

General Robert E. Rodes
Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #262
Tuscaloosa, Alabama



*I Salute The Confederate Flag; With Affection, Reverence,
 And Undying Devotion To The Cause For Which It Stands.*

From The Adjutant



The General Robert E. Rodes Camp 262, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will meet on Thursday night, June 13, 2013. The meeting starts at 7 PM in the Tuscaloosa Public Library Rotary Room, 2nd Floor. The Library is located at 1801 Jack Warner Parkway.

The program for June will be by Commander David Allen on Grierson's Raid in Mississippi in April 1863. The movie, *The Horse Soldier's* with John Wayne and William Holden is based on the raid; see <http://tinyurl.com/kgsbrqw> . More on Grierson's Raid at <http://tinyurl.com/ke78q5g>

The Index of Articles and the listing of Camp Officers are now on Page Two. Look for "Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #262 Tuscaloosa, AL" on our [Facebook page](#), and "Like" us.

James (Jim) B. Simms

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



Upcoming 2013 Events



13 June - Camp Meeting

10 October- Camp Meeting

27 October - Thsil'du Fish Fry

11 July - Camp Meeting

14 November - Camp Meeting

August—No Meeting
Annual Summer Stand Down/Bivouac

3 December - Dicken's Christmas Northport

12 December - Camp Meeting

12 September - Camp Meeting

Officers of the Rodes Camp

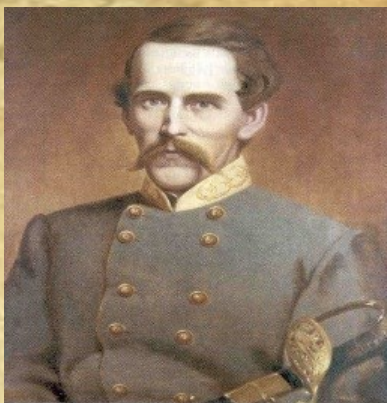
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Commander	David Allen	danptal@aol.com
1st Lieutenant Commander	John Harris	
2nd Lieutenant Commander & Adjutant	Frank Delbridge	Reb41st@aol.com
Color Sergeant	Clyde Biggs	
Chaplain	John Clayton	
Newsletter	James Simms	jbsimms@comcast.net
Website	Brad Smith	tidepridebrad@gmail.com

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General Robert Emmet Rodes (1829-1864)



The Robert E. Rodes Camp #262 is named in memory of Robert Emmet Rodes. General Rodes was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, on March 30, 1829; the son of General David Rodes and Martha Yancey. Attending Virginia Military Institute, he graduated in July 1848, standing 10th in a class of 24 graduates; Assistant Professor (Physical Science, Chemistry, Tactics) at VMI, 1848-1850. He married Virginia Hortense Woodruff (1833-1907), of Tuscaloosa, Alabama in September 1857. They had 2 children: Robert Emmet Rodes, Jr. (1863-1925) and a daughter, Bell Yancey Rodes (1865-1931). He taught at VMI as an assistant professor until 1851. He left when a promotion he wanted to full professor was given instead to Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, a future Confederate general and commander of his. Rodes used his civil engineering skills to become

chief engineer for the Alabama & Chattanooga Railroad in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He held this position until the start of the Civil War. Although born a Virginian, he chose to serve his adopted state of Alabama.

He started his Confederate service as a Colonel in command of the 5th Alabama Infantry regiment, in the brigade commanded by Major General Richard S. Ewell, with which he first saw combat at the 1st Bull Run. He was promoted to Brigadier General on October 21, 1861, and commanded a brigade under Major General Daniel H. Hill. In the Peninsula Campaign, Rodes was wounded in the arm at Seven Pines and was assigned to light duty in the defenses of Richmond, Virginia while he recuperated.

He recovered in time for General Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the north in September, 1862, fighting at South Mountain and Sharpsburg. At Sharpsburg, he commanded one of two brigades that held out so long against the Union assault on the sunken road, or "Bloody Lane", at the center of the Confederate line, suffering heavy casualties. Rodes was lightly wounded by shell fragments.

At Chancellorsville, Rodes was a division commander in Stonewall Jackson's corps. He was the only division-level commander in Lee's army who had not graduated from West Point. He was temporarily placed in command of the corps on May 2, 1863, when Jackson was mortally wounded and Lieutenant General A.P. Hill was also wounded, but Lee quickly replaced him with the more experienced Major General J.E.B. Stuart. Jackson on his deathbed recommended that Rodes be promoted to Major General and this promotion was back-dated to be effective May 2nd.

When Lee reorganized the Army of Northern Virginia to compensate for the loss of Jackson, Rodes joined the II Corps under Ewell. At Gettysburg, on July 1, Rodes led the assault south from Oak Hill against the right flank of the Union I Corps. Although he successfully routed the division of Major Gen. John C. Robinson and drove it back through the town, the attack was not as well coordinated or pursued as aggressively as his reputation would have implied. His division sat mostly idle for the remaining two days of the battle. After performing poorly at Gettysburg, and recovered his reputation somewhat by performing better at Spotsylvania Court House.

Rodes continued to fight with Ewell's corps through the Overland Campaign of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Ewell was replaced by Major General Jubal A. Early and his corps was sent by Lee to the Shenandoah Valley to draw Union forces away from the Siege of Petersburg, in the Valley Campaign. They conducted a long and successful raid down the Valley, into Maryland, and reached the outskirts of Washington, D.C., before turning back. Major Gen. Philip Sheridan was sent by Grant to drive Early from the Valley.

On September 19, 1864, Sheridan attacked the Confederates at Opequon/3rd Winchester. Several wives of Confederate officers were chased from town during the attack and Rodes managed to save Major Gen. John B. Gordon's wife from capture. Rodes and Gordon prepared to attack Sheridan's forces when Rodes was struck in the back of his head by a Union shell fragment. He died on the field outside Winchester.

Rodes was a modest but inspiring leader. He was mourned by the Confederacy as a promising, brave, and aggressive officer killed before he could achieve greatness. Lee and other high-ranking officers wrote sympathetic statements. He was buried with his family in The Presbyterian Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia next to his brother, Virginius Hudson Rodes; and his parents. His wife Virginia Hortense is buried at Evergreen Cemetery, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; her home state.

His Major Commands included Rode's Brigade/D.H. Hill's Division and Rodes Division/II Corps.

Replace your regular Alabama car Tag with an Alabama SCV specialty car Tag!!



Remember: 1. The SCV Specialty Tag is an **OFFICIAL, LEGALLY RECOGNIZED LICENSE PLATE** as established by an act of the Alabama Legislature. The Battle Flag exhibited in this manner can NOT be discriminated against or removed by any government entity, corporation, employer or person without violating the law. IMAGINE! While politicians remove our flag from public view, one at a time, we will be displaying our Flag by the thousands to the public, furthering Confederate Pride and Loyalty.

2. You may personalize this tag with up to 5 letters and/or numbers, AT NO EXTRA CHARGE. (ALDIV, ALREB, 33ALA, 5THAL, CSSAL, etc.). Ask the Tag clerk when ordering.

How to buy:

1. When your current regular tag expires, go to the County's Probate Judge's Office or County Tag Office and say, "I want to order the Specialty Car Tag of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in place of my regular car tag."

2. You may **personalize (*)** this tag with up to 5 letters / numbers. Ask the Tag Clerk when ordering. **(AT No EXTRA CHARGE.)**

This cost is \$50.00 (in addition to the regular cost of an Alabama car tag), of which \$41.25 goes to the Alabama Division, SCV to promote and protect our Confederate Heritage and History.

You may reserve your choice before you go by going to:
<https://www.alabamainteractive.org/dorpt/UserHome.str>

ALABAMA REGISTRATION (TAG) FEE SCHEDULE

<http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/mvforms/feeschedule.htm>

Be sure to select the SCV tag! The cost of reserving a personalized plate is \$2 and payment must be made online using either VISA or MASTERCARD. Once approved, the reservation will be valid for five business days. You will not be charged if DOR rejects your request.

Alabama SCV Car Tag T-Shirt



Most of you are aware that the Alabama Division has a new t-shirt that promotes the SCV car tag approved for sale in the State of Alabama.

Pictured is Morgan Strain wearing the new shirt. The front of the shirt has an Alabama state flag on it with Alabama Division above the flag. Please contact Northeast Brigade Commander Tom Strain at tom@ssnurseries.com or at 729-8501 to order the shirts. Order blank here:

<http://www.aladivscv.com/forms/OrderBlank.pdf>

Historical Markers of the Tuscaloosa Area

Gorgas House

Built 1829 as University dining hall—Remodeled as a residence in 1840—Occupied by Gorgas family 1879-1953.

Gorgas House—Preserved as memorial to: General Josiah Gorgas (1818-1883) Chief of Ordnance Confederacy 1861-1865. President of University 1878-1879. Mrs. Amelia Gayle Gorgas (1826-1913)—University Librarian 1879-1906.

General William Crawford Gorgas (1854-1920) Surgeon General of U.S. Army—Sanitary Engineer whose work assured Panama Canal construction through elimination of Yellow Fever. (Located in Tuscaloosa at Gorgas House)

Gorgas-Manly Historic District

Twelve acres of the campus on the University of Alabama including eight buildings designated in the National Register of Historic Places as the Gorgas-Manly District.

The Gorgas-Manly Historic District includes: The Gorgas House (1829), first structure built on the original campus; The Round House (1860), used by cadets on guard duty, another of the four buildings to survive the fires set by Federal troops in 1865; Woods Hall (1868), first building constructed after the Civil War and serving for the next sixteen years as the University; Manly (1886), Clark (1886), Garland (1888) Halls, built as the state began to recover from the Reconstruction Era; Toumey and Barnard Halls (1888), which completed the nineteenth-century University of Alabama campus.

Website Report for May

For the month of May our website received 164 visits for a total of 859 pageviews. Since April of 2010, our website has received 2,097 visits for a total of 5,445.

Where do all of these hits come from? 36% of our directed traffic comes from the SCV National Headquarters (scv.org), 10% comes from Google (google.com), 6% from the Alabama Division Headquarters (aladivscv.com), and 3% from Facebook (facebook.com).

The Rodes Camp Facebook page now has 128 "Likes"! We're still working to integrate Facebook and also Twitter into our camp website. Also featured on our website is a video from S.C.V. Productions, the official YouTube channel of the Sons Of Confederate Veterans. With these features, our website features new content on a daily basis.

As reported last month, our camp website will be competing for the "Gen. Samuel Cooper Award" at the 2013 Reunion in Vicksburg. This award goes to the best website in the Sons Of Confederate Veterans.

Best to all of you,

Bradley Smith
Webmaster, SCVTuscaloosa.org

2012 5th Alabama Regiment Band Event Calendar

Boligee, AL	October 27	Thils'du Fish Fry Concert
Suwanee, FL	Nov. 16-17	Reenactments/Dance
Northport, AL	December 3	Dickens Christmas Concert

Upcoming 2013 Area Reenactment Dates and Locations

2013 Alabama SCV Reunion	June 7 - 8	Foley, AL	http://www.aladivscv.com/reunion.htm
150th Battle of Gettysburg	July 4 - 7	Gettysburg, PA	

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Reenactment Dates (Continued):

Battle of Iuka	August 30	Iuka, MS	
Siege of Decatur	Aug. 30– Sept. 1	Decatur, AL	
149th Battle of Tunnel Hill	Sept. 6 - 8	Tunnel Hill, GA	
Battle of Buckhorn Station	Sept. 27-29	New Market, AL	
Fall Muster @ Beauvoir	Oct. 18 -20	Biloxi, MS	
Cotton Pickin' Celeration	Oct. 27- 28	Harpersville, AL	Old Baker Farm
Battle for the Armory	Nov. 8 -10	Wetumpka, AL	

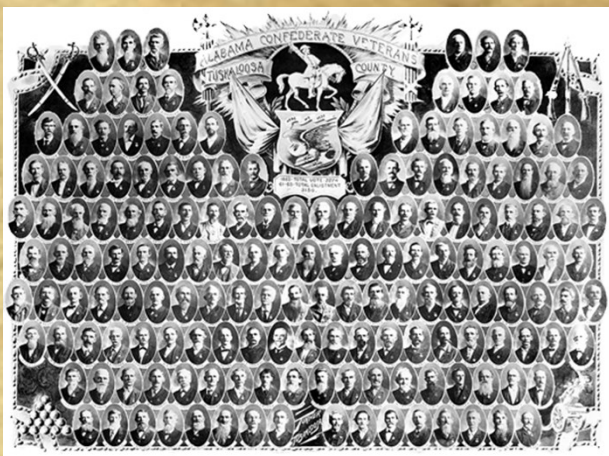
News from the Rodes Camp

The Fifth Alabama Regimental Band plays Vicksburg



The 5th Regt. Band singing the Southern Version of "Battle Cry of Freedom" at the CWPT Convention 5-31-13..

124th Anniversary of the Formation of What Became Known as the Rodes Camp



Like thousands of other veterans of the war between the states, Tuscaloosa's brave former soldiers felt the need to join together for fraternal and historical reasons. The initial organization for Confederate veterans in Tuscaloosa was the Tuscaloosa Confederate Veterans Association. When ex-Confederate General John Gordon, then Virginia's governor, issued a call to form the United Confederate Veterans in 1889, Tuscaloosa answered that call. This new national association united the local veterans groups.

Camp #262 of the United Confederate Veterans was the original camp in Tuscaloosa. It was founded on June 5, 1893 and named for General Robert E. Rodes, Tuscaloosa's highest ranking officer. Eighty three veterans answered that original call for membership. A.C. Hargrove was elected as the first Camp Commander. Throughout its history, Camp #262 performed worthwhile charitable works, collected relics, and recorded historical material. Of greater importance, these veterans served as a constant inspiration to the citizens of Tuscaloosa. The last surviving Tuscaloosa Confederate veteran was John Roble Kennedy who died February 14, 1941.

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News of the Rodes Camp (Continued): The Camp never formally dissolved, but only naturally shared the same fate of its members.

Fortunately, the A. Cole Hargrove Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #381 had been founded on July 19, 1902. This Camp was active for years and gave Tuscaloosa some of its finest citizens. The first camp First Lieutenant William Brandon was elected Alabama's Governor in 1923. Robert Jemison Hargrove was Tuscaloosa's Health Officer, James Brown was a prominent State Senator as was Frank Moody. J. Manley Foster was a delegate to the 1901 State Constitutional Convention as well as a State Legislator. W.B. Oliver served in the United States House of Representatives. Col. Woolsey Finnell was Tuscaloosa's highest ranked officer in World War One and received the French Legion of Honor and a Special Citation for Exceptionally Meritorious Service from General John Pershing. Other members were prominent lawyers, educators, farmers, businessmen, and local politicians.

There were two very special True Sons in this Camp. One was Robert Rodes, Jr., son of the Camp's namesake. The other was George Johnston, Jr., son of CSA Brigadier General George Johnston.

The Lambert-Gray Camp #1376 was organized in March, 1980. On April 16, 1986, by-laws were drawn up and the national SCV agreed to change the name to the General Robert Rodes Camp and to give the Camp the original #262. Since that time, the Camp has had tremendous growth and has been named as the outstanding Camp in the Alabama Division. In 1986 the Rodes Camp hosted what is generally agreed as the greatest State Convention held in the division's history.

Rodes Camp Public Library Display for Confederate History Month



SCV Relief Fund - Recent Severe Weather

Compatriots,

A number of years ago the SCV established a relief fund to assist our Compatriots when they experience a loss. An example is aid given to some of our compatriots in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and in the tornados that hit Alabama about a year ago. The news reports today show that severe weather has again crossed Alabama, Georgia and other areas.

We do not have any reports of SCV members being affected by these storms but if there are members who have suffered a loss the Relief Fund may be able to assist. In this instance of severe weather, if you have been affected, contact AoT Commander Tom Strain at aot.commander@gmail.com or 256-990-5472.

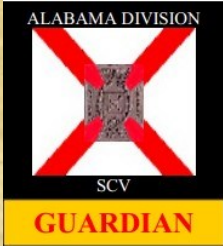
Chuck Rand
Chief of Staff

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News of the Rodes Camp (Continued):

Alabama Guardian Program

From the October 2012 issue of the *Alabama Confederate*



Purpose: The program is designed to honor the memory of our Confederate ancestors and through its implementation will provide the preservation of their final resting places and will document for future generations their sacrifices.

Eligibility: Any Alabama Division camp member in good standing, who is at least 12 years of age and who has demonstrated his desire and ability to serve as a GUARDIAN. All compatriots are encouraged to participate in the program to honor our ancestors and to protect their final resting place. For more information, please see: <http://www.aladivscv.com/forms/alabamaguardian.pdf>

UDC - FOF - PAVERS ORDER FORM

As you all are aware, we, the Friends of Forrest, are in a full blown war with our local domestic terrorist, Rose Sanders, her husband Senator Hank Sanders and now they have brought in the national organizations that have been waging war on our heritage & culture for years. Let me assure you...WE HAVE THE HIGH GROUND AND WE ARE GOING TO WIN!

We are in a truce at this time...I will be able to expound more on that in the upcoming days. In the meantime, my job is to raise money...AGAIN! I know a lot of you might be saying, "well, I have been giving to this effort for years...when is it gonna stop and when is Pat Godwin going to stop asking me for money"...Gentlemen, there are not words adequate enough to express to you my most sincere gratitude for everything y'all have done for us and General Forrest here in Selma through all these years, plus the committed money for the reward for the information leading to the arrest & conviction of the perpetrators of the theft of the NBF bust. I am just an humble player in this theater of war...I have told many folks through the years, that I really think this entire project from its inception has been Providential.

There are people who walk the planet for their entire life, and then when the time comes for them to stand at their judgment, they wonder why they have been here and feel they have lived a lifetime not knowing why they were here and wondering what they have done with their lives during their time here. I am blessed to KNOW why I am here...our Lord has allowed me to be just a small part in this effort to pay homage to General Forrest that is properly due him...especially here in Selma Alabama where he only had about 3000 troops against more than 13,000 of the best equipped troops in the history of the world..this took extreme raw courage and commitment to duty to his country! Based on the history of Selma, I truly believe that General Forrest's spirit STILL LIVES HERE IN SELMA...and there is a reason this war continues to exonerate him in OUR time as he was exonerated in HIS time.

Confederate Circle will be an historical learning site ...we plan to have historical markers telling the history of the circle, the Ladies Memorial Association, Selma chapter 53 UDC, Elodie Todd Dawson, the Confederate Monument, the Forrest Monument...we are installing two more flag poles - one will fly the Confederate Battle Flag (the soldiers flag) one will fly the Stars & Bars (the daughters flag) and we plan to move the existing flag pole to the Forrest Monument and fly Gen Forrest's 7th Tenn Cavalry flag (the Battle Flag without the center star). We plan to have the heavy duty wrought iron park benches within the circle also. We are planning to re-landscape the Circle with Southern trees, flowers & shrubs.

There is sooo much to tell and I will be putting out a detailed report soon...however, please be assured that SECURING the FORREST monument and the entire Confederate Circle is the objective...we will have state of the art security system installed with 24/7 surveillance. There also will be LED lights installed on the Forrest Monument and the Confederate Monument. There will be a 5 foot wrought iron period correct fence installed around the Forrest monument, as well. I am currently working on the order forms for the sponsorship of these features.

Thank you again for your continued faithful support of the Forrest Monument effort here in Selma...again, I will be putting out a detailed report soon.

Confederately yours,
Pat Godwin

Friends of Forrest
oldsouth@zebra.net

ORDER FORM

Please engrave my 4" x 8" paver as follows: (Max. 3 Lines, 19 Characters per line)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/
Zip _____

Phone:
(Home) (cell) _____

email _____

News From the Rodes Camp (Continued):

Mechanized Cavalry, Alabama Division From the October 2012 issue of the Alabama Confederate

When we look into our ancestors who fought to defend their homeland, we see that they cut a swath of the social economic spectrum of the time. White, black and red men took up arms. Jew, Christian and non believers face death side by side. Yeoman farmers, merchants, college professors and planters stood together risking their lives and fortunes. Today their descendant's are just as diverse, coming from all backgrounds and professions.



We have varied interests as well. In each of our camps we have some who come to hear historic lectures, some who are re enactors, others who are committed to historic research, and those whose passion is finding and honoring graves of those who fought.

We also have throughout the SCV those who have a passion for riding motorcycles and use that passion to forward the cause. You may have them in your camps, and if not you surely have seen them at events with their vests proudly displaying that they are a member of the SCV Mechanized Cavalry. From a small group that joined together a little over 20 years ago they have grown to a group of approximately 1700 members spread across the States and overseas.

They are first and foremost SCV members, they just happen to also love to ride motorcycles. They are camp commanders, division officers, and national officers. Because of the patch on their back they are often highly visible at events, and they are workers in the SCV. During the re-enactment of President Davis being sworn in, they were one of the largest contingents in the parade to the Capital. At the National Convention in Murfreesboro they put on a motorcycle ride and a motorcycle show, showcasing the SCV to the community in a very public way.

The 2013 ride takes them to the Jackson, Mississippi area for more rides, tours of historic sites, and good fellowship. The Mechanized Cavalry may not look like the typical SCV member with whom you may be familiar. But like our ancestors who while different in so many ways were dedicated to the cause, so today we have members from different backgrounds are committed to the memory of our ancestors. If you are interested finding out more check out their website (<http://alabama-scvmc.weoka.com>) or ask one of those men wearing the vest.

Calling all SONS and DAUGHTERS to the 9th Annual Sam Davis Youth Camp!



If the South should lose, it means that the history of the heroic struggle will be written by the enemy, that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers, will be impressed by all of the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors and our maimed veterans as fit subjects for derision.

-- Major General Patrick Cleburne

Educated men are as much superior to uneducated men as the living to the dead.

-- Aristotle

[View Powerpoint presentation \(no audio\)](#)

When and Where?

Virginia Camp: Sunday June 16th to Friday, June 22th, 2013 at SW Virginia Woodmen of the World Family Activity Center, 1336 Simmons Mill Rd, Thaxton, VA 24174. The deadline for applications is Monday, Jun 11, 2012.

Texas Camp: Sunday Aug 5th to Saturday Aug 11th at Three Mountain Retreat, 1648 FM 182, Clifton, TX 76634. The deadline for applications is Monday Jul 30, 2012.

For more information: <http://samdavis.scv.org/>

News from Alabama

Fire Severely Damages Historic Home in Selma

George McDonald WAKA Montgomery, AL May 201, 2013

The State Fire Marshal is investigating the cause of a fire that severely damaged a historic landmark in the city of Selma.

The John Tyler Morgan home in the city's Old Town historic district went up in flames Friday evening. Selma fire officials say the back of house was fully involved when firefighters arrived on the scene.

Nancy Bennett with the Selma-Dallas Co. Historic Preservation Society says the antebellum house was the childhood home of former U.S. Senator John Tyler Morgan -- and pre-dates the Civil War. "Any time you lose a historic property, you lose a part of your history, you lose a part of the fabric of your community and it's a tremendous loss," said Bennett.

Old Town residents say the house had been vacant for about a year.

<http://tinyurl.com/mwk3ytl>

THE EXPLOSION IN MOBILE.; Interesting Particulars of the Disaster.

Originally published in the *new york times* June 8, 1865

We have already published particulars of the great explosion at Mobile from papers of the 25th. The following from the Mobile News May 26, is fuller and more detailed:

One of the most terrific explosions that has ever occurred in this country was that of the main ordnance depot, with surrounding magazines, in this city, at 2 o'clock yesterday. The shock was dreadful, and the city shook to its very foundation. Eight squares of buildings are now in ruins, and many a victim is buried beneath the walls -- five hundred persons being buried outright. The loss incurred, it is said, will reach eight millions of dollars. It is not yet ascertained by what agency the explosion originated.

Various accounts of the accident and incidents attending upon it have been handed to us. We subjoin them, somewhat condensed, but in the main as furnished. We were on the ground a few minutes after the explosion took place, and the scene would baffle in its description the ablest pens.

The truth of the matter as regards the cause of the accident will never be known, for of course every one within or near the building was instantly killed. A man who left the building, some ten minutes before the explosion took place, is said by rumor to have told of a man named PAT _____, striking a metal to light his pipe, being engaged at the time in either filling or removing powder from some shells stored in the ordnance depot.

Another rumor has it that a shell -- percussion shell -- was let fall by someone and burst and thus ignited the balance of the ammunition in the place. This is all supposition, and as no one can prove or dispute it, it will ever remain an unsettled question.

As soon as the explosion was heard, Major-Gen. GRANGER and Col. SHEPLEY repaired to the scene of destruction, where they remained, giving directions and seeing them carried out. The General dispatched a messenger to Brig.-Gen. DENNIS, ordering him to detail all the soldiers in the city and vicinity, and to impress all the men found in the streets to aid in rescuing the wounded and staying the progress of the fire, and in twenty minutes an officient body of men were on the ground.

