

# The Southern Defender™

Published for the Southern Victory Campaign by the Sons of Confederate Veterans

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National Edition Number 1

## A Monumental Battle

Adapted from a *Confederate Veteran* article by H.V. Traywick, Jr.<sup>1</sup>

The neo-Marxists<sup>2</sup> and their allies claim that Confederate monuments, flags, street and school names, etc. pay tribute to slavery. The line goes like this: “The Civil War was all about slavery, the righteous North waged it to free the slaves, and the evil South fought to keep them. End of discussion. Any questions?”

Well, yes. If the North were waging a war on slavery, why didn't it wage war on New England cotton mills that profited from slave-picked cotton? Or on New England distilleries that used slave-harvested sugar cane to make rum to barter with the African slavers themselves, such as those in the Kingdom of Dahomey where they captured their fellow Africans and sold them into slavery. And, why did Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation free only the slaves in the South? And why did he try until the day he died to deport to South America those Blacks who were freed by it?

### Then, What Started the War?

Clearly, regardless of what happened *after* the war, the reason for *starting* the war was not slavery.

The North *started* it because the South declared independence, left the Union and started a country of its own. With the South's “Cotton Kingdom” now outside of the Union, the North's “Mercantile Kingdom” would collapse.

So Lincoln launched an armada against Charleston to provoke South Carolina to fire the first shot. He got the war he wanted and drove the Southern States back into the Union when he won. Then, under Northern bayonets and the pretense of law, a corrupt and vindictive Reconstruction was imposed on the South, transforming the voluntary union of sovereign states into a coerced industrial empire.

### The Results?

For the North, the result is known as the “Gilded Age”. For the South, it was grinding poverty in a land laid waste. And for the Blacks? A recent study of neglected military and Freedman's Bureau records revealed that between 1862 and 1870, a million ex-slaves, 25% of the population, died of starvation, disease and neglect under their Northern “liberators”. The North abandoned the former slaves to the upheaval she had wrought in Southern society and then turned her attention to the Plains Indians who stood in the way of her trans-continental railroads.

### Bad News for the Neo-Marxists

Neo-Marxist leaders employ useful idiots and rent-a-thugs to attack our monuments and symbols because they hate the principles of liberty that inspired our Confederate ancestors to defend their homeland against invasion, conquest, and a coerced political allegiance, just as America's founders did in 1776 when 13 slave-holding colonies seceded from the British Empire.

But I have bad news for the neo-Marxist crusaders: You can tear down every Confederate monument on the planet, outlaw and burn all our flags, and rename every street and school honoring a Confederate hero, but it won't change the truth.

<sup>1</sup>In March/April 2018, *Confederate Veteran* published *A Monumental Spin* by H.V. Traywick Jr. We adapted that article to create the one above. Please visit [AbbevilleInstitute.org/blog/a-monumental-spin/](http://AbbevilleInstitute.org/blog/a-monumental-spin/) to read the original.

<sup>2</sup>Neo-Marxists: modern proponents of the principles, methods and/or goals ascribed to Karl Marx and other Socialists and Communists.

## Neo-Marxists' Wage War on America & the Confederacy



Sept. 2017— Vandal defaced this Baltimore monument to Francis Scott Key, author of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” soon after the city removed 3 Confederate monuments. Spray painted on one side were the words, “Racist Anthem”. Alamy



Jackson, Miss. — *Clarion Ledger* Jan. 14, 2019: A coalition of “civil rights groups” are kicking off a renewed war on the Confederacy in a fight to remove all Confederate monuments. Read the entire front page article at [ClarionLedger.com](http://ClarionLedger.com).



Download 2 popular & thorough reports about the “useful idiots” & “rent-a-thugs” mentioned in our accompanying article. Go to the *Southern Defender*™ page at [MakeDixieGreatAgain.com](http://MakeDixieGreatAgain.com). They're free!

**People who do not read have little advantage over people who cannot read.**

## George A. Branard, Color Bearer, 1<sup>st</sup> Texas

Condensed from a *Confederate Veteran* article by Sal & Patricia Branard Gambino<sup>1</sup>

George A. Branard enlisted as a private in the Lone Star Rifles of the army of the Confederate States of America on August 1, 1861. Soon after he was made a non-commissioned officer and served as a corporal in the 1st Texas Regiment. The regiment became part of the famous Texas Brigade under General John Bell Hood in James "Pete" Longstreet's Corps.

### Courage at Elthan's Landing

Branard was assigned to the regiment's color guard, bearing the flag. Thomas Nettles was the Color Sergeant. When Nettles was wounded at Elthans's Landing, he was unable to carry the flag, so he transferred it to Branard. During the fighting on the following day, Branard, with a cut on his head from a stray bullet, went too far in front of the regiment and was told to fall back. Branard shouted he would be "damned if he'd fall back!" When Colonel A.T. Rainey heard the remark, admiring its courage and spirit, he ordered the regiment to move forward and form under the colors. Rainey promoted Branard to sergeant.

