



# The Belo Herald

Newsletter of the Col. A. H. Belo Camp #49

## December 2013

Our program this month is our **Camp Christmas Party**, which will be held SATURDAY, December 7<sup>th</sup> at the home of Camp Adjutant Stan Hudson.

**PHOSPONED DUE TO ICE STORM CONDITIONS**

**(New Date to be sent by email and posted on facebook page.)**



The Belo Herald is an interactive newsletter. Click on the links to take you directly to additional internet resources.

### Col. A. H. Belo Camp #49

- Commander - Kevin Newsom
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. - Mark Nash
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cmdr. - David Hendricks
- Adjutant - Stan Hudson
- Chaplain - Rev. Jerry Brown
- Editor - Nathan Bedford Forrest



Contact us: <http://belocamp.org>  
[Belocamp49@hotmail.com](mailto:Belocamp49@hotmail.com)  
<http://www.facebook.com/BeloCamp49>

Follow us on **Twitter** at [belocamp49scv](#)

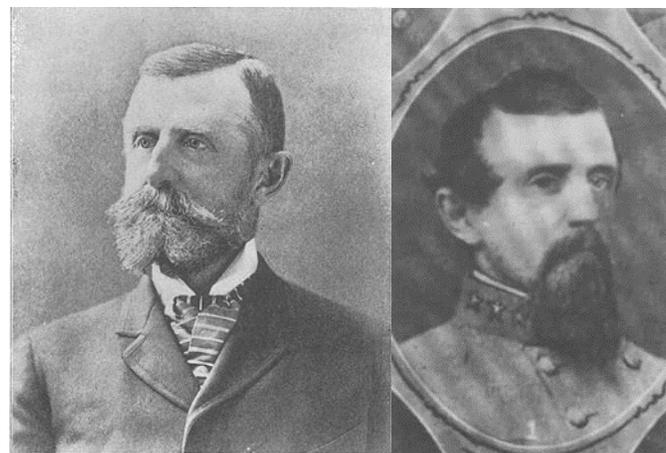
Texas Division: [www.texas-scv.org](http://www.texas-scv.org)

National: [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)

<http://1800mydixie.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SCVORG>

Commander in Chief Givens on **Twitter** at [CiC@CiSCV](#)



**Have you paid your dues??**

Come early (6:30pm), eat, fellowship with other members, learn your history!



**Christmas Party PHOSPONED .....**

All meetings are open to the public and guests are welcome.





## COMMANDER'S REPORT



Compatriots,

It gives me great pleasure to announce Belo's Christmas party is Saturday, December 7, at 7pm. The Location will be Adjutant Stan Hudson's home. Since Stan has been kind enough to host, I ask each member who attends to provide a side dish/beverage/dessert of their choice (Feel free to email me for the address to Stan's place). Members and guests are encouraged to bring their spouses/significant others. We look forward to seeing you there!

Also, please remember that the Christmas party will be our December meeting as well. There is no formal meeting at La Madeleine in December. At the party we will discuss the Camp Plan for 2014 as well as other pertinent issues.

Speaking of pertinent issues, remember to bring your print/radio ad ideas to the party! We need to know what you think is the best way to introduce ourselves and the SCV to greater DFW. Now's the time to speak up and let your voice be heard.

2013 has been a wonderful year for Belo. Our growth is a tribute to the effort of each and every one of our members. Now it's time to take that effort up a notch and let Dallas know exactly who we are.

Have a very Merry Christmas! See you at the party.

Kevin Newsom  
Commander  
Belo Camp 49 Dallas  
Texas SCV  
214-422-1778  
[kevin.newsom@belocamp.org](mailto:kevin.newsom@belocamp.org)





# Chaplain's Corner

## A Christian Holiday!



Since the early fourth century, Christmas has been a day set aside by Christians to commemorate and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. That's what it is, and that's all it is. If Christ and the Nativity are taken away from Christmas, then there is no Christmas. Of course, as we all know, there are those who would like to do just that. But, without Christ what would Christmas be a celebration of, and what would it be called?

Some malcontents who claim to be offended by a nativity scene might say, Why don't we eliminate Christ and Christianity and just have a holiday season to celebrate joy, peace, and love? We could have a holiday tree with holiday gifts, send out holiday cards and wish each other "Happy Holidays." This all may seem to make sense to some, but it really doesn't. You see, without Christ, there is no joy, peace or love.

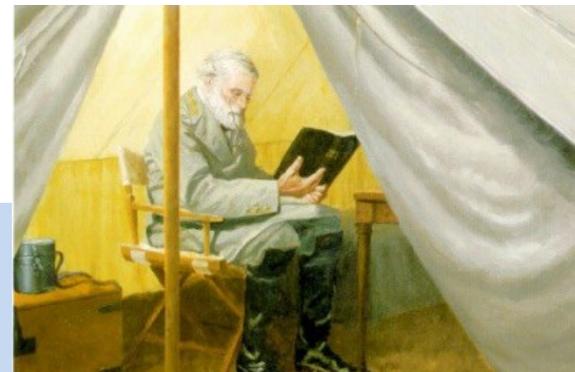
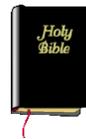
Jesus said, in John 15:11, "These things I have spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." Then in John 16:33, He said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." And in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." The Apostle John writes, "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us." (1 John 4:12) True joy, peace and love comes from knowing Jesus Christ and in our relationship with Him.

Perhaps it would be better if we eliminated all the hoopla and secular nonsense that has been attached to Christmas, and continue to celebrate the birth of Christ and the joy, peace and love He ushered into the world. After all, that is what the Christmas holiday has been all about since it was first celebrated by Christians, almost seventeen hundred years ago.

To all those who are not Christians, we invite you to join with us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Hopefully, in sharing our holiday with us you'll be blessed. To those who want to feel offended, or wish to cause trouble or in some way create a hostile atmosphere during our time of remembrance, we have only this to say: Go away and stay away, Christmas is a Christian Holiday!



**Bro. Len Patterson, Th.D**  
**1941-2013**



**"IN ALL MY PERPLEXITIES AND DISTRESSES, THE BIBLE HAS NEVER FAILED TO GIVE ME LIGHT AND STRENGTH."**

**-GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE**

The funeral for Ella Mae Mayhood, mother of TSOCR State Chaplain and Thomas Jewett Goree Camp Commander Tommy Mayhood, was held on Saturday, November 16th (Rosenberg, Texas). Those who wish may donate to the TSOCR at Mayhood Fund at P.O. Box 3311 in San Angelo, Texas 79602.

Compatriot Mike Stover of Major W. H. "Howdy" Martin Camp #1241 in Athens Texas passed away November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember these families in your prayers.

# Col. A. H. Belo Camp #49



## Christmas Party

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013

LOCATION: Home of Camp Adjutant Stan Hudson.

2222 Lovers Lane, Dallas, 75225

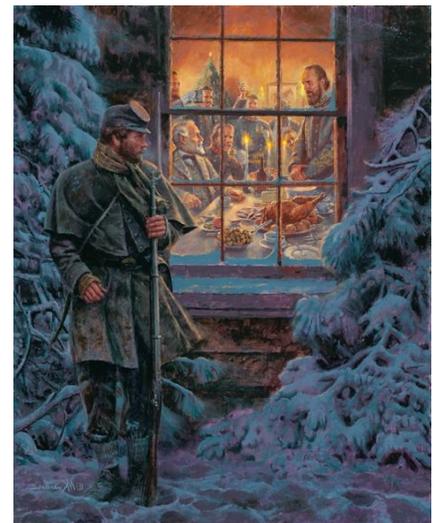
**PHOSPONED DUE TO ICE  
STORM CONDITIONS**

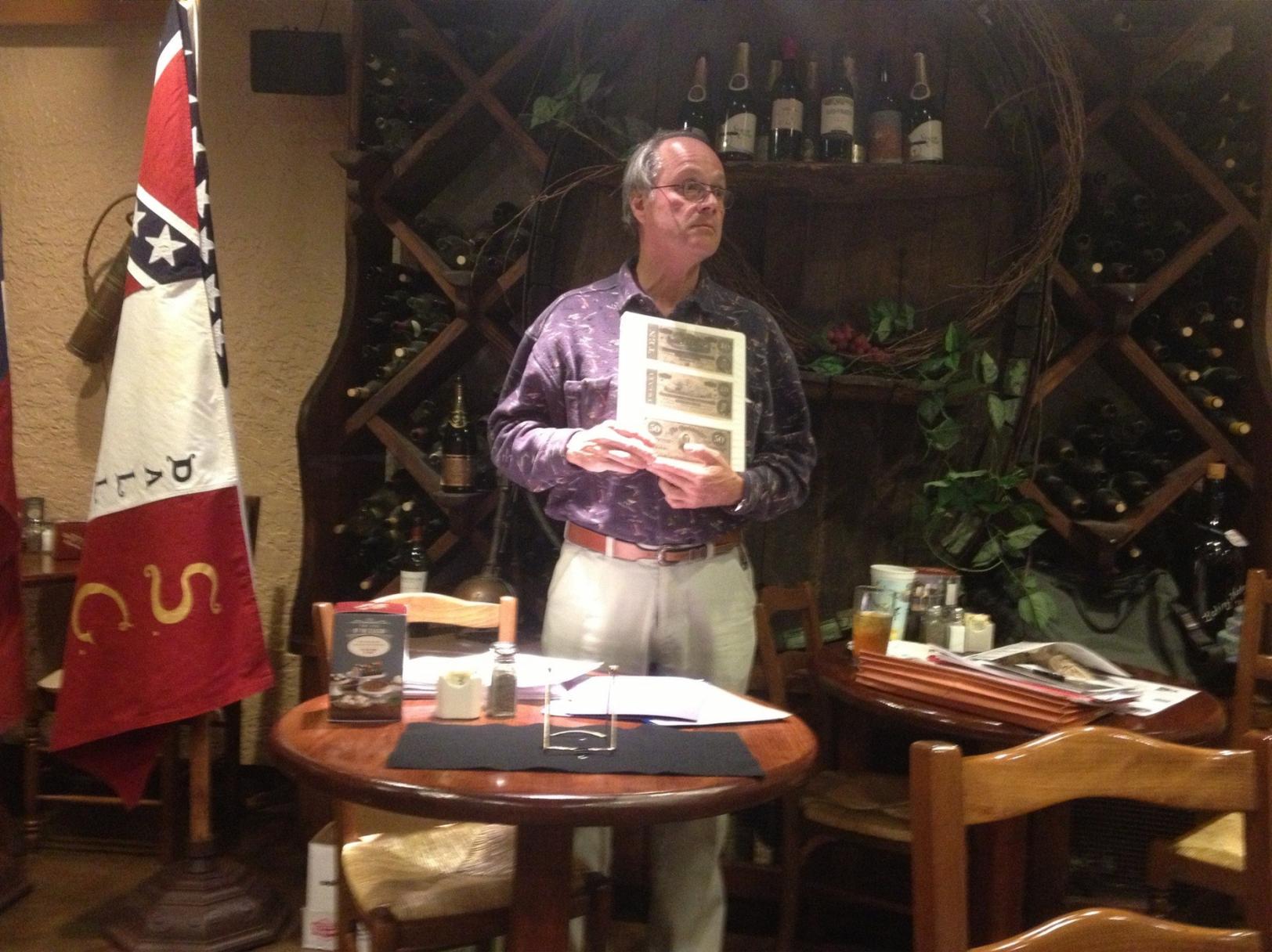
Belo Camp has postponed the Christmas Party scheduled for 12/7. We will announce the new date for it in the coming days.

Stay tuned and stay safe!

<https://www.facebook.com/BeloCamp49>

From N. Central Expressway, go west on Lovers Lane. Our house is between Airline (with a traffic light) and Athens. Heading west, it is on the south side, the third house from Athens. **If there are no more parking spaces in our circular driveway, then you should park on Athens.** The house is a red brick two-story, with a red brick circular driveway.





**At the November Camp Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander David Hendricks gave a very informative presentation on Confederate Currency including showing us many of the original bills from the period and from the Republic of Texas era. Mr. Hendricks had nothing but glowing accolades for the editor of this impeccable publication ;) !**

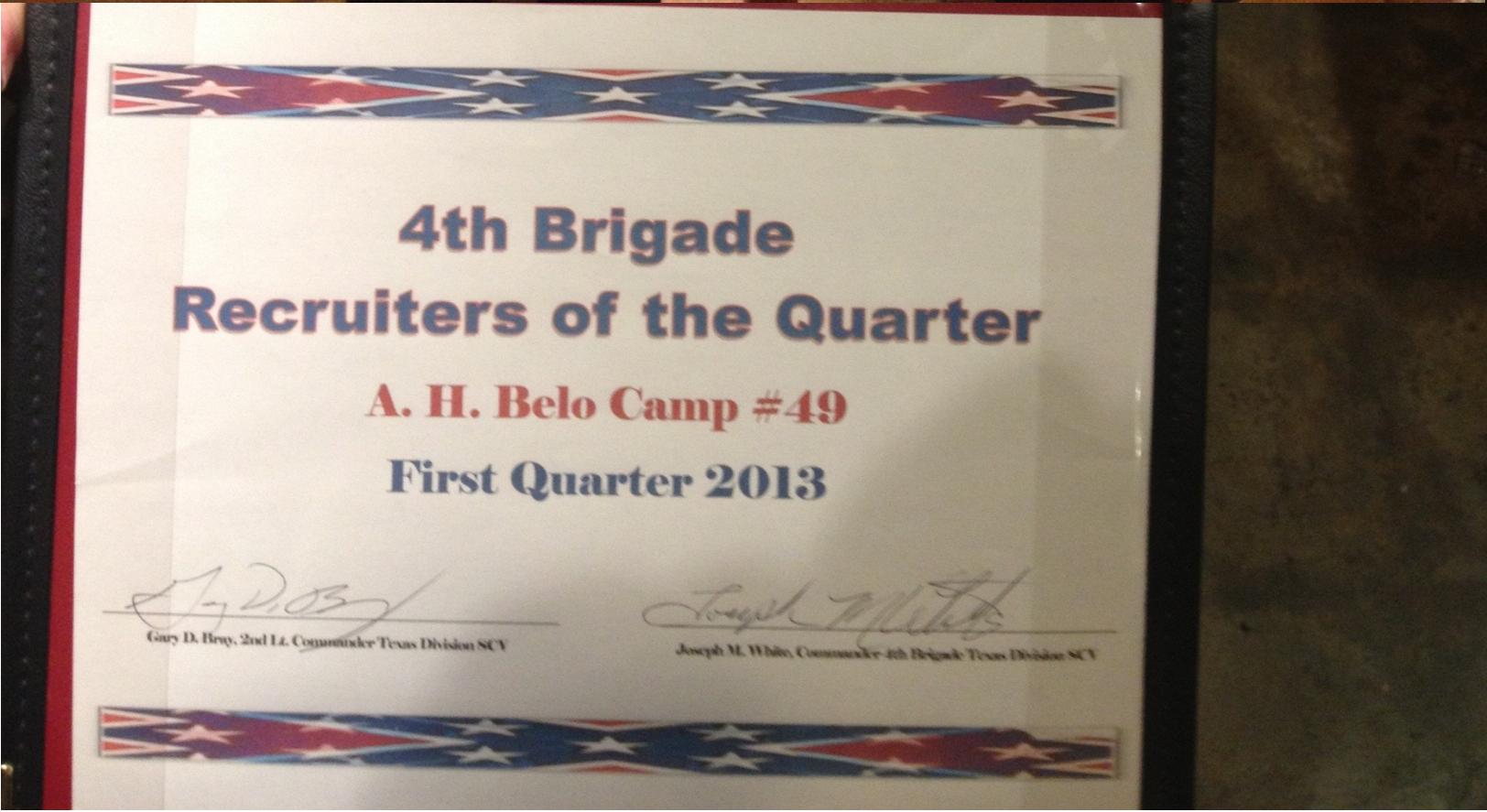
Commander Kevin Newsom updated the camp on recruiting efforts, the upcoming Christmas party and camp elections. Also discussed was plans for an advertising campaign.



What do you get when you have a banker, a politician and a large yankee \$\$\$ bill?

A very interesting presentation!!

Texas Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Gary Bray presented A.H Belo its Recruiter of the Quarter award for camp growth.



**4th Brigade  
Recruiters of the Quarter  
A. H. Belo Camp #49  
First Quarter 2013**

*Gary D. Bray*  
Gary D. Bray, 2nd Lt. Commander Texas Division SCV

*Joseph M. White*  
Joseph M. White, Commander 4th Brigade Texas Division SCV

## Calendar

# Upcoming Schedule of Events

12/07/13	<a href="#">Camp 1904 Annual Christmas Party &amp; Awards</a>	Eastland, TX
12/12/13	<a href="#">Arlington Texas Annual Christmas Gala</a>	Arlington, TX
12/14/13	<a href="#">Camp 1648 Texas Civil War Museum Field Trip</a>	Fort Worth, TX
12/14/13	<a href="#">4th Texas Brigade Christmas Party</a>	McKinney, TX
01/17/14	<a href="#">Hill Country Camp 1938 Lee/Jackson Dinner</a>	Kerrville, TX
01/18/14	Hood's SE Texas Brigade Lee/Jackson Dinner	Lumberton, TX
01/18/14	<a href="#">Camp 1479 Confederate Heroes Day Cotillion</a>	Montgomery, TX
01/18/14	<a href="#">Camp 464 4th Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet</a>	Amarillo, TX
01/25/14	<a href="#">E. Texas Leadership Conference</a>	Tyler, TX
06/06/14 - 06/08/14	<a href="#">Texas Division Reunion</a>	Houston, TX
07/16/14 - 07/19/14	<a href="#">SCV National Reunion</a>	Charleston, SC

**Click on the event or on the calendar for more information.**

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## Leadership Training

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Compatriots,

The North East Texas and the East Texas Brigades are hosting an **East Texas Leadership Training Conference** on Saturday, January 25, 2014 in Tyler. The last conference that was sponsored by these two brigades was held two years ago in Tyler and was well attended and received. We have high hopes that those who attend this particular conference will also leave with a feeling that it was very much worth their while. The East Texas Leadership Conference is open to ALL Sons of Confederate Veterans members, not only those in North East and East Texas. We ask that you please RSVP so the Emma Sansom OCR chapter can better plan for the meal. I am attaching the agenda for the event to this email as a pdf file and pasting it below as well.

We hope to see you there!

Respectfully yours,

Marc Robinson  
Commander

East Texas Brigade  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
[East Texas Leadership PDF](#)



# **EAST TEXAS LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE**

**SPONSORED  
BY**

## **EAST TEXAS AND NORTHEAST TEXAS BRIGADES Saturday, January 25, 2014**

- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome - Marc Robinson, Cmdr. ET  
Brigade Invocation - TX Division Chaplain DonMajors  
Introductions and Conference Outline – Marc Robinson
- 9:15 – 9:45 “Fulfilling the Charge,” a presentation by Rudy Ray, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr., John H. Reagan Camp 2156
- 9:45 – 10:25 Restoring and maintaining forgotten cemeteries – Mr. E. J. Adams, Texas Historical Commission RIP member (Restoration, Investigation, and Preservation of Historical Cemeteries) Mr. Adams does amazing work in East Texas. Most cemeteries that he has restored have CSA veterans interred. He will have a very inspiring presentation!
- 10:25 – 10:40 Break
- 10:40 – 11:15 Heritage **Offense** and Heritage Defense, what we need to know... – 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. David Moore
- 11:15 – 11:30 National SCV to place more emphasis on heritage offense - Todd Owens, ATM Commander
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch – Emma Sansom Chapter #31, Order of Confederate Rose
- 12:30 – 1:15 Camp Growth, Stability, and Member Retention - Gary Bray, Div. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Cmdr.
- 1:15 – 2:15 Commanders Command, Camp operations, programs, and projects - Johnnie Holley, Div. Cmdr.
- 2:15 – 2:30 Break
- 2:30 – 2:45 Connecting the Division (Calendar, email system, etc.) – David McMahon, Div. 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Cmdr.
- 2:45 – 3:30 Discussion and Closing Remarks – Moderator – Phil Maynard, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr. NET Brigade
- 3:30 Closing prayer - Chaplain Don Majors

### **Location of Conference**

First Assembly of God  
5309 Rhones Quarter Road  
Tyler, Texas 75707

**Registration fee at door to cover expenses - \$10.00**

**Please RSVP by 20 Jan 2014 to help plan for the meal: [mrobinson1836@yahoo.com](mailto:mrobinson1836@yahoo.com)**

# Confederate Capital evacuated again...this time by Scalawags...

<http://www.vaflaggers.com/moc2.pdf>

**The Va Flaggers are deeply frustrated and saddened to report that plans to liquidate the Museum of the Confederacy have, indeed, moved forward.**

We learned last week that Waite Rawls' plan (as outlined in the attached internal memo) was approved by the Board of Trustees. We suspect he has been perfecting the spin he will put on the situation, and that an announcement will soon be forthcoming.

In the memo, Rawls speaks of the "50 year transformation of MOC from shrine to modern, educational institution". No surprise here, as Mr. Rawls has repeatedly made attempts to remove the name "Confederacy" from the Museum, as reported here in 2007..

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2007/feb/20/20070220-103634-6891r/>

He purports that the liquidation is necessary as it "solves ongoing financial problems." and "Pays off debt to White House Endowment, Farmers' Bank, First Union Bank". It seems that the legacy of our Confederate Ancestors has been hocked...and the memory and honor of our Confederate ancestors will be traded for 30 pieces of silver.

He admits that "Appomattox, while a "mission" success, has not been enough of a financial success to bail out Richmond". One can only wonder how his obstinate, pc-driven refusal to fly a Confederate flag on the grounds, and the serious fall out as a result, factors into this part of the equation.

What the Va Flaggers DO NOT find in this document, is any mention of the MEN...the Confederate Soldiers whose honor and memory the women of the Ladies' Hollywood Memorial Association obtained the White House of the Confederacy and opened a museum there to forever memorialize our Confederate dead...

1892...RICHMOND — "The theatre whereupon President Davis - acted his noblest part; Richmond, the head and heart of the Confederacy, the defense of which called forth the most brilliant exploits of Lee and Jackson — is the place of all others in the South where should be collected the records, memorials, and relics of the war.

Here only can be found all that belongs to the history of the Army of Northern Virginia. Here, in the White House of the Confederacy, the women of Virginia have established a grand

Memorial Hall, and they appeal to every man and woman in the South to join them in their efforts to rescue the fragments of individual heroism and endurance, fast floating away to oblivion, to gather in the tattered, rusty mementoes of our Lost Cause, and commit them to the keep- ing of the Confederate Memorial Literary Society now fully equipped to guard such treasures. Let the faded cap of the Lieutenant,\* killed while leading a charge, be laid.

\* Lieut. W. J. Sims, Company A, 23d Virginia Infantry. Killed Sharpsburg, September 17, 1862."

- Confederate Memorial Literary Society: historiae et reliquiarum custodia: in memoriam sempiternam

From their website: "The Mission of the Museum and White House of the Confederacy is to serve as the preeminent world center for the display, study, interpretation, commemoration, and preservation of the history and artifacts of the Confederate States of America."

For those of you who may not be aware, the entities listed in the memo (attached) are The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, The Virginia Historical Society, and the National Park Service.

The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar describes itself as "the nation's first museum to interpret the Civil War from Union, Confederate, and African American perspectives." While we have no issue with any organization interpreting the WBTS however they wish, for their purposes, ALL SOUTHERNERS should have a SERIOUS problem putting the artifacts and treasures that were donated by our Confederate ancestors and their descendants into their hands. OUR history needs to be interpreted by those who honor and respect our veterans, and our treasures protected by those who hold them dear.

While we wait for Mr. Rawls' announcement, the Va Flaggers will continue to make a presence at the Museum in Richmond, keep our ears to the ground, and were thrilled to learn that as of TODAY a Confederate Flag is flying just a few feet from the Museum at Appomattox, on the same land where we gathered to protest the grand opening, thanks to Va Flagger Willie Wells and the Mechanized Cavalry.

**God bless the men of the Mechanized Cavalry!**

Meanwhile, back in Richmond, we wait for the pending announcement...with foreboding... and a sense that Richmond will soon be burning again... scorched from the lies and betrayal by those who were entrusted with the legacy of our gallant Confederate ancestors.

Grayson Jennings  
Va Flaggers

## Belo Camp 49 Upcoming Meetings:

January 2<sup>nd</sup> - Kevin Newsom – State of the Camp Address

January (TBD) Lee –Jackson presentation- Kirk Barnett: The faith of Lee and Jackson

February 6<sup>th</sup> –Col. John Geider – Gettysburg: A Military Perspective

March 6<sup>th</sup> –Tom Ridenour – The Confederate Constitution: A Conceptual Framework

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dr. Richard Montgomery- Two Myths in the Lost Cause

May 1<sup>st</sup> –Col. John Geider – The New Mexico Campaigns

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kyle Sims –Fishers of Men: Recruiting for the SCV and The Cause



# WE ARE TEXANS WE ARE THE SCV

PROUD MEMBER OF THE TEXAS DIVISION  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

## Men of the Texas Division:

As you all know, the sale/move of the **Museum of The Confederacy in Richmond** has been in the news for some time. It appears now that the time is drawing near for this to happen. We are all very concerned about this and many of you have contacted me with questions on this subject. I have no definitive word for you except that our National leadership is working very hard to protect our historical articles. I have been in contact with National and want to assure you that they are very actively pursuing and studying all possible solutions

We ,as members, should be prepared to support whatever course of action our National leadership determines. This support may include financial donations or any other activities requested. I ask that each of you be prepared to respond with the courage and dedication that you have always shown in the past. Our Gallant Ancestors persisted in the face of overwhelming odds and never faltered .We must be prepared to do the same.

We won a battle at Beeville because we were right and members of the Texas Division stepped up and responded when called. We are working daily on the Ft. Lancaster problem and I will possibly be calling on you all for your support in this endeavor. We can never let down our guard in the area of Heritage defense or stop our Heritage offense. As we enter the holiday season, let us rededicate ourselves to fight as never before.

Pray for our National leaders and our Cause.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and

God Bless the South and God Bless you all.

You Servant,  
Johnnie Holley  
Commander  
Texas Division  
Sons Of Confederate Veterans



# Registration for Sam Davis New Year's Ball 2014



Well, it is that time of year again! Here you can register for the 2014 Sam Davis New Year's Ball to be held **January 4**. Donations will be accepted at the door. Please register below so we can make sure there are enough refreshments for all. You can find a [flyer](#) with more information [here](#). By registering below you agree to comply by the Rules of Attire and Civility provided. Items for the silent auction are welcomed and appreciated. The print pictured above by John Paul Strain, "A New Year's Wish", will be a part of that auction. More details on how we will be accepting sealed bids for those that cannot attend the ball are coming soon. If you cannot attend the ball but would like to make a donation you can email Deborah Robinson at [samdavisball@centurylink.net](mailto:samdavisball@centurylink.net).

This year the location has changed to the **East Texas Museum for Culture in Palestine, Texas**. [Map](#) Please note that 100% of the proceeds from the ball will go towards **scholarships** for Sam Davis Youth Camp. For more information about the camp, you can go to this [website](#).

**REGISTER ONLINE** @ <http://www.oldwaysmadenew.com/sam-davis-ball.html>

# ADMIRAL COD

49% GENTLEMAN, 51% DISSIDENT

# Christmas in the Old South



## Christmas in the Early South

Many in the tidewater region of the Southern colonies enjoyed enough wealth and leisure to

celebrate the ancient holiday of Christmas in grandest fashion. Largely English, French, and German, often aristocratic, and usually unencumbered by the stern moral earnestness that afflicted their Puritan cousins in the North, these first Southerners thoroughly enjoyed Christmas when they could.

For centuries their European ancestors had observed the 14-day-long season of Christmas-tide, which began on Christmas eve and continued through January 6th, the "Twelfth Day" after Christmas called Epiphany. The Christmas spirit sailed across the Atlantic with them and even during the harsh early years, they often managed to celebrate the Yuletide in the New World with traditional English merrymaking: visiting, music, fireworks, cannon shooting, bonfires, feasting, parties, hunts, games, dances and weddings all before an enormous glowing and blazing Yule log. It had been carefully selected and lighting it on Christmas eve signaled the beginning of holiday merriment. "Carefully selected" in this case meant that servants found the largest, most water-soaked log available since tradition held that the merry season of leisure would last as long as the Yule log burned. Another tradition was to save a small portion to kindle next year's Christmas log.

In New England, the Puritan fathers looked with grim disdain on Christmas. To them, this holiday was a notorious occasion for celebrations in Catholic Europe, and they thus strictly forbade its observance. Work continued on this day unless it fell on Sunday. "Anybody," so ran the enactment by the General Court of Massachusetts, "who is found observing by abstinence from labor, feasting, or any other way, any such day as Christmas day, shall pay for every such offence five shillings." Elders also found it necessary to "Forbid all traffic in plum puddings and the like." For some reason the plum pudding was viewed as a symbol of the whole evil affair. The settlers of the middle colonies held somewhat less dreary views and were not so much bothered by feelings of religious guilt. Many of them enjoyed Christmas with the merriment of their "old country" traditions.

The wealth of our Christmas customs, however, came from the Southern colonies. As the years went by and colonists there increased in wealth, so did their celebrations increase in elaborateness. By the last half of the 18th century Christmas time had become the social as well as religious season for Southerners. Many Southern settlers during early colonial days considered Christmas primarily a religious festival; and although the religious meaning of the season was never neglected the observances leading up to "Twelfth Night" or Epiphany, which commemorates the visit of the Three Wise Men to the Christ Child, were often the most popular and written-about times of the season, even outshining Christmas Day toward the end of that period all the traditional English merrymaking customs and revelry were widely and heartily observed.

The Christmas tree was soon borrowed from German Moravian and Lutheran colonists; but from the beginning Southerners gathered evergreens such as holly, smilax, pine, cedar, laurels, magnolia, and mistletoe to "deck the halls." Wreaths were woven and mantelpieces and pictures festooned. Tidewater Christmases were rarely white, but always green. Juniper or incense might have been burned to protect the household from harm. Another aroma of the season came from the kitchen where Christmas cakes and cookies were baked from long-standing "recipes" passed down from mother to daughter. Gifts were exchanged and carols sung; and specially made huge "Christmas candles" illuminated the whole house.

At the center of all the celebrating was "Father Christmas," from earliest times called "The Lord of Christmas." In tidewater Carolina, his flowing hair and beard were made of Spanish moss. In one hand he carried mistletoe, in the other a black wand or staff with a silver crook at its top, and with

which he delivered his gifts to all. Southerners did not take readily to what they called "the dapper little Manhattan goblin called Santa Claus." Father Christmas was large and regal, with features bold and expressive, yet gentle. He was, all in all, the emblematic representative of the classic Jupiter, rather than the quick, merry, and elfish figure Santa Claus has come to be.

Christmas tipping was widespread. Servants' employment contracts stipulated a bonus for Christmas drinking. Slaves had leisure time for dancing and singing around holiday-long bonfires. Usually, new clothes and extra food were furnished them during this season. "Christmas gift" was a cry heard on every plantation as servants claimed their yearly tip. The old English "Boxing Day" custom of bringing "Christmas boxes" to the master to collect gifts had been transplanted to the South and it thrived even though gifts here were less often money than was usual in England.

The main event on Christmas day, of course, was Christmas dinner. It was as festive as could be managed, set before a roaring fire. On this much-anticipated, once-a-year occasion, Southern cooking reached the heights of early American quality and quantity. Traditions in Christmas fare varied from house to house, but a large colonial plantation Christmas feast that required days or weeks to assemble and prepare might include: eggnog, oysters on the half shell, scalloped oysters, clear soup, roast stuffed goose with sauce, baked country ham with mustard sauce, lamb, roast wild turkey with cornbread stuffing, venison, and several other wild game dishes, including, perhaps a grand "Christmas pie." The recipe for this special treat called for a turkey stuffed with goose and chicken and pigeon and seasonings, with rabbit and quail set around, all inside a heavy crust. There were brown and white breads, Brussels sprouts with chestnuts, turnips and greens, baked sweet potatoes and apples, beans and peas, Mary Randolph's salad, fig and plum puddings, orange tarts, bourbon pecan cake, fresh fruit, walnuts and pecans, cider, Port wine, and syllabub.

Christmas was also celebrated with the Wassail bowl, another English tradition familiar to all of us because of the popular verses in the old carol "Here We Come A Wassailing." Wassail, or wes hal (be whole) in Anglo-Saxon, was a toast or greeting which is associated with celebrations of Christmas and New Years from the earliest days. According to tradition, the head of the household invited his family to gather around the bowl of hot spiced ale with roasted apples floating on it. After drinking to their health and prosperity in the coming year, the bowl was passed around to each member of the family who returned toasts to joy and happiness for all. Gradually, this ale became known as wassail; and the Wassail bowl, usually decorated with garlands of greenery, particularly holly, was a popular custom in America from the beginning. Eggnog was widely substituted for spiced ale in the colonies by the time of the Revolution. There was much drinking of these and other cheering and warming potions at the homes of friends and neighbors over the holidays.

Our observances of Christmas represent a rich mosaic of customs based on the winter festivals of many ancient cultures merged with Christian tradition. The lion's share of the credit for preserving and enhancing this universal holiday in America, like so many of the other good things in our unique cultural inheritance, belongs to the traditional Old South.

J.O. Bledsoe

<http://admiralcod.blogspot.com/2010/12/christmas-in-old-south.html>

# Christmas Trees, the Confederacy, and Colonial Williamsburg

by Harold B. Gill Jr.

No account of a Williamsburg Yuletide is satisfactory without the story of the city's first Christmas tree. At least the first the community's history records. Told now for 163 years, it goes like this:

European political refugee Charles Minnigerode moved to Williamsburg in 1842 to take up a professorship at the College of William and Mary. He became close to Judge Nathaniel Beverley Tucker, a professor of law, and boarded with him on Nicholson Street in what Colonial Williamsburg named, after the judge's father, the St. George Tucker House. At Christmas, Minnigerode entertained the Tucker children by sharing a homeland custom. They cut down a small evergreen, brought it inside, and raised it on a parlor table to decorate. There being no ready-made ornaments, he helped the children create their own, including popcorn strings. The next December, most Williamsburg families had Christmas trees in their parlors. A small tree, emblematic of the occasion, is now left each Yuletide on the Tucker House porch.

