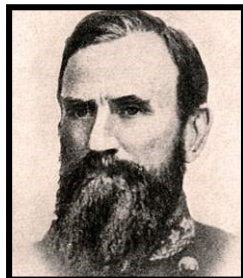


The Delta General Newsletter

August, 2026**Volume 33, Issue 8**

The official publication of the Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625,
Mississippi Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans



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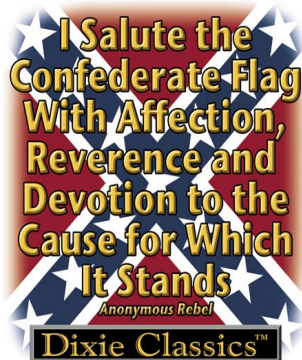
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Larry McCluney, Editor:
Confederate @suddenlink.net

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Next Camp Meeting on August 1, 2026 @ 6:00 PM. Meal provided by the OCR Chapter Ella Palmer. Please give donations to them for food.

Commander's Comments: Michael Anthony

Greetings men and ladies of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp, the Brigadier General Charles Clark Chapter of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, the Ella Palmer Chapter of the Order of the Confederate Rose, and our friends and followers who read this newsletter. Some of you who read this were present at the July meeting of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp; so what you read will be a review for you. Others of you who read this may find the following information useful and engaging.

Our ancestors engaged in a very challenging fight against overwhelming odds on the battlefields of the War Between the States. Many years later, we fight against the same overwhelming odds when we advocate for true American history and promote Confederate heritage. When we attempt to teach the uninformed and ignorant the truth about secession, slavery, the Confederate States of America, and Reconstruction, we are often met with opposition and emotion. Just as the brilliant leaders of our Confederate Army found a way to defeat a superior Federal opponent, we can employ smart strategies when talking to people who may not like or agree with us when we meet them.

Often, it is not what you say that matters most, it is how you say it. If you meet a person and engage in a conversation with them about topics related to the Sons of Confederate Veterans or Living the Charge, they may be very misinformed. What follows are some things to keep in mind:

- Do not speak in an accusatory tone: never tell a person they are wrong.
- Keep your voice and manner calm and even-toned
- Stick ONLY to facts
- Your personal opinions about anything do not matter
- Learn your own history
- Practice factual rebuttals to common beliefs: (The Confederacy was formed to save slavery, Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves, the North was free, the North was good and the South was bad, Secession was illegal, and many others)

Continued on next page . . .

Your membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans will expire July 31, 2026. We are now in the extension stage for dues. Late dues will be assessed after August 31 if not paid before. Please pay your Annual dues as soon as possible so you won't forget. Below is a breakdown of your dues and a listing of Optional Giving.

National Dues -	\$ 35.00
Division Dues -	\$ 10.00
Camp Dues -	\$ 10.00
Total -	\$ 55.00

RENEWAL REMINDER

If you are a National or Division Life member, please subtract the corresponding amount.

If you are a past member and wish to rejoin, you must add \$7.50 to the above total.

If you are a new member, you must add a \$5 filing fee to the above total and submit a signed application along with your dues.

!! Checks made be made payable to **B/G Ben G. Humphreys Camp #1625, SCV**. If you have a **VENMO** account, you can pay using this method. The account name is **@Dan-McCaskill-3** Any questions, you can contact me at danmccas@tecinfo.net or 1-662-822-1096

Your Servant,
Dan A. McCaskill, Camp Adjutant

When engaging in a conversation about American history and the Confederate States of America, you are most likely talking to a person who learned incorrect and biased history his entire life. It is upsetting to most people to learn what they believed or thought to be true is actually false. You have to be prepared for that. There are people who will tell you they don't want to talk anymore or that you are wrong.

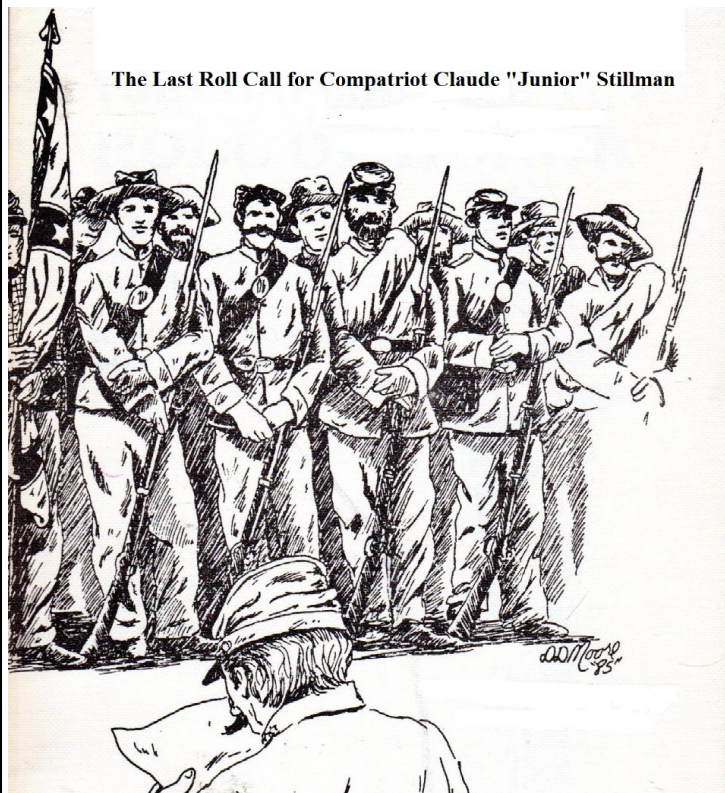
You may be accused of being a racist yourself. Again, arm yourself with facts about race in America in the 1860s and the service by hundreds if not thousands of Black men to the Confederate Army and the Confederate States of America.

Have a list of books or publications that are historically accurate that you can leave with a person. They may actually read one or more of them and become interested in teaching themselves more based on your conversation. Remember though, you are not going to convince a lot of people that the American history they know is incorrect. You will lose more than you win. Still, you must try. It would have been easier and more convenient for our ancestors to acquiesce and allow the Federal government to run over them and steal their Constitutional liberties. But they fought and so will you. Without hard work there is no reward. Continue Living the Charge.

Deo Vindice,
Michael

Last Roll Call

For those who have not heard early this morning, Compatriot Claude Stillman, Jr. Crossed Over the River and now Rests in the Shade of the Trees with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Funeral service for Compatriot Claude Stillman, Jr. will be Saturday, August 8th at 1:00 pm at the Glendale Baptist Church located at 284 St. Christopher Road located between Leland and Greenville. Prayers for the family.



Adjutant Report: July 11, 2026 - Dan McCaskill

Call to Order: At 5:55 PM CDT by Commander Michael Anthony
Opening Prayer and Blessing: Camp Chaplain Earl M. McCown, Jr.
Pledge, Salutes, and Reading of The Charge: Color Sergeant Earl B. Allen, Jr.

Commander Michael Anthony welcomed everyone to our monthly Camp

Meeting and moved on to Officer Reports.

Officer Reports: Commander Michael Anthony reported he did not any updates on the status of the Grenada Confederate Memorial Monument. Our speaker for our June Meeting was to give a detailed report but unfortunately, he passed; 1st Lt. Commander David Floyd was absent. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that the Camp's checking account balance stands at \$2,730. \$800 in collected dues for 18 renewals has been forwarded to National and Division. An additional \$180 has been collected for Optional Giving. Since last Camp Meeting, \$75 in rent money was paid the 1st Presbyterian Church for use of the Fellowship Hall. Thus far, 12% of the Operating Budget has been spent. MOSB: Commander Earl McCown did not have a report.; Editor: Larry McCluney asked if everyone received the Camp's Newsletter and if they liked the new format. Those who spoke up said they did, OCR: Missy Stillman did not have a report.

At this time, Commander Anthony recessed the meeting for our evening meal.

Old Business: No old business to be considered.

New Business: Commander Anthony reported that the next DEC Meeting will be Saturday, August 8th, the same day as our regular camp meeting. He asked if the Camp would consider moving our Camp meeting to August 1st so he could make the meeting. Earl McCown made the motion to move the Camp Meeting from August 8th to August 1st. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Ray and passed without objection.

Larry McCluney put forth the proposal that the Camp should consider manning a recruitment table at next year's Greenwood Gun Show which will be July 25 & 26, 2027. It was decided this will be considered as the time approaches.

Program: The program for the evening was a presentation by Camp Commander Michael Anthony titled "Saying the Right Thing at the Right Time". Michael put together some guidelines how best to have a discussion with an opponent of our Southern and Confederate Heritage. It was an excellent program and Michael was encouraged to expand it a little and give a presentation at the next Division Workshop.

Events: the next Division Executive Council Meeting will be Saturday, August 8th at the War Memorial Building starting at 10 am. Any member in good standing is welcome to attend.

With no other business coming before the Camp, a motion to adjourn was made by Kenneth Ray and duly seconded by Larry McCluney and the motion passed without objection.



Looking for New Recruits!

When was the last time you tried to recruit new members for the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp?
Do you ever approach anyone and ask if they are interested? Try it once in awhile and you will find that there are prospective members waiting to hear about our organization.
Don't just wait for someone to ask you first.

Lead the Charge!

The Chaplain's Pen — Earl McCown

'Don't ever forget.'

'Hearken unto me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord: Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.' (Isaiah 51:1)



Believer, I say, don't forget what you are by nature, and what you were when God called you to a life in Christ. Though God has so freely forgiven us of our sins that they will never be remembered against us any more for ever, the prophet (Isaiah) here teaches us that we must not forget them, lest we forget what the Lord has done for us by His loving grace.

Let us always remember who we were, where we were, and what we were when God saved us by His grace. We were ourselves the fallen sons of Adam, rebels before God. We were lost and ruined in this perishing world. We were helpless, polluted and perishing. We were dead in trespasses and sins. Physically, we were alive, alive to our lusts, alive to the world, alive to Satan, alive to sin. But spiritually, we were dead, dead to righteousness, dead to truth, dead to Christ, dead to God. In a word, by nature, we were sinners. Sinners by birth, sinners by choice, sinners in heart, sinners in practice, sinners against God, sinners against men, we were nothing but perishing, hell-deserving sinners.

Remember also your merciful Deliverer. We could never deliver ourselves. No man or angel could deliver us. But the God-man, Jesus Christ, has delivered us. There came the Deliverer out of Zion, and he turned away all our transgressions. He delivered us from the curse of the law by His sacrifice of blood in our place. And He delivered us from the powerful bondage of sin by His sovereign power in regeneration. Blessed be God, He did not leave us to our own free will. 'But God, in loving merciful, sovereign and saving power intervened in our lives. He stopped us in our mad race towards hell and arrested us by His grace! 'By grace ye are saved.'

Now, child of God, don't ever forget: 'Salvation is of the Lord.' To the Triune God alone we ascribe all honor, majesty, praise and dominion.

