



THE BRIDGE

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



March 2017

Ambrose Gonzales Newsletter Award Winner 2009, 2012 & 2013

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Members of the 118th Tennessee Air Guard display a Confederate battle flag while stationed in Afghanistan

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Compatriots and Friends,

I hope you all are doing well and that the pollen is not wreaking havoc with your sinuses and contact lenses. We can take comfort in that, like so many unpleasant things, "This too shall pass."

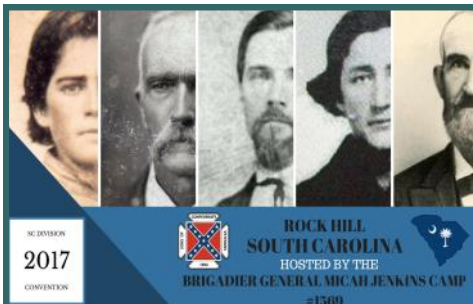
We extend our appreciation to Cheryl Oliver for sharing with us the interesting history of her Confederate ancestor, Yelverton Oliver at our February meeting. Please bear with me; I'm still planning my presentation on my 3G Grandfather, Private Thomas Hamelton Smith of Company E, 11th South Carolina Infantry (9th South Carolina Volunteers).

We were blessed with some wonderful weather for the Broxton Bridge Reenactment and once again the Yankees were prevented from forcing a crossing. To make things even better, we made a respectable showing in selling tickets for our Henry Golden Boy; 175 tickets were sold, but according to Buzz you shouldn't worry because he has more.

That brings me to our **Annual Banquet**.

It will be on Saturday, April 22, 2017, and we will be drawing the winning name for the **Henry Golden Boy HMR .17**. I'm

sure you would like to be present to take possession of your handsome rifle when *Your* name is drawn. Bring someone with you and try to encourage some of our seldom seen Compatriots to come as well. Our ranks are thinning, but it is up to us to close ranks and move forward.



Don't forget the South Carolina Division Convention on March 17th and 18th. It will be in Rock Hill and I am sure that First Lieutenant Buzz Braxton would be glad to have you accompany him and help represent Camp 842.

Our guest speaker this month will be Compatriot Jack Marlar. Please come and help us give him a warm welcome

to Barker's Mill. **We must also vote to select Compatriot of the Year; be thinking about your choice.** I hope to see you there.

Pete

Annual Banquet at Barker's Mill

Saturday, April 22, 7 PM

Guest Speaker Compatriot Albert Jackson

Subject: Current Status of the Ordinance of Secession Signer's Monument Winner of the Henry Golden Boy HMR .17 Caliber rifle will be announced.

Family of African-American Confederate veteran, of Salley, accepts Statehouse honor

An African-American Confederate veteran with ties to Aiken County was recently recognized by the S.C. Senate after her family discovered what they describe as a remarkable story.

The Senate presented a resolution on Feb. 21 to the family of Lavinia Corley Thompson, of Salley, to honor Thompson, who served in the Confederacy during the Civil War.

Thompson is the only known female African-American Confederate veteran in the state of South Carolina at this time, said Tonya Guy, with the Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society.

Guy conducted the research on Thompson in collaboration with Betsey R. Bloomer. It was nearly 10 years ago when researchers discovered Thompson, she said.

Later, one of her relatives, Dr. Walter Curry, of Columbia, also was conducting research on her. Guy said she then turned over the information to him.

"I sat on it for a while, for a couple of years until something came to me and said well, we need to kind of get her recognized," Curry said.

Thompson is Curry's great-great-great-grandmother, who he calls "Grandma Viney." He said after learning more about her life, he thought her story was remarkable.

Curry began speaking to descendants and family members, who agreed she needed recognition, as well. He then sent the information to Sen. Nikki Setzler, D-Lexington, who represents the Wagener-Salley area. He said Setzler presented the resolution, which has been approved by the body.

Thompson was born June 3, 1844 to Robert Staley and Phillis Corley, according to information provided by Guy from the Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society.