Who was this Minnigerode? What became of him? The story of his life is as interesting as the tale of his tree—even to the history of the restored colonial capital.

Born Karl Minnigerode in 1814 at Darmstadt in the state of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, at fourteen he entered the *Gymnasium*, or high school, in Darmstadt, where he and the future playwright Georg Büchner met.

In 1831, Büchner entered the medical school at Strasbourg—the favorite city of expatriate German radicals, safely just on the French side of the Rhine. He became an intimate of the secret Society for the Rights of Man.



Hessian statutes required Büchner to complete his studies at a home university, which happened to be at Giessen. There, Minnigerode was studying law. They became the closest of friends.



Williamsburg's first Christmas tree, raised 163 years ago by Charles Minnigerode, portrayed by Tim Sutphin, at the Tucker House, may have looked something like the one at right.

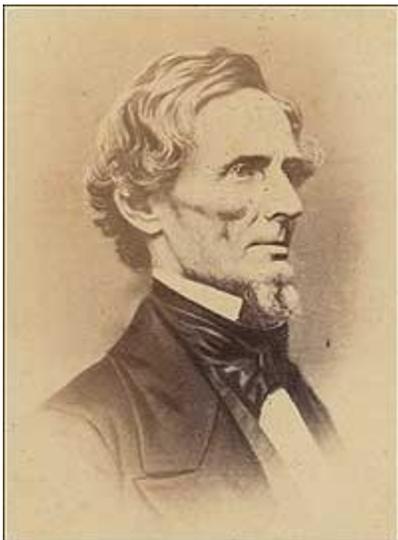
The mists of memories shroud Colonial Williamsburg's St. George Tucker House, now a reception center and way station for donors.



In the spirit of Charles Minnigerode, each Yule season St. George Tucker House volunteers raise a Christmas tree for guests to enjoy.

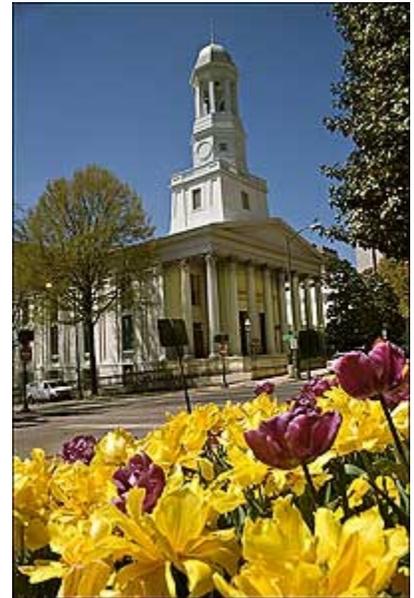


Captured here in the prime of his ministry, Minnigerode pastored at churches in Williamsburg, Norfolk, Prince George County, and Richmond.



Jefferson Davis depended on Minnigerode for spiritual counsel.

Minnigerode, pastor of St. Paul's in Richmond, was preaching when Petersburg fell.



In the congregation was President Davis, who lived in the White House of the Confederacy.



He ministered to Davis there, and later in a makeshift prison cell.

Another Tucker House Christmas tree.





Minnigerode's grave in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery.



The minister as a seminary teacher during the years that W. A. R. Goodwin was a pupil.

It was the time of the rise of nationalism in Europe east of France. In the wake of the French Revolution, the values of liberalism and nationalism swept through Western Europe with Napoleon's armies. Those values found support among the small but growing urban middle classes, especially in the western German states.

Reaction inevitably set in, and those sovereignties reverted to feudalism. By the 1830s, free expression and liberalism had been killed. Enraged by the tyranny of the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt, Büchner formed a Giessen branch of the Society for the Rights of Man, and in 1836 wrote a radical pamphlet, the *Hessian Peasant Courier*. A police informant fingered the society. First arrested was Minnigerode, who had pamphlets in his possession. After a failed attempt to break Minnigerode out of jail,

Büchner fled to Switzerland. In 1839, Büchner wrote:

**Minnigerode is dead they tell me; that is, he was being tortured to death for three years. Three years! The French butchers got you done in two hours, first the judgment, then the guillotine. But three years! What a humane government we have, they can't stand blood.**

**But Minnigerode was alive. After eighteen months' confinement, he had been released under close surveillance. As soon as he could, he got to Bremen, where, September 1, 1839, he took a boat to America.**

**Minnigerode ARRIVED in Philadelphia in December and found a position teaching ancient languages and German. He anglicized his first name to Charles, and looked for work outside the German community. He saw an advertisement in a Philadelphia newspaper soliciting candidates for the chair of ancient languages at William and Mary and applied. He bested thirty other applicants. The college's board of visitors elected Minnigerode to the position in July 1842. George Blow, who supported applicant William Galt, reported to Galt's father:**

**Testimonials of about 30 Candidates were examined ...the Overwhelming Certificates, Letters of Recommendation and evidences of qualification, of splendid attainments and other requisites for a Professor, were so overpowering, that it left not a doubt or hesitancy in the minds of the visitors as to a choice, and on the first Ballot Mennigerode was elected...If Mennigerode deserves the tythe of what is said of him, he is one of the best educated men in this country, and unsurpassed as a Classicist, writing Hebrew, Greek, & Latin with perfect ease & elegance.**

**William and Mary President Thomas R. Dew wrote that Minnigerode "seems to be a very amiable little gentleman, & is deeply embrued with all the German literature." He became a popular Williamsburg citizen and an intimate of Judge Tucker's family, and made a literary name by publishing a series of articles in the *Southern Literary Messenger* on Greek drama.**

**Minnigerode had been in Williamsburg less than a year when he married Mary Carter, daughter of Commander William Carter. She was from North Carolina and likely not a member of the prominent Virginia Carter family. The couple married in Bruton Parish Church on May 13, 1843. They were so infatuated that Tucker wrote: "If they cannot break themselves of thinking there is nobody in the world but Mary and Cha-a-a rles (as she calls him) I could not bear to live in the same house with them." The Minnigerodes purchased the now-reconstructed east advance building at the Palace for a home.**

**A Lutheran, Minnigerode became an Episcopalian. In 1845, he submitted himself as a candidate for the priesthood. The following year Bishop John Johns ordained him to a Bruton Parish deaconate. He became a priest in 1847.**

**In the summer of 1846, Dew died. The visitors attempted to reorganize the school, causing faculty discontent. Most of it resigned, including the new president. The board decided to start from scratch, and in 1848 asked for the rest of the faculty's resignations.**

**Minnigerode accepted the pastorate of Merchant's Hope Church in Prince George County, where he remained until 1853, when he went to the Freemason Episcopal Church in Norfolk, the largest congregation in the Diocese of Virginia. In 1856, he was appointed rector of Richmond's St. Paul's Church, where he had occasionally preached as early as 1852.**

**In July 1852, Marianna Saunders of Richmond wrote her friend Sally Galt in Williamsburg that her mother wanted to go to St. Paul's because she had heard Minnigerode preach so often in Williamsburg that she wanted a change. She said:**

**Soon after we reached the church, who should come in dressed in his black gown, but the Minnigerode! *I was de-lighted*, for I never care to hear a more interesting preacher...It really did me good to listen to him preaching. I could almost imagine myself seated in our own quiet church.**

**Minnigerode stayed at St. Paul's for thirty-three years, years that embraced the War between the States, Reconstruction, and the rise of the New South.**

**IN 1860, England's visiting Prince of Wales attended a Minnigerode sermon. On Thanksgiving, a year later, Minnigerode conducted a solemn service for a congregation of Confederate walking wounded. Later he would say graveside rites at the city's Hollywood Cemetery for J. E. B. Stuart, commander of the rebel cavalry, and presided at the reinterment of President James Monroe in the same place, a graveyard that would be Minnigerode's place of eternal rest, as well as of his parishioner, President Jefferson Davis.**

**Richmond became the capital of the Confederate States of America on May 20, 1861, when the provisional Congress of the Confederacy moved from Montgomery, Alabama. St. Paul's stood, as it stands today, four blocks from the White House of the Confederacy, and across the street from the grounds of the new nation's capitol, a building states' rights advocates and presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison had helped design for Virginia's legislature.**

**When Davis arrived, he was feted with a Spotswood Hotel reception, where he and Minnigerode met. Minnigerode wrote:**

**Our acquaintance thus began, soon grew into friendly intercourse that became closer and closer, till an intimacy sprung up which ripened into companionship in joy and sorrow, and bound us together in the terms of mutual trust and friendship.**

**At the urging of Davis's wife, Varina, Minnigerode discussed church membership with Davis shortly after the inauguration. Minnigerode wrote:**

**He spoke very earnestly and most humbly of needing the cleansing blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit; but in the consciousness of his insufficiency felt some doubt whether he had the right to come...All that was natural and right; but soon it settled this question with a man so resolute in doing what he thought his duty. I baptized him hypothetically, for he was not certain if he had ever been baptized. When the day of confirmation came it was quite in keeping with this resolute character, that when the Bishop called the candidates to the chancel he was the first to rise.**

**Minnigerode maintained a close relationship with Davis, and his support of the Southern cause earned him such titles as Father Confessor of the Secession, Father Confessor of the Confederacy, and the Rebel Pastor. He wrote:**

**The secession of the Southern States was in defense of their constitutional rights, which were threatened by the aggressive and unconstitutional policy of the Government. That Government was a union of the separate Colonies as sovereign States, which delegated certain powers to the Central Government as the central agent of the sovereign States. The debate about their mutual relation was long, and the two views of the centralized union and a union of sovereign States existed from the beginning. But there would have been no United States at all if the State's rights had not been established by the Constitution.**

**His services were past standing-room-only popular. So many government officials attended that St. Paul's came to be called the Cathedral of the Confederacy. Diarist Mary Boykin Chestnut wrote that on a**

Sunday in March 1864 fourteen generals sat in Minnigerode's pews. Nevertheless, he attempted to walk a line between church and state. He said:

God forbid that I should speak as a mere man and not as the minister of Christ, that I should introduce politics where Religion alone should raise her voice, discuss measures and men where only principles can be laid down. It is as God's messenger that I speak and preach his gospel in faith, which is the alone principle that can steady our course and raise our hearts in hope. We preach to men under the circumstances in which we find them placed in God's providence.

Minnigerode often paid pastoral visits to the Davis household. But the parson wrote: "I never meddled with his policy or measures of his government; still less did I ever use his confidence for any personal purposes. Mr. Davis was not the man for that."

Minnigerode's oldest son, sixteen-year-old Charlie, entered the Confederate army without his father's consent and served on General Fitzhugh Lee's staff. Another son, James Gibbon Minnigerode, was a midshipman in the Confederate navy and participated in the Battle of Mobile Bay. After the war, he became an Episcopal minister, serving as rector of Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

On January 1, 1865, when the future of the Confederacy was much in doubt, Minnigerode preached a stirring sermon at St. Paul's entitled, "He that believeth shall not make haste." He said to the congregation:

Reverses have followed us in many parts of our country, and the year opens with dark and threatening clouds, which have cast their shadow over every brow. What we need is *a stout heart* and a *firm, settled mind*: and oh! May we AS A NATION remember, "he that believeth shall not make haste...." I do pray and hope that God will have mercy upon us, and give us better minds and stout hearts and unflinching faith, that shall not make haste, that shall win the prize. But if we fall, let us fall with our faces upward, our hearts turned to God, our hands in the work, our wounds in the breast, with blessing—not curses—upon our lips; and all is not lost! We have retained our honor, we have done our duty to the last....

One Sunday a few months later, a messenger came in during the service and handed Davis a telegram from General Robert E. Lee at Petersburg. It said General Ulysses Grant had broken the Confederate lines and suggested the government abandon Richmond. Davis left the service and others followed. Minnigerode asked the rest to remain. After the city fell, he disputed with Union officials his right to lead St. Paul's congregation in prayer for the fleeing Davis.

Captured, Davis was imprisoned for treason—a charge eventually dropped—at Fort Monroe, Virginia, in solitary confinement. After petitioning President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of War Edwin Staunton, Minnigerode was the first civilian permitted to visit, allowed two calls a month, pledging his word of honor as a gentleman and Christian minister that in all the visits I am permitted to make to Mr. Jefferson Davis at Fortress Monroe, Va., I will confine myself to ministerial and pastoral duties, exclusive of every other object; that I will in no way be a medium of communication between the said Davis and the outer world; that I will observe the strictest silence as to the interviews, and will avoid all modes of publication, not only as to what passes between us but as to the fact of the visits themselves.

When Davis was bailed at federal court in Richmond, Minnigerode was at his side. After court, when they met at the Spotswood, Davis said, "Mr. Minnigerode, you who have been with me in my sufferings, and comforted and strengthened me with you prayers, is it not right that we now once more should kneel down together and return thanks?"

IN 1868, LEE, now president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia—today's Washington and Lee University—asked Minnigerode to conduct the baccalaureate service. He continued as rector of St. Paul's, where, on July 14, 1868, he united in marriage Frank Goodwin and Letitia Moore Rutherford, who would be the parents of William Archer Rutherford Goodwin, later rector of Bruton Parish and co-founder, with John D. Rockefeller Jr., of Colonial Williamsburg. Young Goodwin was present when Minnigerode gave the invocation at the unveiling of the Lee statue on Richmond's Monument Avenue in 1890.

Minnigerode was appointed a William and Mary visitor. He retired from St. Paul's in 1889 and moved to Alexandria to become chaplain of Virginia Theological Seminary, which Goodwin entered in 1890.

Minnigerode died October 13, 1894. Granddaughter Marietta Minnigerode Andrews was an artist and author. Grandson Meade Minnigerode Jr. co-wrote the lyrics of the "Whiffinpoof Song" in 1909. Goodwin introduced to Colonial Williamsburg the custom of Grand Illumination in 1935.

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*Historian Harold B. Gill Jr. is the journal's consulting editor. He contributed to the [Summer 2005 issue](#) "The Exchange, Revisited."*

Read more articles from the Foundation's journal, ["Colonial Williamsburg"](#).

[http://www.history.org/almanack/life/christmas/hist\\_reverend.cfm](http://www.history.org/almanack/life/christmas/hist_reverend.cfm)



**SUMMARY:** Letter written to P.H. Powers' wife wishing her a merry Christmas and informing her that the Confederates had whipped Burnside at Fredericksburg and are now hoping for a peaceful separation with the Union.

**Dec 25th 1862 Mrs P.H. Powers Care of Dr A.L. Baldwin Winchester, Virginia**

**Wife Camp Near Fredricksburg  
Dec 25th 1862**

**My Dearest Wife**

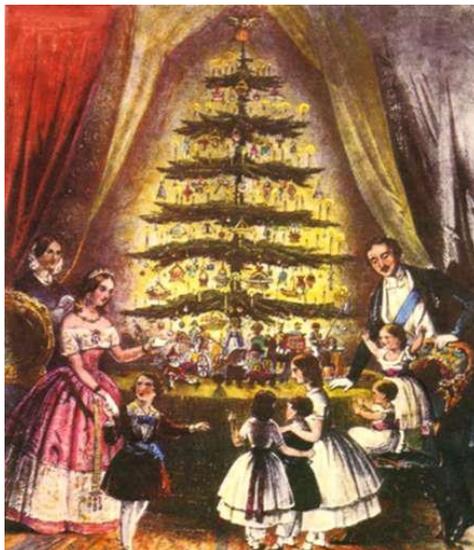
I hardly have the heart to wish you a Merry Christmas this beautiful Christmas Morning because I will know merriment is not for you this day but I can and do wish you a happy day and the same to our little dears, who I suppose must be content with very meager gifts and very few sweet things. I thought of them when I first awoke this morning about day. And wondered what you managed to put in their stockings. Memory went back to the many happy Christmas days we have shared together with them. Alas will the good old times ever return again? And you and I with our little ones dwell together in peace? I hope so. I believe so, but the heart sickens with the deferred hope.

So I have been Jim's chief cook for a week since his servant left. Not much time was given me this morning for such sad affections, with the responsibility of a Christmas breakfast on my mind. So I stirred myself from a warm bed (end of sentence deleted). A Major Quartermaster to a Captain (word missing) but necessity is a hard master. And you know I can do anything. I am a better cook than Steven. I wish you could have been present to witness my sweets and partake of my viandes, Barbecue Rabbit, Beef Hash with Potatoes, hot bread and coffee. If the darkies all learn as I shall be able to (illegible word) some assistance. We are very comfortable in camp. have good tents, and wood is in abundance to keep off the frost. I have been axcidingly busy for the last week assisting Jim in paying off the troops and really he needed it. He worries at every thing. Allows every (illegible word) to suffer his equanimity and makes himself (illegible phrase). I wish from my heart he could get out of the Department he is in. Though I see no hope for him.

He had a letter from Robert yesterday. All well. And nothing new. I have written you several times since I have been here but as yet have not heard from you. Continue to write some of your letters will (end of sentence cropped off.) I wrote you some account of the great fight. But you wil see from the papers how terribly whipped Burnside was, and what a commotion it has produced in Yankeedom. I think the sky brightens and our chances for peace improve. But still the war may bring on another year, or event to the end of Lincoln's term. It is as warm this morning as June. And every thing bright. If I only was with you for the day at leat I would have a happy Christmas. We are invited to dine with Tom Bullard. And I am (illegible word). I must now stop. With love to all.

**Very Affectionatel Yours**

**P.H. Powers**



# Miss Fannie's last Confederate Christmas

BY ROSE RYDER Special to the Daily Light | Posted: Saturday, December 22, 2012

Based on a story in Memories by Mrs. Fannie A. Beers published in 1889.



It was Dec. 23, 1864. For some time I had been considering various plans for the celebration of Christmas. I wanted some change to the diet of the wounded soldiers who were under my care. But try as I might, I couldn't see any way to achieve my goal.

We were at the Confederate hospital in Lauderdale Springs, Miss. My servant, Tempe, and I were living in one small room of a log cabin raised several feet above the ground. We occupied one side of the dog-trot style house. The doctor and his wife lived in the small room across the open central hall.

All around us as far as we could see in every direction were the hospital tents. Snow covered the tents and the towering pines. In the tents lay the sick, the wounded and the dying. Hospital supplies and rations were scarce. Items which in the first years of the war were considered necessities had become priceless luxuries. We got so few eggs and chickens that they were saved for the very sick.

Early in the morning I made my hospital visits to some wounded soldiers who had arrived during the night. In one of the bunks I found a man with his head and face bandaged and bloody. By his side was one of his comrades, also wounded but less seriously. In a tin cup he was trying to soften some corn bread with cold water and a stick. He explained that his comrade had been shot in the mouth and could only take soft foods. "Don't give him that" I said. "I will get him some mush and milk or some chicken soup." He sat down his cup and looked strangely at me saying "Yer ga-assin' now, ain't you?"

Once I finally convinced him that I was not, I went to get the soft food for his friend. As I slowly put spoons of the broth in the severely wounded man's mouth, his friend stood by with his lips quivering. I looked at him "Now, what would you like?" After a moment he replied "Well, Lady, I've been sort of hankerin' after a sweet potato pone, but I s'pose ye couldn't nowadays get that?" Then I realized just what I would get them all for Christmas.

I immediately went in search of the doctor who gave me permission to go out the next day to area farms to attempt to collect ingredients for my feast. My search was somewhat successful. I returned that evening with some sweet potatoes, several dozen eggs and butter. The driver and I carried the food into my room where it would be safe.

After my evening rounds I returned to my room for my Christmas Eve meal of corn hoecake, a little smoked beef and a cup of corn coffee. It was so cold that I did not undress but wrapped up in a blanket and lay down on my bunk. Tempe also wrapped herself up and lay down by the fire.

Before I continue with my story, I must tell you that the boards in the floor of our room were only laid down, not nailed, because there were no nails to be had. I had just fallen asleep when Tempe woke me with a scream. She jumped on my bunk, shaking me awake, and crying "Miss Fannie, yearthquake dun cum!" Sitting up I realized to my horror that the floor boards were rising and falling with a terrible noise.

Wild hogs were attempting to raid my precious sweet potatoes. A real earthquake would have been less appalling as I have always been very afraid of hogs. Seizing a burning stick from the fire, Tempe began to beat the hog that had become wedged and could not advance or retreat. Her angry cries and the hog's squeals brought help and soon all was quiet and my sweet potatoes safe.

My pone on Christmas day was a great success. All of those who were able came to my cabin for a generous helping of pone and a cup of sweet milk. That was our last Confederate Christmas.

## **Fannie's Receipt (recipe) for Sweet Potato Pone**

The improved housewife by A. L. Webster published in 1855 included the following receipt (recipe) for Sweet Potato Pone. Mix well three pounds of pared grated sweet potato, two of sugar, twelve eggs, three full pints of milk, the grated rind and juice of a lemon, four ounces of drawn butter, a spoonful of rosewater, little cinnamon and mace, a nutmeg, and a teaspoonful of salt. Bake two hours in deep pans. Eat cold, cake like.

However by 1864, a critical food shortage existed in the South. The shortage was caused by a number of factors including the following.

When the men went off to war, a major shortage of manpower to produce crops resulted. Women and children attempted to grow crops but were unable to keep up the level of agricultural production.

In areas of the South where fighting occurred, both the Union and Confederate armies impressed local supplies to feed their soldiers.

Railroads and bridges were systematically destroyed to impede the movement of enemy armies. This also prevented the shipment of foodstuffs to cities where shortages were critical and citizens were starving.

The Union blockade of Southern seaports eliminated the importation of food and supplies. The inability to obtain salt, sugar and coffee were particularly vexing to Southerners. No substitution was found for salt which had been used to preserve beef, pork and fish. This lack of preservation resulted in spoilage of meats. Once sugar was no longer available, the best substitute was molasses extracted from the sorghum plant. Citizens attempted to make "coffee" from roasted and ground corn, okra seed, sweet potato, chicory, rice, cotton seed, peanuts and beans.

Miss Fannie's recipe for Sweet Potato Pone probably consisted of the potatoes, eggs and butter provided by local farmers. If available, molasses might have been added for sweetening.

Article provided for Parsons Rose #9, Texas Society Order of Confederate Rose. For more information, visit [www.omroberts.com](http://www.omroberts.com) or [tsocr.org](http://tsocr.org).

[http://www.waxahachietx.com/news/ellis\\_county/miss-fannie-s-last-confederate-christmas/article\\_7b9931ac-4c7d-11e2-b5e6-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.waxahachietx.com/news/ellis_county/miss-fannie-s-last-confederate-christmas/article_7b9931ac-4c7d-11e2-b5e6-0019bb2963f4.html)

## **Richmond Times-Dispatch December 16, 1934**

### **Plantation Yuletides a Century Ago**

***How Great Houses of Virginia Celebrated Christmas Festival;  
Tables Groaned Beneath Goodies and Reels Ended Day***

**By Ruth Nelson Gordon**



**Another typical Virginia mansion where Southern hospitality won fame in the merry days of December.**

*Nineteen hundred and thirty-four's varied methods of celebrating Christmas give the reveler little pause for retrospect but it is an interesting pastime to turn back the pages of history and live an old-fashioned Yuletide with Virginians of 100 years ago.*

*Perhaps one of the most graphic accounts of such a festival is that written by Charles Campbell, the Virginia historian, and published in the Southern Literary Messenger, the magazine later made famous by Edgar Allan Poe, in 1841. The author describes a*

***Christmas party, which was typical of the festivals of the great houses of Virginia at that period, which was held at Teddington in 1839.***

***Teddington, with its massive walls of brick, weather-boarded to the shingled roof, was the seat of the Lightfoot family, and its wide windows looked out on the amber waters of the James River.***

***The guests arrive in "chariots" or in the small steamboat. He pictures them to us first on the rainy Sunday gathered around "an old-fashioned oaken fire, in the huge parlor; the eldest in***

*the wing chairs nearest the blazing hearth--while the youngest sit in the deep window seats and look out excitedly for arriving guests. There is much talk of "poetry, and the features of the weather, and the probability of the arrival of the main body of visitors from Petersburg."*

*The gay youths and maidens watch the scurrying clouds and the flight of wild ducks on the stormy river. The sound of the steamboat bell rings suddenly, and off they run to the water's edge to watch five men put off in the Teddington boat to "fetch" the guests deposited at the wharf on the other side. The small boat comes rocking back and the guests jump out, hastening with laughter and chatter to the hospitable fires of Teddington.*

*In the afternoon there is a horseback ride on the frozen ground along the road shaded by dark pine trees, then across wide fields and along the banks of the turbulent James River. "Flocks of wild geese feeding in the field expand their broad wings with cries of 'Cohonk! Cohonk! and rising, sail trooping over the water."*

*At night the young people go to "Dancing Point" where witches are said to "dance their airy ringlets to the whistling wind." No witches, however, seem to be recorded on this expedition.*

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*Christmas morning they have "[Sally Lund](#)" for breakfast, and what Virginian does not know the deliciously brown crust and light golden interior of this famous bread? Country sausage and creamed oysters, light rolls and batter-bread and waffles were brought in by fleet, small boys, who ran continually from the outside kitchen with smoking delicacies, while the butler, a fringe of white wool around his bald pate, served the host of guests deftly and swiftly.*

*But the Christmas dinner is the event of the day. The shining mahogany table is stretched to its utmost capacity, and smaller tables are filled with the younger members of the family and the children.*

*The centerpiece is holly and crimson apples, spode china and hobnailed glass are flanked with heavy old silver. Ham cured on the plantation, a saddle of mutton, an enormous turkey;*



*Christmas was a gay festival 100 years ago in Virginia's great homes such as this one. Guests, feasting and dancing made the old estates merry at Merry Yuletide.*

*boiled rockfish from the river, stewed venizen with jelly, oysters stewed and baked, a round of beef--all prepared in the vast kitchen outside, in Dutch ovens and over the glowing coals in the huge fireplace or turned and basted on spits suspended from iron "pot-hooks."*

*The tablecloth is removed at last, and dessert is set on the gleaming mahogany. Pound cake baked in a fluted mould; mince pies smoking hot; cranberry tarts, lemon pudding, raspberry puffs, quivering jellies in heavy, plain cutglass bowls, syllabubs and blanc mange. Champagne was poured in crane-necked glasses and Madeira and Malaga wine served with the dinner.*

*After these things fruit was served. Beautiful apples grown at Teddington, oranges, almonds, olives, sweet meats and last but not least, brandied peaches.*

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*It is sunset when this colossal meal is over; wax candles twinkle from candleabra on the high white mantels, and the conversation falls to "slipshod" dialogue, to puns and conceits, and many a witty story.*

*In the evening more guests come from the surrounding plantations, and every one, from the grandmother in her lace cap and brocaded gown, to the granddaughter of 16, dance the Virginia Reel, and every lady is kissed heartily under the bunch of mistletoe in the great shadowy hall.*

*All these Yuletide festivities seem simple enough. If the table groans under an immense variety and quantity of food--it is all grown on the plantation, or caught in the river, or shot in the thick forests adjoining. The woods and marshes teem with game, and Virginians are bred to follow the hunt and the hounds. There are no expensive jazz bands to furnish music for their dancing--a band of Negro fiddlers pat their feet and grin joyously as they play reels, and gay jiggling tunes. The elders, ensconced in comfortable chairs, watch the festive scene with keen enjoyment. The clan is gathered, and the old house hung with running cedar and holly, echoes with warmth and mirth.*

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*Simple indeed would these festivities seem to the eye of the young modern, and unsophisticated to the point of boredom, but there were Puritans in Virginia in 1739. The Virginia Gazette said, during the Christmas holidays of that year:*

*The licentiousness of the ancient Christians is banished no doubt from our altars; but then we cannot say that we are altogether free from their luxury in other Places at the Time of the Year, or that we do not imitate that Pompous and Profuse manner wherein the old Roman Famens and Pontiffs celebrated their Feast of December in Honour of Saturn. But to be clear in what I intent to say on this Subject at this time I observe:*

- (1) That some Christians celebrate this Season in a mixture of Diety and Licentiousness.*
- (2) Others perform their offices in a pious way only.*
- (3) Many behave themselves profusely and extravagantly alone, and*

**(4) Too many who call themselves Christians, pass over the holy time without paying any regard to it at all.**

**From all of this we conclude:**

**(1) That those Persons must stand self-condemned who throw these Holy Days into the Common Portion of Time; because both Heathenish and Christian Ancients witness loudly against them.**

**(2) Little need be said to those who celebrate the Festival in extremes. 'Tis as ridiculous to do nothing but fast and mortify all Christmas, and to keep a Monkish Holiday as it is to banquet and carouse alone and make a Baccanalian Time of it.**

**What past at Bethlehem calls not for the same Behavior with what happened at Mount Calvary and tho we are to offer Wine and Frankincense and are taught to sing Gloria in Excelsis; yet we are forbid Excess in such like sacrifices, and every Degree of Rant and Riot in expressing our Exultation and Joy.**

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**The persons chiefly to be addressed to are those who stand first in my Division and who celebrate the Nativity in a method composed out of both these extremes and behave themselves both piously and impiously on the Occasion.**

**There are people who prepare themselves most religiously for the approaching Rituals, and who upon the Day perform their offertory and sacrifices in the most solemn Forms of Religion; but their Devotions end with that night, and the other world which they had so fairly bid for on Christmas Day is quite absorbed in the good things of the present world a few days after.**

**On the whole they who will be over-religious at this time must be pardoned and pitied; they who are downright criminal condemned, and the littel Liberties of the Old Roman December, which are taken by the Multitude, ought to be overlooked and excused for a Hundred Reasons which hardly any understanding can be ignorant off.**

<http://richmondthenandnow.com/Newspaper-Articles/Plantation-Christmas.html>



# CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF '62

by William Gordon McCabe  
(1841-1920)

The wintry blast goes wailing by,  
The snow is falling overhead;  
I hear the lonely sentry's tread,  
And distant watch-fires light the sky.

Dim forms go flitting through the gloom;  
The soldiers cluster round the blaze  
To talk of other Christmas days,  
And softly speak of home and home.

My sabre swinging overhead  
Gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow,  
While fiercely drives the blinding snow,  
And memory leads me to the dead.

My thoughts go wandering to and fro,  
Vibrating between the Now and Then;  
I see the low-browed home again,  
The old hall wreathed with mistletoe.

And sweetly from the far-off years  
Comes borne the laughter faint and low,  
The voices of the Long Ago!  
My eyes are wet with tender tears.

I feel again the mother-kiss,  
I see again the glad surprise  
That lightened up the tranquil eyes  
And brimmed them o'er with tears of bliss,

As, rushing from the old hall-door,  
She fondly clasped her wayward boy--  
Her face all radiant with the joy  
She felt to see him home once more.

My sabre swinging on the bough  
Gleams in the watch-fire's fitful glow,  
While fiercely drives the blinding snow  
Aslant upon my saddened brow.

Those cherished faces all are gone!  
Asleep within the quiet graves  
Where lies the snow in drifting waves,--  
And I am sitting here alone.

There's not a comrade here to-night  
But knows that loved ones far away  
On bended knee this night will pray:  
"God bring our darling from the fight."

But there are none to wish me back,  
For me no yearning prayers arise.  
The lips are mute and closed the eyes--  
My home is in the bivouac.



Winter Quarters



# How to Be Saved

If you were to die this instant, would you go to heaven? Can we ask a more important question than that? Wouldn't you like to know for sure? The wise among us are careful to plan every aspect of their lives. Thought is given to careers, education, and retirement; much planning can go toward's vacation pursuits and how to spend the weekend! By comparison, little thought is given to our eternal destiny! The Bible makes it clear that there are but two options when the body fails and the soul moves on; every individual chooses their destiny. We can choose God and His love, or we can choose our own way, which will lead to an eternity apart from His love and His presence. Deep down, each of us knows the truth. We know there's a God, because each day he whispers the truth of His presence. He speaks to our hearts, He speaks through nature, and He speaks through His written word; we are without excuse if we choose not to listen!

Oh, if He is speaking to you now, won't you listen? Before it's too late? The choice is yours. You can choose to respond to his message of love, and to His gracious invitation, or you can ignore Him and go your own way. But, before you go your way; please consider His side of the story-

2000 years ago, our Maker became our Saviour. Think of it; He who made the heavens and the earth, and all it contains; He who has all authority and all power willingly put on mortality. "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not"; He was ridiculed, mocked, and then endured a cruel death on the cross. When we consider this more carefully we realize this was the greatest injustice ever committed! He was pure, He was kind; He sought no throne, nor home. He labored to exhaustion for the needy multitudes; but evil men without mercy took Him away, because of jealousy, and because they could not stand His morality! As cruel as His physical death was, the greater pain was inflicted on His spirit. Our sin was placed upon Jesus, and the Heavenly Father poured out His wrath upon Him. Jesus experienced painful separation from the Father as He cried out; "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me"?

Jesus willingly made himself a sacrifice; he willingly took our punishment. Why? Because there was no other way! If there was a way Man could repay his guilt, or put himself back in fellowship with God; then the cross would not have been necessary.

The cross teaches us the nature of sin; sin causes pain and separates from God. Sin is nothing more, and nothing less, than not listening to God! When we go our own way we get caught up in our own selfish acts; selfishness is the cause of many hurtful things (sin). Look around you. What is wrong with this world? Why can't two people who marry, because they "love" each other, get along? How do we think we can produce peace in the world, when we can't find peace in the individual heart? What is this sickness? It is Sin.

Maybe you have suffered evil things; if so I'm sorry, but know this Jesus has suffered with you and for you. Maybe, you have done evil things; if so it's time to repent, and know this, Jesus died for you. The sinless Son God died for Sinfull man that we might live! The Bible says; "He who knew no sin, became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" If He had to die that we might live, then we can conclude that we were all dead in sin.

