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Paul C. Graham, Editor

A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHERN MEN

BIG RED COMING HOME

By Diane Knich

A battle flag that traveled to Iowa with a Union soldier at the end of the Civil War will soon be taking a \$75,000 trip home to South Carolina.

This is believed to be the original 'Big Red,' the flag flown on Jan. 9, 1861 when Citadel cadets fired on the Star of the West.

The red palmetto flag -- believed to be the one that flew over Morris Island on Jan. 9, 1861, when a battery of Citadel cadets fired on the supply ship Star of the West -- will require special and expensive care, said Ted Curtis, a 1964 Citadel graduate and chairman of an alumni committee that researched the flag's authenticity.

The flag, now part of a Civil War battle flag collection at Iowa's State Historical Museum, will travel to The Citadel carrying a \$1 million insurance policy in a climate-controlled truck with a security guard on board.



Before it arrives on the campus, the school must prepare a secure display space that is climate- and light-controlled. It also must arrange for ongoing care of the historic artifact, and cover attorney fees and other expenses involved in trademarking the historically correct version of the flag, known as "Big Red," as a school symbol, Curtis said.

The red palmetto flag is a powerful symbol for the state's military college, which adopted it as its "spirit flag" in 1992. Nobody knew what happened to the original flag until last month, when an alumni committee released a report making the case that the flag in the Iowa museum was likely the one that flew over Morris Island more than a century ago...

[S]ome Citadel alumni and others consider the shots fired three months earlier at the Star of the West, which forced the supply ship to turn around, to be the first shots of the Civil War. The Star of the West was a merchant vessel that was supplying the federal troops at Fort Sumter.

"A palpable buzz" permeated the campus and alumni network after the report was released, Curtis said. And efforts to bring the flag to campus on long-term loan quickly revved into high gear.

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SPEAKING OF FORT SUMTER...

The following excerpt is from an article by Prof. Robert L. Preston of Leesburg, Va., which appeared in the New York Times of May 9, [1926] on the "Title to Governor's Island---Rights of the Federal Government and the State of New York as Set Forth in the Old Statutes," is a most remarkable and interesting statement about the legal status of Fort Sumter in 1861: "South Carolina in 1805 (Statutes at Large, Volume V, p. 501) provided as follows in regard to the cessions in Charleston Harbor:

"That, if the United States shall not, within three years from the passing of this act, and notification thereof by the governor of this State to the Executive of the United States, repair the fortifications now existing thereon, or build such other forts or fortifications as may be deemed most expedient by the Executive of the United States on the same, and keep a garrison or garrisons therein, in such case this grant or cession shall be void and of no effect."

It may be of interest to state that Fort Sumter not only was not completed within the three-year limit stipulated in the contract, but was not completed in 1861 when Major Anderson transferred his garrison from Fort Moultrie. Moreover, it had never been garrisoned until he occupied it. So that, having neither been completed nor garrisoned according to the contract, either within the three years specified time, or, for that matter, by 1861, Major Anderson occupied a piece of property that the United States had not the vestige of a right to occupy, and which was under the ownership, jurisdiction, and sovereignty of the State of South Carolina exclusively. In other words, he invaded the State of South Carolina with his troops---unwittingly, it is true, and on orders, but in fact, at any rate. Adverse possession even could not lie here in behalf of the United States, since the United States had not garrisoned it." ❧

Source: *Confederate Veteran*. September 1926, page 325.

Greetings Compatriots.

As I sit and look out my window at this wonderful fall season I am reminded of all that our Country has been through. We are facing very hard times in the work place, home place and overseas. We are loosing our Young Men and Women that serve to protect our Country and to protect the freedom of others. When did we become the world Police? I can't say. I do know that each of these servicemen are doing it for their own reasons as did our Confederate Ancestors. We have to fight each year to keep their memory alive. We are still fight our own countrymen every year to hold Confederate Memorial Day and march in the Veterans Day Parades. When you joined the SCV you had your own reasons but Gentlemen it is time to step up and help your Camp!! We will be electing new Officers this month, come and offer yourself to better the camp and SCV. Every one of you has a **responsibility** to assist in the operation of your camp, Division and National Sons of Confederate Veterans. Without you there will be no SCV. I just returned from the Lexington Veterans Day Parade and was VERY DISAPOINTED with the turn out to Honor our Veterans, Past and Present. I have tried to lead your Camp this past year to the best of my ability with my current health problems. I was the only one in

uniform and had hoped to ride but since I was the only uniformed member I chose to march the entire parade route. I pushed myself for my fellow Veterans past and Present. What have you done lately? Now is the time to come forward and do something, clean your ancestors grave, Put out flags on Memorial day, HELP with the Battle for Columbia!! We NEED YOU!!

