

Confederate Veteran.

September/October 2025



In This Issue ...

Prisoners of the Yankees

— Scott Barker

The Vindication of Captain Henry Wirz

— Pastor John Weaver

Lincoln Was the Traitor, Not Lee

— John Vinson

21st CENTURY CONFEDERATE HERO

Heroic Action is Needed to Vindicate Our Confederate Heroes



By becoming a 21st Century Confederate Hero the SCV will begin a PR offensive in a BIG WAY, retire the note we owe to ourselves, and complete the funding of the Forrest Plaza.

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Payment may be made in full or in installments over 18 months.

Join in this effort and let us get started taking the fight to our enemy. More information is available on the Confederate Legion website: <https://scvconfederatelegion.com/> click on "21st Century Heroes."

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY IN
THE INTEREST OF CONFEDERATE
ASSOCIATIONS AND KINDRED TOPICS

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S. A. Cunningham

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Official Journal of the
Sons of Confederate Veterans

*Though men deserve, they may not win, success;
The brave will honor the brave, vanquished none the less.*

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ON THE COVER – Florida Confederate Soldiers Monument Reinstated in 2025 by the Florida Division. Details on page 67. Photo by Calvin Hart.



"KEEP IT FLYING" OVER SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS HEADQUARTERS & THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATE MUSEUM

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Confederate Veteran.

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FROM THE EDITOR

What at great Reunion we had in Houston! Thanks to the members of the Texas Division and Reunion Chairman Michael Hurley for all their hard work on putting on and hosting our annual reunion. The facility was great and we all had a great time. And, we also got some business done. Good job compatriots!



Photo by John Gregory

Scott Barker returns to our pages this issue with another excellent essay. *Prisoners of the Yankees* really lays out the harsh treatment and inhumane conditions our Confederate ancestors suffered in northern prisons. While yankee prisoners were treated the same as Confederate soldiers because we couldn't do any better, the north could do better and didn't. They mistreated Confederate POWs on purpose.

We welcome Pastor John Weaver to our pages with his essay *The Vindication of Captain Henry Wirz*. We all know Captain Wirz was murdered by Federal authorities after the end of the War, following a sham trial. Pastor Weaver explains it in great detail. Let us all remember the injustice done to Captain Wirz and honor his memory and service to the South.

John Vinson joins us this issue with his essay *Lincoln Was the Traitor, Not Lee*. Lincoln has always been treated as a saint despite all the evidence to the contrary, but only in recent years have the Marxists tried to paint Robert E. Lee as a traitor.

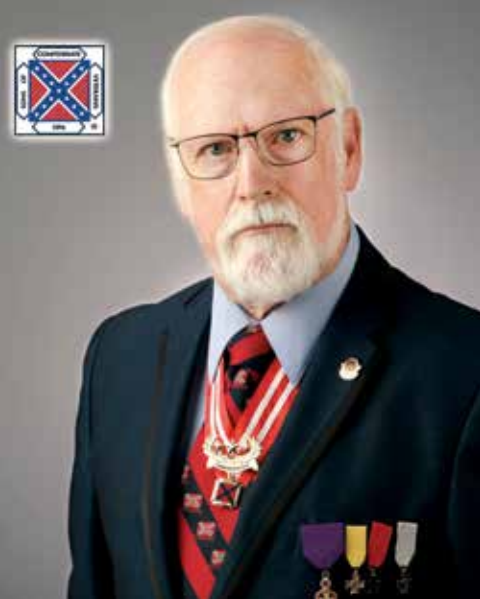
During the same time period we have seen the attacks on Confederate Monuments and Memorials. Gould Hagler joins and shares his essay *Confederate Monuments: The Haters Hate More than the Confederacy*. He focuses on attacks in Georgia, but I don't need to tell you it's happening all across the country. If you have low blood pressure, reading this will help.

I received a lot of good comments on the Veteran at our Reunion in Houston. Thank you. I'm glad you enjoy the Veteran like what we are doing. Comments, both positive and negative are welcome. Please continue sending in your letters to the editor and photos of your camp activities. It is good to see how active our camps are all across the country, especially in far-off regions. Until then, I remain,

Yours in the Cause.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank B. Powell, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Editor-in-Chief



REPORT OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
WALTER D. (DONNIE) KENNEDY
CIC@SCV.ORG

Knowing the Truth is Half the Battle

To all who attended the 130th Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Houston, thank you for helping make this event such a success. As has been said many times before, these events do not just happen; many people must work hard to make them happen. I would like to thank the Texas Division and its past Commander, Michael Hurley, for their tireless efforts. Also, the SCV's Reunion Committee did an excellent job, and they, too, along with many others, deserve our thanks. Now, on to Lexington, Kentucky, next July for the 131st Reunion. As always, the *Confederate Veteran* magazine and Commander's Comment (first Thursday of every month on SCV Chat) will provide you with information about our Lexington Reunion.

This past July, these United States celebrated the 249th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We are currently approaching the 250th anniversary of the adoption of that document. While we can expect much fanfare and speech-making by the political establishment and conservative commentators, much of what will be said will avoid the central theme of that document. The central theme the Declaration of Independence announces is that any people have certain "unalienable Rights" such as living in a government "by the consent of the governed" and these same people,

when oppressed by any government, have the unalienable right to "alter or abolish it and institute new Government." These points will be ignored or twisted in such a way as to condemn our Confederate forefathers while praising Lincoln. "Those people," as General Lee often referred to the invaders, will succeed if we do not use all the means the SCV has created to answer our detractors.

Since a great deal will be said about the Declaration of Independence over the next ten months, let us take a brief look at that document and demonstrate the total correctness of our Colonial forefathers and our Confederate forefathers. It is worth noting that prior to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, many colonies had already declared their independence from Great Britain. During May of 1775, in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, the Mecklenburg Declaration was adopted, followed by the Mecklenburg Resolves. The following April of 1776, the North Carolina Provincial Congress endorsed these declarations of independence of North Carolina from the union with Great Britain. In February of 1776, North Carolina patriots soundly defeated British loyalists at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. This victory was instrumental in securing North Carolina for the cause of independence. In May 1776, a convention of the people of Virginia was held in Williamsburg,

Virginia, to discuss the cause of independence and determine the best alternative for the State. One commentator noted Virginia had already declared “the union between Virginia and Great Britain [was] dissolved.” The Virginia convention, at the urging of Patrick Henry, suggested a “clear and full declaration of independence” be adopted by the United Colonies. It should be noted that before the Philadelphia Convention took up the issue of passing a resolution for independence, many colonies, which by their military and political actions, had assumed the status of a State. In other words, they had already severed (seceded from) the union each had with Great Britain. While each colony had a separate union with Great Britain, there was no union among the thirteen colonies.

An interesting story about the adoption of the Declaration of Independence is often overlooked — I believe it is overlooked because it proves Lincoln was a political Ichabod with a childlike understanding of American history. On July 1, 1776, a report from the committee responsible for declaring independence was presented to the Continental Congress. That report announced nine States voted for independence, two States voted against independence, one State with a divided delegation could not vote, and one State, New York, could not vote because its State Assembly had not directed them on how to vote. The following day, new delegates arrived with instructions from their States to vote for independence. The vote was carried 12 to 1, with one State, New York, abstaining. On July 9, New York’s delegation received instructions from their State Assembly to vote for independence. New York’s vote was cast and recorded in favor of independence.

Lincoln proclaimed, in his inaugural address and his first message to Congress, the States could not secede because they were never sovereign, and some mystical force obtained that independence. Lincoln called this force the “Union.” If the States were never sovereign, why did the delegates to the Philadelphia Convention have to wait for instructions from their State to vote for or against independence? And if a mystical “Union” was hard at work to bring independence to the United States, where was it? NO observer of those historic events ever recorded a “Union force” working to assure American independence. What is noticed and recorded are the actions of 13 sovereign States working to promote their “safety and happiness.” Always remember the vote for independence was not a democratic referendum, plebiscite, or ballot initiative of the American people as a whole. The vote was the action of representatives of each State acting upon instructions given to them by their State. Lincoln’s “Union” existed only in his less-than-intelligent brain.

Here are nine points taken from the Declaration of Independence, seriatim, to be remembered as Americans celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In the Declaration of Independence, points, i.e., Rights, are pronounced as

Continued on page 66



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Dispatches From the Front

A collection of letters to the editor from our members

Attention Authors!

To the Editor:

The SCV is blessed with many talented authors who produce books which bring to life battles and leaders of the Confederacy. I encourage SCV authors to use their published work to promote the SCV. For example, in my most recent book, *Reconstruction: Destroying the Republic and Creating an Empire*, on page 22, at the end of a chapter discussing the hatred directed toward the South, I included the QR code for the Confederate Legion's video "Monuments Matter." On page 484, I quoted "A poll commissioned by the National Sons of Confederate Veterans." Authors are creative folks, and I am sure they can find creative ways to promote the SCV without distracting from their book's theme.

Additionally, with books already published, authors may be able to work with their publisher to make minor adjustments to the next printing of their published work. For example, I will ask my publisher to include "(www.scv.org)" in my biography after mentioning that I am a life member of the SCV. If you have an SCV-friendly publisher such as Scuppernon Press or Shotwell Publishing, they will work with you to make these changes.

After reviewing the third edition of *The South Was Right!* I realized I did not have a photo of our National Confederate Museum in it. I will be working with Shotwell to put a photo of our museum and "(www.scv.org)" in the Kennedy Twins's biography.

These efforts may seem small, but their cumulative impact will make a significant difference in recruiting new members.

James Ronald Kennedy
Chairman 21st Century Confederate Heroes
Campaign
Editor Confederate Legion Newsletter

Who should be the fourth best general?

To the Editor:

In the July/August issue of *Dispatches From the Front*, Jeff Wolverton asked about the fourth greatest Confederate general. He lists Lee, Jackson and Forrest as the top three and suggests Richard Taylor or Albert Sidney Johnston as perhaps the fourth: great names. Anyone can humiliate Union General Nathaniel Banks at any time, including in the Red River Campaign, is great by me. However, I would select Joseph Johnston as my fourth. If allowed to consolidate forces and pick his battles the western theater may have had a viable army in 1865. For example, to give up Vicksburg as he wanted, seems unbelievable on the surface. But what if he exchanges a key place for a stranded army of 30,000 which could harass Union river traffic and bottle up the Federal army? Where would the politicians in Washington want Sherman's army? Probably he would remain in the west.

Jeff's thought also generates the question of who was the North's top general? I would select Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs. It was his genius to move goods which allowed the Union army to obtain sufficient supplies. Thinking of each major battle in the east, the Army of the Potomac (AOP) would have departed the South without continuous supplies. If not for a dependable supply, would the AOP remain at Sharpsburg or Gettysburg? At those battles, Lee did not have the logistic advantage and withdrew for lack of goods, from rations to ordinance.

Jeff is a fellow compatriot from the same camp, always with thoughtful insights.

George W. Hicks
Judah P. Benjamin Camp 2210
Tampa, Florida

Photo in last issue was mistaken

To the Editor:

The commander-in-chief's column in the July/August 2025 magazine showing the picture purported to be General Joseph Weydemeyer is that of General August Willich.

Weydemeyer's highest rank in the Union Army was colonel of the 41st Missouri Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Willich was a brigadier general, breveted a major general in October 1865.

Dexter E. Oliver
Gen. William D. McCain Camp 584
North Chesterfield, Virginia

Yankee correspondents provide an answer

To the Editor:

The article, "Dispatches From The South" in the July/August issue was on Frank Lawley, the English war correspondent. He spent most of his time covering our armies as the US Army camps were inaccessible. Lawley said Stanton, the US Secretary of War, wouldn't allow Englishmen near their armies. The question of what are the Yankees hiding has an answer.

Yankee war correspondents have that answer. Whitelaw Reid was expelled from a US Army camp, in January 1862, for reporting on defective cartridges supplied to their army. Sylvanus Cadwallader ran into trouble with Stanton after one week of fighting outside Petersburg, with 15,000 US casualties. He "knew Stanton's disposition to withhold all truthful accounts of reverses and losses ... he never allowed a candid admission ... if the losses were clearly above ten thousand ... one-third or one-half that many was the limit he would allow to be made. ..." Numerous

battles, such as Kennesaw Mountain, have US generals admitting losses at half of what we thought.

Cadwallader also gave remarkable details of U.S. Grant's drunkenness. To this day Grant's admirers argue he wasn't drunk during the war. Until Lincoln was deified upon his death, Grant was more popular than Lincoln. Drunk or not, victor or not, he was their big general. His admirers might get queasy reading Cadwallader.

Ross Massey

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston Camp 28
Nashville, Tennessee

Yankee soldiers don't deserve to honored

To the Editor:

Many times I have read the statement, "All soldiers deserve to be honored." I have even read it in the *Confederate Veteran*. I adamantly disagree with that statement. How can one honor the dishonorable? As a whole, the invading Yankees did not fight with honor. They were terrorists who murdered innocent civilian old men, women, and children (black and white), abused women (black and white), burned homes, churches, crops, libraries, and schools. They desecrated churches by using them to stable their horses. They killed livestock and family pets. They polluted wells so as to deprive the people of water. They stole valuable family heirlooms, money, and anything considered of value. They beat and tortured people, including old women, to find out where the loot was hidden. Maybe it's just me, but I fail to find any honor in those actions.

On the other hand, the Confederate soldier, as a whole, DID fight with honor. General Robert E. Lee refused to take revenge on innocent civilians in the North for the abuses handed out to Southerners at the hands of Sherman, Sheridan, Butler, Hunter, and other Yankee terrorists.

Last year I read the book, *Union Terror*, by Dr. Jeffrey F. Addicott. This is one book, among many, which tell of the Yankee atrocities committed upon the people of the South. Sherman, and others, grossly violated the Lieber Code which set the guidelines for civilized warfare. Had the South won, many of the Union high command would have been tried for war crimes and summarily executed.

I firmly believe in giving honor where honor is due, but there is none due the Yankee soldier who illegally invaded our homeland and committed unspeakable atrocities against helpless civilians. This includes destroying their food sources and leaving them to starve, which many did. Those who say, "All soldiers deserve to be honored" either do not know the evil acts perpetrated by the Yankees upon our people, or are so caught up with blind devotion to the military that they consider anyone wearing a uniform deserving of honor. Honor, like respect, is earned. The Confederate soldier earned his. The Yankee soldier didn't.

God Bless Dixie!

Jeff Paulk

Oklahoma Division Commander

Confederate Symbols

To the Editor:

Congratulations to Greg Frazier on his magnificent article "Confederate Symbols in US Army Service During the 20th Century." Outstanding research and most interesting historical article. I enjoyed it very much.

Within Greg's article he wrote of Confederate symbols which were also used within the Boy Scouts. Here is a Boy Scout patch I would like to share with you from when I was in the Boy Scouts in Concord, NC. It is a 1957 Boy Scout Order of the Arrow Fellowship patch given to those Order of The Arrow Scouts who attended the Dixie Fellowship at Camp Palmetto in Spartanburg



SC. This patch is now considered extremely politically incorrect for it displays an Indian holding a Confederate Flag and contains the word Dixie. What a collectors item it is! It's enough to drive any Yankee crazy. The patch is framed and hangs in my office.

Again, congratulations to Greg Frazier for such fine work!

Tom Fagart

Cabarrus Guards Camp 1837
Concord, North Carolina

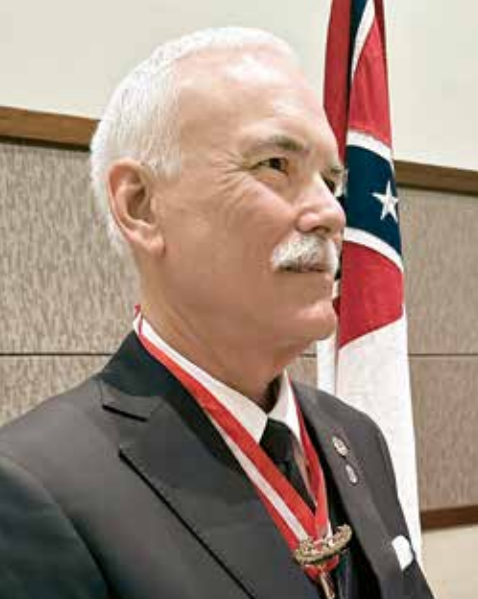
'All Confederate Flags represent history'

To the Editor:

I was quite surprised by some of the comments from the letter writer from Camp 584. In his letter he states, "My compatriots and I do not condone slavery, and we do not belong to a racist organization." Is he referring to the present tense or the past tense? If he is referring to the past tense, I assume he thinks the Yankees were trying to free the slaves and the purpose of the war was to free the slaves. Myself and other members have written letters to the *Confederate Veteran*, which were printed, which stated the purpose of the war was not to free any slaves. No one living at the time thought the purpose of the war was to free the slaves. Lincoln stated many times he was not trying to free any slaves. Lincoln ran on a pro-slavery

Continued on page 52

Letters to the editor are welcome. Please e-mail to eic@scv.org or you can mail to 9701 Fonville Road, Wake Forest, NC 27587. Please include your camp name, number and city. Space is limited; try to keep to 500 words or less, but longer letters may be edited and/or printed, space permitting. Differences of opinion are invited; attacks on fellow compatriots are not and will not be published.



REPORT OF THE LT. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

**LT. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
ANTHONY M. GRIFFIN**

LTCIC@SCV.ORG

The Battle around Old Principles

You do not have any idea how fast time goes by until two months have slipped by and another article for the *Confederate Veteran* is due. I am joking, sort of, but that two months flies by at an incredibly fast rate. Meanwhile, I think of one thing to write about and scrap that idea. I then go off in another direction and repeat that process several times before sitting down and finally getting it written.

As I was trying to think of something fresh to write about, I decided to go back into the old *Confederate Veteran* archive we have on our website. I chose to look at what issues were facing our membership one hundred years ago and opened the issue from January 1925. Not surprisingly, many of the topics talked about in the article concerning our organization are basically the same things we continue to deal with today.

The title of the column is:

LOOKING FORWARD AND BACK. The Battle around Old Principles.

It began with discussing a proposed Amendment to the Constitution which was deemed by the author, in my words, to go against the principles of our ancestors. The term Bolshevik and socialist are used quite freely.

Powerful forces are at work to engraft this socialistic principle upon our government. With

them are the Socialists and the mass of paid professional “reformers.”

Do these words sound familiar in today’s political climate? They should! This article delved into the continuing issue of States Rights we still debate about today.

The time to help preserve the theory of government for which the Confederate soldier fought, and which is now attacked ... is now at hand.

It is vital to the safety and the continuance of our American nation that the people withstand now this mass attack upon our fundamentals of government and Americanism by these forces of socialism, shallow sentimentalism, and bureaucracy.

This statement is as true today as it was then. It is hard to get the truth to people, hard to sift truth from propaganda and sophistry when we do get it. The indications are the American people are not willing to turn over their government to the crack-brained theories now upheaving Europe.

The article goes on to bash the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* and rightly so.

With this explanation it will not be necessary to urge this so-called hymn, impious and blood-thirsty, be banned the South.

I am not even going to discuss that abysmal “hymn” except to completely agree with the author about how revolting it is. I suggest you go and read the complete article. The information we

have available on our website is outstanding. Go and check out the old issues of the *Confederate Veteran* and the link to the Confederate Legion. These are great resources to help you in defending the honor of our ancestors.

At one of the camp meetings I attended recently, the speaker talked about many things Southern which have disappeared over the years. Obviously, the Battle Flag was one of the things which has shrunk from public view. He provided examples like the old Dixie Cola bottles some of you may remember. Aunt Jemima, Uncle Ben and the Land O' Lakes Indian girl were also examples of the purging of symbols deemed politically incorrect. Several of the items displayed were things I had completely forgotten about. The purge has been going on for decades.

What do we do? As I have stated in previous articles, we have to get out in the public and show them who we are and what we do. Don't let the "enemy" control the narrative. Don't ever be afraid to defend the good name of the Confederate Soldier. Recruit new members and retain those you already have!

The first year of my term will end shortly as we will be in Houston for our Reunion in a couple of weeks. It has been a busy year and I have enjoyed it. I have visited camps, Division Reunions or attended events in all three armies. I have seen camps which are growing and those which are struggling and need help from the rest of us to get headed back in the

right direction. I have caught back up with friends I haven't seen in a long time and met many new ones. In my opinion, our organization is one big family and I have felt welcome like a family member everywhere I have gone.

My plan for the next year is to get out to visit as many camps as possible and attend Division Reunions not yet visited. I will be heading to one of our northern outposts in Michigan soon after Houston. I thank each and every one of you for your support given me this past year!

Always remember the Lord is our shepherd and never lose hope!

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 — So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Glod Bless you and your families and may God Bless the South!

Deo Vindice,

Tony
Anthony M. Griffin
Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans



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Forward The Colors

**AN EDITORIAL FROM THE
CHIEF OF
HERITAGE OPERATIONS
PAUL C. GRAHAM
PCG.SCV2024@GMAIL.COM**

1,000 Volunteers!

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the signing of The Declaration of Independence, the most important secession document in our history on the American continent, we are presented with an opportunity which none (or very few of us) will live to see again.

Our Confederate fathers knew this document and fought to defend the principles contained therein: namely, the maintenance of the rights enumerated in the preamble and the nature and purpose of government itself, namely, to keep secure those rights which include (but are not limited to) life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They knew that whenever governments fail to execute this, their sole purpose,

“it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness.” (emphasis added)

What our Confederate forefathers could see is barely visible to the modern eye. After having been born into a world where these united States are viewed as parts of a nation “one and indivisible.”

There was no “new nation” brought forth by our colonial fathers in 1776. It was then and legally (i.e., constitutionally) remains today a voluntary union of sovereign States (or countries — think of the European Union) all of whom retain their prerogatives as sovereign States with the sole exception of those powers they delegated to the common government created by their own action.

This is not a theory, it is an easily verifiable and documented fact.

Our Confederate fathers were the sons and grandsons of those men who created the Federal Union of States and knew exactly that to which their States agreed and to which they did not agree.

The Confederates had constitutional justification for leaving, knowing the union was founded as a voluntary agreement for the mutual benefit of all of the States. They compared — and rightly so — their position to their colonial ancestors, who resisted rule by the English Parliament (who they neither elected nor had any representation) and a king who failed to defend their inherited rights from this parliament who claimed to rule over them in “all things whatsoever.”

Their fathers and grandfathers did not fight the British over a tea, sugar, or stamp tax, but over the

issue of who had the right to tax them, if anyone, without their consent — an entirely different matter altogether and far more important than its expression in any of the particular overreaches.

Because the colonies had no representation in parliament, they rejected the notion they had any such right. The war for American Independence was not “about taxes,” although it did bring to light the scheme being carried out against them as British subjects born with all the rights and privileges as any other British subject born on English soil.

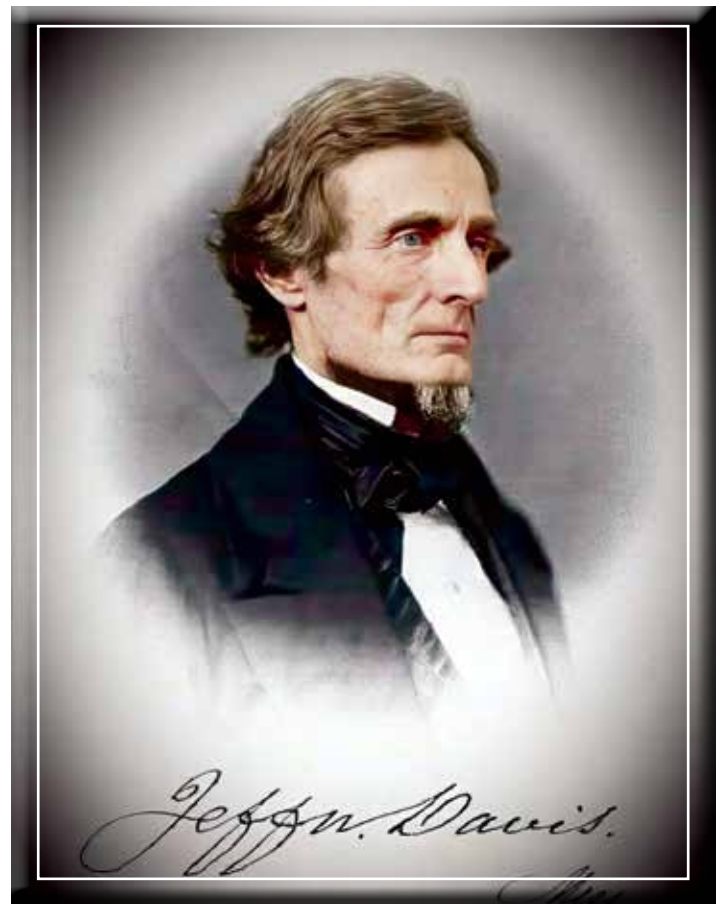
The colonist tried to work things out and would have if they could have, but Parliament was unmovable and the King would not (could not?) stand in the breach or harken to their remonstrations.

Independence — what our Confederate fathers called secession in their bid for independence — was not the British colonies first choice, but there came a time when it was the only way forward. They, therefore, withdrew their consent, declared themselves to be independent States [plural]. Was this treason? Not if the purpose of government was to recognize their rights. Not if they were being arbitrarily ruled by a parliament which had nothing to do with their royal charters, English common law, or their inherited rights gained over the course of many centuries.

