



# THE BRIDGE

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



February 2020

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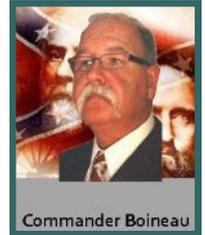
**Karl Bishop, Jr.**

**Russell E. Dobson**

Camp Historians

Compatriots,

Welcome. I hope that all is well with each of you and those who are dear to your heart. We heard from Compatriot Herman Smith and though he sounded good he does have some health issues. Herman assumed the guardianship of the Cemetery on 641 just east of Sycamore when Compatriot Bob Hightower moved from the area. We are at the point now where Herman requests someone to assume responsibility for maintenance of the Cemetery as his health makes it impossible for him to care for it properly. It should be a minimum of work if it is not allowed to get ahead of you. Let me know if you would be interested in assuming guardianship of this Cemetery.



Commander Boineau

In an attempt to add to our Rivers Bridge Confederate Memorial Day observance the Camp voted to meet the expenses of bringing the travelling Hunley replica to be with us that day. This includes providing meals for the crew. Help us increase attendance by encouraging friends and family to be present for this historic event.

Compatriot Bill Davies was with us at the January meeting which just happened to be on General "Stonewall" Jackson's Birthday. Bill had a wonderful presentation on Robert E. Lee and his time in South Carolina; did you know that General Lee purchased a horse named Greenbrier for \$200 while at Pocatigo? He re-named that horse Traveller. Such information does not change the course of history, but it is nonetheless very interesting.

The 155th anniversary of the Battle for Broxton Bridge is literally "just down the road." The event will begin Friday, February 28th and continue through March 1st. General Bart Chassereau assures us that this year's re-enactment and collateral events will be the best yet. See the article on the next page for additional information and contact numbers. We encourage your attendance at this impressive Southern celebration.

We don't have the names of the re-enactors who participated, but we offer them a round of applause and a big "Thank You!" for helping Compatriot Foch Hiott clear Barker's Mill of fallen trees.

We were pleased to have James Mansfield as a guest for our January meeting and we look forward to his joining our ranks.

I hope to see YOU at Barker's Mill on Tuesday, February 18, at 7 pm.

Pete

**HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR TICKETS YET?  
THEY ARE AVAILABLE NOW!**

**DRAWING WILL BE AT OUR ANNUAL  
BANQUET APRIL 18TH**



## The Answer to Our Deepest Needs

By Billy Graham

Jesus taught that Christians are “the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13). Salt adds zest to food, and it is a preservative. If it were not for the Christian salt, our society would become corrupt. Take all the Christians out of America and see what chaos would be created overnight. It is partially because the church has lost its saltiness that we have such appalling moral and social needs now.

Jesus also said: “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). The darkness of our world is getting ever darker. There is only one true light shining, the light of Jesus Christ, which is reflected by those who trust and believe in Him.



But just as there is danger that salt will lose its saltiness, so there is danger that light may be lost in darkness if it is not tended and given a chance to shine. The lives of the early Christians were their invincible witness. The world may argue against a creed, but it cannot argue against changed lives.

That is what the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ does when it is preached in the power and authority of the Holy Spirit.

Not only do we as Christians follow Christ and learn from Him, but we also must act. The world judges Christians by our life, not by our belief. Our acts are an indication of our faith.

**Editor: When we think of our actions being an indication of our faith, Southerners are apt to recall the lives of Lee and Jackson as prime examples of this truth. There were others from all ranks of the Southern Armies that returned home to become ministers or just faithful hard-working Christians whose spiritual birth occurred during revivals throughout the war. Such is the heritage that we preserve and defend.**



