



# THE BRIDGE

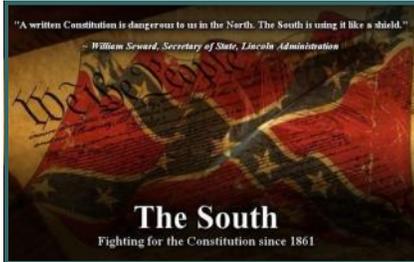
"It is our duty to keep the memory of our heroes green." Jefferson Davis



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

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Historian

Compatriots and Friends,

Well, our long awaited Signers of the SC Ordinance of Secession Monument is now in place.

The South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, began this journey in 2009. At that time they undertook a project to build a monument that would tell the history of the South Carolina Secession Convention, and recognize the 170 men who signed the Ordinance of Secession.

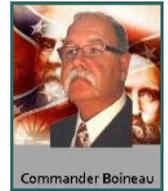
The process of this convention, beginning with the election of delegates from each voting district in the state, to the actual signing of the Ordinance on Dec. 20, 1860, was a mirror image of the actions undertaken by the leaders of the American Revolution.

The convention voted unanimously for South Carolina to re-assume its sovereignty as a free and independent state, just as it was prior to joining the newly formed United States on May 23, 1788 when the state voted to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

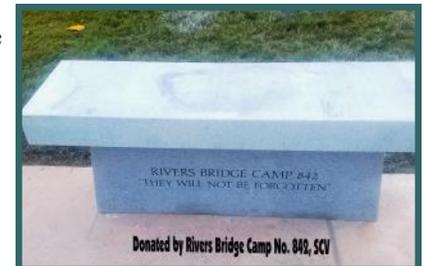
The dedication service for the Signer's Monument was on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, on historic Secession Hill in Abbeville. It was a joyous occasion, and if you were unable to attend, please pay a visit soon, and sit on the bench donated by Rivers Bridge Camp No. 842.

Join us on Tuesday, November 20 for our regular meeting at Barker's Mill; I'll be looking for you. Bring a friend.

Pete



Commander Boineau



## Abbeville marker adds to city's complex history

By Adam Benson  
Index-Journal  
November 10, 2018

ABBEVILLE — When the white smoke settled after rifle and cannon volleys boomed through the air Saturday over Secession Hill, Abbeville counted yet another memorial to its portfolio of markers acknowledging the community's complex Southern history.

But for a crowd of several hundred who gathered for an afternoon tribute to the 169 men who, on Dec. 20, 1860, signed the Ordinance of Secession and split South Carolina from the Union, the unapologetic celebration of Dixie heritage came with a deeper lesson.

"There's an old story that goes around about all the darkness in the whole world cannot put out the light of one candle. Today, we are lighting another candle and it's standing right there and it will go on," said Albert Jackson, the great-great grandson of Stephen Jackson, a Chesterfield County delegate to the 1860 convention and chair-

## Effective Messengers

By Anne Graham Lotz

God has a message He wants to get out to people. Do I know what that message is? Have I read His “talking-points?” How closely do I follow them?

Malachi was one of the last of the Old Testament prophets. His very name means “messenger.” In the final book of the Old Testament, which bears his name, he provides several characteristics of an effective messenger that I believe apply to you and me today. Malachi shows that effective messages exalt God’s Name, His truth and His Son.

Every generation has had effective messengers who have been faithful to get the message out, and to pass it on to the next generation, or you and I wouldn’t be believers today.

Who has believed in Jesus because you have been faithful as an effective messenger to exalt God’s Son, His truth and His Name?

**Editor’s Note: Think about this; the perpetuation of God’s message requires effective messengers. The preservation of the true history of the South, which is anchored in God’s message needs effective messengers as well.**



*Deo Vindice!*

man emeritus of the monument committee.

The 20-ton, 11-foot-high granite monument stands in the center of a landscaped plaza, engraved on one side with the names of those original signers, along with text of the ordinance and a description of the events leading up to the convention. There are 170 names on the memorial – one signatory wasn’t able to add his name until Dec. 28 because of an election mishap.

Jackson is also part of the Sons of Confederate Veterans’ South Carolina division that financed the project.

In his remarks, the 90-year-old Jackson, who has spent four decades researching and documenting the burial places and lives of South Carolina’s secessionists, condemned neo-Confederate and other hate groups that have appropriated symbols of the Civil War south for modern expression.

“Our flag means a lot to us, and all flags are welcomed if they are displayed and waved properly. Some people in the past have dishonored it, waving it in people’s faces, screaming racism, all this type of thing,” he said. “That is not what we’re about. That is not what the Sons of Confederate Veterans are about. We are honorable gentlemen, and we’re going to wave the flag, but we’re going to do it in an honorable way.”

Slavery, of course, was an indelible part of Southern life for a century prior to the Civil War and all through it.

According to Civil War Census records, slaves comprised 13 percent of the nation’s population between 1861 and 1865, though figures in South Carolina were significantly higher, where slaves made up 57 percent of the state’s population of 703,708.

But equating the preservation of Southern heritage to a desire that slavery continues is an offensive notion to Linda Smith, an Oconee County resident who attended Saturday’s ceremony.

“You just cannot explain the South to outsiders. You have to be born here. We’re kindred spirits,” she said.

State Sen. Danny Verdin, R-Laurens, and a past commander of the state’s Sons of Confederate Veterans division, wrote a letter of endorsement for the secession monument several years ago.

“When this testimony rises out of Palmetto soil, it will tell a wonderful story. Because of the sacrifice of the Confederate soldier, states’ rights was embedded in our national conscience – it is still relevant in today’s political discussion; it is still the antidote to a reckless central authority.”