So this is his story; He gave Himself for us, but he rose from the dead on the the third day, and assended up into heaven. He has sent out the invitation. He stands with His arms stretched out waiting for your reply! Yes, we are still dead in our sins unless we apply. We must turn from our way and embrace His way; we must acknowledge our guilt and accept His gift of life.

This is His invitation; "Behold, I stand at the door an knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me." (Revelation 3:21)

He is making a proposal, but you have to accept. We must turn from our own way, and we must identify with Him, His word, and His people; that's the deal.

"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21)

#### **Here's a suggested prayer:**

**Oh, Lord Jesus, Come into my life! I know that I am a sinner, and unworthy; forgive me for rebelling against you, and going my own way. Your love and patience are beyond anything I can comprehend! I believe your word; that you left heaven and came to earth to die for me; that you took the punishment for my sin on the cross. I believe that you rose again the third day; and that you love me. I believe your promise of eternal life to all who call upon you with a thankful heart. Wow! Thank you, Lord Jesus! Thank you for your salvation, the gift of your spirit, eternal life, and the assurance of Heaven! I love you Lord, and gladly accept; You, your word, your people, and your way.**

#### **Jesus changes lives.**

**1. The Bible teaches that when Jesus is given ownership He remodels. "Old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new" (1Corinthians 5:17). Click here for a recent example of a changed life.**

**2. Christianity is not just a way of life, it is first, and foremost a relationship with Jesus. That relationship needs to be cultivated by Bible reading, Church attendance (fellowshipping with God's people), prayer (talking with God), listening to His voice (walking with God), and living by His power; by doing these things you will discover God's purpose for your life. Christianity is an incredible adventure. Take it to the limit! Jesus said; "I came that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).**

<http://www.itsaboutisrael.com/how-to-be-saved.html>

**This is the first memorial to honor unknown Confederate soldiers in the South, erected by local citizens just a few years after the end of the Civil War. These particular soldiers were led by General Nathan Bedford Forrest and were killed in a raid on the occupying Federal troops in Union City. The Confederates attacked the town's railroad junction after destroying railroad tracks in several counties, attempting to disrupt union supply lines.**

## **THE UNKNOWN CONFEDERATE DEAD**

[Written while the ladies of Union City were engaged in the work of raising means to rebury the Confederate dead at that place in 1868.]

THRICE noble aim befitting hands so fair,  
Befitting hearts so gentle and so true,  
Cause that might claim an angel's loving care  
Now claims this pure and holy trust from you.  
Ah, broken hearts no doubt have waited long  
For the return of each one sleeping here,  
Waited and prayed and heard Hope's siren song,  
Till wailing dirges reached each list'ning ear.  
Perhaps, dear friends, for one who came not back  
You waited thus, prayed, wept, and watched; I have.  
My brother perished on War's blasting track,  
And sleeps now in a lonely, unknown grave.  
Pale Sorrow, somewhat hushed, to-day arose,  
And flitted slowly through fond Memory's hall;  
Again my soul bowed down beneath the throes  
War gave when o'er the South he flung his pall.  
Five dreary winters have their dirges sung  
Above my knightly playmate brother's grave;  
Mayhap some stranger hand hath kindly flung  
A chaplet o'er the mound of mine own brave.  
If so, a sister's heart would bless the hands,  
E'en as the loved of these would bless you, friends,  
And hope to clasp them in the starry lands,  
Where peaceful, joyous union never ends.



# The FIRST act of the "Civil" (sic) War



We have been told that the first shot fired in the "Civil" (sic) War was fired by the Confederacy at Fort Sumter as Lincoln's government attempted to rearm and resupply that fort. But that is not true. The first act of war was not done in the open in response to a provocation, but in the dark as a damnable piece of subterfuge which involved sabotage and the occupation of the buildings and land of a sovereign state in a sovereign nation.

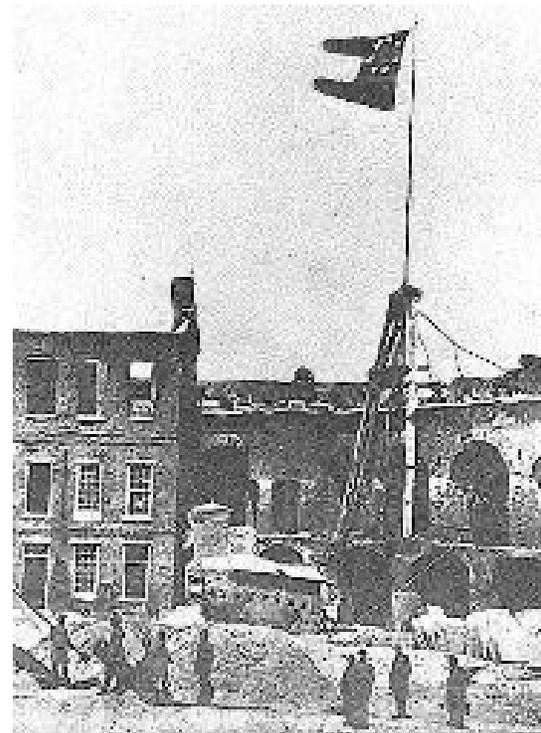
**In the darkness of the night of Christmas Eve, 1860**, Major Robert Anderson, commandant of the federal forces at Fort Moultrie in Charleston Harbor, left that fort - his assigned place according to his orders by the federal government - and after cutting down the flag pole (most probably to prevent the raising of the Confederate flag upon it), spiking the fort's guns and taking his contingent of soldiers and all munitions and supplies, stealthily made his way to Fort Sumter which was situated on an island in the harbor. This was done in secret and without any notification by the federal government that its troops would leave Moultrie and occupy Sumter, a facility which had reverted to South Carolina after the federal authorities allowed the provisions of the lease it held on the fort to lapse.

The federal government under outgoing President Buchanan - who was still in office - had signed an agreement with the State of South Carolina to make no attempt to relieve, rearm, re-supply or send more federal troops into Moultrie in exchange for the State government's promise not to attempt to remove those troops by force. Of course, Sumter was not even considered as the troops were quartered in Moultrie! By leaving Moultrie and moving to Sumter without informing the State of South Carolina or the new Confederate government of which that State was a part, Anderson was committing an act that can only be seen as hostile even if no shots were fired. This was further exacerbated by the damage Anderson did to Moultrie in spiking its guns, taking its supplies and munitions and even cutting down its flag pole a symbolic but potent rejection of the new Confederacy. Anderson moved to Sumter because it was far more easily supplied and defended by sea than was Moultrie, another evidence of the military nature of the operation. And finally, the fact that Sumter was now the property of the State of South Carolina, the federal lease having been allowed to lapse, Anderson's actions constitute an invasion, again even if no shots were fired.



So it is obvious both in law and in history, that the first act of hostility in the War of Secession was not the false flag operation of Sumter, but Major Anderson's abandonment of Fort Moultrie and his occupation of Fort Sumter. It is equally obvious that Anderson, a mere major, would hardly have done so on his own recognizance and that therefore it becomes equally obvious that his actions

were ordered from "higher-ups" on the chain of command. Lincoln had not yet been inaugurated, but he was in touch with General Winfield Scott about the military options open to him with regards to secession and the federal forts. So it is more than probable that Anderson was ordered by his superiors to abandon Moultrie - which was not easily defended or rearmed - and retire to Sumter which was more easily defended and rearmed. As that is the case, then the first act of the so-called Civil War took place on Christmas Eve, 1860 and not April 15th, 1861.



Confederate Flag flying in Fort Sumter after the 1861 surrender



## The photo is of Confederate dead soldiers in the Wheatfield Near Emmittsburg Road - Gettysburg PA, July 1863

Eileen Parker Zoellner

On November 19, 1863, Lincoln dedicated the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, with those immortal words: "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation...."

Those words, which will probably last as long as this Nation lasts, were spoken to dedicate a cemetery for the Union soldiers who gave their "last full measure of devotion" on Gettysburg's bloody battlefield. But what honor was accorded the Confederate dead? Where were they laid to rest?

Following the Battle of Gettysburg, the Confederate dead were buried along the roads, shoved into trenches, or consigned to common graves. The Southerners were seen as traitorous invaders and their bodies were not accorded the respect afforded the men in blue. One newspaper reporter wrote: "The poor Confederate dead were left in the fields as outcasts and criminals that did not merit decent sepulture." President Lincoln's immortal words were not spoken over their unattended, and unmarked, graves.

Reacting to the lack of proper burial for these Southern soldiers left at Gettysburg, the Southern states launched efforts to return the bodies of their sons to their native states following the end of the War Between the States. In Richmond, the Hollywood Memorial Association started a fund drive to secure the money to bring the Confederate dead from Gettysburg to Richmond for reburial in Hollywood Cemetery.

Their efforts proved successful. On June 15, 1872, a steamship docked at the wharf at Rocketts on the James River with boxes containing the Confederate dead. The soldiers who left Virginia to fight for the cause they thought was just, had come home. No one will ever know for sure, but in one of the precious boxes were probably the unidentified remains of Brigadier General Richard B. Garnett, who was killed while leading his men in what history has labeled "Pickett's Charge."

Pickett's Charge, which took place in the afternoon of July 3, 1863, started when General George E. Pickett ordered his men forward yelling, "Charge the enemy and remember old Virginia!" Over 13,000 Confederates emerged from the woods on Seminary Ridge and headed toward the waiting Union forces on Cemetery Ridge, which was nearly a mile away.

It was described by a Union soldier as Confederates charging forward "with the step of men who believed they were invincible." Union shot and shell tore into the marchers, but still they came. It was recorded that the battle noise was "strange and terrible, a sound that came from thousands of human throats...like a vast mournful roar." With muskets firing, flags waving, bayonets fixed and swords pointing forward, the flower of Southern manhood moved forward, ever forward. The fighting was bitter as the Confederates flung themselves across a stone wall which separated the two armies. The battle was awesome, the human casualties appalling; and the Union's fate hung on the outcome. It was, however, the Confederacy that died on that stone wall as the men in gray were repulsed by the Union forces.

Their charge had failed. General Garnett, who was ill on the day of the charge, led his men into what was described as a mission to "hell or glory." As he plunged with his men through a hail storm of lead, Garnett was ripped apart by grape shot and his body was left unidentified on Gettysburg's field.

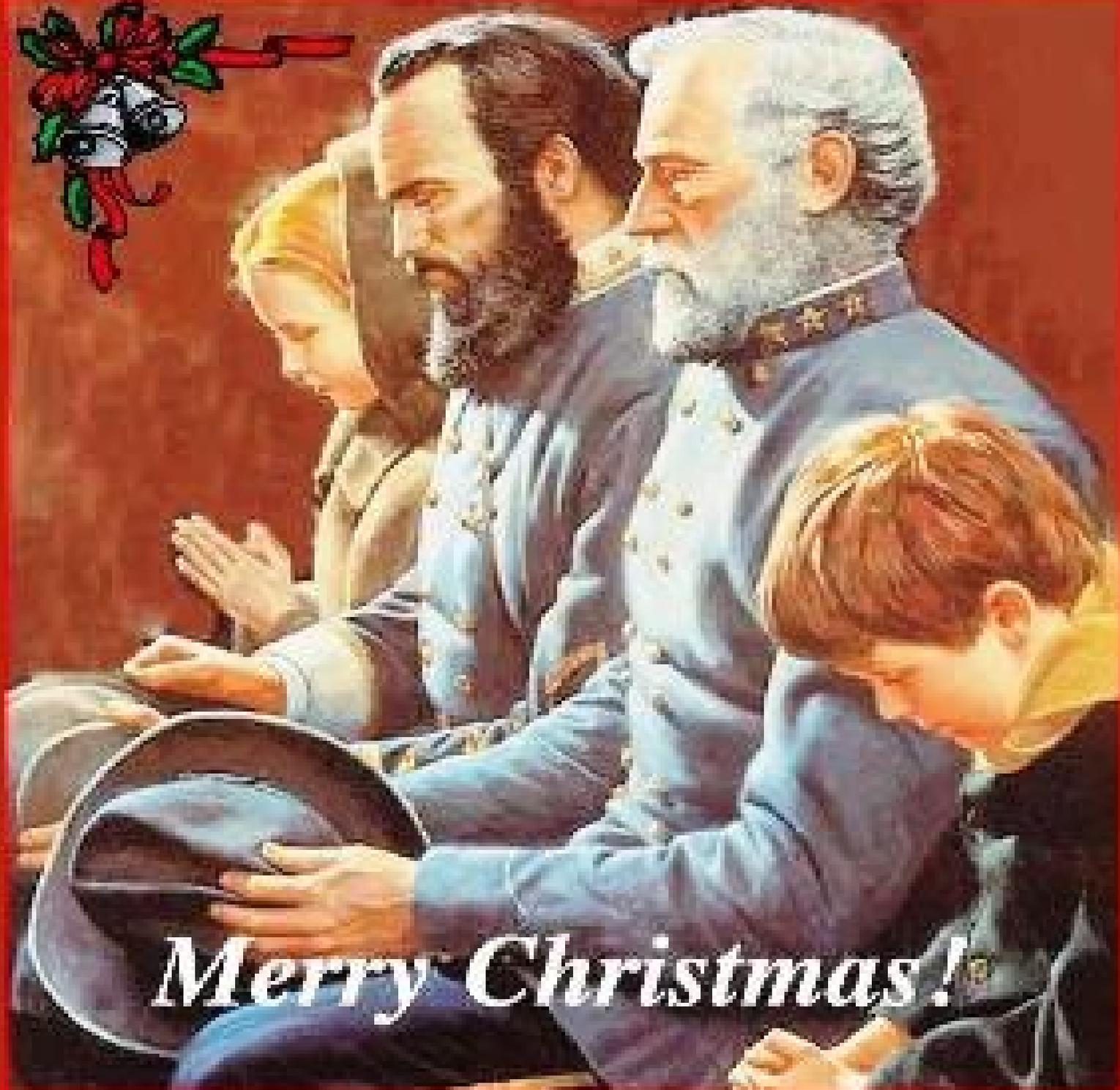
The honor these dead Confederates were denied in life, they found in death. On June 20, 1872, fifteen wagons were assembled at Rocketts to carry the boxes containing the remains of the Confederate dead. Each wagon was draped in mourning and was escorted by two former Confederate soldiers with their muskets reversed.

The funeral procession, which included both political as well as military leaders of the recently defeated Confederate nation, wound its way up Main Street as it moved toward Hollywood Cemetery. The buildings along the route were draped in black, and they echoed to the plaintive sound of the funeral march.

As the wagons passed slowly by, "many eyes were filled with tears and many a soldier's widow and orphan turned away from the scene to hide emotion." When the procession reached the cemetery, the boxes were unloaded and buried in a section known as Gettysburg Hill. The soldiers who had escorted the bodies were ordered to "rest arms" as their comrades were laid to rest in Virginia's soil.

There was nothing comparable to the Gettysburg Address for these soldiers. There were no memorable orations; only a prayer by The Rev. Dr. Moses Hoge of Richmond's Second Presbyterian Church was spoken. The prayer contained these lines: "We thank Thee that we have been permitted to bring back from their graves among strangers all that is mortal of our sons and brothers." Dr. Hoge prayed for those who had survived the war and then intoned, "Engrave upon the hearts of...all the young men of our Commonwealth the remembrance of the patriotic valor, the loyalty to truth, to duty, and to God, which characterized the heroes around whose remains we weep, and who surrendered only to the last enemy...death."

Following the prayer, three musket volleys were fired in a final tribute to those whose bodies were laid to rest for all eternity on Hollywood's sacred hill. The sounds of the muskets echoed across the cemetery, across the River James, and they still echo today across the pages of history.



*Merry Christmas!*

**For more great articles on Christmas in the Confederacy,**  
**see the DECEMBER 2011 and 2012 issues of the Belo Herald !**

- \* *Christmas letter from General Robert E. Lee to his wife, Mary*
- \* *CHRISTMAS IN THE CONFEDERATE WHITE HOUSE – by Mrs. Jefferson Davis*
- \* *Great Confederate snowball fights!*
- \* *An Unusual Holiday Punch from Mrs. Robert E. Lee*
- \* *Christmas in the Confederacy Crossword Puzzle – created by Mrs. Jefferson Davis*
- \* *"TEN CENT" BILL YOPP - An amazing story of lifelong friendship.*

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# The Christmas Encampment

The story you are about to read concerns the most unusual yet at the same time delightful Christmas my family and I have ever experienced. While on a trip to visit relatives in Tennessee we were waylaid along the way; somehow we found ourselves throw backward in time. Join with us now and travel back with us to a long ago Christmas which took place in the middle of the most terrible war.

Tuesday 17 December 2002  
The Prelude to an Adventure

Christmas was eight days away on Wednesday of the coming week and my family and I decided to drive up to Jackson Tennessee from our home on the northwest Florida Gulf Coast for the Christmas Holiday. We slowly packed our luggage into a suitable car we had rented for the occasion; our own being far too old to be trusted for such a journey. It was about 7:30 when we finally loaded ourselves in the car and pulled out of the drive way heading north on highway 231 out of Bay County heading toward Dothan Alabama. After stopping a couple times for a break we found ourselves entering the Birmingham area where we had arranged to stop over for the night to visit our adult granddaughter. The evening was every so pleasant and we celebrated an early holiday since we had so very far to travel for people our age and could not make it back through Birmingham by Christmas.

We did however decide to turn to the northwest on route 157 above Birmingham and travel through Sheffield Alabama in route to Savannah Tennessee for a days visit with a few old friends. We planned to visit cross the Tennessee River into Crump and visit the Shiloh Battle Field Park before continuing onward toward Jackson which is approximately 60 miles north of Memphis. We got underway from Birmingham bright and early on the morning of Thursday 17 December stopping for a visit at the ruins of the old Moulton College, which is now a Confederate Graveyard, located ten miles to the southeast of Sheffield. Our journey continued on the morning of Friday 20 December arriving in Savannah by 1:00 P.M. on the same day where we stayed the night with friends with an eye toward visiting the Shiloh Battle Field Park on Saturday morning.

We did not hurry getting up the next morning, so by the time we had breakfast it was already 9:00 A.M. and we decided to visit the Battle Field Park across the river then continue on our way, feeling like we could still make Jackson before dark or soon thereafter. The park is off to the south a few miles after crossing through Crump on route 64 which runs between Memphis and Chattanooga. We arrived at the entrance to the park around 10:30 A.M. but paused about a half mile away, pulled over to the side of the road, just to gather our thoughts. After a half hour we continue onward toward the entrance when my wife indicated it seemed like there is a strange fog or haze blanketing the atmosphere over the park. This was extremely unusual given the hour of and that it was a bright, clear day with only a peppering of thin white clouds overhead.

It came to my mind that even if there had been a fog early in the morning, it would have cleared by this time, still as I looked over my out the driver's side window it was plain for anyone to see. I thought to myself, half out loud and half to myself; maybe it is just an optical allusion of some kind! Still it was dense enough that we both decided it was better to park just inside the entrance and off the side of the road, and then walk the remainder of the short distance to the visitor's station. We check everything to be sure our luggage was secure and out of sight, deciding not to take a camera, given the dense fog, we'd not likely find the opportunity to take many pictures. The air was chilly though not quite freezing, so we both war a medium weight coat and my wife took along a shawl to protect here head and shoulders.

## Saturday 21 December 2002

### Hurled Backward in Time

We began our walk through the fog which seemed to be getting thicker and denser with every step, even time and distance seemed to be playing tricks on us. We both had traversed the short distance from the entrance to the visitors center a number of times and having become very familiar with nearly every inch of the way. It just should take this long and even in the fog we were aware something wasn't quite right; things were different as we look down at the road to both sides and forward. Could have turn off the way and gotten lost; not likely, but we still concluded after a long while that somehow we had indeed gotten way laid walking down this very short road from the entrance to the park. After what felt like a two hours walking a distance which should have taken 20 minutes at a slow pace, we finally began to break through the dense blanket of fog.

After we had walked some 20 yards beyond the fog bank we stop and looked about us, looking at each other as we surveyed the landscape. Then we turn to each other again and both stated almost in unison; "this isn't the battle field park." We found ourselves walking on a dirt road which was curved much like an old wagon trail of the nineteenth century, and I hadn't seen anything like this since I was nine or ten years of age. Then just about the time we were totally confused our confusion was about to take on an entirely new perspective. We heard the hoof beats of horses coming around the bend in the road just ahead, so I pointed to some shrubbery off the side of the trail and waved at my wife to come with me and hide. We had found what we thought was a secure place, and just in time as about eight mounted cavalrymen rounded the bend and headed our way.

The cavalrymen paused along the trail a few feet from where we were hiding and their leader who bore the strips of a Quartermaster Sergeant called out to us; "come out y'all, let us have a look at and see what yur up to." We both exited our hiding place with a measure of confidence that we were facing Confederate Soldiers, yet at the same time a little fearful, not knowing whether we were facing some kind of police, dressed for a reenactment or by some crazy twist of fate these guys were the real McCoy. On the way out I shook my head; maybe this is a dream, if so I should be waking up just about now! We reached the edge of the trail and looked up at the Sergeant; all I could think of to say was "We're lost." Now I knew what a monkey in a zoo cage must feel like with these soldiers staring down at us and chattering in the strongest Southern accent I've ever heard.

We also found out how these troops managed to make so much racket with only eight soldiers; they had with them a supply two wagons which were filled with what appeared to be food stuffs and an odd assortment of ammunition. The sergeant looking down at us and noticing our interest in the wagons replied; a gift from Abe Lincoln. Now as for y'all, I can plainly see that you are lost or else you would be out this far from town and if my guess is right based upon the way you talk and look, you are Southerners but not from this area. However since I can be sure we must insist that both of you ride with us back to camp, we'll let General Morgan decide what to do with you; there enough room in the first wagon for you folks, so climb up and get seated. We're only a mile or so away from camp, so the ride won't take long.

## Wednesday 24 December 1862

### The Confederate Encampment

On the way to the encampment we remain in the dark as to where and might I say when we were located, but it didn't take long and we found ourselves passing amidst a sizeable Confederate Army which appeared to number around 300 men. The wagon pulled stopped in front of the command tent and we were invited to follow the Sergeant as the General exited and the two men saluted each other. General Morgan sir, and with that it was became crystal clear that we were in the presence of THE famous Confederate Raider, General John Hunt Morgan, whom I recognized from pictures, had been promoted to Brigadier General on 11 December, just 13 days ago. Which brought to my mine that we were just outside the small village of Glasgow Kentucky and General Morgan had occupied the town that very day.

However I was not prepared for what was to come next; the general called out to our escort, Sergeant McCullum. Later I ask him if he'd be so kind as to give me his full name and he replied in his strong Kentucky accent; "Sergeant George Bernard Franklin McCullum at your service saa." I knew my face must have turned pale but I tried to react in a polite but normal manner; this was may own Confederate Veterans Great-great Grandfather, whom our family knew had rode with General John Hunt Morgan. But naturally, there was no possible way I could relate to tell him of what I knew or that we were from the twenty first century. While I did not carry his name, I am his direct heir and should have born the name McCullum. It took a lot of will power to keep from starring at this him, but I also knew he would be killed three months later at the Battle of Shiloh which was something else would churn around in my mind.

The short while I had to share his presence, I became proud to be his Great-great grandson! But we also knew we couldn't remain very long with these Confederates since they would fight the 'Battle of Green's Chapel and Bear Wallow on Christmas Day. None-the-less General Morgan pulled out all the stops and shows his finest southern manners, introducing my wife and me to the officers and men of his command. Shortly general bowed out by indicating he had business to attend to and turned us over to Sergeant McCullum; the general was soon spotted riding out of camp. There was no doubt he was either heading for town or scouting for the Yankee position he knew was in the area. However to our surprise, little more than two three hours later he returned with a number of the town's folks who were all prepared to hold a short but merry celebration of Christmas. It was a cold evening still everyone had made their best arrangement to fend off the weather and enjoy the evening!

The soldiers had already begun the celebrations by the time General Morgan returned with a kind of informal worship and singing around the camp fire, so when he only added to the joy of the celebrations. The towns folks brought gifts of food and an assortment of warm clothing which were distributed to those most in need. My wife and I could not believe the pleasant and joyous atmosphere in the camp and the deep spirit of devotion to the true meaning of Christmas, particular in the middle of a war. Every man in the camp surely knew that tomorrow would bring more fighting and misery, yet they took a respite and showed their guests the finest Christmas to be experienced anywhere. As for myself had ample opportunity to socialize and fellowship not only with all these heroic Confederate Soldiers and towns' folk, but my own Great-great Grandfather Sergeant G.B.F. McCullum.

## Wednesday 24 December 1862 Saying our Good-bys

Interestingly enough while we were in pleasant conversation the good sergeant remarked; "Haven't we meant somewhere before, it seems that I know you somehow!" I gave a big smile and replied; "Sergeant, I'd be most honored to be able to say that we have met before, but regretfully the answer is that we haven't." There was no doubt he was feeling the kinship even though there was no way he could put it in those terms! How could I possibly tell him that this old senior citizen was his 'Great-great Grandson? Equally I was aware of our family history and knew my Great-grandfather had already been born and he and my grandmother were already on the run from the Yankees. There was also another relative of mine attached to Morgan's Raiders; a Private Lambert, my Great-great Uncle, but we were informed that he was even as we celebrated involved in what the general termed 'scouting.'

While we all stood around the camp fire soldier after soldier pass by, shook our hands, spoke every so mannerly and gave special courtesies to my wife, indicating how honored they were that she had paid them a visited. Mean while we all sang in unison, swaying back and forth with the rhythm of the music. Several of the local citizens had brought instruments, most notably a couple of fiddles which added to the spirit of Christmas. While the time we spent in General John Hunt Morgan's camp was relatively short, it was a memory my wife and I shall cherish all the days of our lives, as the finest Christmas ever. We pledge ourselves to make every attempt to duplicate the joyous and reverent spirit we all shared in the camp of some very fine people, heroes of the Confederacy.

However there was a war still going on and the evening's celebrations quickly came to a close! Soon the local citizens were saying their good bys and departing the camp, General Morgan approach us touching me on my shoulder while at the same time showing the finest Southern manners to my wife. We are all so pleased that you wonder folks could come; your presence among us has brought much joy to my men, however the war continues and we have upcoming business with the Yankees in the area. The general then asked if we knew our way back from where we had come and I answered in the affirmative. General Morgan then suggested that Sergeant McCullum return you to the location where you had first appeared and we both nodded in agreement and smiled.

Seeing Sergeant McCullum not far away the general called to him, as the sergeant approached the general shook our hands, excused himself and departed in route to what we guessed was a war council with his officers. Sergeant McCullum escorted us briefly throughout the camp so we could say our good-bys, we climbed upon the wagon he had prided and was soon on our way. Very shortly we found ourselves back at the same location where we had earlier appeared. As we climbed down out of the wagon, the good sergeant helped my wife so graciously and said farewell to both of us with a kind of longing in his eyes. We knew we'd never meet again, and I had the feeling he knew we had come from a someplace very far away and would never return this way again. He asked if we could find our way back alright, we answered that we could, turned one last time waved and parted company.

## Saturday 21 December 2002 The Long Road Back

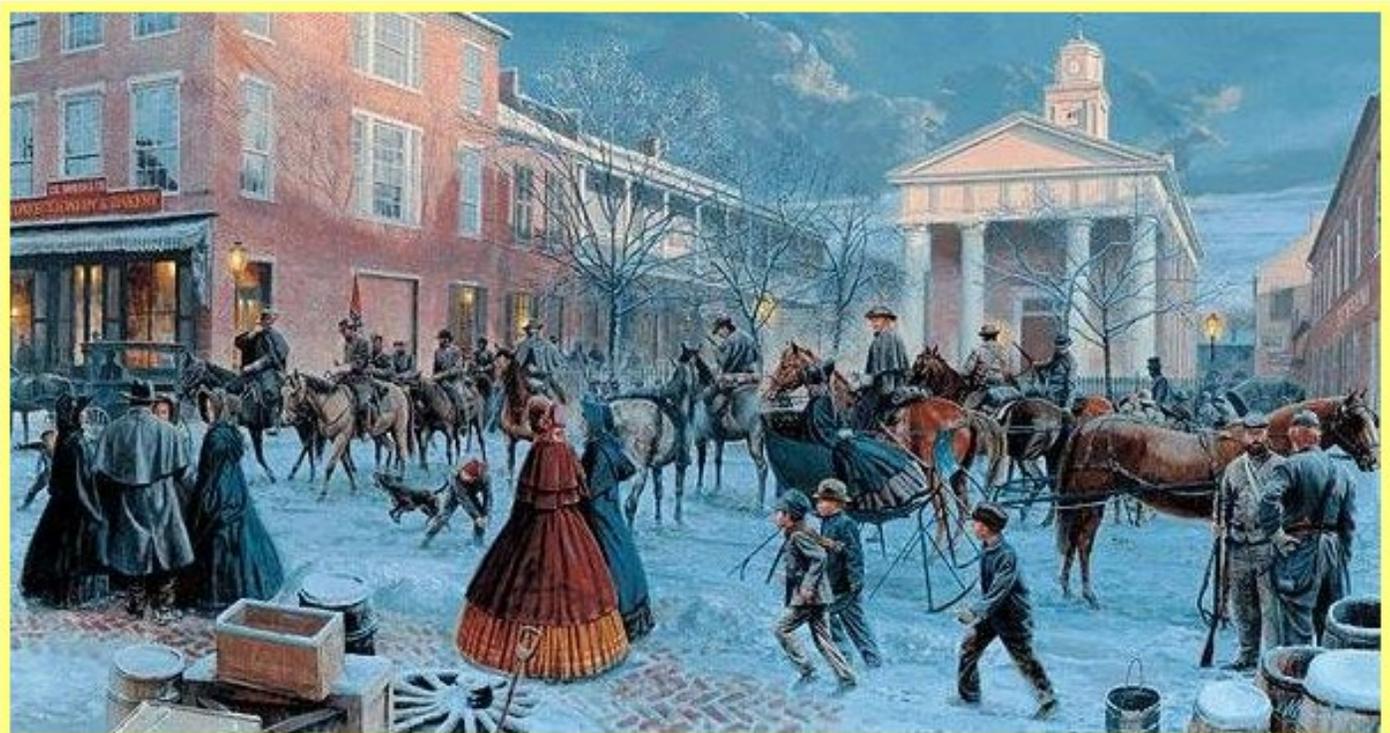
There was plenty of snow on the ground as we made our way up the small incline and back into the woods; we could hear Sergeant G.B.F. McCullum's wagon as it moved away in the distance. The woods was plenty thick enough and our dark clothing together provided plenty of cover, in the even we were wrong and found ourselves in need of hiding from the Yankee Army. However the pathway we had traverse on the way here, while narrow was visible enough to follow back through the woods. We walked along slowly but quietly as we both reminisced on the best Christmas we had every experience in our lives, and we each kept these thing in our hearts. After a while we found the fog closing in once more and the darkness was gradually giving way to what was obviously day time. The fog back grew so thick it was like solid wall of white all about us, still we kept walking down the pathway!

We soon found the fog beginning to lift and suddenly we were nearing the entrance to the Shiloh Battle Field Park, approximately 300 miles away from General John Hunt Morgan's Encampment near Glasgow Kentucky. As well walked along toward our automobile still parked where we had left it, we looked at each other and smiled my wife saying in a low tone; "We were really there, weren't we?" Yes my dear, we really were in the camp of General John Hunt Morgan and I really did get to meet my very own Great-great Grandfather. Those boys sure were gentlemen, my wife remarked! Well, fortunately we fell into the hands of our own Confederate Soldiers; I fear what may have happened had we been captured by Yankees. I am afraid it would not have been very pleasant for either of us, but particularly you, being such a fine lady.

The two of us paused to look ourselves over and realized we were now dressed as we were before we entered the fog bank. We listened to our car radio as we finished our journey toward Jackson Tennessee and discovered it was still Saturday 21 December and Christmas was four days away. It appeared as though we'd be celebrating Christmas twice this year, and just maybe the experience has given us a renewed understanding of its true meaning. We arrived at our kinfolk's house in Jackson and departed toward our Florida home on Friday 27 December, feeling it best to get home before New Years Eve. As time passed we spoke of the incident less, rather deciding to quietly cherish the sweet memories of the year we had celebrated Christmas twice, 140 years removed in time. I couldn't help think to myself; what if I had decided to remain with General Morgan!

God save the Confederacy

<http://www.confederatechristmas.blogspot.com/>





# Is Secession Time Coming Again?

by Chuck Baldwin, October 17, 2013

*(Editor's Note: Baldwin refers to Pat Buchanan's article about secession. Curiously, Buchanan does not even MENTION the most vibrant, well organized, most effective secessionist movement in the USA, and that is the Texas Nationalist Movement, headed by Daniel Miller and Cary Wise. Pat is old and doesn't get around much, I'm guessing.)*

Pat Buchanan recently wrote an intriguing column titled, "Is Red State America Seceding?" His column clearly reveals that an independence/secession movement is spreading globally. Pat rightly observes that in just the last few years some 25 nations have broken free of mother countries and formed their own independent states. And, no, most of these separations did NOT require violent revolution. In addition, talk of secession is currently going on in at least six other regions of the world. And, as Buchanan correctly observes, the spirit of secession is very much alive and well in the United States.

Buchanan writes, "The five counties of western Maryland—Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick and Carroll, which have more in common with West Virginia and wish to be rid of Baltimore and free of Annapolis, are talking secession."

But people in Maryland are not the only ones talking secession. Buchanan continues to write, “Ten northern counties of Colorado are this November holding non-binding referenda to prepare a future secession from Denver and the creation of America’s 51st state.”

Furthermore, people in northern California are also talking secession. Again, to quote Pat Buchanan: “In California, which many have long believed should be split in two, the northern counties of Modoc and Siskiyou on the Oregon border are talking secession—and then union in a new state called Jefferson.”

Buchanan goes on to say, “Folks on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, bordered by Wisconsin and the Great Lakes, which is connected to lower Michigan by a bridge, have long dreamed of a separate state called Superior.” The UP has little in common with Lansing and nothing with Detroit.

