

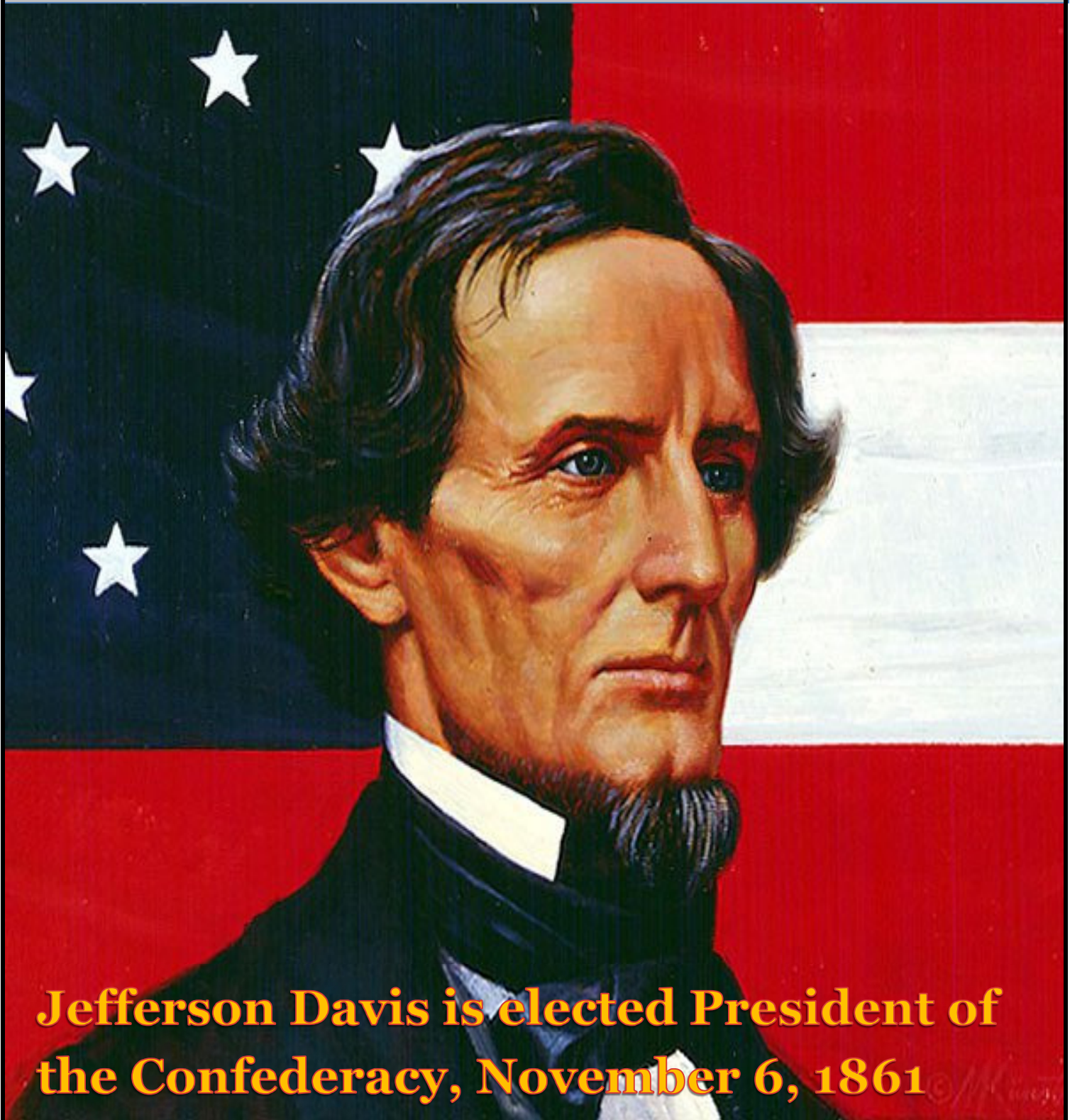


Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com



The Delta General

Richard Dillon, Camp Commander



Jefferson Davis is elected President of the Confederacy, November 6, 1861

November Issue - 2017, Volume 20, Issue 10

Dedicated to the memory of Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys

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- Camp Meeting – November 2, 2017

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Brig. General Benjamin G. Humphreys
Camp #1625, SCV
[website: www.humphreys1625.com](http://www.humphreys1625.com)

Cover

President Jefferson Davis with the First National in the Background

Camp News:

Commander's Report – Richard Dillon

Compatriots,

On behalf of Commander Richard Dillon I would like you to keep him in your thoughts and prayers. He will not be with us during the November meeting because of a surgery he had on October 28th and is not to be riding around for at least a month. Let's hope he has a speedy recovery and will return back with us in fellowship as we plan for our Lee/Jackson Banquet.

Lets remember, November is a time to be thinking of our Candidates for Camp offices. Our Camp Elections are in December. If you have an interest in serving in one of these positions, please let it be known at our November meeting. Also, we need your help in thinking of a speaker for our Lee/Jackson Banquet.

As the holiday season approaches, I would like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and let us not forget our ancestors who fought away from home on many Thanksgivings. Let us remember the sacrifices they made for a Cause that was just.

For Commander Dillion,
Larry McCluney, Camp Adjutant

Camp Meeting Minutes, October 2017

Adjutant's Report – Larry McCluney

If you missed the October meeting, you missed a great speaker, Bro. James Taylor, Chaplain for the Army of Tennessee who spoke. Anyone that has heard Bro. Taylor speak knows it is always an inspiring talk that rekindles the spirit. Reports were given on the dues updates and we are still lacking a few members that have not renewed their dues as of yet.

