



Sons of Confederate Veterans The Hunley Torpedo



The Lt. Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp # 2016, Sparks, NV

Number Four

Website: www.dixon-hunley.org

Fourth Quarter

Camp Report

The Lt. Dixon – CSS Hunley Camp welcomes its newest members. They are:

Dennis Blaylock
Ronald Hardcastle
Keith Schaal
Benny Upton

Membership Report:	New Members:	13
	Died:	2
	Failure to renew:	<u>2</u>
	Net Change:	+ 9
	Total Members:	79

Special Thanks: To Compatriot Jim Stewart. He is the Controller at the Bordertown Casino on Hwy 395. Jim allowed us the use of these facilities for our November meeting. This worked out very well for the camp.

Our most recent meeting on December 10th took place at the Alamo off I-80 here in Sparks. Again, this worked out nicely for us.

Both facilities have easy access to the freeway; both have convenient parking; large private rooms; and good food. We will be dividing our future meetings equally between these locations and we are welcomed at both. During the snow months we will likely favor the Alamo. Bordertown is more convenient to those members who live in the north valleys and adjacent parts of California. The Alamo is easy to reach from any part of Reno or Sparks and is convenient to those coming from as far away as Fallon.

Special Thanks Also: To Mike Tocci. He donated a U.S. Flag and flag stand to the camp. He also delivered a history lesson at the last meeting about the Battle of Saylor's Creek and its effect on the Army of Northern Virginia.



End of Year Financial Report

On Thursday, December 8th, I closed out our bank account, withdrawing our remaining \$404.25. The institution began charging us \$10 per month this last June without notifying us of the change. As it turns out the account had been opened on a promotional which wasn't adequately explained to us—meaning it would end after one year. I had just ordered new checks and our total losses are \$88.00. But we also have \$84.00 in cash receivables due from members. I personally guarantee these payments. More adjustment is shown on next page.

Contributions: Contributed directly from camp funds and by cash raised by passing the hat; we donated the following amounts during this 2011 calendar year to these institutions and causes:

Southern Legal Resource Center:	\$700.00
Flag Fight in Lexington, Virginia:	600.00
Memorial Hall in New Orleans:	<u>200.00</u>
	\$1,500.00

Next Meeting

It will be on Saturday, January 14th at 9:30 a.m. in the private room of the Alamo Truck Stop off I-80.

Our Website

I was presented with a bill for our web-hosting in the amount of \$107.40. I took care of this on Monday, December 12th with a money order as we were between accounts. I used \$104 from the camp's money and made up the difference of \$3.40 myself and sent our webmaster, Ken Janson, a money order for the entire amount. Paying bills is not a matter we need to bring to a vote. This policy we established at a past camp meeting. Ken does an excellent job of editing and maintaining our website. Ken, thanks for your great service!

Elections for 2012

It was motioned, seconded and supported by unanimous vote to roll the same slate of officers over through the coming year. These are:

Commander / Adjutant:	Lee Cross
1 st Lt. Commander:	Mike Cushing
2 nd Lt. Commander:	Lowell Cross
Chaplain:	Bruce Bowyer
Historian:	Ernie Zebal

Living History Faire: May 19th 2012

Our camp has been invited to participate in a Living History Faire this coming May 19th. It will be gratis as we are a 501 (C) 3 group. I accepted this offer. We will have an inside table, six-feet long, and will have the opportunity to interact with the public. At events such as this we always gain new members. I also put the ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in contact with Vick Cheesman, its organizer; and they too will be there right next to us. This event is designed to bring the representatives of any group connected with American history into contact with the public. There will be cowboys and Indians; gunfighters, Confederates, Yankees, Mountain Men, the VFW & American Legion, Basques, SAR, DAR, Mexicans, and almost any group you can imagine. It will be fun. Many have offered to staff our table.

