

TRAVELLER

Award Winning Publication of the General Robert E.
Lee Camp, #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, TN

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

DEO VINDICE!

August 2020



CAMP MEETING

August 10, 2020

Speaker: Lee Millar

Topic: Forrest Funeral and Statue Re-Dedication Update

7:00 PM

**John Green Library
205 Mills Street, Collierville, TN**

Don't miss our next meeting!

in political circles, cannot financially support key candidates that might be our advocate and essentially has no leverage for or against anyone currently in office. Mike cited a shining example of an organization that has made great use of this structure to their advantage is the NRA. They are an advocacy group with a business model built to “play the game” that needs to be played if you want to get anything accomplished. We, the SCV, are a historical group with advocacy needs that we have no chance in today’s world of meeting being structured as we are. He’s right about that. To be perfectly frank, we are an ad-hoc collection of letter writers, emailers and phone callers. We stay after it and are passionate, but it’s not working. What are your thoughts? Perhaps we can discuss at the next Camp meeting.

A few of the ideas I had brought to the meeting were:

1. Put pressure, especially if you are a member, on recognized and influential historical organizations (like Battlefield Trust, formerly Civil War Trust or Tennessee State Museum or Morton Museum in Collierville) to speak up and advocate for the preservation of our monuments.
2. Get appointed to the Boards of organizations like those listed above.
3. Run for and hold political office.
4. Be an influential and active member of a politician's campaign.
5. Get appointed to things like the Tennessee Historical Commission.
6. In letters and emails to politicians, start to include graphic pictures of the vandalism and destruction done to monuments lately.

Clearly some of these are easier than others. If you have some ideas as well, share them with the Camp and also the incoming Tennessee Heritage Chairman Mark Buchanan at marksouth1861@yahoo.com.

Take care and I look forward to seeing everyone at our August 10th Camp meeting. Reminder, it will be at John Green’s library at 205 Mills Street in Collierville.

Shane

Commander’s Corner

This month’s edition will be shorter than usual and direct to the unpleasant topic of our scorecard lately in the effort to stop the destruction of all our Southern Heritage. We are not winning; practically anywhere it seems. To discuss this problem, a meeting was called a few weeks ago by Compatriot Randy Hendon of the Forrest Camp. All the local Camp Commanders were requested to attend as well as a few of our members who are especially active on the heritage defense front.

One of the most interesting and valuable contributions I felt came from Compatriot Mike Cross, also of the Forrest Camp. He made a very passionate and insightful argument that the SCV, on a National Level, needs to change its organizational status from a 501(c)3 status to a 501(c)4 organization. I am not a tax expert but in general terms, under Internal Revenue Service rules, a 501(c)3 is a non-profit for religious, charitable or educational purposes. Donations to 501(c)3 groups are tax-deductible. A 501(c)4 is a social welfare group and can engage in more advocacy and lobbying and therefore donations to such an organization are not deductible.

The reason for considering this change is under the current structure, the SCV does not have one united voice

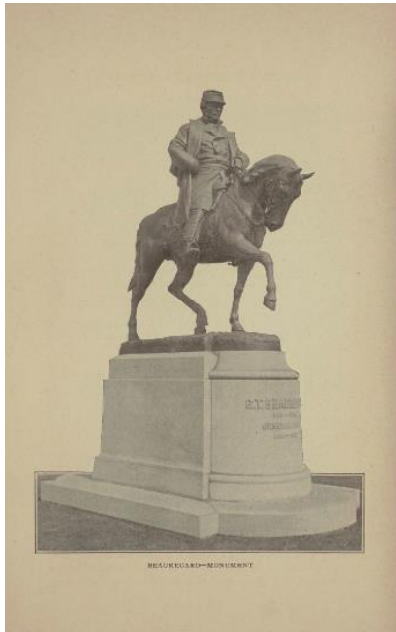
Gustave Toutant Beauregard the "Napoleon in Gray"

(From Beauregard Camp no. 130)

Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard was the first prominent general of the Confederate States Army. He was born on his mother's family's plantation and raised on the "Contreras" sugar-cane plantation, about 20 miles outside New Orleans, in a French Creole family. Beauregard was the third child of H el ene Judith de Reggio of mixed French and Italian ancestry and descendant of Francesco M. de Reggio, a member of an Italian noble family whose family had migrated first to France and then to Louisiana, and her husband, Jacques Toutant-Beauregard, of French and Welsh ancestry. He had three brothers and three sisters. The family were devout Roman Catholics. As a child, Beauregard befriended and played with slave children his own age, and was weaned as a baby by a Dominican slave woman. He grew up in a large one-story house, unlike the "later plantation palaces, but a mansion of aristocracy by the standards of its time." Beauregard would hunt and ride in the woods and fields around the plantation and paddled his boat in its waterways. He attended New Orleans private schools and later went to a "French School" in New York City. During his four years in New York, beginning at age 12, he learned to speak English, as French had been his first and only language in Louisiana. Upon enrolling at West Point, Beauregard dropped the hyphen from his surname and treated Toutant as a middle name to fit in better with his classmates. From that point on, he rarely used his first name and preferred "G. T. Beauregard." He graduated second in his class in 1838. His army friends gave him many nicknames: "Little Creole", "Bory", "Little Frenchman", "Felix", and "Little Napoleon."