Patrick Henry, the great Virginian patriot, summed up the proper order between government and the governed when he said, “The first thing I have at heart is American liberty; the second thing is American union.”

Years later, in response to a toast given by President Andrew Jackson, “To the Union, it must be preserved!” Vice President John C. Calhoun retorted with a sentiment similar to Patrick Henry’s, “The Union: next to our Liberty the most dear ...” To which he prophetically added, “may we all remember that it can only be preserved by respecting the rights of the States, and distributing equally the benefit and burden of the Union!” (I think it is clear they didn’t remember the formula for preserving the union.)

Jefferson Davis was also of this mind, being the son of a veteran of the Continental Army in the War for American Independence, Samuel Emory Davis, he knew whereof he spoke when he said, “I love the Union and the Constitution, but I would rather leave the Union with the Constitution than remain



in the Union without it.” Elsewhere President Davis said, “Governments rest on the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish them at will whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established.”

Does any of that language sound familiar, Southern son?

The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence matters because it gives us a piece of documentary evidence, revered by many, many Americans, which vindicates the Confederate cause — the same cause as that of their fathers and grandfathers who secured American independence. The Southern States merely wanted to live under the government bequeathed to them by their fathers which rested upon the principles of ordered liberty, the rule of law, and the consent of the governed.

I don’t know how to make the principals underpinning the two American wars for independence any clearer. You cannot cling to one without clinging to the other, despite what Lincoln and other “nationalists” living in a union of sovereign states,

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Chaplain's Comments

Rev. Dr. Tom Hiter
Chaplain-in-Chief

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“Having called us together ...”

Well! At the time of this writing, the 130th Reunion has just ended. “Houston, the SCV has landed, done it’s work and departed” Or, words to that effect. No, I am not confused about the location of the Reunion. It was in Houston, Texas, not on the moon, and the venue hotel was right out there by the airport. But the pun was just too tempting to pass up. I’m sorry. I was taught in English class sometime in the middle grades that a pun is the lowest form of humor, but they really are hard to pass up, aren’t they?

Really, the Reunion was a wonderful opportunity to get together with old friends and to make some new ones. The host hotel was excellent, the host camp did a magnificent job, and the attendance was pretty darned good, too. It wasn’t as big as it used to be, 15 or 20 years ago, but our organization isn’t as big as it was, at the turn of the Century, either. There are probably many reasons for that, but at the top

of the list are the Covid hysteria which senselessly drained many of our national institutions almost dry (our own along with most veteran’s organizations, many, if not most Churches, many, if not most Masonic Lodges, and so forth) and the incredibly toxic state of political discourse in which we find ourselves. Be that as it may, neither of those are fit grist for a Chaplain’s mill, and it is certainly not the purpose of this column to discuss either one. What I would like to say a couple of words about is the really good news we heard during the business sessions, and then to reflect on a couple of religious implications of the conduct of our business, in Houston.

The good news? There was a lot of it. We’ve gotten used, over the past several years, to people representing camps, Divisions, businesses and others making donations during sessions. That continued in Houston, but with a twist: The Museum is paid off! Yes, that’s old news, but it remains

good news. In a remarkably short time, a multimillion dollar, state of the art historical museum has been paid for. I was there for the groundbreaking. We all assumed it would take the rest of our lives to pay for it. Guess what? I’m still alive. So are a lot of us. BTW: a great many men and more than a few women had a lot to do with it, but the main kudos have to go to Past Commander-in-Chief Chuck McMichael. At the very first GEC meeting I attended, back in 2010, Chuck showed up with a draft set of plans for a museum. He never quit. And we have a museum. A GREAT museum, and it’s paid for. Thank Chuck McMichael.

People apparently got in the habit of making donations. Now, we’re rebuilding the desecrated Forrest Plaza which used to stand in Memphis. Now, it’s going to stand at Elm Springs. It’s going to cost a fortune, but money is being raised. It is going to be wonderful.

Ronnie Kennedy spoke about the work of the Confederate Legion, and especially about the

billboard program. It's expensive, but again, the money seems to be coming in. Past Tennessee Division Commander (and national office holder, as well) Ed Butler showed us an idea he's been working on which focuses on re-enacting the decades between the turn of the 20th Century and the 1920s: those years when the last remaining bitterness between the sections seemed to die away, as the very old veterans joined together at old battlefields and in reunions to demonstrate the meaning of the reconciliation era.

Suffice it to say his idea includes T-Model Fords, straw boater hats and income for local camps. Kentucky, at least, is going to try it.

And that brings us to my final thoughts in this issue. Where's God in all of this? Well, clearly, He's where He always is. In charge of it all! The Houston Reunion and every business session was held in His honor and opened and closed with a prayer offered in His name. Every meal was opened with a call for His blessing. Christians believe He is omniscient, omnipotent and

omnibenevolent. That is, ever-present and all knowing, all powerful and all loving and good. He was there, among us, and it was our duty to recognize Him and welcome Him. So, we did. Is that why the whole reunion ran so magnificently? I have to believe it has a lot to do with it. Of course it was! Let every meeting we hold be held in His honor, and in His name, and let us proclaim it loudly and proudly!

Amen.



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Forward the Colors

may have said to the contrary.

The revolutionaries in the conflict of 1861-1865 were not the Southerners; they clung to the values and institutions established by their fathers. They were not trying to overthrow anything. No, gentlemen, it was Lincoln and other schemers who placed government ahead of the governed and made the American principle of "consent of the governed" a mark of treason against the "National Authority" — his description of a government proxy that would not and could not exist without the States which created it. The principles of '76 are found in the Confederate cause; they are not found in the war inaugurated by Lincoln.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans have made an impact this year with billboards across Dixie and beyond, radio and print ads, and a largely informal use of

social media to reach thousands — many of whom don't encounter our messages through traditional channels.

I plan to dedicate my last year as your Chief of Heritage Operations to make this "force multiplier" something any compatriot or friend of the South can do and do easily. It will only cost you an e-mail address and a willingness to answer the call.

If you have a social media account (or several), I am calling for you to embark on the biggest public relations campaign in our history. This operation will be run through the SCV Confederate Legion. If you are not a member, please consider joining. The annual dues are \$50 (90 percent of which will help to fund, upon

application, heritage related initiatives of camps, brigades, divisions, and armies) and is open to SCV members and non-SCV members alike.

While we certainly want you to join to help fund the good works of our compatriots, we will open up our force of "Keyboard Guerrillas" to anyone who wishes to aid us in vindicating the cause of our Confederate fathers.

For more information, please visit scvconfederatelegion.com/kgs or QR code provided in this article.

We need no less than 1,000 volunteers to make a sizable impact! The time to be counted is now! Don't hesitate, join the Keyboard Guerrillas today! Saddle up. We're gonna have one helluva good time!



The Last Roll

Raphael Semmes Camp 11
Mobile, AL
David M. Smithweck

Gen. Robert E. Lee Camp 16
Auburn, AL
Douglas Joel Barrett
Steven A. Smith

Gen. George "Tige" Anderson Camp 453
Anniston, AL
Robin Howard Mullinax

Dekalb Rifles Camp 1824
Fyffe, AL
Darryl Ray Dasher

Fort Blakeley Camp 1864
Baldwin County, AL
Henry Preston Barnes

James M. Keller Camp 648
Hot Springs, AR
Cecil Patton Fields

Capt. John W. Randle Camp 649
Dardanelle, AR
Lynn Maurice Ducote

Bonnie Blue (AR Division HQ) Camp 2070
Mountain View, AR
Michael Joseph Bogden

General Joseph Finegan Camp 745
Yulee, FL
Michael Edward Lord

Stephen Russell Mallory Camp 1315
Pensacola, FL
Walter Larry Stafford
James Robert Wheeler

Theophilus West M.D. Camp 1346
Marianna, FL
Willie Earl Paramore

Capt. Bluford M. Sims Camp 1630
Ocoee, FL
Richard Paul Hosier, Jr.

Dixie Defenders Camp 1861
Cross City, FL
James E. Tucker, Sr.

Gen. Edward Dorr Tracy, Jr. Camp 18
Macon, GA
Jett Van Warren Smith

Major William E. Simmons Camp 96
Lawrenceville, GA
David Lafayette Floyd

Thomas Marsh Forman Camp 485
Brunswick, GA
Thomas B. Scott

General Stand Watie Camp 915
Calhoun, GA
Wesley M. Houston

Ogeechee Rifles Camp 941
Statesboro, GA
Ashley Robert Harmon
Michael Anthony Mull

The Confederate Memorial Camp 1432
Stone Mountain, GA
William David Parr

Buckhead - Fort Lawton Brigade Camp
2102
Millen, GA
George Edward Perryman

Franklin Rangers Camp 2334
Carnesville, GA
Kenneth D. Voyles

Maj. Thomas J. Key Camp 1920
Johnson County, KS
Benjamin Carsen Phillips

Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor Camp 1308
Shreveport, LA
Jerry Donald Walden

Gen. James H. McBride Camp 632
Springfield, MO
William Wayne York

Col. John T. Coffee Camp 1934
Osceola, MO
MacDonald King Aston

Col. William P. Rogers Camp 321
Corinth, MS
Thomas Nelson Hardin
Kenneth Ray Roaten
William Chad Wilson

Jefferson Davis Camp 635
Jackson, MS
Peter Barr Miazza

Tippah Tigers Camp 868
Ripley, MS
Kerry Bryant



William D. Cameron Camp 1221
Meridian, MS
Jack Michael Null

Fayetteville Arsenal Camp 168
Fayetteville, NC
Larry Calvin Hardee

The Thomasville Rifles Camp 172
Thomasville, NC
Paul Purnell Payne, Jr.
James Donald Stewart

Robeson Rifle Guards Camp 216
Lumberton, NC
S. Lee Summersett

Lt. F. C. Frazier Camp 668
High Point, NC
Tommy Edward Hughes

James B. Gordon Camp 810
Wilkesboro, NC
Charles S. Gilreath

Maj. Charles Q. Petty Camp 872
Gastonia, NC
Donald L. Swedensky

Col. John Sloan Camp 1290
Greensboro, NC
Richard Scott Allred

Sgt. John A. Lisk Camp 1502
Troy, NC
Carl Edward Grey, Jr.

Col. John B. Palmer Camp 1946
Burnsville, NC
Gregory S. Robinson

The Burke Tigers Camp 2162
Valdese, NC
Elgie L. McGalliard

Carolina Grays of Pender County Camp
2174
Burgaw, NC
John Anthony Tullous

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Confederate Images

by C.E. Avery



Frederick Chatard, CS Navy

Frederick Chatard was born in Baltimore, Maryland on May 17, 1807 to a family of well-to-do physicians.

Chatard entered US Naval service at age 17 in November 1824. During his career he served in Brazil, West Indies and Pacific stations. As a lieutenant he served aboard the USS *Vandalia* during the Seminole Indian War. Following this he was attached to the frigate *Independence* and a merchant brig called *Brighton*, which was armed, participating in the capture of Mazatlan and blockading of Manzanill during the War with Mexico.

Later he served aboard various frigates and sloops and co-operated with Commander Paulding in the capture of General Walker's filibustering expedition in Nicaragua.

In 1855 he was commissioned a commander in the Navy.

Resigning from US service he entered the Confederate Navy with rank of commander in August 1861. He was first sent to the Manassas fortifications to drill men in the use



Captain Frederick Chatard

of cannons. This was done because there were not enough naval vessels in the fledgling Confederate Navy for men to serve on and because there was a lack of qualified people to train artillerymen.

Next he took command of batteries at Mathias Point and Evansport on the Potomac River, which helped to blockade Washington, DC, by river.

Between May 31, 1861 and March, 1862 they fought with several US vessels and repulsed two land attacks by Federal forces. When the Confederate Army retired from Manassas, these batteries were evacuated also.

From here he was transferred to service at the Drewry's Bluff batteries and later on was Chief of Heavy Artillery for General Magruder on the Virginia peninsula in March 1862. He was commended by General Magruder for his excellent service during the battles of the Peninsula Campaign.

Chatard's last duty station was at Orange Court House, Virginia in April 1864.

After the war ended, he moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he died in 1897. At the time of his death it was said he was the oldest living Confederate Naval Officer, having died at the age of 90 years.



Prisoners of the Yankees

By Scott Barker

In war, it is the victors who pass judgment on the vanquished. Thus, the appropriateness of treatment meted out to prisoners taken on the field of battle during the War Between the States was to be decided by the United States government. Of course, we are familiar with the show trial of Captain Henry Wirz before a military court for alleged war crimes as commandant at Camp Sumter military prison camp near Andersonville, Georgia. Wirz rejected an offer of parole if he would falsely incriminate Jefferson Davis for ordering the criminal conduct by prison authorities. The military tribunal pronounced him guilty and he was hanged in a carnival-like atmosphere on November 10, 1865. Various body parts were severed from his corpse and placed on display for public viewing at the Old Capitol Prison.¹ Today, many historians agree his conviction was an indefensible travesty of justice.²

Exculpation of the Union for Prisoner Treatment

The matter of prisoner treatment did not end with the execution and gruesome dismemberment of Captain Wirz, for on July 10, 1867, the Fortieth Congress of the United States House of Representatives appointed a special committee to investigate the treatment of prisoners of war and Union citizens held by Confederate authorities. In their report, they concluded:

[T]he army and navy of the United States are wholly and entirely exculpated from any responsibility for these great sufferings and crimes; while the evidence points with unerring finger to the highest as well as subordinate officers of the Confederacy as the great criminals; guilty of atrocities for which Wirz suffered

at the gibbet [gallows].”³

Hence, the treatment of Confederate prisoners of war and Confederate citizens imprisoned at Union prison camps would not be held to account for their conduct. While the delivery of an indictment against the Confederacy and a vindication of themselves was always a certainty, the baleful behavior of the Lincoln administration in the treatment of Confederate prisoners of war was evident to Southerners. In the aftermath of Reconstruction, Jefferson Davis posed several questions concerning the Congressional Committee’s inquiry into the treatment of prisoners of war. These questions included “Why was the inquiry limited? Did doubt and dread warn the committee against looking behind the screen? Or was the object to allow the imagination to run loose rein, accompanied only by the swiftest witnesses? Fit means to conceal the truth and foster discord!”⁴

The lack of an examination of prisoner treatment and mortality at Union prison camps notwithstanding, empirical evidence gained through reviewing camp mortality rates provides insight into their operation. These mortality rates established a systemic program of abuse and disregard for the welfare of Confederate prisoners, which only worsened with the collapse of the Dix-Hill prisoner and exchange cartel in 1863. The suspension of the cartel saw the overpopulation of prisoner-of-war camps and an ever-increasing number of deaths.⁵

1 Atlanta Gone With the Wind. “Henry Wirz’s body parts on display.” August 24, 2013. www.atlantagonewiththewind.blogspot.com.

2 Linda Wheeler. “Wirz Took Controversial Fall for Andersonville Tragedy,” *The Washington Post*, June 10, 2004.

3 The Report on the Treatment of Prisoners of War by the Rebel Authorities During the War of the Rebellion. (Washington, DC, Government Printing Office, 1869). 8.

4 Google Books. Jefferson Davis. *Andersonville and Other War-Prisons*. (New York: Belford Company, 1890). Part I. From *Belford’s Magazine*. <https://books.google.com>.

5 Legal Legacy. “July 22, 1862, Dix-Hill Cartel Agreement between the Union and the Confederacy.” www.legallegacy-wordpress.com.



POINT LOOKOUT, MD
VIEW OF HAMILTON GEN. HOSPITAL & U.S. ARMY DEPOT FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Retaliation against Confederate Prisoners

In retribution for the alleged abuses committed in Confederate prison camps, US Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton ordered retaliation on Confederate prisoners held in Union prisons. And, while the Union made great propaganda over the death rate at Andersonville, they failed to acknowledge similar conditions and mortality rates at Union prison camps.⁶ At the war's end, nearly twenty-six thousand Confederate prisoners had died in captivity, which testifies to the failure of the Union to not only properly care for prisoners in their custody but that it had been complicit in their deaths.

According to the National Park Service (NPS), four Union prisoner-of-war camps experienced mortality rates of fifteen percent or greater, with Elmira being the greatest at twenty-four percent. Still, the NPS writes "[t]he Confederate government was unable to provide the prisoners with adequate housing, food, clothing, and medical care. ..."⁷ Conversely, the Union was well pro-

visioned, and it was easily within their ability to provide the necessities of life to prisoners of war and imprisoned Confederate citizens. Indeed, the NPS statement serves as an indictment of the Union for their wanton acts of cruelty to prisoners in their custody. Moreover, Captain Wirz had specifically appealed to Union authorities to resume prisoner exchange to reduce overcrowding and mortality rates at Camp Sumter; furthermore, he proposed to release many gravely sick prisoners outright if the Union would provide for their transportation. The Union refused; therefore, culpability in the deaths of many Union prisoners, prisoners for whose deaths Captain Wirz had been executed, was attributable to Union indifference.⁸

Wickedness in the Treatment of Confederate Officers

The vindictive and torturous treatment of the six

6 Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Andersonville." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, March 18, 2018. www.britannica.com/place/Andersonville-Georgia.

7 US National Park Service. "History of Andersonville Prison

- Andersonville National Historic Site." <https://nps.gov>.

8 Malcolm Logan. *My American Odyssey: Discovering America One Town At a Time*. "The Dark Camps of War: Revisiting the Horrors of Andersonville." June 11, 2019. www.myamericanodyssey.com.

hundred Confederate officers confined at Fort Pulaski, Georgia, for the alleged mistreatment of a corresponding number of Union officers held in Charleston, South Carolina, was an act of unmitigated cruelty. The Union officers had been moved from Camp Oglethorpe, a prisoner-of-war camp near Macon, Georgia, to avoid advancing Union cavalry. The Union asserted their officers were deliberately placed in harm's way and were being used as human shields to abate Union bombardments of the city. The argument was fallacious, but it served the purpose of depraved and vindictive leaders in the Lincoln administration.

These Confederate officers were imprisoned in overcrowded conditions in the fort's casemates and on reduced rations for forty-two days. Their daily rations comprised ten ounces of moldy cornmeal and one-half pint of soured onion pickles, which the Union quartermaster had condemned as unfit for troop consumption. Confederate officers were compelled to forage to supplement their diet with whatever sustenance they could find, often resulting in the occasional rat or stray cat.⁹ Subsequent accounts given by the Union officers relating to their imprisonment disclosed they had been treated well during captivity by Confederate authorities.¹⁰

Insight into the Treatment of Confederate Prisoners

Jefferson Davis was solicited by a group of citizens from the North to write an article for publication in Northern media about Andersonville and other prison camps. He accepted the invitation and, in 1888, at his home, Beauvoir, in Biloxi, Mississippi, wrote the article published in *Belford's Magazine*. The magazine article was subsequently published in book form and provided important information to the Northern public on prisoner policy the federal government had purposely withheld. Significantly, President Davis articulated a comprehensive and compelling presentation of the facts using the US War Department's records. Moreover, he drew on his personal experiences of the issue as president of the Confederacy. In the article, Davis rationalized and defended the actions of his administration and placed the blame on the Lincoln administration for the horrendous conditions at Andersonville and the attendant deaths of prisoners of war. Davis wrote in the article:

According to the reports of the United States War

Department, the relative numbers of prisoners and deaths were, in round numbers: United States' prisoners held by the Confederacy, 270,000; Confederate States' prisoners held by the United States, 220,000; United States' prisoners died in Confederate hands, 22,000; Confederate States' prisoners died in United States' hands, 26,000.¹¹

In the article, Davis further wrote, "[I]t appears the Confederates, with an excess of 50,000 prisoners, had 4,000 fewer deaths. This should not have been the case. ... Moreover, Davis opined "the North had the advantage of resources — food, clothing, shelter, medicines, surgical instruments, and all of which free commerce contributed. The only difference was — care for the defenseless."¹² Shortages of essential medicines and surgical instruments, which the Union considered contraband, and other materials derived from commerce directly resulted from the federal blockade and embargo imposed on the Confederacy.

Prisoner Deaths in Union Captivity

Official records of the Union and Confederate armies indicate 25,976 Confederate prisoners of war died in captivity.¹³ Today, only the mass burial sites and cemeteries of Union prisoner-of-war camps dot the Northern landscape where they once stood. A listing of the most deadly of those camps includes Camp Douglas in Chicago, Illinois, where more than six thousand Confederates died, and due to the destruction of camp registers, only 4,317 are known by name. The camp's generally accepted mortality rate was as high as twenty-three percent. These heroes of the South are interred in a mass grave at Oak Woods Cemetery.¹⁴ The State of Illinois was also the home of three other deadly prisoner-of-war camps, including Rock Island, with 1,960 deaths; Alton Federal Prison, with 1,508 deaths; and Camp Butler in Springfield, with 866 deaths.

Still, the prisoner-of-war camps extended throughout the Northern states and included Camp Hoffman at Point Lookout, Maryland, where 3,584 Confederate prisoners met their deaths through the brutality of their captors. And, in the State of New York, Elmira prisoner-

11 Davis. *Andersonville and Other War-Prisons*. Part I.

12 Ibid.

13 The Ohio State University, History Department, *History. The War of the Rebellion*: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies. (Washington, DC, Government Printing Office. 1880). www.ehistory.osu.edu.

14 U.S. National Park Service. "Civil War Era National Cemeteries." <https://www.nps.gov>.

9 John Ogden Murray. *The Immortal Six Hundred: A Story of Cruelty to Confederate Officers*. (Roanoke: Stone Printing, 1911). 131.

10 US National Park Service. Civil War Series. "The Prison Camp at Andersonville: Camp Oglethorpe." www.nps.com.

of-war camp registered 2,933 Confederate prisoner deaths, and Hart's Island, where an additional 235 Confederate dead are buried. At Fort Delaware, located on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River, nearly 2,700 Confederate deaths occurred, with 2,436 of them buried in the Finn's Point National Cemetery at Pennsville, New Jersey.¹⁵

Moreover, Ohio was the home of two prisoner-of-war camps: Camp Chase in Columbus, which is today marked by the Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery, where 2,260 Confederate prisoners died, with many of them in marked graves, and Johnson's Island on Lake Erie, where 235 Confederate Officers are buried in the Johnson's Island Confederate Cemetery.¹⁶ In neighboring Indiana, Camp Morton in Indianapolis, 1,763 Confederate prisoners died, with 1,616 buried in the city's Crown Hill Cemetery.¹⁷ Still, in Gratiot State Penitentiary in Missouri, another 1,140 Confederates died in federal captivity. Yet, in Washington, DC, approximately 1,000 prisoners died in the two camps located in the nation's capital city. Furthermore, even in the former Confederate states of Tennessee and Kentucky, prisoners of war died in captivity. In the State Penitentiary at Nashville, Tennessee, 359 Confederate prisoners perished, and in Louisville, Kentucky, 343 Confederate prisoner lives were lost.¹⁸ Twelve percent of Confederate prisoners never returned from captivity.¹⁹

These heroic Americans and the suffering they were forced to endure deserve to be forever in our memories, and those responsible for their deaths deserve our everlasting enmity. While each prisoner-of-war camp presented its own set of horrors, in my family, Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, is particularly lamentable. Private Lewis Barker, Company D, and Private William Oditt, Company C, both of the 5th Kentucky Mounted Infantry, 1st Kentucky Brigade, were held prisoner there. William died on May 21, 1864, and Lewis died on January 10, 1865. Although the Union was well-provisioned with ample rations for the prisoners, they were placed on starvation diets because, in Union's view, a healthy prisoner was more likely to escape. In a similar manner of cruelty, each prisoner was given but one blanket with which to survive the brutal winter of 1864-1865—in unheated buildings. On January 18, 1865,



*P. A. Foster, Co. D, 8th North Carolina Infantry Regiment
was a prisoner of war held at Point Lookout, Maryland.
He died of disease on February 1865.*

the temperature at the camp dipped to negative eighteen degrees Fahrenheit. Many prisoners were without shoes and required to stand for daily roll call in subzero temperatures; otherwise, they would receive no rations for the day. These draconian measures resulted in 499 unnecessary prisoner deaths in February 1865.²⁰ Union Major General Lew Wallace, who presided over the trial of Captain Wirz, later wrote in his autobiography:

“We are in the habit of speaking and thinking of Andersonville as the acme of horrors; it may have been so, indeed, but of this I am certain, Camp Chase was next to it, the difference being that Andersonville was a Confederate hell for [the] confinement of enemies taken in arms, while Camp Chase was a hell operated by the

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ US National Park Service. *My Civil War. “Union Prisoner of War Camps,”* www.mycivilwar.com.

¹⁹ Michael E. Haskew. “Prisons of the Civil War: An Enduring Controversy,” *Warfare History Network*, Summer 2023. www.historywarfarenetwork.com.

²⁰ William H. Knauss. *The Story of Camp Chase.* (Nashville & Dallas: Methodist Episcopal Church. 1906). 16-17.

