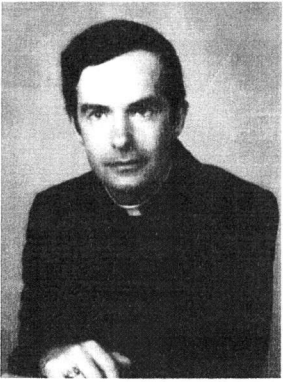


## Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



A poll conducted by Reuters in 2017 found that only 27% favored the removal of Confederate monuments, 19% held a neutral view, and 54% defended them. In spite of public support for Confederate monuments, 2017 was a year of national desecration of not only Confederate monuments, but

also of American history. A partial list includes removal, vandalization, or placement of defamatory markers adjacent to monuments erected for Davis, Lee, Forrest, Beauregard, Roger Taney, Albert Johnson, John Reagan, John Morgan, John Breckinridge, Texas governor James Hogg, Silent Sam, Johnny Reb, and all Confederate soldiers located in Florida, Texas, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Missouri, Maryland, Ohio, New York, Montana, and California. Currently, the Memphis, Tennessee, city council is demonstrating how deep hate and intolerance can go. Not satisfied with the removal of Gen. Forrest's statue, they want to exhume the bodies of the General and his wife. History does have a way of repeating itself. Two centuries before the WBTS, Oliver Cromwell's Protectorate collapsed and England welcomed the return of Charles II in 1660. The deceased Cromwell was declared a traitor, his body was exhumed, and he was posthumously "executed." At what degree above the boiling point of irrational rage do you do that? The mentality of the Memphis city council approaches that of 17th century England, is as narrow minded, runs 155 years long, and is at least six feet deep. That is the standard definition of a gutter.

Another current incident reveals the hypocrisy of those who keep the fire of hate of the South and southerners flaming. Andrew Jackson, a southerner, established his national reputation with his victory at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. In 1826, the Missouri legislature named a county in his honor, later home to former president and SCV member Harry Truman. Recently, members of the county legislature decided to place plaques at the statues of Jackson on courthouse grounds emphasizing his association with slavery and the Trail of Tears during which the Cherokees were relocated

west of the Mississippi River to Oklahoma. . Ironically, only Caucasians, no Cherokees or Negroes, composed the message the markers would bear. It reads in part, "Almost two centuries later, we (Who are "we"; for whom do they claim to speak?) hold a broader, more inclusive view of our nation. Jackson's ownership of slaves and his support for the Indian Removal Act are part of his history." Attempting to justify and defend their action, they assert, "In turn, we must acknowledge past injustices to help create a greater nation..." (Would they dare to say they want "...to make America great again?")

The hypocrisy of those who shed crocodile tears over the association of Jackson and the South with the possession and control of land resulting in the Trail of Tears is not difficult to prove. The same Congress that devised the radical reconstruction or occupation and destruction of the South under the pretense of promoting integration and equality for Negroes, after the WBTS, turned its attention to the west and devised a strategy for the same possession and control of land resulting in the brutal subjugation and unequal treatment of American Indians, segregating them onto reservations rife with poverty and disease. Five tribes that were moved from the southeast west of the Mississippi River were charged with being Confederate sympathizers. They and other tribes were indoctrinated with propaganda to persuade them "...to walk the white man's road." Between the battle at Washita River in Kansas in 1868 and Wounded Knee in 1890, where troops slaughtered 200 men, women, and children, over 200 battles were fought. Many of the same Union officers who fought against the South were used in the West, yet nobody is removing or vandalizing their monuments, creating accusatory markers, or exhuming their bodies. Two of them are prominent examples.

The infamous Sherman ordered Hancock, who fought for the North at Gettysburg, to deal harshly with the Cheyenne and Kiowa Indians. He said, "I will urge Gen. Sheridan (another Union officer) to push his measures for the utter destruction and subjugation of all who are outside (the reservations)..." He continued, "I propose that (he) shall prosecute the war with vindictive earnestness...till they (Indians) are obliterated or beg for mercy..."

The second example is Custer, who fought for the North at First Manassas and Gettysburg and badgered Lee two weeks before his surrender. He defeated the Cheyenne at Washita River in 1868, but sealed his own reputation and fate at the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876, precipitated by the US government allowing thousands of gold prospectors into the Black Hills, Sioux territory, in 1875. This was done during the administration of Grant, yet nobody is disturbing his monuments or grave.

(TO BE CONTINUED IN MARCH)

***Deo Vindice***

***Father Richard Rudd***

***Hughes Camp Chaplain***