



Robert Barney <barneyrobertlaverne@gmail.com>

Re: Letter to the Editor - Jessamine County Confederate Statue

1 message

Warren Taylor <warren.taylor@bluegrassnewsmedia.com>

Tue, Jul 4, 2023 at
1:31 PM

To: Robert Barney <barneyrobertlaverne@gmail.com>

And no, it is not our policy to explain if material is added to a story unless a correction was made to the story. We are working on a follow-up story about the request for a referendum. This paper has no editorial view on the matter and has not since I took over as editor over a year ago, nor will it.

On Tue, Jul 4, 2023 at 1:10 PM Robert Barney <barneyrobertlaverne@gmail.com> wrote:

Warren,

Is it the policy of the Jessamine Journal to revise articles after they are published, with no explanation of the fact that the article was revised or why it was revised?

I visited the Jessamine Journal website today to see that two of the complaints I made in my letter to the editor (which follows), have been addressed by a revision of the original article. I have attached the revised article.

You have now added:

Barney also suggested a county-wide referendum. "Put the matter of the statue's removal onto the next election ballot and ask the people what they want." Barney said.

and

"I, too, am a member of the spiritual leadership of the county." said Wilmore resident Glen Spann who is a local pastor and a retired Asbury College History Professor. His academic emphasis was on American religious history as well as the history of the American antebellum south.

"I would like to suggest that those who are offended and concerned about a confederate memorial on our courthouse grounds do something constructive, perhaps along the lines of raising the money for a Union memorial to be placed, perhaps, on the courthouse grounds." Spann said. "Many people have said that Kentucky joined the Confederacy after the war, due to the outrageous policies of the reconstruction government and other issues that many Kentuckians wish that Kentucky had succeeded and that explains the great preponderance of confederate memorials in the state as opposed to union memorials."

"The best scholarship in American Civil War history has demonstrated, conclusively, that the soldiers who fought in the Confederate army did not fight to defend slavery, they fought to defend their homes." Spann said.

I am certainly grateful for these improvements to the article, but nowhere do you indicate why they were made. I do not see that you published my letter to the editor.

I am also disappointed that there is NO reference to the website: <http://jessaminestatue.com/> I would certainly have shared that with your reporter had she bothered to do a followup interview with me.

Have you made any effort to find out why the pastors removed their statue removal video from the internet? I am left to wonder why they did. Was it because the attention now being paid to their demands, was bringing them under criticism from the majority of Jessamine County residents who don't want to see the statue removed? Were some of their own parishioners unhappy with them being involved in something that they did not think they should be involved in?

I'd like to hear your response before I share "this story" further.

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Robert Barney** <barneyrobertlaverne@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 28, 2023 at 3:34 PM
Subject: Letter to the Editor - Jessamine County Confederate Statue
To: Randy Patrick <warren.taylor@bluegrassnewsmedia.com>

I have read the June 27, 2023 Jessamine Journal article titled "Local pastors petition Fiscal Court to remove Confederate statue on courthouse grounds".

I was very disappointed in the article for the following reasons:

1. As an individual who appeared at the meeting, making both a prepared oral and written presentation to leave the statue "as is", your reporter made no effort to interview me for the story.
2. I have created the website: <http://www.jessaminestatue.com/> to publish the facts related to the debate about whether or not to remove the statue. There is NO reference to that website in the article.
3. Retired Asbury University history professor, and former head of the history department, Glenn Spann also made a presentation to the Fiscal Court in opposition to removal of the statue. There was NO report of his [comments](#) in the article. By sharp contrast, the article did carry the comments of Carolyn Dupont, a

history professor in favor of removing the statue. Ironically, in 2020 while running for political office in Jessamine County, Dupont denied having a position on the matter of the statue. Clearly her statement in 2020 was not truthful.

4. The article made reference to the 12 minute video produced by the pastors which has since been removed from the internet. I had provided a link to that video on the website: <http://www.jessaminestatue.com/> I think it is important that everyone concerned about this issue view that video but it can no longer be found. Why was that video removed from the Internet?

I do not believe that the view of voters has changed since I surveyed 1,000 Democrats in 2020. At that time over 70% of the Democrats told me they do NOT want the statue removed. Only 19% were in favor of statue removal. From a Republican point of view, I strongly believe that most Republicans do not want to see history erased; I certainly don't.

The closing point in my oral presentation was this:

"My question for the ministers: Will you join me and support a county wide referendum? Put the matter of the statue's removal onto the next election ballot and ask the people what they want. "

Your reporter made no reference to my request for a referendum. Why not?

Once again it is clear that the editorial view of the Jessamine Journal has affected the reporting of this matter. You are not being fair to the majority of the county who believe that statue is history and should be left alone.

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