



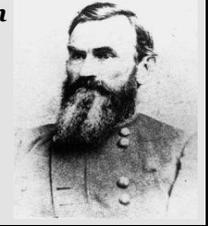
Claude Stillman, Commander Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

The Delta General

November, 2010

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Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, MS Division, SCV



CAMP NEWS: EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Nov. 13, 2010** - Combined Boards of Beauvoir meeting to be held at Beauvoir. The meeting is open to Division members but seating is limited.
- **Nov. 13-14, 2010**—Wirt Adams' Raid into Natchez Civil War Reenactment to be held at Historic Jefferson College in Washington, Mississippi
- **November 11-14, 2010 – Twin Rivers Campaign – Michigan City, MS:** This will be a reenactment of the battles to take Fort Donelson
- **November 18, 2010** – Regular Camp Meeting Night
- **Feb. 12, 2011** - Reenactment of Jefferson Davis Leaving Vicksburg to go to Montgomery, AL to become President of the Confederacy—Time and contact info is TBA
- **Feb. 19, 2011**— A parade up Dexter Avenue to the Alabama State Capitol Building, a reenactment of the swearing in of President Jefferson Davis and a selection of speakers at the Capitol Building.
- **Feb. 25-27, 2011**— Archusa Creek Park in Quitman, MS, will host a reenactment with battles on Saturday and Sunday. There will be memorial services at the Quitman Cemetery on Saturday and at the Clarke County Courthouse on Sunday. Reenactors and living history participants are needed. Contact Dennis Avera at 601-776-5052 or aaronavera@yahoo.com for more information.

THE PASSING OF A MEMBER

On November 1, 2010, Edwin Ray Haley re-joined the B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp # 1625, Sons of Confederate Veterans. On Wednesday, November 3, 2010, Edwin "Crossed Over the River" to be with his Ancestors "under the shade of the trees". Regrettable, Edwin's time with us was short but any time spent in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is worthy of remembrance. Please keep the Haley Family in your thoughts and prayers.

Dan A. McCaskill, Adjutant
B/G Benjamin G. Humphreys # 1625
Indianola, MS

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

George Raymond Brumfield - Ancestor: William Alexander Corkern, Pvt; Co, B, Miles' Legion, LA Inf.
John Hamilton Favara - Ancestor: Chesley Duncan Odom, Pvt; Barnes' Co., MS Home Guards
Welcome Compatriots to our family!!

Secession Revisited

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of Mississippi's secession.
Friday, January 7, 2011 from 10 a.m. to noon
House of Representatives Chamber Old Capitol Museum
On State Street at Capitol

Featuring talks by historians **George Rable** & **Timothy Smith** and a reenactment of a speech from the secession convention.
For more information, call 601-576-6920.
Or www.oldcapitolmuseum.com



FROM THE EDITOR: GETTING YOUR CAMP NEWSLETTER, CONFEDERATE VETERAN, AND STATE NEWSLETTER?

If your not, maybe you need to let us know of a change in address or e-mail. We cannot get the news out to you without your helping in keeping us informed about your whereabouts.

The Confederate Veteran magazine is mailed at Non Profit bulk mail rates and the US Postal Service will not forward them if you have a change of address. Please report address changes as soon as soon as possible to the Camp Adjutant who will inform GHQ. If you have any question about GHQ having your correct information, you can check it by entering your SCV ID number and your last name in the box at the following link: <http://www.scv.org/checkData.php> . If a correction needs to be made, you will see a form for that purpose, which will notify Elm Springs to update their records. Don't miss out on articles about coming events or happenings around the Confederation as we approach the Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence.

CAMP NEWS:

CAMP ADJUTANT'S REPORT: DAN McCASKILL

Commander Claude "Junior" Stillman called the Meeting to order around 7:00 pm. Junior asked Camp Chaplain Earl McCown to open the Meeting with a word of prayer and to bless the food brought by the ladies of the OCR. Color Sergeant Joe Nokes led us in the Pledges and Salutes to the Flags. Commander Stillman welcomed everyone to the Camp Meeting.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Gator Stillman reported he was working on next month's program. If any member had a suggestion for a program, Gator asked to please pass it to him. 2nd Lt. Commander Ronnie Stewart was absent. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that membership renewals stood at 44 out of 48 members. He reported that the Camp had also picked up 5 past members bringing current membership to 49. With less than 2 weeks remaining, he was hopeful of getting the remainder members to renew. Also, the Camp received applications for two new members this evening. The new members are George Brumfield of Cleveland and John Favara of Greenwood. This brings the membership to 51 members. Financially, the Camp is still on budget. The Camp's CD matured and was rolled into another 7-month CD. We earned \$ 29.56 in interest. Camp Editor Larry McCluney reported that the Camp is only sending out 11 hard copies of the

Delta General. The rest go out by email. Larry asked if there are any changes in email or snail mail addresses to please let him and the Adjutant know of the changes. As AOT Councilman, Larry emphasized that the Camps need to police their prospective members for any type of misconduct. Larry also announced there is a new recruiting website at "1800mysouth.com" maintained by the National organization. Also, for men interested in our Confederate Heritage but who do not have a Confederate Ancestor, Friends of Confederate Veterans has been created by the GEC.

Camp Business: 1st Brigade Councilman Dan McCaskill brought to the attention of the Commander that at least one Camp member was needed to serve on the "Raid on Holly Springs Sesquicentennial Committee". The following members volunteered: Joe Nokes, Junior Stillman, Earl McCown and Gator Stillman.

Larry presented name and qualifications of the nominee for JROTC Hunley Medal for consideration of the Camp. After a brief discussion Joe Nokes made a motion for the Camp to accept the nominee. Gator Stillman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The medal and certificate will be presented on Veterans Day, November 11th.

