



THE BRIDGE

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



July 2017

Ambrose Gonzales Newsletter Award Winner 2009, 2012 & 2013

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Greetings Friends and Compatriots,

Here's hoping that you and your family had a wonderful Fourth of July. It is good to recall the origin of our nation and refresh our knowledge of the principles that it was founded upon. It seems that, just as with all things Southern, these tenets are under constant attack. It would seem that many of our fellow citizens and not a few of those who represent us in positions of leadership, are woefully ignorant of just how this nation of sovereign states came to be. Of course, quite often, the guiding values are willfully ignored because they conflict with someone's agenda. Wise men established these rules for that very reason; they were to bind such individuals or groups from the abusive use of power. Thank God for this nation and guard your rights and freedoms steadfastly

Following the CNN interview regarding our Flag Memorial to the defenders of the Orangeburg crossing, email to our website picked up considerably. Some of it was, as you might expect, filled with filth and unbridled and unreasoning hatred. Though tempted to respond to each message, the aforementioned were considered beneath the dignity of a reply. It is encouraging to report that the vast majority were messages of support for our actions. To these I replied on behalf of the Camp to express our appreciation for their kind words. I even received a call from Ohio asking where donations might be sent. Though the donation may not arrive, the thought is definitely well-received.

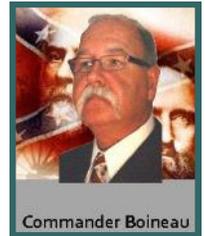
According to WIS-TV, Mr. Daras of the Edisto Creamery allegedly received a racially charged letter recently. Why is this of interest to us? It is because our flag, an inanimate object, continues to be blamed for it. Why are we skeptical regarding this letter? In this age of "fake news," it is not unheard of for hoaxes to be perpetrated on the Media for the purpose of ginning up turmoil where there is none.

It has been alleged that The Creamery has experienced all sorts of problems and lost business because of our flag. It has been declared that some folks refuse to patronize the establishment because of the flag. It seems that after all the media coverage surrounding this matter that any informed citizen of Orangeburg would know that Mr. Daras' business has nothing to do with the flag. That being said, what does that say about the folks who are withholding their patronage? Could it be possible that they would not shop there regardless of the presence or absence of the flag?

Our request for all who support private property rights and Southern Heritage is to remember who you are descended from. Honor them in both speech and action. Those who oppose us seek to antagonize and anger us in hopes that we will sink to their level in defending our rights. Maintain the high ground.; Deo Vindice!

The Adjutant reports that a good number of dues payments have been received and he thanks you for that. Keeping the Camp up to speed in this regard can be quite a challenge so please respond to those notices promptly. If you have not gotten a dues notice, please let the Adjutant know so that we can assure that your correct address is on file.

See you at Barker's Mill July 18th -- Pete



Commander Boineau

— this month in —
HISTORY
 JULY 3 ★ 1863
 — THE END OF THE —
BATTLE
 OF
GETTYSBURG



On July 3, 1863, the three-day Battle of Gettysburg came to a close, leaving behind an estimated 51,000 total casualties—the highest number of any battle in the War for Southern Independence.

Following a series of military successes in Virginia, Confederate general Robert E. Lee took his troops north in June 1863 into south-central Pennsylvania. Lee was unaware until late June that the Union's Army of the Potomac, under General George G. Meade, had followed his army north, as Lee's cavalry, under JEB Stuart, was separated from the main body of the army and was thus unable to provide intelligence on the enemy's movements.

On July 1, elements of Lee's army came up against Union cavalry by chance outside the town of Gettysburg and fighting broke out. Both sides received reinforcements, and the Confederates were eventually able to push back the Federals to south of Gettysburg. During the evening and the following morning, both sides gathered the rest of their armies, for a total of 83,000 Union troops and 75,000 Confederate.

At the commencement of fighting the following afternoon, July 2, the Union army was arranged like a fishhook, with the Confederates surrounding them to the north and west in roughly the same shape. The 2nd saw bloody fighting on the Union left and center, but despite high casualties, the Union was generally able to repulse the Confederates. Fighting also occurred on the Union right later that evening and continued on after dark in a rare night battle.

On the 3rd, the Confederates once again launched an attack on the Union right, which was ultimately unsuccessful. Then, following a massive artillery bombardment, Lee attacked the Union center in what is commonly known as Pickett's Charge. During this attack, approximately 12,000 Confederate troops crossed nearly a mile of open ground to attack Union positions but were decimated by Union fire. The Confederates who made it to the enemy lines managed to briefly break through, but they were eventually repulsed. Also on this day, the Confederate cavalry—which had arrived on the afternoon of the 2nd—was put into action off the Union right flank, but with little result.

