



The Courier

Newsletter of the Sam Davis Camp No. 1293 SCV

Sons of Confederate Veterans Brentwood, Tn June, 2018*

Why Confederate Monuments Matter

First of all, I wish to state that I teach history. I do not try to erase it, and I do not desecrate graves, like the “politically correct” did in Memphis and elsewhere.

I understand why corrupt political nonentities like the mayors of Memphis and New Orleans would want Confederate statues removed. They want to divert the voters’ attention from their demonstrated incompetency and the abject failure of their administrations, especially in the area of crime control, and who better to attack than men long since dead? In Memphis, it also provided a fine smoke-screen. The mayor transferred a whole city block worth millions to one of his political cronies for \$1,000. The fact that they probably broke every Sunshine law and public bidding law ever written is, to them, incidental.

As a historian, my motto is “Seek the Truth.” What we are experiencing in the removal of the Confederate monuments is part of a movement which is nothing less than cultural nihilism. (Nihilism is the viewpoint that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and their existence is useless and immoral; thereafter, their destruction is desirable.) Other than Black Lies Matter, the only group actively engaged in destroying monuments (at least until President Trump recently put a stop to it) is ISIS, but there have been others in history: the Jacobins in France, who destroyed the most beautiful stained glass in the world; the Nazis, who destroyed Jewish

cemeteries and the monuments to the Jewish composers and intellectuals throughout Europe; the Red Guard, who destroyed thirty centuries of priceless art because it did not fit in with the Little Red Book of Chairman Mao; and other cultural nihilists.

In this purging of history, the Confederate monuments are just the start. Monuments and graves of non-Confederates have come under attack or been defaced. One prominent member of the civil rights industry has launched a personal crusade against the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. Carried to its logical conclusion, we had better get ready to rip down a lot of



monuments and change the names of a lot of places. New York, for example, was named after James Stuart, the Duke of York. He also directed the Royal African Company, which transported more than 100,000 slaves from Africa to the New World. He was a slave trader in a monumental way! (Pun intended.)

There are those right now who are shaking their heads and saying it will never happen. But it will! What is to stop it? With these groups, one demand is only followed by another. If we

succumb to their ridiculous demands for reparations, for example, they would be followed by demands for more and larger reparations later. There is no end to their insatiable demands. Those collaborators and fellow travelers who are prepared to outlaw the Confederate Battle Flag should also be prepared for demands to scrap the American flag. Louis Farrakhan was entirely consistent when he demanded that the United States’ flag be changed. When it was created, every one of its 13 stripes represented a slave-holding colony. When the country was formed, every one of the 13 stripes represented a slave state. The Southern Battle Flag never flew over a slave ship, but Old Glory did!

Much of the attitude of the so-called activists is based on a flawed view of history. They look upon history from the present to the past and thus judge the people of the past based on the cultural mores of the present. But they do not live their lives that way. None of us do. We all live our lives from the present to the future. The people of the past lived their lives from their present to their future. We should judge them accordingly. Martin Luther King, for example, opposed gay marriage. Are the people of the future going to call him a homophobe or an anti-gay bigot and tear down his monuments? I sincerely hope not, but I suppose anything is possible.

According to FBI reports and other sources, Dr. King also had occasional extramari-

...continued on page 2...

Samuel Davis

Next Camp Meeting: Thursday, June 28th Oglesby Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

Confederate Calendar

June 28th ~~ Sam Davis Camp meets at 7:00 p.m., Oglesby Community Center. **Burgers and dogs will be served....** 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.

June 30th ~~ Ross Massey's "Tennessee Secession Party at the Massey Plantation, 7465 Indian Creek Road, Nashville. 7:07 p.m. until...

July 7th ~~ 20th Annual Ole Bedford's Black Eye Pea and Sweet Tater Luncheon

July 18th - 21st ~~ 2018 National Reunion, Cool Springs Marriott Hotel in Franklin. Schedule and registration details at <http://scv.org/new/reunion2018>

July 26th ~~ Sam Davis Camp meets at 7:00 p.m., Oglesby Community Center.

...continued from page 1...

tal flings, leading Lyndon Johnson to call him a "hypocritical preacher." I abhor adultery. Does this mean I should advocate tearing down his monuments and desecrating his grave? By no means! Do I have any moral right to do so? Absolutely not! Like any other person, alive or dead, we should recognize that King was not perfect, but we should nevertheless study him and his ideas and admire his courage and strengths.

The same could be said for Robert E. Lee. I disagree with some of the things General Lee did (such as losing the Battle of Gettysburg), but I agree with Franklin D. Roosevelt, who called him the most Christ-like American who ever lived, and Winston Churchill, who

called him the most noble man who ever spoke the English language. (Like Lincoln, he advocated the gradual emancipating of the slaves, incidentally.) Rather than destroy Lee's statues, we should be teaching his values in our schools. What if we had a nation of Robert E. Lees? Do you think we would have 40 or so young people murdered every long weekend in Chicago alone? I don't think so.

