



THE BRIDGE

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



September 2011

Deo Vindice

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Hello: Fellow Sons

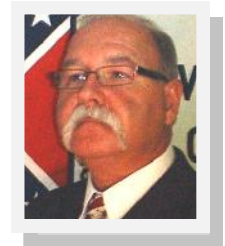
I hope you and your Family are well. The parade in Hampton and Brunson went successfully.

I wish more of you could have been there. This month's meeting we have as a special guest National Commander Michael Givens. Please make a special effort to attend.

Our speaker, Past SC Division Commander Randy Burbage, will be giving us an update on the Hunley. It will be a precursor to our trip to Charleston in October to visit the Hunley Museum. I hope you are all making plans to go.

Remember, everyone is welcome so invite friends and family. I am sure it will be a great time of fellowship and learning.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting,
Pete



Cdr Peter Boineau



1st Lt CDR Floyd

Compatriots

I enjoyed seeing you all at our meeting in August and I thought that Charlie did an excellent job as our speaker. We can look forward to Commander Randy Burbage coming to speak to us on September 20th about "The Hunley". Remember, we are going to Charleston on October 22nd to view The Hunley so please make a special effort to attend our September meeting. We are supposed to have a visit from our National Commander, Michael Givens, at our September meeting as well. Guys this is a busy time of the year for us at Rivers Bridge Camp 842, let's all invite someone to come and be a part of what goes on in the SCV and in our camp.

Camp Officers and compatriot of the year are to be voted on at our November meeting. Please be thinking of someone as your 1st Lt. Commander as I am not running for re-election.

Confederately yours,
Edward Floyd



"You can't go forward if you don't know where you've been" and "If you don't know your history you may be bound to repeat it". These bits of wisdom need to be thought out with great care. We need to understand what has gone before and realize what is going on around us today. We are slowly losing the war of our heritage. History is being rewritten and mostly removed from all forms of information collection. At the current rate "The War of the Rebellion" will not even be able to be researched except by those of us who have the books and records that mean so much to history. Do your part in any way you can to show our history to not only our children and grandchildren but to anyone who will listen. Remember "The Charge" and all it means to us.

Those who trade liberty for security will have neither!" John Adams



Adjutant Smith



Chaplain Carlson

Please add Compatriot Kenny Cone and his family to your prayer list. Kenny has been experiencing some serious health complications and your prayers would be appreciated.

Our Plaque of Remembrance is quickly filling up. Wednesday, September 7, saw the passing of Compatriot Robert "Bob" F. Loadholt. Bob was a SCV Life Member, but for the past year or so had not been able to attend meetings because of poor health.



Bob Loadholt

The SCV and the cause was always in his heart however.

Bob was buried at Fairfax Cemetery on Saturday, September 10, 2011; a good number of Compatriots were present to bid farewell. . .at least for the time being.

Please remember his family in your prayers. Memorial contributions may be made to Fairfax First Baptist Church, PO Box 820, Fairfax, SC 29827.

Our condolences are extended to Quartermaster Donnie Webster on the passing of his father Robert "Bob" Edward Webster on Sunday, Septem-

ber 11, 2011.

Mr. Webster was born November 19, 1928, in Charleston, SC. He was a son of the late Robert B. Webster and Doris Churchill Webster Arthur. He was a graduate of Clemson University and the MUSC School of Pharmacy. He was an army veteran of the Korean War. He retired as the owner of Webster's Pharmacy. He was a member of Barnwell United Methodist Church, Harmony Masonic Lodge #17, Omar Shrine Temple and the S.C. Pharmacy Association.

Memorials may be made to the MUSC Foundation, 18 Bee St., MUSC 450, Charleston SC 29425.