On the 4th, Lee waited for Meade's counterattack on his position, but it never came, so Lee's army withdrew back over the Potomac. Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of the war, with 23,000 Union casualties and 28,000 Confederate. It is often considered the turning point in the war and commonly referred to as the "high tide" of the Confederacy.

A Snippet from the New York *Herald*

Rumor and speculation as to Lincoln's intentions toward the South led the March 6, 1861 edition of the New York *Herald* to write, "We have no doubt Mr. Lincoln wants the Cabinet at Montgomery to take the initiative by capturing the two forts in its waters, for it would give him the opportunity of throwing upon the Southern Confederacy the responsibility of commencing hostilities. But the country and posterity will hold him just as responsible as if he struck the first blow..."

Rumor and speculation as to Lincoln's intentions toward the South led the March 6,



Why Secession?

CHRISTIANITY VERSUS SECULAR HUMANISM

The South believed in basic Christianity as presented in the Holy Bible. The North had many Secular Humanists (atheists, transcendentalists and non-Christians). Southerners were afraid of what kind of country America might become if the North had its way. Secular Humanism is the belief that there is no God and that man, science and government can solve all problems. This philosophy advocates human rather than religious values. Reference: Frank Conner's book "The South under Siege 1830-2000."

Confederate Generals Traitors?

By
Walter Williams



Walter E. Williams

My “Rewriting American History” column of a fortnight ago, about the dismantling of Confederate monuments, generated considerable mail.

Some argued there should not be statues honoring traitors such as Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and Jefferson Davis, who fought against the Union. Victors of wars get to write the history, and the history they write often does not reflect the facts.

Let’s look at some of the facts and ask: Did the South have a right to secede from the Union? If it did, we can’t label Confederate generals as traitors.

Article 1 of the Treaty of Paris (1783), which ended the war between the Colonies and Great Britain, held “New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be free sovereign and Independent States.”

Representatives of these states came together in Philadelphia in 1787 to write a constitution and form a union.

During the ratification debates, Virginia’s delegates said, “The powers granted under the Constitution being derived from the people of the United States may be resumed by them whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression.”

The ratification documents of New York and Rhode Island expressed similar sentiments.

At the Constitutional Convention, a proposal was made to allow the federal government to suppress a seceding state. James Madison, the “Father of the Constitution,” rejected it.

The minutes from the debate paraphrased his opinion:

A union of the states containing such an ingredient [would] provide for its own destruction. The use of force against a state would look more like a declaration of war than an infliction of punishment and would probably be considered by the party attacked as a dissolution of all previous compacts by which it might be bound.

America’s first secessionist movement started in New England after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Many were infuriated by what they saw as an unconstitutional act by President Thomas Jefferson.

The movement was led by Timothy Pickering of Massachusetts, George Washington’s secretary of war and secretary of state. He later became a congressman and senator. “The principles of our revolution point to the remedy—a separation,” Pickering wrote to George Cabot in 1803, for “the people of the East cannot reconcile their habits, views, and interests with those of the South and West.”

His Senate colleague James Hillhouse of Connecticut agreed, saying, “The eastern states must and will dissolve the union and form a separate government.”

This call for secession was shared by other prominent Ameri-

cans, such as John Quincy Adams, Elbridge Gerry, Fisher Ames, Josiah Quincy III, and Joseph Story. The call failed to garner support at the 1814-15 Hartford Convention.

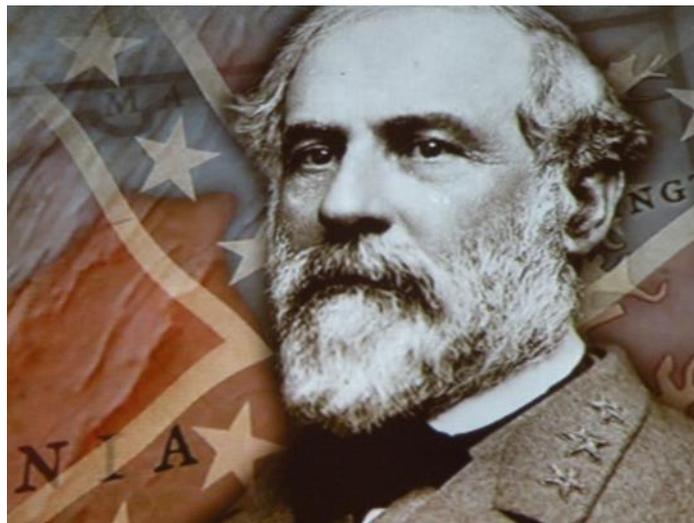
The U.S. Constitution would have never been ratified—and a union never created—if the people of those 13 “free sovereign and Independent States” did not believe that they had the right to secede.