“While the folks in western Maryland, northern Colorado, northern California and on the Upper Peninsula might be described as red state secessionists, in Vermont the secessionists seem of the populist left. The Montpelier Manifesto of the Second Vermont Republic concludes:

“Citizens, lend your names to this manifesto and join in the honorable task of rejecting the immoral, corrupt, decaying, dying, failing American Empire and seeking its rapid and peaceful dissolution before it takes us all down with it.”

Pat concludes his column saying, “This sort of intemperate language may be found in Thomas Jefferson’s indictment of George III. If America does not get its fiscal house in order, and another Great Recession hits or our elites dragoon us into another imperial war, we will likely hear more of such talk.”

See Pat Buchanan’s column here:

[Is Red State America Seceding?](#)

Buchanan’s analysis is right on the money. The spirit of independence is far from dead in the United States. In fact, the spirit of independence (otherwise known as the Spirit of ’76) has already begun driving people to separate from states and cities in which they have lived for most or all of their lives. The biggest recipient of these many thousands of freedom-minded people seems to be the Rocky Mountain States of America’s Northwest.

Faithful readers of this column know that my entire family, including five heads of households and some 18 family members, relocated to the Flathead Valley of Montana after having lived a lifetime—or the better part of a lifetime—in the southeastern United States. And during the last three years, I have witnessed scores of families also relocate to northwestern Montana from all over the country.

But it's not just Chuck Baldwin's move or the people from around the country who have decided to join us here in the Flathead Valley: thousands of people are relocating to what is now commonly referred to as "The American Redoubt." This area includes Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, eastern Washington State, and eastern Oregon.

By the way, to read a compilation of articles as to why my family and I chose the Flathead Valley of Montana to which to relocate, peruse the material here:

### [Baldwins' Move To Montana](#)

Just recently, Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) did a television report on the growing numbers of people who are relocating to The American Redoubt. See the report here:

### [Redoubt: Northwest a Haven For Dismayed Americans](#)

The mood all over America is one of intense uncertainty and uneasiness. More and more Americans are waking up to the reality that Washington, D.C., is hopelessly broken (financially and morally), and it's only a matter of time before something catastrophic happens. They see the way America's major cities are becoming more and more tyrannical and crime-infested.

In the major cities, public schools more and more resemble prisons; police departments more and more resemble the German Gestapo; local governments more and more try to make criminals out of honest gun owners and more and more attack the Christian values that were once revered in this country. Add any major disaster (natural or man-made) to these growing concerns and the prospect for a normal life in the big cities is practically zero. People are yearning to be more self-reliant, more independent, more secure, and, yes, more free. In fact, for a host of people today, the longing for liberty trumps the desire for wealth and pleasure. What used to attract people to big cities now repulses them. And they are more than willing to downscale their incomes and living standards in order to live simpler and breath freer.

In reality, secession is not a future event; it has already started. People all over America are separating from their homes and families, from their jobs and livelihoods, from their cities and states, and from their very way of life in order to find even a semblance of what America used to look like. This trend will not diminish anytime soon. In fact, I am convinced it has not yet begun to peak.

So, don't despair my friends. The Spirit of '76 is alive and well—and not just in America but in many regions around the world also. The smell of independence is in the air. It smells so sweet. Take a big whiff. Then prayerfully decide to what and to where that wind is leading you.

Pat Buchanan's analysis of the modern independence movement just might be more of a prophecy than anything else.

I cannot help but think of the speech John Adams gave to the Continental Congress as it contemplated the Declaration of Independence. When one thinks of fiery speeches for independence, one normally thinks of Patrick Henry, Sam Adams, or James Otis. But John Adams' speech to the Continental Congress ranks up there with the greatest of them. So, for all of my freedom-loving brothers and sisters in America and around the world who are already, in their own way, engaged in the independence movement, I conclude this column with the concluding words from that immortal speech:

“Sir, I know the uncertainty of human affairs, but I see, I see clearly, through this day's business. You and I, indeed, may rue it. We may not live to the time when this Declaration shall be made good. We may die; die, colonists; die, slaves; die, it may be, ignominiously and on the scaffold. Be it so; be it so! If it be the pleasure of heaven that my country shall require the poor offering of my life, the victim shall be ready at the appointed hour of sacrifice, come when that hour may. But, while I do live, let me have a country, or at least, the hope of a country, and that a free country.

“But whatever may be our fate, be assured, be assured that this Declaration will stand. It may cost treasure, and it may cost blood, but it will stand, and it will richly compensate for both. Through the thick gloom of the present, I see the brightness of the future, as the sun in heaven. We shall make this a glorious, an immortal day. When we are in our graves, our children will honor it. They will celebrate it with thanksgiving, with festivity, with bonfires and illuminations. On its annual return, they will shed tears, copious, gushing tears, not of subjection and slavery, not of agony and distress, but of exultation, of gratitude and of joy.

“Sir, before God, I believe the hour is come. My judgment approves this measure, and my whole heart is in it. All that I have, and all that I am, and all that I hope, in this life, I am now ready here to stake upon it. And I leave off as I began, that, live or die, survive or perish, I am for the Declaration. It is my living sentiment, and by the blessing of God it shall be my dying sentiment, Independence now, and INDEPENDENCE FOREVER!”

Amen and Amen!

© Chuck Baldwin

## Related posts:

1. [State Secession: Is America Ready For Secession?](#) State Secession: Is America Ready For Secession? By Russell D....
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3. [Secession in Italy?](#) Galt's Gulch is a powerful draw for lovers of individual...

~ JEFFERSON DAVIS FUNERAL PROCESSION ~  
~ NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA ~  
DECEMBER 6TH, 1889



"Throughout the South are Lamentations and tears; in every country on the globe where there are lovers of liberty there is mourning; wherever there are men who love heroic patriotism, dauntless resolution, fortitude or intellectual power, there is an sincere sorrowing. The beloved of our land, the unfaltering upholder of constitutional liberty, the typical hero and sage, is no more; the fearless heart that beats with sympathy for all mankind is stilled forever, a great light is gone—

**--Jefferson Davis is dead!"**



## "Lee's Lieutenants" by Mort Kunstler

On a foggy Saturday morning, December 13, 1862, Lee and his principal lieutenants rode forward to meet a massive assault from the Union Army of the Potomac.

"A dense fog hung over the city that morning as Lee moved to confer with his commanders on a hill overlooking the city. Stonewall Jackson attended the meeting in a new uniform, which was a gift from General J.E.B. Stuart. Jackson's devoted soldiers, who were accustomed to Stonewall's worn uniform, were bedazzled by the gold braid and crisp look of the new uniform. They spontaneously broke into wild cheers. It was then, in the words of Douglas Southall Freeman, that "drab daylight began to soften into gold under the rays of a mounting sun." Fredericksburg's church steeples emerged in the distance above the morning mist. It was a lighting effect I had observed myself on visits to Lee's Hill at Fredericksburg - and I was delighted to have an opportunity to paint it." - Mort Kunstler



The spark: Selma Police Department's Sgt. Tori Neely dusts for prints in March 2012 after the bronze bust of Nathan Bedford Forrest was stolen from the monument that is placed in Old Live Oak Cemetery. This theft is what led to monument sponsors to lead efforts to build a bigger monument, which drew protests and ultimately led to a lawsuit after the city of Selma shut down construction efforts. -- File Photo

## City council approves settlement

Published 10:49pm Tuesday, November 26, 2013

By [Josh Bergeron](#)

[Email Comments](#)

**In a 5-3 vote, the Selma City Council voted to approve a settlement in a lawsuit over a monument to Confederate general and former Klu Klux Klan leader Nathan Bedford Forrest, effectively ending the suit.**

The settlement terms include giving a deed to the one-acre tract of land containing the monument in Old Live Oak Cemetery to Chapter 53 of the United Daughters of Confederacy. Other terms include allowing KTK Mining to replace the bronze bust of Forrest, but not allowing the original plans to construct a taller structure; installing cameras and lighting for security; making the circle handicap accessible; placing a cannon on a pedestal previously intended to raise the monument's height and paying a total of \$100,000 to KTK Mining for a violation of the company's due process rights.

The city's liability insurance will pay \$50,000 of the damages. The other \$50,000 will be taken from a fund set up to receive a half-cent sales tax, passed earlier this year. The fund currently contains \$74,686.

Before voting in favor of the settlement, council president Corey Bowie said it was time for the city to move forward and focus on more important issues plaguing Selma.

"We have to look at the bigger picture," Bowie said. "We are going to have to embrace both the civil war and the civil rights movement as part of our city's history. Once we can appreciate both ends then we can move past this."

Ward 1 councilman Cecil Williamson, Ward 2 councilwoman Susan Keith, Ward 3 councilman Greg Bjelke and Ward 6 councilman B.L. Tucker also voted in favor of a settlement. Ward 4 councilwoman Angela Benjamin, Ward 5 councilman Sam Randolph and Ward 8 councilman Michael Johnson voted against the settlement. Ward 7 councilwoman Bennie Ruth Crenshaw was absent.

Randolph said he felt the city was giving up too much in the settlement.

"We are giving them a deed to the land and \$50,000 and I just think that is too much," he said.

With the settlement approved, city attorney Jimmy Nunn said the lawsuit is effectively over.

Had the settlement not been approved, Nunn said the city faced much larger consequences, including paying nearly \$300,000 in attorney's fees.

The lawsuit began when the city suspended KTK mining's construction permit on Sept. 25, 2012 after questions were raised about who owned Confederate Circle.

The monument was originally unveiled in 2000 at the Vaughan-Smitherman Museum. It was moved to the cemetery after the monument was vandalized.

In March 2012, the monument's bronze bust was stolen, leading to the group Friends of Forrest developing plans for relocation. Protests began again around the monument months after construction began.

Shortly after the protests began city council members suspended the permit.

Read more: <http://www.selmatimesjournal.com/2013/11/26/selma-city-council-approves-settlement/#ixzz2lrNz3dPJ>



# Confederates Look To Win 'Second Battle Of Olustee' In Florida



AP Photo [Eric Lach](#) – December 5, 2013

Eleven thousand men fought at the Battle of Olustee, the largest Civil War battle in Florida, which took place on Feb. 20, 1864. The fighting took place on the floor of a virgin pine forest and lasted until dark, when the Union forces retreated. There were 1,861 Union casualties, and 946 Confederate casualties, making the battle, proportionally, one of the bloodiest of the war.

This week, almost 150 years later, in a public school auditorium in Lake City, Fla., the Battle of Olustee once again pitted Confederates against Yankees. This time, there were no casualties. But at stake was the fate of a monument to the Union soldiers who fought in the battle, proposed by the Florida "department" of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

"We really don't want controversy," Charles "Buck" Custer, treasurer of the Union group, told TPM in an interview this week. "We're down here in Dixie, and we certainly don't want to make enemies of our neighbors and people that we live with. But on the other hand, I think there should be justice, if you will,

and I think that those 2,000 Union soldiers that died up there are at least entitled to have people know that they were there and existed."

The plans for a Union monument at the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park -- about 46 miles west of Jacksonville, Fla. -- began several years ago. The idea was to commemorate the Union regiments that fought at Olustee (pronounced oh-lusty), and to recognize the African American regiments that made up one third of the Union forces. The group members also hoped to correct a perceived imbalance -- they say three Confederate monuments currently exist on the site -- and to get the monument built in time for the battle's sesquicentennial in February 2014. The Florida chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War intended to fully pay for the project, and to offer it as a gift to the people of Florida.

What they didn't count on was a counter-offensive. Modern-day Confederate groups rallied opposition to the project and urged members to contact lawmakers in Florida to stop it.



Michael Givens / scv.org

"In anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the battle that protected Florida's capital from falling, the Sons of Union Veterans has obtained approval from the State of Florida Parks Department for a special monument to invading Federal forces," Michael Givens, commander-in-chief of the national Sons of Confederate Veterans, [wrote in an message](#) to his group's members in October. "The plan calls for a large black Darth Vader-esque shaft that will disrupt the hallowed grown [sic] where Southern blood was spilled in defense of Florida, protecting Tallahassee from capture. ... Confederate Forces won the Battle in 1864 - but will we win the 2nd Battle of Olustee and prevent this menacing monument from disrupting this hallowed Southern soil?"

The issue came to a head on Monday, at a public hearing in Lake City to discuss the location of the monument. Dozens of opponents to the project turned out, compared to a handful of supporters, and the meeting at one point devolved into a rendition of "Dixie" led by H.K. Edgerton, a black "Confederate activist" who [works](#) to "reveal the truth of the War for Southern Independence."

"The whole audience, with the exception of the six of us who were the Union, got up -- because here if you're singing 'Dixie' that's kind of like 'The Star-Spangled Banner' -- and everybody got up and sang along, and they yelled and waved, and gave rebel yells, and all that," Custer said. "I mean, it was real. It was a sight to see."

The Confederates feel differently about things, of course. James Davis, Florida division commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, told TPM this week that he and his group are not opposed to the Union monument outright. They just don't want it built on the three-acre battlefield site originally donated to the state by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

"Our particular view is, we're not opposed to the Union monument," Davis said. "We are opposed to the Union monument -- or any other monument -- being put on the original three acres at Olustee. And that's where they want to put it."

Davis considers the three-acre plot a "cultural and historical resource for the state of Florida" that should not be altered. He and other opponents of the project suggest that the Union monument should be built on any of the other "600 plus acres" of federal land that surround the battlefield site. Davis also disagrees with the idea that the largest monument currently on the site, built in 1912, is strictly a Confederate affair.

**"People call it a Confederate monument, but it's not," Davis said. "It mentions both sides. It just kind of says, 'Hey, this is what happened.' So that's pretty much it."**

**The supporters of the Union monument remain unpersuaded by the arguments. Custer called the 1912 structure "blatantly a Confederate monument" that only a mentions Union forces in passing. And he rejected the idea of building the Union monument on federal land surrounding Olustee.**

**"That three acres is what's called the cultural area, and that's where the tourists go," Custer said. "When there is tourists, they go to that area. To put it out in the middle of a forest -- nobody's going to see it. Well, of course, they don't care that nobody sees it. But I don't think that's fair. And I don't think it's a position that's tenable. They should at least let us put it somewhere were it would have some meaning."**

**Both men said that Monday's public meeting hadn't been the "fight" described in some media reports. Custer called it "really a one-sided thing." Davis, meanwhile, said that attendees "felt passionately about what they were talking about" but that the "overwhelming majority" made their points civilly. Asked about the singing of "Dixie," Davis acknowledged that it had happened.**

**"One of the speakers was leaving, and he started singing Dixie," Davis said. "That's true."**

**The future of the Union monument now rests in the hands of the Florida state officials, and neither supporters nor opponents of the project could predict which side officials would favor. But trying to build the project on the federal land surrounding Olustee could prove tricky. John Hennessy, chief historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Virginia, told TPM that the National Park Service -- which does not oversee the land near Olustee -- several years ago adopted policies that discourage, with some exceptions, new monuments on Civil War battlefields.**

**"I would say the motivation for the [National Park Service] policy--to preserve landscapes (some of them already overburdened with memorials) and to prevent the accumulation of commemorative expressions over decades and centuries--seems a good deal different than the sentiments that appear to be driving opposition to the Olustee monument," Hennessy wrote in an email.**

**Custer, who is 83, said his group never anticipated the controversy the monument plan would inspire. And he actually has a foot in both camps. Because not only is Custer a member of the Sons of Union Veterans -- he is also a past 1st lieutenant commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.**

**"I have people on both sides," Custer said. "When I reenact, usually, on the weekend, Saturday I'm a Yankee and on Sunday I'm a Confederate. But that's common. Very common. And we are not fighting the war. They fought the war 150 years ago."**

*Photo by [fdbryant3 / Flickr](#). Civil War re-enactment in 2008 in Olustee, Fla.*

## **About The Author**



### **[Eric Lach](#)**

Eric Lach is a reporter for TPM. From 2010 to 2011, he was a news writer in charge of the website's front page. He has previously written for The Daily, NewYorker.com, GlobalPost and other publications. He can be reached at [ericl@talkingpointsmemo.com](mailto:ericl@talkingpointsmemo.com)

# Petition: Change Sherman School Names in NYC and Chicago



At least two schools, one in New York City and one in Chicago, are named for General of the Army William Tecumseh Sherman. Sherman was the architect of total war against the South during the so called “Civil” War and a policy of genocide against the Plains Indians after the war. The type of crimes committed by Sherman merited death sentences against German generals at Nuremberg in 1946.

William T. Sherman is simply not an appropriate name for a public school anywhere and is highly offensive to people in the South and Native Americans.

This is a request to the Chancellor of the New York City Dept of Education and the Chairman of the Chicago Public Schools Board of Education to change the name of their respective W.T. Sherman Schools.

Here some Sherman quotes to ponder:

**“Gentlemen, niggers and cotton caused this war, and I wish them both in Hell.” Wm T. Sherman 1865 Fayetteville, NC**

**“sandbags stop bullets better than niggers” Wm T. Sherman 1864**

**“All the congresses on earth can’t make the nigger anything else than what he is; he must be subject to the white man...Two such races cannot live in harmony save as master and slave.” Wm T. Sherman to his wife 1860**

**“What will you think of that — our buying niggers?” Wm T. Sherman to his abolitionist brother 1859**

**“The more Indians we can kill this year the fewer we will need to kill the next, because the more I see of the Indians the more convinced I become that they must either all be killed or be maintained as a species of pauper.” Wm. T. Sherman**

Share this and help us make it go viral!

And Remember to Support the SLRC!

**SLRC**

**P.O.Box 1235**

**Black Mountain, NC 28711**

**Donate to the SLRC and follow us on Facebook!**

**Sign Petition**

**Here**

# **PETITIONS READ AS FOLLOWS:**

**To: Chancellor David M. Walcott  
New York City Department of Education  
c/o Deputy Chancellor Kathleen Grimm  
kgrimm@schools.nyc.gov**

**Re: PS 87 William T. Sherman School  
160 West 87th Street  
New York, NY 10024  
212-678-2826**

**WE the undersigned request that the name of PS 87 William T. Sherman School be changed. General of the Army William Tecumseh Sherman was a war criminal who committed innumerable crimes against humanity by waging total war against Southern civilians, women & children in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina during the War Between the States and by waging a war of extermination against the Lakota people and other Plains Indians in the post WBTS period.**

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**To: Chairman David J. Vitale  
Chicago Board of Education  
c/o Yolanda Alonzo  
yalonzo1@cps.edu**

**Re: William T. Sherman Elementary School  
1000 West 52nd Street  
Chicago, IL 60609  
773-535-1757**

**WE the undersigned request that the name of William T. Sherman Elementary School be changed. General of the Army William Tecumseh Sherman was a war criminal who committed innumerable crimes against humanity by waging total war against Southern civilians, women & children in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina during the War Between the States and by waging a war of extermination against the Lakota people and other Plains Indians in the post WBTS period.**

**[signature]**

**<https://slrc-csa.org/newsroom/petition-change-sherman-school-names-in-nyc-and-chicago/>**



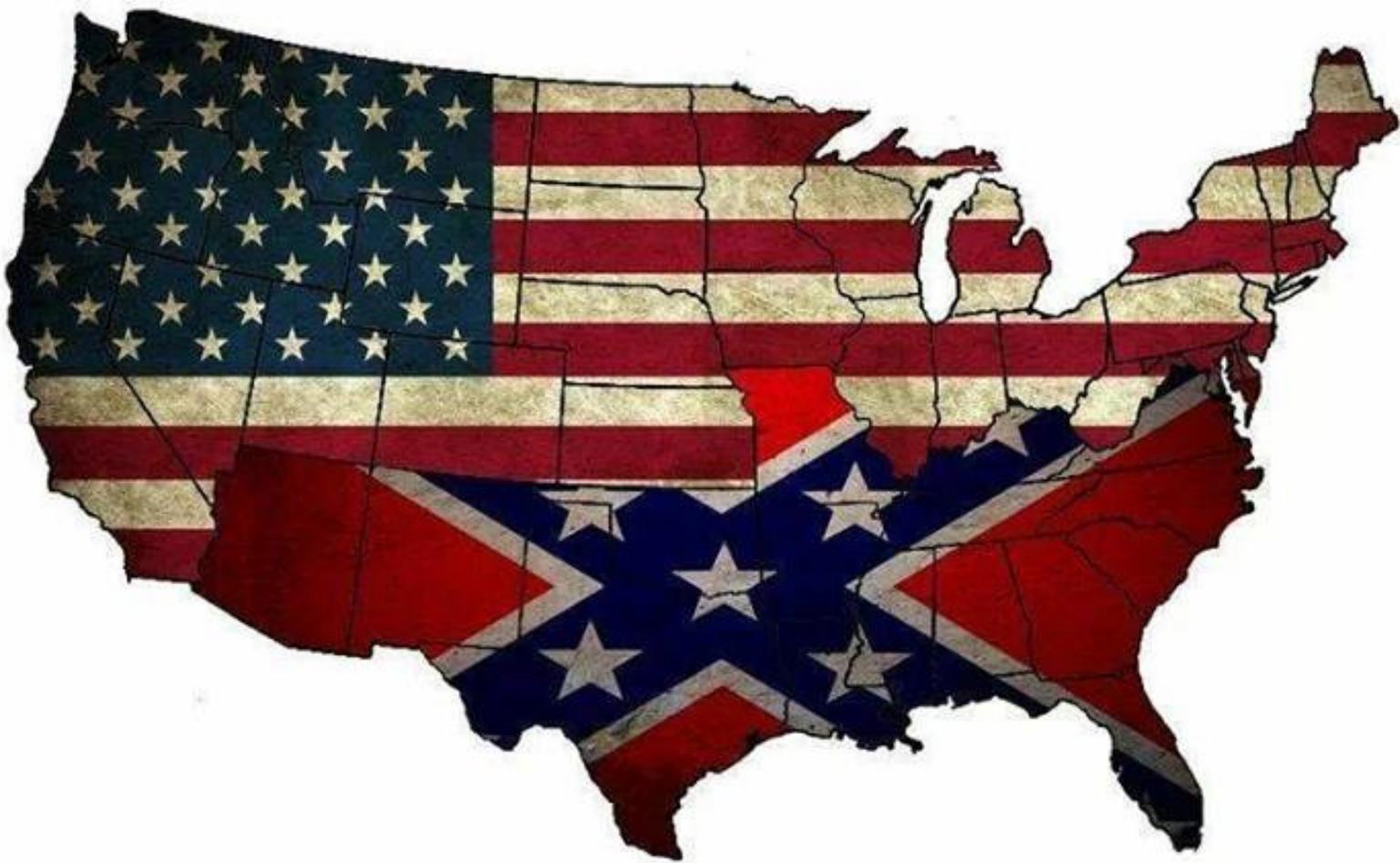
## CSA Flag Racism and Bigotry?

Isn't the Confederate flag a symbol of bigotry and racism? Even though the Naval Jack, which most critics call "the Confederate flag," has been abused by racist groups, often in an attempt to gain favor with Southerners who love their flag, the flag does not lose its honorable history. It was born from a powerful Christian symbol, the Cross of St. Andrew, and developed for use by troops defending their homes against an aggressor in a war they preferred not to fight. As the soldier's flag, it represents the honor and valor of those who answered the call of duty.

Abuse of the flag by any other group is just that—abuse—and a distortion of its true meaning and its real symbolism.

But, if critics argue that any Confederate flag is a symbol of bigotry and racism, because it has been displayed by racist groups like the Ku Klux Klan, then they must also be prepared to pull the Stars and Stripes off of every flag pole in the nation and the Christian flag out of every church, because these flags have been equally abused by racist groups. The KKK regularly flies the Stars and Stripes and Christian flags, often in far larger numbers than the Confederate battle flag, though nobody calls for the abolition of these abused symbols.

This is because people of good faith recognize that these symbols are being abused, and dismiss the abusers' attempt to distort truth. The exact same standard should be applied to the Confederate battle flag.



**"More than any other part of America, the South stands apart. Thousands of Northerners and foreigners have migrated to it...but Southerners they will not become. For this is still a place where you must have either been born or have 'people' there, to feel it is your native ground. "Natives will tell you this. They are proud to be Americans, but they are also proud to be Virginians, South Carolinians, Tennesseans, Mississippians and Texans. But they are conscious of another loyalty too, one that transcends the usual ties of national patriotism and state pride. It is a loyalty to a place where habits are strong and memories are long. If those memories could speak, they would tell stories of a region powerfully shaped by its history and determined to pass it on to future generations."**

**~ Tim Jacobson, Heritage of the South ~**

# Nashville Dispatch, December 25, 1862.

December 25, 1862 - Season's Greetings

A Merry Christmas!--In times of peace and prosperity the whole Christian world is accustomed to rejoice and be merry on this, the birthday of The Prince of Peace. Those who have an abundance of this world's goods have been accustomed from time immemorial to give freely to those of their neighbors who have been less fortunate; while those who have had but little have given even a portion of what they had, so that all could rejoice and be glad, and sing their Christmas carols with light hearts.

Our rejoicings to-day will necessarily be mingled with sorrows; grief for relatives and friends lost to us in this world, will mar the exuberant joy which should fill our hearts under other circumstances; and sorrow and anxiety for the absent ones will necessarily detract from the general enjoyment; yet should we rejoice; do you ask why? —look around you, and see how many thousands are suffering all the afflictions you endure, and, in addition, all the pangs of hunger and cold, the burning fever, the cold chill, the racking pain, and the various heartburnings and anxieties of the widowed mother in poverty. Of your means, therefore, give freely to the poor to-day, and you will have just cause to rejoice that Almighty God has thus blessed you and enabled you to make glad the hearts of some one or more of His suffering creatures on this the annual festival of the birth of our Redeemer. That all our readers may have cause to rejoice, we fervently pray.



# North and South: Different Cultures, Different Economies

Eileen Parker Zoellner

Here it is 150 years later, and the WBTS evokes memories of great men and great battles. Certainly, it was a huge milestone in the history of this country. We all know that wars are extremely expensive, and the WBTS was no exception. This devastating war cost over 600,000 deaths, and destroyed much of the southern landscape. The financial costs are seldom discussed though.



The war that raged from 1861 to 1865 was the violent conclusion to decades of diversification. The North and South followed different paths, becoming two distinct and very different regions. Smaller farms were better suited for the northern soil and climate, while the South's fertile soil and warm climate made it ideal for large farms and crops like tobacco and cotton. Because agriculture was not lucrative for the north, Industry flourished and was fueled by more abundant resources than in the South. Whereas in the south, agriculture was so profitable, that few saw a need for industrial development.

Northern wartime practice with regard to property of the south was "redeeming the South by stealing it." Vague doctrines of war powers, the Lincoln administration quickly moved to confiscate "rebel" property forfeited for withdrawal of owed allegiance. The US government created special tax districts with peculiar auctions of "abandoned" property, which attracted insider bidders with advance information. Estimates of \$100 million in property destroyed in the south, 80% of it was just simple waste and destruction and not a matter of military necessity. Wartime corruption was only a small part. The war retarded growth, wages fell and the south lost 40% estimated wealth.

Debt was already a reality to our Founding Fathers. By January of 1783, the debt of this country had risen to \$75 million, and rose even further to nearly \$120 million over the next 40 years. President Andrew shrank that debt to zero in 1835, the only time in the history of this country it was not in debt. Unfortunately, the National debt catapulted to approximately \$65 million by 1860 and skyrocketed even further to \$2.7 billion by 1865. Without a doubt, wars have always been a major debt factor for our nation. The Continental Congress could not finance the Revolutionary War with large tax increases and therefore borrowed money from other nations. The WBTS is estimated to have cost \$5.2 billion when it ended. A major bank invested in railroading, Jay Cooke & Co., collapsed and caused the Panic of 1873. An estimated 25% of all railroads went bankrupt, more than 18,000 businesses closed and unemployment hit an all-time high of 14%. This period of deflation and low growth went on for over 5 years and made it the longest depression. The government collected less taxes and the debt only grew deeper.

The north didn't understand the south 150 years ago....and they still don't understand the south today. I can only hope and pray that I am able to see the day when we can honor, protect and peacefully remember our ancestors and simply be left alone!

Deo Vindice!!



## On Holy Ground

I stood this day in fire and blood;  
On honoured fields of grass and mud.  
This our land where valor rests;  
Southern glory stood the test.

I walked among those stones of grey;  
Where gallant warriors here they lay.  
Into the battle bold and loud;  
Confederate Legions like a cloud.

With pike and saber into the fight;  
Dixie men with all their might.  
Passing ages day by day;  
Southern Knights all clad in grey.

Should they rise in grand elation;  
They would bid us restore their nation.  
A grandeur nation could never stand;  
Than what they built upon this land.

Oh ye people upon this mound;  
Stand ye here on holy ground.  
Almighty God pray I this day;  
Our Southern nation return to stay.

~ Thomas E. Guinn ~



Near Chesterfield Station  
Caroline Co. VA.  
Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

Dear Sister

Your last kind favor came safely to hand on X-Mas eve with the box of clothes and eatables; thanks, many thanks for the very acceptable good things as well as the promptness in sending them. Two other boys in my tent got boxes and I tell you we had a jolly good time the next day at dinner, just think of a dinner consisting of a ham, round beef, steak, fowls, spare rib, Chine, Mutton, sweet potatoes, winding up with pies, Tarts, Cakes, apples. To a soldier who has been living on fat bacon or beef and bread for months.

The watch and clothing were all right and while I think of it, the tube to the watch came off so I will trouble you to buy me a new one i.e. key and send in your next. I am glad to see that your finger is well or better. I received Louisa's letter telling me to keep the \$30

But not till after I had sent it. Tell Ma that I am under many obligations but did not wish her to deprive herself, but that I am owing Mr. Card \$16.83 which I wish were paid but am not able, tell her that she is welcome to the blankets.

As you see we have made another move, on last Sunday we left behind us our Yankee friends & old Fredericksburg, and are now settle in it is thought for the winter, only the Artillery came down. I do not know if the infantry will come or not. We have a very pleasant place in the pines for our camp and are busy building log cabins, though it is rumored that we will leave in about three weeks for North Carolinian. You say write what sort of Christmas I have spent, well I have spent a very pleasant one for camp life, but not as agreeable as the last, when we were at Leesburg and enjoyed the society of ladies. I am very glad to know you are all enjoying yourselves. Is the boarder still with you? You must write me and tell me what kind of time you have spent. Tell Ma I condole her on the loss of her turkeys and hope she was not depriving herself in sending me the fowls.

Ask Pa what he thinks of peace prospects. Much love to all

William

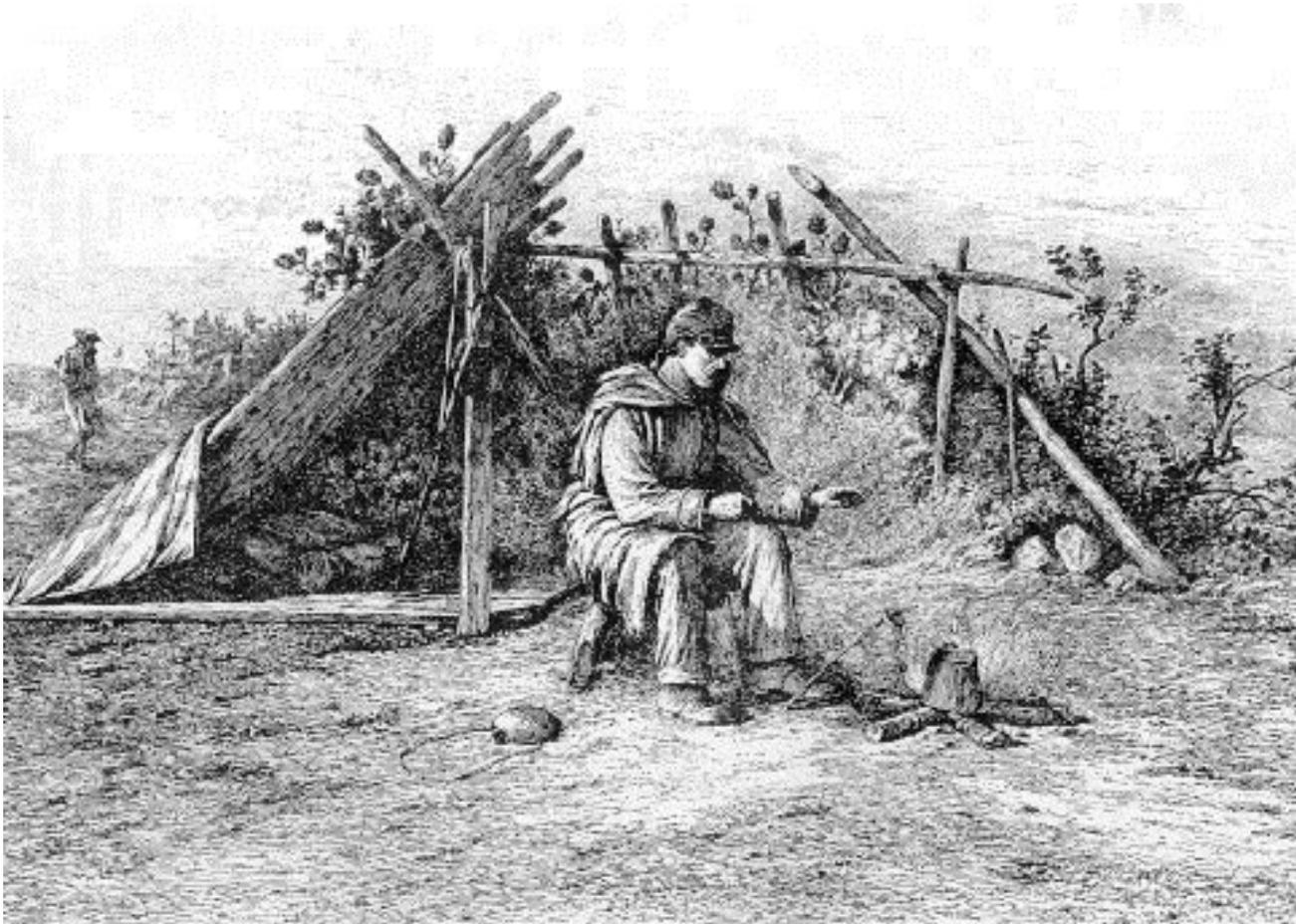
Address Care Capt. McCarthy 1<sup>st</sup> Co Howitzers  
Ruthes Glenn P.O. Caroline VA.