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The Vindication of Captain Henry Wirz

By Pastor John Weaver

Matthew 10:26: *Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.*

Vindication! Anyone and everyone who has been unjustly accused and condemned desire vindication. Vindication is important. It is especially important to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906 charged us with these words:

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit 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 he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Vindication of the cause and the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name go hand in hand. When we vindicate; we defend. The truth is that any and everyone who is interested in truth, honor, justice and righteousness, should be concerned with the vindication of the innocent. We should abhor injustice.

Psalms 89:14: Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

Proverbs 21:3: To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

The motto of the Confederacy is "*Deo Vindici*" or God vindicates or our vindication is from God. God is indeed the true and ultimate vindicator; however, He often allows vindication in time and history and not just in eternity.

Psalms 7:10-16: My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart. God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready. He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordaineth his arrows against the persecutors.

Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.

God often vindicates the righteous by destroying the wicked in time and in history. However, all will be rectified in eternity.

Captain Heinrich Hartmann Wirz, better known as Henry Wirz, was promoted to major just before the end of the war. He was a Swiss citizen who immigrated to the United States in 1849. He graduated from the University of Zurich and obtained medical degrees from Paris and Berlin. He was a medical doctor and a Confederate officer.

Wirz was badly wounded at the battle at Fair Oaks (May 1862) and lost the use of his right arm. Since he was unable to continue in active service, Wirz became a clerk at Libby Prison in Richmond. His commanding officer, Brigadier General John Henry Winder, was impressed by Wirz and he was soon promoted to the rank of major.

Wirz was not only a capable, qualified officer, he was also very intelligent. Wirz spoke fluent English, German and Dutch, and on the advice of General John Henry Winder, President Jefferson Davis decided to send him on a secret mission to England and France.

When Wirz returned to America he rejoined General John Henry Winder, who was now in charge of all Union Army prisoners east of the Mississippi. Due to an increase of Federal prisoners it was decided to build Andersonville Prison (Camp Sumter) in Georgia. In April, 1864 Winder appointed Wirz as commandant of this new prison camp.

There were only two Confederate officers tried for war crimes after the war was over. One was Captain Wirz and the other was Captain Champ Ferguson. From all I have read about Champ Ferguson, there is indeed a great disparity between the South's version and the Northern version of his life. The North claimed he murdered innocent civilians. However, if he did, he did it on

a much smaller scale than that which Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and Hunter did on a much larger scale. One has accurately observed: "we punish the smaller criminals and elect the greater ones to office." Like Captain Wirz, Ferguson was hanged by the Yankees.

When the Union Army arrived in Andersonville in May, 1865, photographs of the prisoners were taken and the following month they appeared in *Harper's Weekly*. The photographs caused considerable anger and calls were made for the people responsible to be punished for these crimes. It was eventually decided to charge General Robert E. Lee, James Seddon, the Secretary of War, and several other Confederate generals and politicians with "conspiring to injure the health and destroy the lives of United States soldiers held as prisoners by the Confederate States." *American Civil War Encyclopedia*

Charges were to be filed against President Jefferson Davis as well as the other Confederate leaders.

In August, 1865, President Andrew Johnson ordered the charges against the Confederate generals and politicians be dropped. However, he did give his approval for Wirz to be charged with "wanton cruelty."

Moreover, Wirz was charged with a number of murders. He supposedly murdered a number of Yankee prisoners. The problem was all were "unnamed prisoners" and none of the murders could be verified. In fact, some of the murders supposedly happened before Wirz was ever in charge of the prison and before the prison ever held prisoners.

Wirz was charged with conspiring with Jefferson Davis to "destroy the lives of soldiers in the military service of the United States of America." Several individual acts of cruelty to Union POWs were also alleged. It was his misfortune to be the only remaining member of the prison staff. Hence, he was made to answer for all the misery which occurred at the Andersonville prison. He became the victim of public hysteria and a pawn in a sinister plot to implicate Jefferson Davis in war crimes. After two months of testimony filled with inconsistencies during a "kangaroo court," he was convicted on all counts and sentenced to death.

Everything which happened at Andersonville was beyond the control and the capacity of Wirz to correct. He did not intentionally hurt or deprive any of the prisoners for which there is a great deal of testimony in his favor. Moreover, it is impossible to issue supplies when none are available.

As bad as the prison at Andersonville was, Northern prisons were much worse. The South did not have the means to provide for the prisoners while the North did have the means, yet, Southerners in Yankee prisons suffered atrociously. More Southerners died in Yankee prisons than Yankees died in Southern prisons.



We always hear how bad it was in Southern prisons but never how bad it was in Northern prisons. Elmira in New York had a 25 percent death rate for the year it was open. At Camp Douglas in Chicago, IL, prisoners were deprived of clothing in a Great Lakes winter to discourage escape attempts, and 3,000-6,000 shivered and died in gunny sacks with holes cut for head and arms.

On July 19, 1866, Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War for the Federal government, published a report about prisoners held during the war. Figures in Stanton's report belie the cruelty often associated with Confederate prison camps (The way the North treated Confederate prisoners). From the first to the last, Confederate armies captured and held in prisons 270,000 men. The Federal armies held 220,000 men. Of the Federal prisoners in Confederate hands, 22,576 died. Conversely 26,576 Rebels died in "Yankee captivity." The Confederates, with 50,000 more prisoners, had 4,000 fewer inmate deaths.

The death rate for Confederate prisoners in the North was approximately 12 percent while the death rate for Federal prisoners in the South was approximately nine percent.

Moreover, the Confederacy did not have a war policy purposefully crafted and designed for the maltreatment of prisoners as did the North. The South did indeed endeavor to treat their prisoners with compassion and humanity to the utmost of their abilities.

As early as May 21, 1861, the Confederate Congress passed a law which provided "all prisoners of war taken, whether on land or sea, during the pending hostilities with the United States, shall be transferred by the captors from time to time, and as often as convenient, to the Department of War; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War, with the approval of the President, to issue such instructions to the Quartermaster General and his subordinates as shall provide for the safe custody and sustenance of prisoners of war; and the rations furnished prisoners of war shall be the same in quantity and quality as those furnished to enlisted men the army of the Confederacy." Thus, Union prisoners of war were fed and taken care of exactly as the Confederate soldiers were.

However, the North had an official policy in regards to Confederate prisoners of war. This policy was passed by both houses. SR 97 can be found in the Congressional Records ... old law books at universities or court houses. It is dated January 18, 1865, 38th Congress, 2nd Session.

Official U.S. Policy on Confederate POWs:

"Rebel prisoners in our hands are to be subjected to a treatment finding its parallels only in the conduct of savage tribes and resulting in the death of multitudes by the slow but designed process of starvation and by mortal diseases occasioned by insufficient and unhealthy food and wanton exposure of their persons to the inclemency of the weather."

Major Wirz was unlike Northern officers and did not purposefully or deliberately harm any prisoners. Thus, he should be vindicated and he has been vindicated in a number of ways.

I. VINDICATED BY THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM.

Wirz is vindicated in a number of ways. First and foremost, he is vindicated by the charges against him. The specifications against him were not only untrue, but also unreliable and unable to be proved. It was impossible for him to have committed some of the specified charges. He was convicted under all specifications in spite of the fact some of the charges occurred on specific dates when Wirz was not at the Andersonville Prison. For example:

Specification 6: On February 1, 1864, Henry Wirz did confine and bind a US soldier (unknown name) and from such torture he died on the 6th day.

You must remember Wirz was not appointed com-

mandant until April 1864. The prison at Andersonville did not accept its first prisoners until February 24, 1864. It is not possible a prisoner could have been killed there on the date in question. Even if it was possible, the killing could not have been accomplished by Wirz as he had not yet arrived from his assignment in Europe.

Specification 10: On August 20, 1864, Henry Wirz did order a rebel soldier (unknown name) to fire upon a US soldier (unknown name) inflicting a mortal wound from which he died.

Specification 13: On August 3rd, 1864, Henry Wirz, with a pistol called a revolver, did beat and bruise the head, shoulders and breast of a soldier, a prisoner of war (unknown name) inflicting mortal wounds from which he died August 4th, 1864. (You mean to tell me that he was beaten to death by a one armed man).

Regarding the above specified events of August 1864, Henry Wirz was in poor health and, according to camp records, spent the entire month of August convalescing at his home which was five miles from the prison. He could not have participated in these events. He was sickly, emaciated and his arm had become infected with gangrene. It was impossible for Wirz to have committed at least three of the offenses as charged in these specifications.

The truth is, none of the specifications could name even one of the alleged victims, nor describe their unit, rank or any other details about them, in spite of the thousands of Union prisoners who would have witnessed the alleged atrocities. If he was guilty of such gross and atrocious acts, surely there would have been a multitude of witnesses.

We must also consider the legal aspect of *corpus delicti*. *Corpus delicti* is Latin for "body of the crime." It is the essential facts which prove a crime has been committed. The doctrine of *corpus delicti* is the requirement the state prove a crime has been committed. How can you prove a crime has been committed without names or bodies?

Since the war was over, we must also ask why was the trial of Major Wirz accomplished by a military tribunal instead of a civil court.

II. VINDICATED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES

Why did the South hold so many Federal prisoners in Andersonville? The answer is because the North refused to allow prisoner exchanges and even refused to take their own men when the South offered them back without an exchange.

It was not simply a refusal. It was a refusal to honor an agreed-upon document which detailed precisely how prisoners would be exchanged. Moreover, it was agreed upon by both the North and the South.

If Andersonville prison was designed to hold 10,000

men and yet, it contained 32,000 men, we must ask the question: Why did the number of prisoners reach such a staggering number? Were we really capturing that many men and fighting that well? The truth is, the number was so high because the North refused to exchange prisoners. The South not only wanted to exchange the prisoners but also volunteered to send some back without exchanges if the North would accept their own men. The Lincoln government refused to accept and care for their own men.

By June of 1864 the Union had ceased exchanging prisoners with the Confederacy, as the Union had greater manpower resources and believed the exchanges were better serving the Confederacy by reinforcing our army.

Union Brigadier General T. Seymour: (Regarding the exchange of prisoners after being sent to visit Andersonville and other Southern Prisons)

“The Southern authorities are exceedingly desirous of an immediate change of prisoners. Their urgency is unbounded, but it is the poorest policy for our Government to deliver to them 40,000 prisoners better fed and clothed than ever before in their lives, in good condition for the field, while the United States received in return an equal number of men worn out with privations and neglect, barely able to walk and drawing their last breath, and unfit to take the field as soldiers. It is much wiser to leave the prisoners where they are.”

There are a multitude of Confederate prisoners which would certainly disagree with General Seymour’s statement about being better fed and clothed. When you are reduced to eating rats, dogs, cats, maggots and rotten food and wearing gunny sacks for clothes, in my estimation, that is not being well fed and clothed. Read Muriel Joslyn’s book *The Immortal Six-Hundred* for a real eye opener. Also, read John Ogden Murray’s book by the same title.

Union General Ulysses Grant: (Regarding the cessation of prisoner exchanges) August 18, 1864:

“The exchange of prisoners would mean a reinforcement of the rebel army. An exchanged rebel soldier behind barricades and fortifications fighting on the defensive was equivalent to three Union soldiers attacking him. If we hold these men caught, they are no more than dead men, as the time of enlistment is over. If we liberate them we will have to fight on until the whole South is exterminated.”

“Its hard on our men held in Southern prisons not to exchange them, but it is humanity to those left in the ranks to fight our battles, at this particular time to release all rebel prisoners north, would insure Sherman’s defeat and would compromise our safety here.”

One of the orders issued by General U.S. Grant and

written to Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War, can be found in the official records of the war but here is one where he asks Stanton to not allow General Foster to exchange prisoners. The order is dated August 21, 1864:

“Please inform General Foster that under no circumstances will he be authorized to make an exchange of prisoners of war. Exchanges simply reinforce the enemy at once, whilst we do not get the benefit for two or three months, and lose the majority entirely. I telegraph this from just hearing that some 500 or 600 prisoners had been sent to General Foster. U.S. Grant, Lt. Gen. (Page, pg.156-157).

“There is reason to fear, that many voluntarily surrender for the sake of getting home.” — Edwin McMasters Stanton, Secretary of War (US).

James Madison Page was a 2nd Lieutenant in Company A, 6th Michigan Cavalry. A Union man, a federal officer, and a prisoner at Andersonville wrote a book entitled *The True Story of Andersonville Prison*. He vindicates Capt. Wirz and demonstrates how the Federal government refused to accept their own men.

In July of 1864, Henry Wirz had paroled five prisoners to act as emissaries for the others. These emissaries carried a petition to Washington that was signed by almost every Union soldier in Andersonville, demanding the US Government abide by the original exchange agreement. Their efforts were not successful, and some of them returned to Andersonville to report to their fellows. Page writes, “When the Andersonville emissaries returned from Washington there was not one word about the exchange of negro soldiers being in the way of our release. It was then not thought of. I know for the past forty-two years that matter has been published broadcast in the North as the reason why we were not exchanged. Grigsby is right in this. The Washington authorities had concluded to stop the exchange before there were any Negro prisoners.”

In spite of all the Northern post-war moralizing, the real reason the Union soldiers were not exchanged is because the Northern government considered them expendable. Secretary Stanton said, “We will not exchange able-bodied men for skeletons,” and “We do not propose to reinforce the rebel army by exchanging prisoners.”

Secretary Edwin M. Stanton, the primary opponent after Lincoln concerning prisoner exchanges, stated there were two objections. One was that exchanging prisoners recognized the existence of the Confederacy as a nation. The other was Union soldiers, who only served for a year, were sent home, whereas Confederates, fighting on their own turf, simply went back to the army. The Union felt it was getting the lesser bargain. This left

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Lincoln Was the Traitor, Not Lee

By John Vinson

Was Abraham Lincoln a traitor? The question may jar some people who regard Abe as a semi-divine being. But the events of recent years are making it a relevant question, particularly to traditional Southerners who value their heritage. Following the War Between the States, the North and South, for the sake of reconciliation, came to a tacit agreement. Its general terms were something like this: Southerners would concede it was all for the good the North won and saved the Union under the guidance of Lincoln, while the South got acknowledgement Confederates were honorable men who did their duty as they saw it — even if their view of that duty was perhaps mistaken. In retrospect, it really wasn't a great bargain for the Southerners, but the agreement promoted harmony between the sections. It substantially lasted through the 1980s, which saw a couple of made-for-TV movies about the war which were fairly even-handed.

The deal started to unravel around 1990 with the airing of Ken Burn's *The Civil War*. This series recycled the Righteous Cause Myth (RCM) of Northern partisans during the war, namely, the North, from the purest of motives, waged holy warfare against evil and traitorous Southerners. The RCM allows no possibility slavery could have ended without war — as it did in most places in the 19th century — or the South had legal justification for leaving the Glorious Union. The RCM has gained powerful momentum during recent decades, which has culminated with the removal and destruction of many Confederate monuments. The RCM now fervently contends Confederate General Robert E. Lee, once respected by Northerners as well as Southerners, was a villain and a "traitor."

Now that the North-South tacit bargain is broken, Southerners have no obligation to abide by it. This being the case, it's time for a critical look at Abraham Lincoln. The truth is that he, rather than Lee, deserves the title of traitor. The issue with Lee is simply this: If secession was lawful, then it was not treason. In antebellum America the right of states to secede was the overwhelming consensus. President and Founding Father Thomas Jefferson endorsed this right, and as late as 1848, so did Abraham Lincoln.

So why did Lincoln change his mind? To answer briefly, his concern for the Union trumped all other principles. And what was the source of that concern? Mainly it was his desire to serve the monied people of the North who wanted economic advantage over the South and viewed secession as a threat to their commerce and profits. Robert E. Lee had a very different perspective. He properly understood the Union involved a voluntary compact among sovereign states, and this decentralized arrangement was a primary safeguard for liberty. When the Constitution was being considered, its leading architect James Madison said the federal government should not have authority to deploy military forces against the states. Lee upheld this view when he stated he had no affection for a Union "maintained by swords and bayonets."

Lincoln unfortunately had such affection, and with it he betrayed the ideals of the American Revolution, as expressed in our Declaration of Independence. That document affirmed the right of a people to form an independent government of their choosing. By denying this option to the South, Lincoln played the role of King George III of Britain, as he opposed the American colonists.



Recumbent statue of Robert E. Lee in Lee Chapel at Washing and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia.

Lincoln's betrayal also fit the legal definition of treason as defined by the Constitution. Article III, Section 3 states "Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them [the states]."

The upper tier of Southern states, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas initially rejected secession. What prompted them to withdraw was Lincoln's demand they provide troops for an invasion of the states of the lower South which had left the Union. This action confirmed the worst fears of the South, namely they were in a Union which threatened their political liberty, their economic well-being, and social peace. With respect to the latter, Southerners were alarmed by a shrill abolitionist movement, typified by the fanatic John Brown, which advocated insurrection and race war as the preferred way to end slavery.

The reason for Southern secession was not complex at all. Southerners saw no point in a union with a large body of people who disliked them and

wished them harm. That intention became even more undeniable after the war, as the excesses of Reconstruction unfolded.

The Confederates were patriotic Americans who revered the Founding Fathers. Their country, the Confederate States of America, aimed to uphold the intent of the Founders to safeguard political liberty with decentralized government, grounded in state's rights. Lincoln betrayed that vision with his consolidated authoritarian government. The Righteous Cause mythologists claim he went to war to end slavery, even as he acted to enslave free men in a Union they wanted to leave. Also, it was this "great emancipator" who — to discourage secession — endorsed a constitutional amendment to safeguard slavery where it already existed. Only much later did he embrace abolition to give his power-seeking cause the appearance of a moral crusade.

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Confederate Monuments: *The Haters Hate More than the Confederacy*

By Gould B. Hagler, Jr.

Confederate memorials have occupied public spaces throughout the South and beyond for more than 150 years. A small number of these works of art were created almost as soon as the war ended. More were built in the 1870s and 1880s. The last decade of the 19th century and the first 15 years or so of the 20th saw a sharp peak in monument building. After this spike, activity waned, but throughout the 1900s and beyond, local organizations continued, from time to time, to erect memorials in town squares, parks and cemeteries. For nearly all this time, the monuments attracted little negative attention and stirred no controversy.

More recently these memorials have become targets.¹ Activists and politicians have called for their removal and have often succeeded. In many places mobs have defaced and destroyed monuments. Few of the vandals have been prosecuted and, to my knowledge, not a single one has paid a serious penalty for this lawlessness.

Any discussion of Confederate memorials and the controversies surrounding them must begin with an examination of their origins. Why were they built? What are their functions? What messages did the builders wish to convey via these statues, obelisks and memorial stones?

Like all war memorials, Confederate monuments serve several related purposes. They mourn the dead; they praise the martial virtues of the soldiers and honor those on the home front who dutifully bore their share of

war's burden; they deliver a message to posterity, urging future generations to emulate their forebears; and they articulate an apologia defending the cause for which men fought and died. Let's take these purposes in turn.

We must remember that, first and foremost, Confederate monuments are expressions of mourning. Many of these memorials are, *inter alia*, cenotaphs – memorials to dead persons buried elsewhere. The toll of human life taken by the War Between the States has no parallel in American history. Thousands upon thousands of young men lost their lives on the battlefield or died in hospitals or prison camps. Often their families had scant information about their loved ones' final hours on earth or where their remains were interred. They are, in essence, gravestones of young men who went to war and did not return, living or dead.

"Our Confederate Dead" or a synonymous phrase is inscribed on nearly every Confederate memorial ever erected.

It is natural, of course, that the builders would add further inscriptions, words praising these dead men and their surviving comrades, words of laudation recognizing the bravery and endurance of the men who fought under their country's flag. The men honored by Confederate monuments waged war for four years against an enemy better armed, clothed, shod and fed and vastly superior in numbers. The men who came home and those who did not had earned the enduring tributes written in stone.²

There are also monuments dedicated specifically to the women of the Confederacy. Some are elaborate

1 The attacks have targeted not only monuments, but buildings, schools, streets and almost anything else with a connection to the Confederacy, however tenuous. The most extreme example is a bird. In 2020 McCown's Longspur, named for Confederate General John P. McCown, who discovered the species, was rebranded and is now known as the Thick-billed Longspur. The bird's scientific designation, *Rhynchophanes mccownii*, is (for now) unchanged.

2 The inscription on the monument in Cordele is an outstanding example of this kind of tribute. "He sprang into battle-line to defend his invaded country;/ He won marvelous victories; he suffered no discreditable defeat;/ He never abused a triumph, and never lost fortitude in the hour of disaster."



DeKalb County Courthouse in Decatur, Georgia. The Confederate Memorial was removed in 2020.

works, with marble statues and long, poetic inscriptions; others are modest memorial stones with a few simple words on a small bronze plate. These monuments honor the women who managed the farms, worked in the factories, ran the wayside homes, nursed the sick and wounded and provided support in countless other ways, all under the most trying of circumstances, while their husbands, brothers and sons served in combat.³

Some Confederate monuments contain inscriptions which state explicitly that they serve to deliver a message to the descendants of Confederate men and

women.⁴ Whether the statement is explicit or not, all the monuments bear a message to, and a lesson for, posterity. Monuments are not ephemeral things, but are crafted of stone or bronze and are meant to endure. For people my age (I was born in 1950) the War Between the States is deep in the past, surely, but when we were young we knew people (our grandparents) who knew people (their grandparents) who were the people in question: the young men who took up arms to defend their invaded country; the women who struggled to live while the men were away; the children who remembered a time

3 The following eloquent tribute, written by Woodrow Wilson, appears on a monument to the women of the Confederacy in Rome: To the women of the Confederacy. / Whose purity, whose fidelity, whose courage, / Whose gentle genius in love and counsel / Kept the home secure, the family a school / Of virtue, the state a court of honor; / Who made of war a season of heroism and of / Peace a time of healing; the guardians of our / Tranquility and of our strength

4 The monument which for many decades stood in Cuthbert had this inscription: "Heroism and love of country were never more grandly illustrated then upon the fields where confederate soldiers fought and died. Let future generations honor and emulate their virtues."

In Oakwood the message is put in Biblical terms: "Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children and their children another generation." Joel was speaking of a plague of locusts which, along with a drought, had devastated the land.

of want and stress, and who lived thereafter with fathers and grandfathers who bore the scars of war.

In every conflict in the 20th and 21st centuries, and in times of peace, descendants of Confederate veterans have served under the United States flag as bravely as their forebears did under the Confederate banner. The qualities which made Confederates good soldiers and good citizens are the same qualities needed by their descendants in this age, and in every age. Our monuments are a constant reminder.

No Confederate memorial disparages the men against whom the South's soldiers fought or expresses hostility toward the re-united nation. Some express thanks for the peace and reconciliation which followed the war. One monument stands out in this regard, a monument in Atlanta's Westview Cemetery. These words from the Book of Isaiah are carved on the column below the soldier:

THEY SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS
INTO PLOUGH SHARES
AND THEIR SPEARS
INTO PRUNING HOOKS
NATION SHALL NOT LIFT UP
SWORD AGAINST NATION
NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN
WAR ANY MORE.

This monument was built not by a ladies' memorial association or a chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, but by a local veterans' organization, the surviving soldiers themselves. These men knew war and they knew peace was better.

Next we turn to the apologia, the statements made by the Confederate memorials defend the rightness of the Confederate cause.

The grave of Major General Lafayette McLaws in Savannah's Laurel Grove Cemetery bears this inscription: "I fought not for what I thought was right, but for principles which were right." McLaws was one of tens of thousands of survivors who went home in 1865 and rebuilt their lives. They obeyed the law and were loyal to the victorious United States government. Many, like McLaws, served this government in various civil capacities. Some served in the United States Congress. Four Confederate generals were commissioned as generals in the United States army in the Spanish-American War. However, these men did not waver in their principled belief that the Confederate cause was just.

The people who built Confederate monuments held this same firm belief and through the works of art they commissioned they expressed the same sentiments. The monuments mourned the dead; they recognized the

fortitude of the soldiers; they left a message to posterity; they expressed a deep gratitude that the reunited nation achieved a lasting peace and a successful reconciliation. But did they admit guilt? No. Words inscribed on the monuments often articulate the same message as the one on McLaws's grave. These inscriptions focus on the sovereignty of the states, the rights of the people and the principles of local self-government.

It is this aspect of Confederate monuments that perhaps is most responsible for the current controversies. We will return to this theme – the apologia, the defense of the cause — and explore it in more detail, after we consider what has been written and said by some who advocate the removal of Confederate monuments.

Interpretations of historical events, if they are to have validity, must begin with the stubborn things known as facts. Let's turn to some interpretations which I have seen expressed since the efforts to remove monuments have gained momentum.

We start in Decatur,⁵ the seat of DeKalb County. In 2019, a year before the monument was removed, the county government installed an interpretive tablet a few feet from the obelisk. Here is the text on the plaque, quoted in full:

"In 1908, this monument was erected at the DeKalb County Courthouse to glorify the 'Lost Cause' of the Confederacy and the Confederate soldiers who fought for it. It was privately funded by the C. A. Evans Camp of the Confederate Veterans and the Agnes Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Located in a prominent public space, its presence bolstered white supremacy and faulty history, suggesting that the cause of the Civil War rested on southern honor and states rights rhetoric – instead of its real catalyst – African-American slavery. This monument and similar ones also were created to intimidate African-Americans and limit their full participation in the social and political life of their communities. It fostered a culture of segregation by implying that public spaces and public memory belonged to whites. Since state law prohibited local governments from removing Confederate statues,⁶ DeKalb County

5 Unless otherwise stated, all the cities and counties mentioned are in Georgia.

6 The law in question is Senate Bill 77 passed in 2020, codified in the Official Code of Georgia at Title 50, Chapter 3, subsection (b). It applies not only to Confederate monuments but all monuments "[d]edicated to a historical entity or historically significant military, religious, civil, civil rights, political, social, or cultural events or series of events" or those honoring "the military service of any past or present military personnel of this state; the United States of America or the several states thereof; or the Confederate States of America or the several states thereof."

contextualized this monument in 2019. DeKalb County officials and citizens believe that public history can be of service when it challenges us to broaden our sense of boundaries and includes community discussions of our victories and shortcomings of our shared histories.”