Our November meeting will be making preparations for our Lee/Jackson Banquet and looking into the election for new officers in December. By the time you read this, you will have missed the deadline and will have to pay a late fee. Lets get them in ASAP. Please send dues to:

Larry McCluney
1412 North Park Dr
Greenwood, MS 38930

Make checks of 57.50 to SCV.

Front Cover of Jefferson Davis:

On November 6, 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected president, not of the United States of America but of the Confederate States of America. He ran unopposed and was elected to serve for a six-year term. Davis had already been serving as the temporary president for almost a year.

BRICKS FOR BEAUVOIR



complete by Fall Muster. By all reckoning there are 153 more spaces left in the archway

The plans are for a brick plaza around the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Each brick would cost \$50.00 and would have the name of a Confederate ancestor of members of the SCV who give to the effort. "The Bricks for Beauvoir" Project is spearheaded by Larry McCluney, Past Commander of the Mississippi Division. Thirteen columns, in a crescent, will represent the 13 States of the Confederacy and will fly the flag of each respective State. The project is drawing near the end. It is projected the project will be

Mississippi Division News

Why the Mississippi Flag, Monuments Must Remain

Ryan Walters POSTED ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

*Originally published in *The Clarion Ledger* on September 1, 2017

"The most effective way to destroy a people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history," said George Orwell, author of *1984*. Today we are seeing this right before our eyes. Whether it is monuments to honor our Founding Fathers or soldiers of the Confederacy and their revered battle flag, Leftists across the country are demanding the destruction of our history to appease their guilty conscience.

Sadly, two of Mississippi's most influential national political leaders, US Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, have bought into these emotional arguments and have called for the removal of the state flag with its Confederate symbol.

The present dispute seems moot since Mississippians have already spoken on this issue in a statewide referendum in 2001, when they voted overwhelmingly to keep the flag. That should be enough to end the argument. But it hasn't. New movements have emerged. After the horrific shooting in Charleston, South Carolina by Dylann Roof in 2015, the current assault began on Southern symbols, which Wicker and Cochran both eagerly joined. The emotionalism spread quickly and resembled what President James Buchanan once called "a disease in the public mind."

But why is it that we are being asked to remove our monuments and symbols after every tragedy? No other group is required to do that.

Senator Wicker then appeared on CNN with New Jersey Senator Cory Booker and again publicly called for Mississippi's flag to be placed in a museum. This only fed the frenzy of radical leftist groups like Antifa and Black Lives

Matter, a movement focused on violent protest.

Since the violence in Charlottesville last month, Wicker has doubled down on his knee-jerk, flag-grab stance. But in doing so, he has only strengthened and emboldened those who seek our historical obliteration. Now all of Mississippi's public colleges and universities, save Delta State, have taken down the state flag in an act of appeasement.

With the possibility of a serious primary challenge next year from Senator Chris McDaniel, Senator Wicker seems to have realized his unpopular mistake. Now he has come out in favor of protecting Confederate monuments, while continuing his call for a flag change. His contradictory position is political posturing at its finest, a way for him to have his cake and eat it too.

But at least two state politicians have had the courage to stand up for Mississippi's rich heritage and history – Senator McDaniel and former Senator Melanie Sojourner. Both have publicly called out Wicker's hypocritical, vote-grabbing position.

And for their courageous stance in the face of such wild emotionalism, McDaniel and Sojourner have faced some criticism. In a recent column in the *Clarion Ledger*, Rev. William H. Smith, who is a native of Florida and currently resides in Virginia, defended Wicker's position and called out both McDaniel and Sojourner. For Smith, the flag and the monuments are different issues so it's not hypocritical for Senator Wicker to oppose the flag, yet seek to protect monuments. But those issues are not different; they are intrinsically linked.

The monuments honor the sacrifice of those who wore the gray, but the Confederate battle flag, which Smith, on his blog, has linked to "Southern secession, the Dixiecrat Party, the Ku Klux Klan, resistance to integration, and racism," was as much a symbol of the common Confederate soldier as the memorials. The flag was created by the troops and for the troops, and was never adopted as the official flag of the Confederacy or the Confederate army for that matter. It was a flag for Southern soldiers, a battle flag. Nothing more.

The use of the Confederate symbol in Mississippi's state flag came in 1894, not during the upheavals of the 1950s and 1960s. It has been linked to racism and Jim Crow only out of historical ignorance. Even today, the battle flag is recognized around the world as a symbol of resistance to tyrannical government, not slavery and racism.

Calling for the removal of the flag, especially by politicians, begins a dangerous precedent and puts us on a very slippery slope, as agents of the violent leftist movement now seek the elimination of everything deemed "offensive," with no end in sight. This is something McDaniel and Sojourner understand perfectly and have warned against repeatedly. We should heed their warnings.

In the old Soviet Union, history was constantly altered to suit the needs of that tyrannical regime. A favorite joke among Russian citizens went like this: "The future is known. It's the past that keeps changing." Let us not do likewise.

Ryan S. Walters is an independent historian, editor of *Mississippi Conservative Daily*, and a writer for the *Abbeville Institute*. He is a native of the Free State of Jones. <http://mississippiconservativedaily.com/icymi-why-the-mississippi-flag-monuments-must-remain/>

Mississippi Heritage Defense Committee

Announcement

Compatriots of the Mississippi Division,

I first want to apologize for not being able to attend Fall Muster, and congratulate all involved for putting on a very successful event. I really wanted to be there but something very important required myself, 1st Lt Commander Conor Bond, Heritage Committee Chairman Greg Stewart and Legislative Committee Chairman Chuck Bond, to attend the GEC Meeting at National HQ in Elm Springs. As a result I have some very important and great news to report.