It was decided by the Camp members

present to make the 2011 Lee-Jackson Banquet another "Pot Luck Supper" at the Fellowship Hall. The date of the Banquet will be Saturday, January 22, 2011.

Author Brandon Beck was placed before the Camp as the guest speaker. Larry McCluney made a motion that the 1st Lt. Commander makes contact with Mr. Beck. Joe Nokes seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Program: The program for the evening was a "First Person" account of the last days of a band of 300 Confederate soldiers led by their general presented by Earl McCown. As the story was told, you felt like you were actually with these men in the last days of the War. When all was said, Earl told us the General was his Ancestor John Porter McCown and the Colonel was his Great Grandfather. Earl said at another time, he would tell of their trek back home.

With no other business coming before the Camp, Junior asked Earl to dismiss the Meeting with a word of prayer. Junior thanked the ladies of the Order of Confederate Rose for the wonderful food. Attendance for the Meeting was 16.

Submitted by,
Dan A. McCaskill, Adj.

OCR NEWS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: SANDRA STILLMAN

For those members who are not aware, OCR dues were due at the end of September. If you have not renewed you are now delinquent and late fees are now being assessed. Lets make all effort to renew our membership as we prepare for the Sesquicentennial that is around the corner starting December 20, 2010.

FORMER CAMP MEMBER AND PAST ELLA PALMER CHAPTER PRESIDENT ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF THEIR

Lucy Skye McCaskill
Born: November 1, 2010
Time: 4:55 pm
Weight: 9 lbs 2 oz.
Length: 19 ¾ inches
Parents: Miranda & Andrew McCaskill
Grandparents: Ann & Dan McCaskill
Carole Ray and the late George W. Ray
Great Grandparents:
Jeannette McCaskill and the late Oliver McCaskill
George Stone



Both mother, father, and Lucy are doing fine!

MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY, MOS&B CONVENTION IS A SUCCESS



Recently, Gen. Clark Chapter, MOS&B members attended the Mississippi Society, MOS&B State Convention to elect new state officers. Dr. Chris Cummings (second from left) was chosen commander and our own Alan Palmer was chosen as State Adjutant. Others from the Camp that attended was Earl McCown, Past State MOS&B Commander.

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION, SCV NEWS:
REPORT FROM MISSISSIPPI DIVISION LT. COMMANDER

Gentlemen of the Mississippi Division,

As many of you have heard our original plans to host an event at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson on Jan 8th to celebrate our secession fell through. We are however planing a large event to be held February 12 at the Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg to kick off our remembrance's over the next four years. I was privileged to attend the state UDC convention held in Hattisburg recently and spoke with them regarding our problems holding the event we had planned in early January and was connected with the UDC's head of their 150th Anniversery Council. We have been asked to join with them and the Children of the Confederacy and hold a joint celebration in Jackson on January 28th, 2011 starting at 6:30pm to remember Mississippi's secession. I think it be both fitting an honorable to have all three organizations come together for such a special event, the SCV, UDC, and the Children of the Confederacy. This is mainly their event but we have been asked to help and in turn they will support our Vicksburg event. They have asked us for some men to serve as "wine stewards" and I'm sure some of you wouldnt mind volunteering for such a task !!! I am going to copy part of their letter to me below with an email address for you to RSVP if you intend on being there. More details will be forthcoming as I recieve them.

Friday, January 28, 2011...Jackson, Mississippi...6:30 PM...Grady Howell speaking on secession...sponsored by Mississippi Division UDC and it's 150th Anniversery Council...reception following. We do ask that anyone attending, please let us know so we can plan accordingly...an e-mail indicating number in family attending to msudc150@gmail.com would be most appreciated.

Thank you and as always God Bless the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans!
Alan Palmer, Lt. Commander MS Div SCV

BEAUVOIR REPORT

Beauvoir receives distinguished visitor!

U.S. Senator Roger Wicker attended our 24th Annual Fall Muster Event! He was given a tour of the House and Grounds by Acting Director and Chairman of Combined Boards Richard V. Forte! Senator Wicker also toured the re-enactment area, visited with re-enactment groups, and was treated to a artillery lesson, firing a cannon!

Beauvoir's 24th Annual Fall Muster our most successful to date!

The October 16-17th 2010 weekend event looks to be our largest ever. A huge turnout of both participants and spectators made for a truly great event. Early figures show an increase over last year, which had been the largest in it's history. Food, live period music, a great array of sutlers and vendors meant a great time for an estimated crowd of +3500 interested and enthusiastic spectators! Don't forget, next year, 2011, will be our 25th Year!

Bids are in for the restoration of the United Daughters of the Confederacy Memorial Arch!

The low bid is \$163,800.00, from Arcon General Contractors of Clinton, Mississippi. They will complete the job in 154 work days. Columbus Marble Works will supply the marble, as they did for the original Arch. The original bronze medallion of President Davis and original wrought iron gates are included in the new Arch. The new Arch will be placed in Beauvoir's Confederate Cemetery.

KEEP COMPATRIOT AND HIS FAMILY IN YOUR PRAYERS DURING THIS HOUR OF NEED

It is my sad duty to have to report that Compatriot Louis Foley Jr. age 27 passed away on Thursday November 4, in Louisiana.

He is the son of 4th Brigade Commander Louis Foley Sr. Please keep Louis, Steph and family in your thoughts and prayers.

You can contact Louis or Stephanie Foley at; lpfoley@hughes.net or diximagnolia@hughes.net

Bill Hinson
MS. Div. Communications Officer



Jefferson Davis Presidential Museum and Library Update

Two thirds of the second floor of the new Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum have been poured, and we hope progress will keep in step with the weather!

