



I am very aware that I have been granted a privilege to address the Directors of the nations oldest public college alumni association and I have made an effort to make sure my address is worthwhile of your time and attention so lets get right to it by quoting Article 1 Section 2 para B of your Bylaws:

“To foster, PERPETUATE and preserve the history, memories, values and traditions of The Citadel, the Military College of SC, the Corps of Cadets and alumni....” It is one of the 3 stated objectives that allows for this alumni associations existence.

Because todays politicized atmosphere has the potential to negatively challenge our college’s southern heritage in which dates to 1842, the Association Leadership thought it important to highlight the meaning of Article 1 Section 2 and provide the Directors a briefing on the history and facts behind the artifact known as Big Red so that you will be better able to foster, perpetuate and preserve its history.

My briefing will be 30 minutes and in that time I will lay out a simple list of proven facts that conclusively prove the flag on display in the Alumni Center was the same flag that posted at the cadet position on Morris Is in 1861. There is an urgent need to educate the alumni and the Corps on the history of this flag, given that it will surely be attacked as a

symbol associated with the confederacy, so please take the pertinent information home to your members and convey to them what you learn here.

A few images from a Powerpoint Presentation I have created that is to be presented to the Iowa Museums Board of Trustee's sometime in the near future to convince them to allow The Citadel to retain the flag permanently will be utilized so that your attention remains at least semi-focused. It also allows me to skip much of the detail and additional issues that will be required for that full briefing.....hopefully sometime next year.

Before I begin with the evidence proving this BR flew on Morris Is., let me provide you some background that might be helpful for you to put into context what you will hear.

11 Years ago the State Museum in Iowa found BR in a basement storage area wrapped in a burlap bag since 1919 and posted an image of it on its website. It attracted the interest of a group of us and ultimately I was one of 3 original grads & 1 non-grad who embarked on its research.

Two issues had to be resolved. (1) the reverse crescent no one had ever seen before (2) prove this is THE flag that actually posted in 1861. As it turned out once we could prove one the other went hand-in-hand.

We knew from the outset this would be difficult because photography was in its infancy and the photo op today's skeptics require was just not available on Morris Island. Further, there were only about 55 cadets at the battery and they were only there for about 2 weeks, 3 weeks tops. That was too short a time for written documentation like letters home and if any 19 year old actually kept a diary it probably didn't survive the war where so much property and so many lives of South Carolinians

were lost-----to include 316 Citadel Alumni out of the approximately 2100 who attended between 1842-1864.

In Dec 1864, when it was feared that General Sherman was going to march on Charleston, all of The Citadel's archives and possessions were relocated to The Arsenal in Columbia-----and were promptly lost when Sherman instead turned north and burned that city to the ground.

Thus, with very few potential eyewitness's, almost no personal written documentation and no possibility of anything having been archived we invested our research time in reviewing every publication, document, map, photo, drawing and quotation to include all speculation, theory, analysis and critique that referenced Big Red.

Newspaper reports, magazines, official records, one letter and 2 rare artist's sketch's of a black & white image became the primary source's of evidence. ----I probably have invested over 1500 hours in research and the others nearly that much. The only limitation on the information/evidence gathered was that placed on us by history itself, i.e., the passage of 155 years of time and the destruction resulting from the war.

Without the historical background the reverse crescent has been the most difficult issue for alumni to understand and there are skeptics among alumni, but they have not seen the evidence you will see here. For some, even seeing the evidence, anything short of a photo op of the flag on Morris Is will not convince them.

The college knew of a red palmetto flag that posted at the cadet position, but little else in 2007. In 1960 for the 100 year celebration of the firing on the SOW The Citadel resurrected Big Red and when they did it was brought back to life with a crescent whose horns pointed the

same as today's state flag. The Centennial celebration ended and BR disappeared once again.

General Watts brought it to life again around 1988 and the BOV proclaimed it the official "Spirit Flag" of The Citadel, but it never really established a featured presence on campus---- and that brings us to 2007 when the BR image was posted.

The facts to be presented will show that Big Red is NOT a confederate flag, it is not a battle flag and it's not a captured flag. It is however, the identifying mark of the SCCC.

The evidence will show that Big Red was presented to Citadel Superintendent Stevens by the family of Hugh Vincent, a Charleston flagmaker for the purpose of marking the cadet position on Morris Island. That the flag posted for the SOW event, departed the Island with Stevens and never flew again.

Big Red then disappeared from history for 4 years until Apr 1865 when an Iowa soldier assigned to guard captured confederate booty from the last battle of the war "procured" the flag, kept it until 1919 when he donated to his state museum where it remained buried in storage until 2007

Interestingly the facts will also imply a long association between BR and the CAA from 1882-1948.

