



THE BRIDGE

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



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Compatriots and friends,

As we approach that most joyous of holidays, I hope this finds all well with you and yours. Because of the One whose birth we celebrate on December 25th, we all can have hope for not only the coming new year, but forever. As we gather with our families and enjoy delicious food and an abundance of presents let us not lose sight of the *True Reason* for the season. May your family's greatest present be His presence.

The new year will be here before we know it and it is a time when folks make resolutions. Of course, many of those resolutions are soon forgotten and the year continues in the usual way. What resolutions do we as a Camp need to make? These should be resolutions that we can and intend to fulfill.

Recruiting and retention are two items that are a must or we will cease to exist by attrition and there will be no one to carry on. Our facility will revert to the original owners and Rivers Bridge Camp No. 842 will be, at best, only a memory if that. What part will each of us play in preventing that from happening? Are we willing to do something other than sit on the sidelines and complain? We may not be what we used to be, but if we work together we can still do some pretty amazing things. Inertia is not only not good for the human body, but it is deadly to an organization; we need to be doing something to be healthy. What can we do?

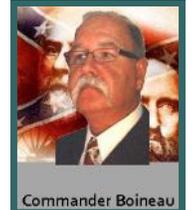
At our next meeting take a look around at our facility; do you see anything that needs to be done? How will it get done without a plan and folks willing to do something however small it may seem. We encourage each other with our presence and our willingness to do something. We have a wonderful headquarters, and it still has great potential if we would, as is often said, "Think outside the box."

I'd like to commend Foch Hiott for being willing to do a test installation of some new lighting in our kitchen. Also Coleman Loadholt is looking into building some shelving for the book collection donated by late Compatriot John Barnes and his wife Jessica. These are needed repairs and improvements which in themselves are not tremendous, but if allowed to go untended and accumulate they can easily become overwhelming.

I mention these few items to illustrate that there are many things that we can and need to do and yes, I know that many people are not fans of work. Work is not the goal but rather a way of getting us out of our inertia of doing nothing and moving toward something that can be more enjoyable and worthwhile. I welcome your ideas.

As always, I encourage you to be at Barker's Mill on the 19th and bring a friend or Compatriot with you. Oh, we don't object to you bringing some motivational ideas with you also.

See you then, Pete



Commander Boineau

Hearing on Stop Work Order

A city panel says the Edisto River Creamery's owner cannot build a "freedom wall" in front of his restaurant where a Confederate flag display already stands.

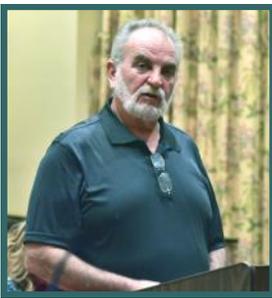
Orangeburg's Building Board of Appeals on Thursday unanimously upheld a stop work order issued against restaurant owner Tommy Daras in September.

"It appears that you don't own that small piece of property," Chairman Wes Summers told Daras following an hour-long hearing.

Daras wants to build a 25-foot long "freedom wall" and put up an American flag in front of his restaurant. That spot already contains a Confederate flag and a marker referencing Gen. William T. Sherman's crossing of the Edisto River.

Daras wants the flag removed, claiming he has a deed to the land at the corner of John C. Calhoun Drive and Russell Street.

But a small plot of land in front of his restaurant is also claimed by the Sons of Confederate Veterans Rivers Bridge Camp 842, which maintains the flag display. The group was given the land in front of the restaurant by its previous owner, the late Maurice Bessinger.



Mister Daras

The Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 842 says it has been paying taxes on the property and its deed is older than the one held by Daras.

City officials originally approved Daras' plans for a "freedom wall." They now say they thought he wanted to build it on the restaurant property, not the property with the display.

During Thursday's hearing, Daras said "I have a problem when I supply a legal registered title deed and they revoke the permit."

Daras told the Building Board of Appeals that he proceeded with the work in good faith that the property was deeded and titled to him.

He frequently questioned the legality of the Sons of Confederate Veterans' deed, noting that he hired a reputable attorney when he purchased the property and did all his attorney told him to do. He was under the understanding that the entire property was his.

Building Board of Appeals member Edgar McGee said all records indicate the property does not belong to Daras, but to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

"It appears to me that somebody you employed possibly did not do their job correctly," McGee said.

