



THE BRIDGE

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



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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

scv842@gmail.com

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

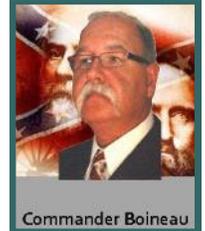
Karl Bishop, Jr.

Russell E. Dobson

Camp Historians

Friends and Compatriots.

Well, here we are ten days into a new year with endless opportunities before us if only we will take advantage of them. I hope that each of you is looking forward with confidence and hope and not letting the mainstream media's constant drumbeat of negativity get you down. A trait of true Southerners that has always inspired me is that even overwhelmed and, some say "defeated" by, vastly superior numbers and resources, they don't act "vanquished." I do believe that this spirited attitude is what riles our opposition so intensely; it seems that in the minds of many, we Southerners just need to realize the South lost the war and to get over it and be properly humble. The problem would appear to be that we don't act like we know who won the war; to this I say, "No, we're well aware of who the victors are, but we want folks to know what it was *really* all about, and that we have nothing to be ashamed of." Be Southern, be proud!



Commander Boineau

This year the Rivers Bridge Confederate Memorial Service will be on Friday, May 8th. It's not too early to mark your calendars and start reminding friends of the importance of being there to encourage one another in spite of our politically correct times. Camp 842 has been tasked with providing the Color Guard so let me know if you would like to serve in this important role.

January marks the anniversary of our Camp re-Chartering as well as the birth of two of our most honored Christian Soldiers, Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. At a time when legislators from Virginia are doing their best to have General Lee's statue removed from Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C., we dedicate this issue of *The Bridge* to their memory. To see in a report that elected officials of Virginia accuse General Lee of being a "*cruel slave master*" begs the question, where were these people "educated?" So, you Sons of Confederate Veterans should plainly see the need for education regarding the True history of the South. If we don't do it, who will?

I remind you that our Legislative Day this year will be Wednesday, February 12th. We will meet at the Confederate Monument at 7:30 am, rain or shine. We have Blatt Room 108 starting at 8:00 am until 12:00 noon. We will then go to the House Chambers at 10:00 am and the Senate Chambers at 12:00 noon. It goes with saying that our attire should be befitting of a Southern Gentleman.

I hope to see you at Barker's Mill on the 21st.

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

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



General Lee's Favorite Hymn; Good News For Our Times



“The firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are His.’” — 2 Timothy 2:19
How do you appropriate God’s grace in suffering? How can you experience the endurance of faith as you live through something truly difficult? Are these good questions to ask today? I believe they are, and the answers to these two deep questions can be found in the old hymn, *How Firm a Foundation*. Perhaps you will see that it is no surprise that this hymn was General Robert E. Lee’s favorite hymn.

But before we examine the lyrics, let it be said that the writer of this hymn is anonymous. *How Firm a Foundation* was first published in a hymnal in 1787—with no credit given to the one who composed it. Only God and the author know. In a world obsessed with taking credit and receiving payment for achievement, this hymn is an unknown person’s offering to God.

What is intriguing is that after verse 1, the entire hymn is God speaking to us. In the majority of hymns we sing to God. . . we sing about God. . . we sing about each other. . . and we sing about ourselves. But in this hymn God does the talking. He tells us who He is and what He is like, especially in respect to what difficult challenges we are going through. In times of suffering, we need to hear God speaking. God’s voice speaks deeper than what hurts, brighter than what is dark, and more enduring than what is lost. His voice changes the meaning of every hardship. And in the process we end up looking more like Jesus.

Verse 1 makes the case that the Bible has the answers to the matters of faith—God’s Word speaking to us:

“How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?”

Paul writes to Timothy, *“The firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are His.’” 2 Timothy 2:19* As refugees (those who depend absolutely on outside mercies) of Jesus Christ, we run and cling to that foundation of Truth. We appropriate God’s grace in suffering by listening to what He has already said in His Word.

