



THE BRIDGE

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



June 2019

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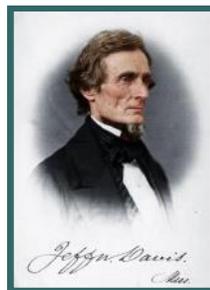
Historian

Friends and Compatriots,

It appears that Summer has arrived in force; I hope you all are managing the high temperatures and dry conditions well. For the sake of all we pray that the good Lord will bless us with some refreshing rain soon.

On Saturday June 1st, Camp 842 was privileged to participate in a memorial service for **Private Henry Mitchum** of Company F, 3rd (Palmetto) Battalion, SC Light Artillery. The service was made possible through the cooperation of numerous heritage groups and individuals. With my apologies if I miss any, they were: Chief Michelle Mitchum of the Pine Hill Indian Tribe; Reverend Cathy Nelson, Keepers of the Word; Carolina Indian Heritage Association; Chaplain Phillip "BC" Lemieux, H.L. Hunley Camp #143; Buzz Braxton, 8th Brigade Commander and 1st Lieutenant Commander Rivers Bridge Camp #842; Bamberg County Sheriff J. Edward Darnell, and our faithful reenactors and artillery from the Hunley Camp assisted by our own Russell Dobson.

Private Mitchum's service and background are worthy of a more in-depth coverage which we may be able to do at a future date. For the time being we are thankful that we were able to be a part of remembering this Confederate Soldier; as President Davis reminded us, "It is our duty to keep the memory of our heroes green."

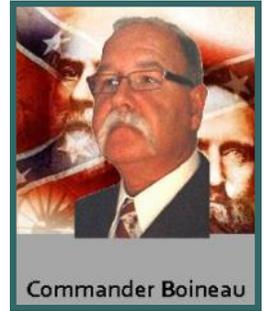


As I write this I recall that it was on this day, June 3, 1808, that Jefferson Davis, the only President of the Confederate States of America was born. I wish you all a Dixie Day! in memory of his birth and service.

I am advised by the Camp Adjutant that if you have not gotten your dues notice for the coming year yet it should be arriving soon. As you will remember, they are payable not later that August 1st. I'm proud to report that we have had eleven returned already. Thank y'all very much.

As always, I encourage you to be at Barker's Mill on the 18th and bring a friend.

Pete



Commander Boineau



Pvt. Henry Mitchum

"I worked night and day for twelve years to prevent the war, but I could not. The North was mad and blind, would not let us govern ourselves, and so the war came."

Jefferson Davis

Editor: As we approach the 75th Anniversary of D-Day and consider the buildup to that epic battle, it is not uncommon for the subject of prayer to come to our minds. It is much, in a way, similar to the stressful approach of battles such as Gettysburg, Sharpsburg, Chancellorsville, Chickamauga or any number of those fearful struggles that brought prayers to the lips of those preparing for the coming fight. We understand the importance of prayer at such times, but how about prayer when the times are "good"? Are we as faithful then?



Prayer: The Greatest Battle

By Jonathan Falwell

Prayer is one of the greatest benefits of the Christian life and also one of the most neglected. Prayer is a battle to be fought by believers during every moment of this journey called life. It is where our victories are won, our enemies are defeated and our hope is refreshed. Ephesians 6:12 states, ***“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”***

What if we really believed in the power of prayer? What if we believed in the promise found in John 14:13 that tells us, ***“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”*** If we truly believed that anything is possible through the power of prayer, I believe it would radically change the condition of our churches and our culture. If we truly believed in the power of prayer, it would no longer be an afterthought. It would be the main event.

The greatest possibility we have of turning our culture back to God is not found in words of attack and condemnation but rather in cries from our heart to a holy God in desperate times of prayer. It is high time we take prayer seriously and cry out to God for revival in our times.

Why the South Remembers Her Fallen

May 8-21, 1864 was the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. This is a transcription of a letter by James Robert Montgomery. He was in Co. A known as the University Greys which was part of the 11th Mississippi. They were students at Ole Miss. He was killed May 10, 1864.