A note on the BP Oil Spill

The BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico has hurt all tourism on the Gulf Coast. Beauvoir is down 25% in sales and attendance. Please keep us in your hearts and prayers as we work through this tough time-THANK YOU!!!!

the Combined Boards of Beauvoir has announced that the next meeting of the Boards will be on **No-venber 13, 2010** at Beauvoir. The meetings are open to mem-bers of the Division but seating capacity is limited. Other upcom-ing meetings will be on Feb. 12, 2011 and April 23, 2011.

The Gift Shop keeps adding great items for everyone. Stay tuned, more good news to come!

Rick Forte Sr.
Chairman of the Combined Boards and Acting Director

ARIZONA COMPATRIOTS NEED OUR HELP

Gentlemen,

I just reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the highway project which will likely affect the Jefferson Davis Monument on U.S. Highway 60, and found it disturbing. They had a section in it for impacts on "Cultural Resources," where it listed things like historical sites and monuments, and the Jefferson Davis monument wasn't even listed as a site which might be affected by this. Indeed, I searched the entire document for the terms "Jefferson Davis," "Marker," "Monument," "Confederate," or "Confederacy," and other than a reference to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, none of those terms came up. This indicates to me that ADOT's Environmental Planning Group somehow missed the fact that the monument is there (unlikely) or that they did not consider it worthy of preservation and may be quietly planning to make it disappear. The monument definitely will be affected by the project, since it is impossible to widen the highway where the monument is located and NOT move the monument.

Unfortunately, I am not sure I will be able to attend this hearing due to schedule conflicts. Hopefully someone else will be able to do so (Mike Agnew, maybe, or someone else from Camp 1708?). However, whether or not anyone is able to attend the meeting, I would like to suggest this course of action. On the notice for the hearing it states that they are also taking written comments as well up through December 15, 2010. I suggest we engage in a vigorous letter-writing campaign over the next month-and-a-half to let them know there is a concerned group out there who is watching that monument and is very concerned that it not disappear into some warehouse after the highway is widened. Official letters from every Camp Commander, as well as from the Division Commander and Division Heritage Officer, would be mandatory, and if we can get the UDC Chapters (and other organizations if possible...possibly the SUVCV and others) to send in letters, that would be great as well. We also need to get as many of our members as possible to write in as private citizens. If we can make it look like we are a fairly significant interest group (on something like this, even a block of a hundred letters coming in would most likely be

enough to catch somebody's attention, because each letter will be assumed to represent many others who did not take the time to write in), we can possibly exercise some influence over what is going to happen to the monument. Contact information is as follows...

ADOT U.S. 60 OUTREACH TEAM
 4545 E. Shea Blvd, Suite 210
 Phoenix, AZ 85028
 Email: marsha@kdacreative.com

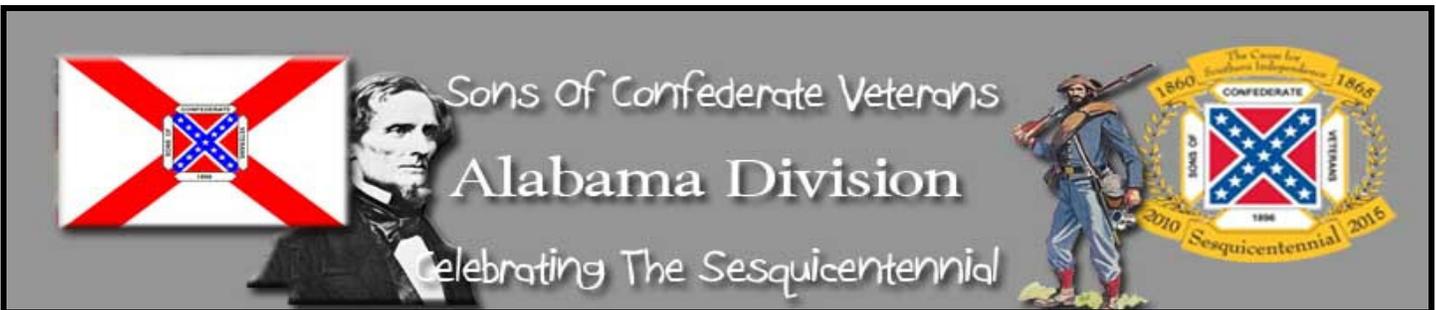
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING GROUP
 1611 West Jackson Street, Mail Drop EM02
 Phoenix, AZ 85007

Also, here are email addresses for the members of the Historic Preservation Team of the Environmental Planning Group.
 James "Matt" Mallery: jmallery@azdot.gov
 David Zimmerman: dzimmerman@azdot.gov
 Nina Swidler: nswidler@azdot.gov
 Melissa Reuter: mreuter@azdot.gov
 Linda Davis: ldavis2@azdot.gov
 John Lindly: jlindly@azdot.gov

I would strongly suggest sending in old fashioned snail-mail letters to the two addresses shown above in preference to emails. But emails have their place too, and Curt, if you can put this on the SCV Dispatch and forward this out over our Division grapevine, that would be great.

This is the time to let your voices be heard. Please take a few moments, put pen to paper, and let these people know (politely, but firmly) that the Jefferson Davis Monument is important and needs to be preserved.