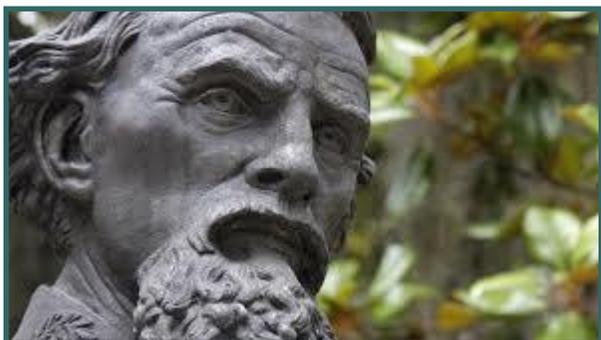
- Living History Day for schoolchildren to tour is Friday, February 28th, 2020, beginning at 9 a.m.
- Camps are open Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.
- Battle reenactments are 2:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday, February 29th - March 1, 2020.
- One-day admission: ages 5 and under Free, ages 6 - 17 \$3.00 and age 18 and over \$10.00. Armbands will be given out at gate or RV Park. Charge for admission whether camping or not.
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. Parking is free.
- For other information contact Battlefield Chairman, Bart Chasse-reau 803-398-7774;
- Broxton Bridge Plantation 800-437-4868.
- For RV reservations call 800-437-4868.



**Broxton Bridge**  
PLANTATION  
“For the Serious Sportsman” • Ehrhardt, SC



## Forrest: Memphis' first White Civil Rights Advocate



Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest (1821-1877) was a renowned Southern military leader and strategist during the War Between the States. During the Civil War, Forrest's Confederate cavalry wreaked havoc among Union forces throughout the mid-South. He gained worldwide fame from his many battlefield successes, but the wartime heroics have overshadowed his post-war work as a community leader and civil rights advocate. He fought fiercely on the battlefield, yet was a compassionate man off the field. After the war, Forrest worked tirelessly to build the New South and to promote employment for black Southerners. Forrest was known near and far as a great general, and was a well-respected citizen by both blacks and whites alike. The Independent Order of Pole-Bearers Association (predecessor to the NAACP) was organized by Southern blacks after the

war to promote black voting rights, etc. One of their early conventions was held in Memphis and Mr. Forrest was invited to be the guest speaker, the first white man ever to be invited to speak to the Association.

After the Civil War, General Forrest made a speech to the Memphis City Council (then called the Board of Aldermen). In this speech he said that there was no reason that the black man could not be doctors, store clerks, bankers, or any other job equal to whites. They were part of our community and should be involved and employed as such just like anyone else. In another speech to Federal authorities, Forrest said that many of the ex-slaves were skilled artisans and needed to be employed and that those skills needed to be taught to the younger workers. If not, then the next generation of blacks would have no skills and could not succeed and would become dependent on the welfare of society.

Forrest's words went unheeded. The Memphis & Selma Railroad was organized by Forrest after the war to help rebuild the South's transportation and to build the 'new South'. Forrest took it upon himself to hire blacks as architects, construction engineers and foremen, train engineers and conductors, and other high-level jobs. In the North, blacks were prohibited from holding such jobs. When the Civil War began, Forrest offered freedom to 44 of his slaves if they would serve with him in the Confederate army. All 44 agreed. One later deserted; the other 43 served faithfully until the end of the war.

Though they had many chances to leave, they chose to remain loyal to the South and to Forrest. Part of General Forrest's command included his own Escort Company, his Green Berets, made up of the very best soldiers available. This unit, which varied in size from 40-90 men, was the elite of the cavalry. Eight of these picked men were black soldiers and all served gallantly and bravely throughout the war. All were armed with at least 2 pistols and a rifle. Most also carried two additional pistols in saddle holsters. At war's end, when Forrest's cavalry surrendered in May 1865, there were 65 black troopers on the muster roll. Of the soldiers who served under him, Forrest said of the black troops: Finer Confederates never fought.

Forrest was a brilliant cavalryman and courageous soldier. As author Jack Hurst writes: a man possessed of physical valor perhaps unprecedented among his countrymen, as well as, ironically, a man whose social attitudes may well have changed farther in the direction of racial enlightenment over the span of his lifetime than those of most American historical figures.

When Forrest died in 1877 it is noteworthy that his funeral in Memphis was attended not only by a throng of thousands of whites but by hundreds of blacks as well. The funeral procession was over two miles long and was attended by over 10,000 area residents, including 3000 black citizens paying their respects.

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### Forrest's Speech to the Pole Bearers

As stated above, Nathan Bedford Forrest was a noted Southern military leader, a brilliant strategist and a gentleman who made his mark in what Southerners call the War of Northern Aggression.

