

The Hamburg Massacre

On July 4th, 1876, America was holding a very large exposition in Philadelphia commemorating our first century as a nation. There were huge pavilions covering all of the nation's accomplishments during the first 100 years. In Hamburg, South Carolina there was a different story. Two white men (Robert Butler and Henry Getzen) in a horse drawn carriage tried to bust through a parade of Black Militia that were marching on a wide street named Market Street.

The white men insisted that they go through the militia and the militia leader, Dock Adams, refused to let them pass. After some intense arguing, Dock Adams let the white men pass through. Butler and Getzen explained this incident to their elders, and they demanded that the militia surrender their arms. Dock Adams, in fear of his life, refused to surrender arms to the mob.

On July 8th, the incident escalated into a large conflict with a mob gathering in Hamburg. A battle ensued and eight men lost their lives including 7 Black men (4 of which were murdered) and 1 White man. This incident was reported locally and nationally. It became known as the Hamburg Massacre. The following is a number of available resources that will provide further details of this incident.

Resource information for the Hamburg Massacre, Hamburg, SC and the Reconstruction

Book Resources:

1. Budiansky, Stephen. *The Bloody Shirt*. Penguin, 24 Jan. 2008.
2. Chapman, John A. *History of Edgefield County (South Carolina)*. Clearfield, 1997.
3. Fetters, Thomas. *The Charleston & Hamburg: A South Carolina Railroad & an American Legacy*. Arcadia Publishing, 1 Mar. 2008.
4. Smith, Michael S. *The Lost Freedmen's Town of Hamburg, South Carolina*. Arcadia Publishing, 5 Apr. 2021.
5. Seaborn, Barbara. *Monumental Legacy*. iUniverse, 7 Oct. 2021.
6. Vandervelde, Isabel. *Aiken County*. Reprint Company Publishers, 1 Jan. 1998.

Video Resources:

1. "[Hamburg Massacre](#)". YouTube, uploaded by WJBF, 24 February, 2017.
2. "[Historic African American Community to Commemorate Hamburg Massacre with Events](#)". YouTube, uploaded by WJBF, 5 July, 2023.
3. "[The Untold Story of Hamburg, South Carolina](#)". YouTube, uploaded by WJBF, 22 February, 2021.

Internet Resources:

1. African American Registry. "[The Hamburg Massacre Occurs.](#)" *AAREG*, Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
2. Bengston, Bill. "[Hamburg Massacre Remembered 140 Years Later.](#)" *Post and Courier*, 6 July 2016. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
3. Berry, Stephen. "[The Hamburg Massacre.](#)" *CSI: Dixie*, eHistory, 2014. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
4. Folker, James. "[Black Victims of 1876 Hamburg Massacre Get Historical Marker.](#)" *The Augusta Chronicle*, 6 Mar. 2016. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
5. GrantRevealed. "[Ulysses S. Grant's Outrage at the 1876 Hamburg Massacre of Blacks.](#)" *Ulysses S. Grant Revealed*, 26 July 2022. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
6. JBKATZ. "[Hamburg, South Carolina Massacre – Amazing Black History.](#)" *Amazing Black History*, 20 Feb. 2023. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
7. Lowcountry Digital History Initiative. "[After Slavery: Hamburg Massacre.](#)" *Lowcountry Digital Initiative*. Accessed 2 Apr., 2024
8. Mitchell, Jerry. "[On This Day in 1876.](#)" *Mississippi Today*, 8 July 2023. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
9. National Park Service. "[Hamburg-Carrsville African American Heritage District.](#)" *National Park Services*, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2 November 2022. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.

Internet Resources:

10. ProQuest Part of Clarivate. "[Hamburg Massacre \(1876\)](#)." *Black Freedom Struggle in the United States*. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
11. Shafer, Ronald G. "[July Fourth Parade Led to a Massacre of Black People in Hamburg, S.C.](#)" *Washington Post*, 4 July 2022. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
12. South Carolina Picture Project. "[Hamburg Massacre](#)." Charleston, SC. September, 2014. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
13. Stolp-Smith, Michael. "[The Hamburg Massacre \(1876\)](#)." *Black Past*, 7 Apr. 2011. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
14. The Green Book of South Carolina. "[The Hamburg Massacre](#)." *The Green Book of South Carolina*. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
15. The New York Times. "[The Hamburg Massacre.; Spirited Debate in the Senate-Mr. Morton's Denunciation of the Democratic Presidential Nominees-Mr. Thurman's Reply](#)." *Special Dispatch to the New-York Times*. 6 Aug. 1876. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
16. Wikipedia Contributors. "[Hamburg Massacre](#)." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 Jan. 2020. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
17. Wilson, Alan. "[Read Full Opinon \(Hamburg Massacre\)](#)." *South Carolina Attorney General*. 21 July 2020. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024
18. Winn, Samantha. "[Wreath Laying Ceremony Commemorates Hamburg Massacre, End of Reconstruction Era](#)." *Post and Courier*, 10 July 2023. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
19. WordPress. "[The Hamburg Massacre](#)." *Henry Shultz and His Town of Hamburg, SC*, 7 Feb. 2016. Accessed 2 Apr. 2024.
20. Zinn Education Project. "[July 8, 1876: Hamburg Massacre](#)." *Zinn Education Project*, 2024. Accessed 2 Apr., 2024.
21. Zuczek, Richard. "[Hamburg Massacre](#)." *South Caroline Encyclopedia*, University of South Carolina – aws, 15 Apr. 2016. Accessed 2 Apr, 2024.

Other Resources:

1. [The Augusta-Richmond County Library](#)
2. [Augusta Genealogical Society](#)
3. [Augusta University, Reese Library](#)
4. [University of South Carolina](#)
5. [Library of Congress](#)
6. [The North Augusta Star Archives](#)