Confederately,
 Robert Perkins, Commander
 Col. Sherod Hunter Camp 1525
 Sons of Confederate Veterans



Sat. - February 19, 2011 - Montgomery, AL

It is time to mark your calendar for the SCV Sesquicentennial Event to be held in Montgomery, AL on Saturday February 19, 2011. This event will feature a parade up Dexter Avenue to the Alabama State Capitol Building, a reenactment of the swearing in of President Jefferson Davis and a selection of speakers at the Capitol Building. Just like was done for the Flag Rally in 2000 in Columbia, South Carolina and for the Hunley Funeral in Charleston in 2004 - it is IMPERATIVE that this event be well attended. We must show the world that we will not permit the History and Heritage of the Confederacy to be forgotten and unobserved during the Sesquicentennial.

It is up to us to see that this history is remembered and portrayed in the right way so start planning your visit to Montgomery - organize vans and buses - so we can show the world we remember our Confederate Heroes. Activities to include-

- Heritage March up Dexter Ave to the Capitol
- Speeches from leaders of descendant organizations
- Remarks from prominent officials
- Re-enactment of the swearing in of Jefferson Davis
- Re-enactment of the raising of the first Confederate Flag
- Firing of Rifle and Cannon salutes and more

Editor's Note:

Political correctness, we all know how public schools have been bombarded with new weapon of liberalism. As a teacher, I constantly deal with this and have to find new avenues within the system to fight this and teach the truth. Recently, Virginia textbooks came under attack because they mention the role of Black Confederates in Virginia. This article is dedicated to those Black Compatriots from Virginia that wore the gray to defend their homes.



One tragedy of war is that its victors write its history and often do so with bias and dishonesty. That's true about our War of 1861, erroneously called a civil war. Civil wars, by the way, are when two or more parties attempt to take over the central government. Jefferson Davis no more wanted to take over Washington, D.C., than George Washington, in 1776, wanted to take over London. Both wars were wars of independence.

Kevin Sieff, staff writer for The Washington Post, penned an article "Virginia 4th-grade textbook criticized over claims on black Confederate soldiers," (Oct. 20, 2010). The textbook says that blacks fought on the side of the Confederacy. Sieff claims that "Scholars are nearly unanimous in calling these accounts of black Confederate soldiers a misrepresentation of history." William & Mary historian Carol Sheriff said, "It is disconcerting that the next generation is being taught history based on an unfounded claim instead of accepted scholarship." Let's examine that accepted scholarship.

In April 1861, a Petersburg, Va., newspaper proposed "three cheers for the patriotic free Negroes of Lynchburg" after 70 blacks offered "to act in whatever capacity may be assigned to them" in defense of Virginia. Ex-slave Frederick Douglass observed, "There are at the present moment, many colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants and laborers, but as real soldiers, having muskets on their shoulders and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down ... and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government."

Charles H. Wesley, a distinguished black historian who lived from 1891 to 1987, wrote "The Employment of Negroes as Soldiers in the Confederate Army," in the Journal of Negro History (1919). He says, "Seventy free blacks enlisted in the Confederate Army in Lynchburg, Virginia. Sixteen companies (1,600) of free men of color marched through Augusta, Georgia on their way to fight in Virginia."

Wesley cites Horace Greeley's "American Conflict" (1866) saying, "For more than two years, Negroes had been extensively employed in belligerent operations by the Confederacy. They had been embodied and drilled as rebel soldiers and had paraded with white troops at a time when this would not have been tolerated in the armies of the Union."

Wesley goes on to say, "An observer in Charleston at the outbreak of the war noted the preparation for war, and called particular attention to the thousand Negroes who, so far from inclining to insurrections, were grinning from ear to ear at the prospect of shooting the Yankees."

One would have to be stupid to think that blacks were fighting in order to preserve slavery. What's untaught in most history classes is that it is relatively recent that we Americans think of ourselves as citizens of United States. For most of our history, we thought of ourselves as citizens of Virginia, citizens of New York and citizens of whatever state in which we resided. Wesley says, "To the majority of the Negroes, as to all the South, the invading armies of the Union seemed to be ruthlessly attacking independent States, invading the beloved homeland and trampling upon all that these men held dear." Blacks have fought in all of our wars both before and after slavery, in hopes of better treatment afterwards.

Denying the role, and thereby cheapening the memory, of the Confederacy's slaves and freemen who fought in a failed war of independence is part of the agenda to cover up Abraham Lincoln's unconstitutional acts to prevent Southern secession. Did states have a right to secede? At the 1787 Constitutional Convention, James Madison rejected a proposal that would allow the federal government to suppress a seceding state. He said, "A Union of the States containing such an ingredient seemed to provide for its own destruction. The use of force against a State would look more like a declaration of war than an infliction of punishment and would probably be considered by the party attacked as a dissolution of all previous compacts by which it might be bound."

Dr. Williams serves on the faculty of George Mason University as John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics and is the author of More Liberty

**KNOW YOUR ENEMY –
WHAT OUR DETRACTORS SAY
ABOUT THE SCV – From the Caladonia
Rifles Newsletter**

"The term neo-Confederacy is used to describe twentieth and twenty-first century revivals of pro-Confederate sentiment in the United States. Strongly nativist and advocating measures to end immigration, neo-Confederacy claims to pursue Christianity and heritage and other supposedly fundamental values that modern Americans are seen to have abandoned. Neo-Confederacy also incorporates advocacy of traditional gender roles, is hostile towards democracy (?), strongly opposes homosexuality, and exhibits an understanding of race that favors segregation and suggests white supremacy. In many cases, neo-Confederates are openly secessionist."

"Neo-Confederacy has applied to groups including the **United Daughters of the Confederacy** of the 1920s and those resisting racial integration in the 1950s and 1960s. In its most recent iteration, neo-Confederacy is used by both proponents and critics to describe a belief system that has emerged since the early-1980s in publications like *Southern Partisan*, *Chronicles*, and *Southern Mercury*, and in organizations including the League of the South, the Council of Conservative Citizens and the **Sons of Confederate Veterans**. Overall, it is a reactionary conservative ideology that has made inroads into the Republican Party from the political right, and overlaps with the views of white nationalists and other more radical extremist groups."

