



May 2011

Sons of Confederate Veterans General Robert E. Rodes 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

Commander :

David Allen

1st Lieutenant Cdr :

John Harris

2nd Lieutenant Cdr &

Adjutant :

Frank Delbridge

Color Sergeant :

Clyde Biggs

Chaplain :

Dr. Wiley Hales

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Gen. RE Rodes Camp 262, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will meet Thursday night, May 12, 2011, at 7 PM in the Tuscaloosa Public Library.

Members who have not yet paid their dues are reminded that re-instatement fees of \$7.50 are added , and their total dues are now \$67.50.

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Upcoming Events



12 May - Camp Meeting

9 June - Camp Meeting

14 July - Camp Meeting

August - Summer Bivouac / Stand Down

8 September - Camp Meeting

13 October - Camp Meeting

23 October - Thisdu - **TBD**



The Robert E. Rodes Camp #262,
Sons of Confederate Veterans, wish to express
sincere condolences and sorrow to the people of
Tuscaloosa who have lost loved ones or property in
their recent tragedy.

The *Rodes Brigade Report* is a monthly publication by the Robert E. Rodes SCV Camp #262 to preserve the history and legacy of the citizen-soldiers who, in fighting for the Confederacy, personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the *Second American Revolution*. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved. Edited by James B. Simms; non-member subscriptions are available for \$15. Please send information, comments, or inquiries to Robert E. Rodes Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #262, PO Box 1417, Tuscaloosa, AL 34501 or jbsimms@comcast.net.

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 at Spring Hill Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia next to his brother, Virginius Hudson Rodes; and his parents. His wife Virginia Hortense is buried in Alabama, her home state.

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

Support Your Confederate Heritage



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 (<http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/scv.htm>). 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>

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

SCV 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>

2011 Reenactments in this Area.

May 6-8, 2011

Rienzi, MS

Rienzi, MS (Between Boonesville
and Corinth, MS)

May 20-22, 2011

[Battle of Resaca](#)

Resaca, GA

May 28-29, 2011

Skirmish at Tannehill

Tannehill State Park, AL

June - TBA

Shiloh Living History

Shiloh, MS

June 10-12, 2011

Battle of Brice's Crossroads

Baldwyn, MS

September 2-4, 2011

Decatur

Decatur, AL

September 17-18, 2011

Farmington

Farmington, MS (NE of
Corinth, MS)

October 14-16, 2011

Franklin

Franklin, TN

Special thanks to Compatriot Robert Beams and the [Alabama Division of Reenactors](#) .

Historical Markers of Tuscaloosa County & Surrounding Area

Running Skirmish at Romulus

5 April 1865 – Croxton's brigade left Northport by way of the (old) Columbus Road to Coker, then camped for the night on the old Eutaw Road toward Romulus. Confederate Gen. Wirt Adams's 1500-man cavalry brigade, traveling from Columbus Miss to reinforce Gen. Forrest at Marion Ala, learned of Croxton's presence in the area.

6 April – Croxton's brigade traveled southward across the swollen Sipsey River toward Lanier's Mill near Pleasant Ridge. After looting and burning the mill, they reversed direction to move back toward Northport, stopping along the way to feed horses and eat provisions taken at Lanier's Mill. As the brigade resumed its march near noon, Adams's brigade launched a vigorous assault on the Federals' rear guard, the 6th Ky. Cav. Regt.

A running skirmish began as the 6th Ky. Cav. broke until reinforced by 4 companies of the better-armed 2nd Mich. Cav. The brisk engagement continued through a heavy rain until complete darkness overtook the combatants. Both sides then encamped near Romulus, some 13 miles from Northport. Gen. Croxton reported 34 casualties and the loss of a number of horses and ambulance wagons (one of which carried his personal papers). Confederate losses were not reported.

7 April 1865 – Adams's Confederates returned westward toward Columbus Miss in the belief that Croxton was headed that way. Croxton continued on to Northport.

8 April – Croxton, determined to rendezvous with the main Union force sweeping from Selma towards Ga, departed Northport. He followed a route to the northeast dictated by flooded creeks and the Black Warrior, traveling 23 miles north on the old Byler Rd. (US 43N).

9 - 11 April – While encamped in the area, Federal foraging parties stripped the countryside of provisions and its citizens of valuables. War of 1812-veteran John Prewett lost \$26,000 in gold when one of these bands forced his slave to reveal its whereabouts in a nearby cave.

12 April – Traveling via Crabbe Rd. (old Jasper Rd.) to Windham Springs, the brigade departed Tuscaloosa County into the area of Wolf Creek in Walker County. Croxton's "Lost Brigade" eventually rejoined Gen. Wilson's Cavalry Corps on May 1 in Macon Ga, some 3 weeks after Gen. Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

Rodes Camp Website Report for April 2011

For the month of April we had 84 visits for a total of 203 page views. We had hits from the Philippines, India, China, Poland, Italy, and nineteen of the fifty states. All-time, we have 834 visits for 2,368 page views.