Mississippi Division News:

MS Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Vehicle License Plates



At the 2005 MS Division, SCV, convention, the Division renewed its pledge to preserve/conservate MS's original Confederate Battle flags. Show your support for your Division and our Flags by purchasing a Mississippi Sons of Confederate Veterans "vanity" car or motorcycle tag today (if you haven't already done so)! If you've already done so, please continue to purchase the tags when tag replacement time rolls around!

When you purchase a MS SCV car or motorcycle tag, \$26 of your purchase price comes directly to the MS Division. The majority of these funds are used for the restoration of the original MS Confederate Battle flags in the Mississippi Museum of History in Jackson. The remainder being used to fight heritage violations.

The Mississippi division has to date restored nine original MS Confederate Battle flags and two more are in process, at a total cost of approximately \$100,000! Thus conserved, these flags should now last for at least two-hundred more years! What a gesture to our noble Confederate grandsires!

According to the Department of Archives and History, a sampling of conserved flags are beautifully framed, then put on display at the Mississippi

Museum of History and Beauvoir (Museum).

Restoration of these storied emblems is exceedingly expensive, with typical conservation costs ranging from \$3,000 to \$27,000 per flag. This vital work is done by hand, using the latest methodologies and state-of-the-art materials. One of the finest conservation services in the nation performs all the work in-house in West Virginia.

If not conserved, these most-precious artifacts of our history — the very "colors" that our Patriot forebears fought and died under — will simply crumble into dust. We can't let that happen!

Anyone can buy a MS SCV car or motorcycle tag! You need not be a Member of the Division! You don't have to show a Membership card or any other SCV identification. Ask friends, family, and co-workers to buy one today and, thus, help preserve a little bit of MS's proud history! Make your family fleet of vehicles an "all SCV" fleet!

To purchase a tag, simply go to your county tag office and request a MS Sons of Confederate Veterans tag! Take your present tag, fill out the forms, write a check, and affix your SCV tag to your vehicle, showing all who see your car/truck/motorcycle that you are a Mississippian who cares about your "Heritage of Honor"!

Note: Some tag offices do not have the SCV car tag on display, but it is available. You might respectfully request that your local office display the tag in their tag displays, so that other folks can become aware of its availability for purchase. Make sure that tag office personnel know that anyone can purchase the tag, not just SCV Members!

If you have any problems obtaining a MS SCV tag or employees claim that they can't get such tags, immediately contact the MS State Tax Commission, register a gentlemanly complaint, and respectfully request that the State Tax Commission make your local tag office comply with State law and procure a MS SCV tag for you.

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MS Division Life Memberships

Life memberships in both the International Confederation and the Mississippi Division are available for Members who make a qualifying contribution to the respective Life Membership Endowment Fund.

The amount of the qualifying contribution shall be twenty-five (25) times the amount of annual dues for applicants up to 65 years of age, twelve and one half the amount of annual dues for applicants 65 to 80 years of age and six and one fourth the amount of annual dues for applicants 80 years of age or older.

International Life Members shall be exempt from the payment of per capita dues to General Headquarters. Mississippi Division Life Members shall be exempt from the payment of per capita dues to the Division.

Life Members may receive such special recognition, certificates and badges as the respective Executive Council shall deem proper. Request and Send applications to: Adjutant@MississippiSCV.org

Mississippi Division Report

Commander Anthony gave a brief summation of the 2026 Division Reunion at Beauvoir, June 5-6. Festivities at the Reunion began Friday evening with the President's Birthday Reception. Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and birthday cake. The following are the highlights of the Business Session Saturday morning. **1)** The Reunion delegates adopted a Constitutional Amendment to initiate a Cadet Program for young male decedents from birth to eleven. When they turn twelve, they can join the SCV. Dues for this program will be determined at the next DEC meeting. **2)** New Social Media Guidelines were adopted and placed in the Standing Orders to regulate the Division's Social Media Platforms. The Division Facebook Page and the Website will have a public version and a Member's Only version. **3)** The Convention Delegates voted to increase Division by \$10. This will bring Division Dues up to \$20 and will go into effect with next year's renewal cycle. The extra money will be used primarily for heritage defense. **4)** The Camp received two awards; the Superior Camp Award (3rd time) and the Newsletter Award for Small Camps. Congratulations Larry! Also, Larry McCluney received the Publication Award for his Book, "Paradox of Freedom". Well done, Larry! **5)** At the Awards Banquet, The B/G Charles Clark Chapter was presented the MOSB Award for 100% Retention of its members. **6)** 1st Lt. Commander Terry Arthur resigned from his office due to health reasons and family commitments. This elevated Boyd Coker to 1st Lt. Commander. The atmosphere and camaraderie were great. The speaker at the Awards Banquet was superb, our own Camp member, Cecil Fayard who spoke on the character of Jefferson Davis. The 2027 Reunion will be hosted by the William P. Rogers Camp. Place to be announced. Everyone who has not attended a Division Reunion should do so at least once.

God Bless the South.

Michael Anthony, First Brigade Councilman



SCV_CHAT
RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE
ONE WEEK AT A TIME

BEAUVIOR

Beauvoir, the historic post-war home of President Jefferson Davis, is owned and operated by the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. There are several ways that you can participate in the continued preservation of this beloved landmark located in Biloxi, Mississippi.



*Beauvoir - Post-war home of Jefferson Davis.
Biloxi, Mississippi*

Friends of Beauvoir

For as little as \$25 annually, you can become a member of the Friends of Beauvoir. Membership includes tour admission and a 10% discount at the Beauvoir gift shop.



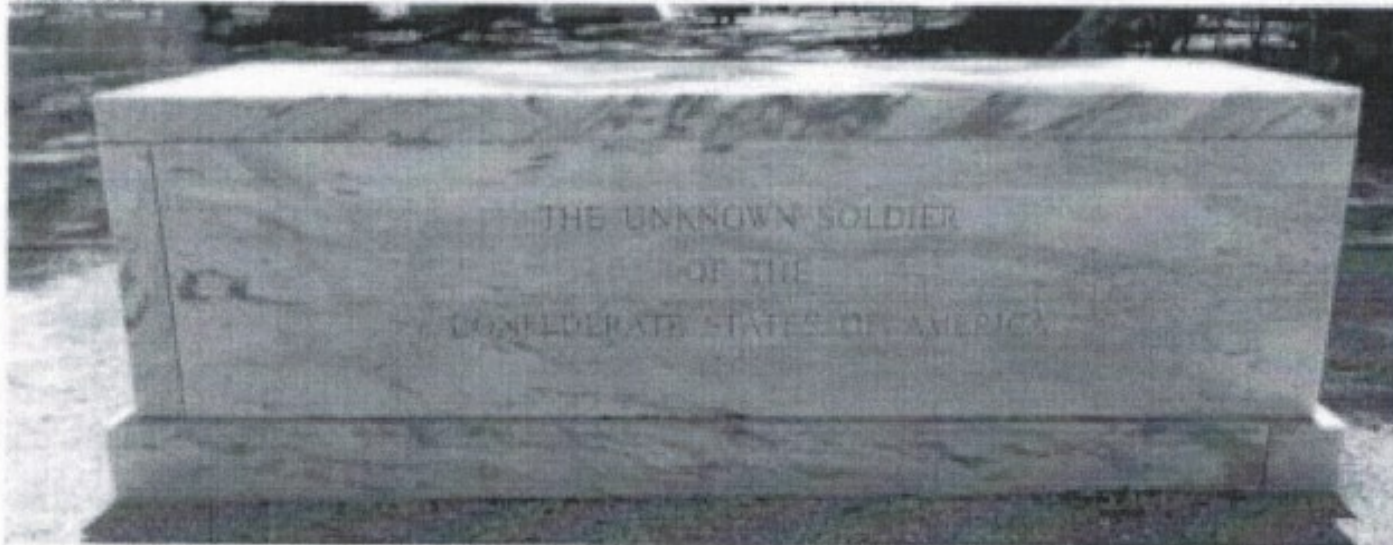
The Jefferson Davis Presidential Library located on the grounds of Beauvoir in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Bricks for Beauvoir

Honor your Confederate ancestors while supporting Beauvoir. Each brick that you purchase will be engraved with your ancestors rank, name, unit, and company. The memorial bricks will be laid creating a sidewalk from the UDC Arch to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate soldier. For more information on these opportunities, please visit www.visitbeauvoir.org or contact Beauvoir directly at (228) 388-4400.

Bricks for Beauvoir and the Tomb of the Unknown Solider

Honor your confederate Ancestors by purchasing an Ancestral Memorial Brick for \$50.00 each in the Memorial sidewalk of the Confederate Cemetery at Beauvoir. The plans for the sidewalk are nearing completion, so if you want a brick put down for your ancestor you need to get your order in soon, so as not to miss out.



Each brick that you purchase will be engraved with your ancestors rank, name, unit and company. Memorial bricks will be laid, memorializing your ancestor, in a sidewalk from the UDC Arch to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Solider at Beauvoir.

Detach and send in the form below to the address listed to order your bricks.

Ancestral Brick Order Form

Instructions: Use the lines as laid out no more than 15 spaces per line. You may use abbreviations when necessary. Please include your name and address, for confirmation letter. (See Sample Below)

Line 1: _____

(First and Last Name)

Line 2: _____

(Rank)

Line 3: _____

(Unit)

ORDER YOUR ANCESTOR'S BRICK TODAY!

Make Checks out for \$50.00 per brick to:

Bricks for Beauvoir

Mail to: Bricks for Beauvoir

2244 Beach Blvd

Biloxi, MS. 39531

OR

Visit our gift shop where you can pay by cash or credit!

Example:

Pvt. JAMES W.

McCluney

6th MS CAV, CO. F

Mississippi Guardian Program Application

Turn Application into Division Guardian Committee Chairman

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone #: () _____

E-Mail Address: _____

SCV Camp Name & Number: _____

Location: _____

GRAVESITE DETAILS

Confederate Veterans Name: _____

Rank: _____ Unit: _____ Co.: _____

Born: ____/____/____ Died: ____/____/____ Condition of site: Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent

(circle one)

Location of Grave: (Include name of cemetery, city and county): _____

Marker on Grave denoting Confederate Service: _____ Cross of Honor? _____

Documentation of Confederate Service: List book, service record, etc. _____

I affirm that all the information here is true and accurate. I agree to faithfully care for and protect this Confederate Veteran's grave in accordance with the GUARDIAN PROGRAM rules for as long as I am able. In the event I cannot carry out my duties, I shall notify the Review Committee immediately. I also understand that the Review Committee can revoke my status as a GUARDIAN for good cause.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Committee Chairman: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Mail Application, Map and Photos to:

Mississippi Division Guardian Program
123 Douglas Street
Bruce, MS. 38915

National News

A Final Word

This will be my final "Commander's Comment" for the Confederate Legion Newsletter, as I will become "Past Commander-in-Chief" this coming July. First and foremost, let me thank each of you for your support and assistance to the Cause of the South and me. I trust that those in charge of the Confederate Legion in the future will continue our work and improve upon our efforts.