Prominent in the work of rescuing the poor unfortunates who were buried in the debris of the falling buildings, were, as usual in cases of imminent danger, our brave sailors and soldiers. We saw sailors rush through fire and falling bricks as though they were proof against the accidents common to all men, and come out bearing in their arms some poor fellow burned or crushed almost beyond recognition as a human being. Numbers of the sufferers were thus rescued before the details ordered by Gen. GRANGER arrived; after which each vied with each other who should brave the dangers of the devouring element.

We saw the bodies of Mr. MCMAHON, who was in charge of the carpenter work; of Capt. FORD, Acting Quartermaster, and the Purser of the steamer Laura, which vessel was lying on the marine ways opposite the city, who was killed while sitting at his desk, by either a piece of one of the numerous shells which filled the air in that neighborhood, or by a fragment of brick. Mr. MCMAHON was on one of the steamers near the Planter's Press, on duty when killed. A sailor was killed by the explosion of a shell while working on the engine of one of the fire companies.

A number of the bodies rescued are so burned and mutilated that recognition is impossible. Some of them are so blackened that it was with difficulty their friends and relatives could identify them, even when not disfigured by mutilation.

The shrieks of the poor wives, daughters and mothers, as a body would be borne out of the ruins, were heartrending -- each expecting to find some loved one's mangled and blackened corpse. Several fainted and were borne away on the stout arms of the tenderhearted soldiers present.

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Explosion (Continued): THE NUMBER KILLED: It is estimated that the number killed will reach fully three hundred. When it is taken into consideration that nearly all the workshops, founderies and cotton presses, &c., which covered the vast area destroyed were employing quite a number of men, and from whom so far no accounts have been received, it will be seen that our estimate of two hundred will be below the proper figure.

A gray-haired, venerable lady was weeping, brokenhearted, over what she supposed to be the remains of her boy, having, as she thought, recognized him by a ring on one of the fingers of his hand, when her son, powder-burnt and blackened, walked up to her and raised her up, saying, "Mother, I'm not hurt!" The reaction was too great, and she swooned away. What was joy to her may bring sadness to some other loving heart.

Among the most severely wounded near the warehouse in which the explosion took place was JAMES RILEY and JOHN DOOLEY, men engaged in storing cotton in a shed near the Planters' Press. They, with others, were caught under the falling roof of the shed and severely bruised and crushed. DOOLEY had some serious cuts -- one on the upper part of the right shoulder and another on the bark part of his head. The others were not so severely injured. JOHN EVELIN, who was in charge of some cotton on the wharf below Planters' Press, had one of his legs cut off just above the knee by a shell, and four men, engaged in some kind of labor on the same wharf, were all seriously if not fatally wounded, most of them having their legs and arms broken.

Capt. JOHN C. FORD, Acting Assistant Quartermaster, deserves praise for his utter disregard of personal safety in getting at once to the rescue of the men who were covered with the falling walls and roof of the Planters' Press. Accompanied by Mr. OWEN, of this office, he went where his services could be rendered more available in this work, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that a number of their fellow men owe to them their lives.

Capt. F. immediately notified the Captains of the tugs in his charge to proceed at once to the wharves opposite the scene of the explosion, and remain ready to offer any aid in their power.

There was another Captain belonging to the line of service who distinguished himself by his coolness and daring amid the excitement. He was with the leaders in the dangerous undertaking to afford succor to the entombed sufferers. We wish we knew the noble fellow's name, to give him the credit which he so richly deserves.

The bell on the guard-house tower rang out an alarm of fire as soon as the deafening roar of the explosion had subsided a little, and the different engines were taken promptly to near the scene of the conflagration, but after getting within two or three blocks of the Planter's Press, the firemen heard a rumor of there being fifteen tons more of powder that would explode as soon as the fire reached it, and they faltered, and finally turned back; but on being assured by the Mayor that such was not the case, and that the only danger to be apprehended was from the occasional bursting of a shell as the fire spread, they at once took up their positions and did good work toward extinguishing the flames.

The exempt steam engines were brought out and put to work, we understand, by order of the military authorities. We should not think, in a case like this, any authority would be required for this purpose, and we hope, for the credit of this branch of the department, that we have been misinformed.

Gen. GRANGER and Col. SHEPLEY made their way in the remains of a building which had stood near the magazine, and found three horses, all alive and kicking, and without a scratch. How they could have escaped being crushed by the walls, and being completely buried, is a mystery. The General and Col. SHEPLEY brought the animals out and away from danger.

No estimate can yet be formed of the amount of damage done to the city in a pecuniary point of view. We have heard it variously estimated at from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000. That it is above \$5,000,000 and even not much under \$10,000,000, seems the general opinion. Eight squares of large and costly buildings were completely demolished -- scarcely one brick left upon another -- besides the immense damage done outside of this named space, which places this estimate, seemingly, low enough.

The windows of the Custom-house on the north and east fronts were completely demolished, not a whole pane remaining. With the exception of some portions of the plastering on the inside of the building being thrown, this was all the damage sustained by this building.

The News office shared the fate of all the buildings on Royal-street, from Conti to the Mobile and Ohio Railroad depot, in having windows knocked in, glass strown in small particles over the floors, partitions thrown down, &c. This reporter was thrown from his chair, half way across the room, and never ceased rolling until he reached the street by way of a long flight of stairs.

The Tribune Building was made a complete wreck of inside by the entrance of a piece of iron, weighing about sixty pounds, through the roof. It fell among the materials of the office, smashing things generally. All that prevented it going through the floor of the second story was the striking of a cabinet of cases, which was too thick for its penetrative power. This building is situated about 1,000 yards from the warehouse where the powder was stored.

The buildings on Royal-street did not suffer as much as those on Commerce, Water and Front, but the number of doors and windows crushed in exceeds belief. In some instances where doors were fastened unusually strong, the whole frames were driven from their opening, or burst from their hinges.

On Water-street the loss in property is immense.

(Continued Next Page)

Explosion (Continued): Below St. Michael's-street doors and windows suffered most, but above there walls were tumbled about as though built of paper. A continued wreck meets the eye looking up this street, growing more confused and losing the semblance of buildings entirely as the vision near the square nearest where stood the magazine.

The warehouses and cotton sheds which lined the upper portions of Commerce-street are now but a mass of ruins. Buildings on the corners seemed to suffer most, some of them being raised to within a few feet of the ground. The various offices and commission houses on Front-street sustained comparatively little damage on their river faces. Doors and windows were all smashed and broken, but beyond this, the injury done them was slight.

Major SLOUGH estimates the amount of cotton destroyed at from 8,000 to 10,000 bales, 200 of which belonged to himself and 100 to Mr. SCHEIBLE. Nearly all the cotton destroyed belonged to private citizens, and was stored in lots of from 5 to 500 bales. The destruction of this cotton will bring pecuniary trouble to a great many persons, as it was their only resource, with no insurance to cover it. The names of the parties losing it will be given as soon as ascertained. Some government cotton was also burned.

The steamer *Col. Cowlee*, Capt. TUCKER, was lying opposite Planter's [???], and [???] [???] [???] by the [???], and soon after took [???] was [???] [???] co[???]. The m[???] [???] to move her before she took fire, but failed. Capt TUCKER and two negroes were badly injured; a cabin-boy and fireman missing, supposed to be lost.

The *Kate Dale* was entirely destroyed. Only two of the crew were found to be missing, Officers all safe. A schooner, loaded for New-York, having some passengers on board, among them a gentleman named BAKER, formerly connected with this office, was destroyed. No word has been received as to the fate of her passengers and crew.

On Government-street, between Royal and Water, a child, a daughter of Mr. LANE, was badly cut by the falling plaster. The windows of JOHN LAWRENCE's coffee-saloon were shattered.

We made a tour of the hospitals at a late hour last night Everything had been done by the Surgeons for the comfort of the poor fellows they had in charge, and they seemed to be resting well. The following are the names of the wounded at the United States Marine Hospital, under charge of Surgeon HUMESTON: E.L. Hewitt, Co. C. 161st New-York; Jas. Ramsey, Co. F. 7th Vermont; Wm. Mulhaller, Co. 1, 161st New-York; Wm. Lee, Jr., Co. E, 7th Vermont; Thos. Sawyer, Co. D, 161st New-York.

AT THE PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL: were the wounded men of the Quartermaster's Department, and other citizens. Their names are as follows: Henry Harris, New-York; George Moffat, St. Lawrence County, N.Y.; Wm. Smith, New-York.

AT THE CITY HOSPITAL: under the direction of the Sisters of Charity, are the paroled Confederate prisoners who were wounded by the catastrophe. We could not ascertain their names, with one exception, that of _____ COOPER, who died a short time after being brought in. Another of the wounded died about 8 o'clock. There were ten living at midnight, only a few of whom are dangerously wounded.

AT THE KENNEDY HOSPITAL: In charge of Surgeon RICHARDS are the colored soldiers who were in the hospital above the Mobile and Ohio Railroad depot, and the freedmen who lately occupied the Garner House Hospital. Several of them in each of these last-named hospitals were severely hurt by the destruction of the front walls of the buildings, and they are all now in the Kennedy. Eleven had died of their injuries up to midnight. Those suffering now are not dangerously wounded.

Dr. HUMESTON, Surgeon in charge of the United States Marine Hospital, has kindly given us the following information in regard to the dead at that hospital: MARINE U.S. GENERAL HOSPITAL, MOBILE, ALA, May 25, 1865.

EDITORS NEWS: -- I have the honor to inform you that the remains of several persons killed by the explosion to-day were brought to this hospital. Most of them have no marks or papers by which they can be identified, and I am unable to learn their names.

One is supposed to be MCMAHON, foreman in charge of carpenters and quartermaster's employ. One soldier supposed to belong to the Twenty-ninth Wisconsin infantry, and some citizens. If you think advisable will you have such measures adopted as may result in identification. I have the honor to be, very respectfully your obedient servant, D.H. HUMESTON, Acting Staff Surgeon in charge of Hospital.

VISIT TO THE RUINS: We made our last visit to the ruins at 2 o'clock this morning. The engines were at work extinguishing the smoldering flames, the ambulance corps having completed their labors about 1 o'clock. A few dead bodies were laid out on the adjacent wharves. The scene was sombre, the desolation around complete.

This article was found on the Sons of Confederate Veterans Facebook page.

<http://tinyurl.com/od7hwy2>

Alabama Personalities from the WBTS

Jabaz Lamar Monroe Curry (1825-1903) — also known as **Jabez L. M. Curry** — of Talladega, Talladega County, Ala.; Washington, D.C. Born near Double Branches, Lincoln County, Ga., June 5, 1825. Lawyer; served in the U.S. Army during the Mexican War; member of Alabama state house of representatives, 1847-48, 1853-57; U.S. Representative from Alabama 7th District, 1857-61; Delegate from Alabama to the Confederate Provisional Congress, 1861-62; Representative from Alabama in the Confederate Congress 4th District, 1862-64; defeated, 1863; colonel in the Confederate Army during the Civil War; president, Howard College, Alabama, 1866-68; college professor; U.S. Minister to Spain, 1885-88. Baptist. Died near Asheville, Buncombe County, N.C., February 12, 1903 (age 77 years, 252 days). Interment at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Va.

William Robert Winfield Cobb (1807-1864) — also known as **Williamson R. W. Cobb** — of Bellefonte, Jackson County, Ala. Born in Rhea County, Tenn., June 8, 1807. Democrat. Member of Alabama state house of representatives, 1845; U.S. Representative from Alabama, 1847-61 (6th District 1847-53, 8th District 1853-55, 6th District 1855-61); Representative from Alabama in the Confederate Congress 3rd District; defeated, 1861; elected 1863. Killed by the accidental discharge of his own pistol, while putting up a fence on his plantation near Bellefonte, Jackson County, Ala., November 1, 1864 (age 57 years, 146 days). Interment a private or family graveyard, Madison County, Ala.

Alabama Born Generals

Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan:

John Hunt Morgan was born June 1, 1825 in Huntsville, Alabama, the eldest of ten children of Calvin and Henrietta (Hunt) Morgan. He was an uncle of geneticist Thomas Hunt Morgan and a maternal grandson of John Wesley Hunt, an early founder of Lexington, Kentucky, and one of the first millionaires west of the Allegheny Mountains. He was also the brother-in-law of A.P. Hill and of Basil W. Duke.



Morgan's family moved to Lexington, where he would manage one of his father-in-law's sprawling farms. Morgan desired a military career, but the small size of the US military severely limited opportunities for officer's commissions.

In 1846 Morgan enlisted with his brother Calvin and Uncle Alexander in the US Army as a Cavalry Private during the Mexican-American War. He was elected Second Lieutenant and was promoted to First Lieutenant before arriving in Mexico, where he saw combat at Buena Vista

Morgan remained interested in the military. He raised a Militia Artillery company in 1852, but it was disbanded by the state legislature two years later. In 1857, with the rise of sectional tensions, Morgan raised an independent Infantry company known as the "Lexington Rifles," and spent much of his free time drilling his men.

Like most Kentuckians, Morgan did not initially support secession. Immediately after Lincoln's election in November 1860, he wrote to his brother, Thomas Hunt Morgan, "Our State will not I hope secede. I have no doubt but Lincoln will make a good President at least we ought to give him a fair trial & then if he commits some overt act all the South will be a unit."

In September, Captain Morgan and his militia company went to Tennessee and joined the Confederate States Army. Morgan soon raised the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry Regiment and became its Colonel on April 4, 1862. Morgan and his cavalymen fought at Shiloh in April 1862, and he soon became a symbol to Secessionists in their hopes for obtaining Kentucky for the Confederacy.

In his first Kentucky raid, Morgan swept through Kentucky in three weeks, He unnerved Kentucky's Union military government, and President Abraham Lincoln received so many frantic appeals for help that he complained that "they are having a stampede in Kentucky." The success of Morgan's raid was one of the key reasons that the Confederate Heartland Offensive of Braxton Bragg and Edmund Kirby Smith was launched later that fall, assuming that tens of thousands of Kentuckians would enlist in the Confederate Army if they invaded the state.

Morgan was promoted to Brigadier General in December, 1862; received the thanks of the Confederate Congress in May, 1863, for his raids on the supply lines of Union Major General William S. Rosecrans in December and January, most notably his victory at the Battle of Hartsville on December 7.

In the hopes of diverting Union troops and resources in conjunction with the twin Confederate operations of Vicksburg and Gettysburg in the Summer of 1863, Morgan set off on the campaign that would become known as "Morgan's Raid" before finally being captured July 26th near Salineville, Ohio (actually closer to New Lisbon-now just called Lisbon),

After his escape from a Union prison, Morgan was placed in command of the Trans-Allegheny Department, embracing at the time the Confederate forces in eastern Tennessee and southwestern Virginia.

On September 4, 1864, he was surprised and killed by Union cavalymen while attempting to escape during a Union raid on Greeneville, Tennessee. It's a widespread belief that he was killed partly to prevent him from escaping from Union prison for a second time.

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Alabama Generals (Continued): Morgan was buried in Lexington Cemetery. The burial was shortly before the birth of his second child, another daughter.

Among the many tributes to Morgan are mascots named the "Raiders" of Hart County High School, in and Trimble County High School, in Bedford, Kentucky

Additionally, a Kentucky Army National Guard Field Artillery Battalion, the 1/623rd with headquarters in Glasgow, are known as Morgan's Men (<http://kynghistory.ky.gov/Major+Commands/1-623rd+FA.htm#Shoulder>).

Alabama Camps and Hospitals

Madison House Hospital (Montgomery, AL): Two buildings on opposite corners of Perry and Main Streets [Monroe Street] (formerly a hotel and Masonic Hall).

Moore Hospital (Mobile): Located on Royal Street, a former hotel.

Negro Hospital (Mobile): Provided for Negro laborers working on city fortifications.

Nidelet Hospital (Mobile): Formerly the US Naval Hospital and named after the physician in charge.

CAMP MARY (near Montgomery, AL) Montgomery, AL: Hilliard's Legion, June 62.

CAMP MAURY (near Mobile, AL): near Mobile (1st Arty Bn)

CAMP MEM[M]INGER (near Mobile, AL): at the mouth of the Dog River, Mobile Bay (18th AL) (or located just south of the bridge over Fowl River on Dauphin Island Parkway, south of Mobile)

CAMP MOORE [or, CAMP GOVERNOR MOORE] (near Mobile): about 1 mile from the city on the north side of the road to Spring Hill (Fire Brigade) [same as Old Camp Ground, below?]

CAMP MORGAN (Santa Rosa County, FL): Santa Rosa Co., FL (6th Cav)

Alabama WBTS Shipwrecks

CSS Julius (*Julius H. Smith*). Confederate. Side-wheel steamer, 224 tons. Cargo from evacuated from Fort Henry. Built in 1859 at Paducah, Ky. Was burned by Confederates upon the approach of the USS Tyler, *USS Conestoga*, and Sam Orr on February 8, 1862, in the Tennessee River at Florence, at the foot of Muscle Shoals. (OR, 7:154; ORN,22:782, 821; CWC, 6-257; MSV, 118, 273; WCWN, 247.)

Kate Dale. U.S. Wooden side-wheel steamer, 428 bulk tons. Length 193 feet 9 inches, beam 37 feet, depth 8 feet 4 inches. Built in 1855 at New Albany, Ind. Was captured while outbound from Mobile Bay on July 14, 1863, by the *USS R. R. Cuylar* near Dry Tortugas and put into Union service. Set afire at Mobile when a captured Confederate supply depot, Marshall's Warehouse, at the corner of Lipscomb and Commercial streets, blew up on May 25, 1865. The warehouse had 20 tons of gunpowder and numerous shells, and other ammunition. Much of Mobile was devastated by the explosions. (OR, 49:1:566-67; 49:2:913; MSV, 119; LLC, 307.)

Kentucky. Brig. Confederate. Length 65 feet. Was scuttled to act as an obstruction by Confederates at the Dog River Bar in Mobile Bay with a load of bricks in 1862. Probably removed in 1871. (Irion, Mobile Bay Ship Channel, Mobile Harbor, 35, 36, 58.)

Lecompte. U.S. Side-wheel steamer, 238 tons. Length 176 feet, beam 33 feet, depth 5 feet 6 inches, 3 boilers. Built in 1855 at Louisville. Was burned on March 27, 1861, at Mobile, Ala. (MSV, 126, 276; WPD, 281.) Milliner. Confederate. Steamboat. Cargo of cotton, corn, and bacon. Was captured on April 14, 1865, on the Coosa River with the *Augusta* and *Henry J. King* by the Union 4th Ky. Cavalry Regiment during Wilson's Raid. The steamers were taken to Montgomery and were burned. (OR, 49:1:352, 497-98.)

USS Milwaukee. Union. Double-turret monitor, 970 bulk tons, 1,300 displacement tons. Length 257 or 229 overall feet, beam 57 or 56 feet, depth 6 feet, speed 9 knots, turrets armor 8-inch iron, deck armor 1.5-inch iron. Complement of 127-38, with four 11-inch Dahlgren smoothbores. Laid down in 1862 and launched in 1864 at Carondelet, Mo. Was sunk by a torpedo in the Blakely River within 200 yards of the Union fleet on March 28, 1865, while returning to the fleet after attacking a Confederate transport near Spanish Fort.

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AL WBTS Shipwrecks (Continued): The torpedo exploded under the vessel, 40 feet from the stern. The ship sank with no loss of life in three minutes with the bow section above water for about an hour. Located within a mile and a half of the lower Confederate fort on the left bank of the Blakely River. Its guns and valuables were later salvaged by Union divers. (ORN, 22:67, 70-71, 73-74, 92, 129; ser. 2, 1:144; WCWN, 149; Perry, *Infernal Machines*, 185.)

CWC U.S. Department of the Navy, *Civil War Chronology, 1861-1865* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1971).

DANFS U.S. Department of the Navy, *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*, 8 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1959-81).

EAS Bruce D. Berman, *Encyclopedia of American Shipwrecks* (Boston: Mariners Press, 1972).

LLC Stephen R. Wise, *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running in the Civil War* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1988).

MSV William M. Lytle and Forrest R. Holdcamper, *Merchant Steam Vessels of the United States: 1790-1868*, "The Lytle Holdcamper List," ed. C. Bradford Mitchell (Staten Island, N.Y.: Steamship Historical Society of America, 1975).

NUMA National Underwater and Marine Association, founded by Clive Cussler, www.numa.net.

OR *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, 128 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), ser. 1 unless noted otherwise.

ORA Thomas Yoseloff, ed., *The Official Atlas of the Civil War* (New York: Harper and Row, 1967).

ORN Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, 30 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1894-1922).

SCH Robert Wilden Nesser, *Statistical and Chronological History of the U.S. Navy, 1775-1907* (New York: Burt Franklin, 1970).

WCWN Paul H. Silverstone, *Warships of the Civil War Navies* (Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1989).

WPD Frederick Way Jr., *Way's Packet Directory, 1848-1983* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1983).

WSTD Frederick Way Jr. and Joseph W. Rutter, *Way's Steam Towboat Directory* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1990).

Timeline of Events in Alabama During the WBTS

June 21, 1865: President Andrew Johnson appoints Lewis E. Parsons of Talladega as provisional governor.

Alabama Units in the WBTS

Forty-Sixth Alabama Infantry Regiment

The Forty-sixth was organized at Loachapoka, in the spring of 1862. Shortly after, it was sent to east Tennessee, and had several casualties in the fight at Tazewell. The regiment was in the weary march into Kentucky, in Stevenson's division, but did no fighting. When the army returned to Tennessee, the Forty-sixth was placed in a brigade with the Twentieth, Twenty-third, Thirtieth, and Thirty-first Alabama, under Gen. Tracy. In December, with all of Stevenson's division, the regiment was sent to Mississippi. In the battle of Port Gibson, where its brigadier fell, the regiment suffered severely. A few days later it was engaged at Baker's Creek, where its casualties were numerous, and where half the regiment was captured, including the field officers. The remainder were besieged in Vicksburg, suffering severely, and were captured with the fortress.

Re-organized at Demopolis, with Gen. Pettus in command of the brigade, the Forty-sixth rejoined the Army of Tennessee. It lost considerably at Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge, and made its winter quarters at Dalton. At Crow's Valley it was engaged, with several casualties. In the almost constant fighting from Dalton to Atlanta, the ranks of the Forty-sixth were thinned and at Jonesboro its list of casualties was large. Marching with Hood into Tennessee, it was one of the three regiments that made the brilliant fight at Columbia, where its loss was considerable. The Forty-sixth lost several killed and wounded at Nashville, and quite a number captured. It was the rear guard on the retreat, and the brigade was complimented by Gen. Hood in special orders for its services there.

Transferred to North Carolina, the Forty-sixth was engaged at Kinston and Bentonville, with severe loss in the latter. Consolidated with the Twenty-third Alabama, with J. B. Bibb of Montgomery as colonel, (Col. Woods was transferred to the Nineteenth Alabama,) Osceola Kyle as lieutenant colonel, and J. T. Hester of Montgomery as major, the Forty-sixth was surrendered at Salisbury by Capt. Brewer, who had commanded it for two years.

Forty-Seventh Alabama Infantry Regiment

Organized at Loachapoka, May 22, 1862, the Forty-seventh reached Virginia late in June. Assigned to Gen. Stonewall Jackson's corps, the regiment was brigaded under General Taliaferro, with three Virginia regiments and the Forty-eighth Alabama.

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AL WBTS Units (Continued): A few weeks later the regiment passed through the ordeal of battle at Cedar Run, where it lost 12 killed and 76 wounded, or nearly a third of its force present. At the second Manassas the Forty-seventh was again engaged, and lost 7 killed and 25 wounded. It was present at Chantilly and the capture of Harper's Ferry; entered the battle of Sharpsburg with 115 men, and lost every commissioned officer present on the field, mustering 17 men the next morning under a sergeant.

The regiment wintered on the Rappahannock and witnessed the repulse of Burnside at Fredericksburg. Transferred to the brigade of Gen. Law -- Fourth, Fifteenth, Forty-fourth, Fifty-seventh, and Forty-eighth Alabama -- Hood's division, Longstreet's corps, the Forty-seventh lost several men in the fight at Suffolk. Rejoining the main army, the regiment marched into Pennsylvania, and poured out the blood of its bravest men at Gettysburg. Two months later the corps was transferred to north Georgia, and the Forty-seventh lost very severely at Chickamauga.

It took part in the investment of Knoxville with light loss, and in the privations of the winter campaign in east Tennessee. Rejoining the Virginia army the regiment fought with severe loss at the Wilderness, and was in the brilliant charge on Warren's corps at Spottsylvania, where the brigade opened the battle. In all the subsequent operations around Richmond the regiment took part, and in the grim defences that begirt Petersburg it endured the perils and privations of the last sullen and persistent struggle. As part of Perry's brigade, the Forty-seventh laid down its arms at Appomattox, about 90 strong.

