Friends and Companions,

My hope is that this newsletter will find you and yours doing well in the New Year. As in time past, I feel that we will experience many challenges and opportunities in the Year of our Lord 2018. There will be victories, but rest assured there will be defeats also. Let us accept our wins with good grace, and most all, if losses do come, let it be known that we presented the truth of our case to the utmost. As we remember the Confederate Soldier, may it be known that defeat does not equal disgrace; failing to put forth the effort to win is the disgrace. Though we may seem to have an insurmountable force arrayed against us, we still have the duty to present the true history of the South to future generations. Remember that the bulk of our opposition is the product of our present educational system; they have been brainwashed and don’t know any better. To paraphrase Chaplain-in-Chief Parker, for us to meet our challenges will require dedication, fortitude and consistency. Our goal has to be visibility. We refuse to go away. We refuse to lower the flag. We refuse to be silent. As the Apostle Paul wrote so many years ago, “Speak the truth in love” Ephesians 4:15.

One our most anticipated accomplishments for 2018 will be to finally get the Ordinance of Secession Signers Monument installed. We hope to hear more on this in the near future and it will be an occasion for great celebration. The ups and downs and machinations that have attempted to derail this monument would make a very interesting book. Kudos to those faithful ones who have remained determined and continued to move the project forward.

Scores of people drive by our Camp Headquarters daily and our Confederate Flag may inspire comment, both pro and con, or perhaps none at all. Recently one of our Companions from North Carolina passed by and took time to send us a note by way of our website. Jay Brabham presently lives in North Carolina, but his ancestor J.J. Brabham, a signer of the Ordinance of Secession is buried in the churchyard of Mizpah Church at Buford’s Bridge. Jay joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Military Order of the Stairs and Bars based on the service of his ancestor to the Confederacy.

Jay says, “I wish your camp the very best in 2018 and if I’m ever back in the area I would enjoy meeting some fellow Confederates. God bless.” Camp 842’s response is, “The door is open and we’ll make you feel right at home. Deo Vindice!”

When the history of these days is written, let it be known that we were faithful to the utmost,

Pete

Without memory, there is no culture. Without memory, there would be no civilization, no society, no future. -- Elie Wiesel
The S.C. Department of Transportation is designing plans to improve traffic at the intersection of U.S. Highway 301 and Russell Street, but officials don’t yet know how a controversial Confederate flag display will be affected.

"We are going to look at all the alternatives, engineering-wise, to find the best fit to meet all our standards and to go to the public and adjust it from there," SCDOT Program Manager Adam Humphries said.

SCDOT is just beginning survey and exploratory work for the project, which will reconstruct a roadway and bridge at the intersection.

A previous plan was considered controversial because of its design and its impact on a marker and flag maintained by the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 842. The small granite marker honors Confederate troops who died fighting against Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman’s troops.

"At this point, we are starting over," Humphries said. "We will let that process play out and look at the impacts. There will be public meetings as a bridge replacement project, and we will present what we find to the public."

Under the most likely scenario, an acceleration lane will be created for traffic traveling from Russell Street onto U.S. 301, Humphries said.

That plan would require widening both the larger bridge on U.S. 301 over the North Fork of the Edisto River and the smaller bridge over the river's overflow area, he said.

The bridge project would most likely include the widening of the bridge to about five lanes to create an acceleration lane from the intersection.

Plans could also include lengthening U.S. 301’s left-turn lane for northbound traffic turning onto Russell Street.

The cost is estimated at $22 million. Humphries said the project would likely go out for bids around December 2020.

The majority of the project will be funded through federal dollars, with about $200,000 provided by the Lower Savannah Council of Governments.

The first steps have already begun. SCDOT issued a public notice on Dec. 17 of its plans to conduct topographic surveys, subsurface exploration and environmental studies for the planning, design, property acquisition and construction of the project.

Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 842 Keeper of the Flag Buzz Braxton said the plans are not a big surprise.

"There is no need to get all flustered at this point in time," Braxton said.
Confederate honor and sacrifice are still worth defending

By Michael S. Kogan, Brett Barry, Donald Livingston and Preston Wilson

We, the men of the Fort Sumter Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), wish to address the Charleston community. We are male descendants of the men and boys who fought for the Southland in the War Between the States (1861-1865). Our organization, the SCV, has no political agenda whatsoever. We were founded in 1896 for one purpose only: “The defense of the Confederate soldier’s good name, the guardianship of his history [and] the emulation of his virtues.” In short, our task is to honor our forebears, the men and boys “who wore the gray” and who, though outnumbered and ill-equipped, defended our Southland through “four years of arduous service.”