What should we do now? First, we should pray. During the War for Southern Self-Determination, General Lee prayed for the Northern people every night. We should pray for the self-ordained politically correct, in the hope that God might cure their arrogance and that they might develop some discernment, judgment, discretion, and intelligence — and perhaps some class. Prayer should always be our option of the first resort. Second, we must stop apologizing for our history and assume the offensive. Cultural nihilism must be checked or Western Civilization itself may disappear from our continent. Make no mistake—the South is the greatest bastion of Western Civilization left in the world. We must resolve to preserve our heritage. We should be (and are) building new monuments and raising Battle Flags everywhere — not as the symbol of a nation but as a symbol of resistance to cultural nihilism. Membership in such organizations as the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, and the Abbeville Institute should be expanded. Third, we should educate ourselves and our posterity. ~~ Samuel W. Mitcham

Who Really Fired the Last Shot?

Who really fired the last shot of the War Between the States?

This question has been asked over and over since the War. For most believe it was the battle of Palmito Ranch on May 13, 1865, in southwest Texas. But was the last shot in anger really fired in Texas? Many historians think so, but documentation illustrates that the last shot in anger was fired on June 22, 1865; not by the army but the Confederate States Navy.

As every school boy and girl knows, the CSS Shenandoah set sail from England as a private merchant ship named the Sea King on October 7, 1864, heading for the Madiera Islands. There she was transformed into a Confederate raider and commissioned on October 19, 1864. The Shenandoah orders were to disrupt the Yankee merchant shipping and whaling fleets.

On June 22, 1865, on patrol in the Bering Sea, the Shenandoah encountered a small flotilla of Yankee whalers. She fire two rounds at them resulting in their surrender. At the time, the crew of the Shenandoah did not realize that they had just fired the last shots in anger of the War.

On June 29, 1865, the Shenandoah encountered a French and Hawaiian ship, both giving the news that Lincoln had been shot and Lee surrendered. Not knowing that the news was trustworthy, the Shenandoah continued her patrol and on August 2, 1865, she encountered a British warship confirming the end of the War.

After receiving the confirmation, the Shenandoah and her crew were now considered pirates by the



US government and set sail to England. The Shenandoah sailed into Liverpool, England on November 5, 1865 and surrendered to the British government on the next day, thus ending her career as a Confederate raider and being the command to fire the last shot in anger of the War Between the States.

God Bless the Confederate States Navy, the South and those who offered their lives in maintenance of its Principles. ~~ Bryan Green

Help Needed at the Reunion

Our 2018 National Reunion is taking place in Franklin this year, sponsored by the Headquarters Camp. We have been asked to help cover the registration tables for the event, and we need to know who will be able to work, the times you will be available, and a contact number. Here's the schedule:

Wednesday 18th, 3 to 6 p.m., two to three volunteers.

Thursday 19th, 8 til Noon and Noon til 5:00, four volunteers

Friday 20th, 8 til Noon, two volunteers, and Noon til 5:00, one volunteer.

Saturday, 21st, 8 til 10:00 a.m., one volunteer

National will have registration packets already filled and separated per Army, so we'll need one person for each Army to check in those already registered, and one more person for those registering on site. Thursday is the busiest day. If you can help, call Gene Andrews at 833-2930 or Monte McDearis at 972-3999 as soon as possible. If we come up short, we'll have to call other camps to help. Anyone who would like to help is welcome to do so. They don't have to be an SCV member to volunteer.

Most National Reunions take place in other states, this is the last one scheduled for anywhere in Tennessee for the foreseeable future. Don't miss it!

Lawmakers Take Heed

Charlottesville, Virginia...

As the Confederate monument lawsuit against the city of Charlottesville and five current and former city councilors moves forward, the financial threat to the individual councilors is real.

While Judge Richard Moore has said councilors can't be liable for punitive damages in the case, they could be on the hook for plaintiffs' legal fees if the suit prevails.

"It's likely that the attorneys' fees, in this case, would be hundreds of thousands of dollars," said legal analyst Scott Goodman.

In the suit, filed in Charlottesville Circuit Court in March 2017, plaintiffs allege that the city councilors knew they were violating state law protecting war memorials when they voted to remove the statue of Robert E. Lee in downtown Charlottesville.

Former councilor Bob Fenwick, one of the defendants, denies he did anything wrong.

"I was an elected official and I represented my constituents the best I could, so there was no gain to me to make it gross negligence or any of that," he said.

The vote, he said, was taken after great consideration and after studying the issue of Confederate monuments. He said he was told the law protecting them was "weak," and there's a long history in this country of challenging existing laws that are unfair.

"We had the Blue Ribbon Commission, we had attorneys say that there was about a 50/50 chance," Fenwick said. "We are entitled to bring these things forward without fear of punishment."

However, Goodman says the court may not see it that way.

"The law applies to everyone, and city councilors can't break the law or go against the law just because they're saying, 'Well, we're official members of city council and

that gives us immunity.' It doesn't work that way," he said.

Fenwick says a judgment against councilors wouldn't just harm them financially as individuals. He says it would hurt democracy.

"It would have a chilling effect, all across the Commonwealth," he said. "Who is going to want to serve on an elected board, if they thought that somebody who disagreed with their decision could sue them."