Forty-Eighth Alabama Infantry Regiment

This regiment enlisted for three years at Auburn, May 22, 1862, with 1097 men. A few weeks later it reached Virginia, and was attached to Gen. Taliaferro's brigade, of Jackson's division, with the Forty-seventh Alabama, and three Virginia regiments. The Forty-eighth was first engaged in the battle at Cedar Run, with severe loss; and at the second Manassas was again a sufferer. It was part of the investing force at Harper's Ferry, and was badly mutilated at Sharpsburg. During the winter the Forty-eighth was placed in the brigade of Gen. Law of Macon (with the Fourth, Fifteenth, Forty-fourth, and Forty-seventh Alabama regiments), Hood's division, Longstreet's corps. The regiment was under fire at Fredericksburg, and fought with light loss at Suffolk.

It moved into Pennsylvania, and its colors floated highest up on the rocky heights of Gettysburg, where it was fearfully punished. Ten weeks later, as part of Longstreet's corps, the regiment was where the lightning of battle flashed brightest, and its thunder pealed loudest at Chickamauga. It was hotly engaged at Lookout Valley, and at Knoxville; and passed the winter in east Tennessee. Rejoining the army of Northern Virginia, the Forty-eighth fought at the Wilderness and Spottsylvania, and its long list of casualties bore testimony to its conduct. From that time to the end, at Hanover Junction, the second Cold Harbor, Bermuda Hundreds, Petersburg, Fussell's Mill, Fort Harrison, Darbytown Road, Williamsburg Road, and Farmville, the regiment was almost constantly on active and perilous duty. Its colors were furled at Appomattox. Over 150 of its men had fallen in battle, 165 died in the service, and 125 had been discharged or transferred.

Forty-Ninth Alabama Infantry Regiment

This regiment was organized at Nashville, in January 1862, and attached to the Kentucky brigade of Gen. Breckinridge. It took part in the battle of Shiloh, where it lost 113 killed and wounded. A few weeks later, the Forty-ninth was sent to Vicksburg, with Breckinridge's brigade, and was engaged in the defence of the place when bombarded in 1862. Aug. 6, the regiment fought at Baton Rouge with a loss of 45 killed and wounded. Joining the army of Gen. Van Dorn, the Forty-ninth was engaged in the assault on Corinth, and suffered very severely there. Ordered to Port Hudson, the regiment passed the winter in that quarter, and was brigaded with the Twenty-seventh and Thirty-fifth Alabama, and two Mississippi regiments under Gen. Buford, who was soon succeeded by Gen. Beall.

The Forty-ninth shared the dangers and hardships of the 42 days siege of Port Hudson, losing 55 men killed and wounded, and the remainder captured. Exchanged three months later, the Forty-ninth reorganized at Cahaba, and was attached to the brigade of Gen. Scott of Louisiana, with the Twelfth Louisiana, and Twenty-seventh, Thirty-fifth, Fifty-fifth, and Fifty-seventh Alabama regiments. Joining the main army at Dalton, the brigade was assigned to Loring's division, Stewart's corps.

Having wintered at Dalton, the Forty-ninth participated in the Dalton-Atlanta campaign, doing much arduous service, but losing inconsiderably. Around Atlanta it was again fully engaged, and suffered severely. It moved with Gen. Hood into Tennessee, and came out of the battles of Franklin, and Nashville with a long list of casualties, and captured men. Transferred to the Carolinas, the Forty-ninth took part in the operations there. Reduced to a skeleton, it was surrendered at Greensboro, N. C.

Fifty-First Alabama Mounted Regiment

This regiment was organized at Oxford, in Calhoun, August 11, 1862. Ordered to Tennessee, the regiment was placed under Gen. Forrest, and was in the fight at Lavergne. A few weeks later it was assigned to Gen. Wheeler's command, and served during the war principally in the brigades of Gen. Allen of Montgomery or Gen. Hagan of Mobile.

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AL WBTS Units (Continued): It was engaged in the battle of Murfreesboro with light loss, and was in the raid down the Cumberland River in January with like result. The regiment was engaged in frequent skirmishes while protecting Gen. Bragg's communications. It was in the fight at Shelbyville, where nearly half the regiment were killed or captured. The Fifty-first fought at Tracey City and Chickamauga with few casualties, then was part of the force that made the Sequatchee raid, in which 1000 wagons laden with stores were destroyed, and 4000 mules were butchered.

The regiment was part of the force that captured 400 of the enemy at Maryville, and soon after was part of the investing force at Knoxville. During the remainder of the winter of '63-'64, the Fifty-First was arduously employed in east Tennessee. It took its place on Johnston's flank in the retreat to Dalton, and fought nearly every day for three months. At Decatur and Jonesboro the Fifty-first was fully engaged, and lost severely. It moved into Tennessee shortly after, then wheeled about and harassed Sherman's march into the Carolinas with much effect. About a week before the capitulation, the Fifty-first captured the First Alabama Union regiment. As part of Gen. Hagan's brigade, the regiment laid down its arms near Raleigh.

Fifty-Second Alabama Infantry Regiment

[If there was such an organization as the Fifty-second Alabama, the author has been unable to gather a trace of it, after a rigid investigation and inquiry.]

Fifty-Third Alabama Mounted Regiment

This regiment was organized at Montgomery, in November 1862. A few weeks later it proceeded to Mississippi. Moving from Columbus to Decatur, in Lawrence, a portion of the regiment was there equipped, and proceeded to join Gen. Van Dorn. This battalion was in the fight at Thompson's Station, and at Brentwood, suffering severely in the former. The regiment was engaged in the fight with Dodge at Town Creek, and in the pursuit of Streight.

Soon after, the Fifty-third joined the main army at Dalton as part of Hannon's brigade, Kelly's division. It operated on the right of the army as it fell back towards Atlanta, and was engaged in constant and perilous duty. When Sherman reached Atlanta, the Fifty-third was the principal force engaged in the daring raid in his rear, whereby a valuable train was destroyed.

It was then at the heels of Sherman as he devastated Georgia and the Carolinas, and took part in the last operations of the war in that quarter. The regiment laid down its arms at Columbia, South Carolina.

Events Leading to the WBTS: 1854

- Democratic U.S. Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois proposes the *Kansas-Nebraska Bill* to open good Midwestern farmland to settlement and to encourage building of a transcontinental railroad with a terminus at Chicago. Whether slavery would be permitted in a territory would be determined by a vote of the people at the time a territory is organized.

- Congress enacts the *Kansas-Nebraska Act*, providing that popular sovereignty, a vote of the people when a territory is organized, will decide "all questions pertaining to slavery" in the Kansas-Nebraska territories. This abrogates the *Missouri Compromise* prohibition of slavery north of the 36°30' line of latitude and increases Northerners' fears of a Slave Power encroaching on the North.

- Opponents of slavery and the *Kansas-Nebraska Act* meet in Ripon, Wisconsin in February, and subsequently meet in other Northern states, to form the Republican Party. The party includes many former members of the Whig and Free Soil parties and some northern Democrats. Republicans win most of the Northern state seats in the U.S. House of Representatives in the fall 1854 elections as 66 of 91 Northern state Democrats are defeated. Abraham Lincoln emerges as a Republican leader in the West (Illinois).

- Eli Thayer forms the *New England Emigrant Aid Society* to encourage settlement of Kansas by persons opposed to slavery.

- Bitter fighting breaks out in Kansas Territory as pro-slavery men win a majority of seats in the legislature, expel anti-slavery legislators and adopt the pro-slavery *Lecompton Constitution* for the proposed state of Kansas.

- The *Ostend Manifesto*, a dispatch sent from France by the U.S. ministers to Britain, France and Spain after a meeting in Ostend, Belgium; describes the rationale for the United States to purchase Cuba (a territory which had slavery) from Spain and implies the U.S. should declare war if Spain refuses to sell the island. Four months after the dispatch is drafted, it is published in full at the request of the U.S. House of Representatives. Northern states view the document as a Southern attempt to extend slavery. European nations consider it as a threat to Spain and to Imperial power. The U.S. government never acts upon the recommendations in the *Ostend Manifesto*.

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Events Leading to WBTS (Continued):

- Anthony Burns, a fugitive slave from Virginia, is arrested by federal agents in Boston. Radical abolitionists attack the court house and kill a deputy marshal in an unsuccessful attempt to free Burns.
- The *Knights of the Columbus Circle*, a fraternal organization that wants to expand slavery to Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean Islands, including Cuba, and northern South America, is founded in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Former Mississippi Governor John A. Quitman begins to raise money and volunteers to invade Cuba, but is slow to act and cancels the invasion plan in spring 1855 when President Pierce says he would enforce the neutrality laws.
- The *Know-Nothing Party* or *American Party*, which includes many nativist former Whigs, sweeps state and local elections in parts of some Northern states. The party demands ethnic purification, opposes Catholics (because of the presumed power of the Pope over them), and opposes corruption in local politics. The party soon fades away.
- George Fitzhugh's 's pro-slavery *Sociology for the South* is published.

This Month in the WBTS

June 1, 1862: General Robert E. Lee assumes command, replacing the wounded Johnston. Lee then renames his force the Army of Northern Virginia.

June 1, 1864: Battle of Cold Harbor begins. Confederates attack Union troops at the strategic crossroads of Cold Harbor. Lee ordered a Confederate attack less than a dozen miles from Richmond shortly after dawn, before more Northern troops arrived. Soon after, the 20th South Carolina, a green regiment at the head of the attack, broke into a frantic retreat. The panic spread to other units, and the Confederate attack wilted. Sheridan's troops held the crossroads. Grant attacked the Confederates in the late afternoon, after more Union troops had arrived; but could not break through the Rebels' newly constructed fortifications. Deciding to wait until the bulk of the Army of the Potomac had arrived before launching another attack proved costly. The Rebels used the time to dig trenches and construct breastworks. When the attack came on June 3, it turned into one of the biggest Union disasters of the war.

June 2, 1865: In an event that is generally regarded as marking the end of the War For Southern Independence, Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith, commander of Confederate forces west of the Mississippi, signs the surrender terms offered by Union negotiators. With Smith's surrender, the last Confederate army ceased to exist, bringing a formal end to the bloodiest four years in U.S. history. The Confederacy was defeated at the total cost of 620,000 Union and Confederate dead. 50,000 soldiers returned home as amputees.

June 3, 1863: General Lee with 75,000 Confederates launches his second invasion of the North, heading into Pennsylvania in a campaign that will soon lead to Gettysburg.

June 3, 1864: Union disaster at Cold Harbor: Union General Ulysses S. Grant makes what he later recognizes to be his greatest mistake by ordering a frontal assault on entrenched Confederates at Cold Harbor. The result was some 7,000 Union casualties in less than an hour of fighting.

June 5, 1864: Battle of Piedmont.

June 6, 1864: Battle of Old River Lake.

June 8, 1862: Battle of Cross Keys: Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's notches another victory during the campaign in the Shenandoah Valley. Sent to the valley to relieve pressure on the Army of Northern Virginia pinned on the James Peninsula by Union General George McClellan's Army of the Potomac, Jackson's force staged one of the most stunning and brilliant campaigns of the war. Cross Keys was only a prelude to the larger Battle of Port Republic on June 9, but it was another Union failure in Jackson's amazing 1862 Shenandoah campaign.

June 9, 1862: Battle of Port Republic: Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson concentrated his forces east of the South Fork of the Shenandoah against the isolated brigades of Tyler and Carroll of Shields's division, Brig. Gen. Erastus Tyler commanding. Confederate assaults across the bottomland were repulsed but a flanking column turned the Union left flank at the Coaling. **(Continued Next Page)**

This Month in the WBTS (Continued): Failing to reestablish the line, Tyler was forced to retreat. Confederate forces at Cross Keys marched to join Jackson at Port Republic burning the North River Bridge behind them. Frémont's army arrived too late to assist Tyler and Carroll and watched helplessly from across the rain-swollen river. The Union armies retreated, leaving Jackson in control of the upper and middle Shenandoah Valley and freeing his army to reinforce Lee before Richmond.

Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart begins his ride around the Army of the Potomac during the Peninsular campaign, after being sent on a reconnaissance of Union positions by Robert E. Lee.

June 9, 1863: Battle of Brandy Station.

June 10, 1861: Battle of Big Bethel

June 10, 1864: Battle of Brice's Crossroads, Mississippi.

June 12, 1864: Grant pulls out of Cold Harbor; After suffering a devastating defeat on June 3, Union General Ulysses S. Grant pulls his troops from their positions at Cold Harbor, Virginia, and moves south.

June 14, 1863: Battle of Second Winchester: A small Union garrison in the Shenandoah Valley town of Winchester, Virginia, is easily defeated by the Army of Northern Virginia on the path of the Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania.

June 14, 1864: Battle of Petersburg begins. Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Potomac and Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia collide for the last time as the first wave of Union troops attacks Petersburg, a vital Southern rail center 23 miles south of the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. The two massive armies would not become disentangled until April 9, 1865, when Lee surrendered and his men went home.

June 15, 1862: Confederate cavalry commander J.E.B. Stuart completes a four-day ride around George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac in the area of the James Peninsula. Stuart had circled the entire Yankee force, 105,000 strong, and provided Lee with crucial information.

June 16, 1862: Battle of Secessionville.

June 17, 1864: Battle of Lynchburg.

June 18, 1864: Siege of Petersburg, Virginia, begins.

June 19, 1864: Off the coast of Cherbourg, France, the Confederate raider *CSS Alabama* loses a ship-to-ship duel with the *USS Kearsarge* and sinks to the floor of the Atlantic, ending an illustrious career that saw some 68 Union merchant vessels destroyed or captured by the Confederate raider. In retaliation to an increasingly successful blockade of Southern ports and coasts, Confederate raiders, outfitted in the South and abroad, launched an effective guerrilla war at sea against Union merchant shipping. In 1862, the *CSS Alabama* was built at Liverpool, England, for the Confederate Navy. Britain had proclaimed neutrality but was sympathetic to the Southern cause and gave tacit aid to the Confederacy in the opening years of the conflict. Disguised as a merchant ship, the *Alabama* was outfitted as a combatant by supply ships and placed in commission on August 24, 1862. Captained by Raphael Semmes of Mobile, Alabama, the warship was manned by an international crew--about half Southerners, half Englishmen--and rounded out by a handful of other Europeans and even a few Northerners. The *Alabama* cruised the North Atlantic and West Indies, rounded Africa, and visited the East Indies before redoubling the Cape of Good Hope back to Europe. By the time the *Alabama* docked at Cherbourg for a badly needed overhaul on June 11, 1864, it had inflicted immense damage on the seaborne trade of the United States, destroying 60-odd U.S. merchant ships during its two-year rampage. Within an hour, the *Alabama* was reduced to a sinking wreck. Captain Semmes tried to retreat back to Cherbourg, but his way was blocked by the *Kearsarge*, and he was forced to strike his colors. The crew abandoned ship, and the *Alabama* went down into the Channel. The survivors were rescued by the *Kearsarge* and the British yacht *Deerhound*, which had been observing the battle. Those picked up by the latter, including Semmes and most of his officers, were taken to England and thus escaped arrest. Semmes returned to the Confederacy via Mexico. Appointed a rear admiral, he helped command the Confederate Navy in Virginia's James River. After the defeat of the Confederacy in 1865, he returned to Mobile to practice law and write about his war experiences. The British finally agreed in 1871 to take responsibility for the damages caused by British-built Confederate raiders. In 1872, an international arbitration panel ordered Britain to pay the United States \$15.5 million in damages, of which more than \$6,000,000 was inflicted by the *Alabama*.

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This Month in the WBTS (Continued):

June 24, 1865: The last Confederate General to surrender was General Chief Stand Watie at Doaksville, Indian Territory.

June 25, 1862: Battle of Mechanicsville: Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia strikes Union General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac, beginning the Seven Days' Battles. Despite heavy losses and not decisively defeating the Yankees, the battle had unnerved McClellan. During the next week, Lee drove him from the outskirts of Richmond back to his base on the James River. This was Lee's first battle as commander of the army. On June 1, 1862, he had replaced Joseph Johnston, who was severely wounded at the Battle of Fair Oaks.

June 27, 1862: Battle of Gaines Mill, Virginia.

June 28, 1862: Confederates capture the *St. Nicolas* - A Confederate band makes a daring capture of a commercial vessel on Chesapeake Bay. The plan was the brainchild of George Hollins, a veteran of the War of 1812. Hollins joined the navy at age 15, and had a long and distinguished career. A Maryland native, he was commander of a U.S. warship in the Mediterranean when hostilities erupted in 1861, and returned to New York and resigned his commission. After a brief stop in his hometown, Baltimore, Hollins offered his services to the Confederacy and received a commission on June 21, 1861. His daring exploits earned Hollins a quick promotion from captain to commodore. At the end of July, Hollins was sent to take control of a fleet at New Orleans, Louisiana. June 28 also marked the Battle of Garnett's Farm, Virginia.

June 28, 1863: President Lincoln appoints General George G. Meade as commander of the Army of the Potomac, replacing Hooker. Meade is the 5th man to command the Army in less than a year.

June 29, 1862: Battle of Savage Station, Virginia.

June 30, 1862: Battle of Glendale.

Confederate Generals Birthdays

General Samuel Cooper - 12 June 1798 - Hackensack, N.J.

General John Bell Hood - 1 June 1831 - Owingsville, Ky.

Maj. General Daniel Smith Donelson - 23 June 1801 - Sumner Co., Tenn.

Maj. General James Lawson Kemper - 11 June 1823 - Madison Co., Va.

Brig. General John Decatur Barry - 21 June 1839 - Wilmington, N.C.

Brig. General Cullen Andrews Battle - 1 June 1829 - Powelton, Ga.

Brig. General Alexander William Campbell - 4 June 1828 - Nashville, Tenn.

Brig. General John Rogers Cooke - 9 June 1833 - Jefferson Barracks, Md.

Brig. General Junius Daniel - 27 June 1828 - Halifax, N.C.

Brig. General John Buchanan Floyd - 1 June 1806 - Montgomery Co., Va.

Brig. General Brikett Davenport Fry - 24 June 1822 - Kanawha Co., Va.

Brig. General Richard Montgomery Gano - 17 June 1830 - Bourbon Co., Ky.

Brig. General William Montgomery Gardner - 8 June 1824 - Augusta, Ga.

Brig. General Victor Jean Baptiste Girardey - 26 June 1837 - Lauw, France

Brig. General Martin Edwin Green - 3 June 1815 - Fauquier Co., Va.

Brig. General Benjamin Hardin Helm - 2 June 1831 - Bardstown, Ky.

Brig. General Benjamin Jefferson Hill - 13 June 1825 - McMinnville, Tenn.

Brig. General Henry Rootes Jackson - 24 June 1820 - Athens, Ga.

Brig. General Young Marshall Moody - 23 June 1822 - Chesterfield Co., Va.

Brig. General John Hunt Morgan - 1 June 1825 - Huntsville, Ala.

Brig. General John Tyler Morgan - 20 June 1824 - Athens, Tenn.

Brig. General Gideon Johnson Pillow - 8 June 1806 - Williamson Co., Tenn.

Brig. General Gabriel James Rains - 4 June 1803 - Craven Co., N.C.

Brig. General Beverly Holcombe Robertson - 5 June 1827 - Amelia Co., Va.

Brig. General Paul Jones Semmes - 4 June 1815 - Wilkes Co., Ga.

Brig. General James Edwin Slaughter - in June 1827 - Cedar Mountain, Va.

Brig. General Otho French Strahl - 3 June 1831 - McConnelsville, Ohio

Brig. General Thomas Fentress Toon - 10 June 1840 - Columbus Co., N.C.

Brig. General William Tatum Woffard - 28 June 1824 - Habersham Co., Ga.

Brig. General Marcus Joswph Wright - 5 June 1831 - Purdy, Tenn.



From Our President May 2013

Dear Civil War Preservationist,

I write to you today from Jackson, Miss., where more than 300 Civil War Trust members have gathered for our 2013 Annual Conference. Over the next four days, we will explore the fascinating battlefields of the Vicksburg Campaign and remember the events that unfolded here 150 years ago.

For the many of you who couldn't join us in person this year, I hope you'll take advantage of some of the Trust's outstanding digital interpretation projects to explore these battlefields from the comfort of your own home. Covering the entire campaign - from Grant's failed canal to the city's surrender - our new Vicksburg Battle App™ guide is our most ambitious mobile tour to date. And our Vicksburg Animated Map provides an unparalleled overview of these momentous engagements.

All of these resources and more are available on the Trust's Vicksburg hub page, civilwar.org/vicksburg. While there, you can also learn about our exciting opportunity to protect 11 acres at Vicksburg – marking our first chance to purchase property at this seminal battlefield.

Jim Lighthizer, *Civil War Trust President*

Vicksburg Comes Alive

The Civil War Trust is proud to announce the debut of the latest installment in our popular series of Battle App™ guides: The Vicksburg Campaign! These GPS-enabled, multimedia tours designed for smartphones and other mobile media combine expert scholarship with the latest technology to bring history alive like never before. Learn more about this exciting project and download our most ambitious app to date!

SAVE FLEETWOOD HILL!: Learn about the Trust's new campaign to save 56 acres at the heart of the Brandy Station Battlefield. With less than \$193,000 to go in this \$3.6 million campaign, we're entering the home stretch just in time for the 150th anniversary. [Help Save Brandy Station »](#)

MORE THAN 1,000 COLOR BEARERS STRONG: This group of donors maintains a special annual commitment to battlefield preservation. Discover the unique benefits and opportunities for membership. [Learn More »](#)

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS!: The Civil War Trust's 2013 Photo Contest is underway. Fifteen awards will be presented in five categories, plus special recognitions for Grand Prize and People's Choice. The contest runs through August 16. [Official rules and Details.](#)

MORE SUPPORT FOR PRESERVATION GRANTS: Virginia Senator Tim Kaine continues his support for historic preservation by introducing legislation to continue and expand government matching grants for battlefield protection. [Learn More »](#)

LESSON PLAN CONTEST DEADLINE EXTENDED: Teachers: The deadline for the 2013 Best Lesson Plan Contest is July 1. Be recognized for your innovative techniques and win up to \$2,500. [How to Enter »](#)

SHORES OF HISTORY CRUISE: Travel Dynamics International has organized an 11-day small ship cruise to explore historic sites from Alexandria, Va., to Charleston, S.C. [Learn More »](#)

TRACE ADKINS TRIUMPHS: Trust Board member Trace Adkins has had quite a month! He released a new album, emerged victorious on NBC's "All Star Celebrity Apprentice," performed at Vicksburg 150th anniversary events and served as honorary grand marshal of the National Memorial Day Parade! [Learn More »](#)

MAY CIVIL WAR BATTLES: Expand your knowledge of the Civil War by learning more about some of the great Civil War battles that occurred in the month of May. Access our history articles, photos, maps, and links for the battles listed below:

[Williamsburg »](#)

[Champion Hill »](#)

[Port Gibson »](#)

[Wilderness »](#)

[Dallas »](#)

[Raymond »](#)

[Resaca »](#)

[North Anna »](#)

[Spotsylvania Court House »](#)

[Chancellorsville »](#)

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CWT News (Continued):

Dispatches From the Front

Civil War preservation news from around the country

On Battle's 150th, Gettysburg Braces for Tourists

Programs Will Share More of City's Past

Coalition Enters Home Stretch to Save Heart of Brandy Station Battlefield

Remembrance Set for Key Civil War Struggle

Kaine Supports Battlefield Preservation Efforts

Civil War Trust Marks North Alabama Battle Site
The Shifting Strategy of Preservation

*Letter From a Museum of the Confederacy Staff Member*

Dear Member,

With the coming of the sesquicentennial and increased public interest in those four turbulent years in American history (1861-1865), I am reminded of the first time I came into contact with the Museum of the Confederacy and its unique collection. As a college intern in the Museum Studies program at VCU, I was lucky to be posted to the Collections Department, and was given the opportunity to work behind the scenes, up close and personal, with the thousands of artifacts housed here.

I have worked with this collection for a long time (more than twenty years), and it never ceases to amaze me. A week doesn't go by that I don't learn something new about a particular artifact or the person who used it. Every new discovery leads inevitably to other avenues of research. There is always more to learn.

The Confederate Memorial Literary Society started collecting "relics" of the war in the early 1890s and we can boast one of the largest (if not *the* largest) collection of Confederate related artifacts in the world. Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, J.E.B. Stuart items are all here along with many other notables. But the ladies who started the museum did not forget everyone else; people none of us have ever heard of, whose names never made it into the history books, but who nevertheless left their mark, large or small, on the history of the South and the Confederacy. Items cherished for many years by the families were given to the museum in order for the greater public to be aware of their contributions. Many of the items in the collection were donated by the veterans themselves or by immediate family members, and often came with anecdotal histories which, by the way, makes writing labels for exhibits that much easier.

The collection is shared with the public primarily through our exhibits, both here and at our new site in Appomattox, with special showings for lectures or events. Only recently, during the anniversary of Stonewall Jackson's death, we displayed the flag that draped his coffin while he lay in state at the Capitol. The museum was very busy that weekend.