The Flag Fight in Lexington, VA

The ugly specter of lefty hate again comes down on our beloved homeland. The city fathers in Lexington, Virginia decreed that no Confederate Flag (of any kind) could be displayed upon public property. Well, it just so happens that Lexington, Virginia, is the burial place for both Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. These city fathers are a bunch of transplanted Yankees who brought their hatred of Southern history south with them.

This was actually tried once before in the 1990s. The local Virginia SCV men backed them down back then with legal action. But their hatred has resurrected its ugly head again. Now, there has to be a court fight to put this to rest once and for all. The fight is spearheaded by the local camp in Lexington: The Stonewall Brigade Camp #1296 commanded by Brandon Dorsey.

By taking the city to court it is possible for our side to win a permanent decision. The Sons of Confederate Veterans as a whole, the Southern Legal Resource Center and the Virginia Division are all likely to be involved in this. I believe they may hire a local attorney, the same man that won the suit regarding SCV Virginia license plates.

When I became aware of this situation, I sent out emails to everyone I thought might have an interest in this fight. The local ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy plan to send a donation as do some of the California Camps.

At our November meeting, we voted a donation out of camp funds in the amount of \$200. Someone suggested that we pass the hat and we thereby added another \$310 to it. Other commitments made and kept over the next 24 hours enabled me to send \$600 to Virginia for this flag fight. Additionally, some men at that meeting stated that they would send additional funds.



Prospective Return of the Hunley Replica

Our members belonging to the Comstock Civil War Re-enactors are trying to get the Hunley Replica to return to Nevada and the target date is in September of 2012. This was explained to me by Jack and Isabella of the Comstock Civil War Re-enactors. Gerry Dunlap came to our November meeting and explained it again to everyone present. Its return would greatly enhance the CCWR's Labor Day Event in Virginia City and could be used as a useful recruiting tool for us.

There are a great many costs involved in bringing the Hunley here. The CCWR would bear some of these and there is the possibility of acquiring sponsors. We were asked if we could share in this. I brought the matter before the men and we agreed to set \$200 aside for that purpose, sort of as an escrow account. The money will only be used if indeed it is needed.



Shown at left: The headstone our camp acquired for the ancestor of Compatriot Steve Duran.

It was for his ancestor, Corporal Richard S Stith of the 1st Mississippi Cav.

Richard discovered that his ancestor was buried in an unmarked grave in Tennessee. Naturally, he wanted to have it marked. The Veterans Administration provides markers free of charge for Confederate Soldiers if they are in an unmarked grave. Confederate Markers come to point at the apex in the middle. Union Markers are rounded on top.

I contacted Compatriot John Kindred who is an expert at circumventing the loopholes required to order a stone. Mission accomplished! But when the VA sent the stone; they also spelled the abbreviation for Mississippi as "MILL." So it was sent back and a corrected one was returned. The cemetery director, who had just joined the SCV had it installed at no charge.



Regarding Our Virginia City Graves Project

Compatriot Keith Schaal informed us at the December meeting that he had been informed by the cemetery directors there that the actual location of most of the Confederate Graves in and around Virginia City may be unknown as various fires had destroyed many of the records. We may be able to circumvent this to an extent. As long as we know which cemetery a veteran was buried in, we can still acquire a headstone for him and erect it. In this case it becomes a memorial. As either a marker or a memorial, this still requires permission from the cemetery directors.

Shown Below: A colorful obituary for a Confederate who died in Virginia City, Nevada

Sam Colyer's Funeral.
It took place at 11 A. M. today from St. Paul's Church, Rev. Mr. Ridgeley officiating, and his remains were followed to the cemetery by his family and numerous friends in carriages. During the war of the rebellion Sam was a red-hot rebel and one of John Morgan's guerillas. He thought so much of the famous rebel, General Albert Sidney Johnson, that one of his sons bears that name. Sam was a good hearted man, generally, but a turbulent trait in his make-up ran him wrong, and got him into serious difficulties occasionally. But he is at rest eternally.



