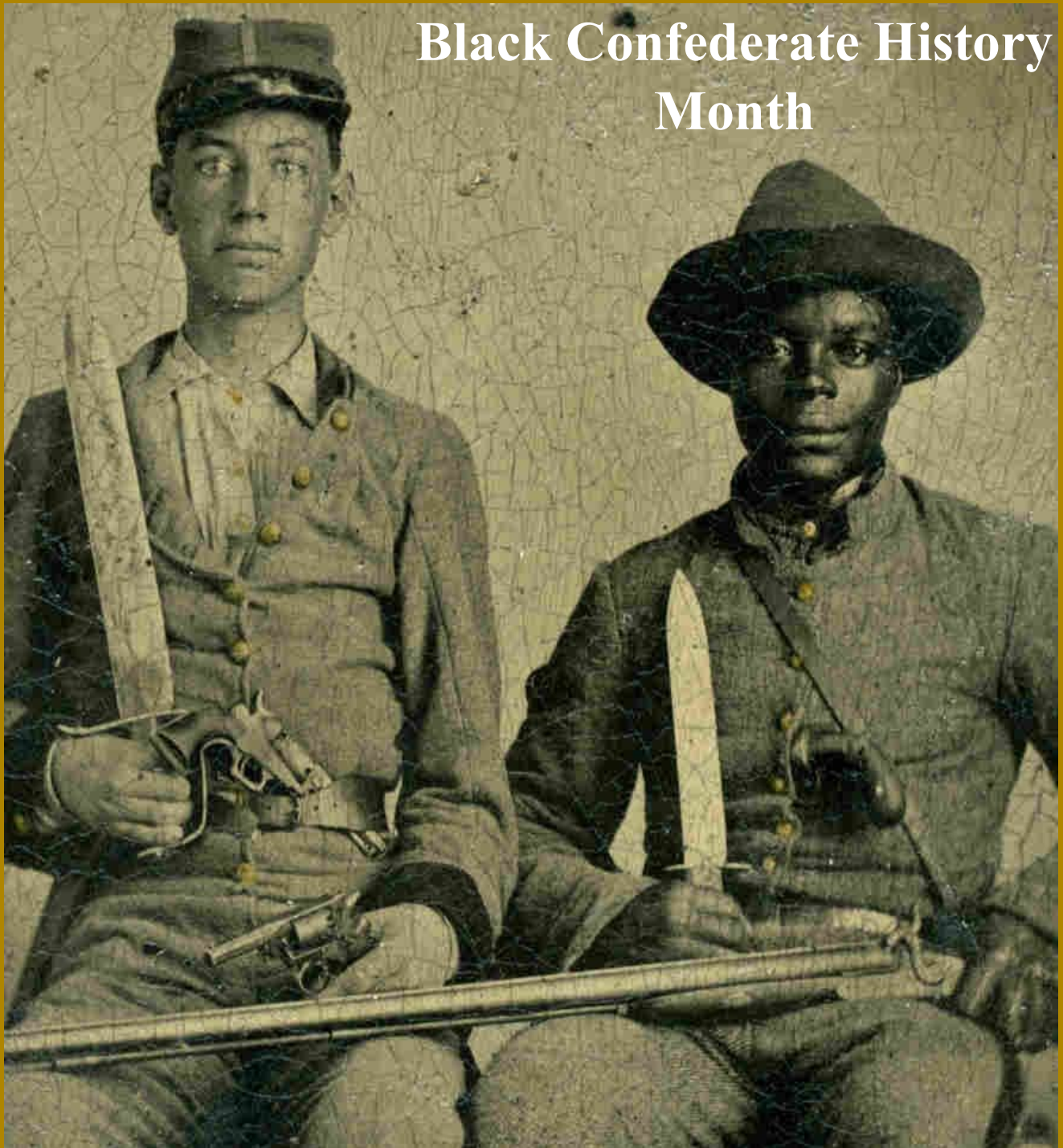


The Delta General

Camp Website: www.humphreys1625.com

**Black Confederate History
Month**



February 2026, Volume 29, Issue 2
Dedicated to the Memory of Brigadier General Benjamin
G. Humphreys

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. The new year began very well for the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp and the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans because two of our greatest Confederate Heroes: Robert E Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson were born on this first month of the year. In honor of their births, the Camp hosted its annual Lee-Jackson Dinner; and affirmed by all who were present, this Dinner was one of the best in many years.