FIRST: BR is NOT a confederate flag!!! The confederacy formed on 4 Feb 1861. BR flew only 2 times-----both times in early January 1861. Never again. Big Red never posted during the life of the Confederacy.

2nd---BR is not a "BATTLE FLAG".---17 shots at the ship by cadets but no return fire from SOW. A "battle" requires an exchange of gunfire.

3rd—BR is not a captured flag. The evidence strongly suggests it never posted during the battle of Ft Blakely, therefore never captured.

Summary: BR is not confederate, not a battle flag, not a captured flag!!

WHAT then is this flag known as Big Red? It is The Citadel's inherited mark that identifies the SCCC and has done so since 1861. Similar to the Nike Swoosh-----it is w/o words, w/o a name----- its symbols identify the cadet corps. Any one who see's a red palmetto flag with a reverse crescent identifies it with The Citadel and its corps of cadets.

Leaving out all detail (be happy to answer questions) I will present the raw facts as they relate to BR:

1. The Mercury News 5 Jan 1861 edition established that a " Palmetto flag" was presented to Superintendent Stevens for the purpose of posting it on Morris Island A Charleston Quartermaster receipt that describes a " palmetto flag.....designed for Ft Morris was presented by The Ladies of Hugh Vincent's family to Superintendent of The Citadel Major Peter Stevens on 4 Jan 1861.¹"

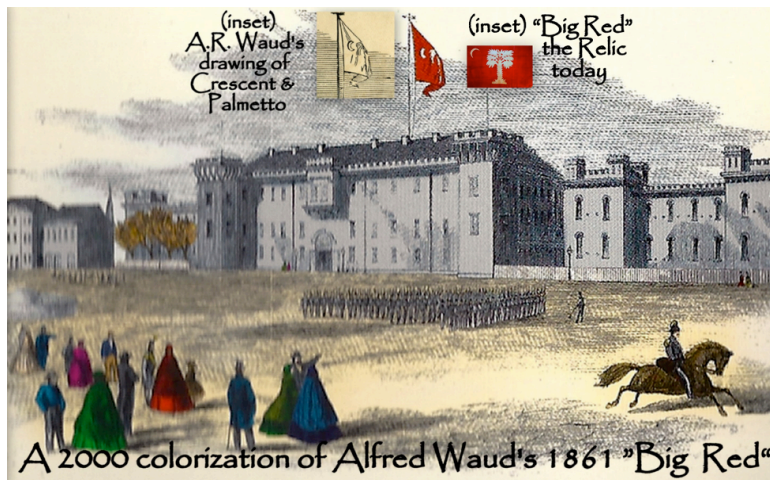
2. A "red Palmetto flag" was reported by a 26 January Harpers Magazine when it quoted two eyewitness's, one aboard the federal ship, Star of the West and the other on Morris Island.



3. Another eyewitness, First Lady of South Carolina Lucy Pickens, established in a letter to Superintendent Stevens, “our glorious amorials, the crescent and palmetto, as they waved in our harbor.....and floated over the cadet battery.....”

Quick summary of the above--- Confirmed by newspaper reporting and eyewitness accounts a red palmetto flag with crescent and palmetto tree at the cadet position on Morris Is on 9 Jan 1861.

4.Continuing , a NY Illustrator newspaper reporter/artist sketched a black & white drawing of a palmetto flag with reverse crescent atop The Citadel barracks on 4 or 5 Jan 1861 that appeared in NY Illustrated News newspaper on 2 Feb. ⁴



It is important to note here that after 10 years of continuous research we have concluded that no other flag of this unique and identical design (red w/palmetto and reverse crescent) ever existed prior to this sketch being made. There is and always has been only one BR.

5.The Charleston Daily Courier, reported a “well guarded red palmetto flag” in possession of Superintendent Stevens departing Morris Is. mid-January. Big Red flew twice----above The Citadel and on Morris Is-----a maximum total of about 15 days, a minimum total of 2.

As I have mentioned, the combination of the palmetto and crescent together as the sole devices on a flag had never been seen before the sketch of Big Red over the Citadel on the 4th or 5th. In fact, the only other flag to have both a crescent and palmetto as the sole devices other than Big Red was the SC State flag introduced 3 weeks later on the 28th of Jan. It is arguable that Big Red was the model for the current state flag!

Again-----Big Red and the SC state flag are the only flags to display these 2 devices alone on a flag(one SC unit in 1862 is an exception) and there has never been a flag with red field and decrescent with this palmetto design----except Big Red! NOTE: The SC Sovereignty flag, created in

Charleston a few weeks before Big Red , did have the palmetto and reverse crescent on a red field in addition to a blue cross of stars.