# Christmas of 1863

Private Philip D. Stephenson, Co. K, of the 13th Arkansas, recalled his Christmas of 1863 in his memoirs: "It was a typical Christmas Day - snow and ice and keen cold. Spent by the camp at large in the cabins toasting their feet before blazing fires, smoking, and talking of home, and what they used to have for dinner on Christmas, and what they would like to have then, and wondering when the war would end.

Some of the officers of the various regiments were favored with an invitation from the Division and Brigade Headquarters to a Christmas Dinner. None of the men. That wouldn't do! After the rest were gone, we resolved to have a Christmas Day too!"

Stephenson explained how they "borrowed a little here and there and gathered together some rice, brown sugar, whiskey, spice, flour and corn meal," out of which they concocted a rice pudding and an oven cake of "batter bread." "The cooking of that dinner! Shall I ever forget it. Neither of us knew anything about cooking, nor had any "turn" for it. We did other needed things in the mess...The batter bread was reasonable enough to look at, but the Rice Pudding was a sight to see, ominous, threatening to play havoc with our insides. But that Rice Pudding did not know soldiers' stomachs. We ate that pudding, all of it. It was vile, but we ate it and laughed as we ate it until the tears ran from our eyes and our sides ached! We shook as we sat turn fashion, around it, and reeled in our seats, and shouted over it."



A CHRISTMAS DINNER.

# Are They Going After Mississippi's State Flag Again?

Posted on November 3, 2013

By Al Benson Jr.

It should be common knowledge by now that when liberals, socialists, and communists have something on their agenda they seldom quit until they get what they want. Much as I hate to do it, I have to credit them for their tenacity in pursuing their agendas and I could wish our folks on the right had a little more of that tenacity. When the communists and their buddies lose a fight they come back next year, and next year, and so on until they wear their opposition down. And their "opposition"—in many cases, like the judge in Luke 18 that feared neither God nor man, will end up giving them what they want just so that they will no longer trouble them. Christians and patriotic folks have not yet learned that lesson. Most of our folks fight one battle, lose it, and tuck tail and run home and we don't even think about coming back next year—and so the leftists win by default.



Several years back there was a big fuss in Mississippi over the state flag. The "progressives" (liberals, socialists and communists) claimed the flag represented "racism" and slavery and they wanted to replace it with some watered-down rag that had no cultural or regional significance whatever—the same game they play in all the Southern states—replace yet another Southern symbol with cultural genocide on a piece of cloth.

Some of the good folks in Mississippi resisted their efforts and traveled around the state to rallies and meetings educating the public (because they sure didn't get it in public school) as to what was going on and who was doing it. There was finally a referendum put up that allowed Mississippians to vote on whether to keep their current state flag with the St. Andrews cross on it or to adopt the proposed politically correct and insipid rag.

When the folks in Mississippi had the chance to vote they voted 67% or right around there, to keep their current flag. There were some black folks that voted to keep the current flag. So the far left lost that

particular battle. Now, after nursing their wounds and planning new strategy for a decade and a half, they seem to be drifting back.

There was an article by a Donna Ladd on <http://www.jacksonfreepress.com> for October 30th which had several comments about the state flag—none of them good. She started out her article saying: “Ah, the flag. The Mississippi State flag is like that obnoxious relative at a family gathering. He’s offensive, disrespectful and not representative of your family’s values at all—one hopes—but he’s not going anywhere anytime soon. So you put up with him.”

Ms. Ladd complained about the state’s “racist” past, about slavery and about how blacks were treated and all the usual litany of leftist complaints. You’d think, reading what she said, that no place but the deep South ever had any slaves. If she was educated in public school that may be exactly what she believes. However, as much as she probably would not be willing to believe it, all of the original states, both North and South, had the institution of slavery at some point and many of the Northern states didn’t get rid of it as early as she probably would have liked. She probably would also not be willing to believe that just about all the slave trading ships in this country came out of New England and were captained by New Englanders.

If Ms. Ladd would like to do a little homework on the subject other than the liberal twaddle she has been fed I would recommend Donnie Kennedy’s book *Myths of American Slavery* ( Pelican Publishing) and another one, written by three Northern reporters who worked at the Hartford Courant newspaper in Hartford, Connecticut. The name of it is *Complicity—How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery* (Ballantine Books, New York). I’m sure both of these would be a real shocker for Ms. Ladd.

She complains about Mississippians who don’t seem to have a problem with the flag. She rants “So? Rights have always been about that of the individual, not the majority, by necessity. And what might have happened if more people were educated about the flag’s true origins, not to mention what the dang secession declaration proves about slavery?” In truth, if more people understood what the St. Andrews cross on the flag really meant we wouldn’t even be having this debate again, in fact we would not have had it the first time.

She complains about Mississippi playing the age old “game of defiance” in regard to keeping the flag. I wonder if Ms. Ladd ever really did any checking into what went on in Mississippi during what is euphemistically called “reconstruction.” If she did, which I doubt, she might understand the feeling of Mississippi’s people toward federal tyranny, both yesterday and today. I’ll bet she is a big proponent of Obamacare. If she is like most leftists then federal tyranny to her is security and safety, and we are all “racists” because we don’t want to bow down to it. If she wants to understand why Mississippi folks revere their State flag I would also suggest that she read Claude Bowers *The Tragic Era*. Ms. Ladd doesn’t seem to realize that racial attitudes in the North were about the same as they were in Mississippi. If she has bought into the fable that, in the North, racial attitudes were all as pure as the driven snow, then reading some real history would give her a rude awakening!

I am wondering if her article is a trial balloon to try to gauge how much sentiment there is for trying to pull another attempt at getting rid of Mississippi’s State flag. With a new far-left mayor in Jackson, one that had help with his election all the way from New York, you can be sure they would love to do away with Mississippi’s state flag as part of their cultural genocide agenda.

<http://revisedhistory.wordpress.com/2013/11/03/are-they-going-after-mississippis-state-flag-again/>



Have you ever experienced a phase in life where you simply wanted to walk away from all the drama and stress around you? Where you actively sought after solitude? Where silence, versus dialogue with others, was a better option for you? I think it is important that each of us step back from time to time, if for no other reason than to take a deep breath in and breathe. Our minds and souls need time to regroup, recharge and reignite the passionate fire within. A brief period of solitude is far better and extremely less damaging than engaging in verbal attacks with others, whether friend or foe.

One question that never gets a straight or believable answer is, "Why do Northerners hear the truth about our Southern history and heritage, yet they choose NOT to acknowledge the truth?" **Is it because if they did, they would have to face the skeletons in the closets of their Union ancestors?**

Defining honor is complicated. The theory of honor seems inherently and strangely contradictory: comic and tragic, romantic and shrewd, inhumane and magnanimous, brave and hypocritical, sane and mad. Yet every conceivable aspect of honor, from its most selfless to its most desperate and deluded, influenced the actions of the privates and generals, the North and the South, from the first shot fired at Fort Sumter to the signing of the surrender at Appomattox in what Sir Winston Churchill would one day call "the last war between gentlemen."

In contrast, the opposite of honor is shame. The fear of the shame seems to spark a defense of honor. Think about our soldiers, waiting for the order to charge across a breadth of open field against a defensive position, into the mouths of cannons loaded with grapeshot, rifled muskets charged with .58 caliber Minnie balls, and the bayonets of the enemy. This was a scene played out on countless battlefields throughout the war and with rare exception; the soldiers followed orders and charged, often into certain death. Each of our ancestors fought with honor not just for themselves, but for the honor of you and me.

Protecting one's reputation from all insults or reproofs, was one of the most discernible requirements of honorable conduct during that era in the history of the US and Confederacy. It still holds true today for each of us that endlessly and faithfully honor and protect our ancestors against those who are working towards annihilating everything about the South and Confederacy. For over 150 years now, we have defended our Southern history and heritage. **We simply wanted to exist separate from a tyrannous government; that is still, simply all we want today.**

# Lincoln Changed the Subject with Gettysburg Address

By Kirkpatrick Sale

November 13, 2013

What Lincoln did at Gettysburg in November 1863 was to try to create a brand-new purpose for the war that the North was fighting against the Confederacy. No longer was it to be for the preservation of the union, as he had declared many times in the previous two years, nor for the restoration of forts and armories and customhouses, as he declared in his declaration of war, but now it was to be for the banners of equality and liberty that had been unfurled in the cause of black emancipation.

He began his transformation of purpose 150 years ago this month with a distortion of history that claimed that the United States had been committed to equality and liberty in its original form and the present conflict was to preserve a nation “so conceived and so dedicated.” For this purpose he had to declare that the nation began “four score and seven years ago” — i.e. 1776 — which is rank and utter nonsense. There was no nation when the colonies issued a Declaration of Independence to explain their rebellion and there didn’t become one until the Constitution was ratified thirteen years later. And that Constitution, and the nation that it created, had nothing to do with being “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,” a complete absurdity for in fact it makes no mention of equality at all — and indeed endorses the institution of slavery.

The preamble does make a passing reference to “secure the blessings of liberty,” but nowhere in the document are there any articles or enumerated powers relating to liberty in any guise. Indeed the aristocratic Founding Fathers would have thought the idea of governmental machinery dedicated to liberty, much less equality, would be ludicrous — neither of them can be legislated — and they had no intention of setting up a nation that would try to achieve those undefinable and unachievable goals. Then, furthering his distortion, Lincoln declared that the cause for which the Union soldiers “gave their last full measure of devotion” was “a new birth of freedom,” when we can be sure that this was the farthest thing from their minds, since no one had ever told them that was why they were fighting. They certainly weren’t fighting for the freedom of the North, since that was never threatened. They were obviously not fighting for the freedom of the South, since that is precisely what they were against. They were not even fighting for a new birth of freedom for the slaves of the South, since that too had not previously been declared a cause for the war, not even after the publication of the Emancipation Proclamation 10 months earlier.

And as for the idea with which Lincoln ended his speech — that ours was a government of, by, and for the people — I’m afraid that too would have seemed a peculiar idea to the Fathers. The government they created was very careful to limit the powers of “the people,” making sure that the senior house, the Senate, was not to be elected by the general populace, of whom they tended to have a very dim view, but by the

state legislatures. And even the voters for the House of Representatives were limited according to state regulations, in which a majority of the states had various property requirements, as they did for candidates to the Electoral College.

We may get some idea of how the Fathers regarded “the people” from an 1814 letter that Jefferson, one of the most democratically inclined crafters of the Constitution, wrote to John Adams. He hoped, he said, that “the natural aristocracy” of this country, of which he considered himself a part, “may safely and advantageously reserve to themselves wholesome control over their public affairs,” and hopes that “the mobs of great cities” and “the class of artificers as the panderers of vice” never have a say in those matters. Government was certainly not, and not meant to be, of or by the people, though it was surely for them, as any natural aristocracy would provide.

An entirely fraudulent address, then, that Abraham Lincoln (so ably) created, and especially important because it served not only to give the war a new direction and purpose (and a new high moral ground from which to unsheathe a “terrible swift sword” against the South) but also in a sense to give the nation that he was hoping to create, which was to be centralized and Washington-centered as never before, a central purpose. Whether it was wise to set this land on a course for 150 years of trying to achieve equality, an impossible abstract that requires an ever-more-powerful government to try to accomplish, and to do so by depending not on the states but on an amorphous thing called “the people,” we may leave to history to decide.

Kirkpatrick Sale, who lives in Mount Pleasant, is the author of 12 books, including most recently “Emancipation Hell: The Tragedy Wrought by Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation 150 Years Ago.”

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### The Best of Kirkpatrick Sale

Kirkpatrick Sale [[send him mail](#)] is the author of a dozen books, including [Human Scale](#) and [Rebels Against the Future: The Luddites and Their War on the Industrial Revolution](#), and is the Director of the Middlebury Institute for the study of separation, secession, and self-determination.

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Previous article by Kirkpatrick Sale: [Secession Fever in Vermont](#)

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/2013/11/kirkpatrick-sale/lincoln-changed-the-subject/>



# Atrueconfederate

<http://atrueconfederate.blogspot.com/>

The history we learned in school was written by the winners ! The True history of war is written by its warriors.

## Emotionalism!

Emotionalism! After reading a recent post by Kevin Levin (**Ed.Note: Levin is a radical anti-Confederate blogger**) I have come to understand why there is such a great divide in the way in which he and I differ in our view of the WBTS.

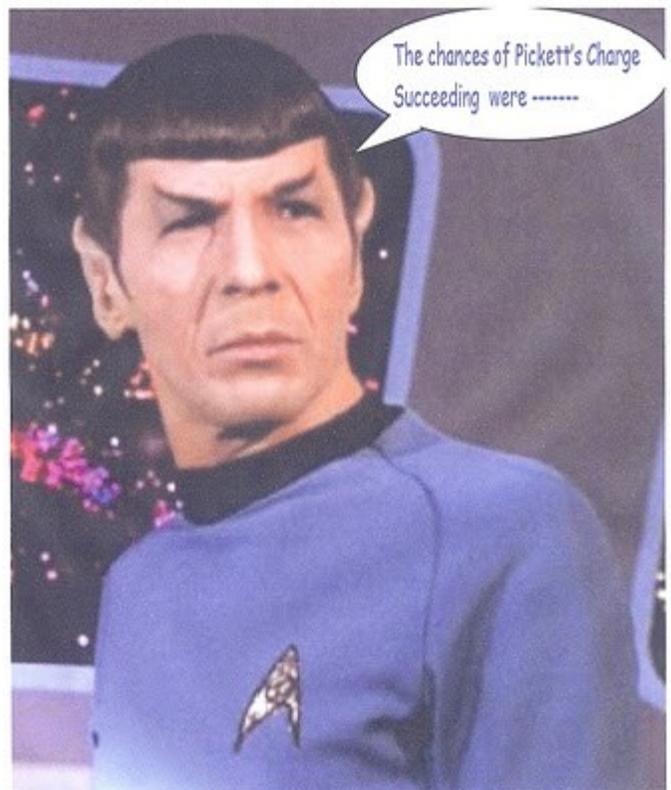
Kevin has no heart in the matter; he views it in a purely logical aspect, kind of like Mr. Spock on Star Trek . He simply looks at statistics and reports and then gives an opinion, (anti-southern) I often notice him refer to books written by other “historians and researchers” but then isn’t he relying on their interpretation? Then depending upon his agreement with their views he either promotes’ or disregards their efforts.

I like to look into the hearts of the men who fought in the battles. I think Kevin called my type of view “Emotionalism” or something close to that. And he is correct, I do have a lot of emotion regarding my southern heritage, and seeing as how he claims no ancestry to the south how can I expect him to understand? But there is something to be said for emotionalism!

In the days following 9/11 was it a logical assimilation of facts that drew the American people together, or was it emotion?

If you have ever seen the photograph of the fireman carrying the lifeless baby from the destruction of the Oklahoma City Bombing, is it logic or emotion you view the picture with?

When a 21 gun salute is fired for a fallen soldier from our present war on terror; is it logic that brings tears to the family’s eyes or emotion? And that very same fallen soldier who gave his life by covering a grenade with his own body to save his comrades, again is it logic or emotion? I think courage and self-sacrifice are emotions!



The Confederate Heart / the following text is by---- CARLTON McCARTHY PRIVATE SECOND COMPANY RICHMOND HOWITZERS.

I guess it describes the Confederate soldier as well as anything I have seen.

“The heart is greater than the mind. No man can exactly define the cause for which the Confederate soldier fought. He was above human reason and above human law, secure in his own rectitude of purpose, accountable to God only, having assumed for himself a nationality which he was minded to defend with his life and his property, and there to pledged his sacred honor. In the honesty and simplicity of his heart, the Confederate soldier had neglected his own interests and rights, until his accumulated wrongs and indignities forced him to one grand, prolonged effort to free himself from the pain of them. He dared not refuse to hear the call to arms, so plain was the duty and so urgent the call. His brethren and friends were answering the bugle-call and the roll of the drum. To stay was dishonor and shame”!

Also a letter from my ancestor, William Henry Tatum, Private First company Richmond Howitzers; that reads in part ---

“When I volunteered I really did not know how long of a time it was for, and in fact I did not care. I am , with the other 12 month volunteers, called upon to reenlist in accordance with an act of congress of Dec 11th 1861 and I am called on to decide what I should do, before we are mustered out of service. I think that with everybody else , that the period will be the most critical one in our history, our enemy are perfectly aware of the straight in which we are placed and will certainly endeavor to take advantage of it. Now what is my duty, to go home and leave our defense to an undisciplined militia who will make a sorry fight at best, leaving it in the range of probability that the northern hessians will overrun our state before the summer is over and thereby bring ruin on us all? Or stay in the field, determined to see the end of this business before we give it up. I might say to myself I am only one, I will not be missed, but ought we to allow such selfish considerations to govern us, our whole army is made up of individuals, and suppose each was to say the same thing”?

Yes William puts feelings into his letters, writing from his heart about a place that he loves: Virginia! A place that our family has lived since 1619. I can't expect Kevin to understand. I guess he would consider me akin to a medieval surfer, I have lived my entire life within a 30 mile radius. On the very edge of the Great Dismal Swamp, no place I'd rather live. I have traveled a bit but was always ready to get Home!

Kevin, You can crunch numbers and statistics, you can look at every book in every library on earth and you can continue to turn out a cold “Vulcan” opinions. Maybe one day you will understand the concept of home, why it's worth defending. Not only now but back in 1861 when Lincolns' men invaded.

I will continue to look at the stories and letters written by the men who were in the war. And when I hear Taps played at a Marker dedication for a Confederate soldier or played for a fallen soldier from Afghanistan I will allow my heart to feel sadness. I will pray for the souls of both soldiers, and the family's of the same. So count your numbers, dot your I's and cross your T's. I will continue to sing Dixie from my heart, and thank God that I'm who I am. And also thank God that my ancestors were who they were and did what they did.

David Tatum Jr.

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

[http://atrueconfederate.blogspot.com/2011\\_03\\_01\\_archive.html](http://atrueconfederate.blogspot.com/2011_03_01_archive.html)

# General Colston's Charge to the Women of the South



In his remarks before the Virginia Ladies Memorial Association below, General Raleigh E. Colston urged that organization to faithfully transmit the heroic motives, deeds and valor of their Confederate fathers, brothers, husbands and sons, to future generations. A brigadier under Lee, General Colston after the war was headmaster of the Cape Fear Academy in Wilmington and later went to Egypt to serve the Khedive.

**A Heroic Defeat More Glorious than Victory**“It is true that when we, the actors in the last contest, shall be sleeping in our graves little will it matter to us what the world may think of us or our motives. But me thinks that we could hardly rest in peace, even in the tomb, should our descendants misjudge or condemn us. And yet, is there impossibility of this?

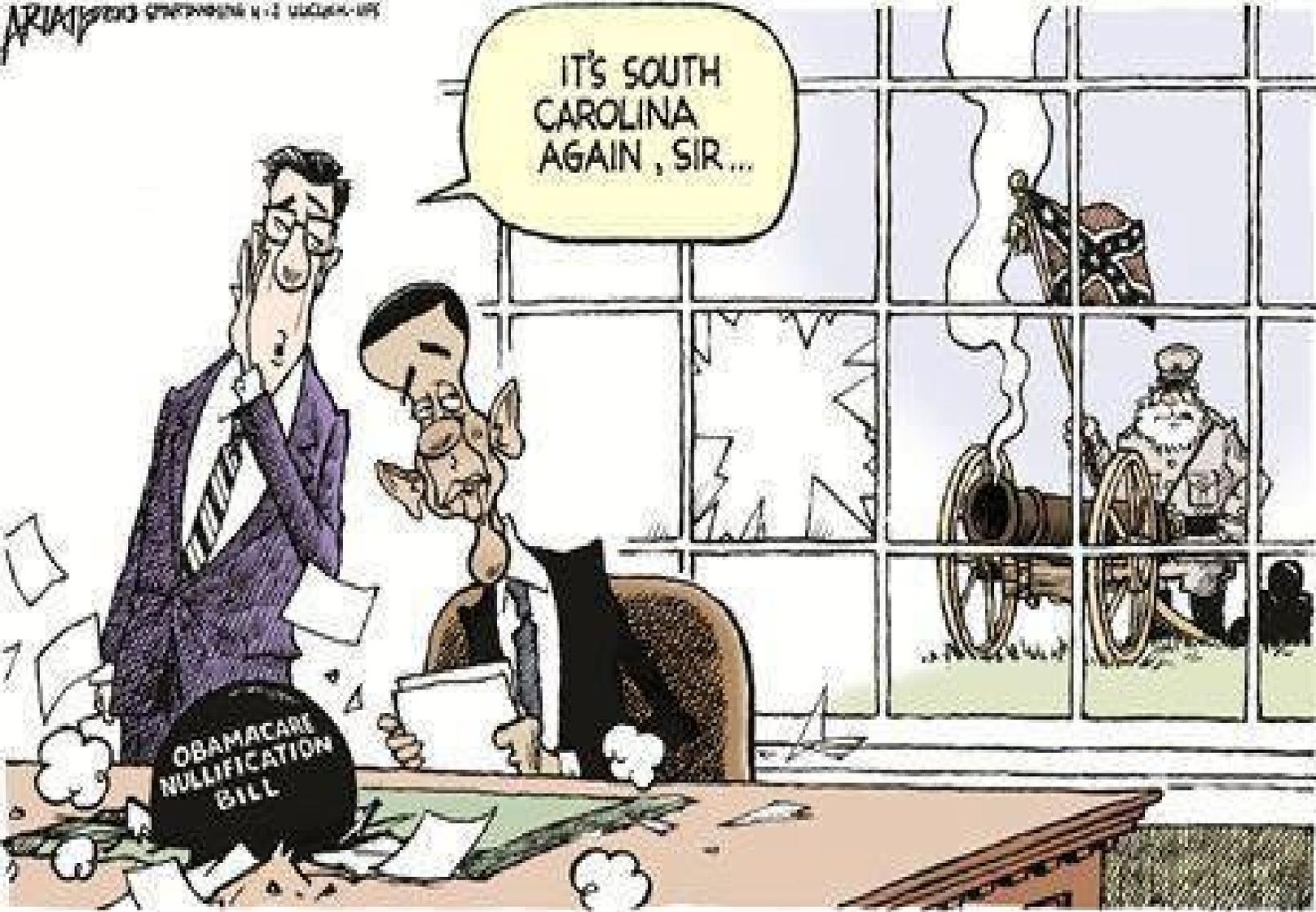
They will be told that their fathers were oligarchs, aristocrats, slave-drivers, rebels, traitors, who to perpetuate the monstrous sin of human slavery, tried to throttle out the life of the nation and to rend asunder the government founded by Washington; that they raised parricidal hands against the sacred ark of the Constitution; that they were the unprovoked aggressors, and struck the first sacrilegious blows against the Union and the flag of their country. You are now, or will be some day, the mothers of future generations. See that you transmit to them the traditions and memories of our cause and of our glorious, if unsuccessful, struggle, that they may in their turn transmit them unchanged to those who succeed them. And let them learn from you that, although the same inscrutable Providence that once permitted the Grecian cross to go down before the Moslem crescent, has decreed that we should yield to Northern supremacy, and that we should fail in our endeavor; yet, for all that, we were right.

It is for you, Southern matrons, to guard your cherished ones against this foul idolatry, and to teach them a nobler and higher moral. It is for you to bring the youth of our land to these consecrated mounds and to engrave in their candid souls the true story of our wrongs, our motives, and our deeds. Tell them in tender and eloquent words that those who lie here entombed were neither traitors nor rebels, and that those absurd epithets are but the ravings of malignant folly when applied to men who claimed nothing but their right under the Constitution of their fathers-the right of self-government. Tell them how we exhausted every honorable means to avoid the terrible arbitrament of war, asking only to be let alone, and tendering alliance, friendship, free navigation-everything reasonable and magnanimous-to obtain an amicable settlement. Tell them how, when driven to draw the sword, we fought the mercenaries of all the world until, overpowered by tenfold numbers, we fell; but like Leonidas and his Spartans of old, fell so heroically that our defeat was more glorious than victory.”

(General Raleigh E. Colston's Address to the Virginia Ladies' Memorial Association: "His Words Live After Him, " Confederate Veteran, March 1897, pp. 115-116)



**General Lee and his Confederate officers in their first meeting since Appomattox, taken at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, in August 1869, where they met to discuss "the orphaned children of the Lost Cause". Left to right standing: General James Conner, General Martin Witherspoon Gary, General John B. Magruder, General Robert D. Lilley, General P. G. T. Beauregard, General Alexander Lawton, General Henry A. Wise, General Joseph Lancaster Brent Left to right seated: Blacque Bey (Turkish Minister to the United States), General Robert E. Lee, Philanthropist George Peabody, Philanthropist William Wilson Corcoran, James Lyons (Virginia)**



**Fort Semmes Flag  
Union forces  
captured on  
Mustang Island,  
Texas in late 1863.  
The state of Maine  
returned it in 1927.**

# Confederate Regimental Ordnance Statements

Four times per year, every regiment in the Confederate Army was required to fill out a return of ordnance supplies on hand. Each quarterly return showed the number of items carried over from the previous quarter, all items received or expended during the quarter, and the resulting total on hand at the close of the quarter. The returns are a unique resource, allowing us to see the precise equipment of a regiment on a specific date.

Reports like these are further testimony to the fact that even in the middle and later part of the war, there were significant differences in the equipage of different units. Just as quartermaster records make clear that variations in uniform persisted, so too the ordnance records give evidence of variation in arms and equipment.

Because the returns were intended purely to keep track of Ordnance Department property in the hands of soldiers, and not to show equipment required (that's what inspections were for), the number of men in the regiment is not provided. However, a close idea of the strength of the regiment can be surmised from the number of weapons and sets of accoutrements on hand.

Below is a selection of six of the returns I have located. Three are from the Army of Tennessee, and three from the Army of Northern Virginia.

## Army of Tennessee

### 52nd Georgia Infantry

#### Stovall's Brigade, Stewart's Division

	On hand 3/31/64	Rec'd from Brigade Ord.	Worn out in service	Lost/charged to men	Lost in battle	On hand 6/30/64
Austrian rifles .54	<b>229</b>	22	0	37	48	<b>166</b>
Gun slings	<b>79</b>	0	5	13	20	<b>41</b>
Bayonets	<b>225</b>	21	0	37	92	<b>117</b>
Bayonet scabbrd	<b>229</b>	46	72	37	48	<b>118</b>
Cartridge boxes	<b>229</b>	23	2	37	48	<b>165</b>
Cart. box belts	<b>229</b>	25	4	37	48	<b>165</b>
Waist belts	<b>228</b>	24	15	37	47	<b>153</b>
Cap pouches	<b>229</b>	24	16	37	48	<b>152</b>
Knapsacks	<b>209</b>	0	27	22	35	<b>125</b>
Haversacks	<b>261</b>	74	118	30	47	<b>140</b>
Canteens	<b>193</b>	89	100	30	40	<b>112</b>

We see here the effects of the Atlanta Campaign on the 52nd Georgia during the 2nd quarter of 1864. They are armed entirely with the Austrian Lorenz, and unlike many units they are fully bayonet equipped, at least at the start of the period. There appears to be some shortage of canteens throughout the quarter. All cartridge boxes are on slings.

### 10th Tennessee Infantry

#### Bate's Brigade, Stewart's Division

	On hand 9/30/63	Rec'd from Brigade Ord.	Picked up	Lost/charged to men	Turned over to Ord.	On hand 12/31/63
Belgian cal .70	<b>29</b>	60	0	1	40	<b>48</b>
Musket cal .69	<b>13</b>	0	0	6	6	<b>1</b>
Springfield cal 58	<b>0</b>	14	0	0	0	<b>14</b>
Enfield cal .57	<b>10</b>	23	0	0	0	<b>33</b>
Gun slings	<b>12</b>	55	0	0	0	<b>67</b>
Bayonets	<b>2</b>	96	0	1	8	<b>89</b>

Bayonet scabrd	<b>50</b>	24	0	1	0	<b>73</b>
Cartridge boxes	<b>47</b>	28	0	1	0	<b>74</b>
Cart. box belts	<b>35</b>	39	0	1	0	<b>73</b>
Waist belts	<b>41</b>	30	0	1	0	<b>70</b>
Cap pouches	<b>46</b>	28	0	1	0	<b>73</b>
Knapsacks	<b>55</b>	23	0	0	0	<b>78</b>
Haversacks	<b>50</b>	25	0	0	0	<b>75</b>
Canteens	<b>39</b>	36	0	0	0	<b>75</b>

Here we see a badly under-strength 10th Tennessee. The 9/30/63 numbers show the state of the regiment less than two weeks after it was severely mauled at Chickamauga. The variety of weapons in use would be very odd for an eastern regiment at this point in the war. Note the nearly total absence of bayonets at the start of the quarter, and the abundance of them at the end.

### 10th Mississippi Infantry

#### Anderson's Brigade, Hindman's Division

	On hand 9/30/63	Rec'd from Brigade Ord.	Picked up	Lost/charged to men	Lost in battle 11/25	On hand 12/31/63
Springfield cal 58	<b>12</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>12</b>
Enfield cal. 57	<b>218</b>	0	0	1	37	<b>180</b>
Bayonets	<b>114</b>	0	0	21	20	<b>73</b>
Bayonet scabrd	<b>107</b>	20	0	23	19	<b>85</b>
Cartridge boxes	<b>222</b>	20	0	3	33	<b>206</b>
Cart. box belts	<b>168</b>	58	0	15	11	<b>200</b>
Waist belts	<b>232</b>	20	0	3	33	<b>216</b>
Cap pouches	<b>236</b>	20	0	4	35	<b>207</b>
Knapsacks	<b>145</b>	98	0	23	27	<b>193</b>
Haversacks	<b>144</b>	122	0	0	61	<b>205</b>
Canteens	<b>220</b>	81	0	7	30	<b>264</b>

The ordnance return of the 10th Miss shows the loss of equipment at Missionary Ridge on November 25th. The deficiency in haversacks at the start of the quarter is somewhat unusual. There are at least 70 men without on 9/30. Were they lost at Chickamauga? And somehow the regiment lost far more haversacks at Missionary Ridge than any other item. At the start of the quarter about one-half of the men have bayonets. By the end of the year, only around a third do.

## Army of Northern Virginia

### 49th Virginia Infantry

#### Smiths's Brigade, Early's Division

	On hand 9/30/63	Rec'd from Brigade Ord.	Brought by returning men	Picked up	Turned over to Ordnance	Lost/charged to men	Worn out	On hand 12/31/63
Springfield cal 58	<b>203</b>	4	18	4	14	12	2	<b>201</b>
Gun slings	<b>0</b>	100	30	0	0	0	0	<b>130</b>
Bayonets	<b>163</b>	3	6	0	6	17	2	<b>147</b>
Bayonet scabrd	<b>216</b>	56	0	0	57	19	41	<b>155</b>

Cartridge boxes	<b>214</b>	15	0	2	12	12	2	<b>205</b>
Cart. box belts	<b>205</b>	0	0	1	0	12	2	<b>192</b>
Waist belts	<b>216</b>	28	0	0	23	14	2	<b>205</b>
Cap pouches	<b>219</b>	25	0	0	19	15	7	<b>203</b>
Knapsacks	<b>67</b>	164	0	0	15	13	0	<b>203</b>
Haversacks	<b>240</b>	21	0	0	0	16	0	<b>245</b>
Canteens	<b>187</b>	14	25	3	2	15	0	<b>202</b>

The regiment claims no musket slings on hand at all on 9/30, before generous issues during the quarter leave the regiment more than half equipped. The regiment also begins the quarter with only 67 knapsacks, but by years end the deficiency is remedied completely by heavy issues of that item.

### **2nd South Carolina Infantry**

#### **Kershaw's Brigade, McLaws' Division**

	On hand 9/30/63	Rec'd from Brigade Ord.	Turned over to Ord. Off.	Worn out & condemned	Lost in battle	On hand 12/31/63
Rifles cal .57	<b>201</b>	37	27	8	31	<b>174</b>
Bayonets	<b>84</b>	16	14	1	26	<b>59</b>
Bayonet scabbrd	<b>136</b>	27	18	2	41	<b>87</b>
Cartridge boxes	<b>197</b>	28	20	6	31	<b>166</b>
Cart. box belts	<b>36</b>	25	8	8	20	<b>25</b>
Waist belts	<b>197</b>	25	20	7	30	<b>165</b>
Cap pouches	<b>196</b>	15	20	2	24	<b>165</b>
Knapsacks	<b>86</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>86</b>
Haversacks	<b>199</b>	50	0	25	31	<b>195</b>
Canteens	<b>191</b>	2	0	5	15	<b>173</b>

The first column of this return of the 2nd SC shows the regiment shortly after heavy losses at Chickamauga. Additional men and equipment were lost at Knoxville during this quarter. Note the heavy deficiency of bayonets and cartridge box slings at both beginning and end of the quarter. Unlike most regiments, this one clearly has the great majority of its cartridge boxes worn on the waist belt. Also of interest is the lack of change in the number of knapsacks, which well under half the men possess. The only explanation for the number being completely unaffected is that the 86 knapsacks are not with the regiment.

