



THE BRIDGE

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



September 2017

Ambrose Gonzales Newsletter Award Winner 2009, 2012 & 2013

Volume XXIII Issue 9



Camp Officers

Peter D. Boineau

Commander

5149 Broxton Bridge Road
Bamberg, SC 29003

boineausgunshop@gmail.com

Joseph "Buzz" Braxton II

1st Lieutenant Commander

buzzbraxton@gmail.com

Robert Keel

2nd Lieutenant Commander

kline@barnwellsc.com

Donald Webster

3rd Lieutenant Commander

Retention & Recruiting

websterdrd@yahoo.com

Charles L.D. Carlson

Adjutant

Chaplain

Bridge Editor

sev842@wildblue.net

Edward S. Floyd

Treasurer

Edward.floyd444@gmail.com

Carl Platts

Judge Advocate

Carl.platts@yahoo.com

Coleman Loadholt

Quartermaster

Roy Hart, Jr.

Surgeon

Ira Beach

Color Sergeant

ibeach@embarqmail.com

Yacant

Historian

Compatriots,

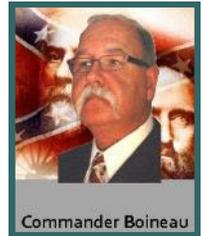
As I write this, Tropical Storm Irma is visiting our area with torrential rains and strong gusting winds. I had assembled several paragraphs when we had a momentary power outage and I lost everything --twice! I hope and trust that the Good Lord has preserved and protected you and yours during this assault by nature upon the Southeast.

Just as this storm will pass and by God's grace and our perseverance we will survive, so too will we withstand the present misguided assault upon Southern monuments and flags. We must have the moral courage to be willing to take a stand regardless of what the politically correct may say. At the same time I can understand the hesitancy of many whose livelihood and the well-being of their families are jeopardized if they speak in defense of their heritage. Can you believe it? Did you ever, even in a nightmare, imagine such things could happen in the United States of America? If it could be demonstrated, objectively, that we who honor Southern Heritage were somehow infringing the rights of others or actually doing anyone harm it would be understandable, but still not right if no physical harm occurred. My question is this, "Why are we branded 'White Supremacists' just because we want our flags and monuments left alone?" Why too does it seem that so many, including media, politicians, corporations, the NCAA, and you name it, fall over each other to jump on the PC bandwagon? On the surface it almost seems that there is no one left who *will not* "throw you under the bus," if you express your pride in your Confederate ancestor. Are you discouraged yet? It would be a miracle if you were not. What can be done? We are but a small group, but we can continue to make ourselves informed about our heritage and to disseminate this truth to others. We who know the truth should be a calming influence for those who, not really knowing, panic and act irrationally. Just as Christians should encourage one another in adversity, and that being a part of our heritage, so too should we. While not a part of The Charge, it is nonetheless a truth *that it is our duty to present the true history of the South to future generations.* In the present day, meeting, eating and retreating just won't get it.

Remember that our September meeting is our deadline for selecting the weapon for our next fundraiser. We need to select one that the most people will wish to own since we need all the funds we can raise for Camp operation and even attorney's fees as we continue to battle for our property rights and freedom of speech. As we are learning, Freedom of speech is not free -- even in America.

In times such as these we may draw upon the example of our ancestors and emulate them as we face the challenges of each day. We can see clearly now that it is much easier to "talk the talk" than to "walk the walk" as they did.

Keep the faith and meet me at Barker's Mill on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 7 pm.



Commander Boineau

"It's easier to fool people than to convince them that they have been fooled." Mark Twain

Understanding the War on Monuments

By **Michael Martin** on Sep 8, 2017

Agitation, Abstraction, Disruption, Distraction...

These words are the most primal reasons that southern, and arguably mainstream American, history is under attack throughout the country. On August 16, 2017, I attended a protest to remove the John C. Calhoun monument in Charleston, South Carolina. While I was at this protest, I gained a lot of insight on how these “protestors” think and how to combat this movement. It was a moment of clarity.

The first thing that needs to be realized is that there is hope for southerners and people that are tired of seeing this wanton destruction of history. These “protestors” are not putting together organic, true protests—rather, they are staging political dramas that the masses can consume through media obsession.