From: The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) web site. In case you didn't get that, SCV and UDC members are reactionary Christian homophobic racists, who wish to destroy democracy by their adherence to 'abandoned' concepts like tradition and heritage. I'll bet you didn't even realize you were such a danger to what's left of the Republic. And is there a 'Northern Poverty Law Center'? So much for equality...

CAUSES OF SECESSION: WHY THE SOUTH LEFT THE UNION

FROM ASSOCIATED CONTENT NEWS BY BRIAN TUBBS

Editor's Note:

When I first read this article I thought, hmmm someone is finally going to realize that we were right. Then you get to the writer's last point. This is what we will be facing in the next five years people. Educated people trying to convince everyone that we were wrong and they will be doing it in some of the nicest ways in an effort to make themselves less threatening, more wiser on the subject as authorities, and taking advantage of an uneducated America.

The American Civil War remains the bloodiest war in American history, costing more lives than any other conflict ever fought on North American soil.

When Confederate General Robert E. Lee sat down with Union General Ulysses S. Grant to surrender the legendary Army of Northern Virginia, the American Civil War was in its fourth year -- and had claimed the lives of over 600,000 Americans. This did not include the hundreds of thousands wounded (in many cases, in both body and soul) and the unprecedented devastation the war had brought to families, communities, and society overall.

Though the shooting has long since stopped, the controversy in many ways continues on. What caused the American Civil War? Could it have been prevented? What lessons should we as Americans today learn from it?

States' Rights vs. a Strong Central Government

The most significant dividing point between North and South, which led eventually to war, was the issue of states' rights. Obviously, the flashpoint of this disagreement centered around slavery, but North and South had sparred over this philosophy on other issues as well, including tariff policy. The South believed that the states were sovereign and were obliged to the U.S. government, only so long as they voluntarily consented to the U.S. Constitution. By contrast, the Unionists held that the states were subordinate to the U.S. Constitution and part of a perpetual Union.

The Civil War was fought over this fundamental difference, more so than the specific disagreement over slavery. Consider that Abraham Lincoln, in his 1861 Inaugural Address, made it abundantly clear he would not interfere with the "peculiar institution" of slavery in the South. No federal troops were sent into the South to liberate slaves - not in 1860 or 1861, when the southern states actually seceded.

It is true that the southern states bit-

terly protested the northern states for their refusal to return fugitive slaves, and were outraged at the Lincoln administration's policy of stopping the expansion of slavery.

What's more, these grievances were the very reasons cited to justify secession. But that's the point. They were cited to justify secession, not war. The Confederacy made no effort to invade the North to force it to comply with their wishes on slavery. Incoming President Abraham Lincoln set the stage for war by refusing to let the seceding states go in peace.

Of course, a very strong argument could be made that Lincoln was perfectly justified to act as he did, since the southern states were violating Article I, Section 10 of the US Constitution (not to mention the "supremacy clause" of Article VI) by withdrawing from the Union and forming their own nation. And two of his predecessors (George Washington and Andrew Jackson) had threatened or used military force to restrain or discourage local and/or regional unilateralism.

Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and Two Visions for America

North and South each entertained different visions for the United States. The South fully embraced Thomas Jefferson's class-based, agrarian "utopia," and strongly resisted Alexander Hamilton's desire to move the U.S. economy toward banking, commerce, and industry.

Early battles in this contest included the the National Bank, the assumption of state debts by the new federal government, foreign trade, neutrality toward Europe, and of course the admission of new states and territories. So committed, in fact, was the North to European trade, that New England Federalists conspired for their own secession during the War of 1812.

The outcome of these intense political and economic battles was the proliferation of trade and industry in the North, the deepening of slave-based agriculture in the South, and an uneasy slave state -- free state balance in the new territories and states. This made violent confrontation inevitable, as the peoples of the North and South grew further apart culturally, socially, and economically.

From an economic perspective, the South felt increasingly threatened by the North. The North had most of the industry, most of the jobs, and most of the people (thanks in large part to immigration). The North would then force through tariff policies that would compel southerners to buy from the North, rather than from overseas. This would take money from the South literally at the expense of the North. The only thing the South had was agriculture,

and it seemed (to them) that the North was striking at that as well with its anti-slavery policies.

Slavery

The most divisive issue leading up to civil war was, of course, slavery. Slavery had been a reality in virtually every nation or civilization since ancient times, but North American slavery was based on the European exploitation of African tribal warfare and slave practices. It had been customary for African tribes to wage war and take slaves (as part of war or negotiation) for centuries. The Europeans seized on this by purchasing some of these slaves from victorious African tribes. This horrific and evil abuse of African culture opened the Pandora's Box - and led to centuries of shame and suffering.

The first slave ships arrived in Jamestown in 1619, and African slaves quickly became the backbone of the New World's agricultural economy. The early North American economy, especially in the agrarian South, became as dependent on human bondage as we today are on oil.

Shortly after the American Revolution, all the northern states outlawed slavery and many abolitionist societies were founded throughout the nation. Among the early supporters of abolition were John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, and Benjamin Rush. Even slave-holding Founders like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and George Mason spoke out against slavery -- and took some (albeit modest) action against slavery. George Mason, for example, was one of the most vocal opponents of the slave trade.

But...Eli Whitney's cotton gin changed the course of the South. Once the cotton gin solidified the South as "King Cotton" and made slavery irresistibly profitable to the plantation elite, an eventual Civil War became inevitable. Before the cotton gin, very few southern politicians defended slavery on moral grounds. They just preferred to dodge the issue. After the cotton gin, the South began advancing arguments that the African race was destined for slavery by God.