The GEC has agreed to grant the Division **\$50,000.00** towards our Initiative 62 Flag fight! We came home with a check for \$25,000.00, with \$25,000.00 more to come as needed. They also didn't rule out the possibility of additional funds if we are getting close to our goal and need more to get us over the top. On behalf of the entire Division I want to thank Commander-In-Chief Strain and the rest of the GEC for their support.

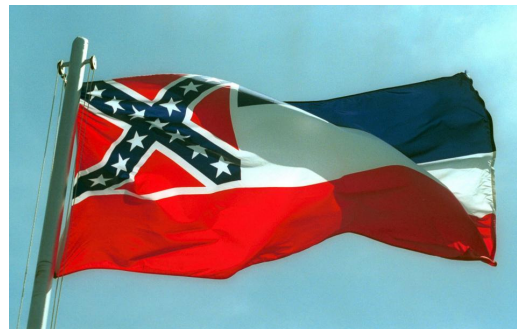
The entire organization is behind us and believes we will win! Most importantly, the citizens of Mississippi are behind us and are depending on us to lead them to victory! It is now up to us to get out and work hard for the next year and make our ancestors proud of us. **ALL MUST** work to achieve this goal and if any of us see camps or individuals not on board and participating, it is up to each of us to call them out and get them busy.

I heard a statement this weekend that was very profound and really hit home with me. It was stated that, "The most important and meaningful monument we can give to our ancestors is to preserve the State Flag that our aging ancestors chose, when they served the State as Legislators after serving as soldiers." Truer words were never spoken.

#Winning,

Michael Putnam, Deputy COS

Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans



Announcing a New Division Facebook Page

The Mississippi Division has a new OFFICIAL Facebook page. Please click and follow for division news, updates, and activities! www.facebook.com/msdivscv
Each brigade in the Division has an assigned editor. Camps, please reach out to your respective editors to have your events and announcements placed on the page.

1st Brigade: Steve Miller
2nd Brigade: Kevin Nelms
3rd Brigade: JJ Dafferner
4th Brigade: Michael Putnam
5th Brigade: Jessie Sanford

Thanks,
Staff, S.D. Lee Dispatch, Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
sdleedispach@gmail.com

National SCV News

Nationally, majority favors keeping Confederate monuments, poll finds

By ANDREW CAIN, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sep 14, 2017

A clear majority of respondents say Confederate monuments should remain in all public spaces, according to a national poll out Thursday morning.

The Ipsos poll on racial issues, conducted Aug. 21-Sept. 5 on behalf of Thomson Reuters and the University of Virginia Center for Politics, also found broad agreement on racial equality.

But it spotlighted vestiges of what the pollsters termed “troubling levels of support for certain racially charged ideas and attitudes frequently expressed by extremist groups.”

On Confederate monuments, 57 percent said they should remain in public spaces, while 26 percent said they should be removed and 17 percent said they don’t know. Among African-Americans, 54 percent said all of the monuments should be removed. Among whites, 67 percent said the monuments should remain in place.

The survey gauged attitudes on race by asking respondents whether they agreed or disagreed with certain statements.

- Eighty-nine percent agreed that “all races should be treated equally,” 85 percent agreed that “people of different races should be free to live wherever they choose” and 82 percent agreed that “all races are equal.”
- Thirty-one percent said they agree that “America must protect and preserve its white European heritage,” while 34 percent disagreed, 29 percent had neither opinion and 5 percent said they don’t know.
- While 78 percent agreed that “America must protect and preserve its multi-cultural heritage,” 5 percent disagreed, 14 percent held neither view and 4 percent didn’t know.
- Most respondents — 65 percent — disagreed with the statement: “Marriage should only be allowed between people of the same race.” But 50 years after the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Loving v. Virginia* decision struck down laws barring interracial marriage, 16 percent said they agree with the statement. Fourteen percent held neither view and 4 percent said they don’t know.
- Fifty-five percent agreed with the statement: “Racial minorities are currently under attack in this country,” while 22 percent disagreed, 19 percent held neither view and 5 percent did not know.
- A plurality — 39 percent — agreed with the statement: “White people are currently under attack in this country,” while 38 percent disagreed, 19 percent had neither view and 4 percent did not know.

In separate questions, the poll found scant support for the “alt-right” (6 percent), white nationalism (8 percent) and neo-Nazism (4 percent.) “Let’s remember, there are nearly 250 million adults in the United States, so even small percentages likely represent the beliefs of many millions of Americans,” said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at U.Va.

The pollsters surveyed 5,360 adults online from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii. Ipsos said the survey has a “credibility interval” of plus or minus 1.5 percentage points. In some instances responses do not total 100 percent due to rounding. The sample had 2,255 Democrats, 1,915 Republicans and 689 independents.

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/nationally-majority-favors-keeping-confederate-monuments-poll-finds/article_03e335c5-67ed-5f55-a1cb-e5b93436d179.html



Erasing the Past: Warnings from History

Ryan Walters POSTED ON AUGUST 21, 2017

"The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history," said George Orwell, author of the famous book, *1984*. Others have made similar statements, like the oft used "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it," a phrase of George Santayana. These are very wise words and we should learn to live by them, especially in light of what is happening across our country, with radicals and fanatics protesting, destroying monuments, and suppressing the free speech rights of those whom they disagree.

But why is this happening? These so-called "anti-fascists," who are really fascists, are attempting to erase all of America's past. Because that's what tyrannical movements do. They hate our history, hate the country, hate the Constitution, hate the Founders, hate it all.