If you're having problems with paying your dues or have health problems we can't help if we don't know!!

Thank you for allowing me to be your Commander for 2009. I pray that the Lord above pours out the blessings for heaven on you and your family.

Your Humble Servant,
Doc Spigner



Robert Spigner of Irmo marches in a lieutenant surgeon's uniform carrying the sword his great grandfather carried while he served in Confederacy. — Rich Glickstein / The State/ rglickstein@thestate.com

ADJUTANT'S DESK

RICKY LEE BADGER

Gentlemen:

As of November 2nd, we have 172 regular paid members and 14 paid

associate members. We lost 31 regular members and 2 associate members during the renewal process.

See you at the next meeting and remember, RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER!
C

SECTIONALISM AND THE WAR

Before attempting to say what were the causes of the American Civil War, first let me say what were not the causes of the war. Perhaps the most beautiful, the most poetic, the most eloquent statement of what the Civil War was not fought for is the Gettysburg Address. That address will live as long as Americans retain their love for free government and personal liberty; and yet in reassessing the causes of the Civil War, the address whose essence is was that the war was being fought so "that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth" is irrelevant. Indeed, this masterpiece of eloquence has little if any value as a

statement of the basic principles underlying the war.

The Civil War was not a struggle on the part of the South to destroy free government and personal liberty, nor on the part of the North to preserve them. Looked at from the present perspective of the worldwide attempt of the totalitarians to erase free governments and nations living under such governments from the face of the earth, the timeworn stereotype that the South was attempting the destruction of free government and the North was fighting to preserve it seems unrealistic and downright silly.

If the destruction of democratic government by the South and its

preservation by the North were not the causes of the Civil War, what then were the causes? The surface answer to this question is that in 1861, the Southern people desired and attempted to establish their independence and thereby to disrupt the old Union; and that the North took up arms to prevent the South from establishing this independence and to preserve the Union. This [Southern] state of mind may be summed up thus: by the Spring of 1861 the Southern people felt it both abhorrent and dangerous to continue to live under the same government with the people of the North. So profound was this feeling among the bulk of the Southern

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The school's alumni association set a fundraising goal of \$75,000, and has already collected \$35,000. The senior class kicked in \$5,000 of that as a gift to the college.

Citadel leaders selected a preferred spot in the school's alumni center for the Big Red display, and officially adopted the historically correct version as a school symbol.

And Lt. Col. Randy Bresnik, a 1989 graduate, will take a replica of the flag into space aboard the space shuttle Atlantis on its next mission, which is scheduled for takeoff on Nov. 16.

Curtis said he expects the flag to be on campus before Corps Day on March 14, when the school celebrates the 166th birthday of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets.

Marine Corps Lt. Col. Randy Bresnik, a 1989 graduate of The Citadel and a mission specialist on the space shuttle Atlantis, plans to take a replica of 'Big Red' aboard Atlantis on its next mission, which is scheduled for takeoff Nov. 16.

Richard Jordan, president of the Class of 2010, said the class made the \$5,000 donation because the flag is an important symbol, and because students hope to inspire others to give. "It's the cadets' flag, so we

believe the cadets should have a hand in bringing it back," he said.

Michael O. Smith, director of Iowa's State Historical Museum, said the museum has agreed to an initial two-year loan, but details of the transfer are still being worked out. The museum will probably extend the loan "at least for another two years and probably longer," he said.

He also said the museum could consider a permanent transfer, known as "de-accessioning," in the future, although that is a long and complicated process, he said.

The transfer would have to be approved by several state groups, and the process would have to include public hearings. The final step would be getting approval from the secretary of the Department of Cultural Affairs, an appointee of the governor.

"It's a hassle," Smith said of the process, "but sometimes it is possible for us to do this."

Smith said the red flag, which has a white palmetto tree in the center and a white, inward-facing crescent in the upper-left corner, was donated to the museum by Willard Baker in 1919. Baker, a Civil War

veteran, said only that he "got the flag in Mobile, Ala., at the end of the Civil War," Smith said.

Because museum officials have such limited information about how Baker acquired it, they can't guarantee that the flag is The Citadel's Big Red, Smith said. But after extensive research and testing, he said, he thinks it likely is.

Greg Biggs, a military historian from Clarksville, Tenn., said he thinks the school was premature in claiming that the Iowa flag is the one that flew over Morris Island in 1861. It's possible, he said, but The Citadel doesn't have enough documented proof.