IMAGE of Sov flag



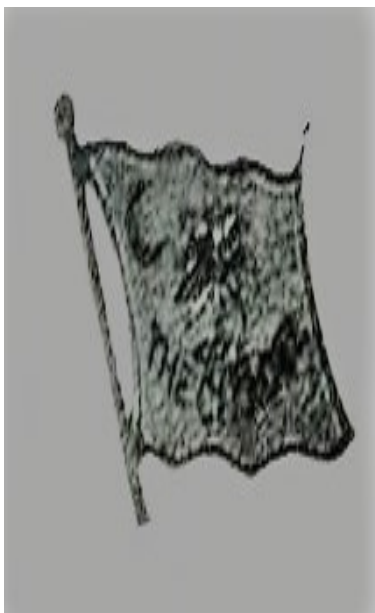
6. SHSI conservator Laura Rameriz reported in a 2009 document as follows:

"Sir, I can tell you that we, The Iowa Battle Flag Project, have done the stabilization work on the flag. We have documented the flag completely. She has undergone a visual, microscopic and photographic documentation and a complete fiber and particulate analysis. The last was performed as a particulate sample... .As for your last two questions we are certain about the age of the flag because of the fiber and thread analysis, the type of construction, knowledge of the flag makers themselves and by researching the flag just as you have done. . . .All other documentation gives us a good argument that this indeed is the flag, witnessed by at least four individuals that flew over Morris Island. I believe it is "Big Red". . . . "I hoped this has helped you."

Ms Cyndi Pederson, Director of Iowa DCA on 19 March 2010 made a recorded oral statement to the assembled public and press while visiting Charleston commenting that ***"After years of research we can now reasonably conclude that this is Big Red the flag that flew over the Citadel Cadet Battery on Morris Island on January 9th 1861 when shots were fired at the Star of the West" .. "as such the flag is historically significant to the State of Iowa, The State of South Carolina, The Citadel and the Nation as a whole"***#19/text slide #7

7. Summarizing again: the sketch of a flag with reverse crescent and palmetto tree atop The Citadel barracks on either 4/5 Jan, the same day a palmetto flag was confirmed presented to Stevens by "The Ladies", and the eyewitness descriptions placing a red flag with crescent and palmetto tree on Morris Is. on 9 Jan-----are all proven facts. It is also proven fact that Stevens departed the Island mid-Jan with a "well guarded red palmetto flag". Digest that while permitting me to digress for a moment.....

In addition to the undeniable factual history already stated about this artifact, it is necessary to highlight a fact once known----- but lost over time----- by this alumni association and that is that the Association has had a long and continuous relationship with the reverse crescent and palmetto tree dating back to the SOW event. This is important when looking at the life of BR and the meaning it has to The Citadel and the Association.



The image on the right is the 1882 official Association of Graduates lapel pin and introduced to the membership upon the reopening of the college after 17 years of US government occupation. We believe it was patented but after 70 years the patent expires. Note its reverse crescent and palmetto and the lettering, SCMA.

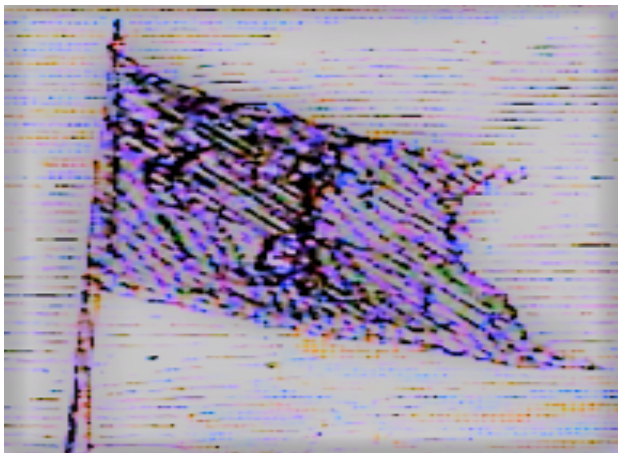
The image on the left is from a 1930 Citadel Yearbook. Reverse crescent and palmetto tree with The Citadel. This indicates that the lapel pin of 1882 was continuously used, alive and well, under Assoc of Citadel Men.....and research revealed this pin remained until the jeweler closed its doors in 1948.

The image in the middle is from 1875---prior to the re-opening----on a building owned by a former SOW cadet and a graduate who was instrumental in the re-opening of the college and resurrection of the AOG.

We believe the Alumni Association modeled its logo after BR -----how else does anyone explain a reverse crescent and palmetto tree on the official pin?