One major issue our organization now faces is the lack of membership growth. Over the past eight years, I have stressed that one problem that the SCV has in recruitment is the lack of "brand-recognition." While you and I understand what the SCV, Confederate flag, and the Confederate Cause is all about, the average citizen in the South does not understand these things as we do. Having been flooded by liberal media and academia, the false narrative about the South, what is John Q. Public's first thought when he views someone waving a Confederate flag or trying to recruit new members? After over 40 years as a member of the SCV, I can assure you that the first thought is not a positive one. The only way to correct this misconception is to vigorously promote a positive view of the SCV and the Cause of the South.

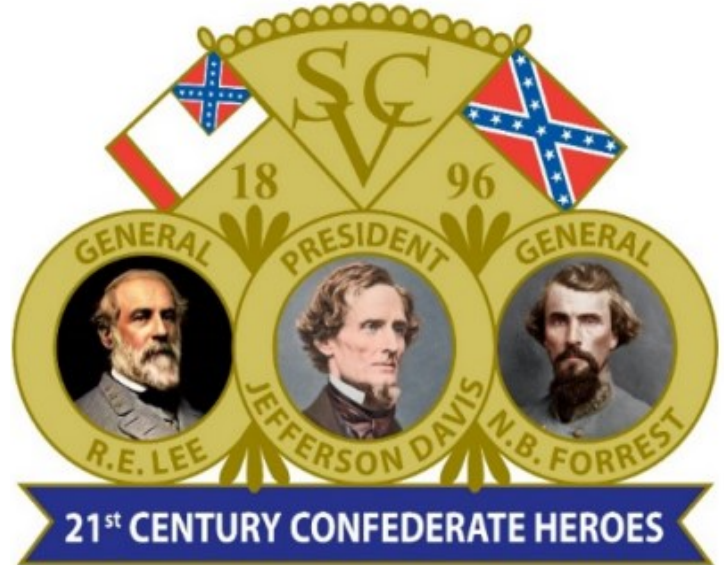
Here is one very easy and inexpensive way to promote a positive view of the SCV in your community. America is undergoing some very important elections from now to the end of November. Every SCV camp should post the following Get Out the Vote video on their social media: Media – SCV Confederate Legion. Posting this video on the camp's and camp members' social media costs nothing but will inform your community that the SCV is a patriotic veterans organization. Also, each SCV camp should download the 30-second radio ad and have that ad run on a local radio station (see ad info on page 5). Thirty-second radio ads on local radio usually run between \$15 to \$30 per ad. Running these ads one week before the election will help get our name out to your community. Not only will the average citizen hear this and understand that the SCV is active in their community but, and this is so important, elected officials will be put on notice that the SCV is actively promoting the Confederate heritage.

One week of radio ads, placing one video on social media, and placing a billboard on a local highway will not create a flood of new members. What it does is make it easier for your camp to recruit members—this is what "brand-recognition" is all about. Every professional ad service uses this idea to promote its product; it's time that SCV camps began to do what people who sell anything from soap to pillows are doing. If we do so, membership will climb, and retention will become much less of a problem. We must fight our enemies, but we must fight smart!

Deo Vindice,
Walter D. (Donnie) Kennedy

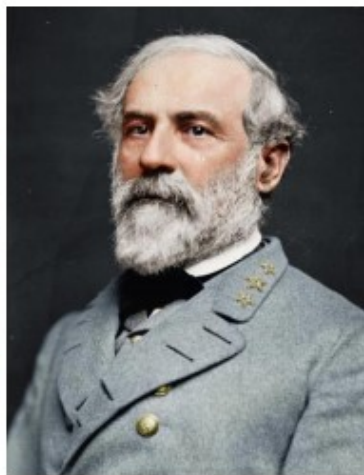
A Message From the C L Newsletter Editor My Final Edition as Confederate Legion Newsletter Editor

This July will be the end of C-i-C Donnie Kennedy's term as our Commander-in-Chief. I have been honored to be of some assistance to him during his tenure, especially as editor of the C L Newsletter. After July, a new C-i-C will take office and will appoint new staff to assist him in his office. I urge all SCV members and friends to support the new administration. I will no longer be the CL Newsletter editor—a position I have held since 2019 during the administration of several C-i-Cs. Thanks to all who have supported our efforts to encourage activist camps and members to promote and protect our Confederate heritage at the local level.



General Lee Needs You to Join the 21st Century Confederate Heroes

"Those people," General Lee's gentlemanly term for Yankees, thought they could defeat and exterminate the South, but they were wrong! Modern-day neo-Marxists thought they could destroy all our monuments, ban our symbols, and brainwash our people into believing that their Confederate ancestors were evil traitors, but we have proven them wrong!



Thanks to the selfless contributions of numerous members and friends who have contributed to the museum fund, and especially to those who have joined the 21st Century Confederate Heroes, we are well on the way to **making the SCV a debt-free organization**. Work will soon begin on the restoration of the Forrest Plaza. Thanks to all, and keep up the effort.

Join the 21st Century Confederate Heroes. We are well on the way, but we need more camps and members to join. For 21st Century information: <https://scvconfederatelegion.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/SCV-21st-Heroes.pdf>

Note: We had two "Museum" loans. The \$1.1 Million bank note is now paid off! Join with us and help pay off the second loan. Let's free up the dollars necessary to vindicate our Cause. To join: <https://donate.scv.org/>

Forrest's Last Ride



Forrest's Last Ride is the name of the project to reconstruct the gravesite of Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife Mary Ann Montgomery Forrest on the grounds of Historic Elm Springs and the National Confederate Museum. This will be a very large project as the plaza is 50 feet deep and 75 feet wide. Everything that was with the graves is now on the grounds and waiting to be reconstructed. The Equestrian Statue, which is the headstone of the graves will be repaired and returned to its rightful place. This project is for the repair, reconstruction, and placement of the Forrest Gravesite in its entirety and as intended by the artist Charles Henry Neihaus.

On September 18, 2021, we gathered to lay to rest, Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife Mary Ann Montgomery Forrest were on the grounds of Historic Elm Springs. On October 1, 2022, the General Executive Council voted to rebuild the entire plaza as it was originally Constructed. The estimated cost to reconstruct the entire plaza is \$150,000. Currently, \$76,000 has already been raised. This project is being done by the great-great-grandsons of General Forrest and the General Executive Council.

This cannot happen without your help and donations. This cannot be built until the money has been raised. If you wish to contribute, please send your donations to SCV National.

To pay by check:

Please make your check payable to SCV National with Forrest Plaza in the memo line and mail to:

SCV
P. O. Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402

To pay by phone: call 931-380-1844, ext. 209

To pay online: <https://scv.org/paypal-donations/>

You take them down, and we will put them back up!





THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATE MUSEUM AT ELM SPRINGS

The truth about the South's struggle to form a new nation is under attack as never before. The National Battlefield Parks have been taken over by the "it's all about slavery" provocateurs. Museums have changed their collections and interpretations to present what they call the cultural history of the War for Southern Independence. In reality this new perspective is nothing more than South bashing. The forces of political correctness have gone into high gear. They attempt to ban any and all things Confederate through their ideological fascism.

There needs to be at least one place where the people of the South and others can go to learn an accurate account of why so many struggled so long in their attempt to reassert government by the consent of the governed in America!

The General Executive Council of the Sons of Confederate Veterans made the commitment in October of 2008 to start the process to erect a new building that will have two purposes. One of the uses of this new building will be to give us office space and return Elm Springs to its original grandeur. However the main function is to house The Confederate Museum. We are planning a museum that will tell the truth about what motivated the Southern people to struggle for many years to form a new nation. At the SCV Reunion in July of 2009 the GEC set up a building fund for this purpose. One of the goals is to provide an accurate portrayal of the common Confederate soldier, something that is currently absent in most museums and in the media.

These plans have now become a reality. The ground breaking has taken place and the museum is now open.

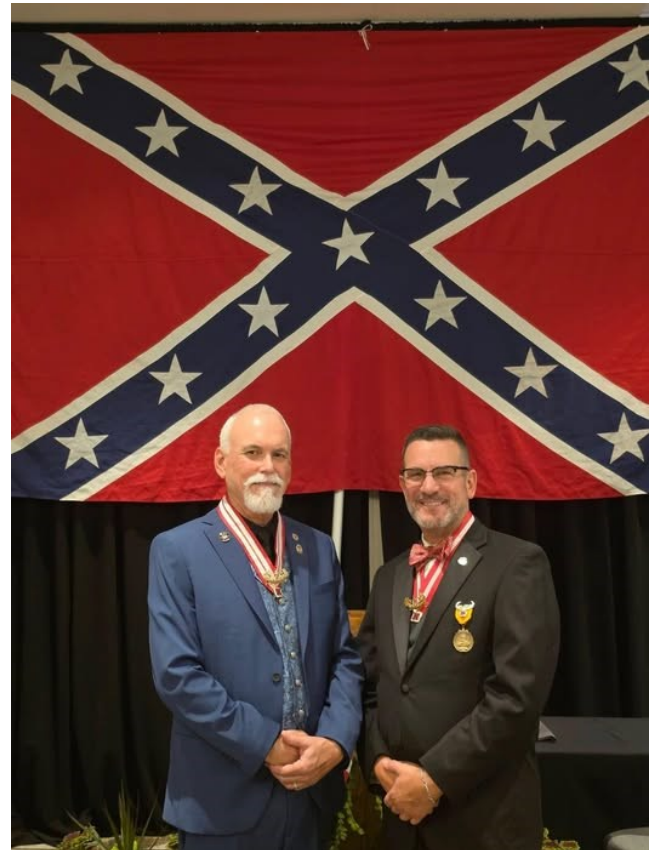
Take this journey with us and support the museum as a donor or join the Friends of the Museum today!

Send Donations to:
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Attn: National Confederate Museum
P.O. Box 59
Columbia, TN 38402

Or you can call 1-800-MY-DIXIE to pay by credit card.

www.theconfederatemuseum.com

The New Commander-in-Chief, Tony Griffin of Virginia, and Lt. Commander-in-Chief, Charles Lauret of Louisiana



THOMAS J. "STONEWALL" JACKSON

165 YEARS AGO TODAY,
JULY 21ST, A LEGEND
WAS BORN ON THE
FIELDS OF MANASSAS!

"LOOK! THERE
STANDS JACKSON
LIKE A STONE WALL!"
- GEN. BARNARD BEE

DO YOU HAVE AN ANCESTOR
WHO SERVED UNDER HIM
OR IN ANY OF THE ARMED
FORCES OF THE SOUTHERN
STATES?

LET US HELP YOU FIND OUT
AND JOIN THE SONS OF
CONFEDERATE VETERANS!



