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More on the WWI memorial in Trenton



This is a view of the Gilchrist County Courthouse on Jan. 1, 2018. Notice there are fewer vehicles than the photo from Thursday (June 6, the 75th anniversary of D-Day).

Story, Photos and Videos By Jeff M. Hardison

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Additional Photos Provided by Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 2086 (Dixie Defenders) Commander Daryl Ratterree. Sent on May 29, 2019.

TRENTON – On the 75th anniversary of D-Day (Thursday, June 6), a visit to the



Veterans Memorial Park in Trenton provided an opportunity for more coverage.

This is a view of the Gilchrist County Courthouse on June 6, 2019, at about noon.

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Here is an aerial view of the veterans' memorial area in Trenton from Jan. 1, 2018, captured from the video by a hobbyist pilot. Notice the blank space on the left becomes filled within 18 months.

Here is an aerial view of the veterans' memorial area in Trenton from Thursday (June 6, 2019), captured by a hobbyist pilot. Also the oak tree that provides some shade in the area has grown to cover the view of the Confederate soldiers' memorial, as seen from above.

“I had created a video of the park on Jan. 1, 2018 of the memorial park for veterans in Trenton,” Jeff Hardison, owner of the daily news website *HardisonInk.com*, said. “At the time, on New Year’s Day 2018, I had no

idea that in four months, two deputies with the Gilchrist County Sheriff’s Office would be murdered while they ate lunch in that city. Likewise, I had no idea that a year and a half from the creation of my previously unpublished video, that the new memorial would be added to honor the soldiers who fought in World War I.”



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<https://youtu.be/6pyK9REdX34>

In this silent film made on New Year's Day 2018, hobbyist drone pilot Jeff M. Hardison practices at the memorial park for veterans in Gilchrist County. There were no people or aircraft in the area at the time, and the unmanned aerial system (drone) remained below 400 feet high. The original video of this filming is longer.

Video by Jeff M. Hardison, all copyrights reserved

Hardison said he covered both the terrible event in April of 2018, where a coward ruthlessly killed two men while they were protecting and serving the public, and the progressive event, where local veterans from WWI were honored during the ceremony on Memorial Day 2019 (May 27).

A couple of days after the ceremony dedicating the WWI monument, Hardison said, Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 2086 (Dixie Defenders) Commander Daryl Ratterree provided Hardison with photos of the people who installed the WWI monument.

“I told Mr. Ratterree then that I intended to hold his pictures until after I made the second video,” Hardison said. “A number of things happened between May 29 and June 6, which kept me busy. Despite a number of other things that were demanding my attention, on Thursday (the 75th anniversary of D-Day), I felt I must make the second video for this follow-up story, photos and video in regard to coverage of the event last month.”

<https://youtu.be/mhHJhkHhZII>

This flight, under the same safe conditions as 18 months before, this silent film shows the WWI monument, as well as the flag at half-staff in honor of the veterans who fought and died at the D-Day attack in Europe. The hobbyist drone pilot took a bit faster turning view on the first roundabout view of the surroundings. Interestingly, on this videographer's arrival on Thursday (June 6), veteran Rodger Nogaki was speaking with a Gilchrist County journalist who saw an ancestor of hers had his name listed on the WWI monument. She mentioned that she is an eighth-generation family member from this part of Florida. Even before Gilchrist County was a county, her family was here.

Video by Jeff M. Hardison, all copyrights reserved

The journalist said he hopes and prays people remember the soldiers killed in action, as well as soldiers missing in action or captured as prisoners of war; and those soldiers who came home wounded physically, spiritually or who returned to their homesteads relatively whole and healthy.

“One thing I hope people remember, is that whether a person is from a family with eight generations of Floridians here, or whether they only recently moved to this state, even from another country, that now we are all Americans, Hardison said.

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“We, the people of the United States of America. owe our freedom to every single veteran, past and present, living, healthy, wounded or passed away,” Hardison, an honorably discharged United States Army veteran, added.

The Invasion of Normandy in WWII was a turning point for victory by the Allies in Europe as they eventually defeated the Nazis, fascists and tyrants there; later followed by the dropping of a couple of atomic bombs in the Pacific Theater of War to end WWII with victory by the allies of freedom back then.

Today, the United States is so free that it allows Nazis to express their beliefs without government intervention, up to the point, however where they seek to cause death, injury or destruction of property; in which case, they are violating criminal law.

Meanwhile, here above a couple of videos take of the same place 18 months apart in time.

The photos below were sent by Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 2086 (Dixie Defenders) Commander Daryl Ratterree, who sent them on May 29.

Those photos are of the crew from O.T. Davis Monument Co. of Gainesville setting the World War One Memorial in Trenton at Veterans Memorial Park.

As noted in the story last month, the World War I Monument was the only one missing in Veterans Circle Park for many years.

Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp (SCV) # 2086 received the information about this from Rodger Nogaki about a year and a half ago. SCV Camp #2086 put up \$500 in seed money to get the ball rolling to honor these men. The ball did roll, the monument was completely paid for, installed and was dedicated on Memorial Day (May 27).



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These photos show O.T. Davis Monument Company employees cleaning and polishing the new World War One Memorial Marker. In the bottom picture, are O.T. Davis employees (from left) are Nick Vlacos, Steve Hendrix, (kneeling), Ryan Daube-Owner of O.T. Davis Monument Company, Valdez Lee (kneeling), Ratterree noted.

Photos Provided by Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 2086 (Dixie Defenders) Commander Daryl Ratterree,

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Publisher's Note: The late May story, photos and video from the event on Memorial Day in Trenton will be available in the archives of *HardisonInk.com* in the relatively near future. Archives can be visited by clicking on the icon at the bottom right, below the ads on any of the seven pages. Pages can be visited by clicking on the boxes marked at the top and bottom of each of the seven pages. They are Home, Police, Calendar, Business, Community, Life and Leisure.