Make no mistake: These folks in Black Lives Matters and Antifa are would-be tyrants. They have no respect for the rule of law, the Constitution, or the rights of anyone but themselves. But that's how tyrants, like the Nazis, rose to power – by violence and intimidation. Antifa and Hitler's Brownshirts are identical.

This is nothing short of a revolution in the making and true revolutions rarely succeed in making society better. In fact, as history has shown, they almost always make things much worse, not freer but more totalitarian than before. But that is their true objective.

And tyrants and the tyrannical movements they spawn always erase the past. It's a Marxian tactic. Karl Marx once said, "Take away a nation's heritage and they are more easily persuaded."

Here are a few examples from the past that should get our attention:

The French Revolution broke out in Paris in 1789 and at first it looked similar to the American Revolution. It was very conservative and the leaders drafted a document much like the Declaration of Independence. In fact, Jefferson himself, still in France as the American ambassador, gave his assistance to the "Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen."

But soon things took a turn for the worse. The radical extremists took control and it soon evolved into a very bloody affair. The King and Queen were overthrown and beheaded by the guillotine, a new execution device so often used it was nicknamed the "National Razor." Under the leadership of the bloodthirsty tyrant Maximilien Robespierre, tens of thousands were executed for opposing the new revolutionary regime.

The revolutionaries began changing French society and erasing history. All street signs, the calendar, churches (they came up with a new deity for everyone to worship) – all erased and re-constructed to fit the new order of society. And if you did not adapt to changing times, you were sent to the guillotine, and for the slightest of "crimes."

In one striking example, if a revolutionary overheard you use the wrong prefix in identifying someone (sound familiar?), such as calling someone a "Madame" or "Monsieur," the old revolutionary titles, you went to the guillotine. The new titles for everyone was "Citizen" and "Citizenship" – equality you see – and to use the wrong prefix meant that you were still an old thinker, so you had to go.

In the end, Robespierre had to be overthrown and executed but things did not settle down. A young French military officer eventually took power – Napoleon Bonaparte. So French society had come full circle – they got rid of the King, flirted with a republic, only to end up with an Emperor. And at the cost of hundreds of thousands of lives.

In Pol Pot's Cambodia in the 1970s, the revolutionaries took Marx and Lenin to heart, and very literally. Anyone thought to be a potential problem for the revolution was executed, and since Lenin has used the word "smashed" to describe getting rid of "enemies of the state," Pol Pot's thugs did exactly that. Enemies of the Khmer Rouge were taken to the "Killing Fields" for execution. Many were literally "smashed" to pieces with iron rods. Small children and babies were picked up and "smashed" into trees.

And Cambodia got as crazy as Revolutionary France. For example, anyone who wore eyeglasses was imprisoned and killed. Why? That was a sign that you were probably well educated and well read, and most likely a non-conformist.

They also created a whole new calendar and erased the past to such an extent that time itself was restarted, beginning with "Year Zero." Nothing before the rise of the Khmer Rouge mattered. And, like France, they had their own titles denoting equality. Men were referred to as Brother. Pol Pot was Brother Number One.

In the end more than two million Cambodians were murdered by their own government, a full quarter of the entire population of the country, before the regime was overthrown by Vietnam. On my 2007 trip to Cambodia, I felt a spiritual heaviness hanging over that nation that I've never felt anywhere else. It was eerie and I was uncomfortable for the entire time in the capital city of Phnom Penh. The spirit of the evil Pol Pot has yet to be exorcized it seemed to me. Today we see ISIS attempting to do the same thing in the Middle East, destroying every Christian symbol and artifact, while executing thousands of Christians simply for being Christians. They have targeted the past.

But none of those things could possibly happen here you say? Do you think the common man in France or Cambodia thought their respective revolutions would plunge into bloodshed and murder? Many of these thugs and beatniks in Antifa are trying to accomplish something similar and have called for people, particularly cops, to die.

In California, the legislature is currently debating a bill in the state legislature that if a person calls someone by the wrong gender pronoun, it is punishable by a year in jail. Yes you read that right. Jail today; guillotine tomorrow?

But I believe in the goodness of the great "silent majority" in our country. We don't scream and yell, nor do we take to the streets and attempt to tear society apart. We work, pay taxes, and vote. And in 2018 and 2020 we can send these revolutionaries a message they will never forget. Time to put them in their place and take back our streets, our society, and our nation.

<http://mississippiconservativedaily.com/erasing-the-past-warnings-from-history/>

Thanks to First Brigade Commander Stan Rhoda for the above article.





Army of Tennessee Workshop



Revival Building
9 AM to 3:30 PM
February 24, 2018
303 Washington St.
Athens, Alabama 35611

Hosted by the Alabama Division and the Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp #768 Athens, AL.

During the Army meeting at the Memphis Reunion, Commander McCluney announced that an AoT workshop would be held in Athens, Alabama in the upcoming months. I am pleased to announce that the meeting will be held on February 24th, 2018 at the Revival Building in downtown Athens. Varied topics will be discussed including, SalesForce, how to cope with Confederate negativity, Community involvement and others. The cost of the event is \$20 and this includes lunch. Due to caterer constraints, lunch reservations will be cut off on January 24th. After January 24th, the registration fee will be \$5, which does not include lunch. Food sites are nearby in walking or driving distance.

On Friday, the 23rd we will have a Jambalaya Supper, prepared by our Commander in Chief Tom Strain. This will be held at the Trinity – Fort Henderson site. Donations will be accepted in lieu of a ticket price. The profits from this event will go to the restoration effort of Fort Henderson and the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs. See below for information about Fort Henderson.