Confederate Generals Birthdays for May

General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard - 28 May 1818 - St. Bernard Parish, La.
 General Edmund Kirby Smith - 16 May 1824 - St. Augustine, Fla.
 Maj. General Robert Frederick Hoke - 27 May 1837 - Lincolnton, N.C.
 Maj. General William Fitzhugh Lee - 31 May 1837 - Arlington Co., Va.
 Maj. General John Bankhead Magruder - 1 May 1807 - Port Royal, Va.
 Maj. General Dabney Herndon Maury - 21 May 1822 - Fredericksburg, Va.
 Maj. General Stephen Dodson Ramseur - 31 May 1837 - Lincolnton, N.C.
 Maj. General Isaac Ridgeway Trimble - 15 May 1802 - Culpeper, Va.
 Maj. General Cadmus Marcellus Wilcox - 29 May 1826 - Wayne Co., N.C.
 Brig. General Edward Porter Alexander - 26 May 1835 - Washington, Ga.
 Brig. General Alpheus Baker - 28 May 1828 - Abbyville Dist., S.C.
 Brig. General Laurence Simmons Baker - 15 May 1830 - Gates Co., N.C.
 Brig. General Richard Lee Turberville Beale - 22 May 1819 - Westmoreland Co., Va.
 Brig. General Charles Clark - 24 May 1811 - Warren Co., Ohio
 Brig. General William George Mackey Davis - 9 May 1812 - Portsmouth, Va.
 Brig. General George Pierce Doles - 14 May 1830 - Milledgeville, Ga.
 Brig. General Basil Wilson Duke - 28 May 1838 - Georgetown, Ky.
 Brig. General Samuel Jameson Gholson - 19 May 1808 - Madison Co., Ky.
Brig. General Thomas Harrison - 1 May 1823 - Jefferson Co., Ala.
 Brig. General William Young Conn Humes - 1 May 1830 - Abingdon, Va.
 Brig. General George Doherty Johnston - 30 May 1832 - Hillsborough, N.C.
 Brig. General William Edmondson "Grumble" Jones - 9 May 1824 - Washington Co., Va.
 Brig. General Edwin Gray Lee - 27 May 1836 - Loudoun Co., Va.
 Brig. General Collett Leventhorpe - 15 May 1815 - Exmouth, England
 Brig. General James Patrick Major - 14 May 1836 - Fayette, Missouri
 Brig. General Mosby Monroe Parsons - 21 May 1822 - Charlottesville, Va.
 Brig. General Henry Hopkins Sibley - 25 May 1816 - Natchitoches, La.
 Brig. General William Steele - 1 May 1819 - Albany, N.Y.
 Brig. General Bryan Morel Thomas - 8 May 1836 - Milledgeville, Ga.
 Brig. General William Feimster Tucker - 9 May 1827 - Iredell Co., N.C.
 Brig. General Alfred Jefferson Vaughn Jr. - 10 May 1830 - Dinwiddie Co., Va.
 Brig. General Reuben Lindsay Walker - 29 May 1827 - Albemarle Co., Va.
 Brig. General Felix Kirk Zollicoffer - 19 May 1812 - Maury Co., Tenn.

Alabama Civil War Units (Continued):

Sixtieth Alabama Infantry Regiment

This regiment was formed by consolidating four companies of the First battalion of Hilliard's Legion with six companies of the Third battalion. The first battalion, seven companies, went out with Jack Thorington of Montgomery as lieutenant colonel, and John H. Holt of Montgomery as major;* and the Third battalion, six companies, went out with John W. A. Sanford of Montgomery as lieutenant colonel, and Hatch Cook of Georgia as major.

The operations of the Hilliard Legion are given in the memoranda of the Fifty-ninth Alabama. At Chicamauga, the First battalion lost 168 killed and wounded of 230 engaged, and the third battalion lost 50 killed and wounded of 219 engaged. Organized at Charleston, Tennessee, Nov. 25, 1863, the Sixtieth passed through the trials and perils of the winter campaign in east Tennessee. In the spring it reached Richmond, and lost heavily at Drewry's, where the regiment was complimented on the field by Gen. Gracie, as the Third battalion had been at Chicamauga by Gen. Preston of Kentucky.

The regiment was in the trenches at Petersburg for eight months, and lost continually by the almost incessant shelling. At White-oaks Road and Hatcher's Run the Sixtieth was fully engaged, and its loss was severe. At Appomattox, "when the news of the surrender was received, its men were huzzaing over a captured battery and a routed foe."** The regiment there numbered 165, rank and file.

* Thorington succeeded Hilliard as colonel of the legion and Holt was thereupon promoted, but killed at Chicamauga. Daniel S. Troy of Montgomery became major and lieutenant colonel, after Col. Holt.

** Sergeant-major Lewellyn A. Shaver of Montgomery, who has published (1867) a very interesting volume about the Sixtieth.

Field and Staff

Colonels -- John W. A. Sanford of Montgomery.

Lieut. Colonels -- Daniel S. Troy of Montgomery; wounded at Drewry's; wounded and captured at Hatcher's Run.

Majors -- Hatch Cook of Georgia; killed at White Oaks Road.

Adjutants -- James N. Gilmer of Montgomery.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came.

Coosa -- Thomas H. Smith.

Montgomery -- David A. Clark; died of wounds received at Appomattox.

Montgomery -- Peter M. McEachen.

Pike -- John McReless.

Pike -- George Boatwright; resigned. S. A. Williams; wounded at White Oaks Road.

Chambers -- John W. Smith; wounded at White Oaks Road.

Lowndes -- W. H. Zeagler.

Butler -- Tarbutton; wounded; retired. G. A. Tarbutton; wounded at White Oaks Road.

State of Georgia -- Robert B. Lockhart.

Henry -- James W. Stokes.

Sixty-First Alabama Infantry Regiment

This regiment was organized at Pollard in September 1863. A number of the men had been in camps of instruction for some time under the conscript law of congress, while the officers were mostly veterans. The regiment was first brigaded under Gen. Clanton, but in January 1864 was ordered to Virginia. Reaching Orange C. H., the regiment took the place of the Twenty-sixth Alabama in Battle's brigade, Rodes' division.

The Sixty-first was first under fire at the Wilderness where its loss was severe, but it captured a battery, killed Gen. Jenkins, and almost annihilated his New York Zouave brigade. At Spottsylvania the Sixty-first lost heavily in casualties and prisoners during the several days' fighting. Its loss was not severe at the second Cold Harbor, and it soon after moved into the Valley with Early, and crossed into Maryland. At Snicker's Gap and Winchester the loss of the Sixty-first was severe, and even larger at Fisher's Hill.

Rejoining the main army, the regiment took its place in the trenches at Petersburg, and lost continually, especially in prisoners at Hare's Hill. On the retreat to Appomattox the Sixty-first fought much of the time and surrendered there 27 men under Capt. A. B. Fannin.

Field and Staff

Colonels -- Wm. G. Swanson of Macon.

Lieut. Colonels -- Louis H. Hill of Coosa; captured at Petersburg.

Majors -- W. E. Pinckard of Macon; captured at Petersburg.

Adjutants -- Charles T. Pollard, Jr. of Montgomery; resigned. Thomas T. Greene of Montgomery.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came.

"A" -- Jas. W. Fannin of Macon; captured at Spottsylvania.