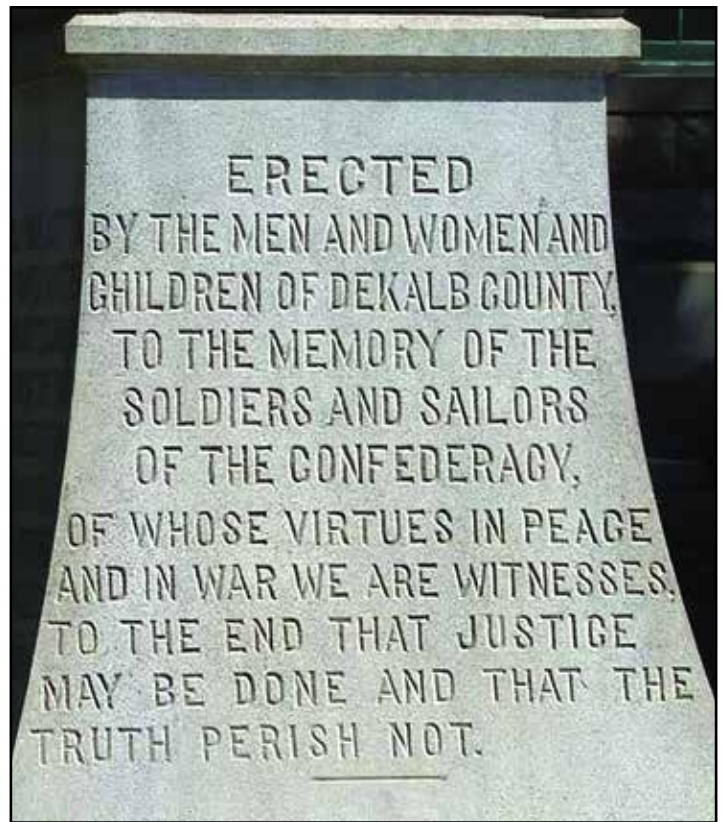
As the monument was removed in 2020, what remains is the interpretation in the absence of the thing being interpreted.⁷ Is the interpretation accurate? Did the monument bolster white supremacy? Is its history faulty? Did the War Between the States have a single “real catalyst,” or were there multiple, interrelated causes? Is history perhaps more complicated than the tablet indicates? Were African Americans really intimidated by the presence of this piece of granite and others like it? And was it really the obelisk that limited blacks’ “full participation in the social and political life of their communities”?

The second sentence on this tablet is not a question of interpretation; rather it is a simple statement. The two named organizations are said to have funded the monument. This statement is erroneous. These organizations did not fund the monument: it was paid for by “The men, women and children of DeKalb County.” These words were inscribed on the monument itself.

An article appearing in the *Atlanta Constitution* two days before the unveiling confirms the fact. The memorial was commissioned by the Confederate Memorial Association of DeKalb County. “The pupils and teachers of more than thirty schools throughout the county have contributed generously in amounts ranging from 1 cent from the smallest tots all the way up to large amounts. It is said that more than a thousand people have contributed to the monument fund.”⁸

Were the Clement A. Evans Camp of the United Confederate Veterans and the Agnes Lee Chapter of the UDC involved? Yes. The same edition of the paper stated the ladies did “much toward arousing the people of the county in this patriotic enterprise.” General Evans himself spoke at the dedication and accepted the monument “in behalf of the Confederate veterans.” But did the veterans’ organization and the UDC Chapter pay for the obelisk? No, and anyone who can be bothered to read an old newspaper — or read the inscription on the monument — can learn the facts.

The dedication of the monument was a huge community event. The day after the unveiling the paper reported 2,000 people attended. The article quoted long passages from General Evans’s address, a speech which echoes the sentiments expressed on the monument’s inscriptions. Evans spoke of the “sectional party [which



used] the powers of the common government adversely to the privileges, rights and interests of the Southern people which were under constitutional protection.” The Southern people, Evans said, did not secede “because of dissatisfaction with the constitution. They were indeed disturbed by violations of that great charter and alarmed by threats of much greater breaches of that sacred covenant.”⁹

The plaque installed to “contextualize” the now-gone monument makes various statements about the cause of the War and the motives of the people who built the monument 43 years after the war’s conclusion. How much credence can we give this interpretation when the writers err in the basic question of who paid for the memorial? The facts are easily ascertained. If the authors of this interpretation couldn’t go to the library to do some checking — or even read an inscription carved in stone just a few feet away from the tablet — we must wonder how knowledgeable they are about the complexities of major events in our country’s political and social history.

A more interesting bit of interpretation appeared two years before the DeKalb County contextualization was formulated. A journalist by the name of Joy Reid, addressing the subject of Confederate monuments, made this statement on national television:

⁹ *Atlanta Constitution*, April 26, 1908, p. 5

⁷ As of January 2023 the table was still present.

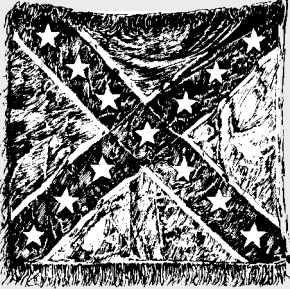
⁸ *Atlanta Constitution*, Apr. 23, 1908, p. 5.

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Don't Fade Away

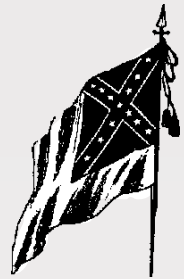
By Albert Colvin

Oh ye aging Sons of Confederate Veterans,
We ask you not to fade away.
Though your hair has turned to white,
Your weary bones no more to fight.



While at last the time has come,
You ride into the setting sun.
Then again you ride once more,
On honored fields just like before.

When at last you need your rest,
The South will face its greatest test.
O Elder Sons all clad in grey,
Lead the charge into the fray,



Our Confederate Nation ask of thee,
Ride once more and set us free,
Confederate Veterans have walked this land,
In golden years they make a stand.



Almighty God we plead with thee,
Give them strength that we might see.
Stand with them we pray this day,
Our aging Veterans all clad in grey.

Albert Colvin is a member of the General John Gregg Camp 958 in Longview, Texas.



Books in Print

The Spiritual Life of Jefferson Davis

This slim volume is a very detailed and interesting addition addressing the relationship between the Southern President Davis and his Lord. Davis held a long belief in "Almighty God and in the infallible Word of God."

Twice inaugurated as the Confederate President; first in Montgomery, Alabama and later in Richmond, Virginia; each time he paid reference to his maker and cherished the Bible on which the oaths were taken. In Montgomery newspaper reports

Davis kissed the Bible before turning to the assembled people and "said with deep and solemn emphasis, 'So help me God.'" In Richmond Davis placed his hand on the first Bible printed south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

As with all good histories, the reader will be made aware of other facets not directly related to the main subject. Before the War, all Bibles were published in the North and shipped to Southern believers. During the War, Northern Bibles were not shipped to the Confederacy. August 1861 Southwestern Publishing House in Nashville obtained printing plates smuggled out of the North and began to produce Southern Bibles. President Davis commended the effort and remarked, this "... Bible is a beautiful specimen of Southern work-

manship, and if I live to be inaugurated the first President of the Confederacy, on the 22nd of February, my lips shall press the sacred volume which your kindness has bestowed upon me."

Each chapter addresses topics which include: "His Belief in the Bible," "Prayer and Church Attendance," "President Davis's Belief in the Providence of God" and others.

Of particular interest is the information on the favorite Hymn of Jefferson Davis. His favorite (along with General Robert E. Lee) was *How Firm a Foundation*; not surprising as it addresses the trials the Confederacy was going through. Varina heard the president speak the words of this hymn "when his heart was overwhelmed with the affairs of government."

How Firm a Foundation

- 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
- 4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Always faithful, Dr. Minnigerode in Richmond could count on Jefferson Davis and his family to be "in their place on Sunday." It was in a pew of St. Paul's Episcopal Church where Davis received notice Richmond and Petersburg must be evacuated in 1865.

The author hoped in the introduction: "May this book inspire you to dig deeper into the life of a truly great American, Jefferson Finis Davis." This volume closes with a list of sources to utilize in a study of the Southern President. A unique book, all Southerners will gain insight from Dr. Fayard's contribution

to Southern History.

Author: Chaplain Cecil A. Fayard, D.Min, LHD.

Publisher: Self
cecilafayard@msn.com
Paperback \$8.95

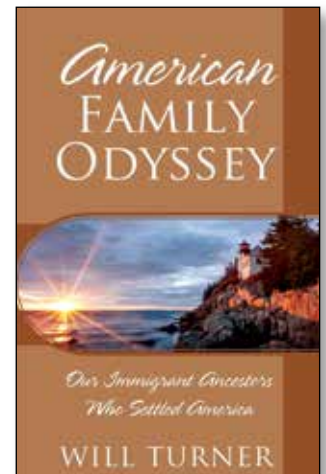
Reviewed by Gary Lee Hall

American Family Odyssey "Our Immigrant Ancestors Who Settled America"

Will Turner was born in Mississippi in 1937 and after graduating high school in 1956, he would enter the US Naval Academy. He served four years in the Navy but decided to resign his commission to marry the love of his life, and go to work for Delta Air Lines.

Like a lot of retirees, Will got into genealogical and historical research and decided to chronicle his family's arrival in America from the early 1700s up to the 2000s.

The Turner family odyssey begins in Essex, England in 1733 when Matthew Turner, age 23, will make the six week, 3,060 mile journey across the North Atlantic to Maryland to start a new life as an indentured servant. Transportation by wooden sail ship at that time to the English Colonies of North America was very grueling by today's standards. Matthew will have to work seven years



Continued on page 54

Army of Northern Virginia



Commander Ed Whitley of the **Isle of Wight Avengers Camp 14**, Smithfield, VA, packed his Honda Ridgeline, left his home in Newport News, VA, on a mission to help Hurricane Helene victims in western North Carolina. He dropped all this food at the Lee Jackson Memorial Park in Lexington. Various organizations helped collect food, including the Isle of Wight Dixie Rangers, the OCR, the Isle of Wight UDC 699, the **Urquhart-Gillette Camp 1471**, Franklin, VA; the **Stonewall Camp 380**, Portsmouth, VA; the **General William Mahone Camp 1369**, Wakefield, VA; the **Old Brunswick Camp 512**, Lawrenceville, VA; and the **McGruder-Ewell Camp 99**, Newport News, VA.



Service awards were presented to members of the 2nd Brigade, Upstate SC at the Annual 2nd Brigade picnic. **Adam Washington Ballenger Camp 68**, Spartanburg, SC, Historian Jim Crocker presented the award to Rob Chumley who's been a member for more than 40 years.



The **R. E. Lee Camp 726**, Alexandria, VA, gathered to celebrate the 93rd Annual Lee Banquet, celebrating the 218th Birthday of Robert E. Lee. The Lee Banquet remains Northern Virginia's premier black-tie celebration of the life and legacy of our beloved Marse Robert.



Attending the **Litchfield Camp 132**, Conway, SC, Christmas Party are, from left, SC Division Commander Perry Smith, ANV Councilman Randy Burbage, SCV Lt. CIC Tony Griffin, Commander-in-Chief Donnie Kennedy, ANV Commander Jamie Graham, and ANV Chief of Staff Mike Pullen.



John Thomas Ashley Camp 43, Honea Path, SC, welcomes their newest member Jeff Hawkins, being sworn in by Commander Keith Lawton.



The **Lt. F. C. Frazier Camp 668**, High Point, NC, hosted their Annual Lee-Jackson Observance. The keynote speaker, Teresa Roane, Archivist for UDC, shared an excellent evening of history entitled "Thomas Jonathan Jackson Before the War Between the States."

South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania Divisions



The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) dedicated a new Pledge of Allegiance Marker at the Hyleman's Humble Playground in Gaffney, SC. The Playground is an all inclusive place for everyone including Autistic as well as Blind to have fun. Shown on front row, DAR Ladies Margie Lambright, Michelle Jackson, Jane Waters, and Donna Sossamon; back row, **Moses Wood Camp 125**, Gaffney, SC, members Robert Little, Cecil Goforth, Phil Waters and Lamar Guest.



Members of the **Berkeley Border Guards Camp 199**, Martinsburg, WV, had a sign remade and installed on the private property of Lynn Buckmiller and family. The sign, which had been removed a few years ago, marked the site of Belle Boyd's childhood home where she shot and killed a yankee soldier. Shown from left, Ron Butts, Paul Williams, Kevin Hackley and Richard Imboden.



Members of the **Pittsylvania Vindicators Camp 828**, Callands, VA, attended the Lee Jackson Day Ceremony in Lexington, VA. Even though it was cold and clear, there was a good turnout.



Shown are members and friends of the **Private Wallace Bowling Camp 1400**, LaPlata, MD, at their recent Christmas Party.



Mary Fisher, wife of John Fisher, past commander of the **Horry Rough and Readys 1026**, Myrtle Beach, SC, joined her husband cleaning and flagging Confederate soldiers' graves at Willow Springs Cemetery, Conway, SC



The **Col. E. T. Stackhouse Camp 1576**, Latta, SC, placed 14 Southern Iron Crosses of Honor at Magnolia Cemetery in Latta, SC. Pictured are Adjutant Daryl Hardwick and Commander Brooks Harrelson.

South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania Divisions



The **McDowell Men Camp 379**, Marion, NC, installed nine new headstones for Confederate Veterans buried at Organ Lutheran Church in Salisbury, NC. Commander Alvin Hawkins uncovered burial listings in Rev. Samuel Rothrock's 1860 diaries. During the war, many of these soldiers were recovered from the battlefields of Virginia. Commander Hawkins worked with church officials to identify specific locations where they were buried in unmarked graves. Camp members Ric Davis, Joel Shelton, Randall Davis, Don Barlowe, Josh Parker and Timmy Parker (not pictured) installed the headstones.



Members of the **Tom Smith Camp 1702**, Suffolk, VA, Memorial Guard and ladies of the Black Rose Society attended the UDC Stonewall Chapter 1388 Iron Cross ceremony for two soldiers buried in Portsmouth, VA. William S. Garris of Company A, 15th NC Regiment (Oak Grove Cemetery) and Capt. John E. Deans of Co. H, 3rd VA Infantry (Cedar Grove Cemetery). From left, Benjie Nelson, Jennifer Nelson, Jim Mayo, Cookie Batten, Tim Houde, Tiffany Lloyd, Mark Miller, Jerri Reason, Shane Reason, Molly Lloyd and Mike Jones.



During the 2024 General UDC Convention in Richmond, Past Commander Richard K. Perkins, of the **Gen. R. E. Lee Camp 1589**, Midlothian, VA, was awarded the Judah P. Benjamin Medal and Certificate, for his past 33 years of community service, educational work, and civic service, during Historical Evening. From left, Historian General Susan McCrobie, Richard Perkins, and President General Jinny Widowski.



The **Burke Tigers Camp 2162**, Valdese, NC, Honor Guard takes part in a memorial for Confederate Soldiers.



Capt. David Williams/Holly Shelter Volunteers Camp 2267, Burgaw, NC, held their 5th Annual Holiday Turkey Shoot.



The **Matthew Fontaine Maury Camp 1722**, Fredericksburg, VA, held a Veterans Day Memorial Service at the Spotsylvania Confederate Cemetery in Spotsylvania, VA, in honor of the 750 Confederates buried there. The Artillery Commander, Sam Pitts, is seen as the camp artillery piece fires an honor salute.



Army of Northern Virginia



Dearing-Beauregard Camp 1813, Colonial Heights, VA, awards a monetary donation every year to a first responder in the community in need of assistance. Firefighter Andrew and his wife had a child just before the holidays, requiring a month-long stay in the hospital. The Dearing-Beauregard Camp believed his family could use a helping hand for Christmas. Pictured from right, Commander Kenny Bage, Andrew, 1st Lieutenant Commander Bill James, who presented him with a gift at Violet Bank, one of Robert E Lee's headquarters during the Siege of Petersburg.



A Certificate of Appreciation was given to Jennifer Boykins for her consistent assistance over the years to the **Gen. William Dorsey Pender Camp 1916**, Wilson, NC.



Delaware Grays Camp 2068, Seaford, DE, camp members and friends participated in the annual Lee-Jackson Day event and parade in Lexington, Virginia.



Ross Johnson is being inducted into the **Maryland Line CSA Camp 1741**, Bowie, MD, by Commander Tom Dale and 1st. Lieutenant Commander Mike Hinton.

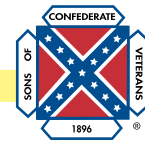


Gordonsville Grays Camp 2301, Gordonsville, VA, Compatriot Greg Deane admires the impressive sculpture with master artist Tom Gallo looking on. The clay model will be the basis for the Lee Rides Again statue going in the newly created Lee-Jackson Confederate Veterans Memorial Park (**Stonewall Brigade Camp 1296**) in Lexington, VA. While completion is far off, this should be a reminder that it only takes 1,000 loyal SCV donors at \$1,000 each to teach the woke mob that other statues may have been taken down but more will rise.



Yadkin Gray Eagles Camp 1765, Yadkinville, NC, Commander Charles Matthews, left, presented Adjutant Greg Cheek with the Meritorious Service Award and Medal from SCV Headquarters.

Army of Tennessee



Isham G. Harris Camp 109, Paris, TN, Commander Rick Revel poses at the Confederate Monument, "The Sentinel," at Henry County Courthouse during the Bicentennial event, the founding of Paris, September 23, 1823-2023.



Longstreet-Zollicoffer Camp 87, Knoxville, TN, inducted a new member into its ranks recently at Confederate Memorial Hall (Bleak House) in Knoxville. Pictured from left, Commander Earl Smith, new member John N. Williams and Adjutant John Hitt.



Members of **Col. Alfred Johnston Camp 276**, Benton, KY, represented the SCV in the annual Calvert City, KY, Christmas Parade. Pictured from left, Jimmy Thompson, Dale Ward, Dr. Tom Hiter, Commander Wayne Tate and grandson, Larry Watkins, Division Adjutant Mike Knight, Division Commander Kyle Thompson and Brent Morris.



Sons of Liberty Camp 580, Decatur, AL, Commander Gerald Robinson conducts camp business following Ryan Rogers flag presentation.



Past Commander-in-Chief Larry McCluney presented **Col. W. P. Rogers Camp 321** member Chuck Landry with recruiter of the year award.



Compatriots gathered for the 160th Anniversary of the defense of the Texas Hospital at the Quitman, MS, Cemetery. Camps represented were: **Shieldsboro Rifles Camp 2263**, Bay St. Louis, MS; **Gainesville Volunteers Camp 373**, Picayune, MS; **Samuel H. Powe Camp 255**, Waynesboro, MS; **Rankin Rough and Readies Camp 265**, Brandon, MS; **Brig. Gen. Benjamin G. Humphrey Camp 1625**, Indianola, MS, and the ladies represented the Mary Ann Forrest Chapter OCR 23.

Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin Divisions



Forrest Daws and Orin Thomas present **Sam Davis Camp 596**, Biloxi, MS, Commander Ben Lamey with Mississippi Division Commendation Medal at the Dixie Community Center.



Kirby-Smith Camp 1209, Jacksonville, FL, with their replica *H. L. Hunley* submarine, had a successful recruitment booth at the Clay County Fair in Green Cove Springs, FL.



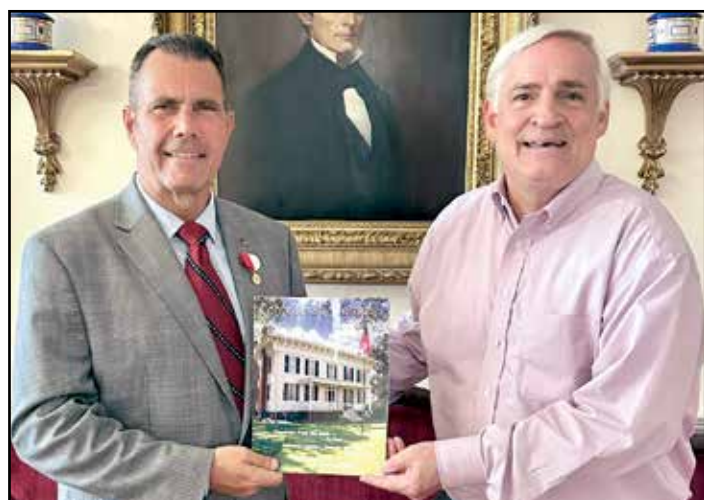
Attala Yellow Jackets Camp 663, Kosciusko, MS, member George Dorrill, left, and Brigade Commander Bruce Warren display photographs of Gen. Richard Taylor and Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks used by Dorrill in his program to the camp about the Union 1864 Red River Campaign in northern Louisiana, the campaign Gen. Sherman called "One Damned Blunder from Beginning to End."



Ryan Rogers was the keynote speaker at the **Thomas Jefferson Denny Camp 1442**, Cullman, AL. Ryan has become a much sought after speaker in recent months. He has a huge collection of flags from which he selects about ten for his program. For the Cullman Camp, he chose Alabama flags.



General Robert H. Hatton Camp 723, Lebanon, TN, Commander Tom Wood welcomes their newest member James Wyatt to the camp.



First White House of the Confederacy Docent and **Prattville Dragoons Camp 1524**, Prattville, AL, member Jayson A. Altieri, left, presents a copy of the July / August 2025 *Confederate Veteran* magazine, with the cover and feature article "The First White House" by Jayson, to Dr. Bob Weiland, Director of the FWHC.

Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin Divisions



Dewitt Smith Jobe Camp 1637, Bartlett, TN, members Johnny, Eddie and Tim, conducted CERT cleaning on a local veteran's memorial.



Matthew Talbot Nunnally Camp 1671, Monroe, GA, flagged 90 Confederate graves at Rest Haven Cemetery.



TN Division Adjutant Tom Wood presents Savage-Goodner Camp 1513, Smithville, TN, member Marty Smith with the Superior Leadership Award for his many years of service to the SCV.



Members of the Gen. Ben Hardin Helm Camp 1703, Elizabethtown, KY, donated an artist bust of Gen. Helm to the National Confederate Museum. Camp 1703 member Geoff Walden presented the bust to SCV Executive Director Adam Southern.



Ten-year-old cadet member Kasem Roden got a thundering round of applause when he presented the "Charge" recently at the meeting of the DeKalb Rifles Camp 1824, Sylvania, AL. In addition to the charge, he made pictures throughout the entire meeting. Kasem has been a cadet for several months. He has stepped forward in working with the camp. He is the son of member Todd and Kristin Roden of Fyffe, AL.



At a recent meeting of the Major William M. Footman Camp 1950, Ft. Myers, FL, Adjutant Gerald Shell, left, and Commander Ross R. Barnett recognized new Friends of the SCV Linda Turner and Payton Johns.



Army of Tennessee



Members of the **Lt. Lovett Allen Tully Camp 2071**, Colquitt, GA, hosted the GA Division Ninth Brigade Heritage Ball at the old train depot at Arlington, GA. This wonderful event featured good food, fellowship for all ages and bluegrass music for everyone who attended from Georgia, Florida and Alabama!



The **Buckhead-Fort Lawton Brigade Camp 2102**, Millen, GA, hosted its second multi-camp Lee-Jackson Banquet. The catered event, held in honor of two of the South's greatest heroes, was attended by more than 90 compatriots and family members from nine camps, some wearing period uniforms and dresses. The guest speaker was Pastor John Weaver, at right, well known for his extensive research and powerful presentations on Southern history.



The **Shieldsboro Rifles Camp 2263**, Bay St. Louis, MS, and the **Gainesville Volunteers Camp 373**, Picayune, MS, formed the 38th Mississippi Infantry, Co. C, in spite of the freezing winds at the Battles for the Texas Hospital Reenactment at Quitman, MS.



The **Judah P. Benjamin Camp 2210**, Tampa, FL, was proud to present the *H. L. Hunley Award to Outstanding Cadet/CPT* Nicholae Sheffield, right, of Armwood HS Seffner, in Tampa. Representing the Benjamin camp were Compatriots Reginald Hayes, left, and Capt. Phil Walters, not shown. Congratulations Cadet Sheffield!

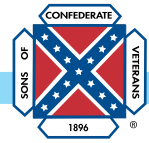


Col. Alfred Johnston Camp 276, Benton, KY, and **Col. Charles Wickliffe Camp 2337**, Wickliffe, KY, paid an annual visit to the grave of legendary Confederate sniper Capt. Jack Hinson, just outside Dover, TN, during Confederate Flag Day Weekend.