### Courage at Little Round Top

On July 2, 1863, the brigade was about to enter what was described as the wildest, fiercest struggle of the war. At that time, individual state flags were forbidden on the battlefield, and all regimental units were commanded to display one uniform flag: the battle flag of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Before the start of the battle, Gen. Hood rode in front of the 1st Texas, gave a short speech, then shouted, "Fix bayonets my brave Texans and take those heights!" Then, Colonel P.A. Wick pointed to Little Round Top and shouted, "Follow the Lone Star to the top!"

As the Texans advanced, a Union battery landed a shot in their midst, killing and wounding several. Emotionally charged by the incident, Branard pulled the Texas colors from the casing, and regardless of regulations, vowed he would wave it over the cannon that had fired that shot! The Texas flag was now in the hands of Branard, and without waver, it steadily advanced.

There was a fierce rivalry among regimental color bearers as each tried to get the closest to enemy lines. Several, Branard included, were advancing well ahead of their respective units. Branard was competing with a color bearer from a Georgia regiment and refused to be outdone. After momentarily stopping behind a large rock, he moved toward Little Round Top.

After one-third of the Texans had been killed or wounded—the enemy driven from the forward slopes and their batteries captured—Branard hoisted the Texas colors on the slope leading to Little Round Top. The remaining members of the regiment pleaded with him to stop advancing, but on he went. An order then went down the Union line: "Don't shoot that man; he is too brave to be killed." Just then, an artillery shell exploded at his feet, severing the flagstaff and sending a fragment into his forehead causing unconsciousness and the loss of sight in his left eye. Later, when members of his regiment found him, he still clutched the flag. Men who witnessed his bravery declared that "no event of the war surpassed that incident."

### Courage at Chickamauga

After Gettysburg, Branard engaged the Federals at Chickamauga in November 1863. He was again wounded and lost the use of his left arm. He was then assigned to the ambulance corps because he was no longer able to tote the flag. He remained in this position until the end of the war.

In February 1865, he was transferred to the Trans-Mississippi department and ordered to Marshall, Texas. On the way there, the war ended.

### Courage at Death

Having married in April 1866 to Julia House, Branard was survived by nine children, four of whom were gathered at his bedside when his lips murmured, "Here." It was his answer to the final roll call on August 7, 1909.

<sup>1</sup>In Vol. 6, 2002, *Confederate Veteran* published the full version of this fine article. Our version was edited and condensed by staff writer, Lee Hood.

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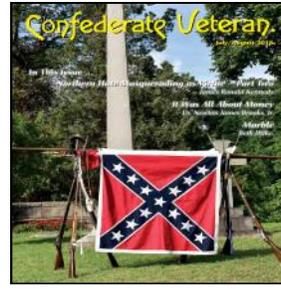
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## The Rebel Terror from Yazoo

Walter H. Trisler

Underneath the levee near present day Southern University in Baton Rouge lies an iron mass discovered several years ago through the efforts of adventure novelist, Clive Cussler. Many believe that the mass is the hulk of one of the most storied ships in the annals of American naval history—one whose very existence seems a tale of fanciful lore rather than recorded fact. And one whose short record could serve as a metaphor of the cause for which she fought, for the *C.S.S. Arkansas* was thrown together by the efforts of a people whose strength, tenacity and courage shown brilliantly for a season.

The origins of the *Arkansas*, a Confederate gunboat, parallel and illustrate the origins of Confederate States of America itself, which found herself rich in talented and devoted people of every race and religion, but poor in materiel.

The construction of the *Arkansas* was a hurried work. Its keel had been laid in Memphis along with what was to be a sister gunboat, the *C.S.S. Tennessee*. But by early 1862, Federal Admiral David Farragut was sailing almost unimpeded in his mission to place the “Father of Waters” under Yankee control. Fearing capture or destruction of both vessels, the Confederate government burned the *Tennessee* and moved the *Arkansas* into the Yazoo River and the relative safety of Greenwood, Mississippi.

Lieutenant Isaac Newton Brown was assigned the mission of completing the construction and then commanding the *Arkansas*—a task that proved challenging in the extreme.

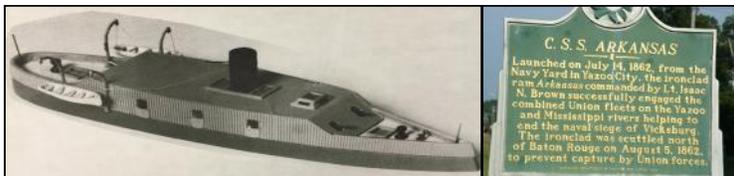
Born in Kentucky, Brown had been reared in Mississippi. In 1834, at age 17, he entered the U.S. Navy and was commissioned in 1846. He circumnavigated the world twice and fought for the United States in the war with Mexico.