"B" -- Robert A. Peterson of Macon; retired. Wm. H. Philpot of Macon; captured at Petersburg.

"C" -- Julius P. Haggerty of Coosa; retired. C. C. Long of Macon.

Butler -- John F. Barganier; detached. Porter; captured at Spottsylvania; died in prison.

"E" -- Eugenius F. Baber of Macon; retired. Aug. B. Fannin, Jr. of Macon; wounded at Cold Harbor and Winchester.

Chmbers -- A. F. Zachary; wounded at Spottsylvania; retired. .. Allen.

Coffee -- A. D. McCaskill; killed at Wilderness. J. J. Joiner; killed at Hare's Hill.

Macon -- Sidney B. Paine; retired. Wm. A. Campbell; wounded.

"I" -- James S. Hastings of Montgomery; retired. A. J. Slaughter of Macon; wounded; at Snicker's Gap.

Henry (1864) -- J. K. Grantham.

News From the Civil War Trust

Dear Civil War Preservationist,

At 4:30am on April 12, 1861, the opening shots of the American Civil War were fired. After an intense bombardment by Confederate batteries, the Union garrison at Fort Sumter surrendered the next day. Now, 150 years later, we have the opportunity to not only commemorate the great events that defined our nation, but we also have the duty to work even harder to protect and preserve this land where the Civil War was fought.

With those twin goals very much in mind, I hope that you'll explore our expanding array of 150th offerings featured below and will support our new campaign to save important tracts at the Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor battlefields.

And did you hear the news from Gettysburg? The application for the infamous Gettysburg Casino was rejected by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. Now that's something to celebrate!

- Jim Lighthizer, *Civil War Trust President*

New Preservation Opportunity at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor Two Historic Charges, Two Great Tracts

The Civil War Trust is excited to announce a new campaign to save two important tracts associated with two of the most historic and bloody charges of the Civil War.

The first tract is a 1.8 acre section of the Gaines' Mill battlefield -- at the very heart of the battlefield. Soldiers from A.P. Hill's, Roberdeau Wheat's, Richard Ewell's, and John Bell Hood's units marched across this land, splashed across Boatswain's Creek and charged up the steep, wooded slopes to the Union positions above.

This new tract at Gaines' Mill is our first effort to save land on the Confederate side of Boatswain's Creek, the waterway that separated the two forces for much of the battle.

The second tract is a 0.6 acre section of the 1864 Cold Harbor battlefield -- where the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery made its fateful charge on June 1st into the heavily entrenched Confederate lines. The 2nd Connecticut lost 313 men out of 1,500 in this brave but doomed assault.

Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor 2011 Preservation Campaign	
Acres: 2.4 acres	Match: \$2 to \$1
Purchase Price: \$355,000	Match Sources: Commonwealth of Virginia Grant
Civil War Trust Fundraising Goal: \$177,500	

For more: www.civilwar.org/gainesmill2011 *New battle maps, historian videos, history articles, satellite images, and photos online!*

Now you have the chance to save the very ground where these soldiers, both North and South, made their desperate charges. Join us in saving more of the Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor battlefields.

While we have had many great preservation successes around Richmond, Glendale, and Malvern Hill, we have not recently had many chances to save battlefield ground at nearby Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor. According to Bobby Krick, historian at the Richmond National Battlefield Park, the Gaines' Mill battlefield roughly encompasses 2,000 acres, but to date only 70 or so acres are preserved today. With development pressures remaining high in the area, it's imperative that we act now to put more of these great Civil War battlefields into the saved column. We cannot stand by and watch these battlefields be consumed and destroyed. Join us!

Sincerely yours,

Jim Lighthizer
President, Civil War Trust

News From the Civil War Trust

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2011

PROPOSED GETTYSBURG CASINO LOCATION REJECTED BY PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

Civil War Trust praises board for its enduring commitment to protecting this hallowed ground

(Harrisburg, Pa.) – Following today's decision by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to reject a second proposal to bring casino gambling to the doorstep of Gettysburg National Military Park, Civil War Trust president Jim Lighthizer issued the following statement:

"Both personally, and on behalf of our members, I would like to thank the members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board for their thoughtful deliberation and insightful decision. By stating that the hallowed ground of America's most blood-soaked battlefield is no place for this type of adults-only enterprise, they have reiterated the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's commitment to its priceless history and upheld its obligation to protect such sites from wanton and unnecessary degradation.

"This is a great day, not just for Gettysburg, but for all historic sites. However, we must remember that this proposal was just a symptom of a larger problem — the numerous irreplaceable sites similarly besieged by ill-considered development. I am confident that those seeking to protect priceless treasures of our past will be empowered by this victory for historic preservation, and I hope that its spirit will be carried forth in other communities facing similar questions of encroachment.

"Sadly, this was not the first time that the Gaming Board was forced to weigh the possibility of gaming with a Gettysburg address. Now that two such proposals have been denied — clearly demonstrating the resonant power this iconic site and the widespread desire to protect it — I sincerely hope that those would seek personal profit and financial gain will think twice about trading on the blood of 50,000 American casualties.

Now, as ever, the Civil War Trust and its allies stand ready to work on behalf of Gettysburg and the other deathless fields that shaped the legacy of our nation, particularly as we begin the sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War. We are exceptionally pleased to have the support and cooperation of visionary government bodies, like the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, that understand the singular significance of such sites to aid our efforts."

Since it was announced last year, the proposal to open Mason-Dixon Gaming Resort a scant half-mile from Gettysburg National Military Park has drawn immense opposition — an early April survey by a nationally renowned polling and research firm found that only 17 percent of Pennsylvanians supported the idea, with 66 percent actively opposed and 57 percent indicating that such a facility would be "an embarrassment" to the Commonwealth. Tens of thousands of petitions were submitted against the project and nearly 300 prominent historians united to urge its rejection, as did the national leadership of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the American Legion. Other prominent Americans who lent their name to the campaign to protect Gettysburg include Susan Eisenhower, Emmy-winning filmmaker Ken Burns, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough, Medal of Honor recipient Paul W. Bucha, renowned composer John Williams and entertainers Matthew Broderick, Stephen Lang and Sam Waterston. In 2005, citing public outcry, the Gaming Board likewise rejected a plan to construct a casino one mile from the edge of the national park.

