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QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

“I regret that I have but one life to give to my country.” Attributed to Nathan Hale before his hanging as a spy for the Continental Army on June 6, 1776.

YALE OR HALE:

On July 2, 2020 Roger Kimball bought a full page in the NY Times stating that Yale University should not be so named.

In full disclosure, I was not previously familiar with Mr. Kimball. On looking him up, I discover he is a conservative social commentator who is Editor and Publisher of “The New Criterion” as well as being a Yale graduate. To begin with, he chafes at what he believes is a too liberal leaning at Yale. To give you an idea, “If the left

can deface or destroy statues of George Washington, Christopher Columbus, Thomas Jefferson and countless others, shouldn't we insist they live up to their own ideals and cancel racially tainted liberal institutions like Yale?" OK, now you know where he is coming from, but I would ask that you think about the facts that he presents in his essay.

Kimball begins by referencing the fact that several years ago Yale changed the name of Calhoun College, named for John C Calhoun, Yale graduate and valedictorian, because "his position on slavery was not consonant with the position today advocated by Yale." He both owned slaves and advocated for the system.

Sounded good to a lot of people, "The unspoken response was, 'What took them so long?'"

But lurking hidden under the covers were several inconvenient truths. How about these famous names in history: Timothy Dwight, Benjamin Silliman, Ezra Stiles, John Davenport and the theologian, Jonathan Edwards - all

slave owners, and all honored by having their names emblazoned on other Yale residential Colleges. And, let's not forget Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph and the Morse code, "who was not only pro-slavery, but thought it divinely ordained and 'benevolent.'"

Hey Trustees, maybe better take a look at these folks, But, wait a minute, what about the university's namesake, Elihu Yale himself?

Not a pretty story ahead. Turns out he had made a fortune with the East India Company in Madras. "Yale, as an administrator in India was deeply involved in the slave trade. He always made sure that ships leaving his jurisdiction for Europe carried at least 10 slaves."

Interestingly, in Calhoun's day, "although one could own slaves, participating in the international slave trade was a capital crime."

Kimball goes on to report, "Elihu Yale had slaves flogged, hanged a stable boy for stealing a horse, and was eventually removed from his post in India for corruption."

From other sources we learn that Jeremiah Dummer, who was much more instrumental in the early years, raising money for Collegiate School, (Yale's predecessor institution) had approached Elihu Yale for support. Yale gave gifts and money with a value of 800 pounds sterling, a significant sum at the time. At some point, shortly thereafter, the trustees decided to rename Collegiate School. Jeremiah Dummer was the most deserving for that honor.

On 4/5/1999, regarding Yale's 350th anniversary, American Heritage Magazine rated Elihu Yale, the most overrated philanthropist in American History, saying Yale college's success was due to the generosity of Jeremiah Dummer, but trustees did not want it known as 'Dummer College.'"

So there you have it, Elihu Yale – slave trader, slave beater, stable boy executioner, fired for corruption, enshrined forever as the esteemed father of Yale.

Calhoun, Valedictorian of his class, would go on to become a Congressman, U.S. Senator,

Secretary of War, Secretary of State and Vice President of the United States. According to Kimball, “Encyclopedia Britannica praises Calhoun for his ‘just and kind treatment of slaves’ and the ‘stainless integrity’ of his character.”

Comparing the resumes of Calhoun and Elihu Yale, you’ve got to wonder who should stay and who should go. Yale president, Peter Salovey, said at the time the name change was made at Calhoun college, “Unlike Elihu Yale, who made a gift that supported the founding of our university, Calhoun has no similarly strong association with our campus.” Really? Valedictorian and one of Yale’s most accomplished graduates – “No association” indeed!!

The climate of the times is such that Calhoun will not be resuscitated at Yale, but will Elihu Yale and all the others with residential colleges named after them remain free from further scrutiny?

This university in New Haven has been, and will remain, one of the best in the world. I

suspect president Salovey is too terrified of alumni reaction to get behind the growing #CancelYale movement. Why do I think that incoming freshmen don't get the above history during their orientation week?

As discussed in previous issues, I am not in favor of eradicating our past, but making certain history, statues, art etc. are given full context. If, on the other hand, your philosophy is to erase/eradicate based on current political sensitivities, then you have to be in it with both feet. You can't be against slavery as practiced by just one person, you must be against slavery as practiced by all. So, where are Yale president Salovey and the Trustees, with the campus still honoring numerous slave owners with college appellations and the university itself named for a slave trader?

My thought, and mine alone; rename Yale after Nathan Hale, born in Connecticut, went to Yale at age 14, graduated at 18 and became an iconic national figure in our fight for independence. I've always liked the smart look of those dark blue sweat- shirts with the big

bold white letters, Y A L E. Not so much anymore – H A L E, would look much better.

The issues Mr. Kimball brings up in this one page article are so much a part of today's discussion, they demand further attention and investigation. On July 3rd, The NY Times, "All the news that's fit to print" had not one word to say about the "inconvenient truths".

DOUBLE SHUT DOWN AND PANDEMIC FLARE:

Your Hermit Scribe is more of a hermit than ever. Being in Florida, it didn't take even two weeks after the bars and beaches reopened for the lotus eating, "I don't give a damn" youngsters to kick off the worst flare up Florida has seen. As a result, we are now moving in reverse – not total lockdown, but moving swiftly in that direction. No beaches, no bars, some in door dining, but if you are in a risk group you'd have to be nuts. Hello, take out, goodbye freedom.

A friend advises, “Pack up, Hermit. Point that car toward squeaky clean (not really) Connecticut and New York.” Well, first of all I’d have to run the gauntlet of South and North Carolina, barely behind Florida with their own flare- ups. Then, on arriving in CT. or NY. I get quarantined for another two weeks. OK, no tears, but it is getting a bit tiresome.

And, more bad news from Dr. Fauci: that mutation in the virus I discussed a couple of issues back, it’s for real, and the mutation of the virus has made it even more infectious. Further, stories are starting to come out about the recovery status of people who have returned home from hospitalizations. There are a high percentage suffering from, “physical, neurological, cognitive and emotional problems. Lung scarring, inflammation of the heart, kidneys, liver and other organs, plus genuine PTSD; including nightmares, depression and anxiety. If that’s not enough, nearly 40% of recovering patients are being referred to neurologists for treatment of fatigue, confusion and mental foginess.

**It's not, "Oh, goody, I'm out of the hospital and all's well with the world." It will be a long road to recovery for many, recovery that may never be complete. And, so, dear readers, please stay out of bars and casinos. Be well, stay well.
Your faithful scribe, PB**