A registration form is attached. Directions to both sites will be posted on the Alabama Division website, alscv.org as well as the AoT Facebook page. Updates on the meeting and topics will be added to the sites.

We look forward to seeing you in Athens!

Jimmy Hill

Commander
Alabama Division

(256) 614-3613
aldivcommander@aol.com



Army of Tennessee

Workshop



Revival Building
9 AM to 3:30 PM
February 24, 2018
303 Washington St.
Athens, Alabama 35611

Hosted by the Alabama Division and the Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp #768 Athens, AL.

Registration is \$20 which includes lunch (Ribeye Steak Sandwich, Baked Beans, Chips, Dessert and choice of drink). Pre registration by February 1st for lunch (Caterer) After Feb. 1st, \$5 (no lunch included) Lunch sites are close by (short drive or walk)

Hotel rooms are available with room rates posted on the Alabama Division website, alscv.org

There will be a Meet and Greet hosted by CiC Tom Strain on Friday night, February 23rd at the Trinity School – Fort Henderson center, on Browns Ferry St. Athens, AL. 35611. Jambalaya and the fixins' will be provided for a donation. Proceeds go to the restoration of Fort Henderson and the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs.

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers: Home: (____) _____-_____

Cell: (____) _____-_____

E-mail Address: _____

SCV Camp Name & Number: _____ Division: _____

Check here if you plan to attend the Friday night supper

Please send this completed form, together with a check or money order in the amount of \$20 (by Jan. 24th for lunch) made payable to Alabama Division, SCV After Feb. 1st, send this form and \$5 (No lunch) and mail it to:

AoT Workshop
PO Box 375
Capshaw, Alabama 35742

Contact Workshop Coordinator Jimmy Hill at 256-614-3613 if you have questions.

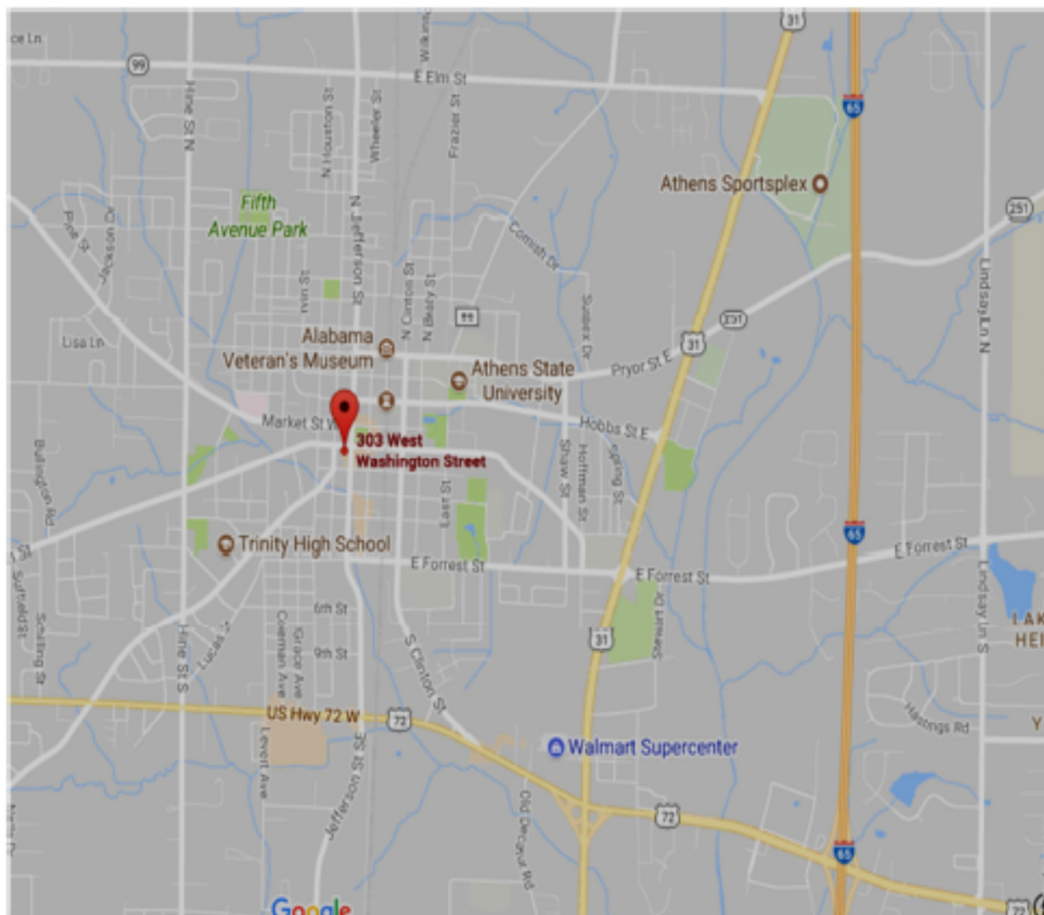
Hotels

The Host Hotel will be the Hampton Inn. It is located at 1222 Kelli Drive, Athens, AL. 35613 Just off I-65 behind the Cracker Barrel. Phone (256) 232-2377. There is a special room rate of \$109 for Friday night 2/23.

Other hotels at the exit are: Quality Inn, Travel Inn, Sleep Inn, Best Western and Days Inn. Rates run from \$60 to \$80.

We have been notified that TVA will have a work outage at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant outside of Athens during this date. Rooms (especially the low to mid price) will book quickly.

Saturday, February 24th the workshop will be held at the Revival Building in downtown Athens. The address is 303 Washington Street. From I-65 (Exit 351) Take U.S. Hwy 72 west to Jefferson Street (you will go under a railroad bridge just before Jefferson St.) Turn right onto Jefferson St. Follow Jefferson St. to Washington St. (Courthouse square) Turn left onto Washington St. The Revival building will be on your left, directly across from the First Presbyterian Church.