West Point trained in artillery and engineering, Beauregard served with distinction as an engineer officer in the Mexican War. The family plantation in St Bernard Parish was renamed "Contreras" by his mother in honor of his victory in battle at the Battle of Contreras during the war. He returned from Mexico in 1848 and for the next 12 years, he was in charge of what the Engineer Department called "the Mississippi and Lake defenses in Louisiana." Much of his engineering work was done elsewhere, repairing old forts and building new ones on the Florida coast and in Mobile, Alabama. He also

improved the defenses of Forts St. Philip and Jackson on the Mississippi River below New Orleans. He worked on a board of Army and Navy engineers to improve the navigation of the shipping channels at the mouth of the Mississippi. He created and patented an invention he called a "self-acting bar excavator" to be used by ships in crossing bars of sand and clay. While serving in the Army, he actively campaigned for the election of Franklin Pierce, the Democratic presidential candidate in 1852, and a former general in the Mexican War, who had been impressed by Beauregard's performance at Mexico City. Pierce appointed Beauregard as superintending engineer of the U.S. Custom House in New Orleans, a huge granite building that had been built in 1848. It was sinking unevenly in the moist soil of Louisiana due to poor foundation and construction. Beauregard had to develop a reconstruction/renovation program. He served in this position from 1853 to 1860 and stabilized the massive structure successfully which still serves as the US Customs House today on Canal Street. During his



service in New Orleans, Beauregard became dissatisfied as a peacetime officer. He briefly entered politics as a reform candidate for mayor of New Orleans in 1858, where he was promoted by both the Whig and Democratic parties to challenge the Know Nothing party candidate but was narrowly defeated. Employing the political influence of his brother-in-law, US Senator John Slidell, Beauregard obtained an appointment as superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy on January 23, 1861. He relinquished the office after only five days when Louisiana seceded from the Union and became the first brigadier general in the Confederate States Army. He commanded the defenses of Charleston, South Carolina, at the start

of the Civil War at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Three months later he won the First Battle of Bull Run near Manassas, Virginia. Beauregard commanded armies in the Western Theater, including at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee, and the Siege of Corinth in Northern Mississippi. He returned to Charleston and defended it in 1863 from repeated naval and land attacks by Union forces. His greatest achievement was saving the important industrial city of Petersburg, Virginia, in June 1864, and thus the nearby Confederate capital of Richmond, from assaults by overwhelmingly superior Union Army forces. In April 1865, Beauregard and his commander, General Joseph E. Johnston, convinced President Davis and the remaining cabinet members that

the war needed to end. Johnston surrendered most of the remaining armies of the Confederacy, including Beauregard and his men, to Major General William Tecumseh Sherman.

After Bull Run, Beauregard advocated the use of a standardized battle flag other than the "Stars and Bars" Confederate 1st National flag to avoid visual confusion with the US flag. He worked with Johnston and William Porcher Miles to create the Confederate Battle Flag. Confederate women visiting Beauregard's army contributed silk material from their dresses to create the first three flags, for Beauregard, Johnston, and Earl Van Dorn; thus, the first flags contained more feminine pink than martial red. However, the official battle flag had a red background with blue St. Andrew's cross and white stars. Throughout his career, Beauregard worked to have the flag adopted, and he helped to make it the most popular symbol of the Confederacy. Today, he is proudly hailed as the father of the Confederate Battle Flag.

After the war, Beauregard was reluctant to seek amnesty as a former Confederate officer by publicly swearing an oath of loyalty, but both Generals Lee and Johnston counseled him to do so, which he did before the mayor of New Orleans on September 16, 1865. He was one of many Confederate officers issued a mass pardon by President Andrew Johnson on July 4, 1868. His final privilege as an American citizen, the right to run for public office, was restored when he petitioned the Congress for relief and the bill on his behalf was signed by President Grant on July 24, 1876.