Even on the eve of the War of 1861, Unionist politicians saw secession as a right that states had. Rep. Jacob M. Kunkel of Maryland said, “Any attempt to preserve the union between the states of this Confederacy by force would be impractical and destructive of republican liberty.”

The Northern Democratic and Republican parties favored allowing the South to secede in peace.

Northern newspapers editorialized in favor of the South’s right to secede. *New-York Tribune* (Feb. 5, 1860): “If tyranny and despotism justified the revolution of 1776, then we do not see why it would not justify the secession of five millions of southrons from the federal union in 1861.”

The *Detroit Free Press* (Feb. 19, 1861): “An attempt to subjugate the seceded states, even if successful, could produce nothing but evil—evil unmitigated in character and appalling in extent.”



The *New-York Times* (March 21, 1861): “There is a growing sentiment throughout the North in favor of letting the Gulf States go.”

Confederate generals were fighting for independence from the Union just as Washington and other generals fought for independence from Great Britain. Those who’d label Lee as a traitor might also label Washington as a traitor.

I’m sure Great Britain’s King George III would have agreed.



The Bridge

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Sons of Confederate Veterans



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Camp No. 842 Calendar

July 13, 1821	Nathan Bedford Forrest born
July 18	Regular Camp Meeting 7PM
July 21, 1861	First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run)
August 15	Regular Camp Meeting 7PM
August 28, 1862	Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run)
September 17, 1862	Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam)
September 19	Regular Camp Meeting 7PM

Nathan Bedford Forrest

Nathan Bedford Forrest, eldest son of his family, was born near Chapel Hill, Tenn., on July 13, 1821. The family moved to Mississippi in 1834, and Forrest's father died when the boy was 16. As head of the house, Forrest farmed, traded horses and cattle, and finally traded slaves. Slowly he accumulated the capital to buy Mississippi and Arkansas plantations. At length a wealthy man, he married Mary Ann Montgomery in 1845. Moving to Memphis in 1849, he was active in city affairs and served as alderman. Denied formal education, he taught himself to write and speak clearly and learned mathematics; yet he never learned to spell.

With the Civil War coming, Forrest enlisted as a private in the Confederate Army. Since he raised and equipped a cavalry battalion at his own expense, he was appointed lieutenant colonel in 1861. As a cavalry leader, Forrest displayed spectacular talent. His men were devoted to him, admiring his stature, commanding air, courtesy, even his ferociousness.

Forrest took part in the defense of Ft. Donelson, Tenn., in 1862. He persuaded his superiors to let his troops escape before the surrender, which endeared him to the troops. As a full colonel at Shiloh, he re-

ceived a bad wound. In 1862, commissioned brigadier general, he began a long and lustrous association with the Confederate Army of Tennessee.

A succession of commanders realized Forrest's talent as a raider and used him to wreak havoc behind enemy lines. Forrest believed in surprise, audacity, and nerve. His men became splendid scouts as well as superb raiders. His philosophy of war is distilled in his maxim, "Get there first with the most."

Several of Forrest's battles were minor classics of cavalry tactics. Near Rome, Ga., in 1863, he outmaneuvered and captured a raiding Union column. In 1864 he defeated a much larger Union force at Brice's Cross Roads, Miss. In planning this action Forrest had taken account of weather, terrain, the condition of his own and of enemy troops, deployment of the enemy column, time, and distance in a deft blending of strategy, tactics, and logistics.

Not always affable, Forrest had troubles with some superiors, especially Gen. Braxton Bragg. Forrest thought Bragg unfair, jealous, and discriminatory regarding the Chickamauga campaign, and he took his grievance to President Jefferson Davis. Davis transferred Forrest and in 1863 commissioned him major general.

Although historians still argue over Forrest's responsibility for the Ft. Pillow massacre, in which Union African American troops were slaughtered, it appears that Forrest did not order the massacre. Lack of evidence prevents a definite conclusion. Toward the end of the war Forrest raided successfully in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama.

Promoted to lieutenant general in 1865, Forrest fought increasing enemy forces with dwindling ranks. The long spring raid of Union general James H. Wilson pushed him back to the defense of the Confederate ordnance center at Selma, Ala., where he was finally defeated. He surrendered on May 9, 1865.

After the war Forrest lived in Memphis, Tenn. For several years he was president of the Selma, Marion and Memphis Railroad. He died in Memphis in 1877 at age 56.