To paint every general on the losing side as a racist simply because you don't like the South is a travesty that the facts of history will knock down time and time again.

Yes, Forrest was a great general in an unpopular war, but when the war ended, Forrest accepted the outcome and then sought reconciliation with those around him.

He worked diligently to rebuild the South and earnestly to generate employment for black Southerners.

His leadership and character did not fade because the South had been defeated. Instead he used who he was, accepted the outcome, and employed his fame and talents for the good of others.

At an early convention of the Pole-Bearers, whose beginnings pre-dated the NAACP, it was Forrest who was invited to speak. History records no disrespect at the meeting; instead both the Pole-Bearers and Forrest behaved with mutual respect and decorum. He was the guest speaker, and historically the first white invited to be the keynote speaker.

Forrest was asked because the group was said to have wanted to extend union and peace to others, but what happened in further actions was even more important.

On July 4, 1875 the event began with a young black woman, the daughter of a leader of the Pole-Bearers, offering Forrest a

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## The Bridge

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## Sons of Confederate Veterans



Presenting the true history of the South  
since 1896

## Camp No. 842 Calendar

Feb 12	Legislative Day - Statehouse 7:30 am
Feb 18	Regular Camp Meeting 7 pm
Feb 28-Mar 1	Battle for Broxton Bridge Reenactment
Mar 17	Regular Camp Meeting 7 pm
Apr 21	Regular Camp Meeting 7 pm

## Sons of Confederate Veterans

small bouquet of flowers signifying the peace intended.

He received the flowers and then spoke from his heart to the gathering. His actions and recorded words testify that this gentleman was in truth a civil rights advocate, a believer in the rights of all people.

Among the statements he made that day: "I came here with jeers of some white people who think what I am doing is wrong. We were born on the same soil, breathe the same air, live in the same land, and why should we not be brothers and sisters. I believe I can exert some influence ... and shall do all in my power to elevate every man and to depress none. I want to elevate you to take positions in law offices, in stores, on farms and wherever you are capable of going."

He apologized for having no formal speech, but continued, "Many things have been said about me that are wrong, and which black and white persons here who stood by me through the war can contradict."

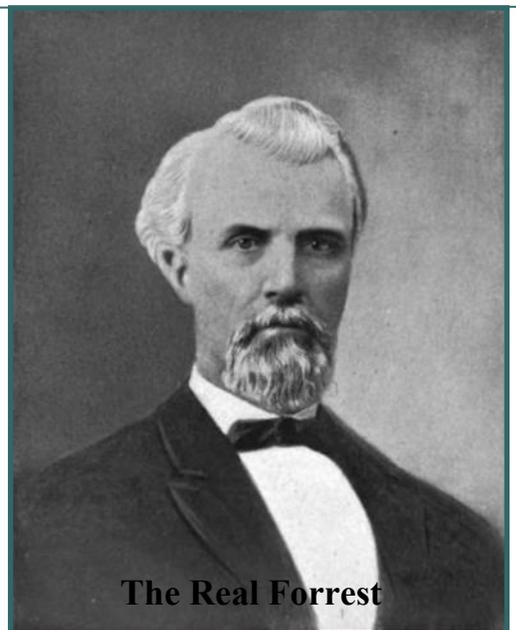
"I feel that you are free men, I am a free man, and we can

do as we please. I came here as a friend and whenever I can serve any of you, I will do so. We have one union, one flag, one country; therefore, let us stand together. Although we differ in color, we should not differ in sentiment."

"Do your duty as citizens, and if any are oppressed, I will be your friend. I thank you for the flowers, and assure you that I am with you in heart and hand."

It should be noted that both black and white soldiers fought under Forrest against the North. Many were in attendance at this Memphis address. When Forrest's cavalry disbanded in May of 1865, the muster included 65 black soldiers. Forrest described those gentlemen as soldiers amid his finest.

Yes, Forrest was a Southern general whose war strategies were unmatched. Yes, the war that began over states' rights brought forth a welcome transition to the civil rights we are so thankful for today.



**The Real Forrest**