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Civil War Battle –Vicksburg

“They killed old Douglas”. This is the first sentence of a book I would highly recommend. My older son loves history and as we travelled as a family for just under two decades, some of our stops included Gettysburg, Monticello, various state Capitols, Washington DC, USS Lexington aircraft carrier, various battleships and the Alamo. We toured Mission Control in Houston and stepped on the sand where the Wright Brothers stood before their feet would leave the earth in flight for the first time

Before the woke crowd cancels all history and rewrites it so that their feelings are not hurt, I would recommend a visit to all the historical sites you can, while learning about history can still occur. One of our visits on our way to the Florida beaches near Destin & Fort Walton Beach was a stop at Vicksburg, MS. The USS Cairo Gunboat and Museum is amazing. The dedication shown of raising it from its long baptism and restoring it is worth an educational history trip. In far west Texas you’ll find Fort Davis giving another view of history. Enjoy Buffalo soldiers riding horses at the Fourth of July parade and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar narrating the Fort’s introductory video. Ever Fourth of July the park rangers play baseball using the original rules and parents and children are welcome to play.

A confederate soldier shouted the sentence quoted above. They became acquainted with Douglas at the Battle of Corinth a few months earlier. Grant’s Union Army had pushed them from Tennessee to Vicksburg, where they were pinned in against the mighty river. Grant was going to starve the city into submission and heavy Confederate losses forced replacements of all ages to fight side by side. Douglas was in the battle of Luke and his unit Citation read, “He stood bravely in the face of Union fire as his friends fell around him”.

By June 27 over 4300 men on both sides perished, and more would die that day. So many died, but Douglas’s death was different. Picture the Confederate troops retreating into Vicksburg, Douglas marching with the soldiers. You see, Douglas was a camel and the book The Last Camel Charge by Forrest Byrant Johnson, will explain a lot. (I found the book in the Ft. Davis Gift shop and they mention the camels in a display at the fort museum.) The camel was clearly out of place anywhere in the Americas, but would probably be endeared by all that saw this creature. No wonder they were shouting “Murderers! Yankee Murderers!”

Camels are unique in that their domestication over the eons has impregnated their DNA with a desire to be with humans or other livestock. They basically can take care of themselves if not tended and easily strip whole trees and plants, which happened to the disdain of farmers and ranchers when these animals were released to the wild once the United States government abandoned their military camel project. I think the camels wanted human companionship. Any lonely soldier understood this and loved them back. At the time we visited Vicksburg, it was understood that the town does not celebrate 4th of July because that is when the battle was lost to Grant. Not sure if it is true today, but feelings of defeat goes deep. When Ann and I were visiting the museum in Scotland were Bonnie Prince Charlie lost the Battle of Culloden, there were visitors weeping in the museum for the battle that occurred in 1746. It could be hard feelings are passed down generationally like the migration habits of the monarch butterfly or geese. In a documentary on the attempt to bury confederate soldiers after the civil war many families never were allowed their needed closure. Many times the body of the union soldier was moved but the confederate soldier was left until laws provided proper burial. Many fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers went generations before there was approval for this compassionate closure all humans should be allowed.

Yeah, Douglas was just a camel. But young men that fight old men’s battles still should be offered some respect. No matter which side they fight on. So I hope the political class and some of their diehard followers realize how they are fueling a fire today. All they are doing is trying to encourage a civil war.

- David

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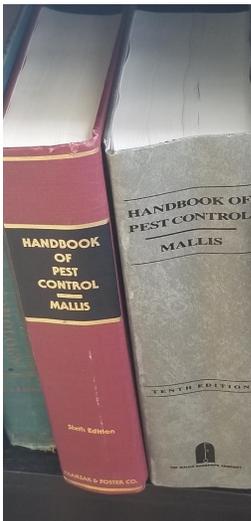
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*The Handbook of Pest Control ...then
and now*

Excuses

Remember in the Blues Brothers movie when Jake Blues pleaded with ex fiancée (played by Carrie Fisher) I ran out of gas! I got a flat tire, I didn't have change for cab fare! (seven more excuses that it wasn't his fault), I swear to god! Well last year was not a good year for the newsletter, and I don't have that many excuses, but one big one is that I was asked by a Purdue friend, Stoy Hedges, to re-edit a chapter in the industry bible of pest control. You can see the picture at the side. The left copy is when I graduated from Purdue and it is my autographed copy from the original author, Arnold Mallis. The book has been rewritten every decade since 1940 to keep up with advances in the industry. Hopefully Stoy likes my work on my assigned chapter. And hopefully my words in 2021 continue to interest and amuse you.



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