Belle Boyd
Confederate Spy

She began her Confederate career by shooting dead a Yankee soldier who had taken down a Confederate Flag flying over her home in Martinsburg, VA. Though cleared of a murder charge they watched her closely. She used her charm and flirted with Yankee officers to gain information which she sent to the Confederates through her slave, Eliza. Her information helped Turner Ashby and Stonewall Jackson win the Shenandoah Valley Campaign in 1862. She was honored by Stonewall Jackson who made her a captain and she was awarded *The Southern Cross of Honor*. She was captured going to England on a blockade runner, but charmed one of her captors, a U.S. Naval Ensign, and turned him into a Confederate spy. When this was discovered he was dismissed from service and the two of them married in London. After the war she became an actress and remarried twice after the death of her first husband. She finished up her life as a guest lecturer describing her Confederate Service.



Saturday, October 22, 2011

Old Jubilee's Near Miss

By Bob Hurst

Those of you who are regular readers of this series will possibly recall that the October 2010 article was about a missed opportunity by the Confederacy to capture Washington after routing the Federal Army at the Battle of First Manassas. That situation involved General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's desire to follow the fleeing Yankees into the practically undefended city and capture the northern capital and possibly Abraham Lincoln himself. This possibly would have brought a quick end to the War. That action did not come to fruition, though, as President Jefferson Davis would not allow General Jackson to go on the offensive by launching an attack on the capital since the Confederate president was committed to the Confederacy taking the high road and maintaining only a defensive strategy for the War.

This column will be about another narrow miss by the Confederates in capturing Washington which occurred much later in the War and involved another of my favorite generals of the Confederacy, Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early. Before we look at the missed opportunity, let me first tell you a bit about General Early, or "Old Jubilee" as he was frequently called.

Jubal Anderson Early was born into a fine Virginia family of Franklin County. He graduated high in his class at West Point (Class of 1837) and, after a brief stint in the military returned to his home county to begin a practice in law. He served as a member of the Virginia Secession Convention and was actually opposed to secession. He immediately offered his services to his State, however, when Virginia voted to secede. He joined the Confederate Army and was recognized as someone with great potential by Robert E. Lee and was given the rank of colonel. He rose quickly through the ranks because of his command skills and was promoted to brigadier general from July 1861, major general from January 1863 and lieutenant general from May 1864.

General Early was considered outspoken and of strong opinion. He was recognized as an expert strategist and one of the outstanding combat commanders of the Confederate Army. Altogether he was an accomplished person and military commander. One of the things I have always admired about Jubal Early came after the War had ended. He served as the first president of the Southern Historical Society and maintained a solid and well-reasoned defense of the Confederate effort and especially of Robert E. Lee during a period when many were trying to attack both. Jubal Early lived for almost thirty years after the War ended and remained unreconstructed until the day he died - truly a man that I can admire.

Now that we've discussed a bit about this outstanding Southerner, let's look at how he came so close to taking Washington and bagging Abraham Lincoln in the process.

This episode in the history of the War began in mid-June 1864 when General Robert E. Lee sent a dispatch to General Early concerning a rather ambitious plan for summer action. At this time Jubal Early was commander of the Army of Northern Virginia's Second Corps which was known as "The Army of the Valley".

In this plan General Lee wanted General Early to first take Lynchburg and then make a sweep through the Shenandoah Valley to the northern extremities of Virginia before turning south through Maryland and eventually end by making an assault on Washington. Two other elements of this ambitious plan, in addition to overthrowing Union garrisons along the way, were to destroy telegraph and railroad lines in the vicinity of Washington and Baltimore and also have part of the force make a lightning strike into southern Maryland to free the Confederate prisoners being held at the infamous Point Lookout prison.

The plan was extremely ambitious but General Lee knew that the South was running out of time and it would take something daring to turn the tide on the scourge in blue which had a vastly larger supply of soldiers to extend the War, money to finance the War and supplies to support its army. Plus, Lee had always been a risk-taker and in General Early he felt he had the most capable commander to successfully execute such a daring plan since the death of the redoubtable "Stonewall". Another element of this bold plan was to hopefully draw the armies of Grant and Meade away from the Richmond/Petersburg theater when they realized an attack was being made on Washington. This would offer some relief to General Lee's army.