Thompson served as a cook for the Confederacy under Sam Webb, who was in Company A, 1st Regiment of the Reserves. Curry said she served continuously from Sept. 1, 1863 to the end of the war in 1865.

Thompson would have been wherever Webb went, Guy said.

"Even if she was in camp, it could have been treacherous because they could've been overrun by cannon, fire coming over," she said. "It was treacherous to be in camp. They were just as much in the line of fire as if they were on the battlefield."

Though she is the only known female African-American Confederate veteran in the state, according to Guy, there were a number of African-American males who served in South Carolina.

Both enslaved and free African-Americans served in the Confederacy, she said. Some were body servants and cooks. When Charleston was under siege, Guy said African-Americans helped to build embankments.

"We're actively collecting information about all of the African-Americans we can find that served in the war in any capacity, because we consider them to be Confederate veterans," she said. "We have all these fabulous stories that come out of the war. It is an unsung part of our heritage that we would really like to explore and make known that these people are heroes in our eyes."

She added there were African-Americans who later received Confederate pensions but some could have died before that could happen. An exact number of how many black people served for the Confederacy is unknown.

Thompson, whose occupation was in farming, applied for a Confederate pension in 1923 and the pension was approved, Curry said.

"I can tell you, she was a sharecropper and her being a sharecropper in the South during that time, money was very scarce and so for her to apply for that pension and the state approved it, I mean that money was used to help the family," he said.

"People back then weren't just getting pensions just to be getting them," Curry continued. "They had to show some courage. They had to show some valor. They had to show a commitment. So, the state probably saw she was committed to the Confederacy and served honorably."



Proud descendants of Lavinia Corley Thompson

Thompson had several children. One of them was Curry's great-great-grandfather, Oscar Thompson.

"He had my great-grandmother, three outside children, and then got married and had 10 kids. He was also a landowner. He owned over 100 acres of land that we still have in our family today," Curry said.

He said he can infer that he may have received some of Thompson's pension money and used it to purchase land for his family.

Thompson died at the age of 84 on June 4, 1928 in Aiken County, Tabernacle Township and was buried at an unmarked grave at Smyrna Baptist Church in the same community. Guy said there are efforts to get a Confederate tombstone on her grave.

Curry calls his Grandma Viney's courage a legacy to the Thompson family. He and several family members and supporters joined him at the Statehouse for her recognition.

The South Carolina divisions of The Sons and Daughters of Confederate Veterans supported the resolution along with the S.C. African-American Chamber of Commerce, he added. The Chamber's President Stephen Gilchrist also supported the resolution.

Christina Cleveland is the county government reporter at the Aiken Standard.

LINCOLN WAS CORRUPT - SECESSION WAS LEGAL

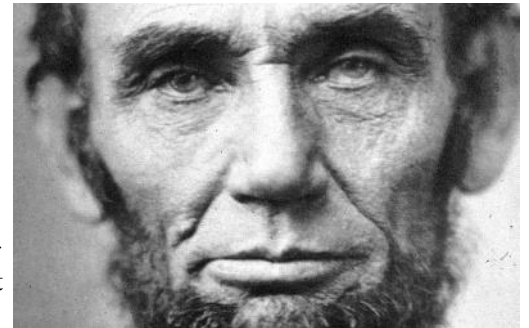
By James W. King

Quotes from Northern men document that they considered the Lincoln administration corrupt. Their quotes also document that Lincoln invaded the South to protect the Tariff Tax and not to ban slavery. Documented facts and quotes also prove that secession was legal and that Southerners were not traitors.

Northern financier and banker J.P. Morgan said "I supported president Lincoln but I see my mistake. I visited Washington D.C. and saw the corruption of the administration. The war is not for the preservation of the Constitution and Union but for politicians and government contractors. Lysander Spooner, prominent Massachusetts lawyer, legal scholar, and abolitionist said "The principle on which the war was waged by the North was that men may be compelled to submit to a government they do not want and resistance makes them traitors and criminals.