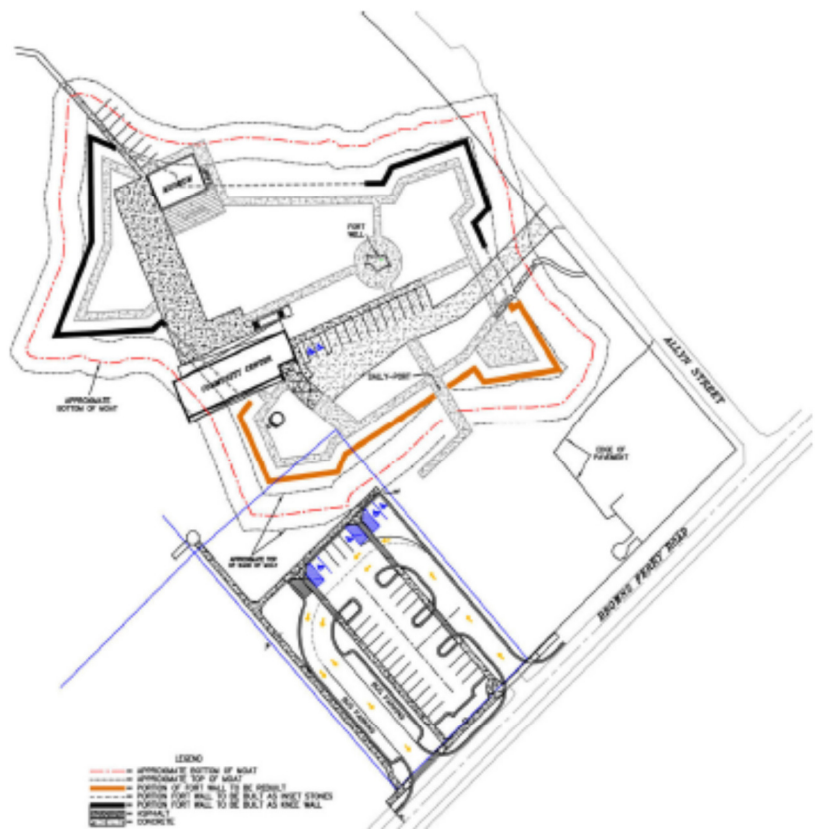
Trinity – Fort Henderson

Fort Henderson was built in 1863 by federal forces occupying Athens. The fort, situated on Coleman Hill, was a five-sided earthen fort with some frame buildings and underground bomb-proofs. Abatis lined the 15-foot deep perimeter ditch, a small portion of which is still visible. On September 24, 1864, after a brief fight and a clever ruse orchestrated by Confederate Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, the fort and its 900-man garrison of mostly the 110 U.S. colored infantry were surrendered. After moving the prisoners and captured supplies South, Forrest's campaign followed the railroad North to the Union fort at Sulphur Creek Trestle which he took the following day. Federals re-occupied Athens shortly after Forrest's departure.

The site became the location of Trinity School, the first black school in Limestone County. It opened in 1866 and closed in 1970.

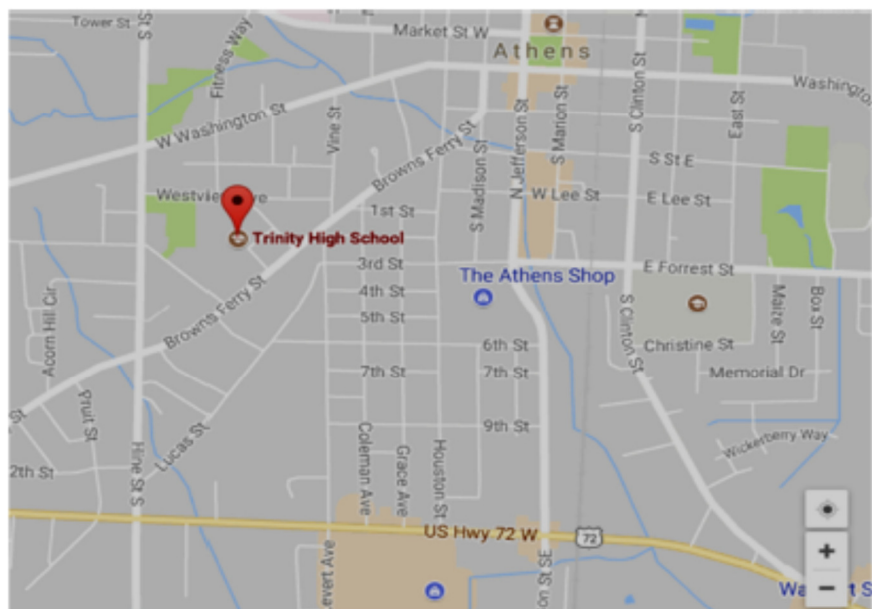
Today the Fort and school property is being restored in part to tell the story of both. The community center has been built and work is now underway on the partial restoration of the fort perimeter. There is a planned museum at the site.

On Friday, February 23rd, 2018, in conjunction with the AoT meeting on the 24th, there will be a Jambalaya supper held at the community center on the Fort Henderson site. Commander in Chief Tom Strain will be preparing the meal. Join us at this historic site where General Forrest captured over 900 Union soldiers on his move into Tennessee. Donations will be taken for the restoration of the Fort and the Museum at Elm Springs.