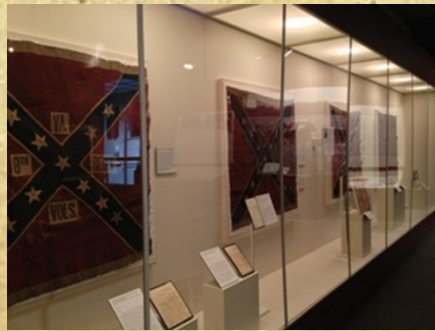
Since it is impossible to put everything on display—the collection is just too big—we try to keep the collection as accessible as possible through onsite research appointments both in our library/archives and object collections, and we are working diligently to make our collections database available on our website.

The collection speaks to people in different ways; from the purely academic to the deeply personal, but our goal remains the same: to continue the work started in the 1890s and preserve this collection for future generations.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Hancock
Senior Curator and Director of Collections

(Continued Next Page)

MOC News (Continued):*Gettysburg: They Walked Through Blood*

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, the Museum of the Confederacy-Richmond has on display artifacts pertaining to Gen. George Pickett's division, the command which became so famous following Pickett's Charge. Included in the exhibit are eight Confederate flags captured during the attack, the swords of Pickett's three brigade commanders (Gen. Lewis Armistead, Gen. James Kemper, and Gen. Richard Garnett), and the Armistead letter book (which includes casualty figures following the battle). Don't miss the chance to see the actual flags and swords carried by Pickett's men during their heroic charge. The exhibit is included with Museum admission.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the exhibit.

Page Sponsorship on the Museum of the Confederacy Website

Sponsor a page on the Museum of the Confederacy's website, and show your support for the Museum! When you sponsor a page, your gift goes directly to support the work of the Museum in artifact preservation and presentation, research and cataloging in the library's archives, and education programs that unlock and share the secrets and mysteries held within the century-old collection. First and last name as well as the city and state of sponsors appear on the MOC's website. You can choose to sponsor a page for one month, two months, or three months. [Click here](#) to participate. We hope to see your name online soon!

Haversack Online

Be sure to visit the all new online Haversack Store for the latest in Civil War books, flags, and accessories. [Click here](#) to start shopping!

End of the Fiscal Year Fundraising Drive

There are only a few weeks to go in the Museum's fiscal year, and we need you to help us accomplish our year-end fundraising goals. Please continue to help the Museum in its efforts of preservation and education by clicking the link below and donating. [Check our website](#) to see if your company participates in Matching Gift programs, and if you're federal employee, consider donating through the Combined Federal Campaign. Thanks so much for your support!

Donate now: <http://tinyurl.com/l28zyc2>



Citadel Regimental Band & Pipes Performing "Dixie"

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faMZeh_vmVU

The Typical Confederate Soldier

G.H. Baskett, Nashville, Tenn., *Confederate Veteran*, Vol. I, No. 12, Nashville, Tenn., December 1893.

Nearly thirty-three years have passed since the alarm of war called from their peaceful pursuits the citizens who were to make name and fame as Confederate soldiers. The stirring scenes and the dreadful carnage of a memorable conflict have been removed by the lapse of time into the hazy past, and a new generation, however ready it may be to honor those who fought the battles of the South, is likely to form its idea of their appearance from the conventional military type. The Confederate soldier was not an ordinary soldier, either in appearance or character. With your permission I will undertake to draw a portrait of him as he really appeared in the hard service of privation and danger.



A face browned by exposure and heavily bearded, or for some weeks unshaven, begrimed with dust and sweat, and marked here and there by the darker stains of powder - a face whose stolid and even melancholy composure is easily broken into ripples of good humor or quickly flushed in the fervor and abandon of the charge; a frame tough and sinewy, and trained by hardship to surprising powers of endurance; a form, the shapeliness of which is hidden by its encumberments, suggesting in its careless and unaffected pose a languorous indisposition to exertion, yet a latent, lion-like strength and a terrible energy of action when aroused. Around the upper part of the face is a fringe of unkempt hair, and above this an old wool hat, worn and weather-beaten, the flaccid brim of which falls limp upon the shoulders behind, and is folded back in front against the elongated and crumpled crown. Over a soiled, which is unbuttoned and button less at the collar, is a ragged grey jacket that does not reach to the hips, with sleeves some inches too short. Below this, trousers of a nondescript color, without form and almost void, are held in place by a leather belt, to which is attached the cartridge box that rests behind the right hip, and the bayonet scabbard which dangles on the left. Just above the ankles each trouser leg is tied closely to the limb - a la Zouave - and beneath reaches of dirty socks disappear in a pair of badly used and curiously contorted shoes. Between the jacket and the waistband of the trousers, or the supporting belt, there appears a puffy display of cotton shirt which works out further with every hitch made by Johnny in his effort to keep his pantaloons in place. Across his body from his left shoulder there is a roll of threadbare blanket, the ends tied together resting on or falling below the right hip. This blanket is Johnny's bed. Whenever he arises he takes up his bed and walks. Within this roll is a shirt, his only extra article of clothing. In action the blanket roll is thrown further back, and the cartridge is drawn forward, frequently in front of the body. From the right shoulder, across the body pass two straps, one cloth the other leather, making a cross with blanket roll on breast and back. These straps support respectively a greasy cloth haversack and a flannel-covered canteen, captured from the Yankees. Attached to the haversack strap is a tin cup, while in addition to some odds and ends of camp trumpery, there hangs over his back a frying pan, an invaluable utensil with which the soldier would be loth to part.

With his trusty gun in hand - an Enfield rifle, also captured from the enemy and substituted for the old flint-lock musket or the shotgun with which he was originally armed - Johnny reb, thus imperfectly sketched, stands in his shreds and patches a marvelous ensemble - picturesque, grotesque, unique - the model citizen soldier, the military hero of the nineteenth century. There is none of the tinsel or trappings of the professional about him. From an esthetic military point of view he must appear a sorry looking soldier. But Johnny is not one of your dress parade soldiers. He doesn't care a copper whether anybody likes his looks or not. He is the most independent soldier that ever belonged to an organized army. He has respect for authority, and he cheerfully submits to discipline, because he sees the necessity of organization to affect the best results, but he maintains his individual autonomy, as it were, and never surrenders his sense of personal pride and responsibility. He is thoroughly tractable, if properly officered, and is always ready to obey necessary orders, but he is quick to resent any official incivility, and is a high private who feels, and is, every inch as good as a general. He may appear ludicrous enough on a display occasion of the holiday pomp and splendor of war, but place him where duty calls, in the imminent deadly breach or the perilous charge, and none in all the armies of the earth can claim a higher rank or prouder record. He may be outre and ill-fashioned in dress, but he has sublimated his poverty and rags. The worn and faded grey jacket, glorified by valor and stained with the life blood of its wearer, becomes, in its immortality of association, a more splendid vestment than mail of medieval knight or the rarest robe of royalty. That old, weather-beaten slouch hat, seen as the ages will see it, with its halo of fire, through the smoke of battle, is a kinglier covering than a crown. Half clad, half armed, often half fed, without money and without price, the Confederate soldier fought against the resources of the world. When at last his flag was furled and his arms were grounded in defeat, the cause for which he had struggled was lost, but he had won the faceless victory of soldiership.

<http://tinyurl.com/lng5vmx>

Slavery not only issue of Civil War

Darrell Huckaby *Rockdale Citizen* Conyers, GA April 25, 2013

I had passed the little cemetery thousands of times. Each time I had told myself that one day I would take time to go in and take a look, to find out who the people were that were buried there and what era they were from and how they came to be buried together -- no more than a dozen stones marking their grave.

Wednesday I finally took time to stop, although I did so at my own peril. I had to pull off on the side of the road and take my life into my own hands crossing the busy thoroughfare that was undoubtedly a dirt road when those poor souls who were buried in the tiny cemetery had gone on to their final rewards. It was worth the effort.

I discovered that the place in question was a family cemetery which was the final resting place for two generations of the Veal family. I know some Veals but have no idea if there is any connection. Most of the folks buried there were born between the early 1800s and the 1880s and were remembered not by their names but by their initials -- and their relationship to the patriarch of the Veal family.

There were several small gravestones bearing the names of infants who were born and died in the same calendar year, some after mere days of life. There were also some graves marked only by natural stone, not engraved markers -- and if a name had ever been scratched on those rocks, it had long since been erased by a century-and-a-half of rain and erosion.

One grave held the remains of A. V. Veal, born on April 25, 1924, and married to a woman 20 years his junior, according to the headstone beside his. I noticed his grave because a neatly folded Confederate flag lay next to his marker, which told me that in 1862, most likely, at the age of 38, this particular member of the Veal clan left his home in the North Georgia Piedmont and went off to fight for the South in what he perceived to be an invasion by a foreign army and an all-out assault on his liberty and his way-of-life.

To speak of such values as valor and freedom and independence and courage and bravery in conjunction with the recent unpleasantness between the North and South is politically incorrect these days. Anyone who does so must assuredly be a racist and an ignorant redneck who is still trying to fight the war and would return the American South to the days of cotton fields and chattel slavery if given half-a-chance, because everybody knows that slavery was the only issue involved in the war. Except it wasn't.

Now I won't pretend that any other issues between the two sections of the nation could not have been settled without bloodshed. And I will not pretend that slavery wasn't the key political issue that drove the nation to such a deadly division. But I also won't pretend that the great majority of those who fought for the South were not, in their minds, following the advice of Thomas Jefferson, as laid out in the Declaration of Independence:

"That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it."

I am certain that Mr. Veal was like the old private in the Confederate Army that was captured at the Battle of Resaca. When a Union officer asked him why he was fighting against the United States Army, the old fellow was said to have scratched his head before replying, "Well, I reckon because y'all are down here."

This weekend many Georgians will be remembering Confederate Memorial Day. They won't be attempting to repeal civil rights laws or reinstate slavery. They will be paying homage to ancestors who were brave enough to stand up against authority and fight for their right to choose their own form of government. Yes, that form of government condoned the enslaving of an entire class of people, but so did the United States government for four score and nine years of its existence. We still celebrate the Fourth of July.

The next time you are lucky enough to be passing by the UGA arch on Broad Street in Athens, take a look at the historical marker behind it. It states that "During the War for Southern Independence, most UGA students left school to join the Confederate Army."

That's why A. V. Veal left home in 1862 and that's what is being honored this weekend, no matter how badly some revisionists wish it weren't. *Darrell Huckaby is a local educator and author. Email him at dhuck008@gmail.com.*

<http://tinyurl.com/axdm4xe>

Letters from Civil War donated to Ole Miss

Lucy Webber *Clarion-Ledger* Jackson, MS May 6, 2013

Richard Bridges seemed like a typical college kid in his letters home: He tells his family he may need more money and definitely more clothes, talks about hanging out with old friends from home and sounds a little homesick at times.

Through his letters, this one-time University of Mississippi student has returned to the Oxford campus 150 years later.

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Letters (Continued): Mike Martin of Madison, his sister Pat Owen of Rankin County and two of their cousins in Memphis — Bridges' great-great nephews and nieces — recently donated to the university the 27 letters that Bridges wrote when he served in the University Greys, the unit organized by students to fight in the Civil War.



Jennifer Ford, head of archives and special collections at the University of Mississippi, holds a letter from a University Greys member. The student company fought in the Civil War. / Robert Jordan/Special to *The Clarion-Ledger*

“We found out that it was significant in that these were only the second set of letters from one of the original 130 University Greys to ever find their way back to the university,” Martin said. “They were proud to receive them and we were proud to give them.”

The letters are housed in the university's special collections and can be read online. Some of the letters are on display in a special exhibit that opened recently, “Preserving Our Past: Highlights from Archives & Special Collections.”

“These letters are indeed one of our treasures,” said Jennifer Ford, head of archives and special collections at Ole Miss. “The Bridges' letters are a significant addition to our collection.”

Martin said the letters were handed down to his mother in the 1960s from his great aunt, Dot Batton who lived in Crystal Springs where Bridges lived. “I remember Aunt Dot mentioned Uncle Richard and then she pulled out this tin box. She told her (Martin's mother), “Martha, I want you to have these,” Martin said. “Mama went home and transcribed all those letters. We knew they were special.”

Through the years, the letters were tucked away for safekeeping. After Martin's mother died, the letters ended up in Owen's possession. “We talked about how to keep them safe,” Martin said.

Eventually, the family decided to contact officials at the university to see if they wanted them. “The letters needed to be back where he was,” Martin said. “I really thought this was no big deal, that they get stuff like this all the time, but in fact this is only the second set of original letters,” he said.

Written in the graceful penmanship of the day, Bridges' letters tell of his life from 1861 to 1863. He writes of camp life, asks for more pants and blankets, asks for money when he hasn't received his military pay, tells briefly of battles and reports on his health, including not-so-serious and serious wounds. There's longing for home when he writes: “Wealth, honor and ease are but poor things to compare with the pleasure that it would afford me just to see you all once more.”

In the first letter, written Jan. 26, 1861, before he enlisted in his freshman year, he tells one of his sisters that he's well despite a great deal of sickness, pneumonia and diphtheria, in the college and how much he enjoyed the recent holidays at home. The last letter from Bridges is one he dictated on May 26, 1861 “thro' the kindness of a Va. lady” following the amputation of his left leg after he was struck by a minnie ball during the Battle of the Wilderness.

The last letter in the collection, dated June 3, 1864, came from the woman who wrote the previous letter, Louisa A. Smith of Staunton, Va., telling the family that Bridges passed away peacefully the day before. Smith also enclosed one of his shirt buttons and a lock of Bridges' hair, which the family kept with the letters through the years.

Reading through the letters chronologically shows how Bridges changed over the course of his service that included seeing action in battles at Manassas, Ball's Bluff, the Seven Days Campaign, and Gettysburg, Martin said.

“In the first letters, he was a peaceful sort of guy. Then, his attitude changed to not bloodthirsty but that he didn't want to lose,” Martin said. “The guy's been dead 150 years, and I still get emotional.”

After deciding to donate the letters to the university, Martin said the family delved into Civil War history, trying to learn more about Bridges. They found a picture of him — “he's a good looking guy” — in a book detailing the history of the 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment, which included the University Greys in Company A, Martin said.

In the book, Bridges is listed on the Confederate government's Roll of Honor, dated May 5, 1864. “He was included after that last injury so I think he was considered particularly brave,” Martin said.

The special exhibit “*Preserving Our Past*” will be on display until January 2014 on the third floor of the J.D. Williams Library on campus. Besides select Bridges' letters, the exhibit includes special pieces from the archives' blues collection, including rare 78s of bluesman Robert Johnson, signed baseballs by Ty Cobb and Ted Williams and several pieces from literary collections.

<http://tinyurl.com/b4z2xaz>

The Civil War letters of Richard Bridges can be read online at: <http://clio.lib.olemiss.edu/> and type Bridges in the search box.

150 Years After Fort Sumter: Why We're Still Fighting the Civil War

David Von Drehle *Time* new york city, new york April 7, 2013



A few weeks before Captain George S. James sent the first mortar round arcing through the predawn darkness toward Fort Sumter, South Carolina, on April 12, 1861, Abraham Lincoln cast his Inaugural Address as a last-ditch effort to win back the South. A single thorny issue divided the nation, he declared: "One section of our country believes slavery is right and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute."

It was not a controversial statement at the time. Indeed, Southern leaders were saying similar things during those fateful days. But 150 years later, Americans have lost that clarity about the cause of the Civil War, the most traumatic and transformational event in U.S. history, which left more than 625,000 dead — more Americans killed than in both world wars combined.

Shortly before the Fort Sumter anniversary, Harris Interactive polled more than 2,500 adults across the country, asking what the North and South were fighting about. A majority, including two-thirds of white respondents in the 11 states that formed the Confederacy, answered that the South was mainly motivated by "states' rights" rather than the future of slavery.

The question "What caused the Civil War?" returns 20 million Google hits and a wide array of arguments on Internet comment boards and discussion threads. The Civil War was caused by Northern aggressors invading an independent Southern nation. Or it was caused by high tariffs. Or it was caused by blundering statesmen. Or it was caused by the clash of industrial and agrarian cultures. Or it was caused by fanatics. Or it was caused by the Marxist class struggle.

On and on, seemingly endless, sometimes contradictory — although not among mainstream historians, who in the past generation have come to view the question much as Lincoln saw it. "Everything stemmed from the slavery issue," says Princeton professor James McPherson, whose book *Battle Cry of Freedom* is widely judged to be the authoritative one-volume history of the war. Another leading authority, David Blight of Yale, laments, "No matter what we do or the overwhelming consensus among historians, out in the public mind, there is still this need to deny that slavery was the cause of the war."

It's not simply a matter of denial. For most of the first century after the war, historians, novelists and filmmakers worked like hypnotists to soothe the posttraumatic memories of survivors and their descendants. Forgetting was the price of reconciliation, and Americans — those whose families were never bought or sold, anyway — were happy to pay it.

But denial plays a part, especially in the South. After the war, former Confederates wondered how to hold on to their due pride after a devastating defeat. They had fought long and courageously; that was beyond question. So they reverse-engineered a cause worthy of those heroics. They also sensed, correctly, that the end of slavery would confer a gloss of nobility, and bragging rights, on the North that it did not deserve. As Lincoln suggested in his second Inaugural Address, the entire nation, North and South, profited from slavery and then paid dearly for it.

The process of forgetting, and obscuring, was long and layered. Some of it was benign, but not all. It began with self-justifying memoirs by defeated Confederate leaders and was picked up by war-weary veterans on both sides who wanted to move on. In the devastated South, writers and historians kindled comforting stories of noble cavaliers, brilliant generals and happy slaves, all faithful to a glorious lost cause. In the prosperous North, where cities and factories began filling with freed slaves and their descendants, large audiences were happy to embrace this idea of a time when racial issues were both simple and distant.

History is not just about the past. It also reveals the present. And for generations of Americans after the Civil War, the present did not have room for that radical idea laid bare by the conflict: that all people really are created equal. That was a big bite to chew.

The once obvious truth of the Civil War does not imply that every soldier had slavery on his mind as he marched and fought. Many Southerners fought and died in gray never having owned a slave and never intending to own one. Thousands died in blue with no intention to set one free. But it was slavery that had broken one nation in two and fated its people to fight over whether it would be put back together again. The true story is not a tale of heroes on one side and villains on the other. Few true stories are. But it is a clear and straightforward story, and so is the tale of how that story became so complicated.

Bleeding Kansas: History textbooks say the Civil War began with the shelling of Fort Sumter. The fact is, however, that the Founding Fathers saw the whole thing coming. They walked away from the Constitutional Convention fully aware that they had planted a time bomb; they hoped future leaders would find a way to defuse it before it exploded. As the Constitution was being written, James Madison observed, "It seems now to be pretty well understood that the real difference of interests lies not between the large and small but between the Northern and Southern states. The institution of slavery and its consequences form the line."

As long as the disagreement remained purely a matter of North and South, the danger seemed manageable. But then North and South looked to the west. All that land, all those resources — the idea that the frontier might be closed off to slavery was unacceptable to the South. **(Continued Next Page)**

Still Fighting (Continued): It felt like an indictment and an injustice rolled into one. Slave owners were not immune to the expansionary passion of 19th century America. They too needed room to grow, and not just to plant more cotton. Slaves could grow hemp and mine gold and build railroads and sew clothes. The economic engine of slavery was immensely powerful. Slaves were the single largest financial asset in the United States of America, worth over \$3.5 billion in 1860 dollars — more than the value of America's railroads, banks, factories or ships. Cotton was by far the largest U.S. export. It enriched Wall Street banks and fueled New England textile mills. This economic giant demanded a piece of the Western action.

In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act proposed to let territorial settlers decide the future of slavery. Never in U.S. history had so much depended on so few so far beyond the rule of law. There was a footrace to the distant prairie, and Kansas, where the racers clashed, was where the war started, not Fort Sumter. And everyone involved knew exactly what the killing was about.

It was on May 21, 1856, that a proslavery army, hauling artillery and commanded by U.S. Senator David Rice Atchison of Missouri, laid waste to the antislavery bastion of Lawrence, Kans. "Boys, this is the happiest day of my life," Atchison declared as his men prepared to teach "the damned abolitionists a Southern lesson that they will remember until the day they die."

One of those abolitionists was John Brown, who tried to come to the aid of Lawrence but arrived too late. Three days later, as Brown pondered what to do next, a messenger arrived with news from far-off Washington: an antislavery leader, Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, had been clubbed nearly to death by South Carolina Congressman Preston Brooks while sitting at his desk in the Senate chamber after delivering a fiery speech titled "The Crime Against Kansas." Brown went "crazy — crazy" at the news, his son reported. That night he led a small group, including four of his sons, to a proslavery settlement on Pottawatomie Creek. Announcing themselves as "the Northern army," Brown's band roused five men, led them into the darkness and hacked them to death with swords.

Two contending armies, artillery fire and flames, bloodshed in the Senate and corpses strewn over dew-damp ground. People at the time knew exactly what to call it: civil war. Kansas Territorial Governor Wilson Shannon used the phrase himself in a warning to President Franklin Pierce. "We are standing on a volcano," Shannon added.

The reason for the eruption was simple. As Brown explained, "In Kansas, the question is never raised of a man, Is he a Democrat? Is he a Republican? The questions there raised are, Is he a Free State man? or Is he a proslavery man?" This is why armies marched and shells burst and swords flashed.

The Fracture: From there, the remaining steps to Fort Sumter seemed to follow inexorably. The Supreme Court, in its infamous *Dred Scott* decision, tried to answer the question in favor of slave-holders. The backlash was furious. In Kansas, settlers passed competing constitutions, one slave and one free, and the battle over which one Congress should accept splintered the Democratic Party. When Stephen A. Douglas failed to reunite the Democrats in 1860, he opened the door to a Lincoln victory.

Meanwhile, Brown organized a quixotic plot to invade the South and stir up an army of slaves. Quickly captured at the armory in Harpers Ferry, Va., tried for treason and hanged, he was hailed by abolitionists as a martyr. After that, the idea that Northern Republicans supported slave rebellion became the defining theme, for Southerners, of the 1860 election. A vote for Lincoln was in many minds a vote for the sort of blood-soaked insurrection that had freed the slaves of Haiti and left thousands of white slave owners dead.

Abolitionists had "inspired [slaves] with vague notions of freedom," explained President James Buchanan as he prepared to leave office. "Many a matron throughout the South retires at night in dread of what may befall herself and her children before morning," making "disunion... inevitable." As Southern states began to declare their independence, they echoed this theme. South Carolina's leaders indicted the North for encouraging "thousands of our slaves to leave their homes, and those who have remained have been incited by emissaries, books and pictures to servile insurrection." Mississippi affirmed, "Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery — the greatest material interest of the world," adding, "There was no choice left us but submission to the mandates of abolition, or a dissolution of the Union." Georgians declared, "We refuse to submit."

Even as the conflict turned to all-out war, many people still hoped for a way to put things back as they had been. As George McClellan, General in Chief of the Union Army, wrote to a friend in 1861, "I am fighting to preserve the integrity of the Union & the power of the [government] — on no other issue. To gain that end, we cannot afford to raise up the negro question — it must be incidental and subsidiary." His words go to the root of a persistent question: How could slavery be the cause of the war when so many in blue had no interest in emancipation? McClellan was speaking for the millions whose goal was not to free the slaves but to preserve the Union.

What McClellan did not perceive, though, was that the Union and slavery had become irreconcilable. The proposition on which the revolutionaries of 1776 had staked their efforts — the fundamental equality of individuals — was diametrically opposed by the constitution of the new Confederacy. "Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite idea; its foundations are laid, its cornerstone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery, subordination to the superior race, is his natural and normal condition," explained Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens. In other words, the warring sides had stripped their arguments to first principles, and those principles could no longer be compromised.

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Still Fighting (Continued): Fogging Memory: The forgetting began with exhaustion. "From 1865" — the year the war ended — "until the 1880s, there was a paucity of writings about the war that really sold," says Harvard historian John Stauffer. "Americans weren't ready to deal with the reality of the war because of the carnage and the devastation." When an appetite for the story began to return, readers embraced only certain kinds of memories. There was no market for books of war photographs. Ulysses Grant's 1885 memoirs were a best-seller, but the Union general gave almost no attention to the events leading up to Lincoln's call for troops, while his touching account of the Confederate surrender at Appomattox strongly conveyed the idea that it was best to move on. There was an avid audience for essays by military leaders in the magazine *The Century*, describing their battles in minute detail but paying scant attention to the big picture. This "Battles and Leaders" series spawned an endless literature that, some critics say, treats the terrible conflict as if it were America's original Super Bowl, Yankees vs. Rebs, complete with watercooler analysis of the play calling, fumbles and Hail Marys.

The first publishing success to really engage the reasons for the war was a strange and rambling book by Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Twenty years earlier, Davis had framed the choice to secede in simple terms: "Will you consent to be robbed of your property" — meaning slaves — or will you "strike bravely for liberty, property, honor and life?" But looking back, he preferred to say that the slavery issue had been trumped up by "political demagogues" in the North "as a means to acquire power."

Davis' book, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, became a polestar for the Lost Cause school of Civil War history, which takes its name from an 1866 book by Richmond newspaper editor Edward Pollard. Highly selective and deeply misleading, the story of the Lost Cause was immediately popular in the South because it translated the Confederacy's defeat into a moral victory. It pictured antebellum life as an idyll of genteel planters and their happy "servants" whose "instincts," in Davis' words, "rendered them contented with their lot... Never was there happier dependence of labor and capital on each other."

