



THE BRIDGE

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



March 2018

Ambrose Gonzales Newsletter Award Winner 2009, 2012 & 2013

Volume XXIV Issue 3



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@wildblue.net

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

Vacant

Historian

Friends and Compatriots,

Here's hoping that Saturday, March 31, will be perfect day for our cemetery cleanup at Smyrna Church. The church is located just off Bluff Road a few miles southeast of Allendale. The article on the next page will give you a bit more of the background of this historic church. We welcome you to come join us at 8AM.

I'm asking you to make preparations now to attend our Annual Banquet on April 21st. Some of our recent Annual Banquets, while quite enjoyable, have been marked by lackluster attendance; we want to change that. That will require an exceptional effort on the part of us all not just a few. I said it last month and it is still true; "we can't spell success without U." It's too easy to say, "Oh, no one will miss me if I don't go besides what difference will one or two people make?" That attitude dooms any organization to failure whether it be a church or civic organization. The truth is that your attendance and participation make a world of difference; so, the question is, "Do you want to be instrumental in a success or a failure?"



Pickin' Pearls

The entertainment for our Banquet will be ***The Pickin Pearls***. They are a 4 piece band with outstanding harmonies and have been performing for 6 years throughout South Carolina at Festivals and events. They are also known as ***Ladies of the Pickin Parlor***.



On April 21st someone will become the proud owner of this Glock 43 9mm; it could be you. Even as I write this, I hope our Compatriots are out there selling tickets so that more folks will have an opportunity to add this fine firearm to their collection. This particular color configuration is no longer available making owning one even more desirable. Of course our whole purpose for this raffle is to enable us to finance our annual operations and support Southern Heritage causes to perpetuate the true history of the South.

Coming soon is a full lineup of events to honor our Confederate Soldiers. Perhaps nearest and dearest to our hearts is our Rivers Bridge Confederate Memorial observance which will be on May 11, 2018.

I hope to see you at Barker's Mill on Tuesday, March 20th with your nominee for Compatriot of the Year.

Pete

Keeping a lonely vigil over antebellum church, area history

11/28/2015 Cotton Boll Conspiracy



Smyrna Church 03/13/18

Well back in the Allendale County countryside sits Smyrna Baptist Church. The antebellum church hasn't held services since 1958 and today has but a single member on its rolls. Yet, there was a time when Smyrna Baptist, like so many rural Southern churches, was a vibrant, thriving house of worship.

Today, Hugh Gray, a cotton farmer and former Hampton County councilman, takes it upon himself to keep watch over the church. He grew up attending Smyrna Baptist, his family is buried in its graveyard and he's purposely kept his name on the church rolls, making him the lone member, even though he attends Beech Branch Baptist Church, near Luray, S.C., about 15 miles away.

Gray helps keep up the grounds and watches out for troublemakers. A couple of residents closer to the church call him whenever a vehicle stops at the church.

Gray said individuals have broken into the venerable structure, stolen pews and otherwise caused trouble.

"More often than not when I get a call that someone's down here at the church, they're up to no good," he

said.

Constructed somewhere between 1827 and 1848 (dates vary according to sources), Smyrna Baptist was organized in 1827 and originally known as Kirkland Church, after its first minister. By the early 1830s, the church was big enough that it could afford to try three members for heresy regarding communion.

In the end, the trio, a husband, wife and the wife's sister-in-law, were excommunicated and would go on to form a nearby church, Antioch Christian Church, which operated from 1835 until 1939.

Smyrna Baptist is described a meeting house-style structure, featuring a front with a central Palladian window "flanked by balancing nine-paneled entrance doors with transoms."

The windows have louvered shutters with eyebrow-type windows located above each window. The structure's original roof was covered with metal in the 1970s.



Dr. Lawton's grave in the left foreground. 03/13/18



Grave of Dr. Benjamin Lawton 03/13/18

Smyrna Baptist was placed on the National Register of Historic Properties in 1976.