Spotsylvania County, Va.
May 10th 1864

Dear Father

This is my last letter to you. I went in to battle this evening as Courier for General Heth. I have been struck by a piece of shell and my right shoulder is horribly mangled & I know death is inevitable. I am very weak but I write to you because I know you would be delighted to read a word from your dying son. I know death is near, that I will die far from home and friends of my early youth but I have friends here too who are kind to me. My friend Fairfax will write you at my request and give you the particulars of my death. My grave will be marked so that you may visit it if you desire to do so, but is optionary with you whether you let my remains rest here or in Miss. I would like to rest in the grave yard with my dear mother and brothers but it's a matter of minor importance. Let us all try to reunite in heaven. I pray my God to forgive my sins & feel that his promises are true that he will forgive and save me. Give my love to all my friends my strength fails me. My horse & my equipments will be left for you. Again a long farewell to you. May we meet in heaven.

Your Dying son,
J. R. Montgomery

(Confederate.)		
U	11	Miss.
J. Montgomery		
Pr., Co. A, 11 Reg't Mississippi Vols.		
Appears on		
Company Muster Roll		
of the organization named above,		
for May + June, 1864.		
Enlisted:		
When	May 13	, 1864.
Where	Sharpsburg	
By whom	Wm. Blay	
Period	1 yr	
Last paid:		
By whom		
To what time		, 1864.
Present or absent		
Remarks: Killed May 10, 1864		

What Was His Motivation?

(Confederate.)
S. C.
Peter Harley
Pvt. Capt. A. B. Rbett's Company (9),
2 Reg't South Carolina Vols.*
Appears on
Company Muster Roll
of the organization named above,
for May 12 to July 1, 1861.
Enlisted:
When June 21, 1861
Where
By whom
Period 12 mo
Last paid:
By whom
To what time _____, 1861
Present or absent not stated
Remarks:
*This company subsequently became Company K, 2d (Palmetto) Regiment South Carolina Infantry.
The regiment was called into State service about April 9, 1861, for twelve months. It was mustered into the Confederate States service May 22, 1861, and re-organized for the war in May, 1862.
About April 9, 1862, the 2d (Palmetto) Regiment South Carolina Infantry was consolidated with the 20th Regiment South Carolina Infantry and a part of Blanchard's South Carolina Reserves and formed the (New) 2d Regiment South Carolina Infantry, which was paroled at Greensboro, N. C., May 2, 1865.
Book mark:
D. W. Blazer
(642) Copyist.

The foregone conclusion today seems to be that the War Between the States was fought only because of slavery. I was recently reviewing a graves registration form for Private Peter F. Harley of the 2nd South Carolina Infantry when I read something that caused me to seriously doubt that common assumption.

The registration form included the transcript of a letter from Private Harley to a newspaper which read:

I was born in Dorchester County (his father owned Harley's Tavern and Post Office) in the year 1843, thereby making my age 87 this coming January. I was quite a boy when I shouldered my rifle in June 1861 to fight for my country, being accompanied by my brother, Joe Harley, who fought gallantly through the four years. He was badly wounded and lay for many weeks in the Federal Prison, but lived through it all to finally lose his life by drowning, when he was on the homeward journey.

I first lined up with Capt. Geo. R. Cuthbert's Co. Palmetto Guards from Charleston (Co. I, 2nd SC Volunteers) Kershaw's regiment, Bonham's Brigade.

Would like very much to know through your paper, if any of the members of Capt. Cuthbert's company survive and if any would like to get in touch with them. I am totally blind, and am sitting or rather lying on the western porch of life, and a line from an old comrade would surely brighten my few remaining days.

I was actively engaged in most of the principal battles fought by Gen. Lee's Army in Northern Virginia, fought in the first battle of Manassas, Fredericksburg, Spottsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, Battle of the Wilderness, Bentonville, Chicamauga, and many other minor engagements during the war between the states.