But then: "The tempter came, like the serpent of Eden, and decoyed them with the majic word of 'freedom.'" Though outgunned and outnumbered, the South fought heroically to defend itself from aggressors whose factories up north were the true slave drivers. And though God-fearing warriors like Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson outgeneraled their foes at every turn, ultimately the federal swarm was too large and too savage to repel.

The Lost Cause story required a massive case of amnesia. Before the war, Southerners would have scoffed at the idea that the North was overwhelmingly stronger. They believed that King Cotton was the dominant force on earth and that powerful Britain — where roughly 1 in 5 people depended on cotton for a living — would intervene to ensure Confederate victory.

But people were eager to forget. And so Americans both Southern and Northern flocked to minstrel shows and snapped up happy-slave stories by writers like Thomas Nelson Page and Joel Chandler Harris. White society was not ready to deal with the humanity and needs of freed slaves, and these entertainments assured them that there was no need to. Reconstruction was scorned as a fool's errand, and Jim Crow laws were touted as sensible reforms to restore a harmonious land.

A Quarrel Forgotten: Instead of looking back, postwar Presidents stressed the future, adopting the reconciling tone of Grant at Appomattox. William McKinley, assassinated in 1901, was the last Civil War veteran to lead the country. His successor, Theodore Roosevelt, was the living embodiment of reconciliation and moving forward. His father had served the Union cause; his plantation-raised mother had supported the South; his childhood was a master tutorial in leaving certain things unsaid in the pursuit of harmony.

By the 50th anniversary of Gettysburg, it was nearly impossible to know from the commemoration why the war had happened or who had won. The year was 1913, and the President was Woodrow Wilson, the first Southerner to hold the office since 1850. Wilson had been a historian before entering politics, and his book *A History of the American People* was tinged with Lost Cause interpretations. He described the Ku Klux Klan as "an empire of the South" created by men "roused by a mere instinct of self-preservation." It was no surprise, then, that his remarks at Gettysburg completely avoided slavery. Instead he chose to talk about "gallant men in blue and gray ... our battles long past, our quarrels forgotten."

So what was remembered? Two years after Wilson spoke at Gettysburg, partly influenced by Wilson's book, filmmaker D.W. Griffith debuted *The Birth of a Nation*. It was the first film in history with a six-figure production budget, yet by selling out theaters at the unheard-of price of \$2 per ticket — nearly \$44 in current dollars — Griffith made a fortune. The movie brought the Lost Cause to cinematic life, with the Klan saving the day in the final reel, rescuing white families from a group of marauding blacks. Then in 1939, a new Lost Cause melodrama made an even bigger impact: David O. Selznick's *Gone with the Wind*. The story of plucky Scarlett O'Hara and the sad destruction of her "pretty world" of "Cavaliers and Cotton Fields called the Old South" is the top-grossing film of all time, adjusted for inflation, according to the website Box Office Mojo.

Both films begin in an antebellum South where all is peaceful and bright and trace the sad fall from paradise into a hellish postwar world of carpetbagging Northerners and rapacious, incompetent freed slaves.

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Still Fighting (Continued): Such powerful cultural images were buttressed by the academic work of leading historians. At Columbia University, William A. Dunning established himself as the leading authority on the postwar South, and he brought up a generation of scholars with the belief that blacks were incapable of equality and that Reconstruction was a disastrous injustice.

Equally influential was University of Illinois historian James G. Randall, who towered among Lincoln scholars. Horrified by the senseless carnage of World War I, Randall saw it foreshadowed in the trenches and torched fields of the Civil War. The chief villains, in Randall's orthodoxy, were Northern abolitionists with their "reforming zeal."

Reigning over the study of slavery was Yale's U.B. Phillips, the son of slave owners. For decades he was the only scholar to undertake a systematic examination of the plantation economy, which, he argued, was a benign and civilizing force for African captives. He concluded that slavery was an unprofitable system that would have soon died out peacefully. That would have surprised the Southerners who in the 1850s certainly believed there was money to be made in slavery. In the decade before the war, per capita wealth grew more than twice as fast in the South as it did in the North, and the prices of slaves and land both rose by some 70%. If slavery was dying out, it sure was hard to tell.

Why It Matters: Historians began to break the grip of forgetfulness after World War II, as the civil rights movement restarted the march toward equality. In 1941, Franklin Roosevelt ordered equal treatment for "workers in defense industries or government." The next President, Harry Truman, desegregated the armed forces. The next one, Dwight Eisenhower, dispatched federal troops to enforce school desegregation in Arkansas. And so on, step by little step.

In 1947, the year Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color line, John Hope Franklin, a black historian then at Howard University, published *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*. This runaway best seller revolutionized academic discussion of the black experience. The same year, Columbia's Allan Nevins published the first of eight volumes of *Ordeal of the Union*, which explored America's road to disaster in great depth and clarity.

The Dunning School lost its grip on Reconstruction when C. Vann Woodward of Johns Hopkins published *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* in 1955. The following year, Kenneth Stampp at Berkeley did the same to U.B. Phillips with *The Peculiar Institution*, which examined the slave system through the eyes of the slaves themselves for the first time.

With the centennial of the war approaching, a flood of outstanding Civil War history books hit shelves, and the half-century since then has been rich in scholarship. Robust controversies rage and always will, but the distortion and occluded memory that shaped the Lost Cause story is found now only on the academic fringe. What energy exists in the modern version comes from a clique of libertarians who view the Union cause as a fearsome example of authoritarian central government crushing individual dissent. Slave owners make odd libertarian heroes, but by keeping the focus narrowly on Big Government, this school uses the secession cause to dramatize issues of today. Outside academia, denial remains an irresistible temptation for some politicians. Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell last year issued a 400-word Confederate History Month proclamation without a single mention of slavery. "There were any number of aspects to that conflict between the states," McDonnell later explained. "Obviously it involved slavery, it involved other issues, but I focused on the ones that I thought were most significant for Virginia." (Barraged by criticism, he corrected the omission.)

And in popular culture, as University of Virginia historian Gary Gallagher writes, "The Lost Cause's Confederacy of gallant leaders and storied victories in defense of home ground retains enormous vitality." It shows up in movies like *Gods and Generals*, in commemorative paintings, decorative plates and battlefield re-enactments. By contrast, Gallagher searches in vain for a scene in any recent film that "captures the abiding devotion to Union that animated soldiers and civilians in the North."

Why does this matter? Because the Civil War gave us, to an unmatched degree, the nation we became — including all the good stuff. Had secession succeeded, it's unlikely that there could have been a stable, tranquil coexistence between an independent North and South. Slaves would have continued running away. The riches of the West would have been just as enticing. There never would have been the sort of roisterous hodgepodge of wide-open energy that America became. One of the blessings of being able to set up shop on a new continent was that Americans never had to be defined by clan or tribe or region. We're the people who order a Coke from Atlanta and some New England clam chowder at a diner in Las Vegas. The place where a boy from Mississippi goes to California to make a movie called *Blue Hawaii*. Secession was about making more borders. At its best, Americanism is about tearing them down.

To be blind to the reason the war happened is to build a sort of border of the mind, walling off an important truth. Slavery was not incidental to America's origins; it was central. There were slaves at Jamestown. In the 1600s, writes Yale's David Brion Davis, a towering figure among historians, slave labor was far more central to the making of New York than to the making of Virginia. As late as 1830, there were 2,254 slaves in New Jersey. Connecticut did not abolish slavery until 1848, a scant eight years before the fighting broke out in Kansas. Rhode Island dominated the American slave trade until it was outlawed in 1808. The cotton trade made Wall Street a global financial force. Slaves built the White House.

Furthermore, if slavery had spread to the West, the country would have found itself increasingly isolated in the world.

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Still Fighting (Continued): The second fallacy is that this was only the South's problem and that the North solved it. Not long ago, the New-York Historical Society mounted its largest-ever exhibition, titled "Slavery in New York." You can still visit the website and listen to public reactions. Over and over again, visitors repeat the same theme: as a teacher, as a college graduate, as a native New Yorker, "I knew absolutely nothing about this." As long as that belief persists, spoken or unspoken, Americans whose hearts lie with Dixie will understandably continue to defend their homes and honor against such Yankee arrogance.

Lincoln's words a few weeks before his death were often quoted after the war by those who wanted not just to forgive but also to forget: "With malice toward none, with charity for all." But those words drew their deepest power from the ones he spoke just before them: "Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said 3,000 years ago, so still it must be said 'the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'"

In other words, the path to healing and mercy goes by way of honesty and humility. After 150 years, it's time to finish the journey.

<http://tinyurl.com/bvz7jm3>

The foolishness of Civil War reenactors

A historian grapples with the right -- and wrong -- ways to commemorate a war that should horrify all of us

Glenn LaFantasie *Salon* new york city, new york April 8, 2013

Last month, the Civil War sesquicentennial began with a bang with a "living history" event in Charleston, S.C., that commemorated the firing on Fort Sumter, the momentous act of violence that started the war.

If you're not familiar with what "living history" means, this is a term that Civil War reenactors use to describe their hobby of dressing up in Union and Confederate uniforms and acting out battles and other significant events that occurred between 1861 and 1865. On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces fired (for real) on Fort Sumter, a military installation manned by federal troops, and continued the bombardment for more than 30 hours, when, outgunned and almost out of supplies, the Union commander, Major Robert Anderson, surrendered the fort and its garrison. It was the fall of Fort Sumter that began the Civil War, and modern reenactors pretended to do it all over again, only this time they did not use live ammunition, did not keep modern Charlestonians from getting their sleep by sustaining the thunder of cannons through the night, and presumably did no damage to the preserved stone walls of the Fort Sumter National Monument, which is located on an island in the middle of Charleston harbor.

In fact, the "living historians" at Charleston fudged the history more than a little by firing their first shot at the fort at 6:45 in the morning rather than at the very famous historical time of 4:30 a.m. Presumably, this enabled the reenactors to sleep a little later than their historical counterparts did 150 years ago. Then, when the mortar shot was finally fired to begin the reenactment, it barely sailed up 40 yards or so into the sky, although the noise it made was, according to the Charleston Post and Courier, "thunderous." But the newspaper also reported that the pyrotechnics left something to be desired: Rather than the "star shell" of a century and a half ago, the explosion seemed more like a "bottle rocket." The fireworks technician in charge of the mortar shot explained that the burst was "intentionally weak, as a safety precaution to the crowds of people on hand to witness the waterfront ceremony." So much for historical accuracy.

The promoters of this observance insisted that their event was not a "reenactment," but a moment of "living history." Although I've been a practicing Civil War historian for quite some time, I've never quite understood why reenactors dislike being called reenactors. They almost universally claim to be "living historians" or to be engaged in "living history." But I find these terms mystifying. For one thing, I think that I am a living historian; if not, someone should inform my loved ones of my passing. For another thing, "living history" makes me think of apparitions, like ghosts possessing the living and walking about historical sites in the manner of zombies, wide-eyed, with arms outstretched and flesh dangling off their faces. But if reenactors wish to be called living historians, so be it.

At any rate, the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War is off and running (with the Union "living historians" dutifully surrendering Fort Sumter to Confederate "living historians" in a pageant held on April 14, fraught with high seriousness and furrowed brows suitable to the occasion. To a very large degree, I confess to some unease about all this playacting as we look down the road to four years of battle reenactments, fancy-dress balls (modeled on the ones portrayed in the films "The Birth of a Nation" and "Gone With the Wind"), and professions of neo-Confederate sentiments about the war having been fought over states' rights and not slavery, as if that's a good thing.

The sesquicentennial should be an enormous opportunity to educate the American public about the war, its causes and its consequences. The Civil War still captures the American imagination, and there is probably no more popular event in American history than the Civil War. Civil War books outnumber works about other periods of our national history (despite the fact that the American Revolution was actually the single most important event in our country's history),

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Foolishness (Continued): Civil War national parks outnumber other historical parks from a single time period, and Civil War reenactors and buffs by far outnumber other enthusiasts who immerse themselves in the details of, say, the French and Indian War or even World War II. Still, for all this interest, many Americans still possess little understanding of the Civil War and its outcome. The sesquicentennial might help to remedy this knowledge gap by raising public awareness of the war in all its many dimensions, revealing local aspects of the war to many who might not know that their communities were involved in fighting the war or supporting the war effort, and spreading a broad public understanding of what the war meant to the people who experienced it and to subsequent generations of Americans who live, even 150 years later, in its very long shadow.

But the thought of being deluged with everything about the Civil War over the next four years leaves me with a distinct feeling of dread, if not outright exhaustion. For one thing, I already “live” in the Civil War era on practically a daily basis. It is my job to read and write about the war, to teach my students about it, to speak to scholarly and community groups about it, and to learn as much about it, day to day, month to month, year to year, as I possibly can. The fact is, I’m already immersed in the Civil War — so much so that I often feel like I need a vacation from the 19th century, just to stay in touch with my family, my friends and the world in which I live. Other Civil War academics have admitted to me their similar feelings: For those of us who “do” Civil War history, it is possible sometimes to o.d. on the Civil War. When that happens, I purposely take a vacation to some place unhistorical in nature or importance, drag along a suitcase filled with pulp fiction, detective novels and unread magazines from our coffee table, and find a quiet, shady place to forget about the Civil War. Inevitably, these “rehab” experiences fail miserably, and I usually end up with my thoughts drifting to some aspect of the war as Hercule Poirot continues to gather clues or as Thomas Frank says something truly brilliant in his Harper’s *“Easy Chair”* column. Predictably, I begin scribbling notes about my next writing project on slips of paper, napkins and those little, otherwise useless pads you find next to the telephone in hotel rooms. Being a Civil War historian means living in the 19th century, whether you like it or not, and it’s damned difficult to jump back and forth between centuries.

Which is why, in at least one respect, I find the unfolding Civil War sesquicentennial daunting. As more and more people become involved in the war’s commemoration, I fear not only immersion but inundation. How much more Civil War can I deal with in my in life? How much more can I sink below its depths before it drowns me? How much more can anyone stand?

Civil War reenactors and buffs seem to have a far greater tolerance level than I do. They live and breathe the war readily, without hesitation, and with a passion that veers close to a religious experience or even sexual arousal. I have a passion for my work, especially my writing and my teaching, but enough’s enough. I lack the hobbyist’s obsession with the war, its players (great and small), and its minutia (which is endless). My job requires me to be an expert about the war, a position I do believe I’ve attained, but I can’t bring myself to devote the entirety of my life to it — and I certainly (unlike some of my academic cohort) have no interest in donning a uniform, firing a Springfield musket, or participating in a battle reenactment under a blazing sun or a dripping sky.

In fact, the entire idea of commemorating the Civil War strikes me as perverse, including bloodless battle reenactments. Why would anyone want to replicate one of the worst episodes in American history? Why would anyone want to pretend to be fighting a battle that resulted in lost and smashed lives on the field and utter grief among the soldiers’ loved ones back home? Is there any uplifting message to be derived from such playacting? What’s more, these “reenactments” are contrived and orchestrated. In order to avoid everyone falling down and playing dead during these battle plays (or no one falling down at all), reenactors decide by lottery in advance who will clutch their heart and tumble to the ground as though they’ve been hit; some of the fallen inevitably try to lie still if they are supposed to be dead, others try to simulate wounded men by crawling away from the scene of “carnage” (if you pay attention, you’ll see that they’re actually crawling to the nearest shade tree), while still others sometimes try stealthily to get their hat over their faces to avoid sunburn.

No one, of course, uses live ammunition, except for one French reenactor who did so during the 135th anniversary reenactment of Gettysburg, where he slightly wounded an American reenactor in the stomach; all charges (assault with a deadly weapon, etc.) were later dropped against the Frenchman, who was speedily deprived of his ammunition and put on a fast plane to Paris. When cannons are fired at reenactments, they do not produce explosions or rip through the advancing ranks of the enemy, since they are in essence firing only blanks — that is, powder charges without projectiles. Nevertheless, these battle reenactments usually produce a good number of real casualties, which turn out to be mostly burns from overheated muskets and artillery pieces, heat prostration and the occasional heart attack among overweight baby boomers who are trying, despite their huge girths and hardened arteries, to portray fit, young soldiers.

More to the point, though, is the strange desire to impersonate soldiers of the Civil War by pretending to fight a battle. In the first place, these pretend battles look and sound nothing like the real thing, although reenactors have convinced the public (and themselves) that they do.

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Foolishness (Continued): In the second place, these theatricals lose every bit of authenticity the moment the demonstration draws to a close and the faux dead and wounded on the field rise up in a mass resurrection resembling the Rapture, which is usually accompanied by the applause of the onlookers (who, by the way, have paid a hefty admission price to see grown men shoot at one another with the adult equivalent of cap guns). The crowd usually finds these phony battles truly entertaining, perhaps in the same way that “professional” wrestling has its devoted fans. Nevertheless, entertainment — no matter how authentic the reproduction buttons and firearms might be — is not history. Interestingly, a good number of reenactors actually have been in real combat, having served (and gotten shot at) in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Perhaps these veterans find it difficult to leave their military identities behind. But it can't be easy for them to reconcile the actual horrors of battle with the sanitized “combat” of a reenactment.

The Civil War as entertainment was something that particularly troubled Bruce Catton, the dean of Civil War historians during of the 1950s and 1960s. At the start of the Civil War Centennial, Catton warned:

“We are in serious danger of taking the most significant anniversary in American history and using it as a means of giving ourselves a bright and colorful holiday. How the Civil War soldier fought his battles is no doubt worth examining, but infinitely more important is a consideration of why he fought and what he accomplished. Lay on the sentiment, the romance, and the dramatic appeal heavily enough, and we shall presently forget that the war was fought by real living men who were deeply moved by thoughts and emotions of overwhelming urgency.”

If Fort Sumter and every one of the war's significant events are to be reenacted in the sesquicentennial, will the bill of fare include the massacre of African American troops at Fort Pillow (1864)? Or the seizure of free African-Americans who were dragged against their will into slavery when Robert E. Lee's Confederate army retreated back to Virginia following the battle of Gettysburg? Or the explosion of the S.S. Sultana's boilers (April 1865), when an estimated 1,800 Union soldiers — some of whom were recently released prisoners of war who had already suffered countless miseries at the infamous Andersonville camp in Georgia — were killed on the Mississippi River near Memphis? Where should the paroxysmal “heritage” festivals begin and end? And how accurate will any of these celebrations of the past really be?

I've never attended a reenactment where the Confederate encampments are replete with compliant African-Americans portraying the slaves who actually accompanied their masters — officers and enlisted men — on the march. No doubt it's hard to find modern African-Americans willing enough to play slaves alongside modern white Americans playing Confederate soldiers; in the actual Civil War, though, slaves often did all the hard work and toting, sometimes carrying their master's musket, blanket roll, cooking utensils and the like. In the Union army, contraband (fugitive) slaves were sometimes put to use in equally menial ways. It's telling, of course, that African-Americans don't often attend Civil War battle reenactments. In fact, National Park Service statistics reveal that African-Americans rarely even visit Civil War battlefields. For good reason, modern blacks are a little sensitive about slavery and anything that seems to suggest — as reenactments most assuredly do — that the Civil War was all about battles, that each side fought with equal courage and grand moral purpose, and that the war had nothing to do with slavery or emancipation.

It also boggles the mind how over the next four years the nation is supposed to go about commemorating the war's immense brutality. How, quite frankly, is one expected to commemorate the contents of the following letter, written by a Virginia soldier to his mother in 1864?

“I wrote you a few days ago after having received the sad news of my poor, dear brother's death. I hope you received the letters. You do not know, dear Mother, how sad I am, and how deeply I feel the loss of him we all loved so dearly ... The longer I live the more convinced am I that there is no real happiness in this world without the hope of heaven. I have tried for the last six months to live a better life, and I hope that God will aid me in the effort, and that when it may please him to take me, that I will have nothing to fear. You must remember, Mother, that you have five children left yet to comfort you and compare your condition with that of other Mothers who have had all [their sons] taken. Tell Lucy that she must remember she has two little children to live for. I know her affliction is too deep for utterance, and deeply do I feel for her. She and her little ones are dear, very dear, to me. Would that I could do a father's part by them.”

Perhaps the impossibility of doing justice to this soldier's feelings is precisely why Congress has repeatedly refused to authorize a national commission for the commemoration of the sesquicentennial. More likely, the partisanship that has created deadlock in Congress over almost everything else is the real political reason behind the lack of a federal commission, but without an agency to oversee the anniversary, the whole observance already seems to have fizzled. Of course, Congress is not about to tackle tough issues, and any official commemoration of the Civil War would only emphasize how hypocritical, how morally (and financially) bankrupt, our republic has become in the New Gilded Age of the 21st century. The Civil War, in other words, is too difficult for Congress to manage. It's too messy. It involves taking stock of who we are and where we have come from. It means facing up to hard truths and unkept promises. So Congress, in typical fashion, has ducked the sesquicentennial.

If so, it's not entirely without cause — beyond, that is, the nervous fear of confronting hard historical truths. The Civil War Centennial 50 years ago was a notable disaster. The national commissions created by Congress suffered from mismanagement in its early days, until several prominent historians stepped in

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Foolishness (Continued): and saved it from self-immolation, but meanwhile the civil rights movement made the commemoration of Civil War battles look and sound profoundly hollow. One hundred years had passed since the war had been fought, presumably granting full civil rights to African-Americans and ensuring those rights in the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments; and yet, blacks were still fighting to secure those rights and yearning to be treated with the dignity they deserved as Americans and as human beings. As African-Americans pushed their civil rights movement forward in the '60s, they were vehemently opposed by states rights segregationists who resurrected the Confederate battle flag as a symbol of white supremacy. As Robert J. Cook, who has written a history of the centennial that should give all Americans pause as they stumble their way into the sesquicentennial, insightfully concludes: "If the Civil War centennial tells us anything, it is that seemingly entrenched historical memories are not always a match for the onrush of time." Regrettably, as minorities continue to struggle for equality in our land of the free and the home of the brave, the lost cause of the Confederacy continues to dominate public conceptions of what the Civil War means to us today. Moonlight and magnolias define the essence of the Civil War for most Americans. And public celebrations dreamily embrace the romance of a war that should, by all rights, repel us and horrify us and send shivers of fright down our spines. The commemoration of the sesquicentennial deserves to be more funereal than mirthful, more disconsolate than cheery.

One prominent Civil War historian, Allen C. Guelzo of Gettysburg College, sees the sesquicentennial as pitting so many different interests against one another — academic historians, popular historians, public historians, reenactors, community organizers and the general public — that he believes we might as well "call the whole thing off." Needless to say, that's not possible, since the sesquicentennial will happen whether we want it to or not, and the lack of a federal commission to oversee and coordinate the commemoration won't stop anyone from doing so, as the recent festivities in Charleston have loudly made plain. If one takes the rather lackluster Lincoln bicentennial into account, I'm tempted to agree with Guelzo — a Lincoln scholar who, by the way, offered no such cautionary remarks about that overblown and extremely dull commemoration of the 200th birthday of the 16th president that dragged on for two excruciating years. Personally, though, I don't think we need to call off the Civil War sesquicentennial; there are ways of commemorating it without necessarily indulging in battle reenactments or costume balls, hoop skirts and all.

One might begin by reading *Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*. I'm serious. It contains only 272 words, but it spelled out for the American people — in Lincoln's own time and in ours — the entire meaning of the Civil War. Actually it offers something for everybody in this second decade of the 21st century. If you're a Tea Party right-winger, you'll want to do some arm pumping during the opening lines of the address that refer to the Founding Fathers and the Declaration of Independence. Any conservative has to take heart with Lincoln's references to life and liberty and happiness. Liberals will react to the address with more melancholic feelings for the good old days, since the speech refers to a government "of the people, by the people, for the people," rather than our present reality of a government of the corporations, by the lobbyists and for the rich.

Still, Lincoln had a great deal to say in his little speech, which was delivered to dedicate the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg on Nov. 19, 1863, and he said it so well, in timeless prose. Eloquently and in plain words, Lincoln held forth a promise that the war would not be fought in vain. He saw a new America emerging out of the old, a country more dedicated to its most cherished ideals, a nation reborn out of the fire and ashes of war. His words elevated the significance of the Civil War beyond a fight simply to restore the Union. Confronting the deadly reality of the battle — the grisly remains that still, in some cases, awaited reburial on the day of the cemetery's dedication — Lincoln honored the Union men "who here gave their lives" for the sake of their country; by doing so, the president helped Americans, then and now, focus on the ideal of the warrior's sacrifice rather than on the reality of the soldier's suffering. The ground at Gettysburg, as Lincoln said, had been duly consecrated, as if gods, rather than ordinary soldiers, had spilled their blood there. His heroic image of the dead did not, at the time, diminish the awful reality of the battle and the war. As Lincoln's speech gained popularity after his death, his words were increasingly understood as articulating the deeper meaning of the war, which, in his opinion, involved not only the preservation of the Union, but the initiation of a new era of equality and freedom.