### **23rd North Carolina Infantry**

#### **Iverson's Brigade, Rodes' Division**

	On hand 6/30/63	Rec'd from Brigade Ord.	Picked up	Turned over to Ordnance	Lost in battle	On hand 9/30/63
Rifles cal .58	<b>318</b>	89	0	8	256	<b>143</b>
Muskets cal .69	<b>0</b>	12	0	2	0	<b>10</b>
Bayonets	<b>235</b>	69	0	7	230	<b>65</b>
Bayonet scabbrd	<b>235</b>	80	0	0	218	<b>94</b>
Cartridge boxes	<b>303</b>	110	0	15	248	<b>142</b>
Cart. box belts	<b>303</b>	80	0	0	248	<b>127</b>

Waist belts	<b>306</b>	111	0	1	256	<b>160</b>
Cap pouches	<b>334</b>	113	0	3	256	<b>188</b>
Knapsacks	<b>256</b>	50	0	0	193	<b>113</b>
Haversacks	<b>300</b>	75	0	0	212	<b>163</b>
Canteens	<b>300</b>	55	0	0	211	<b>144</b>

The 6/30/63 column shows the state of the regiment the day before it marched down Oak Hill to its doom outside Gettysburg. The "Lost in battle" column is testament to their loss. The just over 300 enlisted men of the regiment were well equipped at Gettysburg, except for a deficiency of around 70 bayonets and 50 knapsacks. Records hint that Iverson's Brigade seems to have been particularly stringent about holding men accountable for lost equipment during this period. The 20th NC actually convened a board of officers on June 29th, while at Carlisle, Pa on the eve of battle, to investigate the loss of several dozen knapsacks on the march north. If the men of the 23rd behaved similarly, they must have started from Virginia more or less fully equipped with that item.

Sources:

(52nd Ga)

Rufus R. Asbury; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Georgia (National Archives Microfilm Publication M266, roll 516); Record Group 109.

(10th TN)

William Grace; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Tennessee (National Archives Microfilm Publication M268, roll 157) Record Group 109.

(10th MS)

James Barr; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Mississippi (National Archives Microfilm Publication M269, roll 184) Record Group 109.

(49th VA)

J. Catlett Gibson; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia (National Archives Microfilm Publication M324, roll 918) Record Group 109.

(2nd SC)

William Wallace; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of South Carolina (National Archives Microfilm Publication M267, roll 160) Record Group 109.

(23rd NC)

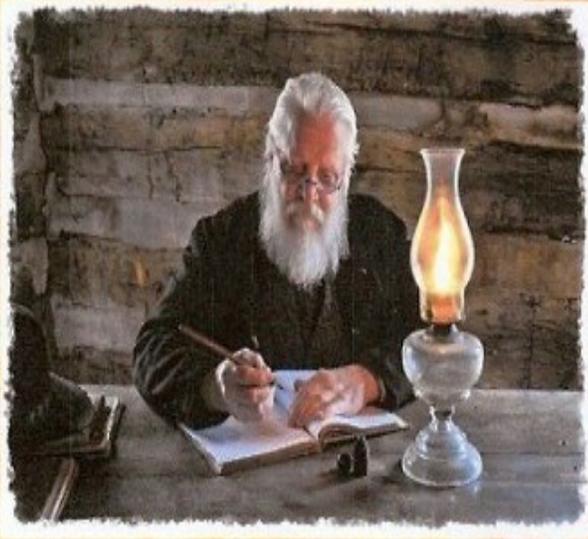
Abner D. Peace; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of North Carolina (National Archives Microfilm Publication M270, roll 299); Record Group 109

For the 20th NC investigation of lost knapsacks and other equipment:

Lewis T. Hicks; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of North Carolina (National Archives Microfilm Publication M270, roll 272); Record Group 109

<http://www.blueandgraymarching.com/articles/confederate-regimental-ordn.html>





## Black October 1862

### A Documentary Film

The Story of the  
Great Gainesville Hanging,  
Cooke County, Texas - 1862



William C. Young



James Bourland

Facing the threat of invasion from the north and fearing a Unionist uprising in their midst, the people of North Texas lived in constant dread during the Civil War. Word of a "Union League" of Union sympathizers, sworn to destroy their government, kill their leaders, and bring in Federal troops caused great alarm in Cooke and neighboring counties. Spies joined the "Union League" discovered its members and details of their plans. Under the leadership of Colonels James Bourland, Daniel Montague and others, citizens loyal to the Confederacy determined to destroy the order; and on the morning of October 1, 1862, there were widespread arrests "by authority of the people of Cooke County." Fear of rescue by "Union League" members brought troops and militia to Gainesville, where the prisoners were assembled, and hastened action by the citizens committee. At a meeting of Cooke County citizens, with Colonel W. C. Young presiding, it was unanimously resolved to establish a Citizens Court and to have the Chairman choose a committee to select a jury. 68 men were brought speedily before the court. 39 of them were found guilty of conspiracy and insurrection, sentenced and immediately hanged. Three other prisoners who were members of military units were allowed trial by Court Martial at their request and were subsequently hanged by its order. Two others broke from their guard and were shot and killed.

Produced by the Texas Division Media Group and  
Southern Legacy Films

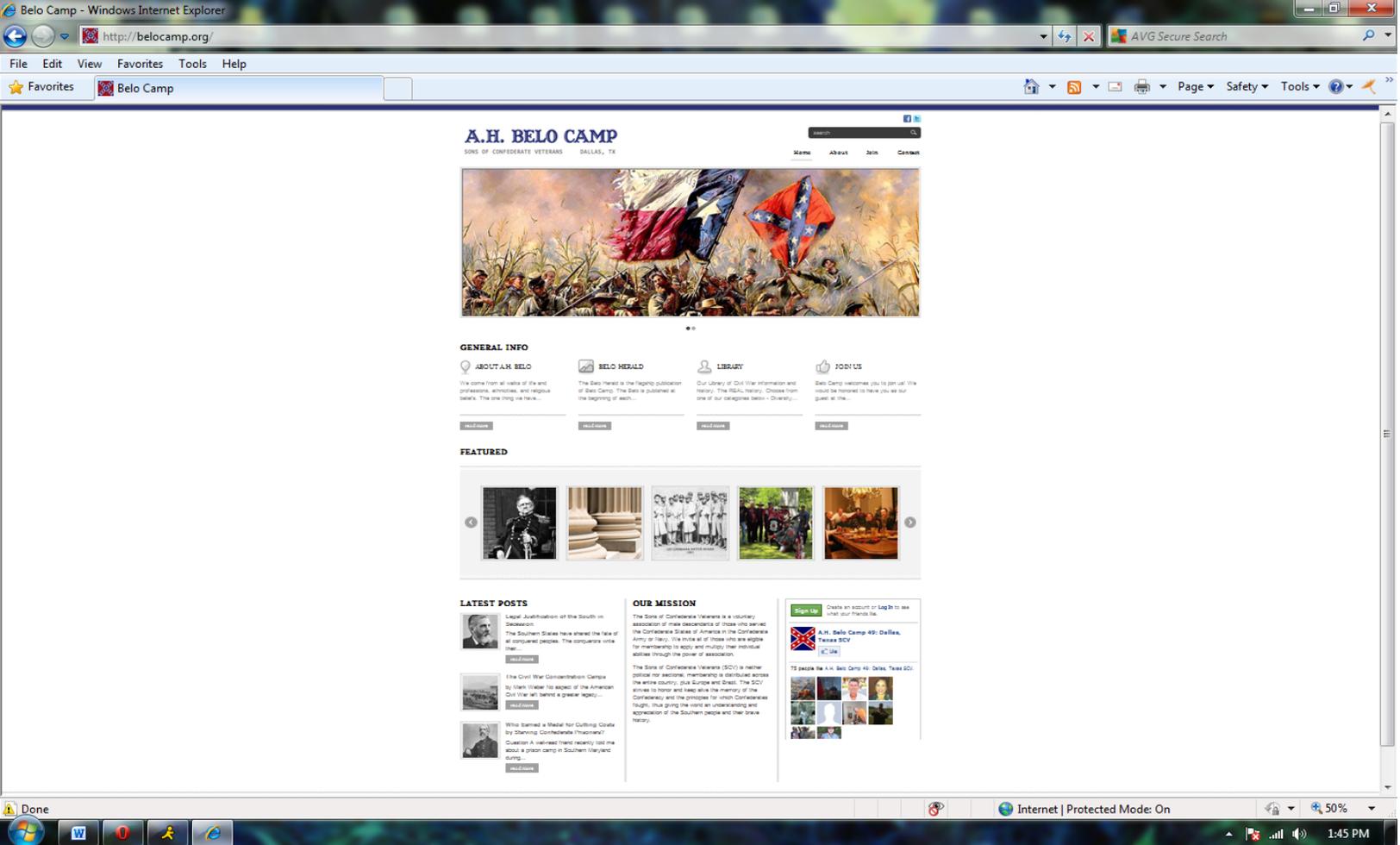
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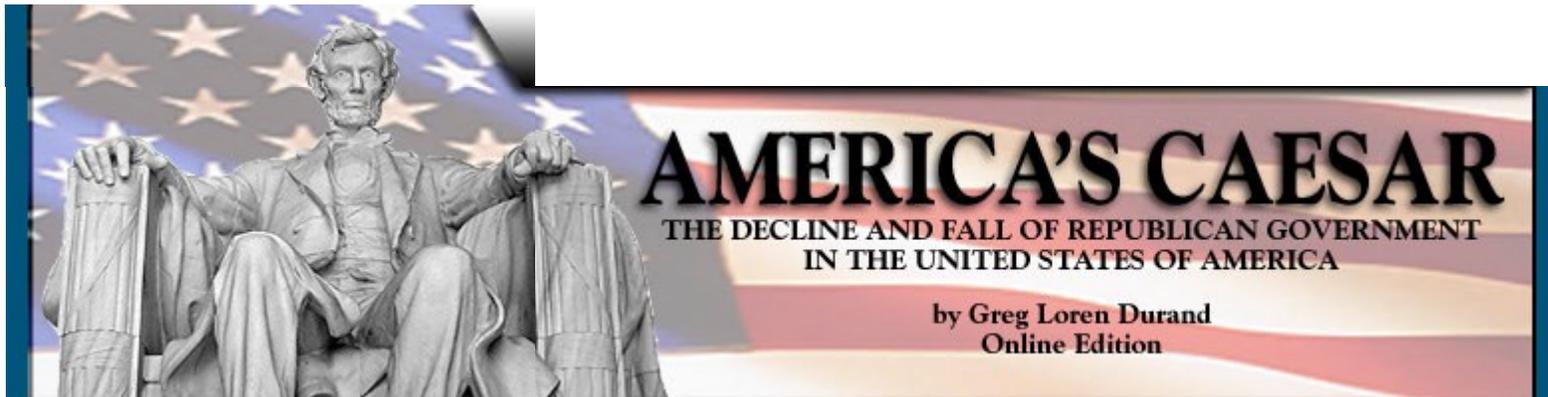
A.H Belo Camp 49 website is our home on the web and serves to keep our members up to date on camp activities as well as serve as an educational source about the truth of our just cause.

Visit our website, then check back often to view the latest articles in our growing library on the true history of our great Southron Republic !

Colonel A.H. Belo was from North Carolina, and participated in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. His troops were among the few to reach the stone wall. After the war, he moved to Texas, where he founded both the Galveston Herald and the Dallas Morning News. The Dallas Morning News was established in 1885 by the Galveston News as sort of a North Texas subsidiary. The two papers were linked by 315 miles of telegraph wire and shared a network of correspondents. They were the first two newspapers in the country to print simultaneous editions. The media empire he started now includes radio, publishing, and television. His impact on the early development of Dallas can hardly be overstated.

The Belo Camp 49 Website and the Belo Herald are our unapologetic tributes to his efforts as we seek to bring the truth to our fellow Southrons and others in an age of political correctness and unrepentant yankee lies about our people, our culture, our heritage and our history.

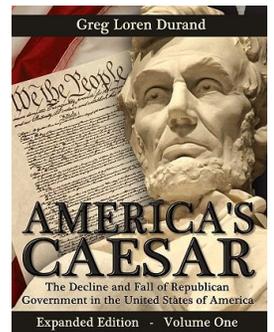
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## CHAPTER ELEVEN: Lincoln Circumvents the Constitution and the Laws

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### The North Mobilizes Against the South

The forts in the South were partnership property; and each State was an equal party in ownership. The Federal government was only a general agent of the real partners – the States – which composed the Union. The forts were designed to protect the States, and in case of withdrawal of a State the forts went with the State.

South Carolina could not deprive New York of her forts, nor could New York deprive South Carolina of hers. The seceding States were perfectly willing to settle matters in a friendly way. They were striving only to resume the powers they had delegated.<sup>(1)</sup>

Such was sound reasoning. South Carolina had freely ceded property in Charleston Harbor to the federal Government in 1805, upon the express condition that "the United States... within three years... repair the fortifications now existing thereon or build such other forts or fortifications as may be deemed most expedient by the Executive of the United States on the same, and keep a garrison or garrisons therein." Failure to comply with this condition on the part of the Government would render "this grant or cession... void and of no effect."<sup>(2)</sup> The State then appointed commissioners and paid for the land to be surveyed out of its own treasury.<sup>(3)</sup> Work on Fort Sumter did not begin until 1829 and had still not been completed by 1860. Unfinished and unoccupied for over thirty years, the terms of the cession were clearly not fulfilled. Consequently, the fort was never the property of the United States Government, as Lincoln claimed in his First Inaugural Address, and, upon secession from the Union, the only duty which South Carolina owed, either legally or morally, to the other States was "adequate compensation... for the value of the works and for any other advantage obtained by the one party, or loss incurred by the other."<sup>(4)</sup> In the words of Stephen Douglas:

We certainly cannot justify the holding of forts there, much less the recapturing of those which have been taken, unless we intend to reduce those States themselves into subjection. I take it for granted, no man will deny the proposition that whoever permanently holds Charleston and South Carolina is entitled to Fort Sumter.... Whoever holds the States in whose limits those forts are placed, is entitled to the forts themselves, unless there is something peculiar in the location of the same particular fort that makes it important to the general defense of the whole country, its commerce and interests, as in the case of Forts Taylor and Jefferson at Key West and Dry Tortugas. But Fort Sumter and other forts, in Charleston harbor; Fort Pulaski on the Savannah River; Fort Morgan and other forts in Alabama, were intended to guard the entrance to a particular harbor for local defense.<sup>(5)</sup>

Such being the case, the occupation of Fort Sumter by U.S. troops was technically an act of invasion and the Confederate forces in Charleston were wholly justified in firing upon them when it became evident that Lincoln intended to use military force against the State. However, taking into account the scheming mindset of those in possession of political power at the North, the destruction of Fort Sumter was "a political blunder almost incredible, a disaster to southern hopes more serious than the loss of many battles," for in doing so, the Confederate Government "did for the Lincoln administration what it could not do for itself — set and solidify the wavering and divided spirit of the North."<sup>(6)</sup> During a Cabinet meeting on 9 April 1861, Jefferson Davis' Secretary of State Robert Toombs had argued against the assault, warning, "The firing on that fort will inaugurate a civil war greater than any the world has ever seen. Mr. President, if this is true, it is suicide, it is murder, and will lose us every friend at the North. You will wantonly strike a hornet's nest which extends from mountains to ocean; and legions, now quiet, will swarm out and sting us to death. It is unnecessary, it puts us in the wrong. It is fatal."<sup>(7)</sup> Toombs' prediction could not have been more accurate. As one Northern periodical observed a few years after the Sumter incident, "The eyes of the whole nation were turned on Fort Sumter. One day a fleet of United States vessels appeared off the bar of Charleston, and the first gun was fired on the fortress. In one day, the whole North declared for war. The peace men were overborne; and, henceforth there was nothing heard of but vengeance, subjugation, and, if need be, extermination and annihilation, for the rebels who had dared fire upon the American flag."<sup>(8)</sup>

Lincoln, who made up in political savvy what he lacked in personal integrity, could not have been handed a more golden opportunity by the Confederates. As he told his old friend Senator Orville H. Browning of Illinois, "The plan succeeded. They attacked Sumter — it fell, and thus did more service than it otherwise could."<sup>(9)</sup> Presidential secretaries and Lincoln biographers John G. Nicolay and John Hay admitted that the episode was ordered so that "the rebellion should be put in the wrong."<sup>(10)</sup> Even the *Pittsburg Daily Gazette* openly admitted that "Lincoln used Fort Sumter to draw [the Confederates'] fire," and that Jefferson Davis and his subordinates "ran blindly into the trap."<sup>(11)</sup>



In a speech delivered in the Senate on 2 March 1861, Joseph Lane of Oregon warned of Lincoln's policy to "inveigle the people of the North into civil war, by masking the design in smooth and ambiguous terms."<sup>(12)</sup> Such was precisely what happened the following month. The general public in the North, ignorant as to who had really initiated the hostilities, was masterfully led by Lincoln to view the capture of Fort Sumter as the unprovoked attack upon the United States Government which he had previously left in the hands of the Southern States in his first Inaugural Address. In his address to Congress on 4 July 1861, Lincoln complained:

It is thus seen that the assault upon and reduction of Fort Sumter was in no sense a matter of self-defense on the part of the assailants. They well knew that the garrison in the fort could by no possibility commit aggression upon them. They knew — they were expressly notified — that the giving of bread to the few brave and hungry men of the garrison was all which would on that occasion be attempted, unless themselves, by resisting so much, should provoke more. They knew that this government desired to keep the garrison in the fort, not to assail them, but merely to maintain visible presence, and thus to preserve the Union from actual and immediate dissolution — trusting, as hereinbefore stated, to time, discussion, and the ballot-box for final adjustment.<sup>(13)</sup>

Of course, Lincoln failed to inform his audience not only of the secret expeditions to Pensacola and Charleston — that it was in response to these acts of war that the Confederates opened fire on Anderson's troops — but also that he had steadfastly refused to entertain any discussion of peace or "final adjustment" with either Colonel

Baldwin or the Confederate peace commissioners and that he had "spurned and treated with contempt" the petitions of many people in the Northern States who "begged and implored... to be heard before matters were brought to a blood extreme."<sup>(14)</sup> Addressing an assembly of Evangelical Lutherans on 13 May 1862, Lincoln further spoke hypocritically of "the sword forced into our hands," and as late as his second Inaugural Address in March of 1865, he was still publicly laying the blame for the conflict at the feet of the Confederacy, while claiming for himself the role of a reluctant defender of an endangered Union.

Although Lincoln knew little of honorable statesmanship, he, like all tyrants throughout history, understood the basest instincts of men and how to channel human depravity to suit the purposes of his party. What thereafter ensued throughout the North cannot be described in any other terms than the mania of a deluded and surging mob. Raw emotion and fanatical hatred of the South was touted as patriotism, while calm reflection and appeals to reason were taken as evidence of treason:

...[T]he cry for the "flag," and for the "Union," was all an hypocrisy and a cheat on the part of the Black Republicans. They had been long known as enemies of the Union, and as despisers of the flag of our country....

The war was gotten up with as much trick and skill in management as a showman uses to get the populace to visit his menagerie. Our whole country was placarded all over with war posters of all colors and sizes. Drums were beating and bands playing at every corner of the streets. Nine-tenths of all the ministers of the Gospel were praying and preaching to the horrible din of the war-music, and the profane eloquence of slaughter.

There was little chance for any man to exercise his reason, and if he attempted such a thing he was knocked down and sometimes murdered. If an editor ventured to appeal to the *Constitution*, his office was either destroyed by the mob, or his paper suspended by "the order of the Government."

...The historian of these shameful and criminal events needs no other proof that the managers of the war knew that they were perpetrating a great crime than the fact that they refused to allow any man to reason or speak in opposition to their action. The cause of truth and justice always flourishes most with all the reasoning that argument and controversy can give it. Whenever men attempt to suppress argument and free speech, we may be sure that they know their cause to be a bad one.<sup>(15)</sup>

It was not until the end of the war that the truth about who was really responsible for the Fort Sumter affair began to come to light, but by then it was too late – the scheme to destroy the constitutional Union had succeeded.

### "We Are Coming, Father Abraham"

Of all other forms of despotism, the Stratocratic is the most odious and intolerable. Indeed there is no other despotism but that which is sustained by military force and power; for without this security to sustain and protect rulers in their outrageous acts their tyranny would not be endured for a single day. Hence the first step towards establishing a despotism, is to raise a subservient army.<sup>(16)</sup>

The Northern psyche having been drugged and swept away by the war mania of the day, tens of thousands of volunteers responded to Lincoln's proclamation of 15 April 1861 calling for 75,000 militia to put down what was referred to therein as "combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals by law."<sup>(17)</sup> Lincoln's words were carefully chosen, for it was his intention to thereby bring the proclamation under the Act of Congress of 1795, which authorized the President to call out the *posse comitatus* when Congress was not in session for the purpose of putting down insurrection within a State.<sup>(18)</sup> He was too shrewd of a politician to openly declare at this point that he was waging a war upon entire States. The formerly pro-secession Republicans, who had literally only days before the fall of Fort Sumter defended a State's right to leave the Union in peace, willingly followed Lincoln's lead in declaring the actions of South Carolina and the infant Confederacy as "rebellion," "insurrection," and "levying war on the United States."<sup>(19)</sup>

However, what Lincoln did not know – or deliberately disregarded – was the history behind the statute upon which the legality of his actions depended. The Whiskey Rebellion of 1794 had erupted in Pennsylvania during the Administration of George Washington when a protest among the local farmers against a Federal liquor tax had grown into an armed revolt spanning four counties. In response, Congress passed legislation authorizing Washington to put down the insurrection by drafting the militia of the adjoining States into the service of the United States. The following year, Congress enacted the statute to which Lincoln turned, but with the stipulation that the use of the militia was limited to thirty days after the beginning of the next session of Congress.

President Buchanan had previously considered the same statute as grounds for action against South Carolina, but had rightly determined that, since it applied to insurrections within and against the government of a State in the Union, it was utterly inapplicable to a State that had *withdrawn* from the Union – even if that withdrawal could be proven to be unconstitutional.<sup>(20)</sup> He further explained, "Under the act of 1795, the President



is precluded from acting even upon his own personal and absolute knowledge of the existence of such an insurrection. Before he can call forth the militia for its suppression, he must first be applied to for this purpose by the appropriate State authorities, in the manner prescribed by the *Constitution*.<sup>(21)</sup> Thus, Buchanan clearly saw what his successor apparently did not: that it was utter foolishness to command the citizens of a seceded State to "disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes." Even more foolish was it to so command, as Lincoln did, an entire lawfully-constituted and independent country, as were the Confederate States of America at the time of his first proclamation. Although he attempted to avoid recognition of the Confederacy, Lincoln perhaps inadvertently did so in his second proclamation of the nineteenth of April when he announced a blockade of Southern ports "in pursuance of the laws of the United States, and of the law of Nations."<sup>(22)</sup> As Thaddeus Stevens pointed out in the House of Representatives, under International Law, a nation could only institute a blockade against another nation; to blockade the Confederacy was

therefore tantamount to granting its status as a "belligerent Power."<sup>(23)</sup> Although Lincoln was unimpressed by this fact, and persisted throughout the war in referring to the Confederate States as "insurgent," Stevens and the Radical Republicans would later use the premise of this second proclamation as the legal basis for the subjugation of the South as a "conquered enemy" during Reconstruction.<sup>(24)</sup>

The thirty-day limit of the 1795 Act, of course, was a serious impediment to Lincoln's war policy. If he had called Congress into immediate special session, as Washington had done during the Whiskey Rebellion, the military force he needed to defeat the Confederacy would have had to disperse by the first of July. Not wanting to so tie his own hands, and expecting the conflict to be short-lived, Lincoln purposefully postponed the special session of Congress until noon of the fourth of July. Thus, for at least two and a half months, Lincoln waged a war against the South for which he, in his lawful capacity as President of the United States, had no constitutional authority. Lincoln attempted to evade this fact by claiming that his proclamation was issued "by virtue of the power in me vested by the *Constitution* and laws," but it is clear that the *Constitution* expressly reserves to Congress the power "to provide for calling forth the Militia [of the several States] to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrection and repel Invasions."<sup>(25)</sup> The President, whether in his civil or military capacity, has no such "war power" under the *Constitution* to coerce seceding States, as Lincoln claimed.<sup>(26)</sup> Furthermore, "insurrection" has no meaning constitutionally if not in reference to the laws and authority of a sovereign State. It is true that the general Government may intervene to quell insurrection, or "domestic violence," within a State, but this force is to be exerted only "on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened)" – that is, the legislature or executive of the afflicted State itself, not by an independent determination of the President. Such was the case with Washington himself in 1794, who had only called upon the militias of the adjoining States to aid in the suppression of the Whiskey Rebellion after being requested to do so by Thomas Mifflin, the Governor of Pennsylvania, whose State was thus afflicted. There was no such request made of Lincoln by the Governors of any of the seceded States. Furthermore, this provision is inseparably connected to the duty of the United States to guarantee to each of their sister States "a republican Form of Government."<sup>(27)</sup> Lincoln's invasion of the South certainly did not have this objective in view, but rather the *destruction* of republican government within the departed States. Every Southerner thereafter killed by Lincoln's unlawful army was an act of murder for which he should have been personally charged and found guilty:

It is both unconstitutional and murderous to kill even the enemies of the Government except by authority of law, and in the manner which the law prescribes. If a man who is not an enlisted soldier or sailor in the service of the United States, should kill even a rebel, that man would commit by the act, a murder, just as much as he would do who would kill a felon under sentence of death, if the person performing the act had not the authority and command of the proper Court to do it. Hence to kill even an enemy legitimately, it must be done by authority of law; and hence too the making of war in this country by mere Executive edict, instead

of by the authority of Congress, is one of the most flagitious acts of usurpation of power, and in its exercise, one of the greatest crimes against the Nation and mankind, which was ever committed by mortal man.<sup>(28)</sup>

## Lincoln Suspends the Writ of Habeas Corpus

On 27 January 1838, an obscure politician spoke the following words before the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois:

Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well-wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the Revolution never to violate in the least particular the laws of the country, and never to tolerate their violation by others. As the patriots of '76 did to the support of the *Declaration of Independence*, and so to the support of the *Constitution* and laws, let every American pledge his life, his property, and his sacred honor – let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his fathers, and to tear the charter of his own and children's liberty. Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in primers, in spelling books, and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation.<sup>(29)</sup>

The speaker, of course, was none other than Abraham Lincoln. However, what Lincoln said and what Lincoln did were frequently different things entirely. He had gotten a taste of despotic power and he was not about to allow sentiment or principle, even those he once articulated himself, to prevent him from wielding it as he saw fit. This tyrannical characteristic was most clearly seen in his suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* from Washington, D.C. to Philadelphia on 27 April 1861. This suspension would be extended throughout the entire North the following year. By definition, *habeas corpus* is "the name given to a variety of writs... having for their object to bring a party before a court or judge.... The primary function of the writ is to release from unlawful imprisonment.... The office of the writ is not to determine the prisoner's guilt or innocence, and the only issue it presents is whether the prisoner is restrained of his liberty by due process."<sup>(30)</sup> This writ had its origin in Section 39 of the *Magna Carta* of 1215 which reads: "No freeman shall be taken, or imprisoned, or dispossessed, or outlawed, or banished, or in any way destroyed; nor will we pass upon him, nor commit him, but by the lawful judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land." As such it was a prominent feature of English jurisprudence for centuries before it was eventually written into the American *Constitution*. According to William Blackstone:

Of great importance to the public is the preservation of this personal liberty.... [C]onfinement of the person, by secretly hurrying him to jail, where his sufferings are unknown or forgotten, is a less public, a less striking, and therefore a more dangerous engine of arbitrary government; and yet sometimes, when the state is in real danger, even this may be a necessary measure. But the happiness of our constitution is, that it is not left to the executive power to determine when the danger of state is so great, as to render this measure expedient. For the parliament only, or legislative power, whenever it sees proper, can authorize the crown, by suspending the *habeas corpus* act for a short and limited time.<sup>(31)</sup>

Nothing in the history of American jurisprudence justified Lincoln in his suspension of *habeas corpus* and the legal consensus up to that time, with the exception of his own Attorney-General, Edward Bates<sup>(32)</sup> and a Philadelphia lawyer named Horace Binney,<sup>(33)</sup> was that such an act by the Executive would be unconstitutional.<sup>(34)</sup> John Marshall, who served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1801 to 1836, wrote in *ex parte Bollman and Swarthout*, "If at any time the public safety should require the suspension of the powers vested by this [*habeas corpus*] act in the Courts of the United States, it is for the legislature to say so. That question depends upon political considerations, on which the legislature is to decide."<sup>(35)</sup> Joseph Story, who also served on the Supreme Court from 1811 to 1845, wrote, "It would seem as the power is given to Congress to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* in cases of rebellion or invasion, that the right to judge whether the exigency had arisen must exclusively belong to that body."<sup>(36)</sup> Caleb Cushing of Massachusetts, who served in Congress from 1834 to 1843 and then as U.S. Attorney-General under Franklin Pierce, had likewise declared that "the right to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*, and also that of judging when the exigency has arisen, *belongs exclusively to Congress*" [emphasis in original].<sup>(37)</sup>

The aged Chief Justice Roger B. Taney took the very same position in his *ex parte Merryman* opinion of 26 May 1861. John Merryman, a member of the Maryland State Legislature and a vocal advocate of secession, had

been arrested at two o'clock on the morning of the previous day and imprisoned at Fort McHenry in Baltimore under orders of General George Cadwallader without indictment or arraignment. When Taney issued a writ of *habeas corpus* in Merryman's behalf, Cadwallader refused to obey it, stating that he had been authorized by the President to suspend the writ at his own discretion. In the resulting opinion, Taney wrote that in so authorizing Cadwallader, Lincoln had "exercised a power which he does not possess under the *Constitution*" – a power which belongs exclusively to the Legislative Branch of the Government:

The clause in the *Constitution* which authorizes the suspension of the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* is in the ninth section of the first article.

This article is devoted to the legislative department of the United States, and has not the slightest reference to the Executive department. It begins by providing, "that all legislative powers therein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." And after prescribing the manner in which these two branches of the legislative department shall be chosen, it proceeds to enumerate specifically the legislative powers which it thereby grants, and legislative powers which it expressly prohibits; and, at the conclusion of this specification, a clause is inserted giving Congress, "the power to make all laws which may be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this *Constitution* in the Government of the United States or in any department or office thereof." ...[T]he great importance which the framers of the *Constitution* attached to the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* to protect the liberty of the citizen is proved by the fact that its suspension, except in cases of invasion and rebellion, is first in the list of prohibited powers – and even in these cases the power is denied, and its exercise prohibited, unless the public safety shall require it.

It is true that in the cases mentioned, Congress is of necessity the judge of whether the public safety does or does not require it; and their judgment is conclusive. But the introduction of these words is a standing admonition to the legislative body of the danger of suspending it, and of the extreme caution they should exercise before they give the Government of the United States such power over the liberty of a citizen.

It is the second article of the *Constitution* that provides for the organization of the Executive Department, and enumerates the powers conferred on it and prescribes its duties. And if the high power over the liberty of the citizens now claimed was intended to be conferred on the President, it would undoubtedly be found in plain words in this article. But there is not a word in it that can furnish the slightest ground to justify the exercise of the power....

The only power, therefore, which the President possesses, where the "life, liberty or property" of a private citizen is concerned, is the power and duty prescribed in the third section of the second article, which requires "that he shall take care that the laws shall be faithfully executed." He is not authorized to execute them himself, or through agents or officers, civil or military, appointed by himself, but he is to take care that they be faithfully carried into execution, as they are expounded and adjudged by the coordinate branch of the Government to which that duty is assigned by the *Constitution*. It is thus made his duty to come in aid of the judicial authority, if it shall be resisted by a force too strong to be overcome without the assistance of the executive arm; but in exercising this power he acts in subordination to judicial authority, assisting it to execute its process and enforce its judgments. With such provisions in the *Constitution*, expressed in language too clear to be misunderstood by any one, I can see no ground whatever for supposing that the President, in any emergency, or in any state of things, can authorize the suspension of the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*, or the arrest of a citizen, except in aid of the judicial power. He certainly does not faithfully execute the laws, if he takes upon himself legislative power, by suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*, and the judicial power also, by arresting and imprisoning a person without due process of law....

In such a case, my duty was too plain to be mistaken. I have exercised all the power which the *Constitution* and laws confer upon me, but that power has been resisted by a force too strong for me to overcome. It is possible that the officer [General Cadwallader] who has incurred this grave responsibility may have misunderstood his instructions, and exceeded the authority intended to be given him; I shall, therefore, order all the proceedings in this case, with my opinion, to be filed and recorded in the Circuit Court of the United States for the district of Maryland, and direct the Clerk to transmit a copy, under seal, to the President of the United States. It will then remain for that high officer, in fulfilment of his constitutional obligation to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed," to determine what measures he will take to cause the civil process of the United States to be respected and enforced. <sup>(38)</sup>

Although this opinion is viewed today as a masterpiece of constitutional interpretation, Taney was excoriated unmercifully by the Northern press for using "the powers of his office to serve the cause of traitors." According to Greeley's *New York Tribune*, "When treason stalks... let decrepit Judges give place to men capable of detecting and crushing it.... No judge whose heart was loyal to the *Constitution* would have given such aid and comfort to public enemies."<sup>(39)</sup> Lincoln's own response to Taney was to issue a warrant for his arrest. The warrant was handed to Ward Hill Lamon, who was the U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia, with the instructions to "use his own discretion about making the arrest unless he should receive further orders."<sup>(40)</sup> Although Lamon wisely left the warrant unexecuted, Taney nevertheless informed his fellow Supreme Court justices that he expected to soon join Merryman in prison.<sup>(41)</sup> Meanwhile, the writ for Merryman's release was completely ignored and he remained

in prison without a trial, along with several of his fellow State legislators whom Lincoln also viewed as threats to his regime.