The South Was Wrong

Modern-day defenders of the South go too far in asserting that the South was right. While some of the northern states were technically in violation of the fugitive slave clause, this hardly rose to the standard for revolution set by the Founders in the Declaration of Independence. If anyone's "unalienable rights" were being violated, it was those of the slave, and not the southern plantation owner.

Nevertheless, detractors of the South are too quick to issue blanket condemnations of the Civil War era southern people. Most people in that day did not step outside of their respective situation to objectively evaluate the issues like 21st century armchair quarterbacks can do. What most southern families were focused on were

the Union armies moving through their lands.

It's time for us to recognize that the South was wrong, but to also recognize that the southern people of that day paid dearly for being wrong. And, as Lincoln pointed out, the North paid a high price too. Why? Because the North was far from innocent in the nation's culpability with slavery.

Perhaps the best lesson or call to action that Americans today can take from the Civil War is found in the words of the Confederacy's leading hero. Following the surrender of his army, General Robert E. Lee said: "I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the reestablishment of peace and harmony."

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1860

The presidential campaign of 1860 was one of the most divisive in American history. The outcome of the election directly led to the secession of seven states and ultimately, the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln, the Republican candidate, only received a mere thirty-nine percent of the popular votes. Yet, the votes Lincoln received were enough to propel him to the presidency because of the split in the Democratic Party.

Slavery was a significant issue of the Election of 1860. The election revolved around federal policy regarding the status of slavery under the state and federal constitutions. The Northern states abolished slavery by the nineteenth century. Both Britain and America banned the slave trade. As Britain abolished slavery throughout its empire, a few northerners began to criticize the Southern slaveholders. By 1860, many northerners became annoyed at the South's insistence for slavery to be legal in the Western territories.(1) Many people in the North and West viewed slavery as an entity that needed to be defeated. The only way slavery could be defeated was to abolish it.(2)

The increased support the South received using black Republicanism for the pro-slavery movement showed that the Slave Power was gaining power. The threat of slavery expanding was a cause of the anti-slavery movement in the North.(3) The slave power is "that control in and over the government of the United States which is exercised by a comparatively small number of persons, distinguished from the other twenty millions of free citizens, and bound together in a common interest, by being owners of slaves."(4) The Slave Power was an aristocracy that believed slavery was not morally wrong but rather a right of the slaveholder. (5) Senator Collamer described southern society as:

The Southern States are an aggregate, in fact, of communities, not of individuals. Every plantation is a little community, with the master as its head, who concentrates in himself the united interest of capital and labor, of which he is the common representative. These small communities aggregated to make the State.(6)

Northerners believed there was a conspiracy amongst the Southern slaveholders to impose slavery upon the nation, destroy civil liberty, extend slavery into the territories, revive the slave trade, and control the policies of the Federal government.(7) Different from the Northerners, many Southerners viewed slaves as property of the slaveholder and believed slavery is legal and Constitutional. The slave system did not distribute power equally for slaveholders often controlled state legislatures, education, media, and economic policies.(8)

The Southern leaders felt that the South was not the aggressive one. Instead, they accused the North of violating the Southern rights. (9) They also charged the North with revolting, miscegenation, and social disorder. The accusations of the Northern conspiracy aligned Southerners point of views.(10) The North viewed the South as a Slave Power that imposed laws endangering the rights of free blacks. They accused the South of attempting to change the nation into one filled with slavery and destroying the Union.(11) Abolitionists also asserted that slavery was threatening the very existence of personal and civil liberty and the republican government itself.(12)

The contradicting views of the North and South on slavery only widened the sectional rift between them and left neutrality nearly impossible. The South was pro-slavery while the North and West were anti-slavery. The widening gap between anti-slavery and pro-slavery made it very difficult for anyone to remain neutral. In the North, abolitionists viewed neutrality or tolerance of slavery as hostile to the preservation of the free, democratic nation.(13) In the eyes of the Northerners, the South was no more a collection of pro-slavery states. Southerners actions were un-American for economic opportunities were not available to the majority of people. The North also criticized the South's strict social ladder.(14) A conflict was almost unavoidable and even the political parties struggled to take sides. There was much debate within political parties concerning which side to take, pro-slavery or anti-slavery. Each political party pursuing the presidency in 1860 had a unique policy towards slavery. By 1858, Northerners established a majority in the Republican Party. Their policies advocated for no further expansion of slavery.(15) Some radical Republicans favored the separation of the federal government from slavery. They wanted slavery outlawed in the territories and the District of Columbia. The radicals also wished for the federal government to forbid the entry of any more slave states into the Union. They wanted a stricter prevention of the overseas slave trade and the abolition of interstate slave trade.(16) Southern slaveholders could never tolerate the radical Republicans' policies.

The Northern Democrats, led by Stephen Douglas, were indifferent to the question of slavery. Yet they did warn of the dangerous consequences for Northerners to identify the North as a prospect of freedom and improvement for slaves. They also said that the way Republicans presented the North would encourage slaves to flee northwards, which would result in fewer jobs for whites. (17) Douglas also claimed that the Constitution did not carry slavery into the Territories and that the people of a territory had absolute power over slavery.18 Because of the Northern Democrats' policies and views towards slavery, many Northern states supported either the Republicans or the Northern Democrats.

The Southern Democrats, with Breckinridge as their candidate for president, believed slavery to be moral and deserved protection in the Territories from the Federal government.19 Vice President John Breckinridge gave his view on slavery through a response to the Douglas question.