Principles of the South’s post-Antebellum era – time of economic prosperity and growth across the region – were strong on Saturday.

Speakers called President Abraham Lincoln a “tyrant,” referenced the “War of Northern Aggression” and “invasion” of Southern lands by Union troops.

Although the ordinance was signed in Charleston, a Nov. 22, 1860 meeting in Abbeville led to the formation of the movement that would end South Carolina’s participation in the United States.

A nondescript rock with a plaque commemorating those original talks is part of the Secession Hill property today.

Robert Hayes, an Abbeville resident who performs re-enactments of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, said “The Rock,” as it’s called, is a priceless relic that was worked into plans for the Secession Hill plaza.

“Some of us true secessionists kiss it and wish for it again,” he said. “Ladies and gentlemen, you’re on scared ground. And it is henceforth going to be more sacred.”

Abbeville already claims some of the state’s richest history. Vice President John C. Calhoun practiced law in the city during the early 1800s, and Davis himself spent an evening with his friend Armistead Burt, a member of Congress, on May 2, 1865 during the last official Cabinet meeting of the Confederacy.



Compatriot Albert Jackson

And just a few blocks away from Secession Hill is a plaque commemorating the Oct. 21, 1916 lynching of Anthony Crawford, a black man who was killed for refusing to sell cotton at a cut rate price to white store owner W.D. Barksdale.

In many ways, said retired National Park service ranger and local historian Eric Williams, Saturday's dedication just adds to Abbeville's cultural significance.

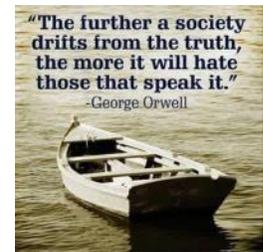
"The times that they lived in was so turbulent in the 1850s with talk of secession, and this is where it's all going to come to a head and reflect those signers who stuck their necks way, way out not knowing what it was going to mean, exactly," he said. "For South Carolina to be a free and independent state was a huge step."

Williams is a hardliner when it comes to historic preservation – opposed to changing or removing statues and monuments in any way, including Uptown Greenwood's now amended World War I memorial.

"People try to make history more complicated than it is. You don't try to hide it, you don't try to cover it, you simply tell the story of what happened, and that's all you do," he said. "If you don't like it, you can't change it, because history can't be changed. You learn from the past and you go on."

**Editor's Note: Since no agenda seems to be obvious on the part of this reporter, he is to be commended on reporting the facts and letting the readers form their own opinions. Thank you, Adam.**

**Editor's note: This article is lengthy and as a result will be presented in consecutive issues of *The Bridge*. You will find that a number of points are made that are worthy of deeper consideration and study. You are encouraged to be like the Bereans; follow up to verify the truth.**



## **The Unfulfilled Promise of Reunion** **by Steve Quick**

No other place of origin evokes such strong reactions and prejudices as the word "Southern". It is all the more amazing when one considers the manner in which the early Republic was shaped and dominated by Southerners. Jefferson was the intellectual and spiritual architect of the Declaration and as the third President acquired the vast Louisiana Territory staking an early claim as far as the Pacific. Washington's feats after he defeated the British at Yorktown include the first two terms as President, declining a third and an offer to be "King". James Madison and Patrick Henry crafted a Constitution which has proved the most enduring and practical political document in the world. In fact, five of our first seven Presidents were Southern and it was James Knox Polk in the 1840's who assured the U.S. would be a permanent transcontinental nation.

It is not only ironic but forgotten that it was once New England that suffered from the inferiority complex when compared to the feats of these Southern giants. The hinge upon which this extraordinary about-face occurred was the epic known now by the misnomer the "Civil War" and the events which preceded. That terrible conflict, much distorted by both traditional history and more recently the revisionist variety, holds the unfulfilled promise of our national destiny. We currently lack the will and the courage to learn its great truths, banish its dark lies, probe its obscured origins and confront its painful legacies. These myths and distortions must be replaced with historical facts if we desire the ultimate goal of national reconciliation. These include:

1) The slave trade prospered in West Africa 40 years before Columbus even discovered America. African tribes actually conducted raids on their neighbors for the express purpose of enslaving them. Tragically, slavery is practiced to this very day in places like the Sudan, Zaire and Nigeria.

2) Five European powers (Spain, Portugal, France, Holland and Britain) competing for New World influence all employed slavery, with Brazil (Portugal's crown jewel) topping the list at 5.5 million slaves, half of the total brought to the New World. By 1860, their numbers had dwindled to a little over 2 million.

3) Only 6% of Africans reached our shores (about 600,000). By 1860 their numbers had increased (without new importations) to almost 4 million, the only slave population in recorded history to increase in captivity. Indigent Anglo-Celts filled the need for slaves (as indentured servants) in our early history by selling themselves into slavery because they could not afford the cost of passage. Most white Southerners are descendants of these early bondsmen.

4) Slavery was practiced in all thirteen colonies and NY City was second to Charleston in 1776 as the city with the highest percentage of slaves. Sojourner Truth was born Isabella Van Wagner, a slave in New York.

# The Bridge

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## Sons of Confederate Veterans



Presenting the true history of the South  
since 1896

### Camp No. 842 Calendar

Nov 20	Regular Camp Meeting 7PM
Dec 18	Regular Camp Meeting 7PM
Dec 25	Merry Christmas, May God bless you.
Jan 1, 2019	Happy New Year, Y'all
Jan 15, 2019	Regular Camp Meeting 7PM



### Glock GLK 43 9MM PST 6RD GNS

- Model: 43
- Caliber: 9MM
- Action: Safe Action
- Capacity: 6+1
- Finish: Black Matte
- Stock: Black Polymer
- Sights: Glock Night Sights



More  
raffle info  
soon!

