



The Courier

Newsletter of the Sam Davis Camp No. 1293 SCV

Sons of Confederate Veterans Brentwood, Tn September,

Lines are Drawn in Franklin

(This publication is not in the habit of reproducing articles from the local fish wrapper, but this one happens to be fairly concise and mostly correct.)

FRANKLIN — A proposal to add new markers depicting African-American history to Franklin's public square has reopened a debate over who owns the land surrounding a Confederate monument there.

Franklin alderman unanimously voted to ask the court to determine the property's owner after a lawyer representing the Daughters of the Confederacy threatened to sue the city if anything new was placed on the square without the consent of the Civil War group.

Both the city and the Daughters of Confederacy Chapter 14 of Franklin said they own the land on the public square.

The statue was erected nearly 120 years ago. A judge ruled in a 1997 lawsuit that the Daughters of the Confederacy owned the monument and the ground underneath. However, the ruling did not include dimensions.

The markers, proposed earlier this month by faith leaders and local historians including the Battle of Franklin Trust, would depict African American history on the square and throughout Williamson County. The square served as a slave market in the 1840s.

The monument

The Daughters of the Confederacy placed the Confederate soldier statue on

the square in 1899 to remember those who died in the Battle of Franklin.

The monument is 37 feet tall, according to a records from former county historian Virginia Bowman. The base of the structure is 6 feet, 6 inches tall.

Tennessee Gov. Benton McMillin was in attendance for the dedication, according to an 1899 article in *The Nashville American* recapping the event.

"The largest crowd that has been seen in Williamson's Capital since the war has been on its streets to-day," the article stated. "The business quarter and majority of residences were

racially discriminatory intent or motive."

The property

Minutes from the Williamson County quarterly court of 1899 said the Daughters of the Confederacy own the piece of land underneath the monument.

But throughout the years, the square has been developed into the roundabout it is today.

In 1990, architects updated the land around the square. Franklin later spent money on beautification of the public square in the 1990s during the Main Street revitalization project, known as Streetscape.

In 1997, a local ruling from Middle Tennessee District Court Judge Trice Nixon ruled that a piece of property on the Franklin square belonged to the Daughters of the Confederacy.

"The city doesn't own the monument or the land on which it sits," Judge Nixon wrote in the ruling. However, no dimensions for the land were given in the ruling. Daughters of the Confederacy attorney Douglas Jones said that ruling proves they own the public square.

However, the ruling's ambiguity has left Franklin leaders puzzled over the last decade. In 2010, city officials reached an agreement with the Daughters of the Confederacy for the monument's upkeep.

"There is not a deed," then-Mayor John Schroer said in 2010. "It is on city property. There are certainly some questions about ownership, but



profusely decorated. Confederate flags fluttered from every high point, and the colors of the Confederacy, red and white, lent color to every avenue leading to the Public Square."

In the 1980s, the monument was depicted on Franklin Police Department patches, as a symbol of the city. The Confederate and Tennessee state flag were also used on the patch.

As part of a lawsuit from 1997, Bowman, the county historian at the time, said the statue was never put up with "any

...continued on page 2...

Samuel Davis

Next Camp Meeting: Thursday, September 27th Oglesby Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

Confederate Calendar

September 27th ~ Sam Davis Camp meets at 7:00 p.m., Oglesby Community Center. 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.

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

...continued from page 1...

that is not really relevant. This is an important piece of the city of Franklin. They might have gifted it to the city. They don't know."

Property Assessor Brad Coleman added that the Daughters of the Confederacy don't pay property taxes for the land.

"No one pays taxes on this property," Coleman said. "The way that we have the square set up, we don't have a separate parcel for the square. It was dedicated as open space previously. Typically with all of our open space properties we don't have a value."

Franklin City Administrator Eric Stuckey said he contended that the public square was public right-of-way because of the intersection of two state highways.

The proposal

Earlier this month, a group of faith leaders and local historians proposed to adding four historical markers to the land around the monument.

Two markers would address the historical significance of the Williamson County Courthouse and Market House, where African-Americans were sold as slaves. Prior to the Civil War, around 12,000 slaves resided in the county.

One would discuss the Franklin riot of 1867, where political groups clashed and one man was killed and at least 27 members of the members of the Colored League were wounded. The last of the markers would address the Jim Crow Era and Reconstruction in Williamson County.

The markers would be next to the steps onto the public square.

This week, aldermen deferred support for the markers. They plan to revisit the issue at their meeting on Sept. 25.

Faith and historical leaders would also like to add a statue recognizing the U.S. Colored Troops from Williamson County who served in the Civil War. A location for that statue hasn't been identified.