I attended this rally to understand the other side and hopefully open a dialogue about the history that was being protested. My friend and I (both young men in the Sons of Confederate Veterans), attended with an open mind and a positive outlook. Being a teacher, I was hoping to engage in a truly productive discussion. We walked around the protest and tried asking people basic questions about Calhoun and American history. Among the questions we asked were:

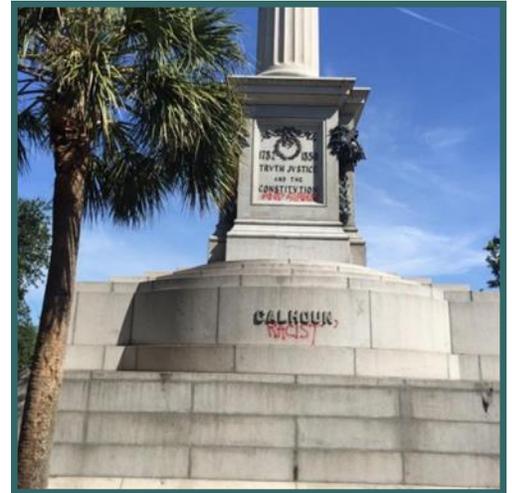
- “Did you know that John C. Calhoun served as Vice President twice?”
- “Are you aware of John C. Calhoun’s theories on limiting government?”
- “Are you aware John C. Calhoun served in the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate?”
- “Did you know John C. Calhoun served as Secretary of State and Secretary of War?”
- “What do you think about the Denmark Vesey monument down the street? (Vesey was a slave that plotted a massive slave rebellion and was later executed—he also has a monument in Charleston just a few blocks from Calhoun’s)

Not surprisingly, none of the people that were asked these questions knew of these facts or would even acknowledge them. At one point, protestors asked my friend to speak but then became aggressive with him. They were posturing as if they were going to hit him because he brought up the fact that Calhoun fought the National Bank, as other members of the crowd began shouting over him with megaphones.

It was at this point that I saw how weak these “protestors” really are in their devotion and cause. Rather than dealing in reality and facts, they are dealing in abstractions. They would not open a dialogue with anyone else because they know they cannot win a logical argument. The truth is that these “protestors” are just trying to confuse people. They gather at the base of a monument, shout things like “f*** Donald Trump,” “f*** the Confederacy,” “all cops are racist KKK,” etc. There were even transgendered women with excessive armpit hair telling stories about “white nationalists” attacking them in the past. Their ultimate goal is to try and convince people, through aggressive screaming and rhetoric, that southern history and the civil war are nothing more than evidence of intolerance.

Everyone attending keeps their phones on at all times because, deep down, they are hoping someone will be attacked and they will catch it on video. In addition, they lump a lot of other confusing symbols of hate in with their protest. What do Black Lives Matter, the Green Party, homosexuals, and transgender groups have to do with John C. Calhoun? Nothing. It’s just a ploy to agitate people and start violence, so that these “protestors” can take the moral high ground and claim the monuments are causing violence.

Make no mistake, this movement to destroy history is entirely political. The people running the protests were waving Green Party flags and were speaking openly about making runs at political office. My friend and I both felt as if there were people in the crowd that were simply being paid to disrupt. When we tried engaging the people that were the most boisterous, there were organizers in bright orange vests pulling the “protestors” around and steering them towards media outlets.