The Civil War Trust is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds. To date, the Trust has preserved more than 30,000 acres of battlefield land in 20 states— including 800 at Gettysburg. Learn more at www.civilwar.org.

For more information, contact:

Jim Campi, (202) 367-1861 x7205

Mary Koik, (202) 367-1861 x7231

Civil War Trust Launches New GPS-Enabled Battle App for the Fredericksburg Battlefield

Second installment in "Battle App" series provides visitors with a cutting-edge way to visit the entire December 1862 battlefield

(Washington, D.C.) –The Civil War Trust and the Virginia Department of Transportation are pleased to announce the launch of the second "Battle App" offering for the iPhone and iPod Touch. The Civil War Trust Battle App offerings leverage the native GPS capability of the iPhone to provide visitors with precise locations and rich, location-based, historical information. The Fredericksburg Battle App, which features four battlefield tours which range from the streets to Fredericksburg to Marye's Heights, was created in partnership with NeoTreks, Inc., an industry leader in mobile GPS-enabled touring.

"Whether your interest lies in the fabled assault on Marye's Heights, the fierce fighting on Prospect Hill and the Slaughter Pen Farm or the experience of a town under siege from enemy bombardment, this unique battlefield touring guide will let you explore the every aspect of the Fredericksburg Battlefield's rich landscape with confidence," said Civil War Trust president Jim Lighthizer.

Like its predecessor, which explores Devil's Den and Little Round Top on the Gettysburg Battlefield, this second installment in the Battle App series includes video segments from top historians, period and modern imagery, and detailed topographical maps that help bring the 1862 battlefield to life. Onboard battle animations and customizable troop displays allow one to stand where the two armies stood and to learn how their attacks and counterattacks unfolded. Featuring both primary source material and the commentary of respected historians, the Fredericksburg Battle App offers the convenience of a self-guided tour and the expertise of an expert-led exploration.

The project was made possible, in part, through the cooperation and generous support of the Virginia Department of Transportation. As the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War continues, VDOT has committed to help underwrite further Battle Apps that encourage residents and visitors alike to explore the Commonwealth's outstanding historic resources.

"Virginia is home to more significant Civil War sites than any other state, making it a top destination for heritage tourists exploring the events that took place 150 years ago," said Secretary of Transportation Sean T. Connaughton, who joined Lighthizer at the news conference. "The Virginia Department of Transportation is glad to provide visitors with this software to help them explore and learn about our history."

Speaker of the House of Delegates Bill Howell agreed, noting "The Civil War sesquicentennial is an ideal time to explore our state's history in greater depth. Projects like this are exceptional in their ability to bring history alive for modern audiences by putting the experiences of the past, quite literally, at our finger tips."

The Battle App features four individual GPS-guided battlefield tours that cover the entire battlefield — the Fight for the Town, The Union Attack Begins, Marye's Heights and Prospect Hill — with numerous "virtual signs" and other points of interest that can be accessed with a few simple clicks. Each stop along the way contains a rich description of the historical significance of the site, along with photos, video commentary from battlefield experts and audio accounts from the soldiers and civilians who trod this ground during the Civil War.

"This new technology will allow visitors to explore the Fredericksburg Battlefield in greater depth than ever before," said Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park superintendent Russ Smith. "The multi-media platform provides a wealth of information along with the convenience of personalizing the experience to your own interests, while still benefitting from the expertise of top historians."

Karen Hedelt, director of the City of Fredericksburg's department of economic development and tourism emphasized that the tour transcends National Park boundaries and includes the urban fighting that was a unique aspect of the battle. "Heritage tourists flock to Fredericksburg for the experience of being immersed in our nation's history. This dynamic resource will offer another exciting way to make the past come alive for visitors of all ages."

In addition to providing a wealth of location-based historical accounts, the Fredericksburg Battle App also contains a wealth of resource material that will answer many questions that visitors to the battlefield have. Complete orders of battle for the two armies, a chronology of the battle, basic facts, a quiz, and a strategic overview are all a part of this rich offering.

(Continued Next Page)

Battle App (Continued): The Fredericksburg Battle App can be easily downloaded from one's iPhone or iPod Touch via Apple's App Store. Once downloaded to your iPhone or iPod Touch, one can then decide whether they would like to further download the audio and video elements of the Battle App or to have that media streamed to you as you visit the different historical sites.

"Working on this project provided us a unique opportunity to apply cutting-edge twenty-first-century technology towards the goal of making nineteenth-century history more accessible," said Michael Bullock, president of NeoTorks, Inc. "With the Fredericksburg Battle App, visitors now have the past at their fingertips like never before."

The Civil War Trust is working to develop even more Battle App offerings in the coming months and years. Future Battle Apps are likely to include popular battlefields such as Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Malvern Hill, Franklin, Cedar Creek, The Wilderness, Petersburg, and Shiloh. Further product improvements and platform expansions are also being actively considered.

For more information about the content, use and availability of GPS-enable Civil War Trust Battle Apps, please visit www.civilwar.org/battleapp.

The Civil War Trust is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds. To date, the Trust has preserved more than 30,000 acres of battlefield land in 20 states. Learn more at www.civilwar.org, the home of the sesquicentennial.

Homesick For Eden

The shot that marked the beginning of the end of "states rights."

By Ray Melick April 13, 2011

As I write this, it is April 12 - the 150th anniversary of what is generally considered to be the start of the Civil War. Or, as it was known in my house, the "War of Northern Aggression." There has been and will continue to be a lot of discussion about what is commonly called The Civil War (although there was nothing 'civil' about it). CNN ran a poll that said "Four in 10 Southerners still side with the Confederacy."

In fact, the poll said 38 percent of Southerners remained sympathetic to the Confederacy, which to me is a completely different thing than 'siding.' And the results of the poll were not quite as shocking as that headline suggests. In fact, it went pretty much the way you'd figure - unless you think all Tea Party members are right wing wackos one generation removed from wearing a white sheet and hood. But here is why I think so many people do indeed "sympathize" with the South: it was the last stand of States' Rights.