The Lee-Jackson Dinner could be compared to Thanksgiving or Christmas at your house; it is a time to come together, see old friends and make new acquaintances, tell stories, eat well, and be entertained. The crowd was large and the reception hall at the First Presbyterian Church was full. The buffet table groaned under the weight of all the food available. After eating a wonderful meal, the attendees were treated to a tale of resentment, anger, regret and remorse. Past SCV Commander-in-Chief Jason Boshers entertained the crowd with the story of the 1863 fight between Lieutenant Andrew Gould and General Nathan Bedford Forrest. This is a little-known episode in the great epic of the Confederate States of America; however, it could have been disastrous for the CSA as General Forrest was shot by Lieutenant Gould. Had Forrest been killed that day or died from his wounds, the valiant story of the CSA we know would have been radically different. Commander Boshers is such an amusing storyteller, every member of the audience was riveted to his tale. Not a single eye glanced at their phone or watch while the story was being so expertly told. A great thanks from the Camp goes to Commander Boshers and his wife Linda for attending our Lee-Jackson Dinner. Another great thanks go to Mississippi Division Commander Forrest Daws for attending our Dinner and sharing his time with us.

Along with the fellowship, food, and storytelling at the Dinner, the Camp inducted its four officers for the next two years. Congratulations go to those who were elected by their peers in the Camp to serve: Commander Michael Anthony, First Lieutenant Commander David Floyd, Adjunct Dan McCaskill, and Color Sergeant Earl Allen. May each of you serve with honor and distinction as you work to defend, protect, and promote the valiant and noble name of the Confederate soldier.

This new year brings so many opportunities to defend, protect, and promote the good name of the Confederate soldier. The Benjamin G Humphreys Camp, will have two recruiting events this year, a very special Confederate Memorial service with compatriots from Missouri, attend the Division Reunion at Beauvoir in Biloxi, and more events in the second half of the year. Through the Division, there are learning workshops, headstone and monument dedications, and service through various committees and working groups.

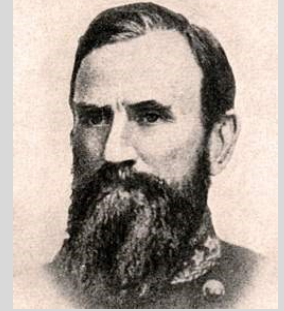
As this year began on such a high note, how will you continue the momentum and good work of the Benjamin G Humphreys Camp and the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans? How will you live the Charge given to you by Confederate General Steven Lee all those years ago in New Orleans? What will you do within the Camp or the Division to uphold, protect, and promote the good name of the Confederate soldier? Whatever path you choose, you will help Live the Charge and keep the memory of the brave Confederate soldier alive for this generation and the next.

Deo Vindice,
Michael

Business Meeting for February — February 14, 2026

We will not have a guest speaker for February since it is our yearly budget meeting. We will have other items to discuss as well. If you missed our annual Lee/Jackson Banquet you missed a great night. Approximately 40 people attended and fun was had by all. The Ladies of the OCR had a successful silent auction the best in years. Since our meeting is on Valentine's Day Annette plans on a special meal for that night. The picture provided shows the 77th Past Commander-in-Chief of the SCV, Jason Boshers swearing in the new Camp officers.

Camp Commander—Michael Anthony
Lt. Commander—David Floyd
Adjutant—Dan McCaskill
Color Sgt.—Earl Allen
Camp Chaplin—Earl McCown
Editor—Larry McCluney



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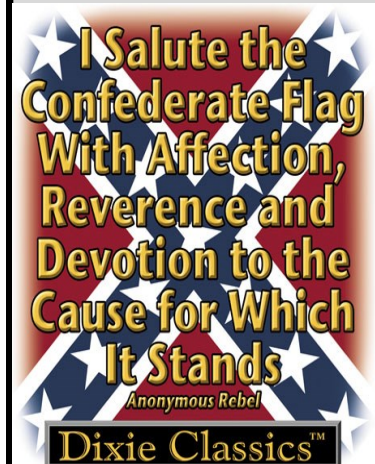
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Larry McCluney, Editor:
Confederate @suddenlink.net

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Adjutant's Report—Dan McCaskill

As I sit here writing this short report, I am watching the weather go from freezing rain, to sleet, and back to freezing rain. With night time temperatures in the teens for the next few nights, no one will be talking global warming until the summer. But, we dodged a bullet with little freezing rain until early Sunday morning. Sunday brought back memories of 1994 with a prolonged power outage. Fortunately, the 4 ½ outage doesn't compare with the 4 ½ weeks of 1994.