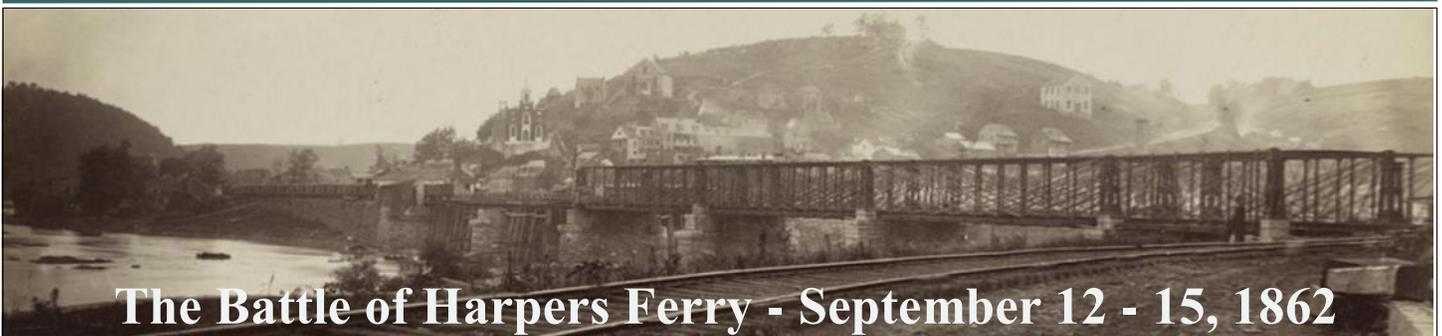
Where was all of this moral outrage over monuments just a few years ago? As a young native southerner, I can safely say that in my lifetime there were no movements to remove this history until after the Dylan Roof shootings in 2015. Could this just be the Democratic Party working secretly to rewrite their own past? It certainly seems that way.

Moving forward, how can good Americans deal with this social and historical crisis? One option is to counter the “protestors” in a positive and peaceful way. Most of the people advocating the monument removals are not truly educated on the past, they are acting on emotion and hoping to catch a video that will get lots of “likes.” Many are just spoiled college kids living on their parents’ dime, who have been indoctrinated with ideas about social justice and the “bad” influence of southern history on America. Some are absolutely being paid and are sticking to a script. They are not ready to be challenged intellectually.

A simple solution my friends and I are considering is to attend more rallies and distribute positive information. For example, next time “protestors” get any ideas about removing the Calhoun monument, we can distribute free information on exactly what Calhoun did and did not do. We can explain that Calhoun advocated a more limited government that might have better protected individual liberties today. Most importantly, when these revisionists continue to be aggressive and use profanity, we can take the moral high ground, stick to facts, and stand together strong.

The rally to remove the Calhoun monument was not a large one, probably not over one-hundred-twenty people. We need more intelligent people in attendance—people who want to see real change. The politicians are not going to help, they are in the mindset to remove monuments in the dead of night without popular support just to get some attention. We can stop this nonsense if we work together, act peacefully, and think logically.

Monuments are not the problem in society today. They are doing their job, and bringing people together to discuss issues. The real problem are these liberal, historical revisionists who will not be happy until America is burned to the ground.



The Battle of Harpers Ferry - September 12 - 15, 1862

The stage for the Battle of Harpers Ferry was set in early September 1862, when Gen. Robert E. Lee opened the Maryland Campaign in an attempt to draw the Army of the Potomac out of war-worn Virginia. Expecting the historic arsenal at Harpers Ferry to evacuate when the Army of Northern Virginia marched up the Shenandoah Valley, Lee hoped to requisition the garrison’s supplies and open a supply line back into Virginia. Knowing that the Army of the Potomac was in pursuit, Lee ordered a bold maneuver. On September 9 he issued Special Order 191, an audacious plan that involved splitting his army in three and sending three divisions led by Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson to seize Harpers Ferry.

On September 7, the U.S. War Department received word that Lee had left Frederick, Maryland, yet Jackson’s division had disappeared. The next day, the Union commander at Harpers Ferry, Col. Dixon S. Miles, famous for his drunkenness during the Battle of Bull Run, began preparations to defend Harpers Ferry. The topographical features of the town, however, rendered it nearly indefensible. Surrounded by three heights, the successful defense of Harper’s Ferry relied on holding Bolivar Heights, Maryland Heights, and 1,200-foot Loudoun Heights. Disregarding the advice of his subordinates, Miles divided his 12,000 men into four brigades, with the main force tasked with defending Bolivar Heights, a ridge two miles west of town on the southern bank of the Potomac. Miles posted a lone brigade atop Maryland Heights and a brigade of militia on Camp Hill. While he posted troops on Bolivar and Maryland Heights, he ignored Loudoun Heights, convinced that the oncoming Confederates would be unwilling or unable to secure artillery on the steep rise. On the highly strategic Maryland Heights, Miles deployed his weakest brigade that contained several troops that had never seen battle. On Camp Hill, a gentle slope above the town placed in an ideal defensive position, Miles posted a brigade of mostly untrained militia. The majority of his soldiers, Miles kept posted near the town.