The group wants to have the markers up by 2019 and unveil them on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Br'er Gene Sez

Here are some dates and reminders for everyone. Mark your calendars now!

Monday, November 12; Veteran's Day Parade

Yes, they've moved Veteran's Day Parade to Monday, the 12th. Why? Because the Grand Titans of the KKK have a home football game on Sunday, the 11th, and we can't interfere with those patriotic players kneeling for the National Anthem.

Please come out to be a part of this event. If you have to drive then drive in the parade, but be there. Do you realize how lucky we are? When Confederate Flags and Confederate groups are banned from parade all over the country, we have the American Legion **asking us** to participate in the parade. They have been asking us

for the last twenty years. Don't wring your hands and say "Ain't it awful?" when you don't do anything but sit at home and watch.

Sunday, November 25th: Winstead Hill Memorial March

Our second participation event is our annual Winstead Hill / Battle of Franklin Memorial March. Meet at Winstead Hill, two miles south of downtown at 3:00 p.m. Memorial Service at 3:30, and then we'll follow the footsteps of the Army of Tennessee at 4:00 p.m. and head up the Columbia Pike to the Carter House. Once again, if you need to drive, then please so but please be there. Once we lose these events because no one shows up, it will be next to impossible to bring them back. ~ Gene Andrews, Lt. Cmdr.

Six Reasons to Love the Confederate Battle Flag

Some claim offense by the red white and blue image of the Confederate Battle flag and demand its immediate removal from public places. Others embrace it and fly it proudly. Why would in individual chose one side over the other? Here are some possible reasons.

1. Christianity

A prominent feature of the Confederate Battle Flag is the "X" emblazoned boldly from corner to corner. Internationally, the "X" is known as shorthand for "Christ", thus the abbreviation "X-mas." The derivation for the design is the pattern of the Scottish Flag adopted in the 15th century to honor Jesus' Apostle, St. Andrew, who died a martyr's death on an "X" shaped cross.

Incorporating the "X" in the design in the 19th century southern battle flag by a population heavily weighted with Scottish and



Scot-Irish stock should not be surprising.

Neither surprising should be the abhorrence of this emblem by atheists who seek to eradicate all vestiges of God from public view. Dr. Ben Carson has said many times “America has a God problem,” and the disdain for the Southern Cross is symptomatic of that ill. The “Freedom From Religion” movement is a natural bedfellow of the Anti-Free Speech movement – both are avowed enemies of the 1st Amendment to the United States Constitution.

2. Diversity

The modern mantra “diversity is our strength” was never more exemplified than in the war time Southern Confederacy. The population of the South was more ethnically diverse than any other geographical area in the world. The “melting pot” of Jew and gentile, European and African, Hispanic and Asian is credited for producing the most potent fighting force, for its size, ever assembled.

The ranks of combatants fighting under the Confederate Battle flag were populated by a racially integrated military, more than 100 years before the same would be adopted by the foe.

Today, the Confederate Battle flag is beloved by and identified with my people of all ethnicities. What flag other than the Stars and Stripes can make this claim?

3. Identity

Southern-Americans are Americans, as much as any other hyphenated group. Southerners fight our wars, pay our taxes, build our roads and bridges, and write and sing our music.

As Elvis Presley is a world-renown icon of America, her history and her culture, so is the Confederate Battle Flag.

The French writer Milan Kundera opined that “the first step in liquidating a people is to erase its memory.” Shaming the Battle Flag and those that display it, and eradicating it from public view... yes, even in museums... has been the relentless demand of a segment of the political spectrum. The NAACP declared it and “odious blight on the universe” and

spokesmen claim it “reminds them” of a “dark time” in our Nation’s past. But then, so do litany of other inanimate objects that are conveniently weaponized to expunge American History and the American identity, which incorporates the American melting pot and suppress free expression.

Those who value American identity cannot refute that, like it or not, the Battle flag is an American icon.

4. Integrity

There are few symbols today that are more criticized than this emblem. It is often likened to the Swastika of Nazi Germany. But over the years the Stars and Stripes has accumulated detractors, as well. Even the Christian Cross has been banned from chapels on public universities and nativity scenes and 10 Commandment displays as well.

The swastika’s benign origin was hijacked by Nazi Germany. Similarly, the Confederate battle flag, originally intended to be a symbol of protection in battle, was hijacked for bad.

Few can disagree that like these other symbols, they are evocative to some and repulsive to others. But intellectual honesty demands that the meaning of an object or symbol that has been hijacked by one group does not change its meaning to all. In fact, by accepting the meaning of the hijackers one acquiesces to hijackers and labels the just unjust.

Americans are known for their ability to see through deceit and injustice and by assigning the true meaning to the Confederate Battle flag, they show their love of justice and integrity.