Smith said it's often impossible to find hard-and-fast proof on the history of such artifacts. "It would be wonderful if life were black and white and that certain," he said.

The Citadel Alumni Association is asking all of its members to donate at least \$20 toward the flag's return. The trip home will be expensive, Curtis said, "but the flag is priceless." ☐

Source: *The Post and Courier*, Charleston, SC. 06 November 2009

SC SCV DIVISION FUNDRAISER

Celebrate the 150 anniversary of the War of Northern Aggression by owning one of these limited edition revolvers.

The revolver will be 24 karat gold plated, with the following information engraved into the revolver: On the cylinder will be a battle scene of Ft Sumter with the date of 12 April 1861, Engraving of President Jefferson Davis and Gen Lee on the hand grips, engraving of the HL Hunley will be along one side, 1st CSA National Flag on one side and the Confederate Battle Flag on the other side and inscribed across the barrel "1860 THE CAUSE FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE 1865". Additional scroll work will balance everything out.

There will only be 150 of these manufactured!

This revolver will be a masterpiece that is worthy of passing down to many

future generations.

The manufacturer is making this affordable for any compatriot that would like to order one. They are willing to accept a down payment of \$200.00 and payments as low as \$50.00 until this collectors piece is paid for. A finished revolver is in my possession for viewing.

All purchases of this revolver will have to come through the SC Division Quartermaster Carl Potter. Please contact Quartermaster Potter at 803-730-1811 or carl@cmpotter.us if you have questions. Photos will be posted on the SC SCV Division website shortly. When 150 have been sold, your opportunity to own one of these 150th anniversary masterpieces will be gone. Act now if you want to be one of the 150 owners! The price is \$1495.00 and will be shipped directly to you. No one

CARL PORTER, DIVISION QUARTERMASTER

will ever touch your Revolver but the manufacturer and you!!

Please contact me at 803-730-1811 or carl@cmpotter.us if you have any questions. You are free to give my information out to anyone interested with questions. ☐



1858 REMINGTON REVOLVER WITH KNIFE IN A PRESENTATION CASE

SECTIONALISM

population that they were prepared to fight a long and devastating war to accomplish a separation. On the other hand, the North was willing to fight a war to retain their reluctant fellow citizens under the same government with themselves.

The cause of that state of mind which we may well call war psychosis lay in

the sectional character of the United States. In other words, the Civil War had one basic cause: sectionalism. Our national state was built, not upon the foundations of a homogenous land and people, but upon geographic sections inhabited severally by provincial, self-conscious, self-righteous, aggressive and ambitious populations of

varying origins and diverse social and economic systems; and the passage of time and the cumulative effects of history have accentuated these sectional patterns. ☐

Source:

Frank L. Owsley. *The Fundamental Cause of the Civil War*. Address to Southern Historical Association, November 8, 1940

Important Dates in *Our War for Southern Independence*:

Nov. 2, 1861 – The British steamer *Bermuda*, runs through a Federal blockade and escapes Charleston, SC, with 2,000 bales of cotton.
Nov. 5, 1861 – Gen. Lee is named the commander of the new Confederate Department of SC, GA and East FL.
Nov. 12, 1861 – The Confederate blockade runner *Fingal*, bought in England, arrives in Savannah with military supplies.
Nov. 19, 1861 – Round Mountain, Indian Territory. Texas Confederates and pro-Southern Cherokees attack pro-union Creek Indians who are fleeing to Kansas.
Nov. 28, 1861 – MO is officially admitted into the Confederate States of America.
Nov. 3, 1863 – Charleston, SC. Federal artillery bombards Fort Sumter with 661 rounds.
Nov. 7, 1863 – Severe fighting erupts on the Rappahannock River at Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station.
Nov. 23, 1863 – The Battle of Chattanooga begins.
Nov. 4, 1864 – Gen. Forrest attacks and bombards Johnsonville, TN, destroying Federal gunboats, transports and storage warehouses, and causing over two million dollars in damages.
Nov. 18, 1864 – In GA, Sherman's "march to the sea" continues as Union troops move between Ocmulgee and Oconee Rivers.
Nov. 27, 1864 – In VA, the U.S. Army transport ship *Greyhound* is sunk by a Confederate torpedo in the James River.
Nov. 30, 1864 – Battle of Franklin, TN. Six Confederate generals lose their lives in the largest frontal assault of the war

Next Camp Meeting
Thursday, November 19th
6:00 p.m.



Seawell's Restaurant
1125 Rosewood Drive
Columbia, SC

PROGRAM:
Eddie Rogers,
Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton
Impersonator
Y'ALL COME!!!

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