



The Courier

Newsletter of the Sam Davis Camp No. 1293 SCV

Sons of Confederate Veterans *December, 2019*

Alabama Supremes Get it Right

Alabama's Supreme Court ruled unanimously on November 27th that the city of Birmingham broke state law when it ordered plywood screens be placed around the base of a Confederate monument in 2017.

The 9-0 ruling by Alabama's high court reversed a ruling by a lower court that was favorable to the city.

The Jefferson Circuit Court ruled in January that Alabama's law protecting historical monuments was ambiguous and that it also violated the city of Birmingham's right to free speech.

The Alabama Supreme Court said the lower court erred when it ruled that the municipality had constitutional rights to free speech. In its ruling, the high court ordered the circuit judge to "enter an order declaring that the [city's] actions constitute a violation" and also imposed a fine of \$25,000 against Birmingham.

The fine could have been much stiffer, as Alabama law calls for a payment of \$25,000 "for each violation." However, in his 46-page opinion, Alabama Justice Tommy Bryan cited precedent and the "ambiguous" question about the penalty provision.

"The State contends that this part of the penalty provision is ambiguous because it does not clearly indicate whether the legislature intended "only the initial act of erecting the plywood screen [as the sole] 'violation' within the meaning of the Act, or whether each day the public is

prevented from viewing the expressive content of the monument [should be counted as] a separate violation.

...
"A single fine in this amount for an intentional violation of the statute, after over two years of litigation, seems to be a minute deterrence for the same or similar future conduct."

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall said in a statement that the Supreme Court ruling was "the correct conclusion," adding: "The Supreme Court's ruling is a victory for the Alabama law which seeks to protect historical monuments. The City of Birmingham acted unlawfully when it erected barriers to

day, Rick Journey, director of communications in the Office of Public Information for the city of Birmingham, said, "We are strongly disappointed with the ruling of the Alabama Supreme Court. This ruling appears to be less about the rule of law and more about politics. We are carefully reviewing the opinion to determine our next step, but clearly the citizens of Birmingham should have the final decision about what happens with monuments on Birmingham city grounds."

The legal battle over the Confederate monument began more than two years ago when Alabama filed a lawsuit against Birmingham. The suit claimed the city was violating the 2017 Alabama Memorial Preservation Act.

That law protects against the removal, relocation or altering of long-standing symbols of the Confederacy, including the names of buildings or streets that have been in place more than 40 years.

As NPR's Ian Stewart reported in January, when Birmingham officials ordered that the enclosure be built, it came "amid a national reckoning on racial violence and Confederate symbolism [and] the city's mayor decided the monument should be covered up. Tall plywood walls were installed around its base, obscuring inscriptions on the pedestal."

According to court documents, the east corner of the monument's base reads: "In



obstruct the view of the 114-year-old Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Linn Park."

The city of Birmingham continues to disagree with this position.

In a statement late Wednes-

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Samuel Davis

Next Camp Meeting: Thursday, December 12th Oglesby Community Center, 6:00 p.m.

Confederate Calendar

December 7th & 8th ~ "Civil War" Show at the Williamson Ag. Exp Center. Help work a while at the Sam Davis Camp recruiting and information table. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

December 12th ~ Sam Davis Camp meets at the Oglesby Community Center, 6.00 p.m. The Center is adjacent to the Woodson Chapel Church of Christ on Edmondson Pike, 1/2 block South of the intersection of Edmondson Pike and Old Hickory Blvd. This is our combined November/December camp meeting, our last for the year, starts at 6:00 p.m. Come hungry, bring the family and invite your friends! Program: "The Life of Gen. & Mrs. Robert Hatton" by Dottie Meadows and Martin Frost of the Hatton Camp in Lebanon.

December 15th ~ Battle of Nashville Observance at Peach Orchard Hill (Harding Place and Franklin Road), 2-4 p.m. Come out and help show the colors

January 23rd ~ Sam Davis Camp meets at the Oglesby Community Center, 7.00 p.m. Program: Dr. Ron Zellen, "Civil War Medicine".



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Honor of the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors." And on another side, "The manner of their death was the crowning glory of their lives."

Much of the 52-foot obelisk can be seen poking above the plywood enclosure. But the court's opinion adds:

"Photographs of the monument included in the record taken before and after the placement of the plywood screen confirm that the 12-foot plywood screen around the base of the monument completely blocks the view of all inscriptions on the monument."

Lincoln's Little Blue Pills

Abraham Lincoln reached over and picked a man up by the coat collar at the back of the neck and shook him "until his teeth chattered." He became so angry "his voice thrilled and his whole frame shook." Lincoln only stopped when someone, "fearing that he would shake Ficklin's head off," broke his grip. A new study suggests that mercury poisoning may explain Lincoln's bizarre behavior.