General Early's sweep northward through the Shenandoah Valley began well with a resounding defeat of the blue coats at Lynchburg on June 18 and 19. This victory was especially gratifying since the Yankee commander was General David Hunter, one of that group of reprobate northern commanders who delighted in attacking Southern civilian targets a la Sherman and Sheridan.

By early July General Early's forces had reached as far north as Harper's Ferry and Martinsburg where federal garrisons were taken by the boys in gray. Early, at this point, slowed down the approach to Washington to allow his weary troops to rest and relax for awhile and enjoy the feasts intended for the yankee troops at the captured garrisons. General Early also spent time in this area ransoming some of the neighboring towns to make the northern sympathizers pay for the destruction done to the Shenandoah Valley by the likes of Hunter and Sheridan. This delay in the advance on Washington, however, created problems as we shall soon see.

A major hurdle on the advance toward Washington occurred at Monocacy. Under the outstanding leadership of Early and generals John B. Gordon, John C. Breckenridge, Stephen Ramseur, John McCausland and Robert Rodes the Confederates inflicted massive casualties on the federals (more than 20% of the federal troop count) and the victory opened the way to Washington but the battle proved more difficult than anticipated and caused another delay in the approach to the capital by the weary troops. An interesting side-note to the battle is that the Union commander, General Lew Wallace, after the War authored the marvelous book BEN HUR: A TALE OF THE CHRIST which was many years later made into an Oscar-winning motion picture. That picture to this day remains one of the all-time favorites of a certain fellow who first saw it as a young boy growing up in Alabama. OK, I'll admit that some Yankees did accomplish some things worthy of recognition.]

By July of 1864 the city of Washington resembled a fortress. Since the beginning of the War, some 60 forts had been built around the city in addition to 37 miles of earthworks containing sites for artillery. More than 31,000 troops were available for the defense of the city but few of these were regular troops or battle-hardened veterans. Many were troops in training and even government workers and few had the ability to capably handle artillery duties. All of this was known to General Early since Washington was filled with Confederate spies.

By July 10 General Early was ready to make the final approach to Washington. Unfortunately the Confederate troops, wearied by month-long campaigning over long distances in the stifling heat, were near exhaustion. On the afternoon of July 11 it was reported to General Early that it likely was possible to breach the defenses at Fort Stevens, one of the chain of forts surrounding the city. As the Confederates advanced, however, they were being met by Federal reinforcements of regular troops that had begun arriving that morning. General Early and his officers decided to not force the issue that day but to give the men another day of rest and survey the situation the next morning.

The final advance on Washington began in the morning of July 12. By this time Federal reinforcements had flowed into the city - by some estimates as many as 20,000 troops. The 14,000 Confederates engaged the Federals for most of the day and there were numerous skirmishes and some artillery fire but Washington was not going to fall that day.

The most interesting event of the day, however, involved Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln and his entourage had traveled out to Fort Stevens in the afternoon to watch the battle. Lincoln's group was standing on the parapet of

the fort viewing the action when a Confederate sharpshooter stationed almost 1000 yards from the fort noticed a tall man wearing a top hat standing among a group atop the fort. The sharpshooter took aim and fired and saw someone go down. It was impossible, though, to determine exactly which person he had hit because of the distance and the haze created by the extreme heat of the day.

The individual who was killed by the shot was a physician named Cornelius Crawford. Crawford had been standing beside Abraham Lincoln. When the group realized how close Lincoln had come to being killed they quickly rushed him down from the parapet. As Lincoln removed himself from his position of vulnerability, he issued an order authorizing artillery bombardment of the area harboring the sharpshooters. This included the civilian homes in the area.

At the end of the day of skirmishes, General Early ordered his troops to withdraw back to Virginia.