#RECRUITSCV

VISIT SCV.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Keyboard Warriors Needed



*A special message
from the National
Chief of Heritage
Operations:*

Paul Graham



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“Her Majesty is desirous of acting”: Queen Victoria’s support for Confederate Recognition’ by Gerry Leffurgy



While much scholarship has been dedicated to the Anglo-French response to the American Civil War/War Between the States (1861-65), heuristic evidence continues to surface. 1 A particular document of significance has seemingly escaped close scrutiny. The evidence in question presents a shocking revelation about Queen Victoria’s personal position about the war, seemingly at odds with her well-known anti-slavery sentiments: Her Majesty supported a diplomatic response from the major European powers (Britain and France), out of which she was aware the Confederate States of America could emerge as a recognised, sovereign nation. By presenting a holistic outline of the evidence in question, the relative standing of the military and political situation by late 1862 of both sides (and the British Empire’s diverse perceptions of this), the nature and relative powers of the British Crown in this period, Victoria’s views on slavery, race and her interactions with historical Persons of Colour and further evidence about American emancipation, this article will seek to explain Victoria’s personal openness towards Southern recognition.

Royal Support

In an official British dispatch, dated 13th of November of 1862, from Lord John Russell (the British Minister of Foreign Affairs), 2 to Earl Cowley (British Ambassador to France), Russell iterated to Cowley the communications between the British and French governments- “...Europe has followed with painful interest the struggle which has now been going on for more than a year on the American continent.” 3 While mention was made of the military prowess and resolve of both sides, Russell stressed this had been demonstrated, “...at the expense of innumerable calamities and immense bloodshed.” 4 The dispatch continues that if the conflict affected only America, it would warrant scant European attention, but this was not the case. In an obvious reference to the loss of cotton and other crops from the South, and markets for products in both American areas, “...Europe also has suffered in one of the principal branches of her industry, and her artisans have been subjected to the most cruel trials.” 5 Russell outlined further that while the French and British governments had both adhered to official neutrality, regardless, there was no conclusion to the conflict in sight. The French perspective, Russell articulated, had come to regard that the American war was forcing Britain and France to consider, “...they should assist the [Union and Confederacy] in an endeavour to escape from this position.” 6 Russell then came to the heart of Napoleon III’s proposal-

“These circumstances taken together would seem to favour the adoption of measures which might bring about a truce...The Emperor of the French, therefore, is of opinion that there is now an opportunity of offering to the belligerents the good offices of the [European] Powers. He therefore proposes to Her Majesty...that...[they] should endeavour, both at Washington, and in communication with the Confederate States, to bring about a suspension of arms for

six months, during which every act of hostility, direct or indirect, should cease, at sea, as well as on land. This armistice might, if necessary, be renewed for a further period.

This proposal...would not imply, on the part of the...Powers, any judgment on the origin of the war, or any pressure on the negotiations for peace, which it is hoped would take place during the armistice...The French Government is of opinion that, even in the event of failure of immediate success, these overtures might be useful in turning the minds of men, now heated by passion, to consider the advantages of conciliation and of peace...[the British Government]...recognize with pleasure...the design of arresting the progress of war by friendly measures, the benevolent views and humane intentions of the Emperor.” 7 [Author’s italics]

After mentioning France’s desire to invoke Tsar Alexander II in the attempt (despite no sign of Russian enthusiasm for involvement), the rest of Russell’s dispatch summarises British gratitude to the French Emperor for his support in the Trent affair; that neither Britain or France was then prepared to force cessation of American hostilities by military intervention; finally, an admission that no evidence then indicated the Union government would accept a Anglo-French mediation offer. All that could be hoped for, Russell continued, was for both European powers to continue to observe the conflict with an eye for any developments which might lead the Union government to reconsider. At this point, Russell’s communique divulged the shocking disclosure about Victoria’s personal sentiments-

“Her Majesty is desirous of acting in concurrence with France upon...the contingencies connected with the great struggle now going on in North America.” 8

This admission, which could only have been obtained from the Queen, herself, in private council, must be understood structurally to glean its true meaning; the British and French governments conceived a clear distinction between a ‘truce/armistice’ (a provisional cessation of fighting), and ‘negotiations for peace’ (a formal treaty, or legal arrangement of terms, by which the war came to a complete and lasting end). The British and French knew that at this stage of the war, there were only two conditions by which the latter could happen: (A) The Confederacy surrender and re-join the Union. (B) The Union acquiesce and recognize the Confederacy as a sovereign nation.⁹

With these two, mutually exclusive outcomes, the full weight of Russell’s disclosure becomes plain; Queen Victoria was willing to give her personal support to diplomatic processes out of which she was aware the Confederacy could emerge with its sovereignty recognised. Though she could not, and did not, order the British government to any particular action or policy (and while she was plainly just as willing for the alternative to eventuate of a Confederate surrender and readmission to the Union), this revelation of her personal views is astounding. If Her Majesty was ultimately willing to see the Confederate States of America join the community of nations, the question is begged, ‘how could such an iconic figure of the anti-slavery movement of the 19th Century be open to recognising a nation which was seemingly committed to unwavering human bondage, especially after the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation?’¹⁰ The answer requires rigorous assessment of a great deal of interconnected evidence, particularly an abundance of non-American sources.

American Position/Imperial Perception

Confederate recognition by the powers of Europe has generally been described as unlikely by a number of key historians. James McPherson has written of the as being veritably nil. While conceding the conservative British press was antagonistic to the North, McPherson emphasises pro-Northern sentiments against Confederate recognition within the United Kingdom, such as the large rally held at London’s Exeter Hall in support of the Emancipation Proclamation. Of this occasion, Richard Cobden, a pro-Union, British politician, wrote to Charles Sumner-

“This meeting...had a powerful effect on our newspapers and

politicians. It has closed the mouths of those who have been advocating the side of the South...I now write to assure you...any unfriendly act on the part of our Government...towards your cause, is not to be apprehended. If an attempt were made by the Government in any way to commit us to the South, a spirit would be instantly aroused which would drive that Government from power."¹¹

Gary Gallagher has written that British Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston, was so impressed with Robert E. Lee's victory of The Seven Days, that on 6 August 1862 he advised Queen Victoria that the government ought seriously consider proposing an armistice to both American sides later in the year. However, after the outcome of the Battle of Antietam and announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation the following month, Gallagher opines there was little chance of British recognition.¹²

The works of these historians is canonical to the study of the war, but the response to the Emancipation Proclamation, in both the United Kingdom and Empire, was more varied than is traditionally credited.

President of the Abolitionist Society of Canada, George Brown, had returned to that colony from an extended tour of England and Scotland in 1862-63, during which he'd conversed with innumerable subjects about the war (a majority of whom seemed to support the South). A significant future-Father of Canadian Confederation and the editor of the *Toronto Globe*, Brown could not be strictly described as a patron of either the North or Union, but at the meeting of the Abolitionist Society of Canada on 3 February 1863, he spoke in exuberant praise of both the Proclamation and President – "...[there exists] an anti-slavery President of the United States...We see before us the great fact that the chains have already fallen from the hands of tens of thousands of human chattels — we see that if the policy of the present Government at Washington prevails, the curse of human slavery will be swept from our continent for ever — and our hearts go up with earnest petitions to the God of battles that he will strengthen the hands of Abraham Lincoln and give wisdom to his councils."¹³ To any who might challenge the ability of Canadians to formulate an accurate understanding of the war, due to their perch of geography and non-involvement, Brown declared-

"...we...have a practical knowledge of the atrocities of the 'peculiar institution', learnt from the lips of the panting refugees upon our shores... we [Canadians] are in a position to speak with confidence to the anti-slavery men of Great Britain; to tell them that they have not rightly understood this matter-- to tell them that slavery is the one great cause of the American rebellion, and that the success of the North is the death-knell of slavery."¹⁴ And yet, despite Brown's thundering that the British press printed extensive falsehoods upon the war (singling out the *London Times*), by any objective standard, a higher number of these publications provided heuristically useful observations than he cared to acknowledge.

Perhaps the best known of these was the description of the Emancipation Proclamation in the *Spectator*, **"The Government liberates the enemy's slaves as it would the enemy's cattle, simply to weaken them in the coming conflict. The promise is not even unconditional, nay, is not made conditional on any act or omission of the Black race. The act professes to be done for their benefit, but if their masters return to the Union before the 1st of January, then the slaves are to continue in their condition of slavery so long as such masters shall choose...the principle asserted is not that a human being cannot justly own another, but that he cannot own him unless he is loyal to the United States. That is a dogma which may possibly satisfy Americans, but it is not one for which the outside world can be expected to feel any huge amount of enthusiasm."**¹⁵ A week later, Punch, carried the famous cartoon of the smug Jefferson Davis and frustrated Abraham Lincoln playing poker upon a barrel of gunpowder, with Lincoln throwing down the 'last card' to play in the desperate political game. The card Lincoln plays, the Ace of Spades, represents emancipation and the implication of Britain, France and the rest of Europe looking on as the

Union desperately casts about trying to use the issue of slavery to prevent losing the war and the foreign powers intervening for the South, a play which the gloating Davis senses will not occur.¹⁶

These critiques of the Emancipation Proclamation at the time of Victoria's deliberations upon the American situation in late 1862 could be neither quashed by non-answer, or trundled away by emancipation exuberance. The British response to the war had early on acquired a 'wait and see' approach, the main consideration being how British interests were best served by any given response or method of deliver, as developments arose. When on the 13th of May in 1861, Queen Victoria had proclaimed the neutrality of Great Britain and Empire towards the inter-American conflict, this did not amount to recognition of the Confederate States of America as a sovereign nation at the time, yet it did provide belligerent status to the Confederacy. This meant as far as the British were concerned, the United States was fighting an actual war against a legitimate opponent, not simply contending with an abnormally large 'insurrectionary' type-incident. It also meant that the Confederacy could legally engage in foreign trade and monetary transactions, though in foreign ports, its navies and ships would be subject to the same privileges and rules as those of the Union, and nor would the Royal Navy attempt to lift the blockade of Southern ports the Union government had announced.¹⁷ Obviously, this policy fully satisfied neither the North or the South, but at an early stage, both Britain and France had conferred upon the possibility of official recognition of the proclaimed Southern republic.¹⁸ To this, an accurate understanding of the constitutional limits of Victoria's Reserve Powers as the Monarch is essential.