A CONDENSED LOOK AT THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE CIVIL WAR

By

Michael Griffith

This will be the first of several installments of this article over the coming issues of the Bridge. It is done in this way for a number of reasons the chief of which is our limited space. This restriction limits us to articles of a more superficial nature which prevents delving deeper into some very interesting history. By presenting the article over several issues the reader will be allowed to consider and digest the information in smaller portions which, hopefully, will result in an even greater understanding and appreciation of the subject matter. With that said, I hope you enjoy and benefit from Mister Griffith's article.—Editor

When I began to study the Civil War, I realized that much of what I had been taught about it in school was either wrong or incomplete. It has been said that history is written by the victors. This is especially true when it comes to the Civil War. The Southern side of the story is rarely presented fairly in our public schools and textbooks today. I believe it is important that we as Americans know the whole truth about the Civil War. The purpose of this article is to present the South's side of the story.

The following basic facts are undisputed: The seven states of the Deep South seceded in response to the victory of the Republican Party's presidential candidate, Abraham Lincoln, in the 1860 election. These states formed the Confederate States of America. Lincoln refused to recognize the Confederacy. A small federal garrison occupied Fort Sumter, South Carolina, on December 26, 1860. The Confederate government attempted to negotiate the withdrawal of the garrison from the fort. Lincoln decided not to evacuate the garrison. Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Lincoln issued a call-up for 75,000 troops to put down what he

claimed was a rebellion in the South. Four more Southern states joined the Confederacy. Lincoln sent federal armies into the South. The war lasted approximately four years and ended in April 1865.

The version of the Civil War that's taught in nearly all textbooks goes something like this: "The only reason the South wanted to leave the Union was to protect slavery. The South had no right to secede. The South started the war by firing on Fort Sumter. The war was fought over slavery. The defeat of the South was a victory for government 'of the people, by the people, and for the people.'" This is the version of the war that I accepted for most of my life.

We will consider twelve issues relating to the Civil War: Why Did the South Secede? Did the South Have the Right to Secede? What Caused the War? Who Started the War? The Emancipation Proclamation. Republicans, the North, and Racism. Was the War Fought Over Slavery? What Happened at Andersonville Prison? Did the South Control the Federal Government Until 1860? The Reconstruction Era. The True Nature of the War. And, What If the South Had Been Allowed to Go in Peace?

Why Did the South Secede?

Nearly all textbooks give the impression that the South withdrew from the Union merely to protect the institution of slavery. This is a misleading, overly simplistic characterization. Slavery was not the only factor that led the South to secede. In fact, some of the wealthiest slaveholders opposed secession. They believed, for good reason, that slavery would actually be safer in the Union than out of it. Historian William Klingaman notes that even Lincoln argued that the South would have a harder time protecting slavery outside the Union:

But secession, Lincoln argued, would actually make it harder for the South to preserve slavery. If the Southern states

tried to leave the Union, they would lose all their constitutional guarantees. . . . (Abraham Lincoln and the Road to Emancipation, New York: Viking Press, 2001, p. 32)

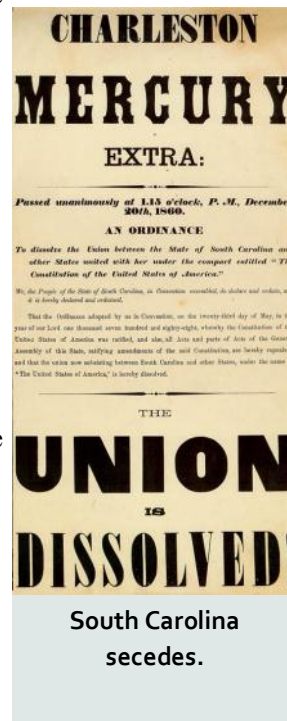
Most people aren't aware that, even as president, Lincoln supported a proposed constitutional amendment that would have guaranteed slavery's continuation forever. Lincoln mentioned his support for this amendment in his first inaugural address. In the years leading up to the Civil War, Lincoln acknowledged that slavery was protected by the Constitution. He also supported the Fugitive Slave Law. Therefore, some Southern statesmen didn't believe Lincoln was going to threaten slavery's existence. Yet, they supported secession anyway.