Lt. Black, Wayne Tate and John Campbell of the Western Brigade, **Kentucky Division**, pose during the Tater Day Parade in Benton, KY.

Army of Trans-Mississippi



Members of the **CA Division** gathered in Bakersfield for their annual Massing of the Colors and Re-Confederation! This year's honored guest was ATM Councilman and Past Commander-in-Chief Chuck McMichael.



Gen. James H. McBride Camp 632, Springfield, MO, Commander Ron McBride presents Hawk Harris and Steve Harris with their membership certificates.



At Living History days in Whitesboro, TX, reenactors Cindy Auld and Dillon Kirby presented Jupiter, the cannon, and local SCV Camps were represented by Ron Hawkins of **Col. George Reeves/11th Texas Cavalry Camp 349**, Sherman, TX, on the far left and Doug Bucy of **Capt. Bob Lee Camp 2198**, Bonham, TX, galvanized.



Members of the **Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor Camp 1308**, Shreveport, LA, attended and took part in the 2025 Miss Battle of Pleasant Hill Pageant. In the center is the 2025 Queen, Miss Michelle Hood with members David Hill, Chuck McMichael, Bobby Herring and Scott Summers. Compatriot Summers served as a judge and Compatriot McMichael had been named the 2025 Commandant of the Battle.



At the monthly meeting of the **Brigadier General John T. Hughes Camp 614**, Independence, MO, and the **Lt. Col. John R. Boyd Chapter 236**, MOS&B, Scott Ferguson, Deputy Commander of the Boyd Chapter, proudly displays the new Boyd Chapter flag designed by both Scott and his father, Steve Ferguson, Commander of the Boyd Chapter MOS&B.



James M. Keller Camp 648, Hot Springs, AR, Commander Floyd Harvey presented a Life Membership Certificate to Robert Fletcher Freeman.

Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, California, Iowa, Kansas, Utah and Pacific Northwest Divisions



From right are **Alamo City Guards Camp 1325**, San Antonio, TX, 3rd Lt. Commander Cody Crislip, Camp Commander Christian Lee and his fiancée Jessica Barrera attending the annual Confederate Heroes Day Dinner as they honor heritage with heart and history.



Past AZ Division Commander and **Confederate Secret Service Camp 1710**, Sierra Vista, CA, Adjutant Curt Tipton presented the H. L. Hunley award to Cadet Staff Sergeant Kyle Pepper of the Tombstone, AZ, High School Army JROTC Yellow Jackets Battalion.



Col. Sherod Hunter Camp 1525, Phoenix, AZ, inducted new member Dave Cowart into the camp on the record of his 3rd Great Grandfather, Pvt. Bunn of the Georgia Reserve. Members also spoke about the SCV Relief Fund, their favorite battlefield in a round robin presentation, and plans for Lee-Jackson Day. Shown from left are Robert Johnson, David Cowart and Steve Johnson.



Three camps came together to honor Ron Holt, World War II Veteran and Life Member of the **Colonel Philip Alexander Work Camp 1790**, Woodville, TX. Other camps present were **Co. D, Spaight's Battalion** and **Capt. Ike Turner Camp 1275**, Livingston, TX. The Honor Guard was made up of, from left, Houston Weaver, Bill Maddox, James Stutzenburg, Billy McBride, and Sid Holt, son of Ron Holt. Ron will be missed.



Capt. Granville H. Oury Camp 1708, Scottsdale, AZ, members placed a headstone for Charles Louis Scott, the last Confederate veteran of Pinal County who lived to the age of 102 years old and was witness to the death of J.E.B. Stuart.



The **Major James Morgan Utz Camp 1815**, Florissant, MO, presented the prestigious Meritorious Service Award to Marty Martin. Pictured are Marty Martin, Billy Ed Bowden and Rob Adelson.

Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, California, Iowa, Kansas, Utah and Pacific Northwest Divisions



As part of the "Bleeding Kansas" series, Compatriot Lane Smith of the **Major Thomas J. Key Camp 1920**, Johnson County, KS, presented "An 1869 conversation with Robert E Lee" to a full house, held at the first territorial Capitol of Kansas in Lecompton, KS. Joining Compatriot Smith were Key Camp members Rick McPherson, Bill Stoker, Jim Edgington and UDC President Monet Keitzman.



The *H. L. Hunley* Award was presented to Cadet Captain Azul Hernandez for exemplifying the character traits of Honor, Courage and Commitment at Arvin High School in California's Central Valley. Presenting the award was **General Albert Sidney Johnston Camp 2048**, Tehachapi, CA, Compatriot Russell Pearson.



Members of **Terry's Texas Rangers Camp 1937**, Cleburne, TX, participated in the Johnson County Old Settlers Parade. From left are Steve Willis, Nate Pun, Doug Gulley, Tracy Oaks, Steve Wells, Roy Williams and Tim Boyte.



Members of the **Lt. Alexander Cameron Camp 2226**, Greenville, TX, and members of the SCV's Mechanized Cavalry fire a cannon salute at Carpenter Station in honor of Camp Member Don Perotti who recently passed away after complications from a motorcycle wreck.



Texas Lonestar Greys Camp 1953, Schertz, TX, members and guests Merrill Hall, Mark Goode, Roy Taubert, Rusty Harris, Camp Commander Juan Ramirez, ATM Commander and Camp member John McCammon, and William Boscic attended the dedication of Tejano Confederate Statue commemorating the contributions of the Tejano Confederates. Camps from across Texas and nearby states were in attendance.



Surgeon John Cravens Camp 2276, Gallatin, MO, Commander Lanny Dixon, right, welcomes new members Mark Beach and John Swartz.



Army of Trans-Mississippi



At the Confederate Flag day rally in St. Peter's, MO, members representing the **Brigadier General Chief Stand Watie Camp 2300**, St. Charles, MO, are Commander Dave Roper, Chaplain Carl Aaron, 1st Lieutenant Commander Brad Blutsworth, and Adjutant Richard Morton.



TX Division Commander Michael Hurley and 3rd Vice-President General UDC Tami Hurley delivered this marker which was placed in Oakwood Cemetery, Richmond, VA, to honor Texas Veterans buried there. The marker was a gift of the TX Division SCV.



Private C. W. Lucas-Forrest's Escort Camp 2316, Prescott Valley, AZ, held their monthly meeting at the Bucky O'Neill VFW Post in Prescott. Members spoke about possibly erecting a monument to Confederate veterans in Citizens Cemetery, the old graveyard for citizens of Prescott.



Compatriots Paul Ayres and Gary Stuart are sworn in to the **Major Thomas R. Livingston Camp 2327**, Carthage, MO, at the antebellum Kendrick House.



Members of the **Walker's Greyhounds Camp 2338**, Tyler, TX, attended the TX Division Reunion in San Antonio, TX. From left are Camp Commander Zach Sabota, Stratford Sabota, TX Division Commander Michael Hurley, and Camp Chaplain Monty Williams.



Captain Moses J. Bradford Camp 2344, Rolla, MO, held its annual wreath ceremony in honor of the camp's namesake, Moses Bradford, on his 191st birthday at Smith Cemetery in Edgar Springs, MO. Pictured are Liam Cowell, David L. Cowell, and Camp Commander Herb Turner.

Welcome to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

ALABAMA

St. Clair Camp 308
Ashville
Phillip Alan Golden

Egbert J. Jones Camp 357
Huntsville
Michael Justin Acosta

Gen. Edmund W. Pettus
Camp 574
Alexander City
Charles Floyd Glasscock

Decatur Sons of Liberty
Camp 580
Decatur
Scott Alan Vaughn

Capt. Thomas H. Hobbs
Camp 768
Athens
Chad Ray Bullington

Captain William Graves
Camp 805
Hayden
Michael Anthony Clements

Thomas Jefferson Denney
Camp 1442
Cullman
Banks Henry Baker

ARKANSAS

James M. Keller Camp 648
Hot Springs
James Tom Webb

27th Arkansas Infantry
Camp 1519
Mountain Home
Phillip McGeorge Caradine

Polk County Invincibles
Camp 2264
Mena
Kenneth Dewayne Hastey

ARIZONA

Capt. Hunter's Arizona
Rangers Camp 1202
Tucson
Kelvin Siegfried Murphy
Dennis Paul Scanlan

COLORADO

Jefferson Davis Camp 175
Colorado Springs
Gary Walter Saleh

William T. Bridwell
Camp 2020
Canon City
Marcus W. Gaddy

DELAWARE

Mason Dixon Guards
Camp 2183
Ellendale
Danny Lee Mayes

FLORIDA

St. Johns Rangers
Camp 1360
Deland
Jason Buehlmaier

General Jubal A. Early
Camp 556
Tampa
Kenneth Edward Burke
David Dale Fox, Jr.

General Joseph Finegan
Camp 745
Yulee
Peter Phillip Mullen

Kirby Smith Camp 1209
Jacksonville
Blaise Fisher
Blake Floyd Fisher

Stephen Russell Mallory
Camp 1315
Pensacola
Gregory Chad Summerlin

St. Johns Rangers
Camp 1360
Deland
William Lee Lawrence, III

Stonewall Jackson
Camp 1381
St. Petersburg
Jay Leroy Joseph Burkey
John Leroy Burkey
Christopher Williams

Confederate Cow Cavalry
Camp 2181
Arcadia
Alvin Lee Carr
Kane Carter
Sears Corwin Coker
Fern C. Buck Conway, Sr.

GEORGIA

General Lafayette McLaws
Camp 79
Fayetteville
Dean Bowden

Black Creek Volunteers
Camp 549
Sylvania
Samuel Hutcheson Bazemore

Col. William H. Stiles-Warren
Akin Camp 670
Cartersville
David Ferguson

John K. McNeill Camp 674
Moultrie
Lonnie H. Holland, III
Kurt Eugene Stringfellow

General Stand Watie
Camp 915
Calhoun
Casey John McClure
Cayden Jake McClure
Clayton John McClure

27th Georgia Regiment
Camp 1404
Gainesville
Fred Hilliard Sanford

52nd Georgia Regiment
Camp 1418
Cleveland
William A. Bradley

John B. Gordon Memorial
Camp 1449
Thomaston
Christopher Dale Cochran
Jonathon Taylor Spoon
Randy Spoon

Maj. Gen. Ambrose Ransom
Wright Camp 1914
Evans
Ambrose Jacob Sleister

Georgia Division HQ
Camp 2200
Moultrie
Forrest Gregory Barmore, Jr.
Trenton Blalock
Jonathan Dobson
Daniel Candler Molton
Brandon Peterson
John Alexander Stewart
Lonnie Garrett Walker
Michael West
Todd Wimberly

KANSAS

Pvt. Riley Crawford
Camp 2348
Baxter Springs
James Robert Bunch, Jr.

KENTUCKY

Gen. Lloyd Tilghman
Camp 1495
Paducah
Derek Marcus Gentry

Col. Charles A. Wickliffe
Camp 2337
Wickliffe
Chester Lee Jackson

Pvt. Eldridge Riley
Camp 2347
Calvert City
John Wesley Felts
Ryan Dennis Vowell
Joseph A. Workman

LOUISIANA

Beauregard Camp 130
New Orleans
Kevin Edward Jones

Camp Moore Camp 1223
Tangipahoa
Donald Anthony Creighton, Jr.
Brian LeBlanc

Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor
Camp 1308
Shreveport
Troy Dale Burton

Capt. Thomas O. Benton
Camp 1444
Monroe
Aidan Michael Herford
Samuel Chad Jordan
Jackie S. Pope

Sabine Rifles Camp 2057
Many
Mark Anthony Longoria, Jr.
William Kelly Stewart

MISSOURI

Sterling Price Camp 145
St. Louis
John Paul Walker

General M. Jeff Thompson
Camp 2277
Farmington
Ricky Lee Culton

MISSISSIPPI

Col. William P. Rogers
Camp 321
Corinth
Eric Lee Basden
Anthony Hoard
L. V. Hoard

Sam Davis Camp 596
Biloxi
Charles Martin Brazil

Harrisburg Camp 645
Tupelo
Donnie Roy Garrison

NORTH CAROLINA

Robert Henry Ricks Camp 75
Rocky Mount
Jeffrey Wyatt Cockrell

Franklin Rifles Camp 310
Louisburg
Jonathan David Peedin

Capt. Charles F. Connor
Camp 849
Hickory
Christopher Robin West

Maj. Charles Q. Petty
Camp 872
Gastonia
Alvin Glen Chaney
William Blair Hall
Jason Boyden Moore
Michael Ray Wiggins

Cherokee Guards Co. A 29th
NC Troops Camp 893
Murphy
James Lawrence Hyde

Smithfield Light Infantry
Camp 1466
Smithfield
Derrick Lee Prevatte

Gen. Robert F. Hoke/Wm. J.
Hoke Camp 1616
Lincolnton
Eric Wade Rowell
David Glenn Smith

Ivy Ritchie Camp 1734
Albemarle
Shawn Lane Doby

Jackson Rangers Camp 1917
Sylva
Charles Anthony Woodring
Joshua Michael Woodring

The Roxboro Grays
Camp 1932
Roxboro
Richard Wayne Floyd
David Lamar Tribble

Gen. James Henry Lane (NC
Division HQ) Camp 2289
Claremont
Noah Cruse Carpenter

OHIO

Brig. Gen. Roswell S. Ripley
Camp 1535
Worthington
Mark Keller

OKLAHOMA

Brigadier Gen. Stand Watie
Camp 149
Ardmore
Clinton Randall Ogletree

Shecoe's Chickasaw
Battalion Mounted
Volunteers Camp 2331
Ada
Michael Trout

SOUTH CAROLINA

Secession Camp 4
Charleston
James Thomas McVey

16th South Carolina
Regiment Camp 36
Greenville
William G. Wise

John Thomas Ashley
Camp 43
Honea Path
Chad Anthony McAlister

2nd SC Regiment Pickens
Camp 71
Pickens
Robert Allan Morgan

Captain Moses Wood
Camp 125
Gaffney
William Julius Briggs

General Ellison Capers
Camp 1212
Moncks Corner
John C. Dubose

Pee Dee Rifles Camp 1419
Florence-Darlington
Jerry McElveen Floyd

TENNESSEE

Nathan Bedford Forrest
Camp 215
Memphis
Coleton Jackson Millar

Welcome to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

Simonton-Wilcox Camp 257

Covington

Richard Allen Beck
Rhett Walker Benjamin
Steven Derek Max

Maj. Gen. William D. McCain

HQ Camp 584

Columbia

Matthew Allen Nicklin

Battle Of Shiloh Camp 1454

Shiloh

Robert Worley

Wigfall Greys Camp 1560

Collierville

Charles Michael Thomason

Sumner A. Cunningham

Camp 1620

Shelbyville

Samuel Foreman
Michael Penna
Jonathon Ray Todd

Dewitt Smith Jobe Camp 1637

Bartlett

Christian Wade Schuetz

Dillard-Judd Camp 1828

Cookeville

Astraeus Christopher Dobbs
Chris Tripp

Forrest Crossing Guards

Camp 2332

Clifton

Jeremy Berry

Capt. Samuel J. A. Frazier

Camp 2356

Dayton

Matthew S. Martin

TEXAS

John B. Hood Camp 50

Galveston

Johnny Dale Cornelius
Bill Harlis Fullen

Gen. Felix H. Robertson

Camp 129

Waco

James Michael Bezdek

R. E. Lee Camp 239

Fort Worth

Michael Allen Arbuckle

Terry's Texas Rangers

Camp 1937

Cleburne

Jeffrey Francis Do

VIRGINIA

The Old Brunswick Camp 512

Lawrenceville

J. Carlton Lowry

R. E. Lee Camp 726

Alexandria

Ronald Scott Phillips

Pittsylvania Vindicators

Camp 828

Callands

William F. Scott

J. E. B. Stuart Camp 1343

Henrico

Matthew Aldridge Chenault

Savage-Goodner Camp 1513

Smithville

Donnie Leon Barnes

Turner Ashby Camp 1567

Winchester

Michael Towles Bowden

Matthew Fontaine Maury

Camp 1722

Fredericksburg

Travis Williams

Walker-Terry Camp 1758

Wytheville

James Matthew Dalton

Captain Jack Adams

Camp 1951

Edinburg

Roy Lee Dickerson

Donald Kevin Watson



Welcome to our newest Life Members

Name	Division	Camp
George Ward	MS	110
Samuel Beasley	NC	310
James Braddy	NC	1695
Richard Roberts	FL	1209
Samual W. H. Walker	TN	584
Harry L. Coker	AL	1921
Hugh L. Bradshaw	NC	813
Paul Lello	MI	2257
Daniel Davis	OH	1530

Name	Division	Camp
James R. Shelton	TN	1454
Mark Westbrook	ID	2244
Christopher Kelso	TN	214
Harless T. Dobbins, Jr.	VA	2220
Robert C. Ritter, Jr.	GA	1245
Kenneth D. Phillips	NC	919
Kevin Cunningham	SC	4
Stephen Prince	FL	1381
Dennis Scanlan	AZ	1202

Continued from page 14

The Last Roll

Col. William Penn Adair Camp 2206
Bartlesville, OK

Gerald Ray Myers

Jefferson Davis 4th Regiment SC Vol.
Camp 7

Easley, SC

Earl F. Waters, Jr.

Fort Sumter Camp 1269
Charleston, SC

Myron Charles Harrington, Jr.

Lawrence Alexander Savage, Jr.

N. B. Forrest Camp 3
Chattanooga, TN

Douglas Coleman

Longstreet-Zollicoffer Camp 87
Knoxville, TN

Larry G. Williams

Otho French Strahl Camp 176
Union City, TN

Roger Alan Belt

Col. George H. Nixon Camp 214
Lawrenceburg, TN

Tim Foster

Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp 215
Memphis, TN

Ferrell C. Marks, Jr.

Marshall Rangers Camp 297
Lewisburg, TN

Douglas Gipson Tyree

Maj. Gen. William D. McCain HQ
Camp 584

Columbia, TN

Marion Alpheus Boggs, Jr.

Robert C. Bullock
William Penn Craig
Alexander Denham Estill, IV
Joseph Bond Mallard, Jr.
William R. Ponton
James G. Yapple

Lt. Robert J. Tipton Camp 2083
Elizabethton, TN

Johnny Carlyle Baker

Hood's Texas Brigade Camp 153
San Antonio, TX
Floyd Dean Cox

13th Texas Infantry Camp 1565
Angleton, TX

Tim G. Pettigrew

General Tom Green Camp 1613
San Angelo, TX
David Paul McMahon

Col. Phillip A. Work Camp 1790
Woodville, TX
Edward McClure Griffin, Jr.

Terry's Texas Rangers Camp 1937
Cleburne, TX

G. Brian Fowler

Royce Donald Kirby

George W. Parks

John H. Reagan Camp 2156
Palestine, TX

J. Benton Mason, Jr.

Red Diamond Camp 2193
Texarkana, TX

Rick Vaughn Buchanan

Lawrence Javan Maynard

Lone Star Defenders Camp 2234
Lufkin, TX

George E. Chandler

Lee-Jackson Camp 1
Richmond, VA

William C. Hight

The Stonewall Brigade Camp 1296
Lexington, VA

Ronald Lee King

High Bridge Camp 1581
Farmville, VA

Tom Haake

Gen. Robert E. Lee Camp 1589
Midlothian, VA

Millard L. Lemon

Gen Henry A. Wise Camp 1756
Norton, VA

Jimmy Dee Woods, II

Lane-Armistead Camp 1772
Mathews, VA

Herbert Campbell Rockefeller

Dinwiddie Grays Camp 2220
Dinwiddie, VA

Jeffery Brian Anderson

McNeill's Rangers Camp 582
Moorefield, WV

Charles Alvin Bonar

Woodrow G. Simmons

Flat Top Copperheads Camp 1694
Princeton, WV

Roger Stanley Hays

Mountaineer Partisan Rangers Camp 2249
Paw Paw, WV

Kirk W. Lockwood



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Prisoners of the Yankees

old government [the Lincoln administration] ...²¹

Still, anecdotal evidence, through the numerous prisoner accounts of the conditions endured during their imprisonment, substantiates allegations that the Union had undertaken a plan to brutalize Confederate prisoners and had purposely engaged in their physical abuse and starvation, thus causing thousands of needless deaths. Still, the Congressional Special Investigative Committee chose to pardon the army and navy of the United States without conducting a review of the policies and practices of the Lincoln administration toward Confederate prisoners of war and imprisoned citizens of the Confederacy.

The site of Camp Sumter Prisoner of War Camp, Andersonville, Georgia, was acquired by the National Park Service. Today, it is Andersonville National Historic Site, National Cemetery, and National Prisoner of War Museum, visited by thousands of people annually. A housing developer acquired the Elmira prisoner-of-war camp's former site; today, it is a residential neighborhood.

About the Author

Scott Barker is a member of Major General William D. McCain HQ Camp 584, Columbia, Tennessee. He is a freelance writer on the War Between the States, the American Revolution, and physical culture.

21 Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery. www.campchase.us.

Selected Bibliography

This bibliography is not a complete record of all the works and sources I have consulted. It indicates the substance and range and reading upon which I have formed my ideas, and I intend it to serve as a convenience for those who wish to pursue the study of the War Between the States.

Davis, Jefferson. *Andersonville and Other War-Prisons*. New York: Belford Company. 1890.

John Ogden Murray. *The Immortal Six Hundred: A Story of Cruelty to Confederate Officers*. Roanoke: Stone Printing. 1911.

Knauss, William H. *The Story of Camp Chase*. Nashville and Dallas: Methodist Episcopal Church. 1906.

Michael E. Haskew. "Prisons of the Civil War: An Enduring Controversy," *Warfare History Network*, Summer 2023.

The Report on the Treatment of Prisoners of War by the Rebel Authorities During the War of the Rebellion. Washington, DC, Government Printing Office. 1869.

The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies. Washington, DC, Government Printing Office. 1880.

Wheeler, Linda. "Wirz Took Controversial Fall for Andersonville Tragedy," *The Washington Post*, June 10, 2004.



Continued from page 25

Lincoln Was the Traitor, Not Lee

Lincoln's betrayal has had lasting consequences. After the war, Robert E. Lee predicted the Union victory would create a government which would be "aggressive abroad and despotic at home." Today, our federal government is fulfilling that prophecy as it entangles us in endless foreign conflicts, while at home it subverts the rule of law and threatens the liberties of citizens. In modern America the unitary state forged by Lincoln forces a top-down political and legal conformity on a country growing ever more diverse and divided. Against this restraint

antagonisms are rising. One way to diffuse this time bomb is to reject Lincoln's legacy by allowing states and localities more leeway on how they govern themselves. In other words, we should concede the South was right about the need for decentralized government.

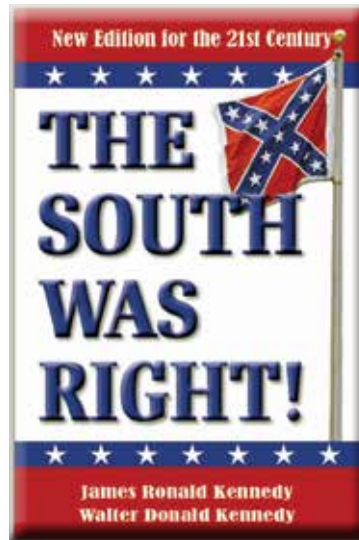
This concession could lead to a new reconciliation agreement, one more balanced and just than the first. This one would acknowledge the righteous cause wasn't so righteous, and "honest Abe" wasn't so honest — or loyal to the vision of our Founders.



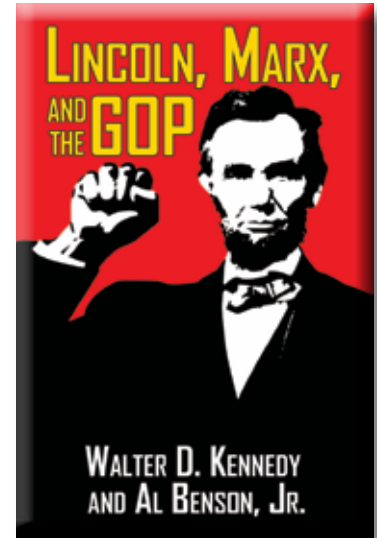
The South Fights Back!



Reconstruction: Destroying the Republic and Creating an Empire.
The Deep State did not start with Obama! The history of the South's Resistance Movement.



The South Was Right!
3rd edition. More than
150,000 copies sold.



Lincoln, Marx, and the GOP.
Communists and socialists were key in the formation of Lincoln's Republican Party and support for his War Against Southern Independence.

Other books by the Kennedy Twins: *Punished with Poverty* the War did not end slavery it only morphed it into sharecropping; *Jefferson Davis: High Road to Emancipation and Constitutional Government*, radical abolitionists destroyed the South's high road to emancipation and our original legitimate Republic; *Yankee Empire: Aggressive Abroad and Despotism at Home*, the Yankee Empire turned the South into a colony of the North and then used similar techniques to expand its commercial empire worldwide.



www.kennedytwins.com

NOTICES *From Around the Confederation*

50th Captain Henry Wirz Memorial Service

The 50th annual Captain Henry Wirz Memorial Service will be held in the town of Andersonville near the Wirz Monument on Saturday, November 8, at 2:00 PM. It is annually sponsored by the Alexander H. Stephens SCV Camp 78 in Americus. The public is invited to attend. The Service is held each year to honor the memory of Captain Henry Wirz, Commandant of Andersonville Prison in 1864-65, and to remember the injustice of his trial and execution.