THE LIMITS OF ROYAL POWER

Though Victoria proclaimed British neutrality, Her Majesty was acting upon the 'advice' tendered by her elected government, per the British form of democracy ('Responsible Government'), (also known as the Westminster system). The outcome of the English Civil War and Glorious Revolution of the 17th Century had accelerated the accumulation of real power in first England (and after 1707, the United Kingdom), resulting in the doctrine of 'supremacy of Parliament'; the Monarch (and/or the Representative of in each relevant legislature around the Commonwealth), was thereafter, in the vast majority of conditions, to act (to announce as policy, sign laws into effect, etc), in accordance with the direction as indicated by the leader of whichever party, or combination of parties, as who could command a majority upon the floor of the legislative Lower House. While the Monarch then and since does retain a set of 'Reserve Powers' (by which they can act in independent manner), these instances are nevertheless overlaid by precedent, convention, tradition and generally pertain to emergencies, or at least situations of the most strained and unusual nature.¹⁹ Per historian, Barbara Messamore, "By Victoria's reign, it was understood that the Monarch would act on the advice of her ministers."²⁰ While the unique personality of Victoria did see her impress her influence to strain the constitutional powers to the limit in some situations during her reign (such as her overriding her Ministers during the Schleswig-Holstein Crisis of 1863-64), a number of factors are essential to an accurate understanding of her conduct and this episode.²¹

(I) Per Lord Palmerston, Victoria's late husband, Prince Albert, had been one of very few persons who had a comprehensive understanding of the enormously complicated legal and constitutional issues involved in the Schleswig-Holstein matter. Thus, it may be held that Victoria had absorbed a fair amount of indispensable knowledge prior to Albert's death in 1861. The Prince Consort had supported Prussia's claims in the dispute, and Victoria appears to have 'championed' his views as a means to assuage her grief from Albert's death. (II) Other than a generalized attentiveness as how maritime navigation might be affected in the North Sea area, British interests were not involved in the Prussian-Danish War. (III) The scale and nature of potential hostilities between the British armed forces and their Prussian contemporaries in the 1860s would have been unfavorable, in both comparative and absolute terms. (IV) Most importantly, Lord Palmerston and his Ministry ultimately chose to acquiesce to the wishes of the Queen. Had the former insisted upon alternative policy, the elected

Ministers would ultimately have prevailed, per the tenet of 'supremacy of parliament', as occurred in 1866 when the British government disagreed the Austro-Prussian conflict. 22 Assumptions and sentiments such as, 'Her Majesty would never have permitted recognition of the Confederacy due to her dislike of slavery', present an inherently inaccurate view of the constitutional limits of the Monarch's powers by the mid-1800s. And yet, Queen Victoria's anti-slavery views form an important part of understanding her openness to a new American nation.

"THAT BLACKEST STAIN"

Victoria scribed in her diary in 1838-

"I asked Lord Melbourne what was to take place concerning Slavery...[he] then pulled out of his pocket the Bill or Act which is to be read tonight; he read to me...explaining to me each part in the most clear and agreeable manner possible...I must just observe that the necessity of this Act shows how shockingly cruel and cheating the Masters of the Slaves are, attempting to evade in every possible way what they are told to do, and what, as the Laws cannot be enforced on the spot, must be done by an Act of Parliament here."23

Later that same year- ***"Lord Melbourne...[said the King of Portugal] was annoyed at our pressing the Portuguese Government about the Slave Trade; and that it would be well, if I were to state to [the Portuguese King] that the feeling was so strong in this country about Slavery, and we were so pressed about it, that it was impossible for us to do otherwise."***24

Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, attended the meeting of the Society for the Abolition of Slavery on the 1st of June in 1840 and delivered a speech in which he described slavery as-

"...that atrocious traffic in human beings...at once the desolation of Africa and the blackest stain upon civilized Europe." In the name of his wife, Albert extolled for the ultimate end of slavery as ***"a holy cause"***, this ultimate aim articulated as, ***"...the accomplishment of [a] great and humane object..."***25 Perhaps, part of Her Majesty's notorious dislike of William Gladstone, her long-serving Prime Minister and iconic 19th Ce. British statesman, was the fact his family had owned slaves in the Caribbean and that Gladstone himself at various times had alternately condoned, euphemised and criticised slavery.26

The famous allegation that Victoria cried upon reading, ***Uncle Tom's Cabin***, may be apocryphal, but her connection to the novel, its sequel, author and real-life inspiration for it, are not. Stowe arranged for the presentation of a copy of the novel to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert on the eve of its publication in March of 1852, along with a very personal letter describing the intent of her book as, ***"[a] simple narrative...an honest attempt to enlist the sympathies both of England & America in the sufferings of an oppressed race, to whom in less enlightened days both England & America were unjust...The wrong on England's part has been atoned in a manner worthy of herself..."***27 Stowe would voice nearly the same words of plea as which George Brown addressed the Abolitionist Society of Canada eleven years later, by adding in her letter to the Prince Consort, ***"...when fugitives by thousands are crowding British shores...[we American Abolitionists] enlist for them the sympathy of British hearts..."***28 Although Queen Victoria did not immediately read *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, she did quickly devour the sequel Stowe penned, *Dred*. During the war, Stowe would write the highest praise of the Prince and Queen for their anti-slavery views, but lament of the pro-Confederate general attitude within much of the United Kingdom.29 While Stowe was on her British tour from 1852-53, Victoria was advised to not personally meet the American author, given the storm of controversy *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had initiated on the topic of slavery in the United States. However, Victoria and Stowe would skirt this protocol by bowing to each other in passing from their respective carriages. 30

Shockingly, Queen Victoria had personally met the inspiration for Stowe's titular anti-slavery novels, even before their publication, Josiah Henson, whom had escaped from slavery into what is now the Canadian province of Ontario, on 28 March 1830. 31 Henson at first procured agricultural work in the colony, but soon turned to carpentry. 32 Due to the quality of his workmanship, he attended the Crystal Palace Exhibition in London, England, in 1851 to showcase his craft with black walnut lumber in this famed celebration of industry. Passing by his display one day in 1851 and exchanging social curtsies was none other than Her Majesty, who remarked in disbelief that Henson had been a fugitive slave. 33 Twenty-six years later, the Monarch and former-slave met again in Windsor Palace. In the midst of other royal company, Victoria informed Henson of her admiration for him and his life experiences, then presented him with a

portrait of herself. A bust of Henson was later placed in the Royal Academy. 34 Nor did Victoria's empathy and willingness to associate with the victims of slavery end with Henson.

Martha Ricks had been born into slavery in Tennessee, but her family emigrated to Liberia with her family in 1830, after her father secured their emancipation.35 Ricks would thrive in Liberia to such an extent that, as early as 1848, she made her first journey to England with her then-husband and the family of the President of Liberia, where the contingent received commendation.36 Ricks read of Victoria's splendorous ascension to the throne in 1837, and watched the Royal Navy patrol the west African coast for the illegal slave trade. This in Ricks' estimation made the Queen, "...the liberator of the slaves and the Mother of [my] people."37 Ricks combined her quilting proficiency with her dream of meeting Queen Victoria to present her with a Liberian fabric work of art. In 1892, after years of saving to finance her trip, the dream that Wicks' had held for fifty years came true.38 On travelling again to London with the family of former-Liberian President, Wicks was collected at Windsor station by Victoria's staff and presented to the Queen and Royal Family by the then-Liberian Minister to Britain. Waiving customary protocols, Victoria shook hands with Ricks, evidently stating to her American African admirer, "I am greatly honoured by the trouble you have taken to come visit me." Ricks presented the Queen with a quilt which bore the intricate design of a coffee tree (a Liberian staple product). Ricks and company were then given a tour of Windsor Palace, which Ricks recalled with amazement.39 This meeting with Ricks represented part of a continuation for Victoria's legacy of empathy and acceptance of non-Europeans, adding further intricacy on her stance towards Confederate independence.

MY SUBJECTS

Among non-Caucasian persons who held Victoria in high esteem were several noted Aboriginal leaders from what was is now Canada. Kahkewaquaonaby, of the Mississauga, Crowfoot of the Blackfoot, and Sitting Bull, of the Sioux. Kahkewaquaonaby would attend upon Queen Victoria in London to seek her support for land rights along the Credit River for the Mississauga nation in what is now southern Ontario, upon which she opined favourably and gained great affection in eyes of the Mississauga chieftain.40 Crowfoot of the Blackfoot Nation, acutely aware of the potential violence that threatened the north-western plains in the 1870s, established relations with the North West Mounted Police with a view to keeping the peace between his own nation tribe, the rival Sioux Nation and the American military, in an attempt to ensure the survival of his society. Making an appeal to 'the great mother' for assistance, his plea would reach Queen Victoria personally, to which she would have the British Secretary of State reply-

"Her Majesty has commanded me to instruct you [the Canadian government] to inform the Chiefs of the tribe Her Majesty has heard, with much satisfaction, of their faithful conduct in declining to take up arms with the Sioux Indians, and has been much gratified by this evidence of their loyalty and attachment..."41 Upon his settlement on the Canadian prairies following the Battle of Little Big Horn, Sitting Bull would also refer to Queen Victoria as, 'the great Mother', and spoke of her in tones of respect. The Sioux Elder even expressed a desire to meet Queen Victoria's daughter in Ottawa and the historic connections of the Sioux to the Crown were commonly stressed by himself and others. 42 On 3 February 1854, Victoria received from the Canadian Arctic the persons of Tookoolito, Ipiirvik, and Akulukjuk, at Windsor Castle. Following the Inuit receiving a tour and luncheon, they were presented to the Queen, Prince Albert and their daughters (the Duchesses of Kent and Sutherland, respectively), being attired in their traditional seal skin garments. The Royal Family asked several interested questions of Inuit culture, society and their home territory. The Queen was apparently presented with a pair of traditional Inuit slippers and would describe her Inuit visitors in her diary as, ***"...my subjects..."***43

With regards to the native peoples' of Australasia, while there is no record of Her Majesty having officially met with persons representing Aboriginal Australian-Torres Strait Islander heritage, Victoria's legacy assumed a semi-esteemed position amongst a number of such groups. In the words of Australian academic, Maria Nugent, the Queen, "...translated [into] someone especially interested in their welfare, as a just and virtuous woman, as a protector of rights, and as benevolent and beneficent like a mother, for their own purposes. Some Aboriginal people came to see her...as an avenue of appeal and potential justice, and they turned to her as an alternative authority in their disputes with local settler governments." 44 Citation of Victoria as a means of claiming legal standing in the midst of colonial dispossession and marginalisation was exemplified in 1883 by Tasmanian Aboriginal persons whom articulated, "...we are not paupers; we are free men, we are British subjects and have as much right...as her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria."45 In numerous

instances during the 19th and 20th centuries, various Aboriginal Australian groups advanced claims that Queen Victoria had personally set aside the reserve lands they were relegated to occupy with immutable custodianship.⁴⁶ While most of these accounts appear to have been based in oral attempts to infer Aboriginal sovereignty into the colonial process, at least one such account warrants special attention. In 1863, following wrongful appropriations of land reserves by local settlers, a group of about 40 men, women and children of the Kulin Nation tribe sought to make claim for a reserve at the junction of the Yarra River and Coranderk Creek, north-east of the city of Melbourne. Naming the new reserve 'Coranderk', the Kulin members shrewdly sought to capitalise on symbolism, attending a reception held in the city of Melbourne in honour of Queen Victoria's birthday, hosted by the Vice-Regal representative, Sir Henry Barkly, the Colonial Governor. The Coranderk residents presented gifts honed in their traditional custom of rugs and blankets for Victoria and weapons for Prince Albert. and addressed the Queen, via the Governor, in their native language as a demonstration of their status as a sovereign peoples', in relationship to her. The Coranderk reserve was announced soon afterwards in the colonial Gazette and the Aboriginal residents thereupon received a letter from the Queen's Secretary, conveying Victoria's thanks for their address and a promise of her protection over them.⁴⁷ The Indigenous Maori Peoples' of New Zealand, despite being engaged an on-going series of war with British settlers in their native land in this era, nevertheless, often held Queen Victoria in high regard. A contingent of Elders attended London in 1863 and declared in an interview with the Duke of Newcastle, **"...God is heaven who made the earth and the people: the Queen is in England who made the laws by which men are benefitted...My eyes have seen the good of this land."**⁴⁸

Although set in the 1880s, it is worth noting that the depiction of Queen Victoria holding progressive views of Sub-Continental persons in the 2017 film, *Victoria & Abdul*, was an accurate depiction of her attitudes. The Queen issued "terse reprimands" to those who evidenced prejudice towards her beloved "Munshi", Abdul Karim.⁴⁹ Victoria also held a place of endearment in the heart of a legendary Indian figure: Mohandas K. Gandhi. Particularly in his youth, Gandhi is said to have sung 'God Save the Queen' with passion, that he took a leadership role on the planning committee for the celebration of Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in his native locale of Rajkot, India, and arranged for the South African authorities (his then-residence), to telegraph a birthday salutation to the Monarch in 1900 on his behalf. After the death of Victoria in 1901, Gandhi became so distraught that he forwarded another telegraph to London, **"...bewailing... the death of the greatest and most loved sovereign on earth."** Gandhi would then take part in a public mourning procession in South Africa, during which, he carried a wreath and placed it at a statue of Victoria. He would shortly after deliver a message about the Queen amongst Indian school children in Durban, South Africa.⁵⁰ And not only was Victoria willing to challenge the racial norms of the era which bore her name, but she welcomed non-Europeans into her family structure.