Board member G.W. Berry said, "You got the bad side of a bad situation."

Summers recommended Daras contact a lawyer and revisit the title and deed to the property.

Daras said he has consulted three attorneys in Orangeburg who have not wanted to take his case.

"I contacted attorneys in Columbia to figure out whose deed is whose and whose is not," Daras said. "They told me it would be astronomically priced for them to come to Orangeburg to do all the title work and represent me."

Daras frequently questioned the legality of the Sons of Confederate Veterans' deed.

"The whole situation has been very fishy for the City of Orangeburg and me and the deed is very fishy in my eyes," Daras said.

Following the hearing, Daras said he is not going to stop fighting. "It is not over until it is over. I am not rolling over," he said.

Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 842 Commander Peter D. Boineau said the hearing proved the group owns the land. "We have the plat, we have the deed and we have been paying taxes on it much longer than he has owned his land," Boineau said.

Keeper of the Flag Buzz Braxton said, "It seems the law is being upheld. "That is all we ask. If we are right, we want to be right. If we are legal, we want to be legal. We don't want anything that is not ours but we want to keep ours."

The developments are the latest in what has been a long-standing effort on Daras' part to have the Confederate flag removed. State Rep. Justin Bamberg, D-Bamberg, is working without pay on Daras' behalf to have the flag removed through the zoning process. He did not represent Daras in the "freedom wall" hearing.

Bamberg, an attorney, claims the flag was erected in violation of the city's zoning ordinance. Orangeburg's Board of Zoning Appeals says the city's zoning ordinance does not regulate flags. Its decision allows the flag to remain at the site. Bamberg has appealed the decision.



Buzz and Pete



Cart Before the Horse

Last month we remembered the execution of Captain Henry Wirz, Commandant at Andersonville, for his alleged atrocities. Below, Compatriot James W. King provides information for us which should bring a better understanding of the POW situation 1861-1865 and reveal what an injustice was perpetrated on Captain Henry Wirz.



THE ANDERSONVILLE HUMAN DISASTER WAS 100% THE FAULT OF THE LINCOLN ADMINISTRATION

In defense of the Confederate government and Confederate prison officials in regards to Andersonville, an article was published in 1876 by the Southern Historical Society, consisting of 9 points that place the blame for deaths and suffering at Andersonville totally on Northern politicians and military authorities. Specifically President Lincoln, Sec. of War Stanton, Asst. Sec. of War Dana, and Gen. Grant shoulder the blame as noted in the following 9 points.

1. It is not denied that great suffering and mortality occurred but it was due to circumstances and conditions beyond CSA control.
2. If the death rate be adduced as "circumstantial evidence of barbarity" the rate of Confederate deaths was higher in Northern POW camps where there was an abundance of food, medicine, and shelter. The Confederacy captured and held about 270,000 Union prisoners from 1861-65 and 22,576 died. The Union captured and held about 220,000 Confederate prisoners and 26,436 died.
3. The Union POW's were given the same rations as Confederate guards and soldiers and equal treatment in hospitals as required by the CSA government and the death rate of CSA guards was the same as POW's. The Northern Federal government did not have this humane policy.
4. The exchange of prisoners was refused by the North before the issue of black Union POW's became an issue.
5. The CSA government requested that Northern doctors and medicine be sent to treat Northern POW's and the request was denied.
6. The CSA tried to buy supplies including bowls and other utensils to use in feeding the POW's. They offered to pay with cotton and gold but the offer was refused by the Lincoln administration.
7. The Federal Government under President Lincoln made medicine contraband causing suffering and death of Union POW's and all Southerners military and civilian.
8. Prior to the period of greatest mortality the CSA authorities offered to release the Andersonville POW's without exchange but the offer was not accepted by the Lincoln Administration who was told by CSA authorities "we cannot feed or care for them-just come get them". Sherman 's barbaric war crimes in Georgia consisting of stealing, destroying, and burning made food and supplies even scarcer and increased suffering and mortality.
9. The Northern press was furnished lies and propaganda by Union Sec. and Asst Sec. of war Stanton and Dana claiming deliberate cruelties and war crimes by the South. The control of Northern POW camps was transferred by Stanton and Dana to vindictive partisan criminal elements and deliberate war crimes of cruelty, torture, and murder were committed against Confederate POW's as proven by a joint resolution of the U.S. Senate and House SR97.