Goodman disagrees that a judgment would have an effect on candidacies.

"This shouldn't be a chilling effect if the councilors are held liable," he said. "What this means is that people, even in office, are required to abide by the law."

Another plaintiff in the case, the Charlottesville-based nonprofit Monument Fund, Inc., is raising money for the fight in court.

According to the Guidestar website, which details nonprofits and how much money they have on hand, the group has gross receipts of \$118,907 and assets of \$81,115.

The Monument Fund was founded in 2016 and its website says it is dedicated to defending monuments against threats and

Mississippi Gov. Honored by SCV

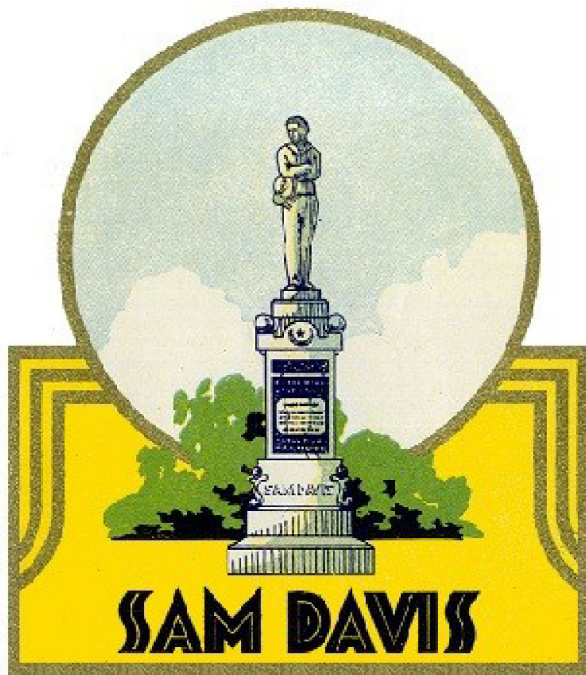
Echoes of "Dixie" rang through the conference room at Beauvior on Saturday as the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans opened their annual reunion with a booming a capella rendition of the Confederate battle song.

A while later, the banquet began and featured a high-profile award recipient: Gov. Phil Bryant.

Though Bryant, a dues-paying member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, did not attend the event, he was honored on Saturday with the group's annual Gov. John J. Pettus Heritage Award.

"We're an organization trying to promote the true Southern history, and we wanted to honor Gov. Bryant for his role in doing that," said Jeff Barnes, leader of the





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

Commander ~ Monte McDearis

Lt. Commander ~ Gene Andrews

Adjutant ~ Allen Sullivant 971-7454

Treasurer ~ James Turner 335-6944

Chaplain ~ Tony Rocchietti 399-1606

Newsletter Editor ~ Allen Sullivant 971-7454

Web Address ~ <http://www.samdaisycamp.org>

The Courier

Sam Davis Camp #1293

Sons of Confederate Veterans

P. O. Box 3448

Brentwood, Tenn. 37024



First Class Mail
Dated Material

Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. “Really, it’s for the proclamations of Confederate Heritage Month. That’s why we honored him.”

Bryant has signed state proclamations declaring April as “Confederate Heritage Month” each year since he became governor in 2012. Those proclamations have carried on a tradition started by former Gov. Kirk Fordice in 1993 – the same year Mississippi began recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Fordice was also a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The group’s activities in Mississippi range from maintaining Civil War cemeteries and Confederate monuments to helping people trace their genealogical history. In recent weeks, the group has put their weight behind a ballot initiative aiming to cement the current state flag – which is the last in the nation containing the Confederate battle emblem – in the state’s constitution.

Bryant is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans’ Rankin County’s Lowry Rifles Camp #1740. That membership makes him the most prominent sitting public official in the United States who is a known member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks the SCV and similar Confederate-affiliated groups.

Bryant has never commented on his membership in the group, and his office did not comment on the recent award when asked by Mississippi Today.

“He doesn’t attend regular meetings, but his dues are paid and his membership status is current,” Marc Allen, Mississippi SCV public affairs officer and a member of the same chapter as Bryant, said last year. “Gov. Bryant has Confederate ancestors like many people in Mississippi do. This is one way we can honor and pay respect to American veterans.”

As violent events like the 2015 Charleston church shooting and the 2017 Charlottesville protests have reignited conversations about changing the Mississippi state flag, Bryant, whose state-issued SUV has a state flag license tag on the front, has pointed back to the 2001 referendum in which the state’s voters decided nearly 2-to-1 to keep the current state flag.

“Whatever the state flag is or is not should be decided by Mississippi voters,” Bryant said in 2017.

The June 9 event in which Bryant was held at Beauvoir, the Biloxi home of Confederate States of America President Jefferson Davis, and honored several of the group’s members through various awards, including the Gen. Nathaniel Bedford Forrest Compatriot of the Year Award and the Col. William H. Moore Recruiter of the Year Award.

“It’s an honor he (Gov. Bryant) would be part of our group, and we were happy to honor him last weekend,” Barnes said.