Among those buried in its graveyard are Dr. Benjamin Lawton (1822-1879), a local physician and planter who signed the South Carolina Ordinance of Secession and served as a captain in the 3rd South Carolina Cavalry Regiment; and Lt. Col. Benjamin B. Kirkland (1838-1885), who served in the 1st South Carolina Infantry Regiment and was wounded at Second Manassas.

There's also a memorial to William Baker Rice Jr., an Allendale County native who volunteered for the Royal Air Force during World War II and was killed in action on April 28, 1942, over what was then Bengal, India, and is buried in Chittagong War Cemetery, in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

The decline of Smyrna Baptist and hundreds of other rural churches across the region reflect the migration that's taken place during the past century as significant numbers of Southerners have packed up from rustic locations and made their way to larger towns and cities, be they medium-sized polities such as Columbia, SC, Knoxville, Tenn., or Richmond, Va., or large metropolises such as Atlanta, Charlotte and Jacksonville.

Smyrna Baptist and churches like it reflect an era that's long passed. Hugh Gray is doing what he can to keep his small church from falling victim to the ravages of time and vandals, but one has to wonder who will take over once he inevitably joins his family in the church's graveyard at some unknown point in the future.

And who is looking after all the many small churches that don't have someone like Hugh Gray to watch over them?

Editor's note: We are proud to say that Hugh Gray is an active member of Rivers Bridge Camp No. 842, Son's of Confederate Veterans. The Camp has plans for a cemetery cleanup at Smyrna Church on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 8AM. Join us, won't you?

Activists damage war monument where 58 dead NC soldiers were thrown into well

By Mark Price

March 06, 2018 11:56 AM

A North Carolina Civil War monument at Maryland's South Mountain State Battlefield was vandalized over the weekend.

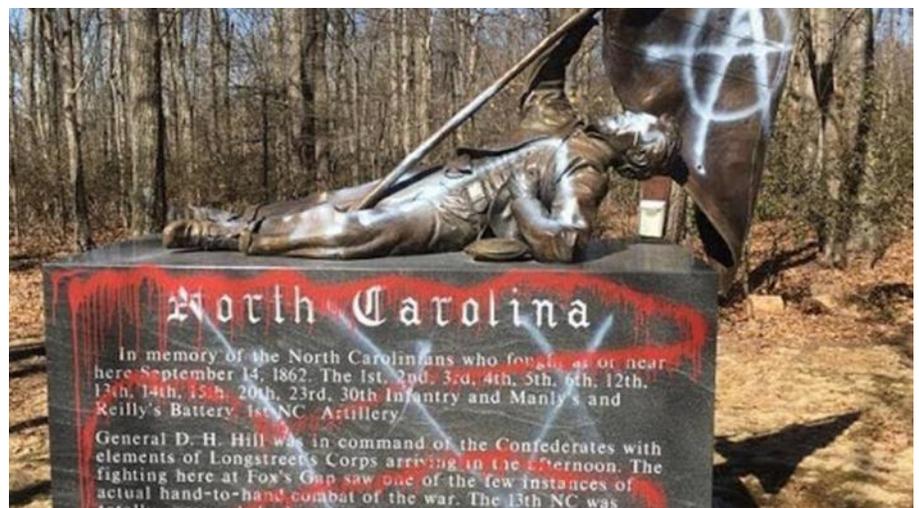
The Friends of South Mountain Battlefield posted images of the damage on Facebook early Tuesday and said several acts of vandalism were reported at the site over the past two weekends. South Mountain Battlefield is on the National Register of Historic Places and is infamous as the battle where 58 dead Confederates from North Carolina were dumped down a well after the fighting ended. The site is about 15 miles southeast of Hagerstown, Maryland.

Vandals sprayed red and white paint on the monument of a dying soldier, which honors North Carolinians who fought at or near the battle on Sept. 14, 1862. A symbol of an "A" inside a circle has led many to believe the damage was caused by members of the Antifa movement, which is a conglomeration of anti-fascist groups in the United States. Its members have also taken a stand against Confederate monuments, calling them discriminatory.