Site plan for the restoration of Fort Henderson
Fort layout is in bold black and orange lines

The Fort is located at on Browns Ferry Street, Athens, AL 35611. Take Hwy 72 to Levert Ave. Turn right onto Levert. Follow Levert to Browns Ferry Street, turn left, the road to the fort will be just past the Trinity Congregational Church. Turn right at the sign for Pincham-Lincoln Center. Google Trinity High School Athens Alabama for driving directions from your actual location.



Battle of Clark's Mill

The Battle of Clark's Mill was a battle of the American Civil War, occurring on November 7, 1862 in Douglas County, Missouri. Having received reports that Confederate troops were in the area, Capt. Hiram E. Barstow, Union commander at Clark's Mill, sent a detachment toward Gainesville and he led another southeastward. Barstow's men ran into a Confederate force, skirmished with them and drove them back. His column then fell back to Clark's Mill where he learned that another Confederate force was coming from the northeast. Unlimbering artillery to command both approach roads, Barstow was soon engaged in a five-hour fight with the enemy. Under a white flag, the Confederates demanded a surrender, and the Union, given their numerical inferiority, accepted. The Confederates paroled the Union troops and departed after burning the blockhouse at Clark's Mill. Clark's Mill helped the Confederates to maintain a toehold in southwest Missouri.

Battle of Cane Hill

On November 28, 1862, during the Battle of Cane Hill, Union troops under General John Blunt drive Confederates under General John Marmaduke back into the Boston Mountains in northwestern Arkansas.

The battle was part of a Confederate attempt to push the Yankees back into Missouri and recapture ground lost during the Pea Ridge campaign of early 1862, when Union forces secured parts of northern Arkansas. Now, Confederate General Thomas Hindman moved his army of 11,000 soldiers into Fort Smith, Arkansas, and prepared to move across the Boston Mountains into the extreme northwestern corner of the state. Awaiting him there was Blunt with 5,000 troops. Hindman hoped to attack Blunt's force, which was over 70 miles from the nearest Union reinforcements. The Rebel general dispatched Marmaduke and 2,000 cavalry troopers to hold Blunt in place. Meanwhile, Hindman moved the rest of his force through the mountains.

Blunt disrupted the Confederate plan by advancing south when he heard of Marmaduke's approach. Marmaduke was not prepared to meet Blunt, who was 35 miles further south than expected. Marmaduke's troops were surprised and outnumbered when Blunt suddenly attacked on November 28. Marmaduke began a hasty retreat and ordered General Joseph Shelby to fight a delaying action while the rest of the Confederates headed for the mountains. Blunt pursued Marmaduke's forces for 12 miles before the Confederates reached the safety of the hills. Though the conflict lasted for nine hours, casualties were light. The Yankees suffered 41 men killed or wounded, while the Confederates lost 45.

This small engagement was a prelude to a much larger clash at Prairie Grove, Arkansas, nine days later. Blunt's advance left him dangerously isolated from Union forces in Springfield, Missouri, but when Hindman attacked again on December 7, he still failed to expel Blunt from northwestern Arkansas.

Charlie Daniels on the Confederate Flag, Restraint and Common Sense

By Charlie Daniels

Demonstrators carry Confederate flags as they leave the entrance of the South Carolina Statehouse after the removal of the flag in Columbia, S.C., on July 1, 2000. (AP Photo/Eric Draper)

The recent senseless act of slaughter in a church in Charleston, South Carolina awakened America to the ever-present lunacy and evil that walks among us, and it has also reopened some old wounds and deep feelings on both sides of a long festering situation.

Before I go any farther with this piece, I wish to express my love and admiration for the people of Charleston, who have, in the face of immense pain, shown a restraint and a common sense seldom seen in tragic situations involving race.

When I saw the pictures of the people who had been murdered, I made the statement, "I know these people," which I didn't mean literally, but figuratively. They were the kind of Christian people I have been around all my life – worked with and sat in the pews of churches with – salt of the earth folks, who not only professed to know the Lord Jesus Christ, but lived their faith every day of their lives.

These are the kind of people you want to have praying for you, the kind who know how to put their arms around a hurting person and comfort and console. They are the kind of people who raised their families to turn to Almighty God in times of trouble and heartbreak, proven by the forgiving words spoken by family members in court to the monster who had wantonly murdered their loved ones.

As in all Satan inspired iniquity, God has the ability to bring great good, and in this situation, the people of Charleston, South Carolina have shown the depth of common sense and class that exists in that community. More importantly, they showed the world what being a Christian is all about. I feel sure that a jury of peers in South Carolina will see that Dylann Roof gets what's coming to him, and justice will be served and meted out to the full extent of the law. In relation to the main crux of my column today, I would like to relate an experience I had in a Midwestern city when the band was appearing with the local symphony orchestra. In the evening before the show started, one of the venue staff came to me and said, "There is a gentleman out front who is offended by the confederate flag on your piano."

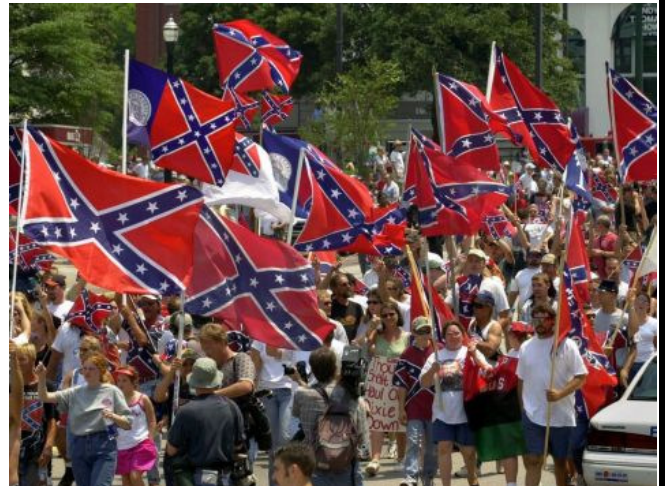
I responded that we didn't have a Confederate flag painted on our piano. The upshot of the whole thing was that Taz, our keyboard player, had an American flag and a Tennessee flag with the flagstaves crossed on the front of his piano, with a drawing of his namesake, a cartoon Tasmanian Devil, and the phrase "Yessiree, Tennessee" painted under it.