Lincoln's contempt for the laws of his country and for the faithful discharge of his Executive duty in relation to them, was openly expressed in his 4 July 1861 address to Congress in which he criticized "the extreme tenderness of the citizen's liberty" which, in his opinion, practically rendered the writ of *habeas corpus* a relief "more of the guilty than of the innocent."<sup>(42)</sup> He went on to justify his illegal actions with sophistry worthy more of a John Lackland or an Edward Longshanks than a President of the American Republic:

Soon after the first call for militia it was considered a duty to authorize the Commanding General in proper cases, according to his discretion, to suspend the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*, or, in other words, to arrest and detain without resort to the ordinary processes and forms of law such individuals as he might deem dangerous to the public safety. This authority has purposely been exercised but very sparingly. Nevertheless, the legality and propriety of what has been done under it are questioned, and the attention of the country has been called to the proposition that one who is sworn to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed" should not himself violate them. Of course some consideration was given to the questions of power and propriety before this matter was acted upon. The whole of the laws which were required to be faithfully executed were being resisted and failing of execution in nearly one-third of the States. Must they be allowed to finally fail of execution, even had it been perfectly clear that by the use of the means necessary to their execution some single law... should to a very limited extent be violated? To state the question more directly, Are all the laws *but one* to go unexecuted, and the Government itself go to pieces lest that one be violated? Even in such a case, would not the official oath be broken if the Government should be overthrown when it was believed that disregarding the single law would tend to preserve it? [emphasis in original]<sup>(43)</sup>

In other words, Lincoln proposed that it was possible to violate his oath to "preserve, protect, and defend the *Constitution* of the United States"<sup>(44)</sup> for the alleged greater good of coercing seceded States back into the Union – a duty which neither the *Constitution* nor any of its framers had delivered into his hands. Thomas Jefferson had likened the *Constitution* to a great chain specifically designed to bind down the general Government and limit its powers only to those enumerated therein.<sup>(45)</sup> It is therefore a blatant absurdity to assert, as did Lincoln, that even one link of this chain could be broken and the whole still maintain its strength and integrity. Indeed, a chain broken in but one place is broken entirely and henceforth utterly worthless to the fulfillment of its intended purpose. We will see in the next chapter just how useless the *Constitution* had become to the victims of Lincoln's Administration in the North throughout the duration of the war.

He continued:

Now it is insisted that Congress, and not the Executive, is vested with this power; but the *Constitution* itself is silent as to which or who is to exercise this power; and as the provision was plainly made for a dangerous emergency, it can not be believed the framers of the instrument intended that in every case the danger should run its course until Congress could be called together, the very assembling of which might be prevented, as was intended in this case, by the rebellion.

No more extended argument is now offered, as an opinion at some length will probably be presented by the Attorney-General. Whether there shall be any legislation upon the subject, and, if any, what, is submitted entirely to the better judgment of Congress.<sup>(46)</sup>

Lincoln's reasoning here was infantile, if not completely asinine. By inserting the clause relating to the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* in Article I, the framers clearly expressed their intent that this dangerous power be placed in the hands of the law-making arm of the Government only. It should be remembered that the architects of the American system were former English subjects who were well aware of the historical struggle in the mother country between the liberties of the people and an executive authority ever-zealous of absolute power. Fresh from a war to gain their independence from just such a power, it would seem incredible that they would then write into the organic law of their new Republic a provision which would have opened the door to executive tyranny on American soil:

...[I]t should be borne in mind that if there were no apprehensions of the assumption and exercise of arbitrary power, there would be no necessity of the writ of *habeas corpus* as a remedial measure of security or protection. Hence, what can be more absurd than to assume or presume that it should be left in the control of the power which was designed to be restrained by the constitutional provision of the *habeas corpus* to set aside that restraint at its own will and pleasure. What would be thought of the man who, to guard and secure his valuable treasure from the incursions of burglars, would first put on his doors and windows such fastenings as should defy the most expert thief in gaining an entrance, and then leave the key in the door, by which there was nothing more left

for the thief to do than turn the key, walk in, and secure the treasure. Not less absurd than the conduct of such a man would have been than that of those who formed the Federal *Constitution*, if they designed that after securing to themselves and to their posterity the privileges and rights of person which came down to them from their British ancestors, they should place it in the power of their rulers to deprive them of these privileges and rights.<sup>(47)</sup>

## Why Congress Was Not Immediately Convened

The President's duty is indeed to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed," but to draw from this the conclusion that he may, in the absence of Congress, execute laws of his own making is contrary to the clear wording of the *Constitution*. If, in his judgment, "extraordinary occasions," such as invasion or rebellion, require a special session of Congress, the President is empowered by the *Constitution* to "convene both Houses,"<sup>(48)</sup> whose duty it would thereafter be to determine what legislation or public announcements are warranted by the circumstances. Having decided that a rebellion threatened the Union when Fort Sumter fell into Confederate hands on the thirteenth of April, Lincoln's paramount duty was to call Congress into immediate special session. Instead, he chose to postpone that convening for nearly three months, during which time he usurped Legislative powers by calling forth 75,000 volunteers, increasing the regular Army and Navy beyond their peace-time size, and, in essence, declaring war on the Southern States by blockading their ports. The *Constitution* granted him none of these powers. With Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas having previously decided against secession and in favor of the Union, Lincoln was faced with a strong anti-war sentiment in not only those States, but the Border States of Delaware, Missouri and Kentucky as well, all of which combined would have produced a united Democratic obstacle in Congress which might have proven difficult to overcome and potentially disastrous to his predetermined war policy. Having already been warned on the fourth of April by Colonel Baldwin that Virginia would be lost to the Union should any aggression commence at Fort Sumter,<sup>(49)</sup> Lincoln's actions had to have been undergone with full knowledge of the result: a walk-out of the Senators and Representatives from the remaining Southern States, leaving only a handful of Northern Democrats in either House which could be easily overawed by the Republican majority.

It was this rump Legislative body before which Lincoln stood on 4 July 1861, seeking a stamp of approval for, not only his military invasion of the Southern States, but his invasion of the rights of the Northern people as well. In his address, he attempted to justify his unconstitutional acts with the following words: "These measures, whether strictly legal or not, were ventured upon under what appeared to be a popular demand and public necessity, trusting then as now that Congress would readily ratify them."<sup>(50)</sup> The resolution which he introduced for ratification read in part as follows: "*Be It Resolved* by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled: *that* all the extraordinary acts, proclamations, and orders herein before mentioned be and the same are approved, and declared to be in all respects legal and valid to the same, and with the same effect as if they had been issued and done under the previous and express authority and direction of the Congress of the United States" [emphasis in original].<sup>(51)</sup>

There was, of course, no "popular demand" for war until Fort Sumter was fired upon, for up until that time, a majority of the people of the North, including members of Lincoln's own party, opposed coercive measures against the Southern States. Even taking into consideration the overwhelming response to his proclamation of 15 April 1861, Lincoln was still not justified in the arrest and imprisonment of those who did not support his war policies. The First Amendment to the *Constitution* guarantees the right of free speech, even when the country is in distress. Furthermore, since seven States had exercised their constitutional right to secede from the Union and to establish a new government according to the expressed will of their people, there was no "insurrection," or "treason against the United States," and therefore no "public necessity" which required any extra-constitutional actions on the part of the Executive. However, with the reins of the Government having been firmly seized by Lincoln and the Republicans, and with political dissenters already being arrested and imprisoned, in most cases, without trial in a court of law, the Democrat members of Congress had little choice at this point but to acquiesce to his desires:

The nominal Congress was for five years under the most carefully ordered duress, the most exacting espionage, the most complete terror ever exercised over any deliberative body invested with law-making powers. From the opening of the war until the conclusion

of peace, Congress was surrounded with soldiers – menaced by an army, whose bristling bayonets gleaming in the sunlight, flashed upon the windows of the Capitol, and fell upon the eyes of this terrified body. The legislation was dictated by the commander-in-chief of the army, who acted in advance of all legislation. The bold men of the opposition were in perpetual danger of assassination or death by the slow torture of the prison. Mobs were organized in every part of the country, and members of Congress were in danger for every word spoken in conflict with the policy of the President, and were imprisoned at his will....

In its legislation, the President neither consulted or awaited the action of Congress, but anticipated it; and accepted the ratification of their own debasement with avidity. In all of this imbecile, terrified body, there was no man who dared prefer articles of impeachment against the President for his crimes, or call in question his actions. The mover of impeachment would have been imprisoned and destroyed....

Such was the terror over the Congress, that its members acted as though their powers were derived from the President, and with disgraceful servility, these miserable slaves and tools of tyrants for five years, day after day, recorded the edicts of the army. This Congress represented nobody, was phrenzied by the scent of blood like a herd of wild buffaloes stamping the ground and rending the air with their hideous lowing. Having lost their reason, these Congressmen gave vent to the most loathesome forms of passion to hide the shame of their degradation.

A body of men dazzled by the gleaming sabre, ready to be turned at any moment upon them, looking at the vacant seats of members of their body, imprisoned for the legitimate exercise of their Constitutional rights, were under such duress as utterly incapacitated them for independent legislation. Their attempt at law-making was a broad farce, exciting ridicule and disgust, rather than merriment. No act of such a body of legislators can bind the conscience of the people; any more than a deed of trust made under duress can bind the forced grantors, though the body of the deed should declare that it was their voluntary act and deed. [\(52\)](#)

With this picture of a subjugated Legislature before us, it requires little imagination to discern why Lincoln was so confident that his unlawful actions would be so "readily" ratified by the Congress. However, as noted by James Randall, such was not his usual practice: "Lincoln, in fact, seemed to prefer a legislative recess; he regarded Congress often as an embarrassment. More commonly he went his way in what he conceived to be the executive sphere, assuming large powers to himself, justifying his actions by a liberal interpretation of presidential authority, rather than seeking legislation to put powers into the President's hands." Most of what Lincoln did was "performed in disregard of the legislative branch." [\(53\)](#)

## Lincoln's Disregard For the Constitution

In acting as he did, Lincoln had neither a legal nor historical foundation upon which to stand. First of all, the framers of the *Constitution* themselves clearly denounced the military coercion of a sovereign State, even if that State was acting unconstitutionally. In answer to a proposal in the Constitutional Convention on 29 May 1787 to grant to the federal Government the power "to call forth the force of the Union against any member of the Union failing to fulfil its duty under the articles thereof," James Madison said:

The more I reflect on the use of force, the more I doubt the practicability, the justice, and the efficacy of it, when applied to people collectively, and not individually. A Union of the States containing such an ingredient seems to provide for its own destruction. The use of force against a State would look more like a declaration of war than an infliction of punishment, and would probably be considered by the party attacked as a dissolution of all previous compacts by which it might be bound. I hope that such a system will be framed as might render this resource unnecessary.... [\(54\)](#)

Two weeks later, it was proposed by William Patterson of New Jersey that "if any State, or any body of men in any State, shall oppose or prevent the carrying into execution such acts and treaties, the Federal Executive shall be authorised to call forth the power of the Confederated States, or so much thereof as shall be necessary to enforce and compel an obedience to such acts, or an observation of such treaties." [\(55\)](#) Again, this proposal was voted down and the subject of coercion was not raised again in the Convention. Even Alexander Hamilton was opposed to such a measure:

It has been observed, to coerce States is one of the maddest projects ever devised. A failure of compliance will never be confined to a single State. This being the case, can we suppose it wise to hazard a civil war? Suppose Massachusetts or any large State should refuse, and Congress should attempt to compel them, would they not have influence to procure assistance, especially from those States which are in the same situation as themselves? What picture does this idea present to our view? A complying State at war with a non-complying State, Congress marching the troops of one State into the bosom of another – this State collecting auxiliaries, and forming, perhaps, a majority against its Federal head. Here is a nation at war with itself. Can any reasonable man be well-disposed

towards a Government which makes war and carnage the only means of supporting itself – a Government that can exist only by the sword?<sup>(56)</sup>

If the power to coerce a State was thus denied to Congress, to which the *Constitution* gave the authority to make war, how much less is the President, who is destitute of that authority apart from congressional approval, authorized by that compact to raise troops upon his own initiative for the purpose of invading a State and compelling its submission? During the crisis with South Carolina in 1833, when Andrew Jackson was threatening military force against the State for its resistance to the "Tariff of Abomination," Daniel Webster went on record denying the President's constitutional authority to do precisely what Lincoln would do in 1861: "The President has no authority to blockade Charleston; the President has no authority to employ military force, till he shall be required to do so by civil authorities. His duty is to cause the laws to be executed. His duty is to support the civil authority."<sup>(57)</sup> Jeremiah Sullivan Black, whose distinguished legal career included service as Chief Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, then as Attorney-General and Secretary of State under Buchanan, and finally as reporter to the U.S. Supreme Court during the first two years of the Lincoln Administration, denied the right of the Executive to exercise the powers which Lincoln had grown fond of, but he went even further to deny that the *Constitution* anywhere authorized the federal Government to prosecute a war against seceding States:

Whether Congress has the constitutional right to make war against one or more States, and require the Executive of the Federal Government to carry it on by means of force to be drawn from the other States, is a question for Congress itself to consider. It must be admitted that no such power is expressly given; nor are there any words in the *Constitution* which imply it. Among the powers enumerated in Article I, section 8, is that, "to declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and to make rules concerning captures on land and water." This certainly means nothing more than the power to commence and carry on hostilities against the foreign enemies of the nation. Another clause in the same section gives Congress the power "to provide for calling forth the militia," and to use them within the limits of a State. But this power is so restricted by the words which immediately follow, that it can be exercised only for one of the following purposes: 1. To execute the laws of the Union, that is, to aid the Federal officers in the performance of their regular duties. 2. To suppress insurrection against the States, but this is confined by Article IV, section 4, to cases in which the State herself shall apply for assistance against her own people. 3. To repel invasion of a State by enemies who come from abroad to assail her in her own territory. All these provisions are to protect the States, not to authorize an attack by one part of the country upon another; to preserve their peace, and not lunge them into civil war. Our forefathers do not seem to have thought that war was calculated to "form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." There was undoubtedly a strong and universal conviction among the men who framed and ratified the *Constitution* that military force would not only be useless but pernicious as a means of holding the States (Union) together.

If it be true that war cannot be declared, nor a system of general hostilities carried on by the Central Government against a State, then it seems to follow that an attempt to do so would *ipso facto* be an expulsion of such State from the Union. And if Congress shall break up the Union by unconstitutionally putting strife and enmity and armed hostility between different sections of the country, instead of the "domestic tranquility" which the *Constitution* was meant to insure, will not all the States be absolved from their Federal obligations? Is any portion of the people bound to contribute their money or their blood to carry on a contest like that?

The right of the Central Government to preserve itself in its whole constitutional vigor by repelling a direct and positive aggression upon its property or its officers cannot be denied. But this is a totally different thing from an offensive war to punish the people for the political misdeeds of their State government, or to prevent a threatened violation of the *Constitution*, or to enforce an acknowledgment that the Government of the United States is supreme. The States are colleagues of one another, and if some of them shall conquer the rest and hold them as subjugated provinces, it would totally destroy the whole theory upon which they are now connected.<sup>(58)</sup>

Not surprisingly, Black was forced to resign from his position not long after writing the above words. Lincoln was a man with a mission who did not intend to let history, court, or *Constitution* stand in his way. His willingness to ignore or explain away clear constitutional limitations in order to implement his own policies was made evident on numerous other occasions as well. One more illustration will suffice here: When Lincoln took office in March of 1861, the United States Treasury was completely bankrupt, the growth of the country's money supply being at a scant 1% after having fallen to a negative 4% in the economic crash of 1857. The reader will clearly see here the economic background of Lincoln's insistence in his first Inaugural Address upon the collection of federal revenues in the seceded States, and why the war spirit was so suddenly roused by the Northern press once the Confederate Government instituted its 10% tariff – a tariff which was over 30% lower than the Morrill Tariff pushed through

the U.S. Congress following the departure of the first seven Southern States.

General Donn Piatt related how a plan was concocted by a New England financier named Amasa Walker to replenish the depleted Treasury by issuing Coupon Treasury Notes, which drew 7.5 percent semi-annual interest payments, were convertible after three years into six percent 5-20 and 10-40 gold-bearing bonds, and which, by Act of Congress, were exempted from taxation. This national debt, which later was admitted to be "a first mortgage on the property of the country" and claimed to be "the only bond of union,"<sup>(59)</sup> would be funded by pledging the property and future labor of the American people. When this plan was presented to Lincoln, he was delighted. However, when then-Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Portland Chase first learned of the scheme, he cautioned, "[T]here is one little obstacle in the way, that makes the plan impracticable, and that is the *Constitution*." When Chase's concerns were relayed to the President, Lincoln responded, "[G]o back to Chase and tell him not to bother himself about the *Constitution*. Say that I have that sacred instrument here at the White House, and I am guarding it with great care." When Chase would not relent, Lincoln called a conference with him and related the following story:

Chase... down in Illinois, I was held to be a pretty good lawyer.... This thing reminds me of a story I read in a newspaper the other day. It was of an Italian captain, who run his vessel on a rock and knocked a hole in her bottom. He set his men to pumping, and he went to prayers before a figure of the Virgin in the bow of the ship. The leak gained on them. It looked at last as if the vessel would go down with all on board. The captain, at length, in a fit of rage, at not having his prayers answered, seized the figure of the Virgin and threw it overboard. Suddenly the leak stopped, the water was pumped out, and the vessel got safely into port. When docked for repairs, the statue of the Virgin Mary was found stuck headforemost in the hole....

...Chase, I don't intend precisely to throw the Virgin Mary overboard, and by that I mean the *Constitution*, but I will stick it into the hole if I can.

Lincoln went on to say, "These rebels are violating the *Constitution* to destroy the Union; I will violate the *Constitution* if necessary, to save the Union; and I suspect, Chase, that our *Constitution* is going to have a rough time of it before we get done with this row."<sup>(60)</sup> In his 8 April 1864 letter to Albert G. Hodges, an attorney from Frankfurt, Kentucky, he expressed the same sentiment: "I felt that measures, otherwise unconstitutional, might become lawful by becoming indispensable to the preservation of the *Constitution* through the preservation of the Union."<sup>(61)</sup>

To claim, as Lincoln did, that a constitutional Union of States may be preserved by violating the organic law which created that Union was patently absurd. Even if it be granted that his arguments against the right of secession be true, Lincoln's actions and the acquiescence therein by the Northern Congress would have justified the Southern States in considering the bond between themselves and the Northern States to be severed. Daniel Webster had pointed out scarcely a decade before, "How absurd it is to suppose that, when different parties enter into a compact for certain purposes, either can disregard any one provision, and expect, nevertheless, the other to observe the rest! ...[I]f the Northern States refuse, willfully and deliberately, to carry into effect [a] part of the *Constitution*... and Congress provides no remedy, the South would no longer be bound to observe the compact. A bargain can not be broken on one side, and still bind the other side."<sup>(62)</sup>

Of course, when speaking of the "preservation of the Union," Lincoln was deceptively taking an word that had an accepted historical meaning and injecting into it a completely new definition without informing his audience of the switch. Thus, the "Union," which the *Constitution* itself described as, and the majority of Americans would have understood to be, the relationship existing *between* the several States, was, in Lincoln's mind, an entity which existed *over* the several States — a central Government which could exist apart from both the States and the *Constitution*: "Every man thinks he has a right to live and every government thinks it has a right to live. Every man when driven to the wall by a murderous assailant will override all laws to protect himself, and this is called the great right of self-defense. So every government, when driven to the wall by a rebellion, will trample down a constitution before it will allow itself to be destroyed. This may not be constitutional law, but it is fact."<sup>(63)</sup>

Lincoln apparently also did not seem to realize that his office as President was created by the *Constitution* and therefore could not exist independently of that document. To claim to still hold the office and exercise the authority of President of the United States after having set aside the *Constitution* is equivalent to a man who attempts to lift himself up by the seat of his own pants. Any man who imagines that he can accomplish this

impossible feat is a danger not only to himself but to those over whom he exercises authority; he certainly is not fit to lead or represent a free people and is deserving more of their vilification and impeachment than of their approbation and support:

In relation to States, he [the President] is a mere individual as other citizens are; no more. The fact of Mr. Abraham Lincoln being President of the United States does not change his relation as an individual to other individuals, much less to the States of the Union. As President he is invested with certain authority in law, but beyond this investment of authority, he has no more rightful power to interfere with the acts of individuals, much less of States, than has any of the victims whom he subjected by arbitrary power to the constraints of his will. He is President by the *Constitution*, and as such has authority conferred on him by the *Constitution*, no more, and when he disregards the *Constitution*, he disregards the only source of his authority and power, and subjects himself not only to impeachment in his official character, but to such personal consequences as both the laws contemplate and as those who may be outraged and injured in person and property by his despotic assumptions and arbitrary exercise of power choose to inflict....<sup>(64)</sup>

## The Radicals' Hatred for the Constitution

The rallying cry of those who seek to usurp power and to destroy an established system of law and order is invariably "*Vox populi vox Dei*" – "The voice of the people is the voice of God." As we have seen, this was precisely the maxim to which Lincoln appealed when he stood before Congress and spoke of the "popular demand" for war. However, as Francis Lieber wrote, "everything depends upon the question, who are 'the people'":

The doctrine *Vox populi vox Dei* is essentially un-republican, as the doctrine that the people may do what they list under the constitution, above the constitution, and against the constitution, is an open avowal of disbelief in self-government.... Woe to the country in which political hypocrisy first calls the people almighty, then teaches that the voice of the people is divine, then pretends to take a mere clamor for the true voice of the people, and lastly gets up the desired clamor. The consequences are fearful and invariably unfitting for liberty....

However indistinct the meaning of the maxim may be, the idea intended to be conveyed and the imposing character of the saying, have, nevertheless, contributed to produce in some countries a general inability to remain in the opposition – that necessary element of civil liberty. A degree of shame seems there to be attached to a person that does not swim with the broad stream. No matter what flagrant contradictions may take place, or however sudden the changes may be, there seems to exist in every one a feeling of discomfort, until he has joined the general current. To differ from the dominant party or the ruling majority, appears almost like daring to contend with a deity, or a mysterious, yet irrevocable destiny. To dissent is deemed to be malcontent; it seems more than rebellious, it seems traitorous; and this feeling becomes ultimately so general, that it seizes the dissenting individuals themselves. They become ashamed, and mingle with the rest. Individuality is destroyed, manly character degenerates, and the salutary effect of parties is forfeited. He that clings to his convictions is put in ban as unnatural, and as an enemy to the people. Then arises a man of personal popularity. He ruins the institutions; he bears down everything before him; yet he receives the popular acclaim, and the voice of the people being the voice of God, it is deemed equally unnatural and unpatriotic to oppose him.<sup>(65)</sup>

John C. Calhoun had also similarly predicted what would happen if a Northern faction such as the Republican party ever managed to gain control of the federal Government, "[T]he *Constitution* will be viewed by the majority... as shackles on their power. To them it will have no value as the means of protection. As a majority they require none. Their number and strength, and not the *Constitution*, are their protection."<sup>(66)</sup> While Democratic leaders were calling for a return to "the Union as it was and the *Constitution* as it is," the leaders and spokesmen of the party which had gained the majority in both chambers of Congress, and had successfully installed Abraham Lincoln as their political puppet in the Executive office, contemned the *Constitution* as "a mistake,"<sup>(67)</sup> the "superstition" of the people,<sup>(68)</sup> a "sheep skin government" deserving no respect and "the foundation of our troubles,"<sup>(69)</sup> and by members of Lincoln's Cabinet as "a paper kite"<sup>(70)</sup> and "the rotten rail of a Virginia abstraction."<sup>(71)</sup> It was Seward's opinion that "a written constitution is dangerous to us of the North. The South is using it as a shield."<sup>(72)</sup> Wendell Phillips had likewise declared in a speech in Boston in May of 1849, "We are disunionists.... we would get rid of this Union.... We confess that we intend to trample underfoot the *Constitution* of this country. Daniel Webster says, 'You are a law-abiding people;' that the glory of New England is, 'that it is a law-abiding community.' Shame on it, if this be true; even if the religion of New England sinks as low as its statute-book. *But I say, we are not a law-abiding community. God be thanked for it*" [emphasis in

original].<sup>(73)</sup> Phillips, though not a politician, was nevertheless warmly embraced by the Republicans in Washington, D.C. and even was welcomed onto the floor of the Senate by Vice President Hannibal Hamlin — a high courtesy paid to very few private citizens.<sup>(74)</sup>

Further evidence of the Republicans' intent to destroy the constitutional Union is seen in how they reacted to the following resolutions introduced in the House of Representatives on 5 January 1862 by Ohio Democrat Clement Laird Vallandigham:

*Resolved*, That the Union as it was must be restored, and maintained, one and indivisible, forever, under the *Constitution* as it is, the 5th Article, providing for amendments, included....

*Resolved*, That whoever shall propose, by Federal authority to extinguish any of the States of this Union, or to declare any of them extinguished, and to establish territorial governments within the same, will be guilty of a high crime against the *Constitution* and the Union.

*Resolved*, That whoever shall affirm that it is competent for this House, or any other authority, to establish a Dictatorship in the United States, thereby superceding, or suspending the constitutional authorities of the Union, and shall proceed to make any move towards the declaring of a Dictator, will be guilty of a high crime against the *Constitution* and the Union, and Public Liberty.<sup>(75)</sup>

No more sound constitutional principles could have been enunciated than these, and yet Republican Owen Lovejoy of Illinois immediately moved to place the resolutions on the table, which was essentially equivalent to their rejection. Lovejoy's motion was upheld by a vote of 78 to 50 — all the votes in the affirmative being cast by Republicans. The reader is invited to compare the Vallandigham resolutions to the speech which was shortly thereafter delivered in the House by F.A. Conway of Kansas:

Sir, I am not in favor of restoring the Constitutional relations of the slaveholders to the Union, nor of the war to that end. On the contrary, I am utterly, and forever opposed to both. I am not in favor of the Union as it exists to-day. I am in favor of recognizing the loyal states as the American nation, based as they are on the principle of freedom for all, without distinction of race, color, or condition. I believe it to be the manifest destiny of the American nation to ultimately control the American continent on this principle. I conceive, therefore, that the true object of this war is to revolutionize the national Government, by resolving the North into the nation, and the South into a distinct public body, leaving us in a position to recognize the latter as a separate state. I believe the direction of the war to any other end is a perversion of it, calculated to subvert the very object it was designed to effect.

Conway went on to state, "I have never allowed myself to indulge in that superstitious idolatry of the Union so prevalent among simple but honest people, nor that political cant about the Union so prevalent among the dishonest ones. I have simply regarded it as a form of government, to be valued in proportion to its merits as an instrument of national prosperity and power."<sup>(76)</sup> In other words, the Union was useful to the Republican party as long as it suited their purposes, but it was a thing to be cast aside in favor of revolution if it stood in their way. Thaddeus Stevens was even more blunt:

This talk of restoring the Union as it was, and under the *Constitution* as it is, is one of the absurdities which I have heard repeated until I have become sick of it. There are many things which make such an event impossible. *This Union never shall, with my consent, be restored under the Constitution as it is!*...

The Union as it was, and the *Constitution* as it is — *God forbid it!* We must conquer the Southern States, and hold them as conquered provinces [emphasis in original].<sup>(77)</sup>

As we shall see in the next chapter, the Democrat Vallandigham was arrested by Lincoln's orders and imprisoned for his views in favor of restoring the Union on a constitutional foundation, whereas the Republicans Conway and Stevens were applauded by their colleagues for their anti-Union sentiments and ignored by the President. If all this is not sufficient proof that Lincoln's talk of "preserving the Union" was mere political rhetoric, then there is no truth to the biblical maxim, "*The tree is known by his fruit*" (Matthew 12:33).

1. Horton, *History of the Great Civil War*, pages 71-72.
2. *The Statutes at Large of South Carolina* (Columbia, South Carolina: A.S. Johnston, 1836), Volume V, page 501.
3. *Congressional Globe* (Thirty-Sixth Congress, Second Session), 13 December 1860, page 86.
4. Davis, *Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, Volume I, page 211.
5. Stephen Douglas, speech in the Senate on 15 March 1861; *Congressional Globe* (Thirty-Sixth Congress, Second Session), page 1459.
6. Robert Selph Henry, [\*The Story of the Confederacy\*](#) (New York: Garden City Publishing Company, 1931), pages 19, 33.
7. Robert Toombs, quoted by Burton J. Hendrick, *Statesmen of the Lost Cause: Jefferson Davis and His Cabinet* (New York: The Literary Guild of America, Inc., 1939), page 106.
8. *Chamber's Journal*, 5 December 1863; quoted by Adams, *In the Course of Human Events*, page 17.
9. Lincoln, quoted by Orville H. Browning, *Diary* (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Historical Library, 1933; edited by Theodore C. Pease and James G. Randall), entry for 3 July 1861.
10. Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln: Complete Works*, Volume IV, page 44.
11. Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) *Daily Gazette*, 18 April 1861.
12. Joseph Lane, *Congressional Globe* (Thirty-Sixth Congress, Second Session), page 1347.
13. Lincoln, in Richardson, *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*, Volume VII, page 3223.
14. *New York Express*, 15 April 1861; quoted by Rutherford, *Truths of History*, page 9.
15. Horton, *History of the Great Civil War*, pages 113-114.
16. Dennis A. Mahony, [\*Prisoner of State\*](#) (New York: G.W. Carleton and Company, 1863), pages 246-247.
17. Lincoln, in Richardson, *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*, Volume VII, pages 3214-3215.
18. *Statutes at Large of the United States*, Volume I, page 424.
19. Wendell Phillips was a prime example of this sudden change of position. In a speech delivered on 20 January 1861, he rejoiced at the news of the secession of the Gulf States, but, less than three months later, he was an ardent opponent of disunion: "From 1843 to 1861, I was a Disunionist, and sought to break this Union, convinced that disunion was the only righteous path, and the best one for the white man and the black.... Sumter changed the whole question. After that, peace and justice both forbade disunion" (letter to the *New York Tribune*, 16 August 1862; in *Speeches, Lectures, and Letters*, pages 465-466).
20. Harold Hyman, *A More Perfect Union* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973), pages 60-61.
21. Buchanan, quoted by Horton, *History of the Great Civil War*, page 116.
22. *Official Records: Navies*, Volume 122, pages 89-90; *New York Times*, 20 May 1861; *New York Herald*, 20 May 1861.
23. Stevens, *Congressional Globe*, 9 December 1862, page 50.
24. See [Chapter Eighteen](#).
25. U.S. *Constitution*, Article I, Section 8, Clause 15.
26. Lincoln, in Richardson, *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*, Volume VII, page 3222.
27. U.S. *Constitution*, Article IV, Section 4.
28. Mahony, *Prisoner of State*, pages 24-25.
29. Lincoln, speech delivered at Springfield, Illinois on 27 January 1838; in Nicolay and Hay, *Abraham Lincoln: Complete Works*, Volume I, page 35.
30. *Black's Law Dictionary* (Sixth Edition), page 709.
31. William Blackstone, *Commentaries on the Laws of England* (Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press, 1979), Volume III, pages 129, 138.
32. Edward Bates, opinion dated 5 July 1861; in *Official Records: Armies*, Series II, Volume II, pages 20-30. Bates' argument merely echoed those of Lincoln himself in his address to Congress of the previous day. After making the astonishing admission that he did not fully understand Article I, Section 9, Clause 2 of the *Constitution*, in which the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* is provided for, Bates wrote: "...[T]he *Constitution* declares that the privilege thereof shall not be suspended except when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it. But the *Constitution* is silent as to who may suspend it when the contingency happens" (*op. cit.*, pages 27-28). This argument will be rebutted below.
33. Horace Binney, *The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus Under the Constitution* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: C. Sherman, Son and Company, 1862). Binney's specious argument was that the inclusion of the *habeas corpus* clause in Article I of the *Constitution* was merely an afterthought on the part of the Committee on Style and that the framers did not thereby intend that its suspension be limited exclusively to the discretion of Congress.
34. Mark E. Neely, Jr., *The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991), page

188 (footnote).

35. *Ex parte Bollman* (1807), 4 Cranch., 75.

36. Story, *Commentaries on the Constitution*, Volume II, pages 212-215.

37. Caleb Cushing, quoted by Mahony, *Prisoner of State*, page 87.

38. [Ex parte Merryman](#) (Circuit Court, District Maryland, 1861), 17 Fed. Cas. 144 (Number 9487).

39. New York *Tribune*, quoted by Charles Warren, *The Supreme Court in United States History* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1924), Volume II, pages 368-374. The reader should note that this was the same Horace Greeley who, in December of 1860, had repeatedly asserted the Southern States' right to secede from the Union.

40. Hyman, *More Perfect Union*, page 84.

41. Adams, *In the Course of Human Events*, page 48.

42. Lincoln, in Richardson, *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*, Volume VII, page 3226.

43. Lincoln, in Richardson, *op. cit.*, pages 3225-3226.

44. U.S. *Constitution*, Article II, Section 1, Clause 8.

45. [The Kentucky Resolutions](#), 10 November 1798.

46. Lincoln, in Richardson, *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*, Volume VII, page 3226.

47. Mahony, *Prisoner of State*, pages 53-54.

48. U.S. *Constitution*, Article II, Section 3.

49. Baldwin, testimony, page 104.

50. Lincoln, in Richardson, *Messages and Papers of the Presidents*, Volume VII, page 3225.

51. Nearly a full seventy-two years later, on 9 March 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt followed the example of his predecessor in declaring unconstitutional war against the American people and then asking Congress to validate his actions after the fact. The substance of Lincoln's resolution is now codified, with a few minor modifications, in Title 12, *United States Code*, Section 95b and grants virtually unlimited power to the President of the United States to circumvent the *Constitution* whenever he declares the existence of a national emergency. This will be discussed in Chapter Twenty-One.

52. Henry Clay Dean, [Crimes of the Civil War and Curse of the Funding System](#) (Baltimore, Maryland: J. Wesley Smith and Brothers, 1869), pages 72-74.

53. Randall, *Civil War and Reconstruction*, page 387.

54. James Madison, in James Madison (editor), [Journal of the Federal Convention](#) (Chicago, Illinois: Albert, Scott and Company, 1893), Volume I, page 241.

55. William Patterson, in Madison, *op. cit.*, page 571.

56. Alexander Hamilton, in Elliott, *Debates in the Several State Conventions*, Volume II, pages 232-233.

57. Webster, quoted by Alexander Hamilton Stephens, *A Constitutional View of the War Between the States* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: National Publishing Company, 1868), Volume II, page 404.

58. Jeremiah Sullivan Black, opinion dated 20 November 1860; quoted by Greeley, *American Conflict*, Volume I, pages 371-372; *American Annual Cyclopaedia and Register of Important Events of the Year 1861* (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1862).