What more can He say? It’s all in the Bible. Here are four things He has said which are proclaimed in the hymn that will bring about grace and strength in our suffering:

1. God is with us—Isaiah 41:10

The second verse of *How Firm a Foundation* reads:

“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

And in Isaiah 41:10, God speaks: *“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*

In genuine suffering and trials there is the temptation to give in to the fear and dismay that surrounds such trials. The problem is not so much that we feel troubled by trouble and pained by pain. The problem is that during these times, God simply becomes an afterthought. Suffering tends to trigger a cascade of bad reactions—cynicism, becoming disheartened, having no hope, weariness, and doubts. However, Isaiah 41:10 offsets those bad reactions with these promises: “I am with you. I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you by My all-good all-powerful hand.” These are the truths we need to be listening to.

2. God is with us for a purpose—Isaiah 43:2, Romans 8:28

The third verse is:

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with thee, they troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee they deepest distress.”

In Isaiah 43:2 we read, *“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”* Romans 8:28 says, *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”* It is clear from these verses that not only is God with us in difficult times, but God is with us for a purpose. Our significant sufferings ultimately bring about God’s purpose—which is a blessing—and God’s transforming work.

3. God is with us for the purpose of transformation—1 Peter 1:6-9

Verse Four:

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie
My grace, all sufficient, shall be they supply:
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
They dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.”

God’s voice in the hymn comes from 1 Peter 1:6-9: *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

Peter states emphatically that experiences of suffering purify our faith and make it more precious than gold. Suffering is all about transformation. Suffering and trials are used by God to transform our faith. And it is transformed faith that brings praise, honor,

and glory to God. Just as the smelting furnace burns off the dross, the worthless aspects of the metal, so God uses suffering to burn off anything that hinders faith.

4. God will never ever forsake you—Deuteronomy 31:6

Notice that seven times in Verse Five the writer repeats God's promise:

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”

That is God saying to us the truth in Deuteronomy 31:6—“*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.*”

General Robert E. Lee loved this hymn, and it was sung at his funeral, “. . . as an expression of his full trust in the ways of the Heavenly Father.”

This hymn was also used to encourage our nation at the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance after the 9/11 attack on our nation. Billy Graham used it in his message and said, “We all watched in horror as planes crashed into the steel and glass of the World Trade Center. Those majestic towers, built on solid foundations, were examples of the prosperity and creativity of America. When damaged, those buildings eventually plummeted to the ground, imploding in upon themselves. Yet, underneath the debris, is a foundation that was not destroyed. Therein lies the truth of that old hymn, *How Firm a Foundation*. . . That foundation is our trust in God. That's what this service is all about and in that faith we have the strength to endure something as difficult and horrendous as what we have experienced this week.” So let this hymn encourage you in these challenging times in which we live, and remember always that the truth of it has comforted Christians for hundreds of years. . . including Robert E. Lee.

TRAVELLER



At the annual Lewisburg fair in 1859, *Jeff Davis*, a grey two-year-old colt of Grey Eagle stock, was awarded the premium, and again the following year *Jeff Davis* walked out of the ring with the blue ribbon attached. *Jeff Davis* was raised on a farm near Blue Sulphur Springs in Greenbrier County, Virginia, (now West Virginia) and at an early age gave promise of developing into a handsome horse. His rapid, springy walk, high spirit, bold carriage, and muscular strength were the marvel of all who saw him. This horse, that nature had so richly endowed, was destined to play a leading role in a drama where courage and strength of man and beast were the prime requisites.

As a four-year-old this grey horse left the farm for the battlefield. A Major Thomas L. Brown of the Confederate Army had acquired him for \$175.00. Faith ordained that the raw recruit, who had yet to acquire a full mouth, should attract the attention of the Idol of the South. General Lee's admiration of *Jeff Davis* was so outspoken that the Major Brown begged him to accept the horse as a gift. Whether this was the preliminary of a horse trade is of no consequence, the fact remains that in February 1862, *Jeff Davis* became the property of General Robert E. Lee for the sum of \$200.00.

Upon arrival at his new home, *Jeff Davis* was rechristened. Henceforth he became known as *Traveller*, spelled with an extra "l" in good English style. He became the constant companion of his new master through the three years of war and the five years of peace that followed. It is not necessary to delve very deeply between the lines to realize that this great

horse soon became an inspiration to the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee and *Traveller* were symbolic of courage, strength, and victory.