In his dispatch to General Early, General Lee had indicated that he wanted Early to "threaten Washington". This could be interpreted as meaning General Lee never envisioned the capital being taken but merely threatened to the point that forces under Grant and Meade would be pulled from the Richmond/Petersburg theater, thus taking pressure off Lee's army, to rush to the defense of Washington.

Hindsight indicates that had Jubal Early been able to get his troops to Washington just a day or two earlier then it is entirely likely the city could have been taken. The overall plan was so ambitious, though, that it exhausted the Confederates trying to cover such a great distance and accomplish so much. The battle at Monocacy also played a major role in delaying the Confederate forces in reaching Washington before reinforcements arrived and likely saved the city from being captured.

It seems certain that if Early could have taken Washington or if the sharpshooter's bullet had found Lincoln then things would have been changed drastically in the summer of '64. It's even possible that the Federals would have called a cease-fire since losing their capital would have certainly created a damaging psychological blow to the North. The War never was very popular among the civilian population of the North.

As it stands, though, it is just another "what if". Of course, you cannot change history. I truly wish that General Early and the boys in gray could have gotten to Washington just two days earlier. Ah, well, as Whittier so wisely wrote: "For of all sad words of tongue or pen the saddest are these: it might have been!"



The CSS Stonewall



She was the very last Confederate warship to serve in combat; but not during the War Between the States. She became the first iron-clad warship of the Japanese Navy; and was initially renamed the Kotetsu and later was again renamed the Azuma. She served in battle in Boshin War in 1869.

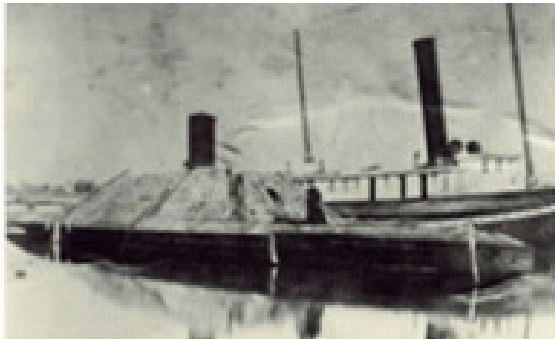
The Stonewall was the size of a World War Two Fletcher-Class Destroyer. She arrived in Havana in May of 1865, too late for the war. The Confederates had planned to use the Stonewall to break the blockade at Charleston.

Our Magnificent Confederate Navy

Shown on these two pages are some of the ships that:

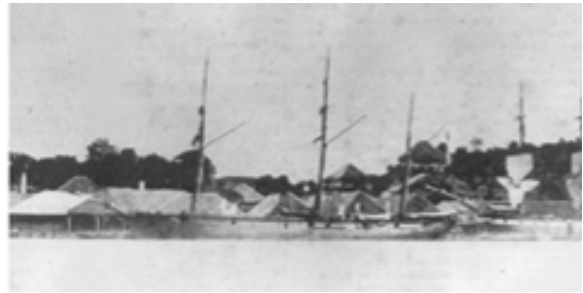
- (1) Nearly ran the Yankee Merchant Marine off the seas from which they didn't recover until World War One.
- (2) Initiated the era of iron warships in combat.
- (3) Made first to use a true submarine to sink an enemy warship; not equaled until 50 years later in WWI.
- (4) Put fear into the Yankee soul.

Other Confederate Naval actions made use of mines to destroy forty Yankee warships.



CSS Albemarle

The Yankees feared this one! In separate actions she sank one and severely damaged two other Yankee warships driving all the rest out of the Roanoke River. Her guns helped recapture the town of Plymouth and two Yankee forts. In one battle alone she was hit with 500 cannon shots without suffering damage.