About 1849, Frederick E. Forbes of the Royal Navy, was given the assignment of attempted dissuasion of the Dahomey kingdom in western Africa from further involvement in the illegal slave trade (this territory now comprises the nations of Benin and Nigeria). Forbes' arrival resulted in one of the captives of a Dahomey raid being presented to him, a young Black African girl named 'Aina' from the conquered Egbado nation-tribe, an intervention which saved her life. ⁵¹ After obtaining written permission from the Secretary of the Royal Navy to convey the child to England, Aina was eventually reared and educated in British society under the watchful eye of Queen Victoria. Forbes described the child as, **"...far in advance of any White child of her age, in aptness of learning, and strength of mind and affection"**. ⁵² 'Aina', (the girl's native African name), was baptized as, 'Sarah Forbes Bonetta', and received royal considerable attention, luxury and favour and was a guest at the marriage of Victoria's eldest daughter in 1858, and Victoria would pay much of the cost of Bonetta's own wedding in 1862.⁵³ Queen Victoria met with Sarah on numerous occasions (the last in December of 1867), and would become godmother to Bonetta's daughter.⁵⁴ The progressive views which Victoria held against chattel slavery, and her support of persons of non-European heritage, present a seeming paradox: How could she be willing to see the Confederacy's independence be recognised, it being a 'nation' that writers such as Jamelle Bouie, Stephanie McCurry and Adam Serwer, writers who may all be described as adherents to the Battle Hymn thesis and historiography, have each described in their own words as, "an empire of bondage", "...a pro-slavery nation...devoted to securing a society in which enslavement to White people was the permanent and inherited condition of all people of African descent...slavery was the cause of the Civil War and the Confederate cause", "...a choice to fight for the continued existence of human bondage in America..."⁵⁵ However, a more rigorous critical reflection challenges such descriptions of the Confederacy and the Queen's willingness to see its ultimate independence.

'AN OFFER TO ABOLISH SLAVERY'

By 13 November 1862, the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation was already nearly two months old.⁵⁶ The U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain, Charles Francis Adams, made a diary entry when particular news about the Confederacy reached him on the 4th of October—

"The news from America is again quite exciting. The President has issued a proclamation virtually declaring a policy of emancipation... impossible to deny that the adoption of such a policy is a mere question of time. This is the real difficulty in America. And whether the Union be or not be preserved the very existence of the war renders a retreat from [emancipation] impossible. I do not pretend to peer into the future. But this terrible series of calamities appears as a just judgment upon the country for having paltered with the evil [of slavery] so long. God have mercy on us, miserable offenders."⁵⁷

Adams' entry implied a tentative awareness that the war circumstances had now simultaneously forced a situation, and created an opportunity, whereby, emancipation would be both viable and desirable in America. The critical implication was thus; besides a personal admission of an all American responsibility for American slavery, at the time of then-political and military fortunes in late 1862, Adams' intriguingly speculated that while the Union might not prevail in the conflict, emancipation would nevertheless be inevitable. The reconciliation of these seemingly mutually exclusive conditions is also found in Adams' diary: The Confederacy had apparently come to the brink of obtaining recognition in exchange for a gradual end to slavery.

In mid-February earlier in the year, Adams recorded—

"A visit from Bishop McIlvaine, who came to tell me the results of a conversation he had held at breakfast with Sir Culling Eadley this morning, that gentleman had appraised him of the existence of rumours that Mr. Mason [one of the two Confederate diplomats seized by the Union Navy in the 'Trent Affair' and later released] had brought with him authority to make a large offer towards emancipation if Great Britain would come to the aid of the confederates. He even specified their nature, as for example, the establishment of the marriage relation, the restoration of the right of manumission, and emancipation of all born after a certain time to be designated. He [McIlvaine] had further intimated that these views were favourably received here and were the topic of discussion between the religious classes here and on the continent."⁵⁸

This diary entry further records that though Adams considered Mason an unreliable source, he nevertheless felt the alleged Confederate offer needed to be acted upon immediately by the Union government, both in North America and upon the British-European audiences by a two-pronged strategy; depict the Confederate offer as insinuating the South was on the brink of defeat and of absolute desperation on the part of the Southern populace and government.⁵⁹ Perhaps significantly, Adams also told the British Bishop— ***"...I would even go so far as to throw the probability of a consent to their recognition provided the emancipation should be made forthwith."***⁶⁰

The breakfast meeting ended with Adams' intent on making a report to the Lincoln government and his being eager to collect any further information regarding the Confederate diplomatic overtures, and/or, the alleged emancipation offer.⁶¹ While other British newspapers had even earlier noted the possibility of Confederate emancipation and recognition being tied together, ⁶² the most succinct reporting was likely found in the 25th January 1862 copy of the *Spectator*—

"THE SOUTHERN BID, It is understood in the indirect but accurate way in which great facts first get abroad, that the Confederacy have offered England and France a price for active support. It is nothing less than a treaty securing free trade in its broadest sense for fifty years, the complete suppression of the import of slaves and the emancipation of every Negro born after the date of the signature of the treaty. In return they ask, first, the recognition of their independence; and secondly, such an investigation into the facts of the blockade as must, in their judgement, lead to its disavowal. The bid is one which demands careful examination, if only from the hesitation it seems to produce among the most earnest friends of freedom."⁶³

Similar announcements of this near-clinched Emancipation Treaty between Britain, France and the Confederacy appeared in a high number of newspapers across the United Kingdom and British Empire.⁶⁴ In October of 1862, then-Minister of the British Exchequer and future-British Prime

Minister, Sir William Gladstone, infamously gave a public speech in Newcastle, England, during which he urged British recognition since, "... Jefferson Davis and the other Confederate leaders have made an army... they are making, it appears, a navy...they have made a nation." 65 Five years later in 1867, Gladstone expressed regret for uttering his Newcastle speech, but explained it had been uttered partly out of his conviction, "... the negroes would be much nearer to emancipation under a Southern Government than under the old system of the Union, which had not at that date (August, 1862), been abandoned..." 66 This strongly implies an awareness on Gladstone's part of the Emancipation Treaty.

While the possibility of Confederate emancipation commencing in 1862 wasn't universally accepted by the British establishment, arguments that contemporaneous newspaper reports of this represented mere Southern propaganda is challenged by the sheer volume and consistency of these. 67 The geographic dissemination of the announcement in the press across the United Kingdom and Empire displayed little amendment or retraction provides too much substantiation to dismiss the matter out of hand. The conviction of both Charles Francis Adams and William Gladstone of the Confederate Emancipation Treaty being a serious offer is significant, but the most convincing evidence with regards it is found in the most ironic source: The personal papers of Abraham Lincoln.

By mid-July of 1862, Lincoln had conceived of ending slavery in the Border states by way of compensated manumission. 68 This may be seen as evidential of Lincoln's personal and longstanding aversion to the institution and adding value to the Union war effort. 69 At the strategy's core was the intention to prevent secession of these states from the Union, by taking advantage of the clause in the Confederate constitution stipulating that any new states which were formed within it, or adjoined to it,

were required to have a pro-slavery state constitution at the time of their admission. 70 At a conference held in Washington D.C., in July of 1862, Lincoln met with representatives from the Border states in attempt to persuade them to this proposal. 71 Except for the District of Columbia, there was no nil acceptance. However, a minority of seven representatives supported the President's design to end slavery on the justification it represented a necessary war measure. On July 15th, all seven dissenting Border State representatives affixed their signatures to a message to the President-

"Washington City...

Mr. President, The undersigned members of Congress from the border States in response to your address...beg leave to say...We understand your appeal to us have been made for the purpose of securing [victory for the Union]. A very large portion of the people of the Northern States believe that slavery is the "lever of power of the rebellion." It matters not whether this belief be well-founded or not. The belief does exist...we understand that an immense pressure is brought to bear for the purpose of striking down this institution, through the exercise of military authority...[yourself] the President appeals to the border State men to step forward and prove their patriotism by making the first sacrifice...we meet your address in the spirit in which it was made, and as loyal Americans declare to you and to the world that there is no sacrifice that we are not ready to make, to save the government and institutions of our fathers...

...That in order to carry out these views, we will so far as may be in our power ask the people of the border states, calmly, deliberately and fairly, to consider your recommendations. We are the more emboldened to assume this position from the fact, now become history, that the leaders of the Southern rebellion have offered to abolish slavery amongst them as a condition to foreign intervention in favour of their independence as a nation." [Author's emphasis]72

This written testament in the direct possession of the United States' President, must be taken as definitive that the Confederacy had genuinely made the offer of terms to both Great Britain and France, of emancipation in return for recognition and intervention.73 Adding to the veracity of this disclosure, in January of that year, Lincoln had reflected on the varied pressures facing the Union in wartime, along with his own sentiments and observations in his capacity as both an individual and President in a private conversation with U.S. Ambassador to Spain, Carl Schurz. According to Schurz, Lincoln told him-

"...I cannot imagine that any European power would dare to recognize and aid the Southern Confederacy if it becomes clear that the Confederacy stands for slavery and the Union for freedom." Then [Lincoln] explained to me that, while a distinct anti-slavery policy would remove the foreign danger, and would thus work for the

*preservation of the Union — while, indeed, it might, in this respect, be necessary for the preservation of the Union, and while he thought that it would soon appear and be recognized to be in every respect necessary, he was in doubt as to whether public opinion at home was yet sufficiently prepared for it. He was anxious to unite, and keep united, all the forces of Northern society and of the Union element in the South, especially the Border States, in the war for the Union. Would not the cry of "abolition war," such as might be occasioned by a distinct anti-slavery policy, tend to disunite those forces and thus weaken the Union cause? This was the doubt that troubled him, and it troubled him very much."*74

'IF THE DAY SHOULD EVER ARRIVE'

These evidences may collectively be taken to explain how Queen Victoria could embrace the notion of a sovereign Confederate States of America, in lieu of her avowed anti-slavery opinions; recognition would hinge on the contingency that Britain was convinced that the Confederacy would make definitive and genuine steps to abolish the abhorred institution.

