

# The Rock finds a resting place

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The Confederate Memorial Rock, moved from the University of Missouri-Columbia campus more than three months ago, is to find a new resting place on the lawn of the Boone County Courthouse.

The rock, a memorial to Boone Countians who died fighting for the South in the Civil War, will be placed on the lawn at city expense following a public hearing and approval of the move this morning by the County Court.

City manager Terry Novak asked the county to take the five-ton rock off his hands, but the court would make no decision without a public hearing.

Some 30 people attended today's hearing. All those who spoke were in favor of placing the rock in front of the courthouse.

Scott Orr, an attorney representing the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who originally donated the rock to Columbia in 1935, urged the county to "take this memorial as any other honor and distinction awarded for any other brave patriots who fought for the county. We are not here to refight any of our previous and unfortunate wars. The only issue is to honor those persons who bravely and valiantly served their county with many giving the ultimate

— their lives."

Orr was referring to publicized opposition to the memorial by University black students who charged it was a symbol of racism on the campus.

Dr. Jack Matthews presented a recent resolution by the Boone County Historical Society recommending the transfer of the memorial from the city to the county and its placement on the courthouse lawn.

"Its inscription reads 'To honor the valor and patriotism of the Confederate

soldiers of Boone County,'" Matthews reminded the court.

Dale Kindred said he did not think "there is an attempt to rewrite history. We can't ignore the fact that the Civil War took place."

A member of the Sterling Price Sons of Confederate Veterans said that group also supported the move.

In approving the move, County Court Presiding Judge James Butcher said he rejected the idea that "there is necessarily

anything racist about the rock more than about a Vietnam war memorial even though many persons objected to that war. It has nothing to do with approval or disapproval of the war and certainly does not imply approval."

Butcher appointed a three member committee to coordinate the move with the city and help the court decide where on the lawn to place the memorial.

Members are Orr, Matthews and Historical Society president Tom Botts.



All for the Rock. A public hearing on the Confederate Rock attracted a crowd of county residents.