Lincoln during in this 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debate is a far cry from our vision of Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial, sitting patient and thoughtful with the weight of the nation on his shoulders. A study published in the Summer 2001, issue of Perspectives in Biology and Medicine reformulates a common anti-depressive medication of the nineteenth century and shows that it would have delivered a daily dose of mercury exceeding the current Environmental Protection Agency safety standard by nearly 9000 times.

"We wondered how a man could be described as having the patience

of a saint in his fifties when only a few years earlier he was subject to outbursts of rage and bizarre behavior," said Norbert Hirschhorn, M.D., retired public health physician, medical historian and lead author of the study.

"Mercury poisoning certainly could explain Lincoln's known neurological symptoms: insomnia, tremor and the rage attacks," said Robert G. Feldman, M.D., professor of neurology, pharmacology, and environmental health at the Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health, an expert on heavy metal poisoning and co-author of the paper. "But what is even more important, because the behavioral effects of mercury poisoning may be reversible, it also explains the composure for which he was famous during his tenure as president."

Lincoln was known to have taken "blue mass," a pill containing mercury, apparently to treat his persistent "melancholia," (then known also as hypochondriasis.) In 1861, a few months after the inauguration, however, perceptively noting that blue mass made him "cross," Lincoln stopped taking the medication.

"We wanted to determine how toxic the mercury in the blue mass pills was likely to be," said Ian A Greaves, M.D., associate professor of environment and occupational health and associate dean at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, co-author. "We used a nineteenth century recipe to recreate blue mass. The ingredients included, besides mercury, liquorice root, rose-water, honey and sugar and dead rose petals. It was compounded with an old-fashioned mortar and pestle and rolled to size on a 19th century pill tile. But, in accord with 20th century safety standards, we wore surgical gowns, gloves, masks and caps and worked with modern ventilation equipment."



Caution was well advised. The method of compounding the blue mass pill, dispersing the mercury into fine particles and increasing its surface area, was meant to assure its absorption into the body and did. The vapor released by the two pills in the stomach would have been 40 times the safe limit set by the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Health. The solid element of mercury absorbed from two pills would have been 750 micrograms. The EPA indicates that only up to 21 micrograms of any form of mercury per day may safely be ingested. Someone who ate the common dose of two to three little pills per day would have seriously risked poisoning.

"The wartime Lincoln is remembered for his self-control in the face of provocation, his composure in the face of adversity," said Hirschhorn. "If Lincoln hadn't recognized that the little blue pill he took made him 'cross,' and stopped the medication, his steady hand at the helm through the Civil War might have been considerably less steady."

It's Not Your Flag!

In late June of 1863, the 800-plus North Carolinians who made up the 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment began their long march from the vicinity of Fredericksburg, Virginia to near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The 26th NC was made up of primarily hardscrabble farm boys from central and western North Carolina. A great many of these men were under the age of 25. Among them were two of my ancestors.

Records indicate the Colonel of the 26th, Harry Burgwyn, Jr. was a slave owner. While we may look at that as being "racist" in today's world, in 1861, in all of America, it was perfectly legal and in June of 1863, according to Abraham Lincoln's recently issued Emancipation Proclamation, slavery was legal in every northern state, all of the border states, and any area in the south under control of the Union Army. Slavery in any area

under dominion and control of Abraham Lincoln and the US government was legal. How is it that none of the flags presented or displayed by the Union Army are considered "racist" today?

Slave owners within the ranks of the 26th NC Infantry Regiment were as rare as common sense in a meeting of Cultural Marxists. Not too hard to fathom considering that over 94% of people in the South did not own a single slave. Yet census records in 1860 show that about 3,500 free Blacks owned slaves in the south.

Families, though, were well-represented throughout the 26th NC. Sometimes as many as eight brothers had joined the various companies throughout the regiment; in "F" Company there were three sets of twins.

It should be of special note that upon departure from Virginia, within the 26th NC over 150 of the men in the ranks were barefooted. A veteran of the march from Virginia to Pennsylvania would write, "thousands were as ragged as they could be, some with the bottom of their pants in long frazzles, others with their knees sticking out, others out at their elbows, and their hair sticking through holes in their hats..." Farmers from the area these men called home could not afford replacement clothes and shoes, much less slaves. One of their officers wrote home of these men, "These men were patriots; they loved their country; they loved liberty... They were quick to see, quick to understand, quick to act..."