Clearly, the form of Confederate long-range emancipation as described in the near-clinched Treaty with Britain and France by January of 1862 would have been highly imperfect, to say the least. While all Black Americans who would otherwise have been born enslaved within Confederate borders from the date of the Treaty's signing would be thenceforward Free Persons of Colour, there was apparently no provision for the manumission of enslaved Black Americans, already living. These persons might have had to remain in bondage for life, barring further private or legal acts of manumission. Navigating the legal and constitutional technicalities in the Confederacy to effect the Treaty's pledged emancipation would have presented a complicated legal ordeal, though not necessarily impossible objective, provided the federal and state governments of the Confederacy were prepared to act cooperatively. As the constitution of the Confederacy stood for the war's duration, the individual states possessed sole jurisdiction to affect the legal status of slavery and emancipation, the federal government having sole power regarding foreign relations. Article 1, S. 9(4), located within the section dealing with powers of the federal government, stipulates, **"...no bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law denying or impairing the right of property in negro slaves shall be passed."**

The Preamble of the Confederate Constitution explicitly cites a 'States Rights' model of American federalism, "...each state acting in its sovereign and independent character..." Article VI (3) provided supremacy of Confederate federal law over state laws, but only when and where the federal government's authority is meant to be supreme. This aspect is crucial; Confederate federal law was to be the supreme in the land only when/where/to the extent of which, the authority of the federal government was explicitly cited jurisdictional supremacy, as confirmed by Subsections (5) and (6) of Article VI. As the Confederate Constitution thus stood, except for areas of explicit exemption, the federal government had legally 'vacated' the fields of slavery and emancipation, thus, retention, abolishment of the institution, or legal changes to it, was a jurisdiction entirely retained by the individual states. 75

That emancipation was a state jurisdictional matter was an issue which John Slidell, Confederate Ambassador to France, expounded to the British politician and reformer, Lord Shaftesbury, but added, **"If the day should ever arrive when slave labour ceased to be profitable and the slave could be safely liberated, slavery would soon cease to exist."**76 A constitutional amendment providing the Confederate federal government with power to make laws affecting these matters, on prima facie level, might have been ultimately possible, but posed a complex legal and political process, which may well have been susceptible to domestic legal challenges. Thereby, what might have been the simplest and quickest manner to action Confederate emancipation would have seen the individual Confederate states' each pass legislation abolishing slavery within their state borders as a matter of cooperation with the national government, to provide the latter with the necessary means to secure recognition with the British and French. 77

With such a timeframe, slavery could theoretically have endured for about another century in the South. While this depicts a far less than optimal end of slavery, nevertheless, it proved the Confederacy was willing to end the practice. As well, it is worth noting that a long range, gradual ending of slavery, until it was phased out of existence, was what Abraham Lincoln and his political idol, Henry Clay, had articulated during the Antebellum Era. Lincoln opined at the Republican State Convention on 16 June 1858, "...the opponents of slavery [ought]...place it...in the course of ultimate extinction..."78 At Charleston, Illinois, on 18th of September, during his 1858 debates with Stephen Douglas, "I do not suppose that in the most peaceful way [the] ultimate extinction [of slavery] would occur in less than

a hundred years at the least..." 79 Lincoln would endorse such long-range ends to slavery in his eulogy to Clay in 1852 and his famed speech on 4th of October in 1854 in Springfield, Illinois. Attacking the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Lincoln implored with studied passion that the Founding Fathers had crafted the nation from the outset with the ultimate extinction of slavery in mind. Lincoln would repeat these sentiments during the 1858 debates with Stephen Douglas, at Ottawa and Jonesboro, Illinois, on the 21st of August and 15th of September.⁸⁰

The duration of the All American Conflict would never see official European recognition bestowed upon the Confederacy. However, Lord Russell's dispatch to Cowley proves Queen Victoria, was willing to ultimately see the Confederacy emerge as a recognised, sovereign nation. While the British Monarch no longer possessed the right to command governmental policy, at the same time, she did possess considerable influence. While Victoria was evidently just as willing to see the Union prevail by Confederate surrender, her openness to Confederate independence is shocking. Given the Queen's anti-slavery sentiments and racially progressive views, the best explanation that can be surmised of this was of her being convinced that American slavery was destined to end, no matter which side prevailed in the conflict. The Confederate Emancipation Treaty of 1862 was clearly imperfect, yet it ought not be dismissed (nor was this the last Confederate offer to emancipate in exchange for recognition and intervention.)⁸¹ These new revelations ought not to diminish the better-known aspects of the ending of American slavery, but adjoin them. ⁸² Queen Victoria's willingness to lend her support to political machinations from which she knew Confederate recognition could emerge showed she felt assured, no matter which side of Americans prevailed in the war. A foreign Monarch was privately bearing witness to a progressive light within the whole of the American people.

Endnotes

1 The life of Joseph Merrick, 'The Elephant Man', yields much insight about Britain's positioning to the CW/WBTS. The son of a cotton engine driver, around the time of his birth in 1862, the local press teemed with frequently with a pro-Confederate information. Leicester was as much a part of the great industrial textiles' area of the Midlands as the city of Manchester, which the following year, refused to handle Confederate cotton, earning the personal thanks of Abraham Lincoln. Refer to, Howell, Michael, Ford, Peter, *The Illustrated True History of The Elephant Man*, Allison & Busby, 1983, 66, 70-72; *Leicester Chronicle*, 4/11 October 1862 [UK]; *Guardian*, 2 February 2013, [UK] [Accessed 29 August 2024]; Noble, Daniel, M.A., M.D., *On Fluctuations in the Death Rate, with a Glance at the Causes: Having Especial Reference to the Supposed Influence of the Cotton Famine on Recent Mortality* – Read before the Manchester Statistical Society, October 26th, 1863, Manchester: Cave & Sever, Printers by Steam Power, Hunt's Bank, 1863; Hourani, F., *Manchester & Abraham Lincoln: A Side-Light on an Earlier Fight for Freedom*, Manchester: R. Aikman & Son, Shudehill Printers, 1900; "Reply to the Working Men of Manchester", as cited in, *Selections from the Writings of Abraham Lincoln*, Scott, Foresman & Company: Chicago – New York, 1922, 360-62, by J.G. De Roulhac Hamilton, (Ed.) Jane Ridley's, *Lord Palmerston*, Constable & Co., 1970, 717-78, presents highly useful information. I am also grateful for the research assistance of Audrey Kantowitz (Connecticut), and Emily -Jane Curtis (Florida), USA.

2 Russell would serve as British Prime Minister from 1846-52, and 1865-66. For an overview of Russell, refer to Reid, Stuart J., *Lord John Russell*, London: Sampson Low, Marston & Company, 1895, &, Walpole, Sir Spencer, *The Life of Lord John Russell*, Vols. I & II, London: Longman's, Green & Co., 1889. See pages 338-67 in Walpole's second volume, which focuses on the CW/WBTS.

3 Despatch Respecting the Civil War in North America – Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty, Earl Russell – Earl Cowley, Foreign Office, 13 November 1862, London: Printed by Harrison & Sons, 1863.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid. The report also makes mention of British and French concerns of a potential slave revolt. "...To these accompaniments of civil conflict is to be added the apprehension of a servile war, which would be the climax of so many irreparable misfortunes."

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid. Author's italics.

8 Ibid.

9 Lincoln made publicly clear in his published letter to Horace Greeley, "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union". *Evening Mail/Sheffield Daily Telegraph/Birmingham Daily Post/London Morning Herald/Bristol Daily Post/London Evening Standard/London Morning Post/Glasgow Herald/Leeds Mercury*, 8 September 1862 [UK]. To this avowed purpose, he wrote the Secretary of State, "I expect to maintain this contest until successful, or till I die, or am conquered, or my term expires, or Congress or the country forsakes me." Lincoln – William H. Seward, 28 June 1862, as cited in, Basler, Roy P., et al, (Eds.), *CW*, Vol. V, New Brunswick: New Jersey, Rutgers University Press, 1953, 291-92. For his part, Davis rendered clearly the Confederate resolve in his Second Inaugural Address in February of 1862, "...when we entered upon this war... it...[exposed] our people to sacrifices and cost them much, both of money and blood. But we knew the value of the object for which we struggled, and understood the nature of the war in which we were engaged. Nothing could be so bad as failure, and any sacrifice would be cheap as the price of success in such a contest." He would communicate to the Confederate Congress in August of that year, "...our country is involved in a desolating war...give assurance to the friends of constitutional liberty of our final triumph in the pending struggle against despotic usurpation." See, Rowland, Dunbar, Jefferson Davis, *Constitutionalist: His Letters, Papers & Speeches*, Vol. V, Jackson, Mississippi: Printed for the Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History, 1923, 201, 320-21.

10 Even setting aside any prima facie reading of his infamous, 'Cornerstone Speech', on 21 March 1861, the views which Confederate Vice-President, Alexander Stephens articulated during these times revealed a fixation of racism and inseparability of slavery in the South. Stephens would pen, "We at the South do think African slavery, as it exists with us, both morally and politically right. This opinion is founded upon the inferiority of the black race." Alexander Stephens – Abraham Lincoln, 30 December 1860, as cited in, *Life of Alexander H. Stephens*, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1878, 372, by Richard Malcolm Johnston & William Hand Brown. At the Virginia Secession Convention on 23 April 1861, Stephens attended and repeated the contents of his Cornerstone Speech. "One good and wise feature in our new or revised Constitution is...we have put to rest the vexed question of slavery forever, so far as the Confederate legislative halls are concerned. On this subject, from which sprung the immediate cause of our late troubles and threatened dangers...As a race, the African is inferior to the white man. Subordination to the white man is his normal condition. He is not his equal by nature, and cannot be made so by human laws or human institutions. Our system, therefore, so far as regards this inferior race, rests upon this great immutable law of nature...The great truth, I repeat, upon which our system rests, is the inferiority of the African. The enemies of our institutions ignore this truth. They set out with the assumption that the races are equal; that the negro is equal to the white man." *Richmond Enquirer*, 5 November 1861 [Virginia]; Cleveland, Henry, Alexander H. Stephens in *Public & Private – With Letters & Speeches Before, During & Since the War*, National Publishing Company, 1866, 729-45.

11 McPherson, James M., *Tried By War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander In Chief*, New York: The Penguin Press, 2008, 159-60; *Battle Cry of Freedom: The American Civil War*, 1988, 557-58, 567; *This Mighty Scourge of War: Perspectives on The Civil War*, Oxford University Press, 2007, 74-75, 168-59; Richard Cobden – Charles Sumner, 13 February 1863, as cited in, Morley, John, *The Life of Richard Cobden*, Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1881, 583-84. Morley's biography contains many insights from Britain about America and the conflict.