Today their honor is under attack as never before. Their commemorative monuments are being defaced, vandalized and pulled down. Their memorial stones have been desecrated and removed even from the hallowed ground of cemeteries! This is a war on the dead who cannot defend themselves. We, and every person of conscience, must act as their defenders. It is always intellectually dishonest to impose the standards of the present age on a time in the distant past. Today, for many, the odious institution of slavery overshadows every other aspect of the war. But while there were many causes for the secession of the Southern states, slavery among them, there was only one cause for the war, the determination of the government in Washington not to allow the seceding states to depart in peace, but to coerce them back into the Union by force of arms. Federal forces did not invade the South for the purpose of freeing the slaves. In his famous letter to Horace Greeley, President Abraham Lincoln wrote, “My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery.”

If someone had told the typical Confederate soldier that he was fighting for slavery, he would have been flabbergasted. In his mind, he was fighting because his home was threatened with invasion. That was also the stated position of Robert E. Lee, who made clear that he would fight only for one cause, the defense of his native Virginia, to which he felt he owed his ultimate loyalty. Today few feel this way, but in those days, loyalty to State before Union was a common position throughout the South and in many areas of the North. It deserves our informed understanding, within its proper historical context, as do the men who fought honorably in its defense.

It is horrifying and deeply painful to us that some of the worst people in our country, who have an evil agenda of their own, have injected themselves into the current dispute. Neo-Nazis, Klansmen, racist fanatics as well as the anarchist mobs of Antifa seek to destroy America as we know and love her. We, the men of the Fort Sumter Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, decry and denounce these venomous, anti-American forces which threaten the civilized order of our society and the future of the Republic. We reject all forms of racism and bigotry and pledge to defend our Constitution against all enemies. We will not be silent while a lunatic fringe attempts to co-opt our cause, the commemoration of our honored dead.

Nearly half the war deaths in American history occurred during the War Between the States. Six hundred and twenty thousand Americans perished. More than 300,000 died fighting to defend our Southland. Dare we forget their sacrifice, or allow these heroes to be erased from the American story? What kind of a people would we be if we failed to honor their memory, together with that of all our war dead?

Today, the madness which began with attacks on Southern soldiers’ monuments is spreading. Demands have been made to remove the great statue of Christopher Columbus from Columbus Circle in New York, and to alter the beautiful Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. The magnificent equestrian statue of President Theodore Roosevelt in New York City has been defaced on the grounds that he was a “racist.” This has become an assault on America’s national memory itself. When and how will it end? Together with 62 percent of Americans responding to national polls, we oppose the destruction or removal of any historical monuments, including those erected to honor our valiant Confederate fighting men. We believe every section of our population should be encouraged and enabled to honor its distinguished forebears.

Let us maintain the mutual respect that has existed for over 150 years for all the men who fought in this horrific war. For the sake of our shared future, we must come together as Charlestonians, Southerners and Americans. In the words of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, a man our Gen. Lee fought, but always respected, “Let us have peace.”
Jacob E. Carvell, Superintendent, NWMP

Jacob E. Carvell served with the Confederate Army. Eight years after the war ended, he moved to the new country of Canada and enlisted in the brand new North West Mounted Police as a commissioned officer with the rank of Superintendent.

He served with the infant police force until 1876 when he resigned his commission by mail while on furlough in Colorado and returned to his wife and infant son in Rileyville, Virginia, where he spent the rest of his life and died there at the age of 68.

Carvell was born in Charlottetown, in the British Colony of Prince Edward Island and some records indicate that he moved to Greenville, Mississippi, prior to the WBTS. He is believed to have enlisted in Co. I, 22nd Mississippi Infantry. In 1862 he mustered into Co. K, 18th Virginia Calvary until its disbandment in April 1865.

Not a lot is known about him or his service in the Mounted Police the forerunner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or in the Confederate Army. He participated in the famous 900 mile "March West" across the Canadian Prairies but he and his company were sent back to Manitoba.

Jacob E. Carvell