To a student of history, the character and dedication of these young men appear eerily similar to those who secured our freedom from King George III. As a matter of fact, they were most proud of the name "Rebel," for that was the sobriquet Major John Pitcairn of the Royal Marines had called out to those farmers and shopkeepers assembled on the Green in Lexington, Massachusetts on April 19, 1775. "Disperse ye Rebels, ye villains disperse. Why don't ye lay down your arms?"

Of the 216 men of the 26th NC who participated in the battle on

the third of July, only eighty-four survived. All told, the 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment suffered the greatest losses of any unit on either side during the war.

Little did these extraordinarily brave and courageous men know that 150 years later, worthless pieces of humanity who do nothing but use up good oxygen and lack the courage one of these brave men had in the tip of his finger, would refer to them — and those of their posterity who honor such courage, devotion, and commitment — as "racists."

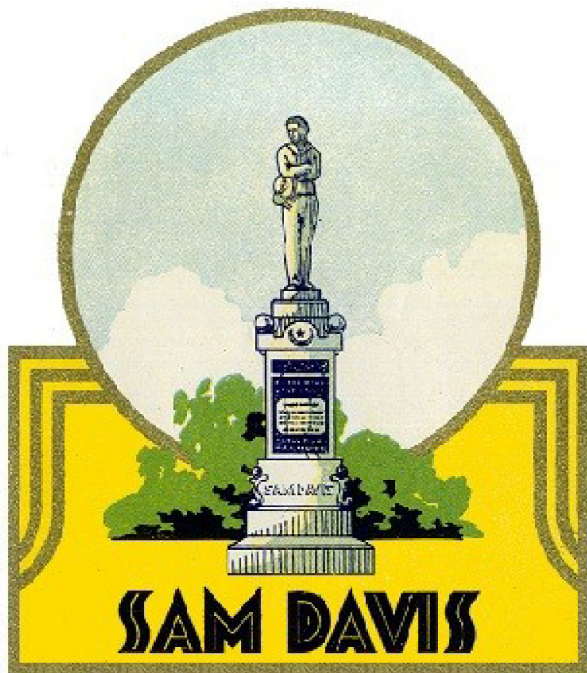
Those who have fallen mentally ill and cowardly while absorbing the deadly viruses of political correctness, White guilt, and Cultural Marxism are unworthy of being mentioned in the same breath as any of these heroes. These heroes' letters home spoke of defending their country from the "Yankee invader" and defending freedom and liberty. They gave the ultimate sacrifice on the field of honor.

The overwhelming majority of these young men owned no slaves and their absence placed terrible burdens on their families. Theirs was a battle for home, family, and fireside — and the right of "consent of the governed" as was stated in our Declaration of Independence.

Abject cowards despise the virtue of bravery in others. Those who have no honor or commitment to purpose abhor those who do. The men of the 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment had courage, honor, and commitment in abundance. They died or were seriously injured carrying the Confederate Battle Flag into battle. That flag is representative of the character of the men who died on the field of honor in valiant pursuit of that which they believe to be right and true. That flag also represents those who hold such honor, bravery and dedication in the highest regard and cherish the memory of the men who left home and family behind in the pursuit of freedom from invasion, oppression and tyranny.

The Confederate Battle Flag has flown where the idea of resistance to tyranny is paramount — and ranked higher than the consideration for one's personal safety and





Published by The Sam Davis Camp #1293, Sons of Confederate Veterans, P. O. Box 3448, Brentwood, Tenn. 37024

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Brentwood, Tenn. 37024



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well-being. The "Southern Cross," as it is often called, was seen in WWII, on the Berlin Wall before it fell, and in Tiananmen Square in Beijing during the protests in 1989.

When the Standards Committee of the Confederate Congress decided on the design of the Cross of St. Andrew for the Confederate Battle Flag, the following explanation was sent to Samuel Barrett of Georgia:

"The flag should be a token of humble acknowledgment of God and be a public testimony to the world that our trust is in the Lord our God."

If you are a coward, an advocate of political correctness, a Cultural Marxist, a person who lacks a commitment to moral standards, or simply a member of the institutionalized ignorant segment of American society, the Confederate Battle Flag — The Southern Cross — is not your flag. Leave the presentation and possession of this flag to those who possess a portion of the character, courage, and commitment to freedom and honor of the men of the 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment and tens of thousands of other brave southern men who marched under that banner, and those of us who cherish their memory.

Those who hate this flag and seek to ban it do so because in their hearts and minds they know they will never, ever, be equal to the challenges of those who fought and died for it. It is not your flag! Leave it the Hell alone! -- Michael Gaddy

Winstead Hill, before and after placement of the Florida Monument. Some finish work remains to be done on the retaining wall to make it as nice as the connecting walkway, which was the handiwork of Jerry Raymer.