One might successfully argue that the "new birth of freedom" Lincoln hoped for never came about, although most Civil War historians — including James M. McPherson, the present dean of Civil War scholars — insist that it did. He and the other experts who agree with him are right only in the sense that freedom for whites expanded and soared in the postwar era and well into the 20th and 21st centuries. Otherwise, it took a century, in the face of strong white resistance, for blacks and other minorities — including immigrants of every stripe — to win even a modicum of the rights and the fruits of freedom that the 620,000 lives expended in the Civil War were supposed to have given them. Nevertheless, the place to begin if one wants to understand the true, deeper meanings of the war — and how we as Americans have failed to keep its promises or bring about Lincoln's hope for a new birth of freedom — is to read the Gettysburg Address. You might also want to glance at the *Declaration of Independence* to see how the two documents fit hand-in-glove.

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Foolishness (Continued): All in all, it seems to me that the best way to commemorate the Civil War is to do so by leaving the war to the dead rather than the living — to acknowledge in a solemn manner how absolutely harrowing and heartrending the war actually was and to observe its anniversary with gestures that are private, quiet and gentle. While pudgy Civil War reenactors pretend to relive history, perhaps the soldiers who fought the real battles — and who gave their lives or shed their blood in them — should be honored with true respect and a hushed gravitas. How can a somber (and sober) commemoration be achieved?

Read a book about the Civil War, particularly any of a wide assortment of fine books about how soldiers endured the conflict's many hardships and how the experience of combat altered their view of themselves and their world. I can recommend several that reveal in stunning detail how soldiers of the Union and Confederacy saw themselves and understood their respective causes; a good number of these works also reveal the soldiers' day-to-day lives, in camp and on the battlefield — their dedication to ideology and cause, their courage and their fears, their humor and sadness, their fortitude and despair, their comradeship and loneliness. Start with Bell I. Wiley's two older (but not outdated) books: "*The Life of Johnny Reb*" (1943) and "*The Life of Billy Yank*" (1952). For a literary treat, as well as a narrative account of how Union soldiers in the Army of the Potomac endured the miseries of repeated defeats and inept generals, move on to Bruce Catton's trilogy, "*Mr. Lincoln's Army*" (1951), "*Glory Road*" (1952), and "*A Stillness at Appomattox*" (1953). Catton, who won the Pulitzer Prize for "Stillness" in 1954, maintains a tightly focused perspective on the ordinary soldiers of the Army of the Potomac. The reader gets to follow those soldiers down long dirt lanes, dusty or muddy, as they experience their distressing defeats and their greatest victories.

Several more recent books also offer valuable, and sometimes startling, insights into soldier life during the Civil War: Reid Mitchell's "*Civil War Soldiers*" (1988) and "*The Vacant Chair: The Northern Soldier Leaves Home*" (1993); Gerald F. Linderman's "*Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the Civil War*" (1989); Earl J. Hess' "*The Union Soldier in Battle: Enduring the Ordeal of Combat*" (1997); James M. McPherson's "*For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War*" (1997); and Chandra Manning's "*What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War*" (2007). None of these works is a ponderous scholarly tome, although each one is based on solid scholarship, innovative research and engaging prose. I've also made my own contribution to the literature on Civil War soldiers in my book, "*Twilight at Little Round Top*" (2005), which examines the fight for a crucial hill at Gettysburg primarily through the eyes of six ordinary soldiers, three Union and three Confederate.

A flood of additional Civil War books will come pouring off the presses during the sesquicentennial, but caveat emptor — most of them will claim to be new and original on their dust jackets, but the greatest number of them will be derivative and redundant. For a list of what I consider to be the best 12 books ever written on the Civil War (since, that is, 1950 or so), check out [my earlier Salon essay](#). If you don't know where to get started reading about the Civil War, I recommend Louis P. Masur's fresh and amazingly brief (for all the ground it covers), "*The Civil War: A Concise History*" (2011), which contains a superb bibliography that you can use as a guide to further reading on a variety of Civil War subjects, including general works that treat the war in more detail. When all else fails, the Internet offers oceans of information about the Civil War. Some websites, of course, are more worthy or reliable than others, but it won't take long to learn how to find the good ones and navigate away from the schlock.

Fiction may be more to your liking, and if so, there are several novels about the Civil War that historians either revere or hate. Most scholars love Michael Shaara's "*The Killer Angels*" (1974), which tells the story of Gettysburg with terse prose and vivid characters; it later became the basis for the movie "*Gettysburg*" (1993), an uneven film that has a few moments of brilliance in it. The novels of Shaara's son Jeff are not as beloved as his father's book, which won the Pulitzer Prize; the younger Shaara wrote a prequel and a sequel to his father's book, and in both instances the son's extraordinary lack of talent as a writer is embarrassingly revealed (nevertheless, his books are uncritically adored by Civil War buffs). Another novel that's generally despised by scholars, although not by me, is Gore Vidal's "*Lincoln*" (1984), an epic (and, at times, almost whimsical) portrait of the president during the war years that blends myth and history artfully together in such a way that leaves the reader wondering if the real Lincoln can ever truly be known — a very real question that every Lincoln biographer must wrestle with. Those same Lincoln biographers, however, generally have condemned the novel for all its fictionalization of Honest Abe's presidency — a criticism that Vidal answered by pointing out that his book was indeed a novel, which I think gives him the last word. Charles Frazier's "*Cold Mountain*" (1997) shot to the top of the bestseller lists and won rave reviews when it was first published, but the reader must trek through miles and miles of the author's minute descriptions of blossoming flora and blue mountains and pastel skies, as his protagonist must do, to reach the story's very predictable conclusion; this novel, too, was made into a tolerable movie that was filmed in Romania of all places and starred Nicole Kidman (an Australian) and Jude Law (a Brit). Go figure. And then, of course, there is "*Gone With The Wind*," the novel (1936) and the movie (1939). The movie is better than the novel, which also won a Pulitzer, although both are well worth the effort. Personally, I consider Mark Twain's "*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*" (1884) the greatest novel written about the Civil War (although it takes place before the war broke out) and the greatest American novel of all time. Period.

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Foolishness (Continued): If, however, you are “not really into reading,” as one of my students so candidly informed me after admitting that she had not read any of the eight assigned books for my Civil War course (she got an F), you can mark the sesquicentennial in other tranquil and reverential ways. It should not be necessary to point out that the Civil War was tragic, not romantic, but the romanticism is what dominates public conceptions of the war. Allen Nevins, a brilliant historian whose work is now mostly ignored by younger scholars, once attempted to emphasize the war’s enormous tragedy by making this profoundly powerful point: “We can say that the multitude of Civil War dead represent hundreds of thousands of homes, and hundreds of thousands of families, that might have been, and never were. They represent millions of people who might have been part of our population today and are not. We have lost the books they might have written, the scientific discoveries they might have made, the inventions they might have perfected. Such a loss defies measurement.” Nevins wrote those words in 1961, and it seems unlikely that his admonition, or anything I could add to it, will impress Civil War enthusiasts to abandon the romantic myths of the war in favor of a stark realism that lays out, without any varnish, how Americans suffered and sacrificed as they killed one another in droves.

Even some academic historians shrink from accepting the hellishness of the Civil War. One scholar, Mark E. Neely Jr., complains that vital aspects of the war have become hidden by what he believes has been an overemphasis on the conflict’s destructiveness, what he condemns among his fellow experts as “a cult of violence.” He argues, in fact, that the Civil War was, comparatively speaking, no more violent or destructive than other wars, which may or may not be so, but his contention that the war was somehow less violent than historians have claimed flies in the face of the fact that 620,000 Americans died in the four years between 1861 and 1865. Historians haven’t exaggerated the war’s human toll; if anything, they still have not dealt effectively with the sensationalized romance — promulgated in part by the Civil War generation itself — that smothers our comprehension of the contest between North and South as an excessive expression of an American tradition of violence (on this point, see my earlier essay, “[Our permanent culture of political violence](#)”).

It’s the Civil War dead, not “living historians,” who deserve our attention during the sesquicentennial. If you live in the eastern two-thirds of the country, from Nebraska to Maine and from Texas to Florida, chances are there’s a Civil War monument in a nearby town or city honoring the community’s volunteers who fought and died for their cause. A few years ago, just by chance, I came across a handsome soldiers’ monument in the little Massachusetts community of Marion, not too far from Plymouth. It stands boldly on a small patch of land at an intersection. What struck me, though, and the only reason I noticed it all, was that the lawn around the tall memorial had been carefully manicured and lovely clumps of marigolds had been planted around the stone base. Obviously someone — perhaps a community group, a senior citizens’ center, or a Boy Scout troop — cared deeply for the monument. I was impressed — and deeply touched. Someone in the community recognized the monument’s importance and respected the contribution the Marion soldiers had made during the War of the Rebellion, enough, in fact, to honor them with small gestures: a mowed lawn, some flowering plants and a polished, shining statue. Standing in the monument’s shadow, it occurred to me that someone, whoever it was, understood the true meaning of the Civil War and remembered eloquently and poignantly what the community’s brave young men — now long gone from this earth — had given so selflessly a century and a half ago. The groomed lawn was one thing, but the pretty marigolds, a fitting substitute for forget-me-nots, spoke volumes.

If there is a monument to Civil War soldiers in your community, you might think about leaving a bouquet of flowers or a wreath at its base. Or if the local memorial has been overgrown and is in disrepair, organize a community group to spruce it up. Commemorate Memorial Day by remembering not only the service to our country of all military personnel, including those killed in combat, but do so in a way that fits the origin of the holiday — in both the North and the South — as Decoration Day, a single day specifically dedicated to the memory of the Civil War’s fallen soldiers. If there is a national cemetery near you, there’s a good chance it contains the remains of Union soldiers, even if you live in the western states, such as California, Washington and Oregon. In the Southern states, there are numerous cemeteries either dedicated exclusively to the Confederate dead or that contain special sections marked off for Southern combat casualties or veterans who died after the war. Even in the Northern states, there are Confederate cemeteries located near former Union prisoner-of-war camps, such as Elmira, N.Y., or Point Lookout, Md.. You might want to visit these cemeteries and remember the dead by strolling through, reading the names, and leaving a flower or a small flag on a grave or headstone.

Civil War museums abound in the eastern United States, more so in the South than the North, but often state and local historical societies display artifacts or tell the story of how your community participated in the war. If the federal government can manage to survive this spring without shutting down, you might visit a Civil War battlefield administered by the National Park Service, which consistently does a fine job of educating visitors not only about the battle fought there, but also about the causes and consequences of that particular battle and of the entire war. In many Southern states, there are also worthy Civil War sites operated as state parks.

If you have an ancestor who served during the war, you might want to track down his grave and pay your respects. Don’t forget that civilian men and women served as doctors and nurses on both sides;

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Foolishness (Continued): they deserve to be honored and remembered as much as the soldiers who fought in the ranks. If you want to find out if one of your ancestors shouldered a musket for the Blue or Gray, the Internet is the place to start your genealogical quest. Several private and commercial sites will help you find your way and discover whether or not your kin helped to determine the outcome of the war. Perhaps you even have old letters or diaries written by a Civil War forbear. If so, make photocopies of them and then explore the possibility of donating the originals to a historical society, library, museum or even the Library of Congress, so that historians can benefit by using them in their research. You may not want to let such documents out of your family. If that's the case, think about taking one of the letters and getting it professionally framed so you can hang it in your house or office and point it out to relatives and friends, proudly telling them: "Here's a letter written by my great-great-grandfather during the Civil War."

Yet none of these silent tributes really get to the heart of the Civil War. Some historians talk about the Civil War's "unfinished business," as if the conflict involved a checklist that no one got around to completing. Actually the war changed everything in the United States: how Americans thought about themselves and their country; how work and industry could be organized, just like the huge armies that tramped from battle to battle; how the nation would henceforth define citizenship and civil rights; how equality would be heralded and, sadly, curtailed (both at the same time); how the federal government steadily grew in size and scope but adopted laissez-faire policies, especially when it came to regulating business or neglecting the downtrodden; how people would relate to one another — more circumspect, less innocently than in the old days before the war; and even how people would speak to one another using new, crisp, declarative slang words and a rugged American language, captured so perfectly in the writings of Mark Twain, that resembled soldier talk and the realism of war. What the war did not change — not permanently, anyway — were white attitudes toward African-Americans and other minorities. Nor have those attitudes changed all that much in our own time, despite some of the very real advances that have marked race relations *since Brown v. Board of Education (1954)*, the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, and other tangible victories of the civil rights movement.

In 1961, at the start of the Civil War Centennial, Walker Percy, the talented Mississippi novelist, observed that "the country has still not made up its mind what to do about the Negro." Fifty years later, while a black man occupies the Oval Office, we still haven't made up our mind as to what we should do about African-Americans and every other minority that inhabits this nation. White racial fears are hidden behind "birther" accusations, draconian immigration proposals and political attacks on federal entitlement programs; some white Americans even cry out that they want to take their country back.

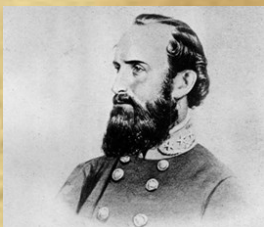
The Civil War sesquicentennial can give them only one answer: You may try to get it back by pretending to fire on Fort Sumter, as the Civil War reenactors did in Charleston two weeks ago. Or you may try to get it back by joining the Tea Party and working to turn back the hands of time to the glory days you imagine as having once existed. But you can't get your country back. You lost it 150 years ago. Ever since then, whether you like it or not, the steady march of the United States has been toward the higher ground, the greater purpose, of democracy and equality. And while that march has sometimes been stalled or even derailed, while it has been barricaded, hosed down and even sold out, nothing, nothing, has ever succeeded in keeping it permanently from moving forward. Perhaps, in the end, that's the real legacy and the true significance of the Civil War.

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<http://tinyurl.com/7lmrafx>

Surgeon: Stonewall Jackson death likely pneumonia

Associated Press via The Courier Russellville, AR May 11, 2013



Historians and doctors have debated for decades what medical complications caused the death of legendary Confederate fighter Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, felled by friendly fire from his troops during the Civil War.

Shot three times while returning from scouting enemy lines in the Virginia wilderness, Jackson was badly wounded in the left arm by one of the large bullets the night of May 2, 1863. Blood gushed from a severed artery. It took at least two hours to get him to a field hospital, and Jackson was dropped twice in a stretcher before his arm was amputated. He died days later at 39.

Scholars have long questioned whether it was an infection or pneumonia that killed Jackson, who gained the nickname "Stonewall" early in the war and went on to be lionized in the South and feared in the North because of his military exploits.

On Friday, the 150th anniversary of Jackson's death, a trauma surgeon with experience on the battlefield in Iraq and Afghanistan revealed his diagnosis of Jackson's death after reinvestigating the medical record.

On Friday, the 150th anniversary of Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson's death, a trauma surgeon with experience on the battlefield in Iraq and Afghanistan reinvestigated the medical record to offer a diagnosis of Jackson's death. University of Maryland surgeon Joseph DuBose said Jackson likely died of pneumonia. He is confirming the diagnosis given by Jackson's physician, the famed Confederate doctor Hunter McGuire.

(ASSOCIATED PRESS / File)

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Jackson (Continued): After reviewing the 1860s files and subsequent reports, University of Maryland surgeon and professor Joseph DuBose told The Associated Press that Jackson most likely died of pneumonia.

DuBose is confirming the original diagnosis given by Jackson's personal physician, the famed Confederate doctor Hunter H. McGuire. "You would be hard-pressed to find someone more qualified than him for the treatment of this injury and taking care of Stonewall Jackson," DuBose said. "I do defer to him in some regard. I kind of have to. He's not only the treating physician; he's also the only source of information."

McGuire's original medical notes were lost when he was captured by Union soldiers. He recreated them from memory three years later for the *Richmond Medical Journal*. Pneumonia was common in the Civil War, becoming the third most fatal disease for soldiers.

Jackson was the subject of an annual conference Friday at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore that reviews medical diagnoses of historical figures. In the past, researchers have reviewed the deaths of Alexander the Great, Edgar Allan Poe and Abraham Lincoln, among others.

DuBose is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, where Jackson was a professor before the Civil War. A large statue of Jackson stands near the campus barracks. So, his legacy and death were ingrained in DuBose's experience as a cadet.

Jackson was shot by soldiers from the 18th North Carolina regiment in a moment of confusion. He had led a surprise attack in the Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia, and the Confederates drove Union forces back about three miles. Civil War historian James I. Robertson Jr. recounts that Jackson wasn't satisfied and rode out at night to review the enemy's position. When he rode back, he was shot by his own soldiers.

Then, being dropped during a frantic nighttime rescue may well have contributed to Jackson's death, DuBose found. "If he had been dropped and had a pulmonary contusion, or bruise of the lung, it creates an area of the lung that doesn't clear secretions real well, and it can be a focus that pneumonia can start in," DuBose said. "That's probably what happened in this particular instance."

DuBose, a U.S. Air Force veteran, said pulmonary embolism — a blockage of the major blood vessel in the lung — still occurs in nearly 6 percent of combat casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is even more common among those who have amputations, as Jackson did.

Still, the debate will continue over Jackson's death.

Dr. Philip Mackowiak, an internist who organizes the conference each year, said he differs with DuBose on the Jackson case. He reviewed the records and said he believes a recurrent pulmonary emboli destroyed Jackson's lung over time, leading to his death. The medical records don't describe Jackson coughing, as one would expect with pneumonia, Mackowiak said.

It's impossible to know for sure what killed Jackson. But DuBose said modern medicine could have saved him. Jackson's doctor didn't have the tools or knowledge to treat the complications after the shooting. Robertson, a former Virginia Tech historian and professor who wrote Jackson's biography, said he has been persuaded that sepsis, caused by severe infection, killed Jackson, due to his chaotic rescue and unsanitary conditions. He noted, though, doctors at the time agreed Jackson had pneumonia.

"Unfortunately, medicine in the mid-19th century was still in the dark ages," he said. "Obviously, I'm not overly concerned with how he died. I'm terribly concerned that he died."

Jackson was a pivotal figure and perhaps the most esteemed soldier in the war, Robertson said. He was known for secrecy and speed to execute surprise flank attacks for Gen. Robert E. Lee's strategy. "He was killed in what may be the high-water mark of the Confederacy," Robertson said. "You can make a case that after Chancellorsville, it's just a question of time for Lee."

<http://tinyurl.com/a885jyc>

Create a battle plan to visit Gettysburg's attractions, events during 150th anniversary weeks

You'll need a strategy to visit Gettysburg's attractions and events for the 150th anniversary of Civil War battle

Diane W. Stoneback *The Morning Call* Allentown, PA May 11, 2013

In July 1863, the 2,400 residents of Gettysburg had little time to prepare for 170,000 Confederate and Union soldiers who advanced on the town. The soldiers clashed in a three-day battle that would paint its streets and pastoral farmlands crimson in the bloodiest encounter of the Civil War.

Today, the town of 8,000 braces for another invasion of as many as 70,000 Americans on July 1, 2 and 3 and a predicted 200,000 during the 150th observance of the Battle of Gettysburg June 28 to July 7. Officials and residents are working hard to be ready for the onslaught.

For more on this story, see: <http://tinyurl.com/aljbomk>

Gettysburg readies for 150th anniversary of battle: <http://tinyurl.com/mnr3lkc>

Descendant of Captured Soldiers in Iconic Civil War Photo To Attend Gettysburg Stamp Dedication Ceremony: <http://tinyurl.com/ocd7htg>

Lawyer Demands Removal Of Leesburg Confederate Statue

Bruce Leshan WUSA-TV Washington, DC May 11, 2013

LEESBURG, Va. (WUSA) -- The Confederate war memorial has stood outside the the courthouse here for more than a century. But a Leesburg lawyer says it is now way past time for it to go.

"You are approaching a person with an outstretched rifle..." says John Flannery. "What kind of symbol does that send to you if you are a person of color in the South?"

Symbols can be important. Especially outside a courthouse, where the state has the power to take your freedom. "What it says to me is that you can't expect equal justice under law," says Flannery.

Flannery says a tribute to the Confederate dead sends exactly the wrong message. And he's far from alone. Johnny Chambers was about to go before a judge. "It's hard to get justice when you got people that live in this area, that run this country, that believe in this system," Chambers says, pointing at the statue.

Flannery says when he started practicing law in Leesburg, there was also an old whipping post and stockade outside the courthouse. But lots of people see it as history worth remembering. "This is just a memory of a Confederate soldier," says Burke

Walker, who also practices law at the courthouse. "I think it should stay. I don't think it should be moved at all."

Supporters say there are similar statues outside courthouses all over the Commonwealth. "Doesn't make it right," says Flannery. "Racism was all over the South. Slavery was all over the South."

Take it down, he says, move it to a museum or a confederate cemetery. He's waiting to see how the Loudoun County leaders respond. But if nothing he's done, he's considering a lawsuit -- in federal court.

Loudoun County Board Chair Scott York said through an aide that he needs more time to think about Flannery's demand that the Confederate statue come down.

Video at: <http://tinyurl.com/a3yrdx9>

Tennessee Passes Heritage Protection Act

Chuck DeMastus *Southern Heritage News and Views* Medina, TX May 11, 2013

The N. B. Forrest Camp 215 of Memphis, and the Tennessee Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans are pleased to announce the passage of the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act of 2013.

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam has recently signed into law the Heritage Protection Act. This law, which applies to the entire state and all cities, prohibits the renaming, removal, or relocating of any military monument or item, such as a statue or flag display, or park, and includes streets and school names, or any other item so honoring a military unit or person. It is effective as of April 1, 2013, and applies to any military item from the French and Indian War through the Mid-East wars, and all US wars in between, including the War Between the States.

This legislation, the basic text of which was written by Lee Millar, SCV Chief of Protocol and Lt Cdr of the Tennessee Division, was introduced to the Legislature by Tenn Div Cdr Mike Beck to the Senate and Millar to the House, and was passed overwhelmingly by both the House and the Senate by a combined vote of 95-25. Thanks also to those many compatriots who wrote in to their senators and representatives in support.

This law will assist in the Memphis issue with the Nathan Bedford Forrest Park anti-renaming campaign, and will clearly hereafter protect the Forrest Statue, as well as the Jefferson Davis Statute, and the SCV Confederate cannons in Confederate Park. It will also protect scores of other Confederate and War For Southern Independence sites throughout Tennessee.

The new law is one of the greatest documents in modern history for the protection and preservation of this state's and nation's military history and heritage. It is hoped that other states will now take up the initiative.

<http://tinyurl.com/a8pm5px>

'We must always remember': SCV, UDC cite need to preserve history at Confederate Memorial event

Missy Richardson *Times and Democrat* Orangeburg, SC May 14, 2013

"A lot of people would like to push us under the rug and pretend that we didn't exist," Buzz Braxton of Rivers Bridge Camp #842, Sons of Confederate Veterans, told those gathered for the annual Confederate Memorial Day program on Memorial Plaza in downtown Orangeburg Saturday afternoon.

"We must preserve the good name of the Confederate soldier ... We must always remember and honor" those who fought for the Confederacy, Braxton said.

Firing cannons that echoed across the square to commemorate Confederate Memorial Day were Charley and Danny Dempsey and Allen Rush of the Olin M. Dantzler Camp #73, SCV. A rifle volley was presented by Ron Udell and other members of the Brig. Gen. E. Porter Alexander Camp, SCV, of Augusta, Ga.

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Remember (Continued): “I love that,” said Karen Black, president of the Paul McMichael Chapter #427, United Daughters of the Confederacy, when the cannons roared.



Members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy were joined by others in celebrating Confederate Memorial Day on Memorial Plaza in downtown Orangeburg Saturday afternoon. “We must preserve the good name of the Confederate soldier,” said Buzz Braxton of Rivers Ridge Camp #842, SCV

Lt. Commander Irvin Shuler of the Eutaw Regiment Camp #1189, SCV, said Saturday’s ceremony was held to honor Confederate heroes. Shuler thanked everyone in attendance, noting that area SCV camps had started the day by celebrating Confederate Memorial Day at the Calhoun County Courthouse in St. Matthews.

Dwight Horton, commander of the Olin M. Dantzler Camp #73, SCV, said the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy are the “last line of defense” in preserving the history of the Confederacy.

“As long as I am standing and breathing, I will teach my grandchildren to remember,” Horton said. “We must always remember and recognize the Confederate veterans and the families that they left behind.”

Keynote speaker the Rev. Ed Westbury of the Gen. Joseph B. Kershaw Camp #82, SCV, of Camden spoke of Confederate heroes and what they lost. Among those he mentioned was Wiley Clyburn, an African-American Confederate soldier.

“He was a hero,” Westbury said. “It is time for us to stop worrying about being politically correct. We have to be true to God and to ourselves. “We are here today to honor our Confederates because it is our duty.”

Westbury said 60,000 men from South Carolina fought in the Civil War and more than 17,000 paid the ultimate price by giving their lives to defend their way of life and their homeland.

The ceremony was closed with prayer and the singing of “Dixie.”