The point I'm making is that this gentleman was probably the kind of person who looks for something to be offended about and sees things that aren't even there.

Of course, the situation concerning the Confederate flag in Charleston is a much more serious situation with justifiable feelings that go back a century and a half, and the problem has the potential to be a racially divisive one.

The bottom line is that the flag in question represents one thing to some people and another thing to others. Far be it from me to advise the people of South Carolina or any other state as to what they should fly over their capitol buildings, or anywhere else in the state for that matter, but I truly hate to see the opportunists move in and create a symbol of hate out of a simple piece of cloth.

Of course, we know most politicians are going to chime in and glean whatever political hay that is available, but in my book, the corporate rush to rid their shelves of anything with the Confederate battle flag on it is pure hypocrisy.



If they felt that deeply about the subject, they should have done something years ago, and I notice they have no problem accepting the profits from the merchandise they have on hand.

I have received many requests to do interviews on this subject and had a lot of tweets asking me to comment, but I declined, wanting to take the time to explain my feelings in detail, without having to answer other people's loaded questions or express myself in a 140-character limit on Twitter.

This will have the potential to be lengthy, so bear with me and I will try my best to relate my honest feelings on the Confederate flag in question, which was actually the battle flag carried by several Confederate army regiments – and was not the official flag of the Confederacy.

I was born in 1936, a mere 71 years after the Civil War ended, when the South was looked upon by what seemed to be a majority of the Northern States as an inbred, backward, uneducated, slow-talking and slower-thinking people, with low morals and a propensity for incest.

This was in the days before television, and about all the folks up North knew about Southerners was what they heard. There were a lot of people who took great pleasure in proliferating the myth, and some still do it to this day. As you might suppose, people in the South bitterly resented this attitude of superiority, and in some quarters the words “damn” and “Yankee” became one word. And a somewhat fierce type of Southern pride came into being.

The Confederate battle flag was a sign of defiance, a sign of pride, a declaration of a geographical area that you were proud to be from. That's all it is to me and all it has ever been to me.

I can't speak for all, but I know in my heart that most Southerners feel the same way.

I have no desire to reinstate the Confederacy. I oppose slavery as vehemently as any man, and I believe that every human being, regardless of the color of their skin, is just as valuable as I am and deserves the exact same rights and advantages as I do.

I feel that this controversy desperately needs to be settled without federal interference and input from race baiters like Al Sharpton. It's up to the individual states as to what they allow to be a part of their public image. What the majority of the people of any given state want should, in my opinion, be their policy.

Unfortunately, the Confederate battle flag has been adopted by hate groups – and individuals like Dylann Roof – to supposedly represent them and their hateful view of the races.

Please believe me when I say that, to the overwhelming majority of Southerners, the flag represents no such thing, but is simply a banner denoting an area of the nation and one's pride in living there.

I know there will be those who will take these words of mine, try to twist them or call them insincere and try to make what I've said here some kind of anti-black racial statement, but I tell everybody who reads this article, I came up in the days of cruel racial prejudice and Jim Crow laws, when the courts were tilted against any black man, when the segregated educational system was inferior and when opportunities for blacks to advance were almost nonexistent.

I lived through the useless cruelty of those days and did not get my feelings out of some sensitivity class or social studies course, but made my own decisions out of experience and disgust.

I hold no ill feelings and have no axes to grind with my brothers and sisters of any color. The same God made us; the same God will judge us; and I pray that He will intervene in the deep racial divide we have in this nation and make each person – black or white – see each other for what we truly are, human beings. No better, and no worse.

It's time to do away with labels: Caucasian-American, African-American, Asian-American, Native American and so

forth. How about just a simple "AMERICAN"? What do you think?

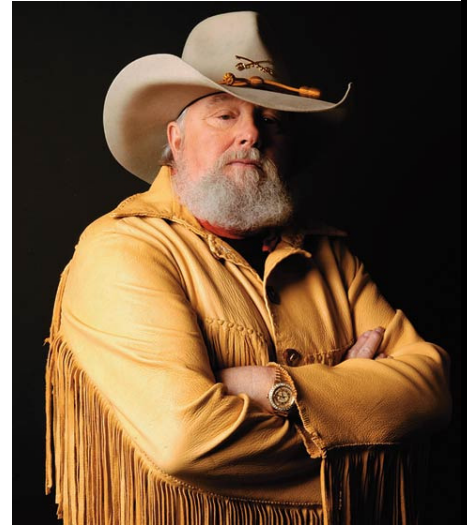
Pray for our troops and the peace of Jerusalem.

God Bless America

Charlie Daniels

Charlie Daniels is a legendary American singer, song writer, guitarist, and fiddler famous for his contributions to country and southern rock music. Daniels has been active as a singer since the early 1950s. He was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry on January 24, 2008.

<http://www.cnsnews.com/commentary/charlie-daniels/charlie-daniels-confederate-flag-restraint-and-common-sense>



Future Site of
The National Confederate Museum
at Historic Elm Springs

 ***Columbia, Tennessee***

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