As a lifelong Democrat, Beauregard worked to end Republican rule during Reconstruction. His outrage over the perceived excesses of Reconstruction, such as heavy property taxation, was a principal source for his indecision about remaining in the United States and his flirtation with command positions in foreign armies, which lasted until 1875. He was active in the Reform Party, an association of conservative New Orleans businessmen, which spoke in favor of civil rights and voting rights for former slaves, hoping to form alliances between African-Americans and Democrats to vote out the Radical Republicans in the state legislature.

Beauregard's first employment following the war was in October 1865 as Chief Engineer and General Superintendent of the New Orleans, Jackson, and Great Northern Railroad. In 1866 he was promoted to President, a position he retained until 1870, when he was ousted in a hostile takeover. This job overlapped with that of President of the New Orleans and Carrollton Street Railway (1866–1876), where he invented a system of cable-powered street railway cars. Once again, Beauregard made a financial success of the company. In

1869 he demonstrated a cable car and was issued U.S. Patent 97,343. It still operates today as the world famous New Orleans street car lines. After the railroad companies, he spent time briefly at a variety of companies and civil engineering pursuits, but his personal wealth became assured when he was recruited as a Supervisor of the Louisiana State Lottery Company in 1877. He and former Confederate General Jubal Early presided over lottery drawings and made numerous public appearances, lending the effort some respectability. For 15 years the two generals served in these positions, but the public became opposed to government-sponsored gambling and the lottery was later closed down by the legislature. Beauregard served as Adjutant General for the Louisiana state militia from 1879–1888 where he laid out the framework for the modern National Guard system in existence today. In 1888, he was elected as Commissioner of Public Works in New Orleans. When General John Bell Hood and his wife died of yellow fever in 1879, leaving ten destitute orphans in New Orleans, Beauregard used his influence to get Hood's memoirs published, with all proceeds going to support the children and worked to find them adoptive homes. He was appointed by the Governor of Virginia to be the Grand Marshal of the festivities associated with the laying of the cornerstone of Robert E. Lee's statue in Richmond. When President Jefferson Davis died in New Orleans in 1889, Beauregard refused the honor of heading the funeral procession, saying "We have always been enemies. I cannot pretend I am sorry he is gone. I am no hypocrite."

Beauregard was admired by many because of his work after the war and when he went to a meeting Waukesha, Wisconsin in 1889, he was given the title by a local reporter of "the Sir Galahad of Southern Chivalry." A Northerner at the meeting welcomed him, commenting on the fact that 25 years ago, the North "did not feel very kindly toward him but the past was dead and now they admired him." Beauregard responded by saying "As to my past life, I have always endeavored to do my duty under all circumstances, from the point I entered West Point, a boy of seventeen, up to the present." He was then loudly applauded.

General Beauregard's image appeared on the 1863 State of Louisiana \$20 note. Beauregard Parish and the Louisiana National Guard's Camp Beauregard in Pineville are named after him.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in St. Francisville was built in 1871 from plans drawn by General Beauregard.

He died in his sleep in New Orleans on February 20, 1893 at his home at 740 Esplanade Avenue. The cause of death was recorded as "heart disease, aortic insufficiency, and

probably myocarditis." Edmund Kirby Smith, the last surviving full General of the Confederacy, served as the "Chief Mourner" as Beauregard was interred in the Tumulus of the Army of Tennessee in historic Metairie Cemetery.

Upon word of Beauregard's death and ensuing funeral in 1893, Victor E. Rilleux, a Creole of color and poet who wrote poems for many famous contemporary civil rights activists, was moved by Beauregard's passing to write a poem, entitled "Dernier Tribut" (The Last Tribute):

*Oh! Of him we can say with all frankness,
At all times we found him a truly beautiful judgment
For the humble veteran, for the widow subjected
To the blows of hard destiny, striking without regard!
Noble, great, generous: during his long life
Never the fatal venom of any dark suspicion
Could even caress his glory, his genius,
That gave him a divine prestige.
Tender husband, good soldier, and Creole knight,
His name, saintly balm to the hearts of Louisianans,
Will always shine, like the sun's halo
That leaving from a pure sky shines and never dies.
In the grave where rests a magnanimous warrior,
Near his dead companions the brave soldiers,
I come here to deposit for all a pledge of esteem
A modest laurel to your noble passing!*

Removal of Confederate Monuments from National Parks?

By [Chris Mackowski](#)



A reader sent to me yesterday a copy of [the proposed 2021 appropriation for the Department of the Interior](#), which includes the National Park Service, and he called to my attention to an item on pg. 160 of the appropriation:

REMOVAL OF CONFEDERATE COMMEMORATIVE WORKS 7 SEC. 442.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law or policy to the contrary, within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the National Park Service shall remove from display all physical Confederate commemorative works, such as statues, monuments, sculptures, memorials, and plaques, as defined by NPS, Management Policies 2006, 9.6.1.