Most Southern leaders who advocated secession in order to protect slavery did so because they believed that Lincoln and the Republicans in Congress would try to abolish slavery by unconstitutional means and that Southern slaveholders would not receive compensation for their slaves. Southern spokesmen felt this would be unfair, since Northern slaveholders had been able to receive various types of compensation for their slaves when most Northern states had abolished slavery several decades earlier. They knew that emancipation without compensation would do great damage to the Southern economy. Critics note that many Southern statesmen voiced the view that slavery was a "positive good." Yet, even the "positive good" advocates acknowledged that slavery had its evils and abuses. In any case, there were plenty of Southerners who opposed slavery and who were willing to see it abolished in a fair, gradual manner, as had been done in most

Northern states. After all, 69-75 percent of Southern families did not own slaves. However, few Southerners believed the Republicans were interested in a fair, gradual emancipation program. The more extreme Republicans, who were known as "Radical Republicans," certainly weren't interested in such a program.

Few people today understand why the South distrusted the Republican Party. Not only was the Republican Party a new party, it was also the first purely regional (or sectional) party in the country's history. Republican leaders frequently gave inflammatory anti-Southern speeches, some of which included egregious falsehoods and even threats (Susan-Mary Grant, *North Over South: Northern Nationalism and American Identity in the Antebellum Era*, University of Kansas Press, 2000). Historian William C. Cooper points out that the Republicans "had no interest in cultivating support in the South, which they branded as basically un-American," and that "No major party had ever before so completely repudiated the South" (Jefferson Davis, *American*, Vintage Books Edition, New York: Vintage Books, 2000, pp. 294, 295).

British historian Susan-Mary Grant notes that the Republican Party that came into being in 1854 was "a sectional party with a sectional ideology . . . that was predicated on opposition to the South, to the economic, social, and political reality of that section" (*North Over South*, p. 17). Southerners were alarmed when dozens of Republican congressmen endorsed an advertisement for Hinton Helper's book *The Impending Crisis of the South*, which spoke approvingly of a potential slave revolt that would kill untold numbers of Southern citizens in a "barbarous massacre." The Republican



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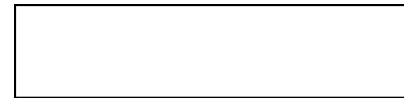
WEB: www.riversbridgecamp842.com



Sons of Confederate Veterans



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Camp No. 842 Calendar

September 20	Regular Camp Meeting
October 18	Regular Camp Meeting
October 22	Tour Hunley Museum - Warren Lasch Conservation Center, Charleston, SC
November 5	Swallow Savannah Cemetery cleanup 8:30AM
November 12	BBQ Butt Fundraiser - Pickup 2PM-4PM
November 15	Regular Camp Meeting - Election of Camp Officers - selection of Compatriot-of-the-Year
January 21, 2012	Annual Banquet Barker's Mill
February 3-5	S.D. Lee Institute Desoto Hotel, Savannah, GA
March 23-24	SC Division Convention N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Party even distributed an abridged edition of the book as a campaign document, and Republican editors added captions like

“The Stupid Masses of the South” and
“Revolution . . . Violently If We Must.”

Southerners also noticed that the Republicans broke the long-established tradition of having a sectionally balanced presidential ticket. For decades, all major political parties had nominated tickets that consisted of one candidate from the North and one from the South. Each of the three other parties in the 1860 election followed this tradition, but not the Republican Party. Another rea-



First National Flag

son that Southerners were worried about the Republicans was that the party's leaders made it clear they would push for several policies that the South believed were harmful and unconstitutional. Many Southerners feared that Republican leaders were determined to subjugate and exploit the South by any means. With these facts in mind, perhaps it's not hard to understand why the election of Lincoln triggered the secession of seven Southern states.

As mentioned, slavery was not the only factor that led to secession. If one reads the Declarations of Causes of Secession and the Ordinances of Secession that were issued by the first seven states of the Confederacy, one finds that there were several reasons these states wanted to be independent and that some of the reasons had nothing to do with slavery. For example, the Georgia and Texas Declarations of Causes of Secession included economic complaints, in addition to concerns relating to slavery. The Texas declaration complained that unfair federal legislation was enriching the North at the expense of the Southern states. The Georgia declaration complained about federal protectionism and subsidies for Northern business interests.

We will pick up here and continue in the next issue of The Bridge.—Editor