The guest speaker for this year's Service is SCV Commander-in-Chief Donnie Kennedy. National and State officers for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Order of the Confederate Rose, and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars are planning to attend. Also, one or more great great grandsons of Capt. Wirz plan to attend.

We are expecting a large turnout, and we have a limited number of chairs. So, we are requesting of you that attend to please bring a fold up chair to sit in. Also, please pray for a sunshiny day since the Service is held outdoors.

The first annual Memorial Service on November 10, 1976, was organized by Real Son Arthur Park from Orlando, Florida. His father was a Confederate soldier with Capt. Wirz at Andersonville Prison. A Memorial Service has been held in Andersonville in November every year since then.

After the War Between the States ended, Capt. Wirz was arrested and taken to Washington where he was put on trial before a US Military Tribunal. He was found guilty on several charges involving alleged abuse of prisoners, including the murder of 13 of them. Of the 13, no body of a prisoner was ever produced, nor was the name of any prisoner ever given. He was sentenced to death and was hanged on November 10, 1865. Many historians have said his trial was the most unfair ever held in the

United States, and under today's legal standards, the case would have been thrown out of court. Passions against the South were so strong in the North Capt. Wirz' body was mutilated, and his skull was exhibited around the country.

For more information about the Memorial Service, call or text James Gaston at 229-938-9115, or e-mail gaston7460@bellsouth.net

NC Division Grave Marking Project

In April of 2024 the North Carolina Division at its Annual Reunion voted to begin a program to mark the graves of unmarked North Carolina Soldiers who are buried outside the state of North Carolina. The NC Division needs your assistance in two areas. The first area is locating the graves of unmarked NC Soldiers. Whether the NC Soldiers are buried in small local cemeteries or large Confederate cemeteries, we need their names and locations of the graves. We currently have the names of 1,905 NC Soldiers in unmarked graves in Richmond, VA's Oakwood Cemetery, 1,868 NC Soldiers in Hollywood Cemetery also in Richmond, VA along with names in other small cemeteries. If there is a NC Soldier buried in a marked or unmarked grave in a cemetery in your community, please let the NC Division know.

In addition to locating the graves of NC Soldiers, we would ask for your financial assistance to help us with this endeavor. No donation is too small. Please contact the Program Chairman for further information.

J. W. "Jay" Nolte, Jr., Chairman
NC Grave Marker Program
scvcamp706@gmail.com

Online training now available for commanders and adjutants

I'm excited to tell you about online training opportunities for ALL Commanders and Adjutants (Camp, Bri-

gade, and Division levels).

National Membership Coordinator Eric Previti offers online training via Zoom. The training is extremely helpful for officers (especially adjutants) and covers how to use the Salesforce Community Login to download camp rosters and change member's information (addresses and e-mails). The training also covers how to pay National dues online and how to efficiently use the online discussion forum.

To attend one of the classes, send an e-mail to Eric Previti at membership@scv.org. Include your name, Membership ID, camp, and current office held. Classes are held monthly in the afternoon, or evening depending on need. If there is enough interest, a morning class can be held for those who can't do afternoons, or evenings. Links to join the class via Zoom will be e-mailed the day before the class.

I encourage all of you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.
Deo Vindice!

Adam Southern
Executive Director

End of year giving to the SCV

As the end of the calendar year approaches, many of our members are looking for tax-free donation opportunities. One is to make gifts of stock, and you can designate which SCV fund it goes to.

To make gifts of stock to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, please contact our corporate portfolio managers at The Parker Group at Morgan Stanley. Ask for SCV members Drew or Stewart Parker at (931) 560-1900 or (866) 816-5595 or Stewart.Parker@morganstanley.com.

The Order of the Southern Cross Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship offered by The Order of the Southern Cross was established in memory of all the past members of the Order who have faith-

fully given their utmost to promote and preserve our Southern Heritage.

For more information, you can e-mail the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Mr. Brian Turner at OSC-scholarships@protonmail.com and/or download an application at <https://orderofsoutherncross.com/scholarship/>

New system for contacting US Congress members

Below is the link to the "Widget" which will automatically send your US Senators and the US Military Brass responsible for renaming US Military Bases. Click on the link below, fill out your information, personalize the message if you desire, and click submit.

Because this is a mass effort, it is helpful if you personalize the message or change the subject line — Objective: Keeping the Confederate Monument at Arlington Cemetery!!!! <https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/promo/4hW>

SCV HQ to sell H. L. Hunley Medals

Greetings, Compatriots!

Many camps honor a JROTC cadet each year with the SCV's H. L. Hunley Medal (Award). In years past, this program was run through a coordinator, outside of HQ. This year, SCV Headquarters will be managing the distribution of the Hunley Medal. The medals are \$30 each (this includes shipping). If your Camp or Division buys medals in bulk, discounts will apply.

For more information or to purchase a Hunley Medal, please contact Sales Manager Jill MacDermot at (931) 380-1844, ext. 6, or by e-mail at sales@scv.org.

Deo Vindice!

Adam Southern
Executive Director

Our New Southern Heritage Center

To all SCV friends, there has been NO name change for our museum. It is and will remain, The National Confederate Museum. The same is true for Elm Springs. It is and will remain, Historic Elm Springs and one last thing,

there is absolutely no chance of changing our SCV logo.

At the recent GEC meeting, we did name the property, The Southern Heritage Center. The SCV owns approximately 80 acres of prime land in Columbia, TN, upon which sits Historic Elm Springs, The National Confederate Museum, one family cemetery and the final resting place for General and Mrs. Forrest.

The open spaces on our property are used from time to time for various cultural events such as music concerts, cook-offs, antique car shows, social gatherings, and such. These events bring people to our property who may otherwise never even know we exist and it makes money for the SCV. Since a car show cannot be held in the museum or the antebellum home, naming our property will help promote these events.

The entire property owned by the SCV has never had a name, but it does now. Nothing else has changed.

Museum artifact donations and Confederate images

The SCV is asking for worthy donations of Confederate and SCV historical items for our museum. Please contact us at exedir@scv.org for donations or loans before sending them to GHQ.

In addition, we would like to collect images of all our Confederate

veterans. Please send images of your ancestor to membership@scv.org or PO Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402. Please annotate the name, rank, unit, and as much information as you can about the individual(s) you are submitting. These will be available for perpetual research for our visitors and members as well as use in the museum.

IRS 990N Submissions

It is time for camps to submit your IRS 990N electronically. Each camp has until 15 December to file online. Please reference this 990 User Guide from the IRS before filing: www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5248.pdf

Shipping address for Elm Springs has changed

Compatriots,

I want to remind everyone the physical address for Elm Springs and the National Confederate Museum has changed.

All packages, certified and registered mail needs to be sent to:

Sons of Confederate Veterans
2357 Park Plus Dr.
Columbia, TN 38401

All other mail should be sent to:
Sons of Confederate Veterans
PO Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402-0059

Any mail sent to the old address of 740 Mooresville Pike, Columbia, TN will be returned to sender by the USPS.

Adjutants, please also note we are not accepting Division dues this year. Please send all Division dues to your division as instructed by your camp or Division.

Thank you,
Adam Southern
Executive Director

Estate Planning

Please consider placing the SCV in your will. Each state law is different so it is best to contact your lawyer or estate planner, but if you need assistance, please contact us at exedir@scv.org.



Confederate Veteran Deadlines

Issue Deadline for submissions

November/December 2025 . Sept. 1

January/February 2026.....Nov. 1

March/April 2026 January 1

May/June 2026 March 1

July/August 2026 May 1

September/October 2026 July 1

Dispatches From the Front

platform. Also, in my opinion no racist organization hijacked any Confederate flag. Many racist organizations carry the United States flag. All Confederate flags represent history, and I learned in my high school history class you evaluate men and events in history according to the standards of the day.

Lincoln stated he thought the "Black race" was an inferior race which should never be politically, socially, or economically equal to the White race. In his seventh paragraph, he states, "Instead of trying to remove part of our history, we need to include all of it, the good and the bad." What is good and what is bad? Is he stating Confederate monuments and statues are bad and Yankee monuments and statues are good?

The Yankees thought the proper place for slaves was in slavery. How are they any better or worse than the Confederates?

*Mike Schooling, PCA, PCC, PBC, LM
Father A. J. Ryan Camp 302
San Diego, California*

Praise the Constitution and pass the ammunition!

To the Editor:

I have just finished reading our commander-in-chief's article in the most recent issue of our magazine for the "second time!" We all lead very busy lives and often fail to grasp the true importance of some of the information we hear or read and then put it to use. I was raised by a WW I Vet who loved the South as much as he loved America. His mother died the day after his tenth birthday and his father soon realized he could not farm and take care of three small boys. Dad's Maternal Grandfather moved the family into his own home. Pa Croft, as Dad called him, and two uncles had served under General Forrest for about three years. Dad's teachers had first hand knowledge! Did these men and their families and ancestors love the South and America? The name of one of them, Thomas Jefferson Butler,

indicates they did!

Our oldest son who played school sports, lifted weights, worked out as a young adult, is a Veteran, and is a "Born Again Christian" is serving his second term in the Tennessee House of Representatives. He has been chastised, threatened, cussed, and laughed at or about! He often tells those people he really feels sorry for them. Most of the lobbyists have given up on buying his vote and no longer come in his office with large wads of large bills! He has never tried to conceal who or what he is or believes but his stance on the many issues discussed during those sessions leave little doubt in anyone's mind. He also read this article and quickly realized talking about our Constitution was an easy way to tell the truth of why a terrible war was fought on this continent.

I am very fortunate to have served the SCV in some elected positions and on some committees. One of my usual questions when speaking at our meetings was, "Did you read the latest issue of our magazine?" or I would refer to a specific article and ask; "How many read that article"? Initially I was really surprised by the number of responses to my questions. Very few said they had read very much of the magazine! It was disappointing! The SCV is operated the same way as our Constitutional Republic. A true and fair election allows the voters to replace leaders they are not satisfied with. There is no place for fear, intimidation, threats, or cowardice! So, I ask, what could we accomplish if twice or three times, or even ten times as many members would step up and do something? We all have special talents, abilities, and interests! Why not use at least some of your time to do something for the SCV? There is something everyone can accomplish! Take your choice and volunteer!

Now a word to those brave members who have the courage or "guts" to run for an elected office or accept an appointed position. I thank you from the bottom of my heart! I consider every action taken by anyone to preserve our history and heritage was done for my ancestors as well as yours! It's a job with so much need and potential, there is room for everyone. Please do not be one of those persons who knows everything about everything and is the only

person who ever had an opinion. Your Mommy may have been the next to the last person to think that! Are you the last? Sadly, we have had members who fit that description! They pick up their ball and carry it back to their Mommy so she can praise them for his determination to do things properly! Well at least he could then have his own way!

"Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition!" Our CIC has brought to our attention, ammunition which is less controversial and more widely accepted than telling many others why the South fought so hard, so long, and with such determination. Many Southerners know our Constitution better than the average American! The blunt and total truth is we fought to preserve the Constitution as it was written in 1787. So, if you have stepped up to do your duty, I urge you to mention, at every opportunity, the wonderful, historic and informative articles in "THE CONFEDERATE VETERAN"! "READ ALL ABOUT IT"

From My Heart In Dixie,

*Edward M. (Ed) Butler PHD, PDQ, XZY
Dillard-Judd Camp1828
Cookeville, Tennessee*

Let's do all we can today to defend our heritage

To the Editor:

"A people morally and intellectually equal to self-government must also be equal in self-defence."

When Jefferson Davis said this many decades ago, many may not have understood that this reality would still be the case in the 21st Century. To the great people of the South, whose memorials and monuments continue to be under attack, it takes effort, money, and awareness to strategically execute the self-defence of our heritage. Just as General Lee would not have sent all of the companies on a left flank, there were specialised resources that went up the right flank and center in its due time.

I ask you to examine within yourselves: what can I do to support Heritage Defence TODAY? Not tomorrow, TODAY. This cannot wait another day. Will I work with heritage folks in my state to review or call in on upcoming legislation? Will I publish articles

in social media or newspapers? Will I fund the Heritage Defence line items on the MRS statement so that we can legally fight these ridiculous monument removals? Will I encourage my fellow men, women and children in our camps, chapters, communities to endure? Can we get them, or you, to a meeting? If you do any of these things daily, thank you.

There are more ways than one to skin a cat, so they say. I am here with you. Let's do what we can in the situation we find ourselves in TODAY. Not tomorrow. TODAY. The little things done daily really do add up to success for our cause. PLEASE keep Heritage Defence on the front burner. Thank you all, may God continue to Save the South.

In the Warm Bonds of the Old South,

Derrick T. Glover

James M. Saufley Camp 929

Jamestown, Tennessee

Confederate Memorial Day in Georgia

To the Editor:

In 1874, the Georgia Legislature created a public holiday denoting April 26 as Confederate Memorial Day and in 2009 it passed Senate Bill 27, which permanently designates April as Confederate History and Heritage month. Gov. Nathan Deal in 2015 ignorantly joined the Marxist Socialist revisionist movement, which is attacking everything Southern and Confederate along with America's founding fathers. He removed the names of two state holidays — Robert E. Lee's Birthday and Confederate Memorial Day. They are now state holidays without names. Karl Marx is quoted: "People separated from their heritage are easily persuaded."

After a long series of abuses by England, the 13 American colonies declared independence on July 4, 1776 and seceded from England and were successful in achieving independence in 1783. Likewise in 1860-61, after years of political and criminal abuse by the Northern states, primarily New England, 11 Southern states constitutionally, legally and honorably seceded from the United States of America and formed a new nation, the Confederate States of America (CSA). These Southern states

sought Independence and peaceful separation from the increasing usurpation of unconstitutional federal power. The federal government of America had been taken over by radicals, fanatics, and criminals.

In 1848, the Socialist revolution in Europe led by Karl Marx had failed. In 1849-50 about 2,000 German Socialists were sent to New York City. They joined with American Socialists led by Horace Greeley, owner of the *New York Tribune* newspaper. Prior to Southern secession, 487 of Marx's articles were printed, including the *Communist Manifesto*. The radical, fanatical, criminal, Socialist atheist Republican Party was formed in 1854 and, up until 1877, was similar to the modern Democratic Party. Abraham Lincoln was a member and 68 of 117 signed a resolution advocating terrorism against the South. The Southern states refused to be ruled by the Republican Party and seceded. After a four-year war against overwhelming numbers and resources, the Confederate armed forces were forced to yield.

Lincoln's unnecessary war had claimed the lives of more than 600,000 American soldiers, North and South, and 50,000 Southern civilians. It had been a culture war fought for the purpose of converting the American Republic established by America's founding fathers, who were primarily Southern gentleman from Virginia, to a Socialist Democracy. Northern soldiers were deceived by the clever "Save the Union" war cry. Socialism in America has developed in three stages: political in 1865 following Southern surrender; economic in 1913-17 — federal income tax, Federal Reserve, and cultural 1960 to 2017 — welfare nanny state. Today, many Northern citizens are connecting the dots back to 1848 and 1865 and are wishing their ancestors had worn gray instead of blue.

The modern Republican globalist and big government advocate Newt Gingrich blurted out the truth: "The war wasn't fought to free slaves. It was fought to centralize and concentrate all power in Washington, DC." Slavery was already a dying institution and would have soon ended peacefully without a war, as it did elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere. The New England

colonies/states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and New York were responsible for the development of slavery. They grew to prosperity on the nefarious slave trade and when it became unprofitable, they hypocritically accused the Southern planters, who had purchased slaves from them, of "grave moral sin."

The Confederate Flag and the Confederate States of America represent the same principles and values as the Betsy Ross flag and the American Republic: Limited constitutional federal government, States Rights, resistance to tyranny, and Christianity. The Confederate Battle Flag is an international symbol of resistance to tyranny and was chosen by the Polish Solidarity Movement in 1980 as their symbol of resistance to Russian Communism, and it was flying over the Berlin Wall in 1989 as it was being torn down.

Lincoln and the federal government had no constitutional authority to coerce or invade a state for any reason. The states had formed the federal government and granted specific limited powers. The rest were reserved to the states and the people. Lincoln, Sherman, Sheridan, Butler, Grant, Jennison and thousands of other Yankees were war criminals. Crimes committed against Southerners included murder, torture, rape, arson, plunder, pillage, theft, vandalism, burning churches, destruction of graves, and turning women and children out in the cold.

Southerners have every right to be proud of, and to remember and honor, the brave men in gray who fought against the Yankee barbarians.

James W. King

*Lt. Col. Thomas M. Nelson — Nelson's
Rangers Camp 141*

Albany, Georgia



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Continued from page 31

Books in Print

before gaining his freedom, so at age 30 he was able to move on with his life. Matthew will marry Sarah Maybury, have six children and raise his family in Baltimore. Between the year of his arrival in Baltimore in 1733, and his death in 1756, Matthew Turner, the immigrant ancestor, firmly established the Turner family in North America.

Matthew and Sarah's second son, Joseph Turner, was 14 when his father died, and after serving in the Continental Army, like many veterans of Washington's Army, will receive a Presidential Land Grant.

In 1784, Joseph moved his family to the Commonwealth of the new territory of Kentucky onto their fifty acres. June 1st, 1792 — Kentucky was admitted into the Union and became the fifteenth state. By the 1820s the third generation of the Turner family had migrated to Mississippi where they put down deep roots and grew even larger.

From the 1820s to the 1890s, Turner's family history will give the reader a firsthand account of the cold war which leads up to the shooting war that breaks out in 1861.

It's here the reader gets a first hand account of life on the home front during the war. The women of the South were the backbone of support for the Confederate Army, from rolling musket cartridges to making clothes for the troops. Now the wives of William Turner and his brother Elijah Turner will have to run the family farms and take care of the children without the support of their husbands for the first time in their marriages. This will be a hardship for both of the families.

You also learn how the people of Mississippi dealt with the loss of their husbands and sons and at the end of four years of war how they rebuilt their lives.

This is a very extensive and well

researched book. If you enjoy family history then you will definitely enjoy it.

Author: Will Turner
Publisher: Outskirts Press
outskirtspress.com
Hardback \$54.99

Reviewed by Barney W. Roberts, III

Brookhaven: A Novel

This is a fiction story about a young Confederate soldier who became known as the Gray Wisp. He carried messages and information within General Lee's army. He had been able to move about and acquire information about the Union army's numbers and movements that was very valuable to General Lee. He was very wily and could not be caught or captured. Not a great deal of time is spent on his military activities. Most of the story concerns time from the conclusion of the war to well into the 20th century. This is not a book to further your knowledge of the War For Southern Independence, but if you like historical romantic fiction you should enjoy this book. Female readers are more likely to become engrossed in the story than are males. My wife read the book and liked it. The story is interesting and well written and worthy of your consideration as light reading.

Author: Glynn Young
Publisher: T. S. Poetry Press
www.amazon.com
Paperback \$18.95

Reviewed by Ronnie Slack



The Riven Oak and the Ivy or The Maid of Saragoza

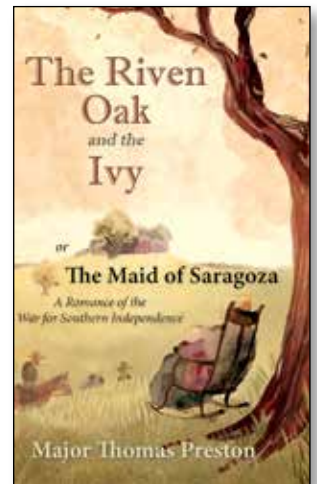
Author Major Thomas Preston has written a historical narrative based around the 2nd Texas Infantry Regiment, specifically Company K. The book is a mixture of fiction and nonfiction set in Jackson County, Texas, during the War Between the States. Captain John Creed Moore of Coryell County, Texas, organized the regiment in early 1862. Most of the men were from Houston and Galveston. Jackson County is south of Houston, Texas, and that is where the story starts.

Capt. John Billups, formerly the captain of a sailing vessel, comes to town in 1859 to visit with friends and decided to stay and start a new life there in Jackson County. This aspect of the book reminded me of the movie *The Big Country* with Gregory Peck, a western released in 1958. Just like in *The Big Country*, we have a sea captain who comes to town in 1859 two years before the outbreak of hostilities. The framework of this book is about the people of Jackson County getting swept up in the upcoming War for Southern Independence. The men of Jackson County will join the 2nd Texas Volunteers, and see service in the Army of the Trans-Mississippi. There is a mix of fictional characters from Jackson County cast into the battles of Shiloh and the Siege of Vicksburg.

For me this book was a tad to get though. I had a hard time with the novel *The Killer Angels*. It's not easy.

Author Major Thomas Preston
Publisher: The Scuppernon Press
www.scuppernonpress.com
Paperback \$15.00

Reviewed by Barney W. Roberts, III



Remembrances:
Rev. Thomas W. Hooper, D. D.,
Joseph Richardson Haw,
Miss Mary Jane Haw

This book is a unique collection of people of Hanover County, Virginia, spanning the period before The War and after. Many historians have dealt with records of "Burned Counties" of which Hanover is one. Not only were battles fought in and around Hanover County, but the legacy of destruction has limited everyone's ability to tell the complete story.

Editor Taylor stated, "Research has led me to the discovery and use of many obscure and little used print mediums. Three of these are the *Richmond Dispatch* 1895, the *Confederate Veteran* magazine of 1925 and 1926, and the *Christian Observer* of 1910." Together in one volume readers/researchers can easily access observations of people in historic Hanover County.

These collected stories have a personal touch which can only be found in the writing and memory of those involved. Readers here can feel the atmosphere of soldiers and family suffering from uncertainty of conflict in their home county. "Mr. Haw describes being camped across the Chickahominy River from the Watt House and being so near to family while Miss Haw described being able to see the campfires of her brothers and cousins across the river at night. They talk of messages and visits and the like. You can feel the fear and concern each has for the other."

The book's structure gives information about the following: authors, actual articles, local homes of importance, 1850 United States Census, and a thorough bibliography.

Homes which witnessed local battles are remembered. "Beaverdam" on Cold Harbor Road in Mechanicsville, was cited by Dr. Thomas W. Hooper in 1896 who said, "The last time I stood under the roof was a few days after the battle and all around me were unburied dead, while the house and trees were cut to pieces by cannon and minnie-balls." In "Meadow Farm," also off Cold Harbor Road, "Blood stains can still be seen on the original flooring where the wounded

were cared for during the Battle of Cold Harbor." Another home on Cold Harbor Road was "Puccoon." "Puccoon" was "in the line of fire during the Battle of Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor. There were scars on the window ledge and door jamb caused by a cannon ball that came into the room where Dr. Curtis lay in bed ill, but it did not explode." The history and people of 22 homes are included. Where else besides books such as *Remembrances* are such facts and details available?

There exist many county histories in Virginia; however, this account is of a different cloth. Old families were discussed in a Mark Twain familiarity; however, all of these stories are true and give a clear indication of The War waging around them. The range of *Remembrances* includes local history before and after the WBTS. Medicine, preaching, schools, politics are found throughout.

As Patrick Henry said, and editor Taylor repeated in his introduction, "... I know of no way of judging the future but by the past." This distinctive volume gives another way of judging what came before. Highly recommended to those whose interest is centered on localities and people of the War.

Editor: Arthur H. Taylor, III
Published by: Arthur H. Taylor, III
www.amazon.co
Paperback \$20.00

Reviewed by Gary Lee Hall

*Please send all books to be
reviewed to the editor-in-chief
at Frank Powell
9701 Fonville Road
Wake Forest, NC 27587*



**Florida Thunder, The Marion
Light Artillery 1861-1865**

The Marion Light Artillery was the only Florida artillery unit to see combat outside the state. In fact, we don't hear much about Florida troops during the War for Southern Independence, so this book is a welcome addition to our history.

While Florida was the third state to secede, it was the least populated of the soon to be Confederate States of America. Marion County is located in north central Florida and was one of the larger in population.

As you can see, the cover shows their square red flag containing the statement "God and Our Rights."

Residents of Marion County were in favor of secession even before South Carolina left the Union.

The book follows the battery from its formation to its surrender in Meridian, Mississippi in May 1865. They were in most of the engagements of the Army of Tennessee starting with the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky on August 29, 1862.

A complete roster of the battery is included near the back of the book and includes information on the service of each member. This is a great resource for people doing genealogy research.

Several addendums with first-hand accounts close out the book along with an extensive bibliography.

Author: Mike Evans
Publisher: Fulton Books
www.amazon.com
Paperback \$14.95

Reviewed by Frank Powell



Confederate Monuments

"And you wonder, why would you erect a monument? The Confederacy waged war on the United States. And, so, the idea of putting up those monuments actually didn't even happen right after the Civil War. It happened during the 1960s. It happened over the fight for desegregating schools."¹⁰

So, we are told, the very idea of building Confederate monuments didn't occur until the 1960s and their purpose was to protest school desegregation. That would come as a big surprise to the people who built Confederate monuments in every single decade from the 1860s on. In Georgia, the decade of the 1960s was the only decade in which no Confederate memorial was erected, yet Reid asserted this was the time the trend began.