Hmmm, I thought. Does that mean what I think it means?

I sent out a few inquiries to some history people in the know and also set to work poking around on my own. First, I looked up the NPS's "[Management Policies 2006](#)" to find out how the Park Service defines commemorative works. Here's what section 9.6.1 says:

the term "commemorative work" means any statue, monument, sculpture, memorial, plaque, or other structure or landscape feature, including a garden or memorial grove, designed to perpetuate in a permanent manner the memory of a person, group, event, or other significant element of history.

You can find more starting on pg. 150 of the policies document. Everything in section 9 of the document deals with commemorative works and plaques.

One section I found particularly interesting was section 9.6.4, "Preexisting Commemorative Works." It offers the kind of historical perspective that's useful right now:

Many commemorative works have existed in the parks long enough to qualify as historic features. A key aspect of their historical interest is that they reflect the knowledge, attitudes, and tastes of the persons who designed and placed them. These works and their inscriptions will not be altered, relocated, obscured, or removed, even when they are deemed inaccurate or incompatible with prevailing present day values. Any exceptions from this policy require specific approval by the Director.

Two phrases in particular jumped out at me there: "they reflect the knowledge, attitudes, and tastes of the persons who designed and placed them" and "These works...will not be altered, relocated, obscured, or removed, even when they are deemed inaccurate or incompatible with prevailing present day values." This seems like a definite, deliberate attempt to guard history against presentism.

As I read the proposed appropriation, it would, as legislation, supersede the agency's policy, although I don't know enough about these sorts of legislative affairs to be sure. "It is pending," one colleague said in reply to my query. "The Senate has not considered the legislation yet. I see no chance of that provision surviving the

Senate....”

The monument fever that swept the nation last month has finally seemed to quiet down, at least for now, although some folks are concerned that the fight has just shifted to other fronts (just ask Washington formerly-known-as-Redskins fans). Of specific concern have been monuments in national parks and battlefields. Battlefields, which serve as outdoor museums, provide perfect context for statues, monuments, and memorials. Those artifacts, in turn, help visitors understand and appreciate those battlefields.

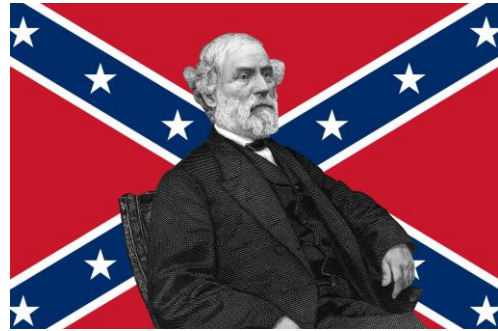
Although monuments on battlefields have been targeted by vandals, the Park Service itself has steadfastly maintained that the monuments will remain up. I’m reminded of a simple statement I saw on Gettysburg National Military Park’s website, on a page devoted to Confederate monuments: “The NPS will continue to provide historical context and interpretation for all of our sites and monuments in order to reflect a fuller view of past events and the values under which they occurred.”

I’ve thought, *No way would anyone take down monuments from National Parks*. But as the proposed appropriation suggests, someone somewhere *is* thinking of it. Even if the provision gets removed, it remains a shot across the bow. I have to eat my hat a little bit, and I’m not ashamed to say it.

I can’t even imagine the cost that would be involved in removing Confederate monuments and markers from national battlefields. Whatever the price tag, spending that money when the NPS has amassed an \$11.6 billion

dollar backlog of deferred maintenance makes me queasy.

The proposed appropriation is pending, open for revision and amendment, so I’ll try and keep my eye on how things pan out as the legislation moves forward. If you’re interested in or concerned about monuments, you might want to keep an eye on it, too.



The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Go to our website:

<http://www.tennessee-scv.org/camp1640/>

Or visit our Facebook pages at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BluffCityGraysMemphis>

<http://www.facebook.com/RELeeCamp1640>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SCV-Memphis-Brigade-Color-Guard/268457703293353>

COLLECTOR'S

FORREST COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Solid bronze

**\$ 10 each — All proceeds go to
Parks Defense Fund**

Contact: Harry Adams, Forrest Camp 215

harryadamscsa@gmail.com

\$10 each, plus \$1 each for shipping. Send your check to

Save the Parks

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124



Traveller is the monthly newsletter of:

The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans

and

The Mary Custis Lee Chapter,

Order of the Confederate Rose

P.O. Box 171251

Memphis, Tennessee 38187

Steve M. McIntyre, Editor

**Next Camp Meeting ** August 10, 2020
John Green Library, 205 Mills Street, Collierville, TN**