Jackson’s division left Frederick in Sept. 10, and fighting began on September 12 on Maryland Heights. Jackson coordinated an attack that began with Gen. Lafayette McLaws placing artillery on Maryland Heights, aimed for an attack against both Bolivar Heights and Camp Hill. The troops defending Maryland Heights - Col. Thomas H. Ford’s 126th New York Volunteers - had only been in the army for 21 days and were no match for the seasoned veterans of Joseph B. Kershaw’s and William Barksdale’s brigades. At 9 a.m. on September 13 they advanced up the steep slopes of Maryland Heights and swept away the New Yorkers, who fled instantly. The remaining Federal troops held against repeated assaults until a Confederate flanking maneuver by Barksdale’s Mississippians caused a full blown rout.

That same day, Confederate Gen. John G. Walker’s brigade had reached the summit of Loudoun Heights unopposed, and Jackson’s brigade was about three miles south of Bolivar Heights. Realizing he was now surrounded on three sides, Miles wrote McClellan that if the garrison was

The Bridge

561 Appleton Road
Allendale, SC 29810

EMAIL: scv842@wildblue.net

WEB: www.riversbridgecamp842.com



Sons of Confederate Veterans



Presenting the true history of the South
since 1896

Camp No. 842 Calendar

- September 12, 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry begins
- September 17, 1862 Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam)
- September 19 Regular Camp Meeting 7 PM
- October 17 Regular Camp Meeting 7 PM
- Nov 7-8, 1861 Battle of Port Royal, SC
- Nov 21 Regular Camp Meeting 7 PM
- Dec 19 Regular Camp Meeting 7 PM



not supported within 48 hours, he would have to surrender.

But Miles didn't have 48 hours. Early the next morning well-placed Confederate artillery on Maryland Heights shelled the Union position. The inexperienced Yankee gunners returned fire, but their shots were haphazard and poorly aimed. At 3 p.m. A.P. Hill's Division advanced toward the Federals on Bolivar Heights, meeting stiff resistance from Col. Stephen Downey's 3rd Maryland Brigade. Undeterred, the Confederates nudged Downey back towards Camp Hill. With the three major heights surrounding Harper's Ferry now firmly in his possession, Jackson ordered additional artillery to be brought up that evening in preparation for a fierce strike on the morning of the 15th.

During the night, Jackson brought up five batteries from Hill's division and placed them on Maryland Heights and around the base of Loudoun Heights. Coordinating one fierce strike, Jackson ordered an infantry assault for 8 a.m. the next morning, sending A.P. Hill forward as his batteries enfiladed the Union left. As guns began firing from the two batteries placed on the Union right, most of Miles's infantry took shelter in ravines and trenches. As Jackson ordered Hill's guns to cease firing, he ordered the infantry to storm the Federal works. Union artillery was rapidly losing ammunition. Believing the situation to

be hopeless, Miles called a council in a nearby home that unanimously decided further resistance was useless. As the surrender was debated, a shell burst through the wall, fatally wounding Miles and shattering his left leg. The garrison surrendered, giving the surrender at Harpers Ferry the distinction of leading to the capture of the most prisoners of any battle throughout the war.

Jackson sent a courier to Lee telling him of the victory, and received in reply a message to get his men to Sharpsburg as quickly as possible. Jackson left Hill to accept the surrender of Harpers Ferry, who then paroled 12,000 prisoners, captured 73 pieces of artillery, 13,000 arms, and large quantities of wagons and supplies. Hill's division then left Harper's Ferry, arriving in Sharpsburg in time to play a decisive role at the Battle of Antietam days later.

BATTLE FACTS

RESULT

Confederate Victory

COMMANDERS

UNION

Dixon S. Miles

CONFEDERATE

T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson

FORCES ENGAGED

44,000



TOTAL ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

12,922

Union	Confederate
12,636	286
44 killed	39 killed
173 wounded	247 wounded
12,419 missing & captured	0 missing & captured