12 Gallagher, Gary W., Engle, Stephen D., *The American Civil War*, 1861-1863, Osprey Publishing Ltd., 2006, 46, 89-90. Gallagher writes that following in the wake of President Lincoln's announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation, only definitive military victories by the Confederacy could have prompted British recognition.

13 *The American War & Slavery – Speech of the Hon. George Brown, At the Anniversary Meeting of the Anti-Slavery Society of Canada*, held at Toronto, On Wednesday, 3 February 1863; Messamore, Barbara J., 1847 - 1878, *Canada's Governors General: Biography & Constitutional Evolution*, University of Toronto Press, 2006, 112-14; Waite, P.B., *The Life & Times of Confederation, 1864-1867: Politics, Newspapers & The Union of The British North America*, University of Toronto Press, 1962, 43-45, 48, 118-20, 125-29; Robin W., *Canada & The United States: The Civil War Years*, Baltimore: The John Hopkins Press, 1960, 242; Gwyn, Richard, John A. – *The Man Who Made Us: The Life & Times of John A. Macdonald*, Vol. I: 1815-67, Random House Canada, 2007, 244, 287-93. See also, *The Life & Speeches of Hon. George Brown*, Toronto: The Globe Printing Company, 1882, by his biographer, Alexander Mackenzie.

14 The American War & Slavery – Speech of Brown, 3 February 1863.

15 Spectator, 11 October 1862 [UK]. This same copy wrote extensively of the comments of William Gladstone (future-British Prime Minister), about Jefferson Davis having made the Confederacy into “a nation”, on 7 October 1862 in Newcastle, England. The Spectator evidently agreed, “Ever since the defeat before Richmond, the recognition of the Confederate States has been but a question of time...”

16 Punch, 18 October 1862 [UK]. On page opposite of this famous political cartoon is a poem titled, ‘Abe’s Last Card’, a section of which reads, ‘From the Slaves of Southern rebels, Thus I strike the chain: But the slaves of loyal owners, Still shall slaves remain. If their owners like to wop ‘em, They to wop are masters; Or if they prefer to swop ‘em, Here are our shin-plasters!’ The last being a reference of Lincoln’s proposed scheme in July of 1862 for the Union government purchasing all slaves within the Border States and manumitting them. Interestingly, the notion of the ‘last card having been played’, was articulated by Lord Monck, the Governor General of Canada, in reference to his having persuaded George Brown to work cooperatively towards constitutional change in the colony and towards Confederation. Lord Monck – Sir John A. MacDonald, 21 June 1866, as cited in Pope, Joseph, *Memoirs of The Right Honourable Sir John Alexander MacDonald G.C.B., First Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada*, Vol. I, London: Edward Arnold – Publisher to the India Office, 1894, 299-300. See also Messamore, *Canada’s Governors General*, 112.

17 Baxter III, James P., “The British Government & Neutral Rights”, *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 34, No. 1, October 1928, 9-29, & “Papers Relating to Belligerent & Neutral Rights, 1861-65”, *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 34, No. 1, October 1928, 77-91; The Russian Navy Visits the United States, Naval Historical Foundation Publication, Series 2, No. 12, 1969.

18 Jones, Howard, *Blue & Gray Diplomacy: A History of Union & Confederate Foreign Relations*, University of North Carolina Press, 2010, 207-51.

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22 Morris, “The Danish German War of 1864”; Strachey, Lytton, *Queen Victoria*, London: Chatto & Windus, 1955 ed., 185-89; Schlesinger, Jayme R., Levy, Jack S., “Politics, audience costs, and signalling: Britain & The 1863-64 Schleswig-Holstein Crisis”, *European Journal of International Security*, No. 6, 2021, 338-57; Brems, Hans, “The Collapse of The Bilingual Danish Monarchy in 1864: A Multinational Perspective”, *Scandinavian Studies*, Vol. 51, No. 4, Henrik Ibsen Issue, Autumn 1979, 428-41; Sandiford, Keith A.P., “The British Cabinet & The Schleswig-Holstein Crisis, 1863-64”, *History*, Vol. 58, No. 194, 1973, 360-83; Mosse, W.E., “Queen Victoria & Her Ministers in The Schleswig-Holstein Crisis, 1863-64”, *The English Historical Review*, Vol. 78, No. 307, April 1963, 263-83; Melbourne Argus, 14 November 1903 [colony of Victoria, Australia]; Spectator, 23 March 2024 [UK]. For an idea of Victoria’s standing interest in the Schleswig-Holstein matter, refer to Victoria – Earl of Malmesbury, 1 May 1858/Victoria – Lord John Russell, 27 May 1861/Palmerston – Victoria, 14 August 1861, as cited in, Benson, Arthur Christopher, Esher, Viscount, (Eds.), *The Letters of Queen Victoria: A Selection of Her Majesty’s Correspondence*, Vol. III, 1854-61, London: John Murray, Albemarle St. W., 1908, 356/fn 1, 561, 572-76. Refer to the letters dated 30th of March and 6th of April, 1866, about Victoria’s plea for military intervention on Austria’s behalf refused by the British government in, Maxwell, Sir Robert, *The Life & Letters of George William Frederick – Fourth Earl of Clarendon*, Vol. II, London: Edward Arnold, 1913, 310-11. For an overview of the Schleswig-Holstein matter, refer to, UK Hansard – Lord’s Chamber, Vol. 170, 15 May 1863, Column 1739-65, & *Schleswig-Holstein*, London: Printed by H.M. Stationery Office, 1920.

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75 See, Article I, S. 9(1)(2); Article IV, S. 2(1)(3), S. 3(3).

76 Jones, *Blue & Gray Diplomacy*, 221-24.

77 This was the basis of the offer of Confederate emancipation of the Duncan F. Kenner Mission, in early 1865. For more information on the Duncan F. Kenner Mission, refer to Bauer, Craig A., *A Leader Among Peers: The Life & Times of Duncan Farrar Kenner*, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1993, & "The Last Effort: The Secret Mission of Confederate Diplomat, Duncan F. Kenner", *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*, Vol. 22, No. 1, Winter 1981, 67-95; Henry, William Wirt, "Kenner's Mission to Europe", *The William & Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 1, July 1916, 9-12.

78 Beare, Cornelia (Ed.), *Selections from the Writings & Addresses of Abraham Lincoln*, New York: Charles E. Merrill Co., 1910, 91.

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80 Sparkes, *Lincoln Series*, Vol. I, *Lincoln – Douglas Debates*, 104-5, 230; Beare, *Selections - Writings & Addresses of Abraham Lincoln*, 71-90; Gerhardt, Michael J., *Lincoln's Mentors: The Education of a Leader*, Boston - New York, Mariner Books, 2021, 186-87; Goodwin, Doris Kearns, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, Simon & Schuster, 2005, 163-69; In 1855, Lincoln would scribe, "...there is no peaceful extinction of slavery in prospect for us...May God, in his mercy, superintend the solution." Donald, David Herbert, *Lincoln*, Touchstone Books – Simon & Schuster, 1995, 187-88; Basler, (Eds.), *CW*, Vol. II, 318.

81 For information on the Duncan F. Kenner Mission in January of 1865, see all reports cited within James D. Richardson's, *A Compilation of the Messages & Papers of The Confederacy – Including The Diplomatic Correspondence, 1861-1865*, Vol. II, Nashville: United States Publishing Company, 1906, 694-718.

82 Lincoln's anti-slavery stance is beyond dispute. "I am naturally anti-slavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. I cannot remember when I did not so think and feel...we of the North, as well as you of the South, shall pay fairly for our complicity in that wrong..." Lincoln – A.G. Hodges, 4 April 1864, as cited in, Rhys, Ernest, (Ed.), *Speeches & Letters*

of Abraham Lincoln, 1832-65, London: J.M. Dent & Co. - New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., 1907, 217-19. On 19 October 1864, Lincoln would state on Maryland's abolishment of slavery, "...the extirpation of slavery constitutes the chief merit of the new constitution [of Maryland]. Most heartily do I congratulate...Maryland, and the nation and the world, upon this event. I regret that it did not occur two years sooner, which, I am sure, would have saved the nation more money than would have met all the private loss incident to the measure; but it has come at last, and I sincerely hope its friends may fully realise all their anticipations of good from it, and that its opponents may by its effects be agreeably and profitably disappointed." Refer to Chittenden, L.E., *Abraham Lincoln's Speeches*, New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1895, 347.

Battle of Wilson's Creek

Overview

The Battle of Wilson's Creek, also known as the Battle of Oak Hills, occurred about 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri. It was a pivotal early engagement in the Trans-Mississippi Theater of the American Civil War, involving roughly 5,400 Union troops under Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon and over 12,000 Confederate and Missouri State Guard forces commanded by Major General Sterling Price and Brigadier General Benjamin McCulloch. The battle was fought in the rolling hills and oak groves along Wilson Creek, with the final stage centered on a ridge later called "Bloody Hill".

Missouri was a politically divided border state. Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson, sympathetic to the Confederacy, attempted to use the Missouri State Guard to seize federal arsenals, prompting Union forces under Lyon to act decisively. After capturing Camp Jackson near St. Louis and driving secessionist forces southwest, Lyon consolidated his army at Springfield, preparing to confront Price and McCulloch, who had joined forces with Arkansas troops. Both sides planned surprise attacks, but rain delayed the Confederate assault, giving Lyon a chance to strike first.

The Battle

On the morning of August 10, Lyon split his forces: he led a frontal attack while Colonel Franz Sigel commanded a flanking maneuver with 1,200 men. Initially, Union forces drove Confederate cavalry back and occupied the crest of Bloody Hill. However, Confederate forces regrouped and counterattacked three times. Sigel's column was eventually routed, and Lyon was killed while rallying his troops, becoming the first Union general to die in the Civil War. Major Samuel Sturgis assumed command and, facing exhausted troops and low ammunition, ordered a retreat to Springfield. Despite the Confederate victory, disorganization prevented them from pursuing the Union forces.

Union casualties numbered approximately 1,317, including 285 killed, 873 wounded, and 186 missing. Confederate and Missouri State Guard losses were around 1,222, with 277 killed and 945 wounded. The battle gave the Confederates temporary control of southwestern Missouri and bolstered secessionist morale, but Missouri ultimately remained in Union hands. The engagement also allowed Price to lead the Missouri State Guard north in subsequent campaigns, including the Siege of Lexington.

Wilson's Creek was the first major Civil War battle west of the Mississippi and highlighted the strategic importance of Missouri. It demonstrated the intensity of early war fighting, the role of ethnic German troops in Union ranks, and the challenges of coordinating Confederate and state forces. Lyon's death made him a Union martyr, and the battle set the stage for continued guerrilla warfare and military campaigns in Missouri throughout the war.



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Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

LT. GENERAL STEPHEN DILL LEE, COMMANDER GENERAL,
UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, APRIL 25, 1906.