Upon arrival in Greenwood, Brown discovered that the vessel was a “mere hull”. The guns lacked carriages, the engines were “apart”, and much of the railroad iron needed for armor plate was on a barge that had sunk in the Yazoo River.

Undaunted, Brown proceeded. The sunken railroad iron was recovered, and the gunboat was moved down the Yazoo River to the Confederate naval docks at Yazoo City, Mississippi.

The move proved to be advantageous, and a frenzied work schedule was put into effect because of the urgent desire to go onto the offensive against Farragut whose fleet was threatening Vicksburg. Lt. Brown and his workmen could even hear the sound of the cannons firing in the far distance at Vicksburg.

On July 12, 1862, after five weeks of round-the-clock effort, the *Arkansas* was ready. Her crew of 100 were drawn from naval and army veterans. After a trial run down the Yazoo, the *Arkansas* cast off and sailed into naval history on July 15, 1862 from a position 15 miles northeast of the Mississippi River at Vicksburg.



Replica of C.S.S. *Arkansas* | Memorial in Yazoo City, Miss.

Meanwhile, the Federals had been warned that a “rebel ram” would attack down the Yazoo. As a defensive measure, three Yankee steamers were sent upriver: the light ironclad, *Carondelet*, the wooden gunboat, *Tyler*, and the wooden ram, *Queen of the West*. At full steam, shortly after sunrise on July 15, 1862, they encountered the *Arkansas*.

Battle commenced immediately. Commanded by Brown’s former U.S. Navy messmate, Henry Walke, the *Carondelet* fired on the *Arkansas* as all three Federals turned to flee. The *Arkansas* concentrated her guns on the *Carondelet*, blasting the ironclad to pieces and running it aground. Then she pulled close and let loose with a broadside that holed the *Carondelet* below the waterline and sent her crew leaping into the river.<sup>1</sup>

During the battle, Lt. Brown, standing ahead of his forward guns in full dress uniform received a “contusion on the head” from shrapnel. Disregarding it, he returned to his post until knocked unconscious by a Minie ball. He awoke “among the killed and wounded.” Again, he bravely resumed his post.

The *Arkansas* itself was also hurt. A shot from the *Carondelet* damaged her smokestack causing a reduction in speed from the ship’s two fractious engines that required constant attention from the very start of the journey down the Yazoo.

Confederate commander at Vicksburg, Gen. Earl Van Dorn, had warned Brown that at least 37 Federal warships awaited him. Though slowed by battle damage, the current of the Mississippi was taking the *Arkansas* directly into the Federal maelstrom and upon entry, every Yankee ship opened fire. Brown likened the experience to a volcano, but though she was being pounded, the *Arkansas* fought back with all her plentiful might and courage. After what seemed an eternity, the battered and bloody Southern gunboat passed into the protection of friendly guns on the Vicksburg bluffs. The first battle had ended.

Brown and his crew landed at the foot of Jackson Street. The people of Vicksburg were jubilant! They had watched from the bluffs as this lone gunboat, their champion, had at last answered the challenge of the Yankee invader. Those who viewed the gunboat up close soon realized the price their countrymen had paid. The interior was covered with evidence of a bloody and deadly naval encounter, where, in an instant, shot and shell burst upon and often penetrated the iron plate, leaving a man no time to seek cover. To keep from slipping down in the bloody gore that resulted, sand had been sprinkled on the deck.

Isaac Newton Brown now had the whole Yankee fleet where he wanted them. The Federals were required to be on guard with steam up at all times, depleting their coal supply and weakening their morale. As history and Lt. Brown recorded, “soon after, the lower fleet started for the recuperative atmosphere of salt water [the Gulf of Mexico], and about the same time the upper fleet... steamed for the North... Vicksburg was now without the suspicion of an immediate enemy.”

The battle at Vicksburg had irreparably crippled the *Arkansas*. Still, she had battles to fight, and she did her utmost until the very end, which came on August 6, 1862 as she was attempting to participate in the Battle of Baton Rouge. As she struggled downriver, her engines broke down repeatedly and finally, there being no better alternative, she was scuttled to prevent capture. Perhaps no greater respect was paid to the *Arkansas* than that written by an officer in Farragut’s fleet: “Thank God, this terror of the river is no more.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Legendary Wake of Terror,” *Military History*, Dec. 1986, pages 20-25.

Walter H. Trisler studies history at his home in Start, La. For further study he suggests *The Siege of Vicksburg* by Richard Wheeler and *The Final Fortress: The Campaign for Vicksburg 1862-1863* by Samuel Carter III.