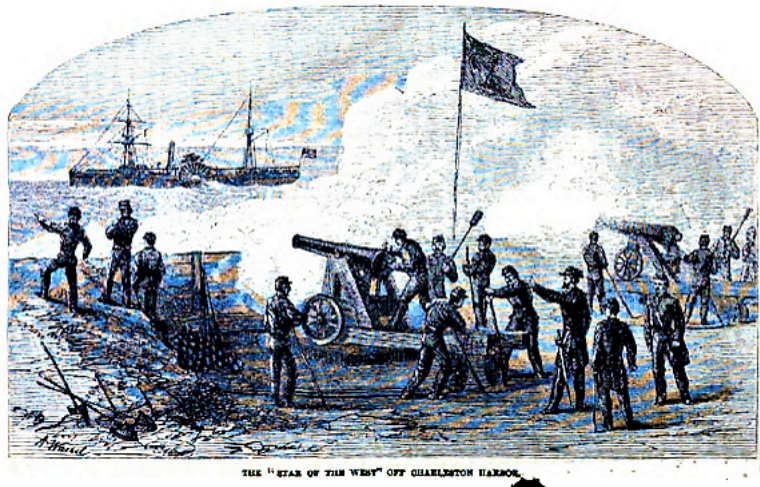
CONCLUSION: There is absolute factual proof based on multiple documents and eyewitness reports from the federal ship's Captain, a newspaper reporter on board the same ship, an eyewitness on Morris Is. and the First Lady of the State of South Carolina that a red flag with a palmetto tree and crescent was visible on Morris Is on 9 Jan 1861. Importantly, a newspaper artist drew a sketch of a palmetto flag with a reverse crescent he viewed atop The Citadel on/about 4 or 5 January, the same day, or day after, a palmetto flag made by Hugh Vincent for Ft Morris was presented to Superintendent Stevens-----a design in red never seen except for the flag known as Big Red.

One last image is a sketch drawn in 1866 by a newspaper artist who was summarizing how the war started. This sketch marks the cadet battery with a flag that shows two devices----a decrescent and palmetto tree----I would submit that the image and the factual proof cannot be denied! It is 1861's "photo op"and conclusively prove that a red flag with reverse crescent and palmetto was at Morris Is on 9 Jan 1861.



enlarged Image of flag below at

cadet battery showing a reverse crescent and palmetto tree. This image is easily made clearer with better tools that I don't have.



Cadet Battery

BR disappeared from history until the Battle of Ft Blakely Al in Apr 1865---the last major battle of the war when an Iowa soldier, one Cpl Baker who was posted for guard duty "procured" --- to use his words---- the flag. No other data has been found on how he "procured" the flag. However, in a battle that was comprised of over 4000 confederate soldiers, only 12 of whom were from SC-----The Palmetto Battery----- commanded by a Citadel Graduate and 2nd in command a Citadel grad, both former SOW cadets, with at least 4 other Citadel alumni, there is conclusive reasoning to suspect that the soldier assigned guard duty of confiscated property "procured" Big Red by commandeering it from the captured belongings of Citadel alumni. This and the proven fact that this red flag with this design has never been seen before or since and the particulate sample done by SHSI is overwhelming circumstantial evidence that this is THE red flag that posted on 9 Jan 1861.

Baker maintained possession until 1919 whereupon he donated to the Iowa museum who immediately placed it in a burlap bag in the museum basement for 87 years.

I will conclude this presentation with a proposal for your consideration: As per Article 1, Sect 2 para 'B' regarding the CAA's obligation to preserve the college's history, it seems necessary to me that the CAA re-establish the former History committee.

It is apparent to me and others that given The Citadel's pride in its southern heritage and the accomplishments of its alumni, today's political environment dictate the college speak with one informed voice on the details and history of the remembrances we honor located on campus. I urge the BOD to debate the issue of resurrecting that old Standing History Committee, rename it the Historical Preservation Committee and staff it with alumni knowledgeable in the details and nuances of the memories we have inherited. The Committee's purpose would be to serve as a voluntary counsel to both The President and BOV who when making policy, would have at their disposal accurate information from an informed group knowledgeable on physical or mythical Citadel traditions and/or history. Recently the CAA was asked to endorse a BOV vote for removal of a flag in the Chapel. A committee of alumni with knowledge of the historical facts and an understanding of Art 1 Sect 2 para B could have been consulted if it was an active committee. Additionally, newspaper reporters are always attempting to pervert our heritage by quoting uninformed campus officials answering loaded questions designed to embarrass the college. These officials are often non-graduates not necessarily versed in the historical facts, or preserving some aspects of our heritage. They should be instructed to defer to the committee for the legacy of a remembrance and recommendations before speaking publicly.

Lastly, the committee would be expected to suggest to Leadership options for education and training of the SCCC with respect to their place in the Long Gray Line and our heritage. Incoming Knobs should be a specific interest.

In this way, the CAA can truly uphold its obligation stated in Article 1 Sect 2 para B of fostering, perpetuating and hopefully preserving our history as well as protecting the college from uninformed commentary by those who do not know the historical fact.