The night of our 30th Lee-Jackson Birthday Banquet, it was cold outside but warm inside. We had our highest attendance in five years with thirty-eight coming together to remember



Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. After the opening formalities and introduction of the many SCV and OCR dignitaries present, Commander Anthony invited everyone to partake in the evening meal. It was a true "covered dish" supper because we didn't know what we would have until all the dishes were "uncovered". The food was wonderful and plentiful. Hats off to all who brought a dish.

After the meal, 1st Lt. Commander Larry McCluney introduced our guest speaker, Past Commander-in-Chief Jason Boshers. Jason gave a very rousing story of the incident between General Forrest and Lieutenant Gould. Forrest indirectly accused Gould, his Lieutenant of artillery, of cowardice for losing two of his three pieces. Gould confronted Forrest and shot him. Forrest in turn stabbed Gould in the neck. Gould escaped, dragging himself across the street. Forrest was so enraged that he vowed that "no man kills me and we both don't die." Taking a pair of pistols, Forrest attempts to finish off Gould but fails.



However, Gould's wound was mortal. Physicians treated Forrest's wound which turned out to be a flesh wound and not mortal. Forrest Became very resourceful of his actions and regretted killing Lt. Gould for the rest of his life. Jason had stated at the beginning of his program, these events took place in Columbia, TN. Commander Anthony and 1st Lt. Commander McCluney presented Jason and Linda a gift basket.

After the program, Past CIC Jason Boshers was asked to swear into office our newly elected Camp Officers: Michael Anthony, Commander; David Floyd, 1st Lt. Commander; Dan McCaskill, Adjutant; and Earl Allen, Color Sergeant. As newly sworn in Commander, Michael had the duty of presenting to Camp Chaplain Earl McCown the Resolution from Headquarters honoring Earl Mitchell "Mitch" McCown, III who crossed over in November. In addition, Larry McCluney announced that two camp members have been awarded the "Commander-in-Chief Leadership Award", Michael Anthony and Dan McCaskill. They will be presented the award at the February Camp Meeting.

Dan McCaskill



conducted the Candlelight Memorial Service honoring our compatriots who have gone before us. Those known to us, their names were printed in the program. Two new names were added to that list this year, Mitch McCown and Cindy Bond. As we remember our fellow compatriots and our Confederate Ancestors, their memories will never die. Twenty-seven names were read that night and remembered out of the hundreds of thousands who wore the gray and butternut.



The final feature of the banquet was the silent auction conducted by the ladies of the Ella Palmer Chapter # 9, OCR. Missy Stillman and Annette McCluney. There were many items on the auction block. One name that popped up more than once was Tommy McCaskill. All funds raised went to the OCR which they will use to aid the Sons.

One more thing was brought to the attention of those at the banquet, the monument to the Black Confederate Soldiers that will be erected at Beauvoir. The Camp has pledged \$500 to go toward this project and he asked all that can to give some toward this goal. One hundred sixty-five dollars was raised.

With no other business coming before the banquet, Commander Anthony asked Camp Chaplain Earl McCown for the closing prayer followed by the singing of Dixie.

The Chaplain's Pen — Earl McCown

"Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Can you imagine how Joshua felt while following in the legendary footsteps of Moses? Even though he had the privilege of observing Moses and his relationship to God, it had to be intimidating to lead the children of Israel across the Jordan and into the Promised Land without Moses by his side. Also there was the obvious challenge of shepherding a group of people known for being headstrong, complaining vociferously, and resisting authority.



In the book of Joshua, God did not ignore Joshua's sense of inadequacy for the assignment he had been given. Joshua felt anxious for the task, but what did God do? He responded with this promise, *"No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you."* (Joshua 1:5). God's presence was assured.

Joshua encountered the same issue that we face each day in our lives: Are you going to trust God with our situation, or are we going to try to find our own solution? Will it be our will or His? Remember that just as God was with Joshua, He will be with you. So *"be strong and courageous"* Joshua 1:9, NIV).

Most of us think we know just what we need and how to handle our problems better than anyone. Not so, God knows all there is to know about each of us, our problems, and He, for sure, knows how to handle them. He does this all for His glory.

God Bless each of us, and God bless America.



So We Won't Forget

By Dan McCaskill



As members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, one of our missions is to record the final resting place of our Confederate Veterans and if their burial site is unmarked, to mark that spot. It is sacred to them and to us!