Let's try to keep emotion out of this discussion if we can. I'm not advocating the issue that caused South Carolina and 10 other Southern states to succeed from the Union. Clearly, slavery was and is wrong.

And let's not get all misty-eyed about Abraham Lincoln. At his first inauguration, he said he had no intention of freeing the slaves in the South, only of making all new states that joined the union 'free' states. He believed the tide was turning against slavery, and that it was inevitable that right-thinking people in the South would, before long, recognize the evil of slavery and do away with it.

And if you think about the history of the Civil Rights movement and how long it has taken to get where we are, a case could be made that it might have been better had the South come to the realization on its own rather than have the issue forced. It's kind of like any change of behavior: it is always more successful when voluntary than when externally forced on you.

Slavery might have ended legally. But look at the history of Blacks in America - all over, not just in the South - and I can show you how a legal end to slavery did not bring about a practical end to the sub-standard treatment of a race of human beings.

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Homesick (Continued):

But let's get away from emotion for a minute and remember history. When the nation was formed, the debate was over whether we were a voluntary *union* of independent states; or if we were actually the United States of *America*.

If the union was voluntary, then dissolving the union should be voluntary as well. If we were one unified country, then Andrew Jackson was right. I bring Jackson in because as president during the early 1830s, he threatened to bring troops to South Carolina to stop that state from seceding over the "Tariff of Abominations." Jackson, despite being a Southerner, believed the Union could not be broken.

The "tariff of Abominations" was, simply put, a tax voted in by Congress over Southern objections that basically forced Southern planters to trade with Northern industries rather than make more money by trading with industries in England and France, which were paying a higher price for Southern goods than Northern industry could afford.

The tariff, in a sense, killed free enterprise by forcing Southern planters to profit less no matter which way they wanted to sell, and built up Northern factories by giving them access to the raw materials they needed from Southern planters without having to pay fair world-market prices. That led to talk of secession, and it wasn't the first time a state had threatened to secede.

During the War of 1812, northeastern states whose shipping industry was hurting because of the war decided at the Hartford Convention to secede from the Union if the president, James Madison, didn't immediately stop the war. Unfortunately for them, the U.S. won the war before they could make their demand, and so began the end of Federalist Party in the United States.

So there was already ground work for states believing they had voluntarily joined the union, so they should be able to voluntarily leave at their pleasure.

And there was already a backdrop in which Southern states had seen the United States government make laws over their objections. In fact, one of the great problems that preceded the break was that Lincoln never bothered to campaign in the South, so sure was he that he could win the election without needing a single Southern state.

As a result, Southern voters weren't given a chance to hear Lincoln say he wasn't going to free the slaves by force. But Lincoln's election, to Southerners, was one more sign that the United States government was going to govern without their cooperation or input. And so before Lincoln was inaugurated, Southern representatives to the United States Congress walked out - thereby losing their voice in the great debate that should have taken place in that ruling body and eliminating any chance of a compromise that might have preserved the Union.

So whatever you think about secession and the South, the bottom line was that Southern states believed they knew best how to govern themselves. The North said no, the federal government knew best how to govern the entire country. And that's a debate that continues on today, doesn't it?

Slavery was and is an abomination. But this war was about so much more.

And while you're at it, remember all those Southern States that were ruled under martial law for up to five years after the Civil War; all those white Southerners who lost the right to vote during those years of martial law; and the brutal way the Federal government and Northern industrialists continued to abuse the South for decades, claiming the "spoils of victory."

California Gov. Jerry Brown said recently that this country was the most divided it had been since the Civil War. If he's right, the division is over the same thing it was way back then. Not slavery, but how far government should be allowed to be involved in our every day lives.

That's just my opinion. And, as Dennis Miller says, and I could be wrong.

<http://raymelick.blogspot.com/2011/04/shot-that-marked-beginning-of-end-of.html>

Robert E. Lee Forever !!

by Taki Theodoracopulos April 14, 2011 .

Tuesday last, April 12, one hundred and fifty years ago, the American Civil War began when Confederate forces fired the first shots on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. The bombardment lasted 34 hours, and Fort Sumter occasionally replied with fire of its own. Then the white flag went up and the Union troops within the fort surrendered. Not a single man had a scratch on either side. It looked as if neither gang could shoot straight. If only. 620,000 American lives were lost in the next four years, from Bull Run to Petersburg, before the unequal contest came to an end at Appomattox, Virginia, in 1865.



620,000 is a hell of a number of dead soldiers among an American population which stood at 31 million in total. Eleven slaveholding states withdrew from the Union to form the Confederate States of America over states' rights, and Abe Lincoln pursued the war between brothers unrelentingly and in a sea of blood.

As a University of Virginia man—The University, it's called by native Virginians—I have always sided with the South, and not because of Gone With the Wind romanticism, either. What I learn as I get older is that like most wars, the Civil War was pursued by so-called Honest Abe because big Northern business wanted to conduct big business in the Union. They wanted to build railroads and wanted interstate roads and access to markets. The South wished to remain sleepy and agricultural. Lincoln did not make slavery an issue until two years after the first shots over Fort Sumter.

But that's not what we were taught when we were young. No sirree, it was all about slavery, they told us, and woe to those who had actually been correctly taught and knew the contest's true nature—like the poor little Greek boy and University of Virginia man. "Lincoln did not make slavery an issue until two years after the first shots over Fort Sumter." Lincoln did everything for effect, and his death even got him on the back of the five-dollar bill, whereas in my opinion he should have been tried in absentia for the crimes he committed during the war and the destruction he caused to one of the loveliest societies that ever existed, the antebellum South.

The Civil War was America's Peloponnesian War, an unnecessary bloodletting that saw the end of a federal republic and constitutional government. Internecine wars are very bloody—just think of the Spanish one—but never has a war been fought between one race of people—Scotch-Irish—with such deadly hatred from the outset. Mind you, the South was doomed from the start, or so the smart money said, but the Southern boys fought so bravely and with such tenacity, the unequal contest was a damn close run until the end. Young men, some mere boys, who lacked a rational interest in the war fought as fiercely as young Spartans did back in Thermopylae.

