



# THE BRIDGE

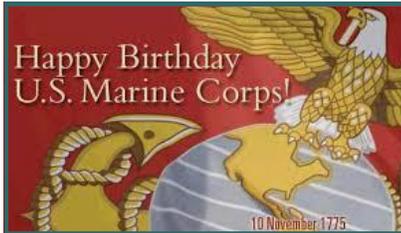
"It is our duty to keep the memory of our heroes green." Jefferson Davis



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**Ambrose Gonzales Newsletter Award Winner 2009, 2012 & 2013**

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## Camp Officers

**Peter D. Boineau**

**Commander**

5149 Broxton Bridge Road  
Bamberg, SC 29003

[boineausgunshop@gmail.com](mailto:boineausgunshop@gmail.com)

**Joseph "Buzz" Braxton II**

1st Lieutenant Commander

[buzzbraxton@gmail.com](mailto:buzzbraxton@gmail.com)

**Robert Keel**

2nd Lieutenant Commander

[kline@barnwellsc.com](mailto:kline@barnwellsc.com)

**Donald Webster**

3rd Lieutenant Commander

Retention & Recruiting

[websterdrd@yahoo.com](mailto:websterdrd@yahoo.com)

**Charles L.D. Carlson**

Adjutant

Chaplain

Bridge Editor

[scv842@wildblue.net](mailto:scv842@wildblue.net)

**Claude Manuel**

Treasurer

[manuelcarts@yahoo.com](mailto:manuelcarts@yahoo.com)

**Carl Platts**

Judge Advocate

[Carl.platts@yahoo.com](mailto:Carl.platts@yahoo.com)

**Coleman Loadholt**

Quartermaster

**Roy Hart, Jr.**

Surgeon

**Ira Beach**

Color Sergeant

[ibeach@embarqmail.com](mailto:ibeach@embarqmail.com)

**Vacant**

Historian

Compatriots and friends,

By the time you read this, you will in all probability know who our next president will be. Regardless of which candidate comes out triumphant remember this; "The LORD can control a king's mind as he controls a river; he can direct it as he pleases" (Proverbs 21:1 NCV). Understanding God's sovereignty over the nations opens the door to peace. When we realize that God influences the hearts of all rulers, we can then choose to pray for them rather than fret about them. Rather than wring our hands we bend our knees, we select prayer over despair.

Our camp suffered a great loss in October; we grieve the loss of any compatriot, but we will dearly miss General Varn. Please keep his family in your prayers; I know he would appreciate it.

Compatriot Irvin Shuler has requested that we remember his wife Claire and their family in prayer. Claire's health issues has required that Irvin remain nearby and as a result he asks our understanding in his not being able to be our guest speaker.

Hope to see you at Barker's Mill on the 15th; bring someone with you,

Pete



Pete Boineau

Compatriots,

I am pleased to announce that the SCV membership directory everyone is anticipating has shipped. We received a very few extra copies today in case you would like one, but didn't order one. They are \$100 each until sold out.

As a note, we have been persistently working with Harris Connect to get this to you as fast as we could. Originally, these were supposed to be in your hands in the spring, but a host of delays on their part delayed them until now. The new company, PCI, has published the books and you should be receiving them any day.

If you do not receive your materials within the next two weeks, please contact the publisher at (800) 877-6554.

Michael L. Landree

Executive Director

Sons of Confederate Veterans

**Hopefully you will receive your directory by the time you read this. Thank you for your patience.**



**SCV Telegraph**

## Jasper Brabham Varn, Jr., Brigadier General (Ret.)

Brigadier General (Retired) Jasper Brabham Varn, Jr., age 90, entered into rest on October 16, 2016 at his Generations of Irmo assisted living home.

He was the devoted husband of sixty-five years of Mrs. Barbara Wiles Varn. BG (Ret) Varn was born on May 24th, 1926 in the Colston Community of Bamberg County. He was the youngest child of the late Jasper B. Varn, Sr. and the late Florrie McMillan Varn. He was pre-deceased by his brother, Floyd Monroe Varn (Gigs) and Florence Varn Priess.

Mr. Varn graduated from Bamberg High School in 1941 and attended the University of South Carolina from 1941 to 1945. He served his state and country as a member of the S.C. Army National Guard for 40 years. His last assignment was the position of Deputy Adjutant General. Mr. Varn was employed as a S.C. National Guard Technician for 39 years and retired in 1987. He received numerous prestigious military and civilian awards.

In addition, he was a Past District Deputy Grand Master of the 5th Masonic District of SC. Masons, a Past Master of Union Lodge #247 A.F.M in Ehrhardt, SC., a life member of Ornan Lodge #38 A.F.M. in Bamberg, SC, a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, a Yorkrite Mason, a Shriner, and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

He was a devoted member of the Colston Branch Baptist Church where he was a past Deacon and Sunday school teacher. He was also a member of the Bamberg Lion's Club, the Gideon's International and a **Life Member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (Rivers Bridge Camp)**.

He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, gardening and farming.

BG (Ret) Varn also previously served as a member and chairman of the Bamberg County Council and as the county's representative to the Lower Savannah Council of Governments.