The damage, which Charlotte-area Civil War historian Rex Hovey said is believed to have occurred Saturday night, included spray paint on the Garland Headstone, which was put up in memory of Brig. Gen. Samuel Garland, who died at the battle. "I was just heart broken," said Hovey, who is also a Civil War reenactor.



Close up of the damage to the monument.
Friends of South Mountain Battlefield



The vandalism comes at a time when some groups are demanding that Confederate monuments be removed from public grounds in cities and moved to historic battlefields and cemeteries. Among the battles is an ongoing tug-of-war over the Silent Sam monument to war dead on the campus of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Without memory, there is no culture. Without memory, there would be no civilization, no society, no future.-- Elie Wiesel

The Bridge

561 Appleton Road
Allendale, SC 29810

EMAIL: scv842@wildblue.net

WEB: www.riversbridgecamp842.com



Sons of Confederate Veterans



Presenting the true history of the South
since 1896

Camp No. 842 Calendar

Mar 16-17	South Carolina Division Convention Charleston, SC
Mar 20	Regular Camp Meeting 7 PM
Mar 31	Cemetery Cleanup Smyrna Church 8AM
Apr 17	Regular Camp Meeting
Apr 21	Annual Banquet at Barker's Mill 7PM
May 11	Rivers Bridge Confederate Memorial

Confederate Women's Monument Baltimore Maryland

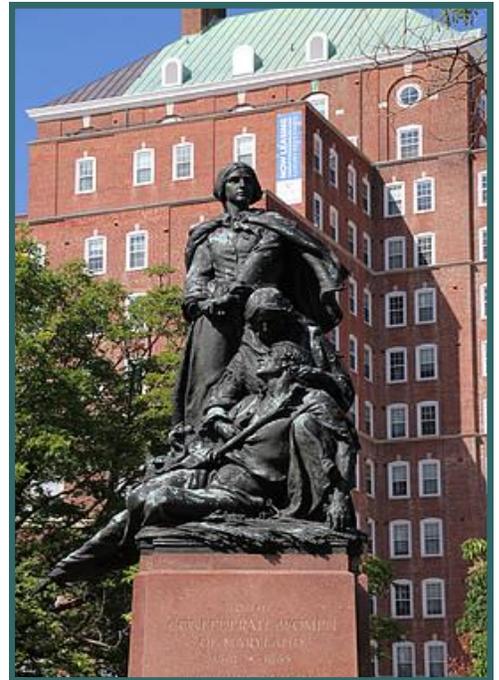
This monument was permitted to stand until August 2017, but had to have an adjacent "interpretive" plaque to give proper insight. Being viewed with the politically correct "interpretive glasses" through which all things are seen as racially motivated was not enough, the monument evidently was just too "offensive" and had to go. A portion of that "interpretive" plaque reads:

Dedicated in 1917, this monument was part of a national movement spearheaded by the United Confederate Veterans to place a monument recognizing the sacrifices of Confederate women in the capitals of thirteen Southern states. It was funded by the Maryland Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the United Confederate Veterans, and the State of Maryland.

In this monument, the kneeling woman cradling a dying soldier depicts a Pieta, a representation of the Virgin Mary holding the dying body of Christ following his crucifixion. The soldier lies on a bed of

wheat, a symbol of self-sacrifice and resurrection. This monument, installed more than fifty years after the Civil War, allegorically asserts that the Confederate cause, like Christ, would rise again.

The plaque goes on to present the usual myth that passes for history in the post-modern era with few if any asking the question, "What was (is) the Confederate cause?" If you are lazy, and this seems to include many so-called historians, you can accept the popularly accepted myth or if you seek the truth you can do the work to find it. Could it be that so many who occupy the ivory towers of academia are lazy and, "Can't handle the truth?"



front : TO THE/CONFEDERATE WOMEN/OF MARYLAND/ 1861-1865/ "THE BRAVE AT HOME" back: IN DIFFICULTY AND DANGER/ REGARDLESS OF SELF/ THEY FED THE HUNGRY/ CLOTHED THE NEEDY/ NURSED THE WOUNDED/ AND/ COMFORTED THE DYING. (Editor's note; How offensive!)