The North's superior manpower, industrial strength, and financial muscle were checkmated by the South's young men and its superior generals—great men such as Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and J.E.B. Stuart. (The last two died in battle and Lee a mere five years after the war ended.) According to our very own Paul Johnson, Lee could have carried the day at Gettysburg in July 1863 if General Longstreet had supported Pickett's charge with more concentrated artillery fire.

Robert E. Lee was a very elegant, good-looking gentleman of the old school—six feet tall and an aristocrat whose father had been a general during the Revolutionary War and later became governor of Virginia. Lincoln had asked him to lead the Union forces, something Lee could never have done as he was brought up as a Virginian, not an American. His only weakness, if it constituted one, was his habit of suggesting, rather than ordering, his generals.

The Southern boys fought in defense of their homeland, while the Northerners fought for an idea (the Union), which meant the South had the advantage when it came down to a corps-à-corps fight. The most important thing I learned when I was in school some 150 years ago was that the secession by the South did not constitute rebellion, and two rather learned men agreed with that: Alexis de Tocqueville and a certain Thomas Jefferson.

Lincoln and big business, along with Northern newspapers and so-called intellectuals called it a rebellion, which meant the war was over the constitutionality of the South's secession. So the South's gallant young men became Johnny Rebs and this is how modern history gets written. The South had a chance to tie before Sherman burned Atlanta to the ground.

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Lee (Continued): The defending general Joseph Johnston's strategy was to concede ground but keep his fighting order and his troops intact. He would only engage the enemy from a strong defensive position.

But the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, dismissed Johnston out of the blue, and Sherman got to Atlanta. There are those who believe that the North would have thrown in the towel if the war had been prolonged. Certainly Lincoln would not have been reelected had Atlanta not fallen. Grant was stuck in Virginia and the Battle of the Wilderness had broken the North's spirit.

At Appomattox, Lee wore his elegant parade uniform with golden sash, whereas Grant arrived in a field uniform with an unbuttoned collar and looking rather shabby. Grant was short and a drunk. But he proved to also be a great man by being magnanimous in victory and declaring that the Confederacy became American the moment the paper of surrender was signed—unlike the midgets who pursued the Germans following the First World War.

Robert E. Lee forever!

http://takimag.com/article/robert_e_lee_forever/print

North Largely Ignores Sesquicentennial In North, Civil War sites, events long 'forgotten'

Russell Contreras, Associated Press

FRAMINGHAM, Mass. – The gravesite of a Union Army major general sits largely forgotten in a small cemetery along the Massachusetts Turnpike.

A piece of the coat worn by President Abraham Lincoln when he was assassinated rests quietly in a library attic in a Boston suburb. It's shown upon request, a rare occurrence.

A monument honoring one of the first official Civil War black units stands in a busy intersection in front of the Massachusetts Statehouse, barely gaining notice from the hustle of tourists and workers who pass by each day.

As the nation marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, states in the old South — the side that lost — are hosting elaborate re-enactments, intricate memorials, even formal galas highlighting the war's persistent legacy in the region. But for many states in the North — the side that won — only scant, smaller events are planned in an area of the nation that helped sparked the conflict but now, historians say, struggles to acknowledge it.

"It's almost like it never happened," said Annie Murphy, executive director of the Framingham History Center in Framingham, Mass. "But all you have to do is look around and see evidence that it did. It's just that people aren't looking here."

Massachusetts, a state that sent more than 150,000 men to battle and was home to some of the nation's most radical abolitionists, created a Civil War commemoration commission just earlier this month. Aging monuments stand unattended, sometimes even vandalized. Sites of major historical events related to the war remain largely unknown and often compete with the more regionally popular American Revolution attractions.

Meanwhile, states like Arkansas, Virginia, North Carolina and Missouri not only established commissions months, if not years ago, but also have ambitious plans for remembrance around well-known tourist sites and events. In South Carolina, for example, 300 Civil War re-enactors participated last week in well-organized staged battles to mark the beginning of the war.

To be sure, some Northern states have Civil War events planned and have formed commemoration commissions. Connecticut's 150th Civil War Commemoration was set up in 2008 and has scheduled a number of events and exhibits until 2015. Vermont, the first state to outlaw slavery, started a similar commission last year to coordinate activities statewide and in towns.

And some Massachusetts small non-profit and historic groups are trying to spark interest through research, planned tours and town events. But observers say those events pale in comparison to those in the South.

That difference highlights Northern states' long struggle with how to remember a war that was largely fought on Southern soil, said Steven Mintz, a Columbia University history professor and author of "Moralists and Modernizers: America's Pre-Civil War Reformers." For Northern states like Massachusetts, Mintz said revisiting the Civil War also means revisiting their own unsolved,

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North (Continued): uncomfortable issues like racial inequality after slavery.

"We've spent a century and a half turning (the war) into a gigantic North-South football game in which everybody was a hero," Mintz said. "In other words, we depoliticized the whole meaning of the war. And insofar as it was captured, it was captured by the descendants of the Confederates."

Sons of Confederate Veterans, a group open to male descendants of veterans who served in the Confederate armed forces, boast 30,000 members across the Old South. The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War has 6,000 members.

Kevin Tucker, Massachusetts Department Commander for the Sons of the Union Veterans, said some Northern descendants don't even know they're related to Union veterans. "I found out after my father did some research and discovered that my great-great-grandfather had collected a Union pension," said Tucker, of Wakefield. "Until then, I had no idea."

Mark Simpson, 57, South Carolina commander of Sons of Confederate Veterans, said his family knew for generations about his great-great-grandfather's service in the Confederacy. "I visit his gravesite every year and put a flag down," Simpson said. "He is real to me."

Mintz said the North has another factor affecting its Civil War memory: immigration from Italy and Eastern Europe at the turn of the 20th century. He said those populations, and more recent immigrants, sometimes struggle to identify with that war compared to more contemporary ones.

Then, Mintz said, after the Civil War a number of Northerners moved West — and to the South.

History buffs with the Framingham History Center in Framingham, Mass., a town where residents say "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" was first sung, said they are using the sesquicentennial to bring attention to long-forgotten local Civil War sites and personalities. Included in a planned event is a celebration at Harmony Grove, site of many anti-slavery rallies where abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison famously burned a copy of the U.S. Constitution and called it a "pact with the Devil."