We hold therefore, that neither Congress nor the Territorial Government can legally interfere with Slavery; that its recognition by the Federal Constitution secures its existence until the people of the Territory, in forming their State Constitution, shall decide

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finally upon it; that its protection is a question for the Judiciary, and the authority of the Judiciary shall be protected and maintained, wherever the necessity shall occur, by the whole power of the Federal Government—legislative and executive, as well as judicial. And since Slavery is so recognized by the Constitution, there is needed no express legislation by Congress for its protection, but all further agitation upon the subject is calculated only to engender sectional feeling, and weaken the cohesive power which holds us together as a confederate Republic.(20)

Breckinridge states that the Federal and territorial government have no right to control slavery. The people in a territory control the existence of slavery. He also claims that there is no need for protection of slavery because the Constitution already recognizes it. He also asserts that any attempt at containing slavery would be an attempt at dissolution of the Union.(21) Based on their pro-slavery policies, the Southern Democrats received the support of many Southern states.

The split in the Democratic Party was monumental in affecting the outcome of the Election of 1860. Had the Democratic Party remained united, the chances of capturing the presidency were high. They knew they needed only 152 of the 303 possible electoral votes. The Southern states, totaling 120 votes, would almost definitely cast their vote to the Democratic candidate. Oregon and California, both with Democratic supporters, yielded seven more electoral votes. The Democrats might even carry the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, or Illinois. Yet they could only win the electoral votes of these states if their platform did not include a slave code policy. A slave code plank would result in the loss of almost every Northern state's votes and leave them with no chance at the presidency.(22)

The Democrats could only win the election of 1860 united and aligned on viewpoints. Unfortunately, there was much tension in the party as people from Illinois and Michigan called Jefferson Davis a fire-eating fanatic. Meanwhile, people from Alabama referred to Douglas as a "traitor only less vicious than Seward." Illinois' leaders such as John A. Logan, John A. McClernand, and William A. Richardson often communicated with Douglas supporters. As Caleb Cushing worked alongside with Davis and other prominent Southern leaders, he began to lose his desire of preserving the Union at all costs. Instead, Cushing believed that if the Federal government did not fulfill the Southern states demands on slavery, they were obligated

to form a separate republic.(23) The Southern delegates had many diverse opinions on issues of slavery, making it difficult for the Democrats to choose a single candidate. Possible nominees included Senator R.M.T. Hunter, Vice President John Breckinridge, and Secretary James Guthrie. Yet many believed Jefferson Davis to be the best candidate in the presidential campaign of 1860. Although the Northern delegates favored Stephen Douglas, Southerners opposed leadership under him. As time passed, observers realized that the nomination of Douglas was going to lead to disruption and chaos within the Democratic Party. (24) As the Democratic convention continued into mid-April, seven Southern states: Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas agreed to withdraw together unless the party adopted a policy for Congressional protection of slavery in the territories.(25)

The Douglas supporters tried to appeal to both North and Southern delegates with platform with a moderate stand on the issue of slavery. By doing so, they hoped to acquire two-thirds of the votes for their candidate. Each state had the same number of votes as they did in the Electoral College, totaling to 303 votes. To gain two-thirds of the votes, Douglas needed 202 votes.(26) Knowing that Douglas would most likely not attain the two-thirds vote, his supporters believed that others should give up their votes to any man who attained a clear majority. Although he would not acquire two-thirds of the vote, Douglas would have the votes of most of the fifty-eight delegates from the Old Northwest. Iowa and Minnesota could yield seven or eight more votes. Observers believed he could obtain five of Missouri's nine delegates, ten of Pennsylvania's votes, and four of New Jersey's votes. Maryland might possibly give Douglas two or three more votes. The votes of New England states, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island would supply fourteen more votes. He could also pick up some votes from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, and possibly some Southern states.(27) He could rely on the North's votes because their delegates were bound to vote based on state convention decisions. Yet the southern delegates had no commitment and could vote freely, giving Douglas some unexpected votes.(28)

Many southern states supported different candidates in opposition to Douglas. Virginia and North Carolina wanted to put Robert Hunter into power but other states such as Kentucky supported Guthrie. Tennessee supported Andrew Jackson while South Carolina supported James Lawrence Orr. The only unity the Southern delegates had was opposition to Douglas, yet they divided for a leader.(29) The opposition to Douglas could defeat him by adopting a platform that he would never support. Seventeen of the thirty-three members on the platform writing committee supported the anti-Douglas

leaders. They planned to use bribes, threats, and eloquence to get the desired platform passed. If the platform was defeated, the Southern states could withdraw from the party.(30)

Many of Douglas's supporters were not afraid of the withdrawal of Southern delegations. If some delegations left, it would be easier for Douglas to obtain the required two-thirds votes. Many Unionists hoped that two Democratic candidates would force the election to Congress where the Senate, dominated by Southern Democrats. There, the Democratic candidate other than Douglas would gain the votes by the trusted Southerners in Senate at the time. However, their temporary advantage would put a candidate not chosen by the majority of the people and therefore, put the nation at danger. In a way, the division of the Democratic Party embodied the two forthcoming American republics.(31)

The convention began on Monday, April 23 in Charleston, South Carolina on Meeting Street. The first action of the convention was to create two committees: one for organization and another for credentials. Afterwards, a debate arose concerning how the uninstructed delegates were to vote. The convention decided that they would cast individual votes unless delegates were bound to specific instructions given by their state. (32) The convention also determined for the adoption of a platform to take place before casting votes for a candidate. Douglas pledged to not accept a nomination if the platform included a slave-code policy. Meanwhile, many of the lower South states pledged to withdraw if the platform did not satisfy their desires. At the Democratic convention, the platform seemed to have more importance than the candidates did. A platform with a slave-code plank would give the Southern and Buchanan Administration men reason to exclude Douglas from being a possible candidate. "From that moment all hope of unity disappeared."(33)