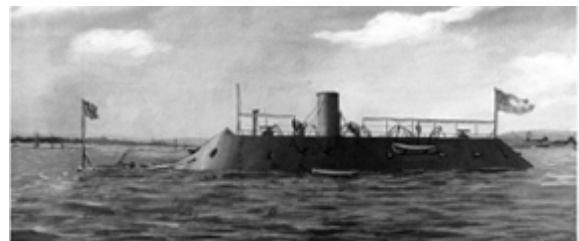
CSS Alabama

The greatest of the Confederate Cruisers; she taught the Yankees to hate and fear. She captured or destroyed 65 merchantmen and sank one U.S. Warship: the Hatteras. In her final battle with the USS Kearsarge, one of Alabama's shells hit the Yankee in a critical area which would have disabled her; but it failed to explode. That shell is now exhibited at the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.



CSS Chicora & CSS Palmetto State

These ships engaged the Yankees on several occasions in the waters in or near Charleston. The Yankees were never able to take Charleston by force; only occupying it in February 1865 when it was abandoned because Sherman was in South Carolina.



The CSS Virginia

The ironclad Virginia rewrote the book on naval warfare. In her first battle the Virginia sank two Yankee warships and drove three aground. In her second battle she fought the Yankee ironclad Monitor to a draw. There was no follow-up battle between them. The Monitor declined the challenge to fight; Yankee historians have made many cutesy excuses for this.



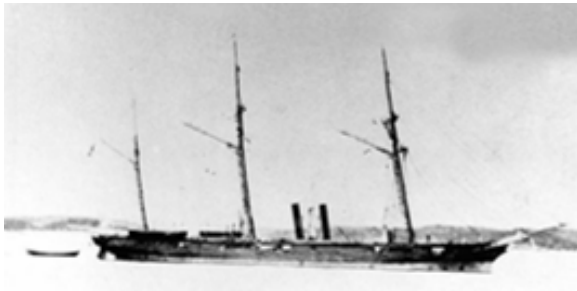
CSS Sumter

The first of the Confederate Cruisers; she early on captured sixteen Yankee merchantmen. The Sumter was later converted to a blockade runner, and renamed the Gibraltar.



CSS Shenandoah

One of our greatest cruisers; she sank or captured thirty-eight Yankee merchantmen, devastating their whaling fleet. And she was last ship in Confederate Service.



CSS Florida

One of our three greatest cruisers; she captured 37 prizes. Two of these also became raiders and they captured 23 more. So desperate were the Yankees to destroy her that they violated Brazil's neutrality and captured her at the port of Bahia.



CSS Arkansas

She was a colossal headache to Farragut's fleet operating on the Mississippi River. In a series of several battles she exchanged gunfire with twenty-two Yankee ships, and though she sank none of them, the Arkansas inflicted heavy casualties among their various crews and damaged several severely.



The Hunley

The first submarine to sink an enemy ship in combat; she was built with private money, skippered by an Army Lieutenant and manned by a Navy crew.



CSS Manassas

The first ironclad of the war to serve in combat; she severely damaged the USS Brooklyn and the USS Richmond by ramming them in separate actions below New Orleans on the Mississippi River.

*"You have given a banner to those who fear You, that it may be displayed because of the truth."
Psalm 60:4 (NKJ, NASB)*

BENEATH THE SOUTHERN CROSS

**By
Mike Scruggs**

The Confederate Battle Flag, sometimes called the Southern Cross, is held in disfavor by many who are unfamiliar with its origin and true symbolism. Many have been taught to treat it as an object of moral horror and political infamy. A deadly combination of ignorance and arrogant self-righteousness is constantly engaged in shouting down its true history and meaning. Demagogues freely defame it, while moral cowardice acquiesces to their outrageous distortions of the truth. The apathetic allow its true history to be buried under decades of slanderous propaganda. It is incumbent upon those who value truth, fairness, good will, reasonable tolerance, and charity in society to educate themselves on the true history and meaning of this famed banner.