The very first Confederate monument built in Georgia went up in May 1866, not 1966. It is a small column in a tiny country cemetery in Richmond County, on property now part of Fort Gordon. It was built by the Linwood Sunday School. It names 23 Confederate soldiers who lost their lives in that war, 23 young men from that small rural community. The members of the Linwood Sunday School would be astonished to learn that, when they installed their modest cemetery marker, they were protesting school desegregation which would occur a century later.

It was put up as an expression of this community's mourning. Nothing could be more obvious. At least obvious to people to whom facts matter.

It is interesting to note a fact-checking service took a look at Reid's comment. *PolitiFact* on August 23, 2017, analyzed Reid's statement and rated it "Mostly False."

¹¹ Mostly false?

The statement made by the journalist was false, undeniably false and profoundly misinformed. Yet the fact-checkers at *PolitiFact* — an organization which claims its "only agenda is to publish the truth so you can be an informed participant in democracy" — can't bring themselves to say a false statement is false. Instead, those of us who want to participate in democracy get a strong dose of rationalization. Reid's words must be deemed only "mostly false" because she took an anti-monument position, a stance obviously shared by the

fact-checkers. Her heart was in the right place. Sentiment washes away the need for factual accuracy.

Another fact-challenged example of reporting on Confederate monuments can be found in a 2018 edition of the *Smithsonian Magazine*, a publication of one of America's most prestigious institutions. An article entitled "The Costs of the Confederacy," contains this sentence:

"First, far from simply being markers of historic events and people, as proponents argue, these memorials were created and funded by Jim Crow governments to pay homage to a slave-owning society and to serve as blunt assertions of dominance over African-Americans."¹²

Funded by Jim Crow governments?

Jim Crow governments did no such thing. With almost no exceptions Confederate monuments were commissioned by local organizations and funded by private contributions. It wasn't easy to raise the money. The experience of the ladies in Florence, Alabama, was typical. The Ladies Memorial Association began work in 1879. They labored for years to raise the funds, dollar by dollar. After 14 years they had enough money to get started, then catastrophe struck in the form of the Panic of 1893. The bank which held the association's hard-earned \$1,000 went broke. The ladies lost every dime and had to start anew. Their renewed effort is well-documented in the local press.

Members of the community paid modest fees to hear lectures by a Confederate general, the Tennessee governor, and a former chairwoman of the LMA. More entertaining, perhaps, was a piano recital at the Normal College. In the fall of 1901 the ladies added to the coffers by organizing a festive event "with prizes and games." A local merchant generously donated a fraction of his sales on one April day in 1902. Appeals appeared regularly in the newspapers, accompanied by a "Roll of Honor" recognizing contributors. In October 1902 the people of Florence enjoyed a fancy-dress ball. The monument was dedicated on April 25, 1903, after nearly 25 years of hard work, but the work was not yet finished. In July the ladies issued yet another appeal in the *Florence Herald*. The monument had been erected and dedicated, but

10 NBC's Meet the Press, August 13, 2017

11 www.politifact.com/factchecks/2017/aug/15/joy-reid/did-confederate-symbols-gain-prominence-civil-righ/

12 *Smithsonian Magazine*, December 2018 (www.smithsonianmag.com/history/costs-confederacy-special-report-180970731/)

money was still owed.¹³

This long, grueling effort to raise the necessary funds is an important part of the story. The women in Florence — and scores of other communities — did not spend years of hard work to “pay homage to a slave-owning society and to serve as blunt assertions of dominance over African-Americans.”

In the *Smithsonian Magazine* article we note the sly verbiage: not “pay homage to slavery,” but to a “slave-owning society.” This characteristic does not distinguish the slave states in the United States and the Confederate States from any society in the world since the dawn of civilization until a couple of centuries ago. Until modern times the institution of slavery was the norm, not the exception.

On one visit to the Smithsonian some years back, I viewed some beautiful sculpture. I was especially impressed with a bust sculpted in ancient Greece. I was inches away from this 2,400-year-old work of art, this work of art produced by a “slave-owning society.”

Have plaques been installed next to Greek statues to interpret them in light of this unfortunate fact? Or has sculpture from that slave-owning society been removed from the Smithsonian’s exhibits? Or do the curators understand that all societies are flawed, and the existence of such flaws does not mean we cannot admire the good things a society produces?

Confederate monuments earned a brief mention in Harold Holzer’s 2019 biography of Daniel Chester French. Holzer wrote that Confederate monuments “rose in defiance of the sentiments of African-Americans freed by the war; indeed, many such statues were erected to punctuate their continued subjugation.” In an endnote the author states “The racially threatening message implicit in Confederate statuary was widely reported in August 2017 after a neo-Nazi and Ku Klux Klan rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.”¹⁴ There is no

reference leading the reader to specific news reports in 2017 nor is there an explanation why something written in 2017 should be taken as evidence of a “racially threatening message implicit” in monuments built more than a century earlier.

It seems we have a narrative so compelling there is no need to support it with evidence, a news story just too good to check.

Let’s return now to the apologia and examine some of the notable inscriptions on Georgia monuments which argue for the rightness of the Southern cause.

In Greensboro one inscription reads:

IN HONOR OF THE BRAVE
WHO FELL DEFENDING
THE RIGHT OF LOCAL
SELF-GOVERNMENT

In nearby Madison the memorial makes this statement:

TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE
SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY
WHO DIED TO REPEL
UNCONSTITUTIONAL INVASION,
TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS
RESERVED TO THE PEOPLE,
TO PERPETUATE FOREVER
THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE STATES

In Washington, the Last Cabinet Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy carved these words on the granite base on which the Wilkes County soldier stood:

MEN OF WILKES!
KNOW THROUGH ALL TIMES THAT THEY
FOUGHT TO MAINTAIN A JUST UNION;
TO DEFEND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT;
TO PERPETUATE AMERICAN LIBERTIES,
AND LEFT YOU THEIR PATRIOTIC SPIRIT.

An obelisk in Augusta contains this inscription:

THESE MEN DIED IN DEFENCE OF
THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE

The most elaborate is the passage on the draped obelisk which from 1908 to 2020 stood on the grounds of the courthouse in Decatur.

THESE MEN HELD THAT THE
STATES MADE THE UNION,
THAT THE CONSTITUTION IS THE
EVIDENCE OF THE COVENANT,
THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE

13 The initial meeting of the Ladies’ Memorial Association was reported in the *Florence Gazette* on Jan. 22, 1879. For the loss of the money in the Panic see *History of the Confederate Memorial Associations of the South*, (The Graham Press, New Orleans, 1904), p. 52. The *Florence Herald* ran appeals for funds and reported on various fundraising events on March 12, Apr. 16, and Apr. 23, 1896; Feb. 3, Feb. 24 and Apr. 28, 1898; May 16, June 27, and Oct. 24, 1901; Apr. 11, July 11, July 18, July 25, Aug. 1, Aug. 8, Oct. 3, Oct. 17, and Oct. 31, 1902.

14 *Monument Man: The Life & Art of Daniel Chester French* (Princeton Architectural Press, New York, 2019), p. 235. The endnote is found on p. 348. As a source the author cites *Ghosts of the Confederacy* by Gaines M. Foster (Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, 1987). The pages cited contain only appendices with data on the number and type of monuments built between 1865 and 1912 and the occupations of members of selected organizations of veterans. The book does

not argue that the monument’s builders had the motives attributed to them by Holzer.

ARE SUBJECT TO NO POWER
EXCEPT AS THEY HAVE AGREED
THAT FREE CONVENTION BINDS
THE PARTIES TO IT, THAT THERE
IS SANCTITY IN OATHS AND
OBLIGATION IN CONTRACTS,
AND IN DEFENSE OF THESE PRINCIPLES
THEY MUTUALLY PLEDGED THEIR LIVES
THEIR FORTUNES AND THEIR SACRED HONOR.

One frequently hears the argument these monuments should be kept standing because they are a part of history. They are part of history, certainly, but a more relevant point is they are an important history lesson.

The passage on the Decatur obelisk encapsulates the compact theory of the United States Constitution. The states were the sovereign entities. They won their independence severally in their War of Independence from Britain. They then created the Union and were bound to each other by a covenant, a contract, an agreement. The states voluntarily joined a federal union but never yielded their sovereignty to this union. They created this entity to serve certain delegated powers, limited and specifically enumerated. The states were the principals. The central government was the agent.

As free convention bound the parties to this covenant, and as the states at no point surrendered their sovereignty, the principals – the states – were free at any time and for any reason to withdraw the authority they had granted to the agent. The sovereign principals were subject to no power except as they had agreed, and they no longer agreed.

Did they fight for the principles of the Declaration of Independence, as stated on the Augusta cenotaph? They thought so.

They believed that it had become “necessary for one people to dissolve political bands which have connected them with another...” The people asserted they had God-given “unalienable Rights.” They argued “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...” They asserted when “any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government...” They separated from the other states in order “to secure these rights.”

Was the invasion which they resisted an unconstitutional one, as asserted on the Madison monument? Again, the Confederates certainly thought so. After all, they were no longer in the union. The Constitution did not authorize the United States to invade other states to which they had formerly been bound by free convention. They had as much right to repel this invasion as the

United States had to repel an invasion from Canada or Britain. Secession was not the cause of the War Between the States. The war began when the Confederacy was invaded by forces from a hostile neighboring nation.

Do I believe these positions to be correct? Whether I do or not is irrelevant. The point is, the people of the Confederacy did.¹⁵ That people held these views is a fact of history. One cannot understand American history unless one is aware of and has reflected upon this interpretation.

Are the people who want to destroy Confederate monuments aware of this interpretation? Have they reflected upon it? Have they considered the power of an interpretation which impelled 750,000 men to bear arms to defend their new nation? Have they pondered the force of a belief that enabled a small nation to wage war for four years against a vastly superior enemy?

I have seen little evidence of any reflection or any appreciation of the complexities of history. Rather, I have seen mobs attacking and defacing monuments; I have seen police standing by and letting this lawbreaking happen; I have seen prosecutors condone vandalism by refusing to prosecute vandals; I have seen craven politicians pandering to the mob; I have seen a judge, in the face of a clear law protecting monuments, declare a monument to be the nuisance, not the mob attacking it, and ordering the monument to be removed; I have seen beautiful works of art wrecked because unthinking people have bought into a narrative and accepted a story too good to check.

The basic argument against Confederate monuments boils down to this: Confederates were defending slavery and the monument builders were defending white supremacy and Jim Crow. Period, End of story. Tear ‘em down.

I have read and transcribed every inscription on every surface of every Confederate monument in two states. I have read many contemporary accounts of the fundraising efforts and dedication ceremonies. Nothing I have read leads me to believe the builders of the monuments were motivated by racial animus.

I would not deny that many of the monuments were built in the Jim Crow era or the people who built them (with few exceptions, I am sure) were segregationists. They did not believe in racial equality. They did not favor equal political and civil rights for all citizens regard-

15 Regarding the issue of secession, President Dwight Eisenhower wrote, in a letter to Dr. Leon W. Scott, “Men of probity, character, public standing and unquestioned loyalty, both North and South, had disagreed over this issue as a matter of principle from the day our Constitution was adopted.” (www.civilwarprofiles.com/dwight-d-eisenhower-in-defense-of-robert-e-lee/)

less of race. To claim otherwise would be false. And if I were to make such a claim I would not count on Politifact to rule “mostly false.” However, not everything which happened in the Jim Crow era was a statement of Jim Crow repression. More than 250,000 Confederate soldiers and sailors died in that war. Tens of thousands more were wounded and suffered for the rest of their lives because of their service. Their families’ and their communities’ loss is unparalleled in American history. Their daughters and granddaughters loved these men and honored them with these works of stone and bronze.

In 1874, just nine years after the war’s end, a monument was erected to “Our Confederate Dead” in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile, Alabama. An officer of the United States Army participated in the dedication and presented a wreath. He spoke these words: “This floral offering is tendered with the kindly and sympathetic greetings of surviving Federal soldiers ... who honor the brave and heroic dead of the late war, and desire your acceptance of the same as an humble tribute to the valor and unselfish devotion to a cause held dearer than life.”¹⁶

¹⁶ *Morning Star and Catholic Messenger*, May 3, 1874, p. 1.

The soldiers of the United States who warred against these Confederates could honor them and help their families mourn. All Americans in the 21st century should be able to do the same thing.

It is important to remember Confederate memorials are not the mob’s only target. In 2020 *The Federalist* compiled a list of 183 monuments and other memorials which have been destroyed or removed. Of these, only a minority are related to the Confederacy.¹⁷ The range of targets is impressive: from Christopher Columbus to several Founding Fathers; from fallen firefighters and policemen to a Catholic saint; from a big city mayor in the East to explorers and pioneers in the West; from an Irish immigrant in Montana who committed the sin of being old and white to statues of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary.

The list is now dated, as the wreckers have had more to do their wrecking. The Confederacy is not the real target, only the immediate one. These wreckers hate the culture of which the Confederacy was a part. They hate America. They hate Western Civilization.

¹⁷ <https://thefederalist.com/2020/07/22/list-of-183-monuments-ruined-since-protests-began-and-counting/>



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Captain Henry Wirz

tens of thousands of soldiers at any one time sidelined from battle, but fighting for their very existences under horrific conditions.

Lt. James Madison Page writes:

"When we heard [Secretary of War] Stanton's reply in regard to exchange [reinstatement], we felt we were forsaken by our Government. The War Office at Washington preferred us to die rather than exchange us." "Many of the prisoners, being but human, raised their clenched, trembling hands towards heaven and with fearful oaths cursed the authorities at Washington, and the day they were born. Oh, what hatred was engendered for our Secretary of War."

Prisoner John W. Urban said:

"We sometimes felt embittered against the Government for not making a greater effort to release us, and among ourselves we often were tempted to say bitter things, but in the presence of our enemy any insinuation of this kind against our own Government would excite ire and indignation. It was a sad fact, however, that hundreds died feeling in their hearts that the Government they loved so well, and fought so hard to save was indifferent to their sad fate."

Consider the following resolutions adopted by the prisoners at Andersonville and dated Savannah, September 23, 1864" (see United States Sanitary Commission Memoirs by Professor A. Flint, New York):

"Resolved, That while allowing the Confederate Government all due praise for the attention paid to the prisoners, numbers of our men are consigned to early graves," etc. "Resolved, That ten thousand of our brave comrades have descended into untimely graves, caused by difference in climate, food, etc. And whereas these difficulties still remain, we would declare our firm belief that unless we are speedily exchanged we have no other alternative but to share the same lamentable fate of our comrades. * * Must this thing still go on? Is there no hope? * *

"Resolved, * * * We have suffered patiently, and are still willing to suffer, if by so doing we can benefit the country; but we most respectfully beg leave to say that we are not willing to suffer to further the ends of any party or clique to the detriment of our families and our country.

(Signed) "P. BRADLEY, "Chairman of Committee in

behalf of Prisoners."

Rev. J. William Jones, chaplain, pastor, author and historian said:

"The Confederates were anxious to exchange man for man. It was the settled policy on the other side not to exchange prisoners. The Confederates offered to exchange sick and wounded. This was refused. In August, 1861, we offered to send home all the Federal sick and wounded without equivalent. The offer was not accepted until the following December, and it was during that period that the greatest mortality occurred. The Federal authorities determined as their war policy not to exchange prisoners, they invented every possible pretext to avoid it, and they at the same time sought to quiet the friends of their prisoners and to "fire the Northern heart" by most shamelessly charging that the Confederate Government refused to exchange, and by industriously circulating the most malignant stories of "Rebel barbarities" to helpless veterans of the Union."

I could offer a multitude of other quotes, but I am sure that you understand that it was the North that not only stopped prisoner exchanges; they refused to freely accept their own men without exchanges.

I must point out an additional circumstance. It is simply the fact that out of the 1,000 guards at Andersonville, 226 died, of the same diseases and privations as did the Yankee prisoners. Supplies were short in the South. The North had blockaded the South and even declared medicines as contraband. It was not just Yankee prisoners who died because of the North's position but countless Southern lives were lost as well.

III. VINDICATED BY HIS CAPTIVES

James Madison Page, (2nd Lt. Company A, 6th Michigan Cavalry) in his defense of Capt. Wirz, said:

Captain Wirz was unjustly held responsible for the hardship and mortality of Andersonville, but that the Federal authorities must share the blame for these things with the Confederate, since they well knew the inability of the Confederates to meet the reasonable wants of their prisoners of war, as they lacked a supply of their own needs, and "since the Federal authorities failed to exercise a humane policy in the exchange of those captured in battle."

"I swear positively that I never heard of Captain Wirz kicking or shooting a prisoner, nor in any way maltreating him except as I have stated." — Testimony of Augustus Moesner for the defence, from Andersonville Trial transcripts.

Mr. Kantzler, Company A of the 1st Regiment of Illinois Light Artillery (the Chicago Light Artillery), a prisoner at Andersonville said:

"In my estimation Captain Wirz did the very best he could do under the circumstances, and few could have done as well as he did. He was not a deliberately cruel man, and no cruelty originated with him. When I say this I say what I know, from my personal observation, to be true. He had to carry out his orders, and he had to keep the prisoners from escaping. Captain Wirz was good-hearted by nature, and had nothing cruel about him."

"Had I not been confined to my bed with sickness at the time of Captain Wirz's trial, I should have gone voluntarily and testified in his behalf. I had no idea of the fate that was hanging over him, and never understood why so many gave false testimony against him. These men either knew better than to testify as they did or they were absolutely ignorant of the truth in regard to the matter. Men who testified strongest against him had absolutely no acquaintance with him and knew nothing about him. They were not capable of judging him or his treatment of the prisoners."

I would point out that numerous Confederates as well as the captives were willing to testify on behalf of Major Wirz. However, they were not allowed to testify because of the Judge Advocate of the military tribunal. He even refused some who had subpoenas in hand.

IV. VINDICATED BY HIS COMPASSION

Again Lt. Page testified:

"I met Wirz while on one of his visits to the hospital. He stopped his horse, and I explained briefly the situation and the condition of my comrades. Said I, 'If something is not done for them at once, in a few days death will be the result,' and this is the substance of his reply: 'I am doing all I can. I am handicapped and pressed for rations. I am exceeding my authority now in issuing supplies. I am blamed by the soldiers for all this suffering. They do not realize I am a subordinate, governed by orders of my commanding officer. Why, sir, my own men are on short rations. The best that I can do is to see that your sick comrades are removed to the hospital. God help you, I cannot,' and his eyes were filled with tears. I was crying myself. I saw how deeply he felt. He was pale and emaciated. His wounded arm was troubling him - he said nothing about the fact that gangrene had set in. I said to myself, 'Here is a man

obliged to endure the odium resulting from the sins of others."

"We parted with our Alabama guards early in April. It was a disappointment to us, for we had found friends among them, real friends who shared with us their scant allowance. Others who had nothing "gave all they had — a tear." — James Madison Page, 6th Michigan Cavalry, referring to the guards at Andersonville.

Wirz's defense showed, to no avail, that the prisoners and the guards received the same rations, with similarly deleterious effects among both, and that the commandant was on record pleading with his superiors for more.

V. VINDICATED BY HIS CONDEMNATION

It must be pointed out that any testimony or witnesses that would exonerate Major Wirz were excluded from the trial by the Judge Advocate. A simple truth is that when you control the testimony; you control the outcome of the trial.

Out of 160 witnesses called by the government, only ten or twelve testified to any alleged cruelty on the part of the defendant. Approximately 145 of the government's own witnesses, almost all of whom were former inmates of Andersonville, testified that they had no knowledge of Wirz ever murdering or killing a prisoner with his own hands or otherwise. The most damaging testimony against Wirz was that of Felix de la Baume. De la Baume was the only witness who identified a victim by name who was alleged to have been directly killed by Wirz.

De la Baume not only fabricated his identity, he also fabricated his testimony against Wirz.

De la Baume, who claimed to be a Frenchman and descendant of Lafayette, was discovered after the trial, to actually be Felix Oeser. Oeser was born in Saxony, Prussia and lied in order to help conceal that he was a former member of the 7th New York Volunteers who had deserted during the war. Moreover, he had never set foot in Andersonville and he was not a prisoner there. His testimony was false, malicious, and perjured. He was a skilled orator and so impressed the commission that he was given a written commendation signed by all of the members regarding his testimony. He was also appointed to a position in the Department of the Interior before Wirz's trial ended. It was a blatant payoff for his perjured testimony. Once his true identity and status was discovered, only eleven days after Wirz had been hanged, he admitted being Oeser and to having perjured himself in the testimony at Wirz's trial. Oeser subsequently vanished into obscurity.

VI. VINDICATED BY HIS CHARACTER

Henry Wirz rejected an offer of a pardon the night before his execution. Wirz was thrice offered pardons.

First, a party of four men visited Major Wirz in prison with an offer of full pardon and full liberty if he would implicate either directly or indirectly the President of the Confederacy with any of the charges concerning the treatment of prisoners of war. This offer was rejected with scorn saying "this offer of life could not persuade me to treason and treachery to the South nor my friend."

Second, his attorney, Louis Schade brought the message to Major Wirz and the third time the message was carried by Rev. R. E. Boyle. Each time, the offer was conditioned on his agreement to testify former Confederate President Jefferson Davis was responsible for the deaths at Andersonville. Wirz advised that such a statement would be untrue and he would not base his freedom on a lie.

It was mid morning on 10 November 1865. Henry Wirz has finished and sealed his last letter to his wife. Mr. Schade, his attorney, related the offer of pardon conveyed to him. Wirz listened until he finished and then replied, "I would not become a traitor to him or anybody else to save my life." Later that morning, Rev. R. E. Boyle conveyed the same message of pardon to Wirz. Wirz replied, "although I am innocent of these cruel charges, I will not purchase my liberty by perjury."

Think, if a man was a cold-hearted and cruel murderer and that he had previously murdered others simply to satisfy his cruel and wicked heart, how easy would it have been to deliver an innocent man in his stead. The mere fact that Major Wirz would not incriminate President Jefferson Davis in order to save his life speaks volumes as to his character and his innocence.

The execution took place on the 10th of November. The gallows was surrounded by Union Army soldiers who, throughout the procedure, chanted "Wirz, remember, Andersonville." Accompanied by a Catholic priest, Wirz refused to make a last minute confession, claiming he was not guilty of committing any crime.

Major Russell read the death warrant and then told Wirz he "deplored this duty." Wirz replied that: "I know what orders are, Major. And I am being hanged for obeying them."

Wirz displayed no fear and faced his death stoically. When asked for any last words, he said "I have nothing to say, only that I am innocent, and will die like a man, my hopes being in the future. I go before my God, the Almighty God, and he will judge between me and you." The trap was sprung, but Wirz did not

die immediately. To the shouts and taunts of the mob, he slowly choked to death.

Father Boyle later wrote, in a letter to Jefferson Davis: "I attended the Major to the scaffold, and he died in the peace of God and praying for his enemies. I know that he was indeed innocent of all the cruel charges on which his life was sworn away, and I was edified by the Christian spirit in which he submitted to his persecutors."

APPLICATIONS

1. The vindication of Captain Wirz is the condemnation of a corrupt, abusive and unconstitutional government. If Wirz is vindicated, Washington is condemned. It cannot be any other way. Corruption is nothing new. Whenever there is no rule of law there is only tyranny. Whereever there is governmental corruption, there is governmental tyranny. Today, multitudes of governmental crimes as well as governmental corruption are hidden and disguised under "national security" or "governmental immunity."

2. Consider this irony. Ironically, today, over the spot where Wirz died, symbolic of the justice which he was denied, stands the United States Supreme Court. Undoubtedly, we should understand that as it was then with the South, so it is now. Men may commit injustice, deny justice and thwart righteousness; however, they cannot escape their just penalty and punishment.

In defense of the Confederate government and Confederate prison officials in regards to Andersonville, a response was made in 1876, by the Southern Historical Society, consisting of nine points which place the blame for deaths and suffering at Andersonville totally on Northern politicians and military authorities. Specifically President Lincoln, Sec. of War Stanton, Asst. Sec. of War Dana, and Gen. Grant shoulder the blame as noted in the following nine points.

1. It is not denied great suffering and mortality occurred but it was due to circumstances and conditions beyond Confederate control.

2. If the death rate be adduced as "circumstantial evidence of barbarity," the rate of Confederate deaths was higher in Northern POW camps where there was an abundance of food, medicine, and shelter.

3. The Union POWs were given the same rations as Confederate guards and soldiers and equal treatment in hospitals as required by the CSA government and the death rate of CSA guards was the same as POWs. The Northern Federal government did not have this humane policy.

4. The exchange of prisoners was refused by the North.

5. The Confederate government requested Northern doctors and medicine be sent to treat Northern POWs and the request was denied.

6. The Confederate government tried to buy supplies including bowls and other utensils to use in feeding the POWs. They offered to pay with cotton and gold but the offer was refused by the Lincoln administration.

7. The Federal Government under President Lincoln made medicine contraband causing suffering and death of Union POWs and all Southerners, military and civilian.

8. Prior to the period of greatest mortality, the Confederate authorities offered to release the Andersonville POWs without exchange but the offer was not accepted by the Lincoln Administration who was told by Confederate authorities "we cannot feed or care for them-just come get them." Sherman's barbaric war crimes in Georgia consisting of stealing, destroying, and burning made food and supplies even scarcer and increased suffering and mortality.