Final proof that the human disaster at Andersonville was virtually 100% the fault of the Lincoln Administration comes from statements by Confederate Col. Ould who was in charge of arranging prisoner exchanges and Union Assistant Secretary of War in the Lincoln Administration Charles A. Dana. Col. Ould is quoted as saying "My government instructs me to waive all formalities in this matter of exchange. I need not try to conceal from you that we cannot feed and provide for the prisoners in our hands. We cannot half feed or clothe them. You have closed our ports till we cannot get medical stores for them. You will not send us quinine and other medicines, even for their exclusive use. They are suffering greatly and the mortality is excessive. I tell you all this plainly, and still you refuse to exchange. What does your government demand? Name your own conditions and I have authority to accept them. YOU ARE SILENT! GREAT GOD, CAN IT BE THAT YOU PEOPLE ARE MONSTERS? If you will not exchange, I will give you your men for nothing. I will deliver ten thousand Union POW's at Wilmington. I will deliver five thousand here. Come and get them. If your government is so damnably dishonest to want them for nothing, you shall have them. You can at least feed them and we cannot."

Post-War in the New York Sun Newspaper Dana wrote "CSA authorities and especially Jefferson Davis ought not to be held responsible for Andersonville. We were responsible ourselves for the continued detention of our captives in misery, starvation and sickness in the South".

Post-war Union General Grant admitted that he had considered the Andersonville POW's Expendable.

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Sons of Confederate Veterans



Presenting the true history of the South
since 1896

Camp No. 842 Calendar

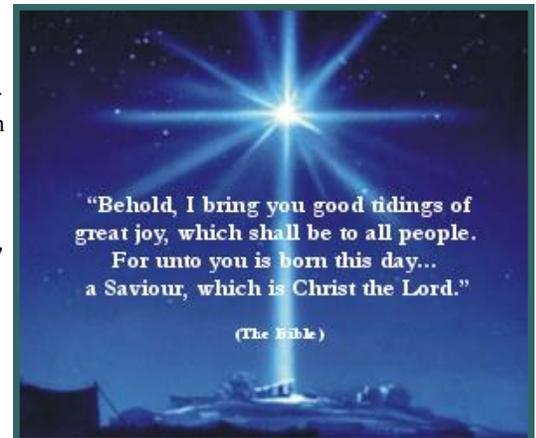
Dec 19	Regular Camp Meeting 7 PM
Jan 16, 2018	Regular Camp Meeting 7 PM
Jan 19, 1807	Robert E. Lee Born
Jan 21, 1824	Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson Born
Feb 20	Regular Camp Meeting 7 PM
Mar 20	Regular Camp Meeting 7 PM

Merry Christmas

Christmas Morning

"This day, Christmas, again greets us and our readers. We could wish them, one and all a merry Christmas, but we are reminded that many a home in the state is deserted by the strong and the young men, who are off on the battle field." "Were our people to indulge in the usual festivities, they might in the midst of their gaiety, receive the unwelcome tidings that a father, a son, or a brother were weltering in gore on the bloody field." As time passed, holiday greetings grew even bleaker, as the same paper noted in January 1865, "whilst we write, the warm blood from the heart of many a strong man and bright eyed boy no doubt reddens the soil. The whole nation is a vast house of mourning. Christmas, once so merry and joyous, now finds the widow and her little ones clustered together in grief. Carnage, blood, fiendish malignity, devilish hate, all

the horrors of hell, seem to rise uppermost and turn the land into a vast slaughter-pen!" *Weekly Standard*, Raleigh, North Carolina, December 25, 1861



In December 1861, William Gaston Delony, a Confederate officer, wished "a merry Christmas to all my treasures at home." His wife responded, "I cannot wish you a Merry Christmas...I pray God that this day in the coming year will find us reunited." "I hope the poor little things will enjoy Christmas," she wrote of her children, but "I cannot feel 'merry' at such times, [but] will kill my only turkey and dispose of a slice or so in consideration of the day, but that's all. A long and rainy spell has begun." William planned to be home for future Christmases, as his wife wished, but neither plans nor wishes came true. William died just after his 9th wedding anniversary in the fall of 1863, leaving behind three children and his pregnant wife for an even rainier holiday season.