Traveller was no docile Dobbin; his spirit was never dampened and only held in control by a master's hand. At the Second Battle of Manassas, *Traveller* became frightened by a bursting shell and dragged General Lee (who was dismounted and was holding him by the bridle rein) against a stump, breaking both of the General's hands. In the campaign that ensued, despite the fact that Lee rode in an ambulance, *Traveller* proceeded ahead, ever ready to do his part on the battlefield. On another occasion *Traveller* is credited with saving his master's life by rearing and allowing a shell to pass under the girth instead of through the General's body. After the war the noises of the blacksmith shop would cause this war horse to rear and plunge.

A more than human friendship existed between Lee and *Traveller*. The understanding between the two warriors is exemplified by the story of how *Traveller* on freeing himself from a hitching post started to run away when some boys and men attempted to catch him. His flight was arrested by a shrill whistle from his master, a repetition of which brought the grey horse back to receive that ever welcome pat on the neck. On being questioned, Lee remarked that he did not see how any man could ride a horse for any length of time without a perfect understanding being established between the two.

To properly know and understand *Traveller*, we must go to Lee who in his own words states: "If I were an artist like you, I would draw a true picture of *Traveller*, representing his fine proportions, muscular figure, deep chest, short back, strong haunches, flat legs, small head, broad forehead, delicate ears, quick eye, small feet, and black mane and tail. Such a picture would inspire a poet whose genius could then depict his worth, and describe his endurance of toil, hunger, thirst, heat, cold, and the dangers and suffering through which he passed. He could debate upon his sagacity and affection and his invariable response to every wish of the rider. But I am no artist and can only say he is a Confederate grey." We can only add to this description that *Traveller* stood sixteen hands. *Traveller* followed Lee's hearse to the grave but did not survive his master long. A short time after Lee's death the old war horse, apparently as strong and vigorous and sound as the day he entered the service, stepped on a nail while grazing. He developed lock-jaw, died and was buried in the grounds of Washington and Lee University, not far from where the body of his master lies. —MAJOR CHARLES C. SMITH, *Cavalry*.

The Bridge

561 Appleton Road
Allendale, SC 29810



EMAIL: scv842@gmail.com

WEB: www.riversbridgecamp842.com

Sons of Confederate Veterans



Presenting the true history of the South
since 1896

Camp No. 842 Calendar

Jan 19, 2020	Happy Birthday Robert E. Lee
Jan 21	Regular Camp Meeting 7pm Happy Birthday T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson
Feb 12	Legislative Day - Statehouse 7:30am
Feb 18	Regular Camp Meeting 7pm

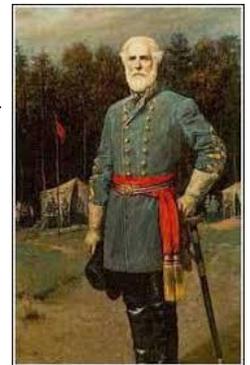
Sons of Confederate Veterans

President Eisenhower on General Robert E. Lee

On August 9th, 1960, former General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in response to an inquiry as to why he had a picture of Robert E. Lee in the Oval Office remarked:

Respecting your August 1 inquiry calling attention to my often expressed admiration for General Robert E. Lee, I would say, first, that we need to understand that at the time of the War Between the States the issue of Secession had remained unresolved for more than 70 years. Men of probity, character, public standing and unquestioned loyalty, both North and South, had disagreed over this issue as a matter of principle from the day our Constitution was adopted.

General Robert E. Lee was, in my estimation, one of the supremely gifted men produced by our Nation. He believed unswervingly in the Constitutional validity of his cause which until 1865 was still an arguable question in America; he was thoughtful yet demanding of his officers and men, forbearing with captured enemies but ingenious, unrelenting and personally courageous in battle, and never disheartened by a reverse or obstacle. Through all his many trials, he remained selfless almost to a fault and unflinching in his belief in God. Taken altogether, he was noble as a leader and as a man, and unsullied as I read the pages of our history.



From deep conviction I simply say this: a nation of men of Lee's caliber would be unconquerable in spirit and soul. Indeed, to the degree that present-day American youth will strive to emulate his rare qualities, including his devotion to this land as revealed in his painstaking efforts to help heal the nation's wounds once the bitter struggle was over, we, in our own time of danger in a divided world, will be strengthened and our love of freedom sustained.

Such are the reasons that I proudly display the picture of this great American on my office wall.