The Southern Cross then had a very strong Christian association to Confederate soldiers and the Southern people. As celebrated Southern historian, Shelby Foote, has said, it also came to stand for Law, in the sense of a government of Law rather than a government subject to the whim of tyrants or majorities. In that regard it stood for a strict rather than opportunistic interpretation of Law and Constitutions. It also came to be a symbol of defiance against tyranny and the right of a free people to determine their own destiny. This may be one of its most enduring meanings. The flag has been seen all over the world in this regard, on the Berlin Wall, and in the capitals of the Baltic republics and Eastern Europe, wherever free people must resist tyranny and the modern scourge of political correctness. It stood for limited government and federalism (States Rights) against the dangers of concentrated and centralized power. It stood for the principles of the constitutional federal republic of 1787 that the South felt were threatened by Northern political philosophies and economic ambitions. It stood for the Rights gained and blood-sacrifices their forefathers had made in the Revolutionary War. If there was one word used more often than any other in the secession conventions, it was 'Honor.' The Confederate Battle Flag came to signify the honor of the Confederate soldier and the Southern people. It has come to symbolize the South itself with all its culture. These are not dead issues. It still symbolizes all of them. More than anything it must forever symbolize the sacrifice of fallen Confederate soldiers on the battlefields of their War for Southern Independence and also to the veterans of those fields of honor.

The Confederate Battle Flag ought to be the honored heritage of not only every Southerner, but every American.

Yet there are those who are willing to accept an ignominious degradation of truth and venomous slander against the honor of the Confederate soldier in order to maintain social peace in this and perhaps future generations. There are those who are willing to trample on the honor of noble ancestors, even their own ancestors, in order to promote such a social peace. There are those to whom heritage and honor mean nothing compared to present favor with the media and powerful political constituencies. There are those who know no gods but current prosperity, financial gain, and their own personnel peace and outward respectability.

But how long would a prosperity or social peace based on such disrespect for truth last? How long would a peace based on suppression of a people's cherished heritage last? How long would a peace built upon

suppressing the memory, valor, and virtue of the revered forebears of a great number of the Southern people last? Does anyone outside of madhouse believe such villainous stupidity would not in a very short time reap a whirlwind of social destruction? What could possibly be a surer cause of immense strife, bitterness, and economic and political turmoil? Can anyone believe that peace and prosperity can be achieved by discarding the heritage of a numerous people to gain the political favor of another? It is more likely to shatter all hope of peace. Can a society set itself against tolerance and mutual respect and have peace? Nay, no fair-minded person could believe such idiocy.

There are those who say that the display of the Confederate Battle Flag is insensitive. They say it is a symbol of slavery and offends many people. But their offense is based on ignorance of its true origin and history. Their offense and sensitivity is based on decades of unquestioned propaganda attempting to justify an unjust war and its deplorable tyranny and conduct. The men who carried the Southern Cross into battle never meant it to be a symbol of slavery. Their letters and diaries prove it was far from their minds. Not many of them owned slaves or favored its continued existence for very long in the future. Less than 25% of Southern households owned slaves. Only about 20% of Confederate soldiers owned slaves, and only about one-third came from slave-holding families. So far as slavery was concerned they only wanted the right to deal with it in their own way in their own time state by state, just as the Northern states, all of which had slavery in 1776, had done. The Union Army did not invade the South to free slaves. They invaded the South to enforce political unity and Northern economic and legislative dominance by bayonets. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, on January 1, 1863, came after more than 19 months of war and did not actually free any slaves in the Union or Union held areas of the Confederacy. It was done as a war measure in hopes of causing disorder in the South. Only later was the slavery issue used in an attempt to give tyranny a pious justification. The Reverend James Power Smith, the last surviving member of Stonewall Jackson's staff had this to say in 1907: "No cowardice on any battlefield could be as base and shameful as the silent acquiescence in the scheme which was teaching the children in their homes and schools that the commercial value of slavery was the cause of the war, that prisoners of war held in the South were starved and treated with barbarous inhumanity, that Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee were traitors to their country and false to their oaths, that the young men who left everything to resist invasion, and climbed the slopes of Gettysburg and died willingly on a hundred fields were rebels against a righteous government."

