in the way of the Whig/Republican dream of a North American economic empire, complete with a subsidized transcontinental railroad, a nationalized banking system, and protectionist tariffs. Consequently, both groups were conquered and subjugated by the most violent means." (*The Real Lincoln: A New Look at Abraham Lincoln, His Agenda, and an Unnecessary War*, Paperback Edition, New York: Three Rivers Press, 2003, pp. 222-223)

Another example of Republican hypocrisy was the Republican Party's platform for the 1868 presidential election. Ulysses S. Grant ran for president on this platform, and won handily. The platform stated that the Southern states should be forced to allow blacks to vote but that the Northern states should be allowed to decide this issue for themselves. The Republicans took this position even though every Northern state that had voted on amendments for black voting rights in the preceding three years had soundly defeated those amendments. Republican leaders knew that racism was so widespread in the North that they would lose the election if they advocated forcing the Northern states to allow blacks to vote. Many Republicans themselves weren't enthusiastic about voting rights for Northern blacks anyway.

Many Republican leaders, including some of the Radicals, held racist views. Thaddeus Stevens, the leader of the Radicals in the House, not only opposed racial integration but believed blacks were less

intelligent than whites and, in the words of friendly biographer Fawn Brodie, "insisted that he had never held to the doctrine of Negro equality" (Fawn Brodie, *Thaddeus Stevens: Scourge of*



the South, New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1959, p. 193; Hummel, *Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men*, p. 300). Incidentally, Stevens also believed the Constitution was "a worthless bit of old parchment" (Brodie, *Thaddeus Ste-*

vens, p. 292). Another powerful Radical in the House, George Julian, lectured his fellow Republicans about their racism, saying, "The real trouble is that we hate the negro. It is not his ignorance that offends us, but his color. . . ." (Kenneth Stampp, *The Era of Reconstruction, 1865-1877*, Vintage Books Edition, New York: Vintage Books, 1965, p. 102). Benjamin Wade, a leading Radical in the Senate, was overheard "railing about too many 'nigger' cooks in the capital" and complaining that he had eaten so many meals "cooked by Niggers" that he could "smell and taste the Nigger all over" (Klingaman, *Abraham Lincoln and the Road to Emancipation*, p. 53). In the 1860 election campaign, numerous Republican leaders championed their party as the true "White Man's Party" that would keep the western territories safe for white labor (McPherson, *Ordeal By Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982, p. 123). Lincoln's secretary of state, William Seward, the man who claimed in 1858 that there was an "irrepressible conflict" between the free states and the slaveholding states, spoke for many Republicans when he said, "The North has nothing to do with the Negroes. I have no more concern for them than I have for the Hottentots. . . . They are not of our race." (In Klingaman, *Abraham Lincoln and the Road to Emancipation*, p. 295) Lincoln himself held racist views. As a politician in Illinois, Lincoln voted to deny blacks the right to vote, and he supported the state's oppressive "Black Code." Lincoln used the N-word, even in public statements, and even as president. Lincoln referred to the Declaration of Independence as "the white man's charter of freedom." He also said he did not support allowing blacks to be citizens, explaining, "I am not in favor of negro citizenship" (*The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, Volume 3, edited by Roy Basler, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1952-1955, p. 179). In an 1858 speech, Lincoln left no doubt about his views on race: "I will say, then, that I am not nor ever have been in favor of bringing about in any way, the social and political equality of the white and black races; that I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters of the free negroes, or jurors, or

qualifying them to hold office, or having them to marry white people. I will say in addition, that there is a physical difference between the white and black races, which, I suppose, will forever forbid the two races living together upon terms of social and political equality, and inasmuch as they cannot so live, that while they do remain together, there must be the position of superior and inferior, that I as much as any other man am in favor of the superior position being assigned to the white man." (Abraham Lincoln: *Speeches and Writings 1832-1858*, New York: The Library of America, 1989, edited by Don Fehrenbacher, p. 751)

To be fair, it should be noted that Lincoln was by no means alone in his views. The sad truth is that in those days the vast majority of white Americans, in all parts of the country, shared Lincoln's racial attitudes. Most whites believed that the white race was the superior race and that therefore blacks and other minorities belonged to inferior races. Nearly all textbooks give the false impression that white supremacy and racism were mainly confined to the South, but these problems were widespread in the North as well. Numerous historians have acknowledged this fact. In many cases, the "free" states weren't very free for blacks. Historian Robert Cruden:

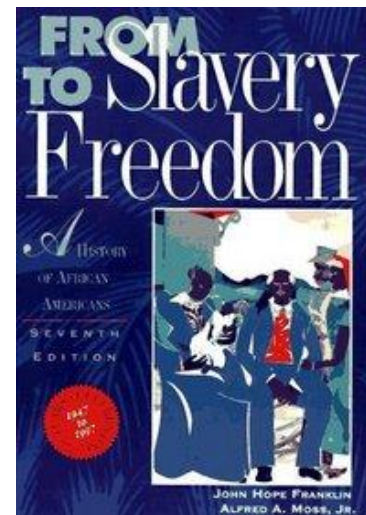
To understand something of the nature of that problem we must look at the position of the American Negro in the 1860s. . . . Throughout the nation there were 488,000 free Negroes. . . . Most free Negroes—258,000—lived in the South. . . . "Free people of color" were welcome in few places. In the North they were almost universally segregated, excluded from public life, and their children barred from white public schools. In those areas where separate Negro schools were provided they were inadequately financed and instruction was poor. . . .

The situation of the black American when the war ended was ambiguous. . . . Northerners as a whole, willing to concede freedom, were hostile to equality. Many of them dreaded an incursion of black folk after the war—especially among lower paid workers who feared Negro competition and some not so poorly paid who resented possible Ne-

gro entry into their crafts. The use of Negroes as strikebreakers during the war and their employment in areas where whites were out of work resulted in agitation and riots and intensified anti-Negro feeling.

Such sentiment, however, was by no means confined to workingmen. Between 1865 and 1867 voters in Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Ohio rejected proposals for Negro suffrage [the right to vote]; in 1868 only 8 out of 16 Northern states permitted Negroes to vote. Oregon even continued its pre-war prohibition against the entry of free Negroes. . . . (The Negro in Reconstruction, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1969, pp. 6, 12-13)

African-American scholars John Franklin and Alfred Moss: "There can be no doubt that many blacks were sorely mistreated in the North and West. Observers like Fanny Kemble and Frederick L. Olmsted mentioned incidents in their writings. Kemble said of Northern blacks, "They are not slaves indeed, but they are pariahs, debarred from every fellowship save with their own despised race. . . . All hands are extended to thrust them out, all fingers point at their dusky skin; all tongues . . . have learned to turn the very name of



their race into an insult and a reproach." Olmsted seems to have believed the Louisiana black who told him that they could associate with whites more freely in the South than in the North and that he preferred to live in the South because he was less likely to be insulted there. (From *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000, p. 185)

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Sons of Confederate Veterans



Presenting the true history of the South
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Camp No. 842 Calendar

February 21	Regular Camp Meeting
February 23	DOT Public Meeting Thursday, February 23, 2012, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Orangeburg Chamber of Commerce located at 155 Riverside Drive in Orangeburg, S.C.
March 2-4	Battle for Broxton Bridge Reenactment
March 20	Regular Camp Meeting
March 23-24	SC Division Convention N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Support the Battle for Broxton's Bridge Reenactment
March 24

Memorable February Dates

Jefferson Davis became provisional president of the Confederate States of America at a convention in Montgomery, Alabama, on February 8, 1861. A little over one year later, the official swearing in of Jefferson Davis as president of the Confederate States of America took place on February 22, 1862, in Richmond, Virginia. As a graduate of West Point, U.S. Senator, U.S. Secretary of War, and C.S.A. President, Davis was an accomplished and notable figure in American history.

February 23rd marks the date of the 1847 Battle of Buena Vista in a mountain pass near Saltillo, west of Monterrey, Mexi-

co. At the **Battle of Buena Vista**, 5,000 U.S. soldiers held off 15,000 Mexican troops in one of the more dramatic encounters of the Mexican War.

Jefferson Davis participated in the battle as Colonel of the 1st Mississippi Rifles and was severely wounded in the fighting. Though in great pain, Colonel Davis refused to leave his men until the outcome of the battle was settled in victory.