9. The Northern press was furnished lies and propaganda by Union Secretary and Assistant Secretary of War Stanton and Dana claiming deliberate cruelties and war crimes by the South. The control of Northern

POW camps was transferred by Stanton and Dana to vindictive partisan criminal elements and deliberate war crimes of cruelty, torture, and murder were committed against Confederate POWs as proven by a joint resolution of the US Senate and House SR97.

The transcripts of the Andersonville Trial are public record. They can be read. Where are the transcripts for Elmira, Fort Douglas, Fort Delaware and Point Lookout? The graves of 13,000 dead stand in orderly rows in Andersonville, Georgia — where are the graves of Confederates in Illinois, New York and Maryland?

Pastor John Weaver is a native of Georgia, and a graduate from Bob Jones University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology and attended graduate school. He has been in the Christian ministry more than 50 years. During that time, he has pastored, and helped plant several churches and Christian schools around the country. Pastor Weaver has traveled across America preaching and lecturing in churches, colleges and conferences. He is a member of the Brigadier General Samuel McGowan Camp 40 in Fitzgerald, GA.



Military Order of the Stars and Bars



1861-1865

If you are a lineal or collateral male descendant of someone in the Confederate States of America Officer Corps or someone who was an elected or appointed government official in the Confederate States of America, consider joining the

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For information on our activities and eligibility requirements, contact us at:

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Or via U.S. Mail at:

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P.O. Box 697

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www.mosbhq.org

mosbdirector1938@gmail.com



THE SOCIETY OF THE ORDER OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Financial Assistance for Preservation Projects

The Order of the Southern Cross, founded in 1863 by Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne, Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk, and Rev. Charles Quintard, was originally created to foster brotherhood and to provide financial assistance to the families of soldiers who had lost their lives in the service of the Confederacy.

The Order of the Southern Cross was re-established in 1979 as a philanthropic organization, dedicated to preserving our Southern Heritage through its Grants and Scholarship Programs. Since 1979, the Order has allocated more than \$1 million to these endeavors.

If your SCV Camp or 501(c)3 organization is seeking financial assistance to help fund a Confederate preservation project, we encourage you to contact the Chairman of our Grants Committee, Richard Smoot, at respln@flash.net or visit our website for more information.

Deo Vindice

www.orderofsoutherncross.com

HERITAGE SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS

Platinum Level

Tharin Walker
Brandon Kennemur
Thomas Russell
SCV Camp 270

Mt. Pleasant, SC
Rogersville, AL
Lake City, CO
Greenbrier, TN

Gold Level

SCV Camp 1308
Derrick Glover

Shreveport, LA

21ST CENTURY CONFEDERATE HEROES

Derrick Glover
James R. Nelson
Bret Cox
SCV Camp 702
Ross Cox, Sr.
Tony Williams
SCV Camp 706
Frank Fryer
SCV Camp 71
William E. Nelson
SCV Camp 21

Darren D. Farley
SCV Camp 1321
Mark Roberts
SCV Camp 130
Dennis Lord
Allen Lawrence
Mississippi Division SCV
Camp 1937
Brandon Kennemur
Timothy Hazlewood

CONFEDERATE MUSEUM DONATIONS

SC Division SCV	\$12,000	Don and Bonnie Taylor	\$150	Harper, TX
Nancy Corbett	\$3,000	In memory of David McMahon		
In Memory of J. T. Gressette, III		Jim Daniel	\$100	Saulsbury, TN
Lee Ann Cowart		Michael Brakel		Cochranville, PA
In Memory of J. T. Gressette, III		K. G. Watson		Maggie Valley, NC
Walter D. Carr	\$1,500	Frank B. Powell, III		Wake Forest, NC
SCV Camp 2295	\$1,000	Kenneth Cotter		Lewisville, TX
Ruble Troy Sanderson	\$500	Emanuel Tapia, Jr.		Satsuma, AL
SCV Camp 2095	\$400	Michael Walker		Charleston, SC
Lawrence Pratt	\$250	Gregory Knapp		South Lyon, MI
Brandon Kennemur	\$200	James Borum, Jr.		Columbia, TN
John T. Taylor		SCV Camp 1576	75	Latta, SC
Sara Neel Powell		William Parker	50	Thermopolis, WY
Paul Vaughn		Gary Wright		Durant, OK
		Melody Bage		
		Michael Fowler		Ft. Pierce, FL
		Frank Leatherwood		Boaz, AL
		Matthew Joyner, Sr.		Charlotte, NC
		Gary and Paralee Wright		Durant, OK

SCV RELIEF FUND

Thomas Russell	\$200	Steven Estep	\$50	Springfield, TN
Delance Stephens	\$100			



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Please state which fund your donation should be applied to.

Note: this is not an all-inclusive list — just a list of processed donations at press time. SCV Headquarters has not been able to process all donations as of the date of submission, but all donors who meet the criteria will be recognized in future issues. Thank you for your donations and patience.

REPORT OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

being unalienable; therefore, what was true in 1776 was equally true in 1861. The following are the nine unalienable American Rights:

(1) The right to “dissolve the political bands which have connected them to another.” The act of secession is the act of dissolving political bonds.

(2) “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” Thus, the only legitimate government is one based upon consent, not coercion. A free society will utilize consent to form or maintain a government; tyrannical governments use coercion, especially the coercion of bloody bayonets, to form or maintain their empire.

(3) “Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive...it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it.” The idea that a people have every right to “alter or abolish” any government comes directly from John Locke’s Second Treatise of Government, where he stated that “Men can never be secure from Tyranny, if there be no means to escape it.” Secession is the means to be secured from central government tyranny.

(4) “It is the Right of the People ... to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.” In 1861, the people of several sovereign States elected to institute a new government most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. In doing so, they were following an outline laid out by America’s Founding Fathers. The concept of promoting the “Safety and Happiness” of a people over the rights of government is fully announced by James Madison in *Federalist Paper 43*, “the Safety and Happiness of society are the objects at which all political institutions must be sacrificed.”

(5) “It is the right, it is the duty to throw off such [despotic] Governments.” Once again, we see America’s most foundational document proclaims the right of secession.

(6) “He [the King] has excited domestic insur-

rections amongst us.” The use of slave insurrection to force “rebels” in America was first used by the English tyrant. Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation was written in part to promote the same results.

(7) “We, the Representatives of the United States.” Notice this document is being issued not from a single country, Union, or nation but for a plural number of States.

(8) “In the Name and Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States.” Notice the plural “these” States. Who is being declared to be Free and Independent? Not the United State (singular) but these States, something which was noted in 1783 when Great Britain acknowledged the independence of each State and named each State as a “free independent and sovereign State.”

(9) In the last few lines of the Declaration, it is announced that the State (singular) of Great Britain must acknowledge that these States (plural) are “Free and independent States (plural) and may do “all other Acts and Things which Independence States (plural) may of right do.” Nothing in this document promotes the idea that the Federal Government is a “one nation indivisible” and had a lawful or historic right to invade and occupy a State of the Union. Lincoln and the Radical Republican Party were wrong; our Confederate ancestors were Right!

The question now is, what do we do with this information? Our Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief, Chief of Heritage Operations, and I will be working hard for the rest of this year to assist each camp in getting our message out to the public. The Deputy Chief of Heritage Promotions will provide us with several videos of the Declaration of Independence. If every SCV camp posts these videos on their social media and encourage camp members to post these videos on their social media, we can reach millions of people with the truth about REAL American history. Along with

the video, we are producing one-minute radio ads and newspaper ads. I will be asking Divisions, Brigades, and Camps to collaborate with the Confederate Legion to secure advertising space on local radio stations and/or newspapers for our ads. At the same time, the National SCV will be placing radio, print, and internet ads in strategic locations. In the following issues of the *Confederate Veteran* magazine, we will occasionally place postcards to be mailed to various agents who need to hear from us. Postcards in the *Confederate Veteran* are useless IF they remain in your *Confederate Veteran*. Success is possible only if members use these postcards which will be occasionally inserted in the *Confederate Veteran*.

Yes, at times this seems to be a daunting task, but remember these words: "Shoulder pressing close to shoulders, let the odds make each bolder." Forward, gentlemen, forward to victory.

Deo Vindice

Walter D. (Donnie) Kennedy
Commander-in-Chief



About the Cover:

Florida Confederate Soldiers Monument

Erected: 1898

Reinstate: 2025

Florida Division

**2025 Dr. James Butler Award –
Best Historical Project**

Photo by Calvin Hart

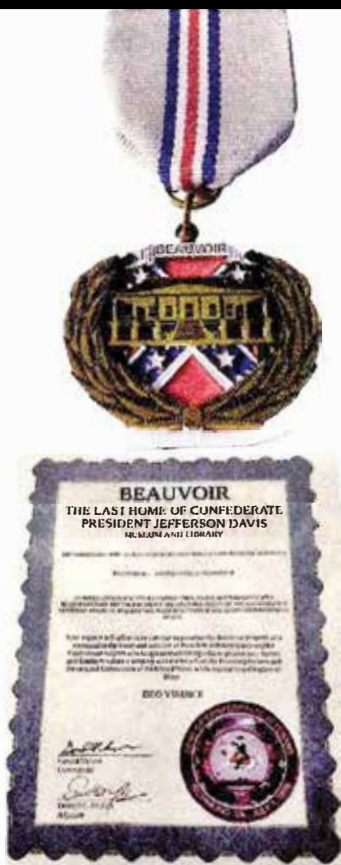
MORE HELP NEEDED

We have been in the process of collecting donations to pave the entrance driveway at BEAUVOIR, the last home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. So far we have been very successful but have a long way to go. We have raised approximately one third of the needed funds to complete the paving project. Therefore we are again asking for your support, as before in our request for any donation of \$35.00 or more the Sam Davis Camp will acknowledge your donation with a one of a kind Beauvoir Medal and a certificate of appreciation as a thank you. Donations can be sent to: Sam Davis Camp 596, P.O. Box 7532, D'Iberville, MS 39540.

Deo Vindice

Joe Newman
1st Lt. Commander
228-326-8263

Donald McFall
Adjutant
228-297-0007
mastersarg70@gmail.com





Join the Cavalry!

Join the Sons of Confederate Veterans **Mechanized Cavalry**



★ Heritage Preservation ★ Group Rides
See YOU on the “Front Lines”!

We of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) who ride motorcycles have banded together into a special interest group within the organization. Members of the SCV are most welcome and encouraged to join even if they do not have a motorcycle (dismounted cavalry) at the time of submitting the SCV Mechanized Cavalry Application. We currently have one annual national meet, around the second week of June, which rotates to each host state each year. Members living near each other are encouraged to gather on a more frequent basis to attend camp meetings, dedications, re-enactments, and other SCV and UDC events together. Even rides for fun are good to hone the skills and fellowship of the South's new Mechanized Cavalry!

We have “Back Patches” you may wear, if you wish, at appropriate places and times. Had the motorcycle been in existence during the War Between the States, our ancestors would certainly have utilized that mode of transportation. We are then the present day mechanized cavalry, Confederate States of America, on-going. There is a one-time application fee of \$100 to cover an attractive back patch. This fee also helps us pay for the expenses of the group and membership activities. There are currently no annual dues or fees. We are a Heritage group. We are not a motorcycle club. We follow a set of standing orders necessary to uphold the ethics and values of our organization.



www.csascvmc.org

Colonel Tim Hawkins • thawkins427@gmail.com • 478-951-2628

Ride with the SCV Mech Cav!

Confederate Classifieds

JOIN THE CONFEDERATE LEGION (CL). Our goal is to begin with a thousand members in each Army. Each CL member will donate a minimum of \$50 per year. Money raised will finance a South-wide network of Talk and Country radio station ads — Radio Free Dixie. See our new Heritage Operations website to join this effort: www.make-dixiegreatagain.org Donations to the Confederate Legion is not limited to SCV members. 90 percent of CL donations will be used for direct, public, pro-South advertising. Targeted Internet ads will be purchased to appeal to a younger audience. YouTube videos ads giving our side of the story with Southern Media Resources to identify fair/friendly media outlets to promote our Cause.

LET US PUBLISH YOUR NEXT BOOK! From one copy to a thousand or more. The Scuppernong Press, PO Box 1724, Wake Forest, NC 27588. www.scuppernongpress.com

THE SCV IS ASKING FOR WORTHY DONATIONS of Confederate and SCV historical items for our museum. Please contact us at exedir@scv.org for donations or loans before sending them to General Headquarters.

FRANK STRINGFELLOW CAMP 822 CIVIL WAR SHOW, Saturday, September 13, 9:00–4:00. Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, Fairfax, Virginia. Vendors welcome. Information: 703-389-1505, mayo5304@cox.net

ARE YOU MOVING? Do you need subscription information or have a question? If so, please contact General Headquarters 1-800-380-1896

2026 MID-SOUTH MILITARY HISTORY & CIVIL WAR SHOW. Friday, March 6 (1-6pm), Saturday, March 7 (9am-5pm); Landers Center, Exit 287, I-55 @Church Rd., Southaven, MS (20 minutes south of downtown Memphis); Vendors, Re-enactors, Historians, Music, Food Trucks, Raffle; Buy/Sell/Trade quality items from the American Revolution-20th Century. Friday 3pm movie, Saturday Speaker Series (11am-4pm) Opening Ceremony Saturday (10am); Adults \$10 (2-day pass, \$15) 12 & under Free. Contact Don Harrison (901-832-4708) / Dwharrison@aol.com.

LORING'S DIVISION is the first known history of any division. If your ancestor was in these Alabama regiments: 27, 35, 49, 55, 57; Louisiana: 12th; Mississippi: 1,3,6,14,15, 20,22, 23, 31, 33, 40, 43; batteries: Bouanchaud's, Cowan's, Darden's, this will be of interest. Order from www.scuppernongpress.com, or Amazon.

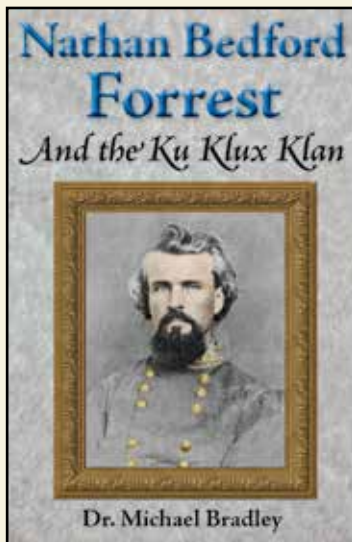
WANTED DEATH AND BURIAL documentation for Lt. John Pundt CSN. The last record was for Navasota, TX. He served on CSS *Alabama*. rgissell@bellsouth.net 843-762-4410

Confederate Veteran Rate: The fee for a twenty (20) word ad in Confederate Classifieds is \$20. All additional words are 50 cents each. The minimum fee per ad is \$20. Send all classified advertisements, payable to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, to: Editor-in-Chief, 9701 Fonville Road, Wake Forest, NC 27587. **All ads must be prepaid.**

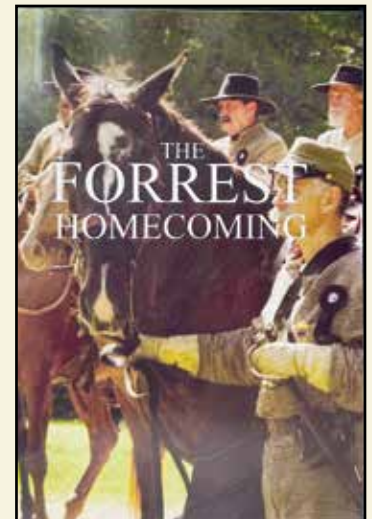
Confederate Gifts from GHQ

Elm Springs was built in 1837 by two brothers as a gift for their only sister. The beautiful brick home is situated on 80 picturesque acres and is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture. The home has been owned and operated by the Sons of Confederate Veterans since 1992 and is located adjacent to The National Confederate Museum in Columbia, Tennessee.

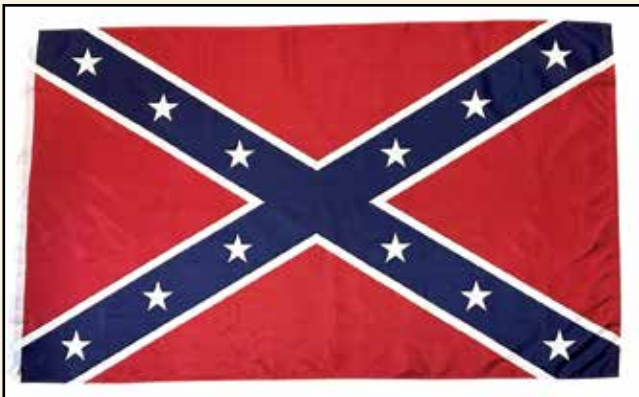
The home is open for tours and special events.



Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Ku Klux Klan. We've all heard the rumors about Forrest being in the KKK. Was he or wasn't he? This 25-page booklet does a deep dive into this controversial topic. Written by Dr. Michael Bradley. #1240 \$3.75 each.



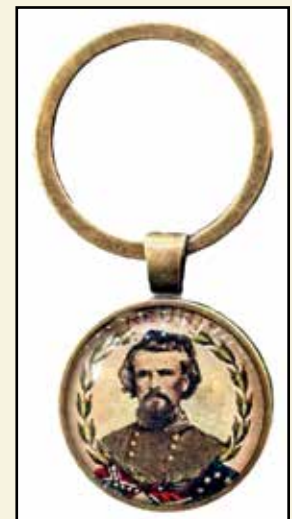
Forrest Homecoming DVD. This 2021 SCV-produced documentary depicts the reinterment ceremony of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife Maryanne. Footage includes the Forrest Boyhood Home in Chapel Hill, TN and SCV HQ in Columbia, TN. Run time is 60 minutes. **\$24.99**



Forrest Flag. 3' x 5' polyester flag. **\$12.99**



Forrest Music Box. Choose from black & white or color photo. Plays our beloved *Dixie*. #1381 **\$28.99**

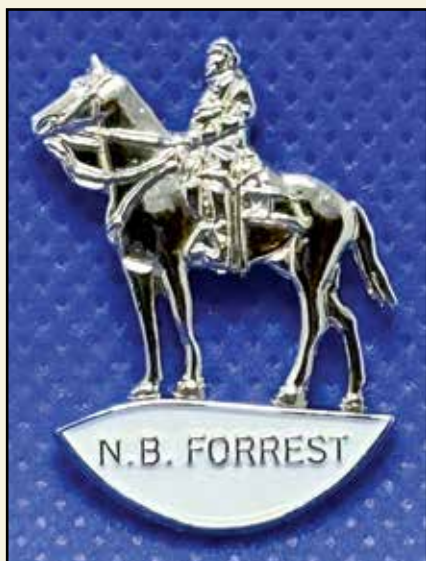


NEW ITEM!

Forrest Keychain. Antiqued brass metal keychain with glass dome. #1569 **\$7.99**

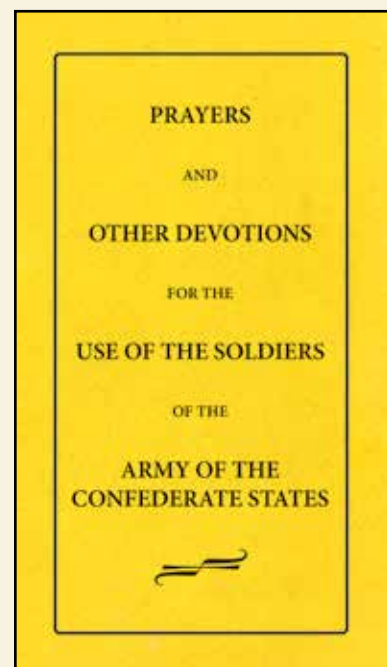
NEW ITEM!

Forrest Bookmark. **\$4.99**



General N. B. Forrest Monument Lapel Pin. This beautiful silver lapel pin depicts General N. B. Forrest's monument which now resides at SCV HQ & Historic Elm Springs. Excellent quality and MADE IN AMERICA! #1494 \$12.00

Prayers and Other Devotions for the Use of the Soldiers of the Army of the CSA (paperback). This small prayer book was originally published early in the war to be distributed to Confederate soldiers marching off to war. #1460 \$5.00



1896 Knit Cap. Lined with fleece to keep your head warm this winter. Available in Charcoal Gray or Black. One size fits all. #1568 \$22.99



SCV Logo Knit Cap. Lined with fleece to keep your head warm this winter. Available in Charcoal Gray or Black. One size fits all. #1568 \$22.99 *Member only purchase.

Sons of Confederate Veterans Order Form

PO Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402 • 800-693-4943 • www.scv.org

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

SCV ID _____ Camp _____

Quantity	Title	Price
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Personal Check ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX ☐

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____ Security Code: _____

☐ Yes! Round up my purchase to the nearest dollar and donate the difference to the SCV Heritage Defense Fund.

Shipping Chart: Minimum Charge		\$9.75	
\$20.01 – \$35.00	\$11.50	Add \$2.25 extra for every \$25 increment over \$100	
\$35.01 – \$50.00	\$12.75		
\$50.01 – \$65.00	\$14.00	Tennessee Residents add 9.75% Sales Tax	
\$65.01 – \$80.00	\$15.25		
\$80.01 – \$95.00	\$16.50		
\$95.01 – \$100.00	\$17.75		



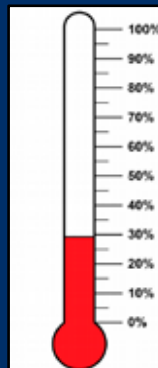
For 25 years, The Stonewall Brigade SCV has been fighting hard to honor Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson in Lexington, Virginia where both men are buried. Once known as the "Shrine of the South," the city driven by woke academics has systematically worked to erase both men from an area that once depended on tourism dollars made off of their names. Today, you would hardly know these great men rest here. To fight back, we developed Lee-Jackson Memorial Park as a place to honor them.

Our goal is to develop a 22 Acre recreation and learning facility to ensure that their names remain prominent, but we cannot do it without your support!



YOU CAN HELP by making sure that we secure all the property we need for this ambitious memorial park by making a generous donation which in 2025 will initially be matched by a \$10,000 matching grant pledge up to the limit. We are looking for other partners to expand the matching program. Please mark your donation as '2025 Matching Grant' if you want to participate.

While this helps we will need just over \$250,000 more to ultimately secure all of the real estate for this park. So far we've secured 8.01 Acres at a cost of approximately \$101,000 and over \$75,000 more has been put into development or donated monuments since 2023. Help us finish the job to secure Lee and Jackson's legacy! Donations may be made online or by mail



Aerial Photo Credit: RJ ~ Dixie Forever

Donate a Memorial Brick for our flag plaza in honor of your ancestor, unit, or loved one for \$125. Large bricks are available for \$250. Visit leejacksonpark.com for online orders or to download an order form.

The Stonewall Brigade SCV PO Box 466 Lexington, VA 24450
Custom logos are also available. thestonewallbrigade1296@gmail.com



Compatriots in Texas

There are more than 225 brave Texans buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Richmond Virginia with no headstones to honor their sacrifice.



The Virginia Division and its Oakwood Restoration Committee respectfully challenge the Texas Division, its Camps, and Compatriots to consider sponsoring a headstone or headstones for your men. We have negotiated very good pricing with Southern Heritage Products and are able to provide the headstones for \$450 installed. These are Veterans Administration style upright granite headstones produced by a Veterans Administration supplier.

More than 16,000 Confederate soldiers from every State in the Confederacy are laid to rest at Oakwood Cemetery. These heroes died in Richmond hospitals during the war, and most graves are unmarked except for a small 6" X 6" numbered marker which may represent as many as six soldiers. This may be acceptable to the Veteran's Administration—*but it is not acceptable to us!*

Donations for the upkeep of the cemetery are greatly appreciated as well. You can also support us by purchasing a Friends or Descendants medal. (Descendant of soldier buried in Oakwood medal shown, friend's medal is bronze) These medals are \$35 which includes shipping.

The Confederate soldiers buried in Oakwood Cemetery deserve better. Won't you help us? We will highlight the soldiers from other Divisions in future editions.

Oakwood Restoration Committee

C/o Richard A. Moomaw

69 Old Kiln Lane

Mt. Jackson, VA 22842

rmoomaw@shentel.net



Learn more about Oakwood at: www.scvvirginia.org/oakwood-overview

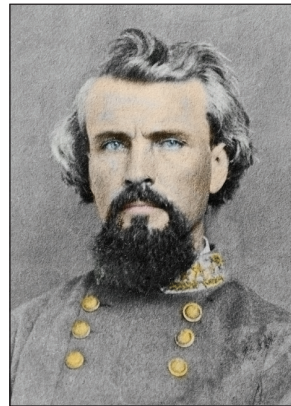
Sons of Confederate Veterans



Southern Heroes are American Heroes
Visit our National Headquarters
Columbia, Tennessee



1837 Antebellum Home
Open for tours
Weddings and showers
Special public events
www.visitelmsprings.com



Final resting place of
General Nathan B. Forrest
and Mrs. Forrest



National Confederate Museum
and SCV Headquarters
with Research Library.
Presenting our true history!

**Join the SCV and help us defend Traditional American Values, including
the truth about Southern heritage and history. Go to: www.scv.org**

Learn the truth about the War for Southern Independence — view our videos



Honoring America's Military Heroes



Monuments Matter