5. Liberty

Though the United Daughters of the Confederacy fought hard to cloister the flag of their fathers (google “Correct Use of the Confederate Flag”), when Americans needed a truly American symbol, they turned to the Confederate Battle flag.

During the Korean Conflict, the United Nation’s uniform blue helmets and ban on the Stars and Stripes required an identifiable “American” symbol. Enter the Confederate Battle flag. Since its re-

entry into world culture, it has gained international recognition as a symbol of resistance to tyranny used by freedom fighters on four continents. What the south developed in its resistance of a tyrannical neighbor has been exported to and adopted by the world.

The need to resist and oppose tyranny is innate to the human condition. God given rights require occasional enforcement. Tyrants oppose resistance in all forms, including the Southern Cross. Calling it “racist” has been effective in suppressing this symbol of resistance, despite the hypocrisy that other beloved American symbols can, when held to the same standard, be judged to be equally or more “racist” than this southern emblem.

Recently, opponents of liberty have admitted that the Confederate flag, to them, is identical to the Stars and Stripes, and all vestiges of them both must go.

In contrast, lovers of Liberty, even those who don’t understand the original message, will embrace, not suppress, a harmless piece of dyed fabric.

6. Unity

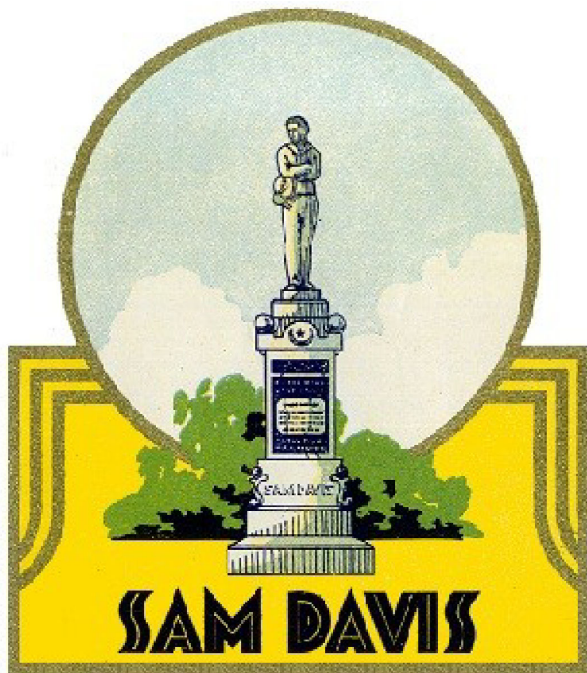
“United we Stand...divided we fall” is a practically an American nursery rhyme, excerpted from the 1768 “Liberty Song”.

Americans, like many families, bicker among ourselves, but when the real foe appears, we unite and fight them together.

The Confederate Flag also represents unity. Despite the rambunctious personalities and fiercely independent states that comprised the Confederate States of America, the Confederate Battle flag became the unifying symbol. Yes, it had multiple versions, but the Southern forces were united under the “X”, the Southern Cross, in Southern skies. A defensive fight, the South united, yellow, black, brown and white under the “X” to resist a superior invading force.

This unification in the face of adversity is most certainly a virtue that patriotic Americans can acknowledge. Anarchist, no-borders, one-worlders, naturally are not included in the aforementioned





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.samdaviscamp.org>

The Courier

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



First Class Mail
Dated Material

group, and consequently they reject any flag of unity, and instead attack it.

Not unlike the US Flag, the Confederate flag unifies the Southern people, who are a large and important segment of the American population, united with their brethren, but with distinctive differences. Unless they and their memory are to be eradicated from the face of the earth, continuing to attack the Confederate flag only promotes division, not American unity against adversity.

In conclusion, Americans who value Christianity, Unity, Liberty and Integrity, Diversity and American Identity cannot justifiably reject the Confederate Battle flag. In fact, it so precisely connotes these defining American values that to condemn it would be un-American. Nothing in man's domain is perfect – only in God's.

Each day, Americans strive to improve the human condition. Though imperfectly practiced, the American values represented in the Confederate Battle Flag, are ideals to be aspired to. Falling short of the ideal is no reason to end the striving or for censure the ideal's insignia.

Let us carefully watch who the critics of the emblems of American are and name them for what they are...enemies of America. ~~ Lola Sanchez

"This war must go on till the last of this generation falls in his tracks, and his children seize his musket and fight our battles, unless you acknowledge our right of self-government. We are not fighting for Slavery. We are fighting for independence; and that, or extermination, we will have."

~ Jefferson Davis, as quoted by Horace Greeley, July 29, 1864, New York Times



Members of the Tenn. Mechanized Cavalry pay a visit to Winstead Hill earlier this month.