Today, only a small plaque in front of a house announces the historic site now surrounded by industrial lots, train tracks and a motorcycle shop.

Volunteers also hope to raise around \$1 million for Framingham's dilapidated Civil War memorial building to repair its cracked walls and leaky ceiling. The building houses a memorial honoring Framingham soldiers killed in the war and an American flag that flew over the Battles of Gettysburg and Antietam. (Murphy said the flag was discovered in the 1990s after being forgotten in a case for 90 years.)

Fred Wallace, the town's historian, said that more importantly, volunteers wanted to bring attention to General George H. Gordon, a long-forgotten Union hero from Framingham who was a prolific writer and organizer of the 2nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. "I don't understand how this man was lost to history," said Wallace, who has researched Gordon's life and is now writing a biography on him. "He was in the middle of everything."

During a recent afternoon, Murphy took a reporter and photographer to Gordon's gravesite, which she said would be included in a planned walking tour. But Murphy couldn't locate the site and a cemetery official needed to comb through maps to find it.

Murphy said putting the pieces together of Gordon's life is part of the fun, even when it surprises residents. "When I was told that I lived in what used to be a barn of Gen. Gordon's horse," 81-year-old Ellen Shaw said, "I was like ... General who?"

Since then Shaw has joined history buffs in searching for what they believe is a marker announcing the gravesite of Ashby, Gordon's horse in many battles. She hasn't located it on her property.

"I hope I find it one day when I'm just walking around outside," Shaw said. "Then I can say, 'Glad to meet you. Sorry we forgot about you.'"

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110417/ap_on_re_us/us_civil_war_forgotten_north

Battle Flag Is Flag of Constitution

Confederate Battle Flag better represents state of the union

Cumberland Times-News. Thu Apr 28, 2011

I have loved the flag of the United States. I have fought under it in combat in World War II and in Vietnam. Later as a research historian, I re-studied United States history. That research has convinced me that "Old Glory" no longer represents how our citizens live and how our government functions.

The South said the same thing in 1861 and decided to create a new flag that symbolized the constitutional democratic republic the Founding Fathers gave them.

The South understood what we are now beginning to learn, that the stars in the "old star-spangled banner" no longer spangle and the stripes no longer represent the original 13 states that ratified the Constitution and swore to defend it.

This new flag the South created is the Battle Flag of the Confederate States of America. That flag depicts stars that "spangle" and shine brightly because they represent sovereign states. These states are not pawns in a despotic, centralized over-reaching federal government.

The Confederate Battle Flag with its 13 sovereign states embedded on a blue and white St. Andrew's Cross represents much better symbolically the "state of the union" as it was in 1861 and as it should be today.

The Battle Flag is more than a political secular emblem of state. It is a religious emblem as well because it bears the cross of St. Andrew.

When the pagan Roman government ordered the crucifixion of St. Andrew, he asked that he not be crucified as was Jesus. He said he was unworthy to die as his Lord died. The cross on which St. Andrew died was tilted sideways resembling an "X" which is the central figure of the Confederate Battle Flag.

That flag is not a symbol of rebellion, hate and racism as those ignorant obsessive ideologues call it. It is instead a symbol of the South's love for the Constitution and her courage, bravery and heritage. The Battle Flag reminds me that it is a corrective symbol to help change all that which has one wrong with our once beautiful "city of light on a hill."

The Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization will hold a Memorial Service at the Confederate Pollock Cemetery located at the end of River Road in Mexico Farms near the C&O Canal just south of Cumberland. The public is welcome in observance of Confederate History Month. Sat., April 30, 2 p.m.

Chaplain Alister Anderson, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Historian of the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization.

Confederate Soldiers Are American Veterans

Confederate Soldiers are American Veterans by Act of Congress

Jim W. Dean

April is Confederate Memorial Month where various commemorations held throughout the month, primarily in the South. In the other states I would venture to say that most have never even heard of it, a combination performance of historical revisionism, political correctness, and amnesia. But I am happy to report that we are seeing more events being held each year, and better attended.

The anti-Confederate smear campaign is becoming recognized for what it always was, a political campaign to denigrate Southern heritage. The ignorance of this was on the scale of your left arm not liking your right arm and then beginning a process of eventual amputation. But this would include a period of cigarette burning and razor slashing to get the process rolling.

The country is thankfully waking up from this silliness. Veterans Today (VT) has made an editorial decision to dig into more of these suppressed historical events, especially those involving veterans. It will keep us busy for the rest of our lives.

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Confederate Veterans (Continued): Despite the huge number of books written over the years the really good stuff is protected like the gold at Fort Knox, especially when it comes to school curriculums. I did not really begin learning about how much history had been suppressed and censored until my mid forties. The journey has so far turned into an seemingly endless one.

But I wanted to get something up to get the educational ball rolling with a one issue piece.

The simplest item I always use to jerk the shorts up on a Confederate basher, especially a veteran, and even more so an officer, is to ask them if they knew that Confederate soldiers are officially American Veterans by Act of Congress. They are usually stunned.

I then share with them the story below and then point out that when they think it is cute to bash Confederate soldiers they are making fools of themselves and embarrassing the Vet community as they are actually bashing all veterans. And if they can do it...then why not Vet haters.

Sons of the American Revolution

I am happy to report that this sinks in very quickly with about 100% effectiveness. I follow up with a rundown on the disproportionate numbers that Southerners have contributed to all of America's wars.

The front lines of our current military conflicts are filled with descendants of Confederate soldiers, many of whom are also descendants of Revolutionary War soldiers like myself. See my earlier Sesquicentennial 150th Civil War anniversary article on just a few celebrity Confederate descendants.

<http://www.veteranstoday.com/2011/02/14/our-civil-war-150th-anniversary-the-sesquicentennial-begins/>

But I must admit that finding the great piece below by Colonel Ed Kennedy made doing this easy. It is short and sweet, and covers the early history up through 1958 when the final act giving Confederates legal equality with Union veterans was passed.