<http://tinyurl.com/a8rn92g>

Confederate flag T-shirt stir tensions at Missouri High School

Staff Reports *Kansas City Star* Kansas City, MO May 13, 2013

NIXA, Mo. — The Nixa school district is refusing to allow students to wear T-shirts emblazoned with the Confederate flag to memorialize a classmate’s death.

The *Springfield News-Leader* reports that students wanted to wear the shirts on the anniversary of a Colby Snider’s May 1, 2012, death from carbon monoxide poisoning. Besides the Confederate flag, the shirts included the slogan “heritage no2t hate.”

Some students wore the shirts even after being told they violated the dress code and were disciplined. The students went to the school board last week. Colby’s mother, Jodie Snider, wanted students to be able to wear the shirts one day, saying the flag wasn’t about “hate.” But others said there are less offensive ways to memorialize the student’s death.

The board decided the Confederate flag prohibition would stand. Nixa is about 14 miles south of Springfield.

<http://tinyurl.com/bacw77g>

Campaign says Markey asked ‘Dukes of Hazzard’ actor, Confederate flag defender to avoid fund-raiser

Jim O’ Sullivan *Boston Globe* Boston, MA May 14, 2013

Who among us, to borrow a phrase from a former senator, has never been feted at a D.C. fundraiser featuring music from a former “Dukes of Hazzard” actor who last year wrote to NASCAR protesting its decision not to allow a car drive a speedway lap because it had a Confederate flag on its roof?

US Representative Edward J. Markey was supposed to have just that experience at a Tuesday night event, featuring musical guest Ben Jones. A former two-term Democratic congressman from Georgia, Jones played the role of mechanic “Cooter Davenport” on the “Dukes of Hazzard” television show.

But Markey on Tuesday asked Jones not to come, his campaign said, after learning of Jones’s ringing defense of the Confederate flag.

Last year, NASCAR canceled a planned parade lap by golfer Bubba Watson behind the wheel of the “General Lee,” the car featured on the show, at Phoenix International Raceway due to worries about reactions to the car’s roof, which features the Civil War banner of the South. Jones posted a letter on his website saying NASCAR had “chosen to dishonor those Southerners who fought and died in that terrible conflict by caving to ‘political correctness’ and the uninformed concerns of corporate sponsors.”

“This is also an extraordinary insult to rural Southerners, who are NASCAR’s oldest and most fervent fan base, and it sends a message against inclusion and against the need for diversity,” wrote Jones. “Many of us who are descended from ancestors who fought for the South see this as a crude dishonoring of our kinfolks and our heritage. Our ancestors were proud Americans who had fought for our Nation before the Civil War and have served honorably in every conflict since then.”

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Fundraiser Flap (Continued): After the *Globe* asked the Markey campaign for comment, a spokesman said that Markey had asked Jones, whom he knew as a fellow Democratic congressman, to bow out of the event.

"Ed Markey only learned about Ben Jones's comments today, he strongly disagrees with them and has asked Jones not to be part of tonight's event," said the spokesman, Andrew Zucker, in an e-mail. "Ed believes such Confederate relics are highly offensive, and should not be displayed in public settings, period."

The invitation to the 6 p.m. Markey fund-raiser, at the home of Ginny Grenham and Paul Zevnik, asks for \$5,200 for "host" status, \$2,600 to sponsor, and \$1,000 to be a "friend."

According to his website, cootersplace.com, Jones has remained politically active. At the Markey fund-raiser, he was scheduled to appear with Cooter's Garage Band.

<http://tinyurl.com/bckl44n>

Former Democratic colleague hits back at Markey over Confederate flag flap: <http://tinyurl.com/oj3oy8h>

Official: 'Save the Confederate money, the South will rise again'

Lauren Mackey WTVR Richmond, VA May 14, 2013

ISLE OF WIGHT, Va. (WTKR) — Trying to bring light to Isle of Wight's budget woes, Vice Chairman Byron Buzz Bailey joked the county's troubles would go away if the South were to rise again.

"I guess you know, if we'd be like Washington, can we print some money in Isle of Wight County? Save the Confederate money, the South will rise again," Bailey said.

His comments did not sit well with school superintendent Katrise Perera, who after hearing Bailey's comments, left the meeting.

Perera wouldn't return any of WTKR's phone calls — and someone with her office said that "she was understandably very upset by those comments."

"It made me give pause just for a second, but you have to realize that this was five seconds of a three hour meeting," Board of Supervisors Chairperson JoAnn Hall said.

"In retrospect, maybe I should have stopped and we could have addressed the issue right there." Hall was there with Bailey Monday morning as they tried to work with department heads to shrink the budget by five percent.

"There were so many requests for money and there's so little money to go around," Hall said. The department heads though weren't cutting much, to the frustration of Bailey.

"Again, you go back to no cuts. It's not a five percent it's not a one percent, it's not anything," Bailey said.

Hall doesn't believe what Bailey said came from a bad place, he was just trying to bring humor to what had been a very stressful budget workshop. "Perhaps it wasn't the best way to break the tension," Hall said.

<http://tinyurl.com/ba8x3xv>

Rutherford: Civil War Heritage Group Has Right to Fly Confederate Flag

Rutherford Institute Presents Arguments in 4th Circuit Court of Appeals Over Civil War Heritage Group's Right to Fly Confederate Flag

Rutherford Institute Press Release Charlottesville, VA May 16, 2013

RICHMOND, Va. — The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit heard arguments today in a First Amendment lawsuit filed by The Rutherford Institute, which alleges that the City of Lexington, Va., violated the Constitution by prohibiting a civil war heritage society from flying the Confederate flag on flag standards maintained by the city. Institute attorneys asked the appeals court to reverse a ruling by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia, which dismissed the lawsuit on behalf of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) on the grounds that the City was free to adopt an ordinance denying private parties the use of flag standards along City streets even though it had previously allowed local organizations to fly their flags from the standards. In arguments to the three-judge appeals panel, Rutherford Institute attorneys contend that the City's motive for adopting the flag ordinance—allegedly in response to an SCV request to fly the Confederate flag and because of the City's opposition to the message conveyed by that flag—was colored by a desire to silence the SCV's speech.

[The Rutherford Institute's brief in SCV v. Lexington is available at www.rutherford.org.](http://www.rutherford.org)

"The First Amendment was penned by the Framers of the Constitution to protect our ideas and speech, both the popular and the unpopular," stated John W. Whitehead, president of The Rutherford Institute. "The issue here is not whether the Confederate flag should be displayed but whether we, as Americans, remain committed to the idea of free speech. If we allow the censoring of something simply because it may be controversial, we open the door for the government to discard anything deemed disturbing or offensive.

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Rutherford (Continued): The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) is a nonpolitical fraternal organization that seeks to recognize and preserve the heritage and history of military personnel who fought for the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. In early 2010, the SCV began planning and organizing a parade to be held in January 2011, in Lexington, Va., a city with rich ties to Confederate history. For example, Lexington was the home of Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, who is also buried in Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery. Gen. Robert E. Lee also is buried in Lexington at the chapel of Washington & Lee University, where Gen. Lee served as president from 1865 until his death in 1870. Lee-Jackson Day has also been designated as an annual holiday every January in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As part of its preparations for the parade, the SCV requested permission to temporarily display the Confederate flag from street standards owned by the city. In years past, other groups, such as college fraternities, had been granted permission to fly their flags from the standards for special events. Although the SCV's request created some controversy, city officials granted them permission to temporarily display the Confederate flag during the January 2011 event.

However, at a March 2011 meeting to discuss the policy governing use of the flag standards, several persons expressed opposition to the Confederate flag display. Subsequently, in September 2011, the City adopted an ordinance providing that only the national flag of the United States, the flag of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the City flag of Lexington may be flown from the standards on designated holidays. In filing the First Amendment lawsuit in January 2012, Institute attorneys alleged that the City not only violated a 1993 injunction assuring the SCV of the right to display the Confederate flag but also discriminated against the SCV in violation of their right to free speech and equal protection under the law. The Rutherford Institute is working in conjunction with attorney Thomas E. Strelka of Roanoke, Va., in representing the SCV.

<http://tinyurl.com/arc39nb>

Reidsville Confederate monument being assembled in cemetery

Staff Reports *The Times-News* Burlington, NC May 16, 2013

The Reidsville Confederate Monument might be gone, but workers began installing the soldier's base in the city-owned Greenview Cemetery on Wednesday, May 15. "This is a positive step in the right direction," Former United Daughters of the Confederacy president and current UDC Monument Committee chair Aileen Ezell said.

Almost two years ago, the monument became the height of controversy in the city of Reidsville. On May 23 of 201, Mark Anthony Vincent, 42, of Greensboro drove his work van into the base, knocking the soldier off and shattering it to pieces.

The city took the base of the monument down after an August 23, 2011 earthquake. City Manager Michael Pearce said the earthquake made him realize the base sat precariously after the accident. He determined it a safety issue. The base remained outside the Public Works building since the removal. Crews worked in the cemetery to reconstruct and clean the base of the monument on Wednesday.

It remains unclear when the soldier might be installed. In a February interview, Ezell said there wasn't a timetable to install the new soldier. She did add that this soldier would have a Confederate uniform. The previous monument's designer outfitted the soldier in Union attire.

The UDC claimed ownership of the monument shortly after it fell. The city searched for records saying otherwise and never found any. Traveler's Insurance Company, who represents Vincent, paid the UDC \$105,000. The UDC said it planned to use the money to recreate the soldier for the monument and use the original base as the platform. City officials helped the UDC find a new location for the monument. The city deeded a plot of land in Greenview Cemetery to the UDC years prior. The plot houses the body of Confederate soldiers.

The Confederate monument continues to be a controversial issue in the community. After the 2011 earthquake, a group, the Historical Preservation Action Committee formed to ensure the monument returned to its original location in the South Scales and West Morehead Streets intersection.

In December 2011, the UDC made an announcement it planned to move the monument to the cemetery. HPAC filed a lawsuit against the UDC and the city to stop the monuments removal. The lawsuit included the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources as well. HPAC dropped the city and the UDC from the lawsuit. Davidson County Superior Court Judge Mark Klass dismissed the case citing the organization lacked standing to bring it forward. Rockingham County Judge Moses Massey dismissed the case as well.

HPAC and the Sons of the Confederate Veterans' lawyer, Tim Wyatt, argued the dismissal before the North Carolina Court of Appeals on April 24.

The three judges, Ann Maria Calabria, Douglas McCollough and Sanford Steelman have 90 days to make a ruling on whether the two groups have legal standing. HPAC spokesperson Diane Parnell said the organization declined comment until the court ruled on the case.

<http://tinyurl.com/b2bv5el>

Confederate vets' graves vandalized in York County

Staff Reports *Charlotte Observer* Charlotte, NC May 22, 2013

CLOVER, S.C. -- Leaders of a Sons of Confederate Veterans chapter in York County say someone has vandalized graves of veterans at a church cemetery.



Officials with a Sons of Confederate Veterans chapter in York County say these are some of the flags that were removed from veterans' graves last week. (Photo courtesy of Thomas Lark.)

They say Confederate flags were removed from atop the graves of 88 veterans at the Bethany ARP Church. Leaders of the Private Thomas Caldwell Camp No. 31 chapter say they have filed a report with the York County Sheriff's Office.

Thomas Lark, a chapter member, says the theft was discovered Saturday when Kirk Carter, a Sons of Confederate Veterans official, was driving past the cemetery. He noticed that the flags, which had been placed on the graves during a Memorial Day program May 9, were gone.

Carter walked along a wall at the rear of the cemetery and found about two-thirds of the missing flags but says the others remain missing. He said the flags had been scattered around the rear of the property.

A church official reported vandalism has been a problem at the cemetery, Lark said. Bethany ARP Church, on S.C. 161, dates back to 1797. Veterans from a number of conflicts, dating back to the War of 1812, are buried in the church cemetery.

"It's a big disappointment to think that an individual or individuals would desecrate graves in this manner," Carter said.

<http://tinyurl.com/o7mqk3g>

Son of a Confederate soldier

Darrell Greene WHBQ-TV Memphis, TN May 22, 2013

RIPLEY, Miss. (FOX13) - Have you ever sat and listened to your grandfather tell stories about his past or the family and wondered, did any of that really happen?

Mike Yancey of Cordova, Tenn., loves to tell tales of the days gone by. But one yarn he spun not to long ago, caught everyone by surprise.

It wasn't about him, but about his father, a soldier in the Confederate Army.

He looks almost like any other customer but when Yancey walks into Classic Arms in Cordova, he's anything but. "Been coming in here for years. Helps behind the counter," said Jay Hill, owner. Hill loves the free labor. More than the help, he loves the stories. Every 90-year-old man has stories.

Yancey loves to talk about guns. His favorite is a .38. He served for 23 years in the Navy during World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

"Yeah, we had submarines trailing us," he said. "Oh yeah, we was on our P's and Q's all the time."

But then one day, he told a story no one could believe. It was about his father. "He was a Confederate soldier. Civil War," he said.

Hill could not believe it. "I was like, 'yeah right.' Is this a joke?' You hear of people who's father fought in World War I or World War II," Hill said. "But when he said Civil War, I said, 'are you sure?'"

FOX13 News went to Yancey's hometown of Ripley, Miss., and found out, Sure enough Yancey is the son of John Samuel Yancey, a Private of the Mississippi Partisan Rangers of the Confederate Army. The unit was eventually folded into the regular Confederate Army as the 7th Mississippi Cavalry near the end of the Civil War in 1864 after the Battle of Manassas. The 7th Cavalry fought in several battles in the Mid-South, including the Battle of Tupelo and the Battle of Shiloh.

"He never did get hurt or anything," Yancey said. "He was lucky. His luck rubbed off on me!" John Samuel Yancey was lucky alright. He married Mike's mother when he was 78 and she was 23, not that uncommon for the times. "Oh people used to tease her, you know, 'why did you marry that old man?'" Mike said. "She said, 'I'd rather be an old man's darling than a young man's slave.'"

Even though Mike was only a young child, he can remember a few things about his father. "We lived out in the country, out there close to that cemetery where he's buried," he said. "He had an orchard where he raised apples, peaches and strawberries, and he had a one-horse buggy. He would load that up with baskets of fruit, and take them into town and sell them on the square.

"He said come on, we going to get our picture made," Mike recalled. "He took me over to the photo lab, a jewelry store over there where the man did photo work. That's the picture of me and him together.

He was more like a buddy, you know? A kid, and carried me with him most everywhere he went. He'd go into town in that buggy and I'd go with him."

When Mike was only 5, he lost his buddy. John Samuel Yancey died in 1928. Mike is in select company. According to records of Union and Confederate heritage groups, Mike is one of 54 sons and daughters of men who fought in the Civil War still alive in the United States.

These days, Mike spends a lot of time trying to keep his family's legacy alive. It's not hard to find the name Yancey when you make the drive to Ripley.

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Son (Continued): But it isn't for Mike to pass along the family stories to his grand kids. "Talk to here about things, the Civil War and such, and she says I don't know what you are talking about!" Guess he'll have to save those stories for his captive audience at Classic Arms.

Video at: <http://tinyurl.com/pvkbauy>

Students raise Confederate flag outside Forsyth County high school

Associated Press *Rocky Mount Telegram* Rocky Mount, NC May 22, 2013

PFAMPTOWN — A year-end prank saw students raise a Confederate battle flag outside a Forsyth County high school.

The Winston-Salem Journal reported Wednesday that the North Carolina Confederate battle flag was run up the flagpole outside of Reagan High School over the weekend and pulled down the same day. Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools spokesman Theo Helm said the school was alerted about Sunday's stunt and addressed the students involved.

Many people see the flag is a reminder of racial discrimination and bigotry since it was used by those opposing equal civil rights for black Americans. Others counter that the flag is part of the state's history.

Schools Superintendent Don Martin called the stunt ridiculous and in bad taste.

<http://tinyurl.com/olnzt3>

Confederate flags Banned from City Cemetery in Jacksonville

Teresa Sardina KETK-TV Tyler, TX May 23, 2013

TYLER, TX — For Memorial Day, the Marine Corps League in Jacksonville planned to honor confederate veterans at the City Cemetery. They wanted to place confederate flags on graves of those who fought for the confederacy, but it's become an issue.

The Marine League argues confederate veterans are considered American War Veterans. They say there are more than 150 confederate veterans here and they want to honor them. "We were placing out the flags that there was quite a few confederate graves," says Charles 'Chuck' Bones. They were to be placed on graves which had confederate emblems on them.

"Furnished by our Government, that says CSA, Confederate states of America," says Stephen Hutson.

"Once we noticed that, I researched to see what we could do honor those veterans," says Charles 'Chuck' Bones. He says the U.S. has a law to honor all U.S. Veterans which includes confederate soldiers.

The response they're getting from city officials is the 'Rebel Flag' is too controversial, so the city is saying no. For some the confederate flag symbolizes racism, hatred and slavery.

"The confederate flag to me and a lot of other people symbolizes freedom and freedom from tyranny of Northern states of the time that tried to impose taxes excess taxes on the cotton sales," says Charles 'Chuck' Bones. Bones says, the flag symbolizes the Southern states being against the U.S. because of the taxes.

He says, we had slaves in the North and South and someone spun this into a controversial subject. "It doesn't matter if it was a confederate veteran or a Northern Veteran, they're still entitled to the same respect as any other veteran as a veteran of WWI, WWII, etc.," says Stephen Hutson.

KETK contacted The City of Jacksonville officials but they were unavailable to comment.

<http://tinyurl.com/ohfl4q>

Headstone finally marks grave of Civil War veteran

Gary Harmon *The Dailey Sentinel* Grand Junction, CO May 24, 2013



Ken Garrison at the grave of Civil War vet Leroy T Harris. Garrison, a GJ man, orchestrated the placement of a Confederate's headstone in OM Cemetery.

Virginian Leroy T. Harris, born in 1836, died in 1915, was a private in the Confederate States Army, that much is clear from the headstone. There's more to Harris than that, though, Ken Garrison learned in the process of identifying his burial plot in Orchard Mesa Cemetery.

That plot is now marked with a stone supplied by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the second grave to be so marked in the cemetery. Some of Harris' descendants are to gather at his grave at 1 p.m. today to dedicate the headstone and hear "Amazing Grace" and "Taps" played on the trumpet in his honor by Prof. Calvin Hofer of the Colorado Mesa University Music Department.

Garrison, a commander in the Sons of Confederate Veterans, learned a great deal about Harris in his research seeking out the burial places of Confederate veterans.

In doing that, he has found graves in Nucla, Ouray, Palisade, Collbran—the list goes on, he said.

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Grave Marker (Continued): Harris, Garrison learned, served as a private in Capt. Griffin's Company, also known as the Salem Flying Artillery, of the Virginia Light Artillery, and he apparently participated in four or five major battles, Garrison said. At one point he was treated at a hospital in Richmond. Perhaps most significantly, Harris was present at the end of the war.

"He was at Appomattox when (Gen. Robert E.) Lee surrendered" the Army of Northern Virginia to Gen. U.S. Grant on April 9, 1865, Garrison said. Harris, like many other veterans of both sides, made his way west, eventually settling in Utah.

His death certificate identified him as a carpenter, but a news account at the time identified him as a "Westwater doctor." Exactly how Harris came by the honorific is unknown, Garrison said, but it wasn't unusual for Civil War veterans of necessity to have acquired some medical skills.

Harris wasn't well-known in Grand Junction, but his obituary noted that he was "the father of Mrs. Florence Butler, popularly known as the cattle queen of eastern Utah." Harris apparently fell from a porch while left alone and his body was discovered some time later.

He was buried in the Orchard Mesa Cemetery with nothing to mark the history he witnessed.

About 50 people, including descendants living in Utah and Grand Junction, are expected to gather at the gravesite, where Garrison said he scattered some Virginia salt on Harris' grave, salt taken from near his place of birth. Garrison, whose lineage includes W.W. Witherspoon, who died in battle, will continue his search for the graves of Confederates.

For him, he said, "It's a labor of love."

<http://tinyurl.com/m6k54lz>

Roanoke group cleans cemetery where dozens of Confederate soldiers are buried

Staff Reports WDBJ-TV Roanoke, VA May 25, 2013

Roanoke, Va. - The final resting place for many important Roanoke residents was given some much needed attention this weekend. More than 50 Confederate veterans and the granddaughter of Patrick Henry are buried at the City Cemetery in Roanoke.

Members of the 28th Virginia Infantry Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans spent their Saturday sprucing up the area. They cleaned, fixed and refurbished headstones, along with some general cleaning. For them, it's all about respecting those that have been lost.

Volunteer Mark Craig says, "They're somebody's grave and we feel they should be repaired so that's why and how we got started here. We want to do as much as we can and it looks an awful lot better than it did."

Old Southwest Incorporated and The Roanoke Rescue Mission also helped with the event.

Video at: <http://tinyurl.com/pvly4gu>

Misplaced Honor

Jamie Malanowski *the new york times* new york city, ny May 25, 2013

IN the complex and not entirely complete process of reconciliation after the Civil War, honoring the dead with markers, tributes and ceremonies has played a crucial role. Some of these gestures, like Memorial Day, have been very successful. The practice of decorating the graves arose in many towns, north and south, some even before the war had ended. This humble idea quickly spread throughout the country, and the recognition of common loss helped reconcile North and South.

But other gestures had a more a political edge. Equivalence of experience was stretched to impute an equivalence of legitimacy. The idea that "now, we are all Americans" served to whitewash the actions of the rebels. The most egregious example of this was the naming of United States Army bases after Confederate generals.

Today there are at least 10 of them. Yes — the United States Army maintains bases named after generals who led soldiers who fought and killed United States Army soldiers; indeed, who may have killed such soldiers themselves.

Only a couple of the officers are famous. Fort Lee, in Virginia, is of course named for Robert E. Lee, a man widely respected for his integrity and his military skills. Yet, as the documentarian Ken Burns has noted, he was responsible for the deaths of more Army soldiers than Hitler and Tojo. John Bell Hood, for whom Fort Hood, Tex., is named, led a hard-fighting brigade known for ferocious straight-on assaults. During these attacks, Hood lost the use of an arm at Gettysburg and a leg at Chickamauga, but he delivered victories, at least for a while. Later, when the gallant but tactically inflexible Hood launched such assaults at Nashville and Franklin, Tenn., his armies were smashed.

Fort Benning in Georgia is named for Henry Benning, a State Supreme Court associate justice who became one of Lee's more effective subordinates. Before the war, this ardent secessionist inflamed fears of abolition, which he predicted would inevitably lead to black governors, juries, legislatures and more.

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Misplaced Honor (Continued): “Is it to be supposed that the white race will stand for that?” Benning wrote. “We will be overpowered and our men will be compelled to wander like vagabonds all over the earth, and as for our women, the horrors of their state we cannot contemplate in imagination.”

Another installation in Georgia, Fort Gordon, is named for John B. Gordon, one of Lee’s most dependable commanders in the latter part of the war. Before Fort Sumter, Gordon, a lawyer, defended slavery as “the hand-maid of civil liberty.” After the war, he became a United States senator, fought Reconstruction, and is generally thought to have headed the Ku Klux Klan in Georgia. He “may not have condoned the violence employed by Klan members,” says his biographer, Ralph Lowell Eckert, “but he did not question or oppose it when he felt it was justified.”

Not all the honorees were even good generals; many were mediocrities or worse. Braxton Bragg, for whom Fort Bragg in North Carolina is named, was irascible, ineffective, argumentative with subordinates and superiors alike, and probably would have been replaced before inflicting half the damage that he caused had he and President Jefferson Davis not been close friends. Fort Polk in Louisiana is named after Rev. Leonidas Polk, who abandoned his military career after West Point for the clergy. He became an Episcopal bishop, owned a large plantation and several hundred slaves, and joined the Confederate Army when the war began. His frequently disastrous service ended when he was split open by a cannonball. Fort Pickett in Virginia is named after the flamboyant George Pickett, whose division was famously decimated at Gettysburg. Pickett was accused of war crimes for ordering the execution of 22 Union prisoners; his defense was that they had all deserted from the Confederate Army, and he was not tried.

Other Confederate namesakes include Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia, Fort Rucker in Alabama and Camp Beauregard in Louisiana. All these installations date from the buildups during the world wars, and naming them in honor of a local military figure was a simple choice. But that was a time when the Army was segregated and our views about race more ignorant. Now African-Americans make up about a fifth of the military. The idea that today we ask any of these soldiers to serve at a place named for a defender of a racist slavocracy is deplorable; the thought that today we ask any American soldier to serve at a base named for someone who killed United States Army troops is beyond absurd. Would we have a Fort Rommel? A Camp Cornwallis?

Changing the names of these bases would not mean that we can’t still respect the service of those Confederate leaders; nor would it mean that we are imposing our notions of morality on people of a long-distant era. What it *would* mean is that we’re upholding our own convictions.

It’s time to rename these bases. Surely we can find, in the 150 years since the Civil War, 10 soldiers whose exemplary service not only upheld our most important values, but was actually performed in the defense of the United States.