He was a 60 year member of the U.S.C. Gamecock Club and was a past president of the Bamberg Gamecock Club. In 2014 he was recognized as a U.S.C. "Legendary Fan of the Game."

He is survived by his wife, Barbara, his son, Jasper B. Varn, III (Jappy) and his wife Jill of Irmo, SC. and his daughter, Carla Varn DuPre and husband Paul of Columbia, SC. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Jasper B. Varn, IV (Brab) and wife Jillian of Chapin, SC, Shannon Varn Anderson and husband John of Chapin, SC. Brett C. Hammond of Irmo, SC, Madison S. Hammond of Irmo, SC, J. Paul DuPre, III and fiancé Kortney Baker of Lexington, SC and Wiles M. DuPre, Clara M. DuPre and Patrick L. DuPre all of Columbia, SC.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be directed in his memory to the following: Colston Branch Baptist Church, 655 Sunday School Road, Bamberg, South Carolina 29003; or to, Shriners' Hospital for Children, 950 W Faris Road, Greenville, South Carolina 29605.



General Varn



**The arrow in this pre-1917 Confederate Reunion photo points to former Private Perry Varn of Company B, 19th Battalion South Carolina Cavalry. He was the ancestor of our departed Compatriot Jasper Brabham Varn, Jr. Brigadier General (Ret.).**

## November 10, 1865; Another Infamous Day

*In the years after the war, many books and articles were written about Andersonville and the trial of Wirz. With few exceptions, the truth of Andersonville escaped these accounts. The trial of Major Henry Wirz was and is a national disgrace.*

### A Pardon Scored

Two nights before he was hanged, three men visited Wirz in his cell at the Capitol Prison. The men told Wirz that they were agents of a powerful member of Congress, and that if he would be willing to testify that Jefferson Davis was responsible for the deaths of the prisoners at Andersonville, Wirz would be pardoned and set free. When Wirz indignantly refused their offer to purchase his liberty with perjury, the same men communicated the offer to both Wirz's defense attorney, Mr. Lewis Schade, and Wirz's attending priest, Reverend F. E. Boyle.

**Conclusion** On November 10, 1865, the sentence was carried out. The request of Wirz's family for his body was denied, and he was buried in the prison yard beside the Lincoln conspirators. Convinced of his client's innocence, Louis Schade wrote an "open letter to the American public" on April 4, 1867, in which he attempted to explain how Wirz had been unfairly convicted.



Major Henry Wirz



Wirz Monument

In the years after the war, many books and articles were written about Andersonville and the trial of Wirz. In 1908, the United Daughters of the Confederacy erected a monument to Wirz in the town of Andersonville, where a memorial service for Wirz is still held annually. In 1977, the Sons of Confederate Veterans named Wirz the "martyr of the Confederacy" at their national convention, and in 1981 that same organization awarded Wirz their Confederate Medal of Honor.

That Wirz was a scapegoat, tried in order to incriminate the Confederate leaders and to deflect criticism from Secretary of War Stanton, seems obvious. That Wirz was unjustly convicted is also clear to the student of Andersonville and the Wirz trial. As one author aptly wrote, "the nature of the food, the number of the inmates, and the lack of comforts were as totally beyond his control as was the heat of the southern sun."

In the state archives in Richmond, Virginia, there is a letter written by an ex-Andersonville prisoner in 1919 which states, "I have alienated the friendship of many old comrades and friends by telling the truth as I saw it about Major Wirz and his innocence, but I am content and still firm in my belief

that history will correct itself, prejudice illuminated, and the truth recognized." I hope that this article will, in some small way, help the truth to be recognized. The trial Henry Wirz was worse than a mistake, worse even than a miscarriage of justice. The trial of Major Henry Wirz was a national disgrace.



Wirz "Execution"

### Maj. Glenn LaForce

This excerpt is reprinted from The Army Lawyer, Department of the Army Pamphlet 2750-186, June 1988, at 3. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are those of the individual author, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Judge Advocate General's School, the United States Army, or any other federal agency.

## 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

Nov 10, 1775	Happy Birthday, USMC!
Nov 10, 1865	Major Henry Wirz "executed"
Nov 15	Regular Camp Meeting
Dec 20	Regular Camp Meeting
Jan 17, 2017	Regular Camp Meeting
January 19, 1807	Robert E. Lee born
January 21, 1824	Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson born



### Henry Golden Boy HMR

At the October meeting it was decided by those present to select the Henry Golden Boy HMR as our next fund raising project.

**Henry Golden Boy .17 HMR** – Readers of Guns & Ammo magazine selected the Henry Golden Boy as "Rifle of the Year" in 2001, the very first time a rimfire rifle won the prestigious award. It's a masterpiece of fine gunsmithing and any shooting enthusiast who closely examines one is immediately impressed with the excellent fit, finish and overall visually elegant design. 20" blued octagonal barrel, American walnut stock, brass buttplate and gleaming Brasslite receiver. Adjustable buckhorn-type rear sight. Tubular magazine holds 12 rounds.

Support Rivers Bridge Camp No. 842, SCV; keep the flag flying!



### Henry Golden Boy HMR

.17 Caliber

\$5.00 donation per ticket

Drawing will be made on **April 18, 2017**

You do not have to be present to win