On April 25th, the convention excluded the Danite contestants from Illinois and the Fernando Wood group of New York. Denying both delegations from entering the convention were fair judgments based on evidence. Even so, the Southerners were not pleased with the decisions. They felt that there was injustice because Dean Richmond's delegation was going to cast all of their votes for Douglas even though there were thirty anti-Douglas men compared to the forty Douglas supporters. The South even pressed to split New York's votes, yet that movement failed. New York may cast their votes for any candidate but they would strongly oppose a slave-code platform.(34)

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. . . Election of 1860 Continued

There were two reports proposed, a majority and a minority report. Fifteen slave states, Oregon, and California signed the majority report. (35) The majority report stated:

That neither Congress nor Territorial legislatures have power to exclude Slavery from the Territories, or to destroy or impair the rights of property in slaves; that the Federal Government should protect the rights of persons and property on the high seas, and wherever its jurisdiction extends; denouncing as revolutionary the enactments of State legislatures to defeat the faithful execution of the Fugitive Slave Law.(36)

The minority report was much different and stated that since the differences of opinions existed as to the rights and duties of territorial legislatures and Congress with respect to slavery in the Territories, the party would abide by the decisions of the Supreme Court on questions of Constitutional law.(37) H.B. Payne spoke in favor of the minority report, claiming that the national government should not interfere with slavery in the Territories, but should allow people to decide their own laws. Payne asserted that the Southern leaders followed the doctrine of non-intervention by Congress while the North only through about popular sovereignty and asked only for what the Constitution allowed them.(38)

W. L. Yancey was a fervent supporter of Southern rights and a great orator. He favored disunion because the constitutional rights of the South became hard to attain within the Union. He perceived Douglas to be very similar to the Republicans. He believed that both would abolish the sectional compact and do away with the Constitution. His proposed resolution for the preservation of the Union was for the rest of the nation to support the extreme Southern pro-slavery views. His opposition often charged him with leading the conspiracy to shatter the unity of the Democratic Party.(39)

Yancey appealed to Southerners because the people would be bankrupt if the party adopted the Northern popular sovereignty platform.(40) In a pamphlet, Yancey stated:

Ours is the property invaded; ours are the instructions which are at stake; ours is the peace that is to be destroyed; ours is the honor at stake-the honor of children, the honor of families, the lives, perhaps, of all-all of which rests upon what your course may ultimately make a great heaving volcano of passion and crime, if you are enabled to consummate your designs. Bear with us, then if we stand sternly upon what is yet that dormant volcano, and say we yield no position here until we are convinced we are wrong.(41)

Yancey's speeches seemed to boost

the moral and sparked many observers to support him. He wanted Southern delegates to stand true to their constitutional obligations.(42)

On the eve of the Democratic Party division, the supporters of Douglas were not worried.(43) They planned to let three or four states leave the convention. Meanwhile, Southern Democrats were not worried because they believed a split might send the election to Congress, where there was a Southern Democratic majority.(44) Alabama and Mississippi were determined to leave the party if the party did not fulfill their demands.(45) Many other Southern states advised their delegates to withdraw along with Alabama.(46) George Sanders sent a telegram to the President asking him to intervene. He denounced Slidell and Bright for trying to break up the convention and declared most of the Northern delegates had agreed to accept the changes in the old Cincinnati platform. The changes left all questions regarding the rights of property in States and Territories to the Supreme Court. Yet Buchanan did not want to do anything that would result in Douglas's nomination so he declined to intervene.(47) On the day to vote for the platform, the convention passed the minority version with 165 to 138 votes. Douglas supporters agreed to take different votes on other parts of the platform. A large majority passed the first resolution of reaffirming the Cincinnati platform of 1856.(48)

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6 Jacob Collamer, "Slavery and Freedom," *New York Times*, 26 October 1860, 2.

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13 Ibid.

14 Collins, *Origins of America's Civil War*, 45

15 Ibid., 59.

16 Ibid., 128.

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18 "The Political Campaign," *New York Times*, 28 September 1860, 1.

19 Ibid.

20 "Views of the Vice-President of the Douglas Question," *New York Times*, 4 October 1859, 4.

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25 Roy F. Nichols, *Disruption of American Democracy* (New York: Free Press, 1968), 295.

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28 Ibid., 209.

29 Ibid., 210.

30 Ibid., 211.

31 Nevins, *Emergence of Lincoln*, 211.

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34 Nevins, *Emergence of Lincoln*, 213.

35 Ibid., 214.

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37 Nevin, *Emergence of Lincoln*, 214.

38 Ibid., 215.

39 Nevins, *Emergence of Lincoln*, 216.

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41 William Lowndes Yancey, *Speech of the Hon. William L. Yancey, of Alabama: delivered in the National Democratic Convention, Charleston, April 28th, 1860.*, (Charleston: Walker, Evan, and Co., 1860), 1.

42 Nevins, *Emergence of Lincoln*, 217.

43 Ibid.

44 Ibid., 218.

45 Nevins, *Emergence of Lincoln*, 219.

46 Ibid., 218.

47 Sanders to Buchanan, telegram, April 27, 1860.

48 Ibid.

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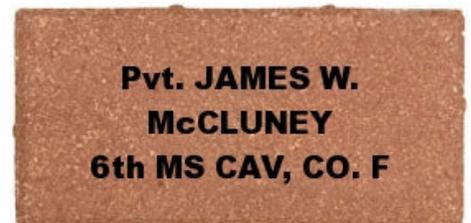
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