What the Confederate Battle Flag did symbolize to Southern soldiers and their families was their Christian heritage and resistance to tyranny. They were fighting for the right of Southern States and their people to determine their own political destiny, just as their Revolutionary War forefathers had fought the British. They were defending the rights won in that war and guaranteed by the Constitution of 1787, which they believed had been betrayed by their Northern invaders. They were fighting against the evil of unjust taxation and many other abuses of power perpetrated by Northern political factions. They were fighting to free themselves of a Northern political dominance that had enriched the Northern states and oppressed Southern states. After many years of hardship and blood spent on the battlefield, the Southern Cross came to symbolize the courage and blood sacrifice of the Confederate soldier and Southern people. They believed in the justice and righteousness of their cause, and when the surrender at Appomattox came, they gave up their regimental banners with tears and weeping.

To the great credit of Union General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, a brave, honest, and compassionate Christian soldier, the Union troops at Appomattox gave a salute of arms to the surrendering Confederate regiments as they passed in final review before the Union victors. They had been their adversaries in war, but now these Union soldiers who had made blood sacrifices of their own, saluted the courage and honor of the defeated Confederate soldiers.

We must ourselves honor the memory of our fallen heroes and of all that served in that great struggle beneath our Southern Cross. The words of the South Carolinian journalist and poet Henry Timrod (1829-1867) in his moving Ode at Magnolia Cemetery should move our hearts to resolve:

Sleep sweetly in your humble graves, sleep martyrs of a fallen cause,
Though yet no marble column craves the pilgrim here to pause.
In seeds of laurel in the earth, the blossom of your fame is blown,
And somewhere, waiting for its birth, the shaft is in the stone.
Meanwhile, behalf the tardy years, which keep in trust your storied tombs,
Behold! Your sisters bring their tears, and these memorial blooms.
Small tributes! But your shades will smile, more proudly on these wreaths today,
Than when some cannon-molded pile shall overlook this bay.
Stoop, angels, thither from the skies! There is no holier ground
Than where defeated valor lies, by mourning beauty crowned.

But now there are many who for political or economic gain would rather see every memory and symbol of that noble army destroyed and desecrated. There are still others who though being descendants of those noble soldiers by their indifference and moral cowardice would acquiesce to that destruction. In dishonoring the Southern Cross and suppressing a noble Christian heritage they heap dishonor on themselves.

Yet I cannot believe that Providence will suffer the memory and sacred honor of valiant men and righteous principles to be blotted out. I cannot believe their heroic banner will be suffered to be discarded and forgotten. I cannot believe that the blood of valorous heroes, still coursing in the veins of their sons and daughters and their future generations, will not continue to inspire and encourage the friends of liberty everywhere. Is there a heritage more honorable? Whatever storms may come, be our friends few or many, whether cannons roar or sabers flash, we will not surrender the honor or our gallant flag. We will take our stand beneath its starry waving glory. Let us first remember and honor Him, our immortal Savior to Whom our banners point. Then God will vindicate our cause, the memory of our noble fathers, and our beloved Southern Cross.

SUGGESTED READING

- Charles Adams, *When in the Course of Human Events*, 2000.
W. W. Bennett, *The Great Revival in the Southern Armies*, 1877.
R. L. Dabney, *A Defense of Virginia and the South*, 1867
Thomas J. DiLorenzo, *The Real Lincoln, A New Look at Abraham Lincoln, His Agenda, and an Unnecessary War*, 2002.
Eugene D. Genovese, *The Southern Front, History, Politics and the Cultural War*, 1995
John Remington Graham, *A Constitutional History of Secession*, 2002
Jeffrey Hummel, *Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men*, 1996.
Ludwell H. Johnson, *The American Iliad 1848-1877*, 2002 edition.
James Ronald Kennedy and Walter Donald Kennedy, *Was Jefferson Davis Right?* 1998.
Walter D. Kennedy, *Myths of American Slavery*, 2003.
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