I was severely wounded (20 September 1863) in the battle of Chicamauga, losing my right jaw bone, a part of my tongue, and half of my teeth. I still have in my possession the grim reminders in the shape of a bullet with a part of my jaw bone attached, and a blood stained diary in which I made my wishes known to my nurses. After three months in the hospital, I was given a furlough of six months, gaining strength to return to the front, and served until the end of the war. Being disbanded at Greensboro, NC 1865. Since then have always lived on the farm close to nature close to my Saviour, living by the Golden Rule, as near as I could.

It is difficult for me to read the description of Private Harley's wounds and to picture him returning, after his recovery, to his unit for the remainder of the war just to preserve the institution of slavery. I am trying to be kind when I say, "Only the uninformed would believe such a pitiful explanation of what motivated the Confederate Soldier."

Many years ago I walked the ground covered by Pickett's Charge and similarly wondered how anyone could believe that the desire to have slavery drove these men to cross almost a mile of open ground in the face of massed artillery and small arms. All I can say about the, "It was all about slavery" myth is, "It makes sense if you don't think about it." It doesn't make sense though IF YOU THINK about it.

The importance of truly thinking about issues and asking questions may be more important today than ever. In this time of "spin," be very wary of accepting things at face value. Truth can withstand questioning.

Confederate Catechism - What was the cause of secession in 1861?

It was the yoking together of two jarring nations having different interests which were repeatedly brought to the breaking point by selfish and unconstitutional acts of the North. The breaking point was nearly reached in 1786, when the North tried to give away the Mississippi River to Spain; in 1790, when the North by Congressional act forced the South to pay the Revolutionary debts of the North; in 1801, when they tried to upset the presidential ticket and make Aaron Burr President; and in 1828 and 1832, when they imposed upon the South high protective tariffs for the benefit of Northern manufacturers. The breaking point was finally reached in 1861, when after flagrant nullification of the Constitution by personal liberty laws and underground railroads, resulting in John Brown's assassinations, a Northern President was elected by strictly Northern votes upon a platform which announced the resolve never to submit to a decision of the highest court in the land. This decision (the Dred Scott Case, 1856), in permitting Southern men to go with their slaves into the Territories, gave no advantage to the South, as none of the territorial domain remaining was in any way fit for agriculture, but the South regarded the opposition to it of the Lincoln party as a determination on the part of the North to govern the Union thereafter by virtue of its numerical majority, without any regard whatever to constitutional limitations.

The literature of those times shows that such mutual and mortal hatred existed as in the language of Jefferson to "render separation preferable to eternal discord."

The Bridge

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Sons of Confederate Veterans



Presenting the true history of the South
since 1896

Camp No. 842 Calendar

Jun 18	Regular Camp Meeting - 7PM
Jul 16	Regular Camp Meeting - 7PM
Aug 20	Regular Camp Meeting - 7PM
Sep 17	Regular Camp Meeting - 7PM
Sep 18-20, 1863	Battle of Chickamauga

Lee Appointed Commander of Army in Virginia June 1, 1861

Lee replaced the mercurial Joseph Johnston, who had been seriously wounded in the Battle of Fair Oaks. Although Lee had not been near a battlefield in almost fifteen years, Davis could not think of a more competent general to defend this critical Virginia region.

Born in 1807 in Westmoreland County, Virginia, Lee was educated at West Point and distinguished himself in the Mexican War. When the Civil War began, Lee was offered the command of the entire Union army. Despite his opposition to slavery - the cause célèbre of the war - Lee declined the post out of loyalty to his home state. Instead he served as an advisor to Davis in Richmond, guiding the Confederate Army with a superb command of

military strategy.

With this new appointment, Lee was suddenly thrust into the front lines with a monumental task ahead of him. His soldiers were as headstrong and disorganized as their former commander, Johnston. With swift precision, Lee instilled a new semblance of order and discipline among his forces - which became known as the Army of Northern Virginia - and made his first priority the defense of Richmond.

Despite his brilliance on the battlefield, the gentlemanly Lee was a reluctant warrior. He fervently believed that "it is well that war is so terrible, or we should grow too fond of it."