Jamie Malanowski is a contributor to The New York Times’s [Disunion series](#) and the author of “And the War Came,” an account of how the Civil War began, at [byliner.com](#).

<http://tinyurl.com/p5v53yq>

Ga. Civil War camp turns up hundreds of artifacts

Russ Bynum *Associated Press/Athens Banner-Herald* Athens, GA May 27, 2013

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — In just three years of field work, researchers have turned up more than 600 artifacts — from suspender buckles to railroad spikes — at the site of a Civil War prison camp in south-east Georgia that remained virtually undisturbed since it was abandoned in 1864. And that’s only scratching the surface.

Students and faculty from Georgia Southern University have plans this summer to dig deeper at Camp Lawton, a sprawling prison where the Confederate army once held more than 10,000 captured Union troops. But first they’re using cellphone chargers and a veterinarian’s X-ray machine to help with the painstaking work of cleaning and preserving items already uncovered.

“It’s an incredible amount of material they’ve recovered so far, but I really do think it’s just scratching the surface,” said Lance Greene, an anthropology professor at the Statesboro campus who’s overseeing students’ work at Camp Lawton. “We think starting in the summer we’ll have a lot more artifacts coming into the lab.”

Opened in October 1864 near Millen, 50 miles south of Augusta, Camp Lawton was built to replace the infamously hellish and overcrowded Confederate prison camp at Andersonville. The new camp sprawled over 42 acres, roughly ¼ mile on each side, yet it became a largely forgotten footnote in Civil War history. That’s because Camp Lawton lasted just six weeks before its Confederate officers emptied the prison and fled to avoid the advancing army of Union Gen. William T. Sherman.

In 2010, a Georgia Southern graduate student stunned the pros when he found remnants of Camp Lawton’s stockade wall. Almost immediately, the site began yielding artifacts that help tell the stories of the soldiers stationed at the camp and their prisoners — a bronze buckle used to fasten tourniquets during amputations, a tobacco pipe with teeth marks in the stem, a picture frame folded and kept after the daguerreotype it held was lost.

Greene estimates between 600 and 700 items have been unearthed at the site during periodic surveys in the three years since its discovery.

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GA Camp (Continued): Many of those treasures are metal items — small buttons, a large hammer-head, spoons and forks — covered in rust that needs to be carefully removed so the artifacts aren't lost to corrosion.

In a lab on campus, archaeology students are giving artifacts a bath in four plastic tubs filled with water, baking soda and a weak electric current from a cellphone charger to get rid of the rust. So much needs cleaning that Greene is running a fifth electrolysis bath at his home.

Meanwhile, a local veterinarian's office is donating use of its X-ray machine for looking inside rust-covered items to see how much of the original metal remains. If some small objects are almost entirely rust, a cleaning would destroy them, said Matt Newberry, a graduate student in archaeology and anthropology who's working on the Camp Lawton project. He said a technician at the vet's office helped the students tinker with the X-ray to find the best settings for examining suspender buckles and other small items.

"Their settings are for dog or cat or bird, so we had to play with it a little bit," Newberry said. "And it turns out the best setting is for a bird."

The cleaned and preserved artifacts will eventually go on display at a public museum the state Department of Natural Resources is preparing at Magnolia Springs State Park, where the prison camp was located. David Crass, director of the DNR's Historic Preservation Division, said the museum should be open by late summer or early fall.

The Georgia Southern crew hopes to finish cleanup work by late June, when the school's archaeology faculty and students will begin five weeks of summer fieldwork at Camp Lawton expected to add many more Civil War artifacts to the growing collection.

For the first time, Greene said, teams will start digging deeper in areas where Union prisoners lived in crude huts and are believed to have abandoned most of their belongings when the Confederacy evacuated the camp. They also plan to search for Camp Lawton's barracks, officer's quarters, hospitals and other buildings that would have been built outside the prison camp's stockade walls.

"There's a lifetime's worth of work here," Greene said. "I can see that I would retire still working there because it's such an incredible site and so well preserved."

<http://tinyurl.com/mfytze>

CIVIL WAR OP-ED: Jefferson Davis still remembered in Dixie

Calvin E. Johnson, Jr *[huffington post](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)* new york city, ny May 28, 2013

You have probably heard about or seen the movie "Lincoln" which was produced and Directed by famed film Director Steven Spielberg in 2012. The movie has been called superb and did have an excellent cast that included veteran actors Tommy Lee Jones and Sally Field.

Hollywood has produced movies about Abraham Lincoln, some good, some bad and others forgettable like "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter" but I do not remember any made about the life and times of Jefferson Davis. Polls reflect the Southern people's equal admiration for Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln but....

During these "political correct" times Southerners are often depicted on TV and in the movies as backward and dumb. The truth is that the South is the birth place of many intelligent, well-spoken and patriotic people like that of Jefferson Davis who was a great orator and there was standing room only on the floors of the United States Senate when he delivered his February 9, 1861 resignation speech as Mississippi Senator.

Mr. Spielberg, would you direct and produce a movie about Jefferson Davis who like Lincoln was born in the State of Kentucky? The time is long overdue for school teachers throughout this nation to teach not only the historical facts about Abraham Lincoln, but also those about Jefferson Davis.

Jefferson Davis -- like many Southerners -- was against secession but recognized the sovereignty of each state of the Union and their Constitutional right to secede.

Jefferson Finis Davis was born on June 3, 1808, in Christian County, Kentucky. Davis who would become the first and only President of the Confederate States of America. He was a strong Unionist and a strong defender of the United States Constitution.

Here are a few of his many accomplishments:

Graduate of West Point Military Academy

Fought valiantly in the War with Mexico

United States Senator

Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce

First to suggest the transcontinental railroad to link the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

First to suggest the Panama Canal Zone

Suggested the purchase of Cuba

Appointed Robert E. Lee Superintendent of West Point Military Academy

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Jefferson Davis (Continued): Jefferson Davis' last marriage was a good one to Varina, who gave her husband four sons and two daughters (Billy, Joseph, Jefferson, Samuel, Margaret and Winnie). Joseph was killed by an accidental fall at the Confederate White House in Richmond, Virginia in 1864, Samuel died at age 2 and an abused black child named Jim Limber was virtually adopted as a member of the Davis family.

In 1865, Jim was forcibly removed by Union soldiers and never seen again. It is said that the Davis children were crying at the scene and poor Jim was kicking and not making it easy for his abductors. After the War Between the States, Jefferson Davis tried to locate the whereabouts of Jim Limber, but was not successful.

The funeral for Jefferson Davis was attended by thousands of mourners. Milo Cooper, a former servant, traveled all the way from Florida to pay his last respects. It is written that, upon entering Davis' sick room, Cooper burst into tears and threw himself on his knees in prayer that God would spare the life of his old master and bless Davis family. Davis is buried at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia.

The Jefferson Davis Monument State Historic Site is a Kentucky State Park preserving the birthplace of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate States of America. It is located in Fairview, Kentucky, in Todd County.

God bless America's Heroes of yesterday and today!

*Johnson is a speaker, writer of short stories, author of book "When America stood for God, Family and Country" and Chairman of the National and Georgia Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Confederate History and Heritage Month committee. <http://www.facebook.com/ConfederateHeritageMonth>
<http://tinyurl.com/pbw9oqb>*

Citizens, group file suit over renaming of parks

Staff WDEF-TV Memphis, TN May 30, 2013

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Several plaintiffs have filed suit against the renaming of Confederate-themed city parks in Memphis, asserting only the mayor can change park names. According to *The Commercial Appeal* (<http://bit.ly/18AUUpUg>), nine individuals and a group calling itself Citizens to Save Our Parks filed the petition Wednesday against the city and members of the Memphis City Council. On Feb. 5, the council approved a resolution renaming Forrest Park, Confederate Park and Jefferson Davis Park.

They were given generic names, awaiting a committee recommendation. That panel has recommended Civil War Park, Promenade Park and Harbor Park. The council has not acted on the recommendation. The lawsuit asks Chancery Court to void the renaming of the parks. City Attorney Herman Morris said Wednesday he had not yet seen the lawsuit.

<http://tinyurl.com/lpy3c7r>

Takei's Facebook blast against Confederate flag causes online firestorm

John Guzzardo Examiner.com Denver, CO June 1, 2013

A post on the Facebook page of Star Trek: The Original Series alum George Takei (aka "Sulu") has raised an online firestorm. The image, posted Saturday, Jun 1 at approximately 2:45 EST, features a man holding his head in his hand as though suffering from some form of migraine, with the following caption:



"Just when you think life is going okay, your neighbor hangs a confederate flag outside."

Within a half hour of the post, over 12,000 users liked it, and over 2,000 comments were made, ranging from statements of support and disgust over the flag itself, to varying degrees of oppositional comments protesting everything from President Obama to the association of the flag with hate speech. Here is a sampling of some of the comments:

"The Civil War was never about slavery. It was about taxes and federal control. Lincoln had no intention of freeing slaves until the Civil War became unpopular." - Felicia Wilson

"The rebel flag reminds blacks of slavery....plain and simple...you folks can defend it any way you want, but it supets a large group of people and reminds them of a not too distant past...spin away..." - Raymond Seabolt II

"[The] Conferederate Flag is a sign of the south. It's a piece of home and a sign of pride in your heritage. It's not different than an American flying the stars and stripes in Japan." - Micheal Bertrovich

"Confederate flag and Nazi swastika...same them. Proud of your heritage?"

This is just the latest chapter in the story of a flag with a highly charged political past. Originally authorized for use by the Confederacy exclusively for its Confederate military units, the battle flag was adopted by many governments in the American South as a symbol of rebellion against federally-imposed Reconstruction.

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Takei (Continued): It would later be adopted by hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and others as part of their symbolism, and quickly became associated with such things as Jim Crow, white supremacy, and violence reprisals against African Americans during the Civil Rights era. The flag would later gain immense popularity in pop culture when it was used in the 1980s TV series "The Dukes of Hazzard," set in fictional Hazzard County, Georgia. The flag itself was featured atop the "General Lee," the 1969 Dodge Charger driven by the main characters, Bo and Luke Duke.

In the mid-1990s, a movement began to remove the flag, or even remnants of it, from state and county flags and emblems across the southern United States. It has also been a source of economic controversy. One of the most explosive battles was fought in Georgia, where the state flag featured the battle emblem for decades. Until Georgia changed its flag, minority business groups frequently boycotted the state by refusing to hold conferences and conventions in the state. Confederate heritage groups and conservative traditionalists fought the change, claiming the flag was not hate speech, but instead a connection to the Old South.

In a compromise move, the state government agreed to a referendum on a new flag design, abandoning the battle flag, replacing it with the lesser-known and more political-acceptable "Stars and Bars," which was the actual official flag of the government of the Confederacy. The move satisfied Confederate heritage activists, though other traditionalists saw it as a sign of the government caving to the interest of political correctness and liberal activists.

The new state flag was approved by the legislature in 2003, and voters chose to keep it in a 2004 referendum.

In 2008, a Confederate heritage group fought for, and won approval to fly a giant Confederate Battle Flag from a pole at the intersection of Interstates 4 and 75 outside Tampa. As a result, several Civil Rights groups called for a tourism boycott of the Tampa-St. Petersburg area. Coming into Florida, a large confederate battle flag is flown along Interstate 75 in the northern tier of the state. Concerns over economic boycotts have led other southern states and cities to modify their state flags and seals to remove obvious references to the flag.

George Takei himself is no stranger to controversy. The actor came out as openly gay years ago and has championed gay rights and gay marriage. His "Oh Myyyy" catchphrase has become immensely popular within the gay community, and he himself has seen a resurgence in his own career as of late, as a pitchman for LG and, more recently, in guest cameos on the two CBS series, "Hawaii Five-O" and "The Big Bang Theory." <http://tinyurl.com/kyo9vya>

NAACP protests UNC's 'Silent Sam' Confederate statue

Staff WNCN-TV Raleigh, NC June 2, 2013

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. - NAACP President Rev. Dr. William J. Barber joined a protest Sunday afternoon about the Confederate statue at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The statue, erected in 1913 near Franklin Street, is commonly known as Silent Sam because the soldier carries a rifle but no ammunition.



The protest was Sunday at the statue as part of the Real Silent Sam movement. The NAACP said in a news release that The Real Silent Sam Committee "has campaigned over the past two years for a plaque telling the true history of the Confederate soldier and the role that the leadership of the University of North Carolina played in the end of the First Reconstruction and the violent white supremacist backlash against Fusion, multi-racial politics of the late 1800s.

"The Confederate monument, unveiled on June 2, 1913, celebrated the re-establishment of white supremacy and Jim Crow after the years of Reconstruction." The Daughters of the Confederacy erected the monument in 1913 in honor of the 287 UNC alumni who fought and died in the Civil War.

The monument, which cost \$7,500 to build, also spoke to the intense racial nature of the time. Julian Carr spoke at the dedication ceremony and, according to a UNC website, spoke of the heroic nature of the Confederate soldiers.

But Carr also said, "100 yards from where we stand, less than 90 days perhaps after my return from Appomattox, I horse-whipped a negro wench, until her skirts hung in shreds, because upon the streets of this quiet village she had publicly insulted and maligned a Southern lady."

<http://tinyurl.com/kdzkshc>

NC NAACP president on campus for 100th anniversary of Silent Sam memorial dedication: <http://tinyurl.com/kodaakv>

Presidential Library dedicated at Beauvoir on Davis' birthday

Mary Perez *The Sun Herald* Gulfport, MS June 3, 2013

BILOXI -- The ribbon was cut, the cannon fired and "Dixie" was sung to mark the opening of the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library at Beauvoir Monday morning. Bertram Hayes-Davis, executive director of Beauvoir and great-grandson of Davis, called it "Jeff Davis weather" with heat and humidity on his 205th birthday.



People gather on the ground of Beauvoir for the official ribbon cutting for the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library on Monday. Jefferson Davis, center, attended in the person of a portrayer and provided guests with information about his life. AMANDA McCOY — *SUN HERALD*

them first hand about our history."

<http://tinyurl.com/kxqh37y>

Festivities were laid back at Beauvoir in Biloxi on Sunday for the Jefferson Davis family reunion:

<http://tinyurl.com/m8t7wwu>

Where else in America can visitors see a house, library, gardens and cemetery -- and a descendent on the grounds, he asked the crowd. "Remember that Jefferson Davis actually walked these very grounds," said Rick Forte, chairman of the Combined Boards of Beauvoir. He recalled the damage to Beauvoir from Hurricane Katrina eight years ago and said, "I knew in my heart that we would rebuild and restore all these buildings."

He said the new library is "better and more beautiful" than what was destroyed during Katrina.

Alan Palmer, commander of the Mississippi Division of Sons of Confederate Veterans, said there must be at least one place where the truth about Jefferson Davis and the Confederate soldier should be told. "I say let it be here at Beauvoir," he said.

The ribbon cutting was followed by tours of the library, house and grounds. "They've done a wonderful job putting Beauvoir back together," said Anne White of Gulfport. "I believe in less than five years we're going to be a No. 1 tourist stop and local spot. Families need to bring their children here on vacation and teach

Yankees on alert as Hunley surfaces in New York

Brian Hicks *The Post and Courier* Charleston, SC June 4, 2013

Obviously, the South is the only place where old times are not forgotten. On Friday afternoon, a New York motorist called police with a tip about a potential terror threat. Seems someone was hauling a suspicious-looking object — it resembled a torpedo — on the highways around the city. Before long 30 agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, were searching for this potential menace.



The H.L. Hunley Traveling Exhibit alarmed motorists last week as it pass through New York City on its way to Connecticut for a Civil War show at Mystic Seaport. Local, state and federal authorities had to track down the replica of the Confederate sub after folks worried terrorists were bringing a torpedo to town.

File/*Associated Press*

Even Coast Guard cutters in the area were on the lookout, since the thing looked sort of like a boat. They should have set the terror color chart to Rebel Gray, because they were just hunting for a bunch of good ol' boys from Summerville hauling a replica of the H.L. Hunley to Connecticut for the weekend.

"It's pretty bad when four Confederates and a replica of the Hunley can cause all this," says Mark Clark, general manager of the exhibit. "Maybe they were worried we were here to get them back." You know, this is the most trouble the Hunley has caused Yankees in nearly 150 years.

Educate, not destruct: The H.L. Hunley Traveling Exhibit has been cruising American highways for more than a decade. In all that time, it hasn't sunk any U.S. warships, although it did get a flat tire outside of Atlanta last year. The sub model, built by John Dangerfield, is a life-size iron replica of the first successful combat submarine in history.

These days, the exhibit is its own charitable education organization, set up by the Sons of Confederate Veterans' H.L. Hunley camp in Summerville. It travels from California to Connecticut, Mississippi to Tennessee, teaching folks about the Hunley and its attack on the USS Housatonic outside Charleston on Feb. 17, 1864.

Apparently, it's missed a few folks in New York. Because for a while Friday and Saturday, local, state and federal authorities spent an inordinate amount of time looking for the replica. "I've heard a lot of things, a lot of strange stories related to this project over the years, but this is the best one," says Kellen Correia, executive director of Friends of the Hunley. Yeah, since the Hunley very briefly became a weapon of mass distraction.

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Hunley (Continued): No tolls: Investigators finally turned up a surveillance photo of the Hunley exhibit rolling through a toll booth. That was the first clue something was not amiss. Terrorists don't use toll booths. Except maybe in "Blazing Saddles."

New York police eventually called the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, home of the Hunley. They were able to direct authorities to Clark.

Clark says the police were extremely nice when they reached him by phone in Connecticut on Saturday. That's probably because, by that time, they realized that a hand-cranked submarine bolted to a flat-bed trailer wasn't much of a threat to the Big Apple.

In fact, the Hunley Traveling Exhibit was at a Civil War show at Mystic Seaport — where it was received warmly, by the way. No hard feelings among Connecticut Yankees. Clark told New York police when the exhibit would be coming back through, gave them his license tag number. They didn't offer an escort, but they didn't try to set up another blockade, either.

On Monday, New York Police did not even remember the incident but said, "We get a lot of bizarre calls here." You think?

The upshot is the Hunley got a little publicity, and may have educated a few folks — which is the replica's purpose. Not to blow up New York.

<http://tinyurl.com/mkcsq2z>

Civil War bust rededication set at Indiana Statehouse

Associated Press *News-Sentinel* Ft. Wayne, IN June 5, 2013

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana leaders are planning a commemoration of a Civil War Army officer revered by Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

A rededication ceremony for the bust of Union Col. Richard Owen is set for Monday at the Statehouse Rotunda. The bust was dedicated a century ago by Confederate soldiers who had been held by Owen at an Indianapolis prisoner-of-war camp. Officials say the prisoners considered him so kind they collected money to place a bust of him at the Statehouse.

State archivist Jim Corridan plans to display a 30-foot-long petition signed by hundreds of the prisoners. Civil War re-enactors will attend the rededication and a musician is to play Civil War-era music.

<http://tinyurl.com/mfyjkm>

150 years ago, a brief Civil War truce for burial

For a brief time during the Civil War, hostilities at St. Francisville stilled while Masons from the Union Navy and Confederate Army buried one of their own - a 38-year-old Union gunboat commander who shot himself.

Janet McConnaughey *Associated Press* via *The Seattle Times* Seattle, WA June 6, 2013

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La. - For a brief time during the Civil War, hostilities at St. Francisville stilled while Masons from the Union Navy and Confederate Army buried one of their own - a 38-year-old Union gunboat commander who shot himself.

This weekend, Masons and history buffs plan a 3-day commemoration for the 150th anniversary of the June 1863 truce called to bury Lt. Cmdr. John Hart of the USS Albatross. There will be a parade, a funeral re-enactment and talks about Civil War medicine and funerals, Hart and Confederate Capt. W.W. Leake, a Mason who approved the truce and put flowers on Hart's grave three times a year long after the war had ended.

Hart's death on June 11, 1863, came during the sieges of Vicksburg, Miss., and Port Hudson, La., during Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's campaign to cut the Confederacy in two.

"It's significant in the turmoil ... that they were able to become civilized to some degree. Here was an enemy of their country, so to speak, and they decided they would bury him with not only the Masonic service but the Episcopalian service," said Frank Karwowski, historian of the Masonic lodge in Schenectady, N.Y., where Hart entered freemasonry and rose to the rank of master six years before his death.

It wasn't the only time Masonic fraternity prevailed during the Civil War, at least for burial. In a 2006 article in *The Scottish Rite Journal*, Michael A. Halleran cited four others, one under fire just after the battle of Gettysburg. Union Capt. Thomas Foy took several men to collect the body of Confederate Col. Joseph Wasden of the 22nd Georgia Infantry and buried it in a nearby field, he wrote.

Two soldiers of the 2nd Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry Regiment described the incident in their diaries, Halleran said. Lt. Col. Elisha Hunt Rhodes (who later became a Mason and a general), wrote, "As I am not a Mason I do not understand the matter. While the burial was going on the skirmishers were constantly firing."

Hart's wasn't a battlefield burial. His executive officer, Theodore Dubois, was first allowed into St. Francisville to look for a coffin. Unable to find a sealed metal coffin in which to ship the body to New York, Dubois arranged to have Hart buried in the Masonic section of the cemetery at Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville.

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150th Service (Continued): Hart's wasn't a battlefield burial. His executive officer, Theodore Dubois, was first allowed into St. Francisville to look for a coffin. Unable to find a sealed metal coffin in which to ship the body to New York, Dubois arranged to have Hart buried in the Masonic section of the cemetery at Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville. About 1900, the Daughters of the Confederacy got the Navy to set up a headstone, replacing a cypress board that had rotted away, Karwowski said, and in 1956 the Grand Lodge of Louisiana installed a marble slab over the grave.

About the time the Daughters of the Confederacy asked for the headstone, Karwowski said, the New Orleans Picayune and other local newspapers reported that Leake still maintained Hart's grave. Leake died in 1912.

As he has since 1999, Karwowski will play Hart in the living history presentation Friday night and Hart's second-in-command in the funeral re-enactment Saturday. Leake has always been played by a member of the St. Francisville lodge - first U.S. Rep. John Rarick, then Leake's great-great-grandson Robert Leake, and now Paul Martin.

Four of Hart's descendants, including John Elliott Hart V and VI, are coming from California and Washington state for the ceremony. Great-great-granddaughter Mary Servais of San Diego said her family went once before, when they learned about the re-enactment. "Now we're going back because it's the 150th," she said.

Hart had spent half his life in the Navy and commanded the *USS Albatross*, a steamboat also rigged as a three-masted schooner, during the twin sieges of sites needed to control the Mississippi where it met the Red River, a vital Confederate supply line.

The night of March 14, 1863, the *Albatross* and Union Adm. David Farragut's flagship, the Hartford, had steamed past seven batteries of Confederate guns on a bluff over the Mississippi River at Port Hudson. The *Albatross* was one of three small gunboats lashed to larger sloops; the other two pairs and a side-wheel frigate didn't make it.

"Can I ever forget that awful night, when we came by them and for four miles took their heavy firing," Hart wrote to his wife in a chatty letter dated four days before his death.

He also wrote about her "tin party" - possibly something along the lines of a modern baby shower, since he wrote that she had not mentioned a rattle - "one very important piece of tin ware, that I am told is nearly always given on such occasions."

Their daughter died shortly after birth on July 8; it is not clear whether Hart knew, said Karwowski, who has been researching the story since 1979.

Accounts differ about both the funeral date and whether the *Albatross* had been shelling the town and church shortly before Hart's suicide. Christopher Pena, paid under a state grant in 2008 to research and write about Hart's death and burial, said the boat's log puts it shelling the northern Confederate batteries at Port Hudson before dawn on June 11, then sailing to Bayou Sara, at the bottom of the bluff on which St. Francisville was built. It gives a June 12 funeral date, he said. Church records put the funeral on June 13, Karwowski said.

Pena said the gunboat's acting assistant surgeon, Dr. William Burge, wrote that Hart had had spells of "great depression" for months, and when he died was suffering "remittent" - or fluctuating - fever "with frequent paroxysms of excessive despondency."

In a letter to the fleet surgeon, Burge also quoted a suicide note found under a vase on Hart's bureau: "I am a dyspeptic. Will God forgive this rash act? It has been a mania with me for years. God knows my suffering."

<http://tinyurl.com/kyblnkw>

Audemus jura nostra defendere



We Dare Defend Our Rights

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.



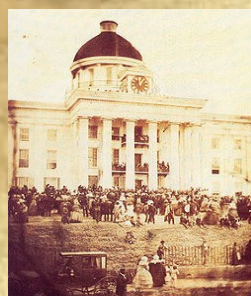
Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations. Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us the undeniable birthright of our Southern Heritage and the vision, desire, and courage to see it perpetuated.

"The Principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form."

We are not fighting for slavery. We are fighting for Independence."
President Jefferson Davis, CSA

You can know a man in all his depth or shallowness by his attitude toward the Southern Banner.

A People Without Pride in Their Heritage, Is a Nation Without Purpose." - Walter E. Dockery



LEST WE FORGET

Our quest shall ever be
That we shall again see
The Battle Flag of Lee
Returned to the dome of the
First Capital of the
Confederacy