United Daughters of the Confederacy

Those of you who have Confederate ancestry, whether you are male or female, are eligible to be members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans or the United Daughters of the Confederacy. And of course a few folks might be eligible for both. I have been waiting for that gender lawsuit to happen, but the lawyers seem to have missed that one.

Ancestor denial had been epidemic in America but fortunately the Internet has made what was once a grueling process much easier. SCV members are now doing DNA work to hook up with lost relatives, while others are finding fellow SCV men whose ancestors fought in the same unit as their Confederate ancestors. I am sure they are proud of the effort.

The process of discovering ourselves can be a rewarding one...most of the time. Professor Henry 'Skip' Gates of Harvard discovered that he was majority white, and seems to have adapted well. We met while shooting a segment for his PBS documentary 'Looking for Lincoln' and had a very interesting day.

The producers discovered in their research that the Sons of Confederate Veterans had never been formally included in any of the past productions on Lincoln and called us to inquire as to why. And of course the answer was that our perspective would refute the politically correct one, and so the sponsors preferred to leave us out. Bottom line it was a question of getting funding, or not getting it.

Henry Louis Gates

This PBS production crew was different. The director was a gracious Belgian lady. She was real, a total professional, and looking for new material. PBS and brother Gates were our guests at the SCV annual Reunion in Concord, NC. It was, shall I say, a first time for everybody.

Prof. Gates left a different man after watching the the descendants of a black Confederate honored with a special presentation and standing ovation. He had never heard the real story of these men and thought they were a myth. His comment when leaving at the end of the day?... "Fellas, I was lied to?"

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Confederate Veterans (Continued):

President William McKinley

At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, a move in the North was made to reconcile with Southerners. President McKinley was instrumental in this movement. When the Spanish-American War concluded successfully in December 1898, President McKinley used this as an opportunity to “mend the fences”.

On 14 December 1898 he gave a speech in which he urged reconciliation based on the outstanding service of Southerners during the recent war with Spain. Remember, as part of the conciliation, several former Confederate officers were commissioned as generals to include former Confederate cavalry general, Wheeler. This is what McKinley said:

“...every soldier’s grave made during our unfortunate civil war [sic] is a tribute to American valor [my emphasis] ... And the time has now come... when in the spirit of fraternity we should share in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers...The cordial feeling now happily existing between the North and South prompts this gracious act and if it needed further justification it is found in the gallant loyalty to the Union and the flag so conspicuously shown in the year just passed by the sons and grandsons of those heroic dead.”

The response from Congress to this plea was magnanimous and resulted in the Appropriations Act of FY 1901 (below).

Confederate Cemetery

Congressional Appropriations Act, FY 1901, signed 6 June 1900

Congress passed an act of appropriations for \$2,500 that enabled the “Secretary of War to have reburied in some suitable spot in the national cemetery at Arlington, Virginia, and to place proper headstones at their graves, the bodies of about 128 Confederate soldiers now buried in the National Soldiers Home near Washington, D.C., and the bodies of about 136 Confederate soldiers now buried in the national cemetery at Arlington, Virginia.”

Remarks: More important than the amount (worth substantially more in 1900 than in 2000) is the move to support reconciliation by Congressional act. In 1906, Confederate Battle flags were ordered to be returned to the states from whence they originated. Some states refused to return the flags. Wisconsin still has at least one flag it refuses to return.

Congressional Act of 9 March 1906

We Honor Our Fallen Ancestors

(P.L. 38, 59th Congress, Chap. 631-34 Stat. 56)

Authorized the furnishing of headstones for the graves of Confederates who died, primarily in Union prison camps and were buried in Federal cemeteries.

Remarks: This act formally reaffirmed Confederate soldiers as military combatants with legal standing. It granted recognition to deceased Confederate soldiers commensurate with the status of deceased Union soldiers.

[Editor’s Note: I might also add here that the opening ceremonies off every Sons of Confederate Veterans Reunion always include a welcoming address by the commander of the Grand Army of the Republic descendent organization...jim dean]

U.S. Public Law 810, Approved by 17th Congress 26 February 1929

(45 Stat 1307 – Currently on the books as 38 U.S. Code, Sec. 2306)

This law, passed by the U.S. Congress, authorized the “Secretary of War to erect headstones over the graves of soldiers who served in the Confederate Army and to direct him to preserve in the records of the War Department the names and places of burial of all soldiers for whom such headstones shall have been erected.”

Remarks: This act broadened the scope of recognition further for all Confederate soldiers to receive burial benefits equivalent to Union soldiers. It authorized the use of U.S. government (public) funds to mark Confederate graves and record their locations.

Confederate Veterans (continued):

U.S. Public Law 85-425: Sec. 410 Approved 23 May 1958

Confederate Iron Cross

(US Statutes at Large Volume 72, Part 1, Page 133-134)

The Administrator shall pay to each person who served in the military or naval forces of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War a monthly pension in the same amounts and subject to the same conditions as would have been applicable to such person under the laws in effect on December 31, 1957, if his service in such forces had been service in the military or naval forces of the United States.

Remarks: While this was only a gesture since the last Confederate veteran died in 1958, it is meaningful in that only forty-five years ago (from 2003), the Congress of the United States saw fit to consider Confederate soldiers as equivalent to U.S. soldiers for service benefits. This final act of reconciliation was made almost one hundred years after the beginning of the war and was meant as symbolism more than substantive reward.

Additional Note by the Critical History: Under current U.S. Federal Code, Confederate Veterans are equivalent to Union Veterans.

U.S. Code Title 38 – Veterans’ Benefits, Part II – General Benefits, Chapter 15 – Pension for Non-Service-Connected Disability or Death or for Service, Subchapter I – General, § 1501. Definitions: (3) The term “Civil War veteran” includes a person who served in the military or naval forces of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War, and the term “active military or naval service” includes active service in those forces.

Researched by: Tim Renick, Combined Arms Library Staff, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Member: Brigadier General William Steele SCV Camp 1857.

Edited By: Lt. Col. (Retired) Edwin L. Kennedy, Jr. Member: Brigadier General William Steele SCV Camp 1857.

<http://www.veteranstoday.com/2011/04/14/confederate-soldiers-are-american-veterans-by-act-of-congress/>

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.

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

Deo Vindice

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