Lincoln made a speech in congress on Jan. 12, 1848 that secession is a most valuable and sacred right. In 1860 he reversed his opinion because he did not want to lose the annual 60-70 million dollars from the Southern states from an unfair sectional tariff tax. When Virginia, New York, and Rhode island joined the union they specifically reserved the right of secession. All early attempts were by New England states in 1803 and 1814. On Feb. 15, 1833 MA senator Daniel Webster stated " If the Union was formed by the accession of the union of states then the union may be dissolved by the secession of states". Military cadets at West Point were taught from "Rawles View of the Constitution" that secession was legal.

Salmon P. Chase, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, confirmed in 1865 and again in 1867 that secession was legal in 1860-1861. "Should you persist in your endeavor to bring to trial any of the former representatives of the Confederate government or military personnel on treason charges that which the North won on the battlefield will be lost in court. Secession is not a rebellion". Secession was legal under the 10th amendment.



"Honest" Abe

Civil War Trust Day at Rivers Bridge SHS

325 State Park Road, Ehrhardt, S.C. 29018

Saturday, April 1st, 2017

We will meet at the Community Building at Rivers Bridge State Historic Site at 9:00 am for the morning activities. Dr. Wise will speak at the community building at 3:00 pm.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with beautification of this wonderful Historical Site, you can arrive anytime from 9am to 12 noon and receive a Free Volunteer t-shirt.

Free Hot Dogs and Chips!, will be served for Lunch and following lunch we will have a horseshoe tournament from 1pm to 3pm

We are going to offer a Scavenger Hunt for the kids during volunteer hour, along with a Junior Ranger Program to be given to children 6 years old and up.



The Bridge

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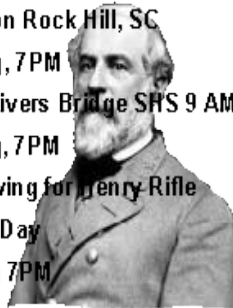
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Presenting the true history of the South
since 1896

Camp No. 842 Calendar

Mar 17-18	SC Division Convention Rock Hill, SC
Mar 21	Regular Camp Meeting, 7PM
Apr 1	Civil War Trust Day - Rivers Bridge SHS 9 AM
Apr 18	Regular Camp Meeting, 7PM
Apr 22	Annual Banquet - Drawing for Henry Rifle
May 10	Confederate Memorial Day
May 16	Regular Camp Meeting 7PM



The Fairfax, Virginia Raid

At Fairfax Court House, Mosby and his men rounded up more than 30 Federal prisoners - including General Edwin H. Stoughton. The feat would make Mosby famous as the Confederate "Gray Ghost" and would give "Mosby's Rangers" a fearsome reputation.

They moved boldly through the winter night. Slipping through enemy lines, the tiny band of gray-clad horse soldiers rode quietly past the snow-covered fields and forests of northern Virginia. Leading them was 29 year-old Lieutenant John Singleton Mosby, a former scout for Confederate cavalry commander J. E. B. Stuart. Their target was Fairfax Court House and their

intent was to capture a Yankee general.

"I shall mount the stars tonight," Mosby had vowed as the raid began, "or sink lower than plummet ever sounded." Outside Fairfax Court House, they passed undetected through a gap in the Northern picket line and entered the village in the early morning darkness. There Mosby raided the headquarters of Brigadier General Edwin H. Stoughton, and roused the Federal general from his bed with a slap on the backside. Stoughton demanded to know who had so rudely awakened him. Recalled Mosby: "I then asked him if he had ever heard of Mosby, and he said he had. 'I am Mosby,' I said... 'be quick and dress.'"



Colonel John S. Mosby

Evading several thousand Northern troops, Mosby and his men made their way back to Confederate lines leading a string of captured horses, more than 30 Federal prisoners and a dejected Federal brigadier general. Mosby's Fairfax Raid ended Stoughton's military career, brightened Southern spirits and produced a promotion for Mosby. It was, proclaimed J. E. B. Stuart, "A feat unparalleled in the war..." Mosby's men, Company A of the 43rd Battalion of Virginia Cavalry, became known as "Mosby's Rangers," and Colonel John Singleton Mosby became famous as the Confederate "Gray Ghost."