59. Salmon Chase, quoted by Dean, *Crimes of the Civil War*, page 191.

60. Lincoln, quoted by Donn Piatt, "Salmon P. Chase," *North American Review* (1886), Volume CXLIII, pages 606-607; James Bryce, *The American Commonwealth* (London and New York: Macmillan Company, 1891), Volume I, page 289; Gamaliel Bradford, *The Lesson of Popular Government* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1899), Volume II, page 390.

61. Lincoln, [letter to Albert G. Hodges](#), 8 April 1864; quoted in Bryce, *American Commonwealth*, Volume I, page 388.

62. Webster, quoted by George Ticknor Curtis, *Life of Daniel Webster* (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1870), Volume II, pages 518-519. Webster was referring specifically to the North's disregard of the fugitive slave clause in the *Constitution*, but his remarks were equally applicable to any other provision of that document.

63. Lincoln, quoted by S.G. Fisher, "The Suspension of Habeas Corpus During the War of the Rebellion," *Political Science Quarterly* (1888), Volume III, page 485.

64. Mahony, *Prisoner of State*, pages 102-103.

65. Lieber, *Civil Liberty and Self Government*, pages 405, 414, 415-416. Francis Lieber was a German-born immigrant to the United States who taught history and political economics at Columbia College in New York City in 1857. He was the author of [Instructions for the Government of the Armies of the United States in the Field](#), otherwise known as the *Lieber Code*, which was commissioned by Lincoln to give some semblance of legality to his unlawful war policies and was published by the U.S. Adjutant General's Office in 1863 as General Orders No. 100. It thereafter served as the foundation of all international conventions on warfare, such as the Hague Conventions, *etc.*

It is strange indeed that Lincoln would have entrusted such a task to a man holding these truly republican views and

- stranger still that Lieber would have accepted such a commission from a man who not only ruined the republican institutions of the country and bore down everything before him, but who also persecuted with despotic ferocity all who opposed him.
66. John C. Calhoun, letter to James H. Hamilton, 28 August 1832; in Richard K. Cralle (editor), *The Works of John C. Calhoun* (New York: Appleton and Company, 1853), Volume VI, page 187.
67. Wendell Phillips, quoted by Edmonds, *Facts and Falsehoods*, page 145.
68. Horace Greeley, quoted by Carpenter, *Logic of History*, page 93.
69. Henry Ward Beecher, quoted by Carpenter, *op. cit.*, pages 93, 121.
70. Seward, quoted by Edmonds, *Facts and Falsehoods*, page 23.
71. Edwin Stanton, quoted by Edmonds, *ibid.*
72. Seward, quoted by Edmonds, *ibid.*
73. Phillips, quoted by McCabe, *Fanaticism and Its Results*, pages 17-18; Matthew Carey, Jr., *The Democratic Speaker's Handbook* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Miami Printing and Publishing, 1868), page 72. "Matthew Carey, Jr." was a pseudonym used by Augustus R. Cazauran.
74. Carpenter, *Logic of History*, page 106.
75. Vallandigham, resolutions presented in the House of Representatives on 5 January 1862; quoted by Carpenter, *op. cit.*, pages 87-88.
76. F.A. Conway, quoted by Carpenter, *op. cit.*, pages 96-97.
77. Thaddeus Stevens, *Congressional Globe* (Thirty-Seventh Congress, Third Session), 9 December 1862, pages 50-51.

## **Part Two:**

# **Abraham Lincoln and the Birth of a Modern Empire**

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### **CHAPTER ELEVEN:**

## **Lincoln Circumvents the Constitution and the Laws**

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:**

## **Abraham Lincoln's Address to Congress in Special Session Congressional Globe - 4 July 1861**

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:**

## **Clement Vallandigham's Response to Lincoln's Address to Congress Congressional Globe - 10 July 1861**



## **Battlefield Prayer** by JOHN PAUL STRAIN

Generals Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and J.E.B. Stuart  
Fredericksburg, Virginia - Near Hamilton's Crossing,  
December 12, 1862

The momentous day was nearly at hand. On the morrow two great armies would clash along the hills of Fredericksburg, Virginia. The results of the battle might possibly decide the course of the war. Massive numbers of men in gray and blue had been gathering for weeks to engage in an epic battle to defend their homes, traditions, and honor.

Weather over the past several days had been pleasant with temperatures rising to the 50's during the day. An inch or so of snow from the storm of December 6th and 7th still remained in the shadows and valleys, but much of the snow had melted.

In the hills south of the city, near Hamilton's Crossing, three generals in gray reconnoitered enemy positions and formulated plans to meet the challenge that lay ahead. A tremendous weight of responsibility lay on the shoulders of these men, for thousands of men's lives and the future of their country now rested with their decisions. No one knew this more profoundly than Generals Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and J.E.B. Stuart.

With the sounds of battle preparation echoing through the woodland hills and valleys, the three generals paused a moment to rest from their morning ride and water their horses. Stonewall Jackson knelt before the Lord and the men prayed for the Lord's blessing and guidance to help them with their great task. Many men would turn to their God before battle, if not for themselves, then for their families. The Almighty would hear thousands of battlefield prayers that day.



# Chaplain's Corner

## *"The Angel of Fredericksburg"*

Gen. J. B. Kershaw, of South Carolina, published some years ago a deeply interesting narrative concerning "Richard Kirkland, the humane hero of Fredericksburg," a sergeant in the Second South Carolina regiment. After the bloody repulse of the Federals at Fredericksburg, near the foot of Marye's hill, they left their many killed and wounded lying between the lines, and the piteous cries of the brave men on account of pain and thirst appealed to the sympathies of the soldiers of both armies. Kirkland went to General Kershaw, who was then in command of the Confederates at that point, and said with deep emotion: "General, I can't stand this." "What is the matter, Sergeant?" asked the general. He replied: "All day I have heard those poor people crying for water and I can stand it no longer. I come to ask permission to go and give them water." The general regarded him for a moment with feelings of profound admiration, and said: "Kirkland, don't you know that you would get a bullet through your head the moment you stepped over the wall? .... Yes," he said, "I know that I may, but if you will let me, I am willing to try it." After a pause the general said: "Kirkland, I ought not to allow you to run such a risk, but the sentiment which actuates you is so noble that I will not refuse your request, trusting that God may protect you. You may go."

With light heart and buoyant step the humane hero, armed with all of the canteens he could carry filled with water, crossed the wall, went unharmed through the shower of bullets which at first greeted him, and reached and relieved the nearest sufferer, pouring down his parched throat the life-giving fluid, putting him in a more comfortable position, and leaving him a canteen filled with water. His purpose now being apparent, the Federals ceased to fire on him, and for an hour and a half, amid the plaudits of both armies, this angel of mercy went on his mission from man to man of the wounded enemy--his comrades gladly filling his canteens for him and being prevented from joining him in his labor of love only by the orders against their crossing the line--until all on that part of the field were relieved. It needs only to be added--since "the bravest are the tenderest and the loving are the daring"--that Sergeant Kirkland so greatly distinguished himself at Gettysburg that he was promoted for "conspicuous gallantry," and that he fell on the victorious field of Chickamauga, bravely doing his duty. But he will be known in the annals of the war as "The humane hero of Fredericksburg," and as he had but a short time before found "Christ in the camp," I doubt not that he wears now a bright crown bestowed by Him who promises that a cup of cold water given in the right spirit shall not lose its reward.

Source: "Confederate Military History," Volume 12



# Burying the dead at Fredericksburg



by Donald C. Pfanz

THE BATTLE OF Fredericksburg was over. The smoking guns and belching cannons had fallen silent. The Union army was gone. Yet, evidence of the fighting remained in the form of battered houses, scarred landscapes, and decomposing bodies.

More than 1,700 soldiers had been killed in the battle. Many of the corpses had been left behind, unburied, in the Army of the Potomac's retreat. Gen. Robert E. Lee of the Confederate army attended to the burial of his own dead and sent a message to his Union counterpart, Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, requesting that he send detachments back across the Rappahannock River to inter the Northern dead. Burnside readily assented to the proposal.

Gen. Edwin Sumner, commanding the Union army's Right Grand Division, detailed three officers and 100 men from the Second and Ninth corps for the task. Soldiers from other corps may also have taken part. Col. John R. Brooke of the 53rd Pennsylvania led the Second Corps detachment. The Union army had interred most of the soldiers who had died in the fighting south of Fredericksburg during a flag of truce on Dec. 15, 1862, so the burial parties focused on Marye's Heights sector of the battlefield, directly behind the town.

Brooke and his men crossed the Rappahannock River below the Lacy House (Chatham) early on Dec. 17 and were escorted by a detail of Confederate soldiers from the 13th Mississippi Regiment to the plain outside of town.

"As we approached the battle field," wrote one soldier, "the sight reminded me of a flock of sheep reposing in the field. But as we approached nearer, who can describe my feelings when I found them to be the dead bodies of our brave men, which had been stripped of their clothing." Confederate soldiers, lacking sufficient uniforms, had stolen the coats, pants, and even the undergarments of their fallen foe as protection against the coming winter.

Once they reached the plain, the Union burial party fanned out and began gathering up the corpses for burial. It was a gruesome task. "They were literally pieces of men, for those destructive shells had done their perfect work," wrote one soldier. "It was the worst sight I ever beheld, and may I be spared another such a scene."



While some of the soldiers gathered in the battle's harvest, other fashioned a ditch, approximately 6 feet wide and 100 yards long, from a defensive trench started by Union soldiers during the battle. The trench began at Hanover Street and extended south in a line just east of modern-day Littlepage Street. As soldiers brought the bodies in, they laid them side by side in the ditch, three deep, and covered them with a thin layer of dirt.



Behind the Stone Wall, Fredericksburg

A.C. Redwood, Engraving



More gracious were the farewells of the Mississippians who bid their foes goodbye "in the most friendly manner." Reflecting on his interactions with the Rebel escort, a Union soldier concluded, "What a pity that we must fight."

The next day, Col. Brooke drafted a report of the expedition. He recorded burying a total of 913 bodies, not counting the five that he had brought back across the river. The job, however, had not been done well. As in all, 609 men were buried there. Among them was the owner of a Newfoundland dog. For two days and nights, the faithful animal had kept vigil beside his master's lifeless corpse. Now, as strangers tossed dirt over the soldier's mortal remains, the dog showed an almost "human sympathy, more so," thought one observer "than any there in human shape."

The work was not completed by day's end, prompting Gen. Burnside to request a second flag of truce on Dec. 18. Lee granted the request and once again Union soldiers, 200 to 300 in number, rowed across the Rappahannock River into Fredericksburg. On the other side, a body of Mississippi troops dressed in ragged garments and carrying a white flag met them. The Southerners greeted the party in a friendly manner, shaking hands with them and asking them questions about the recent battle. Some swapped small trinkets--a stamp or a piece of hardtack.

As they had the day before, the Confederates led the burial party through town to the plain in front of Marye's Heights. The destruction in town was appalling. "Fredericksburg is knocked all to pieces," wrote one soldier. "Every house almost is full of holes where the shells have been sent. Possibly, it may be repaired again but I think [it] doubtful."

Dead horses littered the streets, their carcasses lying amid smashed furniture, broken crockery, and trampled clothes. Using boards for stretchers, the soldiers again fanned out to look for bodies. Some corpses had been in the sun for five days and had turned black.

"Oh, it was awful!" wrote one nauseated worker. "All of them were struck either in the head or breast, mostly with musket balls. Those shot in the head were hit in the forehead, eyes, mouth, everywhere in the head." They placed 23 bodies in one ditch and 125 in another. "We laid the poor fellows side by side in the trench & covered them with earth where they will remain till the great Judgement Day. O! What a dreadful war this is!"

As the burial party carried out its solemn task, Confederate soldiers casually looked on. Some of them taunted the Federals by holding up blue clothing that had been stripped from the dead and asserted that they would continue to fight as long as the Yankees occupied their soil.

Confederate Gens. William Barksdale, Lafayette McLaws, and J.E.B. Stuart stopped by during the day to look in on the work. Also present was Maj. Heros von Borcke, a huge Prussian officer serving on Stuart's staff. Von Borcke was shocked at the rough manner in which the Union soldiers handled their dead. On the battlefield was an icehouse with a deep pit. As Von Borcke looked on, Northern soldiers tossed corpses into the hole "until the solid mass of human flesh reached near the surface, when a covering of logs, chalk, and mud closed the mouth of this vast and awful tomb."

To the Prussian officer, it seemed as if the Federals were more interested in doing the job quickly than doing it well. Nor was he alone in that opinion. Nearby, Union soldiers opened a second trench and hastily filled it with 130 bodies. A Fredericksburg citizen, Edward Heinichen, noted the shallowness of the graves. The bodies received such a superficial burial, he complained, "that parts of them after a short time showed above ground,

& dogs brought home many a limb. Some corpses were entirely overlooked, & I recollect, to have seen two of them untouched as late as the following April."

At the end of the truce period, the Union soldiers shouldered their tools and started back toward town. With them, they brought the bodies of five officers found on the field. A woman whose home had been destroyed during the battle followed the Federals as they returned to town, hurling "the most wrathful imprecations" at the Yankee invaders. She followed the party all the way to the riverbank, crying out that she wished they were dead.

Edward Heinichen noted, the bodies had been buried in shallow graves, and, after heavy rains, the bones rose to the surface. News of the poor burial conditions got back to officials in Washington, and, when the war ended in July 1865, the War Department established Fredericksburg National Cemetery on Marye's Heights.

Over the next four years, contract workers collected the remains of 15,000 Union soldiers from battlefields throughout Central Virginia and brought them to Fredericksburg for burial. **(Confederate soldiers who died in the area were buried at private expense in two local cemeteries.) By then, however, most identification had disappeared. As a result, just 16 percent of the soldiers now buried in the cemetery have been identified.**

Fredericksburg National Cemetery was administered by the War Department until 1933, when it was transferred to the National Park Service. It is open daily from dawn until dusk.

DONALD C. PFANZ is staff historian with Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. He is author of "Abraham Lincoln at City Point" and "Richard S. Ewell: A Soldier's Life."

<http://civilwartalk.com/threads/147th-anniversary-of-battle-of-fredericksburg.13970/page-5>



The Mind and Method of a Great American Soldier



# ROBERT E. LEE AT WAR

By Scott Bowden

Volume Two: Hope Arises From Despair

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# ROBERT E. LEE AT WAR

## THE MIND AND METHOD OF A GREAT AMERICAN SOLDIER

BY AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR SCOTT BOWDEN

*"The presence of the enemy in front of the capital, the great interests involved, and the existence of all that is dear to us appeal in terms too strong to be unheard, and [General Lee] feels assured that every man has resolved to...Conquer or Die in the approaching contest." —Special Orders, No. 22, June 1, 1862*



Richmond, Virginia, late spring, 1862. A powerful enemy is at the gates of a young republic's capital. An inherited force, outnumbered and haphazardly-organized, representing a collection of fiercely independent individuals forming disparate congeries lacking almost everything, save courage, has to be willfully molded into

a real army, lest the capital falls and the war lost. A chief executive whose own history and personality has combined to resist employing in any meaningful way the man to which he must now turn—the same man Abraham Lincoln had first sought more than a year earlier to lead the principal army of the Federal government. So much at stake. So little time in which to prepare. So unimaginable the consequences of failure. So breathtaking the possibilities resulting from victory.

*Robert E. Lee at War: Hope Arises From Despair* is an indispensable volume for anyone interested in Lee's first summer as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, and encompasses the period from June 1, 1862—the day Lee ascended to army command—through the end of the summer. Lee's Herculean efforts to save Richmond, change the course of the war in the East and create the conditions by which the Confederacy might attain its political imperative takes the reader through Lee's first three campaigns—The Seven Days, Second Manassas and Maryland. Utilizing fresh analytical insights and rigorous contextualization, the memorable story that emerges of Lee's generalship amid countless challenges and difficult odds, has never been fully told. New insights to Lee's military mind, his sought-after goals and his generalship in the broader perspective of warfare as a whole, set against his ongoing efforts to craft and reorganize an army in his image, are both unprecedented and illuminating. What were Lee's original plans in each campaign? How and when were these modified? What driving factors—those outside the army and within—influenced Lee's operational and battlefield plans? The answers to these questions, and many more, help evaluate Lee that ultimately renders a whole new story about the Civil War in the east.

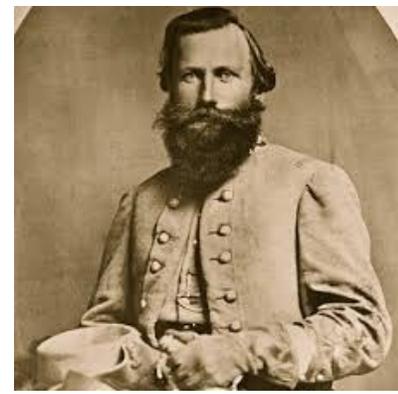
*Robert E. Lee at War: Hope Arises From Despair* combines stunning imagery, graphics, maps, detailed orders of battle, and more, to assist the reader in following Lee from the gates of Richmond to Maryland's shore, and beyond.

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# Confederate Generals of Gettysburg: The Leaders of America's Greatest Battle



## MAJ. GEN. JAMES EWELL BROWN STUART

CONFEDERATE CAVALRY DIVISION

17 guns/6,629 men

**a series...**

In 1865 the *Army and Navy Journal*, the nation's leading military journal, examined the phenomenon of cavalry leadership and concluded that "the nature of cavalry service makes their commanders' presence a necessity, as in all formations for attack they lead their columns. They are supposed to possess those rare personal qualities that impart inspiration of invincibility to the squadrons they lead, and magnetize with individual daring each trooper." The South, where the mounted arm was best understood, found such a man early on, the most famous cavalryman of the Civil War--"Jeb" Stuart.

By mid-1863, Stuart was only thirty years old, and he had already performed two years of heroics with the spirit of a character out of a Sir Walter Scott novel. For him more than any Confederate general, notions of knight-errantry and chivalry informed his approach to leadership. His eagerness to project himself as a sort of plumed Knight of the Round Table, which went beyond the typical mid-nineteenth century Southern infatuation with such images, might have been fueled by Stuart's belief that he was descended from the warlike Stuart kings of Scotland.

The "Beau Sabreur of the Confederacy," as he was called, was square-built and of average height, with a natural athlete's vigorous aggressiveness. He had china-blue eyes, and rough-hewn features which prompted his West Point classmates to jokingly call him "Beauty." He attempted to hide his receding chin with a bushy cinnamon-covered beard. He dressed flamboyantly, even garishly--he wore a scarlet-lined cape that covered his tunic, a soft hat with the brim pinned up on one side by a gold star supporting a foot-long ostrich plume, elbow-length gauntlets and thigh-high boots, flowers and ribbons in his lapels, yellow sash, and golden spurs. Along with the banjoists and fiddlers which provided his headquarters music, Stuart's affectations incurred ridicule from some (mostly infantrymen), while others wrote them off as tasteless frivolities.

The same cavalier spirit that informed his taste in apparel applied to his combat style--he was a reckless adventurer, a grandstander who played up shamelessly to the newsmen and imagemakers. There was a shrewd rationale behind the whole business: "If," he observed, "we oppose force to force we cannot win, for their resources are greater than ours. We must substitute esprit for numbers. Therefore I strive to inculcate in my men the spirit of the chase."

Beyond the elaborate rationale, however, remained the simple fact that "Jeb" was a noisy, ostentatious man who loved attention, and was at his best where he was liked.

Friendly and approachable, Stuart's hearty good nature made men follow him gladly. One trooper remarked that "a franker, more transparent nature, it is impossible to conceive." Artillerist James Dearing regarded Stuart as "decidedly one of the very best officers we have . . . and is generally looked upon with much confidence." As to Stuart's personal habits, Dearing observed: "he neither drinks nor smokes and is the plainest, most straightforward, best humoured man in the world." Stuart's aide John Cooke wrote that he was "ardent, impetuous, brimming over with the wine of life and of rippling flags, of martial music, and the clash of sabres." Another described Stuart as "a remarkable mixture of a green, boyish, undeveloped man, and a shrewd man of business and a strong leader."

Son of a prominent Virginia politician who had been an officer in the War of 1812, Stuart inherited his love of the limelight from his father. His mother's most obvious legacy was his lifelong religious devoutness; when he attended West Point, he was known as a "Bible class man." After graduating in the top third of the Academy's Class of 1854, he campaigned against the Comanches (where he survived an Indian bullet fired into his chest at point blank range), served in Bloody Kansas, then in 1859 accompanied the force (led by Robert E. Lee) which crushed the John Brown Raid at Harper's Ferry. In 1855 he wed the daughter of prominent cavalryman Philip St. George Cooke, but in April 1861 he resigned to join the Confederacy while his father-in-law stayed with the Union.

Stuart's early service in the first months of the Civil War with the 1st Virginia Cavalry--containing the advance of a Union army in the lower Shenandoah Valley and then pursuing and panicking the Union army after the Battle of First Manassas--led to his promotion to brigadier general in September 1861. He received command of the army's Cavalry Brigade the next month. During the winter of 1861-62 he acquired a reputation as the finest reconnaissance leader in the Virginia theater, where he did most of his scouting either alone or in a small group. By mid-June 1862, with the Confederates scrambling to protect Richmond against McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, Stuart set out from the army's lines with 1,000 cavalymen and for the next three days made a complete circuit of the Army of the Potomac, gathering facts about Union dispositions, especially along the Chickahominy River. McClellan took such stringent measures against the repetition of the embarrassing raid that it altered his whole offensive plan and contributed, finally, to its failure. More than any other exploit, this "Chickahominy Raid" made Stuart's reputation. Even in the North it was wondered at, the New York Times observing that it "excites as much admiration in the Union army as it does in Richmond. . . . we regard it as a feather of the very tallest sort in the rebel cap." Stuart was quickly promoted to major general and given command of the newly formed Cavalry Division of two brigades.

Less than two months later, in the Second Manassas Campaign, Stuart sneaked around Maj. Gen. John Pope's northern flank and struck his supply base at Catlett's Station, capturing 300 men and such rare booty as Pope's dress uniform. In the September Maryland Campaign, he rode around McClellan a second time and sacked Chambersburg. After the Battle of Fredericksburg in December, he raided within a few miles of Washington, and tweaked the nose of Union Quartermaster Montgomery Meigs, wiring him on his own telegraph to complain about the "bad quality of the mules lately furnished, which interfered seriously with our moving the captured wagons."

**At Chancellorsville in May 1863, Stuart's stealthy reconnaissance located the exposed Union flank, then screened "Stonewall" Jackson's attacking column from enemy eyes while the infantry marched into position to crush it. When Jackson was mortally wounded in the attack, Stuart stepped in and directed the entire wing of infantry competently, consolidating Jackson's gains, ensuring the victory, and receiving elaborate praise from Lee and Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill. By the summer of 1863, Stuart had earned a reputation built not only on extravagance but on effective leadership. The myths that had grown up around him by that time were helping him by placing Union cavalymen at a psychological disadvantage, increasing the odds in his favor.**

**A blot was placed on Stuart's record, however, on June 9 at the battle of Brandy Station. Although the battle--the largest cavalry fight on the American continent--was a draw, the fight signaled the rise of the Union cavalry, who audaciously launch a surprise attack. Stuart was derided in all the Richmond papers. The story went around that the surprise had occurred because Stuart and his officers were "rollicking, frolicking and running after girls" at a ball the night before. Thus, at the start of the Gettysburg Campaign, Stuart, overly sensitive about his reputation, was personally mortified and resolved to vindicate himself--circumstances which multiplied his natural impetuosity. When he received discretionary orders from Lee during the march north, he took off on another grand raid around the Union army, hoping to restore his name.**

## **At Gettysburg**

After crossing the Potomac on June 28, Stuart's division's column headed northward, keeping to the east of the Army of the Potomac. Early on July 1, they crawled north into Dover, about 23 airline miles northeast of Gettysburg. There, about the time Heth's men were pushing back Buford's cavalymen at the start of the battle, Stuart let his men climb off their horses and get some sleep, their first rest since the Potomac crossing. While the men slept, scouts fanned out in the hope that one would locate the Army of Northern Virginia. After about four hours' sleep, Stuart roused his men and headed northwest toward Carlisle, where he expected to find provisions. After an exhausting march, Stuart's men found the town occupied by stubborn Pennsylvania militia. Stuart stood by all the rest of that day while Fitz Lee's artillery vainly tried to shell the garrison into submission. Then, about 1 o'clock in the morning of July 2, Stuart received one of the messengers he had dispatched at Dover. The rider had found the army at Gettysburg, 25 miles to the south. Stuart gave the command, and the cavalry--Fitz Lee's, then Chambliss's, then Hampton's brigade--headed toward the battle.

About noon on July 2, Stuart finally found Lee's headquarters on the Chambersburg Pike about a mile west of town. He dismounted, saluted his commander and reported the arrival of his raiding party--over sixty hours late. Lee almost never criticized his subordinates, and when he did he needed few words to produce stinging shame. With Stuart standing in front of him, Lee at first rebuked him with a cold silence. He then greeted him with a question, "General Stuart, where have you been?" When Stuart attempted a reply, Lee cut him short: "I have not heard a word from you for days, and you the eyes and ears of my army!" The officers present averted their eyes at the sight of Lee scolding the proud cavalry chieftain, who looked like he had just taken a blow to the face. The interview was over.

Hampton that morning had driven off Kilpatrick's cavalry at Hunterstown, five miles northeast of

Gettysburg, and Stuart saw an opportunity in that direction. Later on July 2, he and Lee worked out a plan to move out northeast of town and swoop down on the rear of the Union army. On the morning of July 3, Stuart rode quietly out the York Pike with his three brigades, plus Brig. Gen. A.G. Jenkins's. At about 10:00 A.M., the column reached a point on the Pike 2\_ miles northeast of Gettysburg, then turned south onto a farm road. Their stealthy progress had been spotted by Yankee scouts, and two brigades of blue troopers were marched out the Hanover Road to block any attempts on the Union army's rear. Another setback occurred when it was found that Jenkins's brigade had not brought enough ammunition--it was forced to retire from the field.

At about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the cavalry action began. There were charges and countercharges, after which both sides claimed they had driven the other back on their starting positions. One Confederate sergeant probably came closest to the truth when he declared it a "draw."

Stuart wrote the longest report of the Gettysburg Campaign published in the official records, arguing that the havoc caused to enemy communications and supply by his raid in the Union army's rear was worth the delay in joining Lee--but no one ever believed it. Stuart further argued pointlessly (and gracelessly) that Lee's army, in particular Early's division, was not where it was supposed to be. He pointed disingenuously to the fact that Lee had Jenkins's brigade on hand for reconnaissance, but everyone was aware of Jenkins's shortcomings. Over the years Stuart's late arrival became one of the generally accepted explanations for Lee's defeat in Pennsylvania. With Stuart on hand, his critics said, Heth would have known the composition of the Federal force in his path on the morning of July 1, and pushed boldly into the town; or, Lee would have known of the enemy's concentration and been less eager to attack frontally and more disposed to slip nimbly around the Union left. One thing seems clear: Lee gave discretion to Stuart at the beginning of the campaign and Stuart used it injudiciously.

Stuart's status at the head of Confederate cavalry was never threatened, however. He supervised a reorganization of the cavalry into a corps in September 1863 (though he was never promoted to lieutenant general, the rank appropriate to a corps commander). The next spring, as Stuart halted Federal cavalry at Yellow Tavern outside Richmond, he mortally wounded by a pistol shot in the abdomen. He died twenty-seven hours later, on May 12, 1864.

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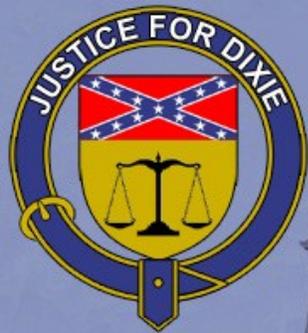
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Excerpted from ["The Generals of Gettysburg: The Leaders of America's Greatest Battle"](#) by Larry Tagg

**NEXT MONTH:** [Brigadier General Wade Hampton](#)



# Southern Legal Resource Center

Defending the rights of all Americans  
Advocating for the Confederate community

Follow Us

The Southern Legal Resource Center is a non-profit tax deductible public law and advocacy group dedicated to expanding the inalienable, legal, constitutional and civil rights of all Americans, but especially America's most persecuted minority: Confederate Southern Americans. **SLRC NEEDS OUR HELP !!!**

## Company Overview

Non-profit tax deductible public law corporation founded in 1995, dedicated to preservation of the dwindling rights of all Americans through judicial, legal and social advocacy on behalf of the Confederate community and Confederate Southern Americans.



## Mission

A return to social and constitutional sanity for all Americans and especially for America's most persecuted minority: Confederate Southern Americans.

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Thank you, Kirk D. Lyons, Chief Trial Counsel

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"DEFENDING THEIR HONOR SINCE 1896"

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## What is the Sons of Confederate Veterans?

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the Second American Revolution. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the Sons of Confederate Veterans is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.

## Events & Functions

Memorial Services • Monthly Camp Meetings • Annual Reunions • Grave Site Restoration  
Educational Programs • Parades & Festivals • Heritage Defense • Honoring Our Veterans



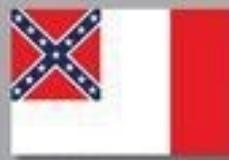
Rattle Flag



1st National Flag



2nd National Flag



3rd National Flag



Bonnie Blue Flag



*They took a stand for us.  
Now, we stand for them.*

*May God bless our efforts to  
Vindicate the Cause of the  
Confederate South.*

Michael Givens  
Commander-in-Chief  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

**NEVER APOLOGIZE**



**FOR BEING RIGHT!**

### About our namesake:

[belo.herald@yahoo.com](mailto:belo.herald@yahoo.com)

Colonel A.H. Belo was from North Carolina, and participated in Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. His troops were among the few to reach the stone wall. After the war, he moved to Texas, where he founded both the Galveston Herald and the Dallas Morning News. The Dallas Morning News was established in 1885 by the Galveston News as sort of a North Texas subsidiary. The two papers were linked by 315 miles of telegraph wire and shared a network of correspondents. They were the first two newspapers in the country to print simultaneous editions. The media empire he started now includes radio, publishing, and television. His impact on the early development of Dallas can hardly be overstated.

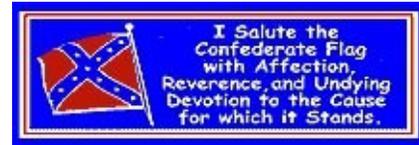
The Belo Herald is our unapologetic tribute to his efforts as we seek to bring the truth to our fellow Southrons and others in an age of political correctness and unrepentant yankee lies about our people, our culture, our heritage and our history.

**Sic Semper Tyrannis!!!**

**Do you have an ancestor that was a Confederate Veteran?**  
**Are you interested in honoring them and their cause?**  
**Do you think that history should reflect the truth?**  
**Are you interested in protecting your heritage and its symbols?**  
**Will you commit to the vindication of the cause for which they fought?**  
**If you answered "Yes" to these questions, then you should "Join Us"**

*Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces regardless of the applicant's or his ancestor's race, religion, or political views.*

## How Do I Join The Sons of Confederate Veterans?



The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.



*Membership in the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate States armed forces and government.*



*Membership can be obtained through either lineal or collateral family lines and kinship to a veteran must be **documented genealogically**. The minimum age for full membership is 12, but there is no minimum for Cadet Membership.*

<http://www.scv.org/genealogy.php>

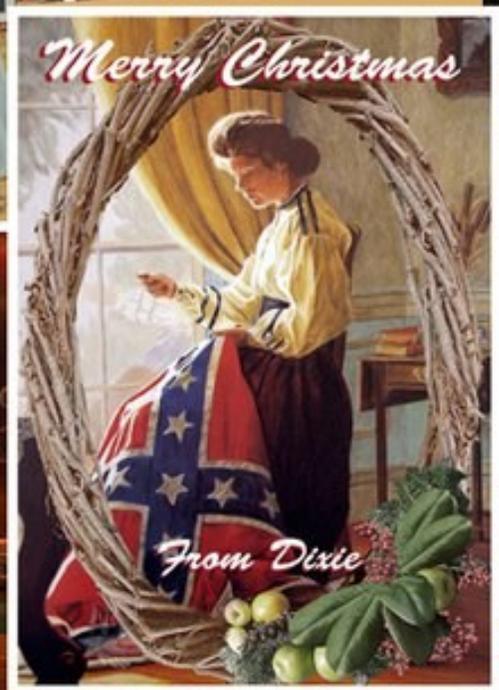
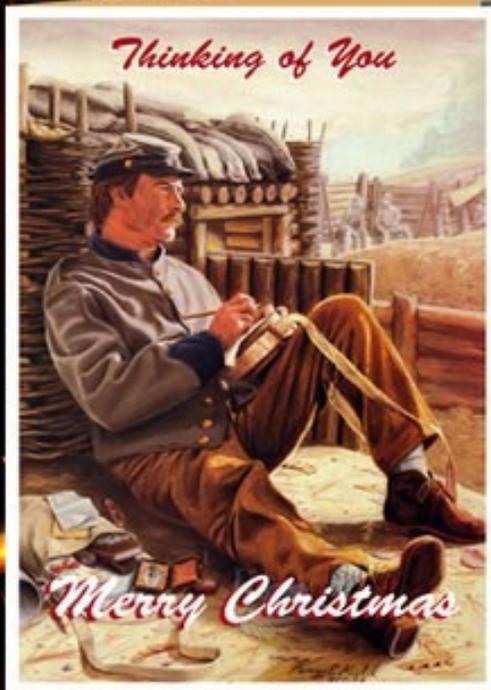
### CHARGE TO THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

*"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish." Remember it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations".*

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee,  
Commander General

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# Merry Christmas

Sons of Confederate Veterans



*Santa has been making his list and checking it twice.....for good little Southron boys and girls, and then there are “those people” .... those dreadful Yankees who will get coal in their stockings and switches !!*

***Here are some recent sightings of Old St. Nick checking on things!***