About a year ago, it was discovered that there were two Confederate Veterans in unmarked graves in the UDC Plot in the Greenville Cemetery, Greenville, MS. Because the exact spot was unknown, these Veterans did not qualify for a "Memorial Headstone" from the VA which forced the



Camp to raise \$870 for the headstones which we did. Shortly after ordering these two headstones, I received information from Compatriot Dan Creason from the Captain Moses S. Bradford Camp 2344 in Missouri that a Missouri Veteran had died in Greenville during the War and they wanted to place a marker in the cemetery if there was room. Long story short, they sent me the money for the headstone which I ordered from Columbus Marble Works so we could keep all the marker the same. As you see from the above picture, the stones have been placed. I did one a

day. Getting too old. Here are the Veterans:



Joseph was born near Cape Girardeau, MO. There is no enlistment date shown in his Service Record. He was captured in Stoddard County, MO on Nov 27, 1862 and sent to the Gratiot Street Military Prison in St. Louis, MO. Joseph was released from prison on Dec 12, 1862 and sent to Cairo, IL to board a steamer for Vicksburg for exchange. While in route, he became ill and was dropped in Greenville, MS on Dec 31, 1862. Joseph died on Jan 1,

1863. Original burial site is unknown. Joseph joins four other Veterans dropped in Greenville either sick or dead while going to Vicksburg for exchange.



Thomas was born in 1835 and lived in Chicot County, Arkansas. He was enlisted by Capt. Blackburn in Greenville on Mar 9, 1862. In the Spring of 1863, he was listed as a deserter but rejoined his unit in June of 1863. He was again listed as a deserter in May 1864 but was actually captured in Lake Village, AR and sent to Camp Chase Prison, OH. In March of 1865, he was sent to City Point, VA for exchange. Thomas rejoined his unit and was surrendered at Citronelle, AL on May 4, 1865 and paroled on May

12, 1865. In 1893, Thomas married Macy Tally in Chicot, Arkansas. He died in Greenville, MS.

Very little is known about Thomas Ward. He was born in Yazoo County in 1847. There is no known enlistment date in the 1st MS Cavalry Reserves. He was surrendered at War's end on May 4, 1865 and paroled on May 16, 1865. After the War, Thomas married Miss Cathela Sear of LeFlore County on Feb 16, 1876. They had one known child, Thomas Ward, Jr. Thomas died in Greenville, MS in 1912.

Never Forget!

WHAT AMBROSE BIERCE SAID ABOUT "CONFEDERAPHOBIA"

Timothy A. Duskin—The Abbeville Institute

Ambrose G. Bierce was born in Ohio in 1842. When the War Between the States came in 1861, he enlisted as a Union soldier in the 9th Indiana Infantry. He fought in numerous battles, including Philippi, Rich Mountain, and Shiloh. He suffered a severe brain injury at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain which caused him to resign from the army, but not until after fighting in the Nashville Campaign.

After the war, he wrote short stories about the war and became a famous author. He published a collection of these stories in his book *Tales of Soldiers and Civilians* in 1891. His most famous short story about the war was "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," which was made into several movies and radio shows and was featured as an episode of both *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and *The Twilight Zone*. It was the story of a Confederate soldier who faced execution by Union troops.

When E.L. Salmon bitterly protested against decorating the graves of Confederate veterans in a Memorial Day oration, Bierce, who was wounded by Confederate fire, responded to his fellow Union veteran by writing the poem "The Brave Respect the Brave." This is what he wrote:

What! Salomon! such words from you, Who call yourself a soldier? Well, The Southern brother where he fell Slept all your base oration through.

Alike to him — he cannot know Your praise or blame: as little harm Your tongue can do him as your arm A quarter-century ago. The brave respect the brave.

The brave Respect the dead; but you — you draw That ancient blade, the ass's jaw, And shake it o'er a hero's grave.

Are you not he who makes to-day A merchandise of old reknown Which he persuades this easy town He won in battle far away?

Nay, those the fallen who revile Have ne'er before the living stood And stoutly made their battle good And greeted danger with a smile.

What if the dead whom still you hate Were wrong? Are you so surely right?

We know the issues of the fight — The sword is but an advocate.

Men live and die, and other men Arise with knowledges diverse: What seemed a blessing seems a curse, And Now is still at odds with Then.

The years go on, the old comes back To mock the new — beneath the sun Is nothing new; ideas run Recurrent in an endless track.

What most we censure, men as wise Have reverently practiced; nor Will future wisdom fail to war On principles we dearly prize.

We do not know — we can but deem, And he is loyalist and best Who takes the light full on his breast And follows it throughout the dream.

The broken light, the shadows wide — Behold the battle-field displayed! God save the vanquished from the blade, The victor from the victor's pride.

If, Salomon, the blessed dew That falls upon the Blue and Gray Is powerless to wash away The sin of differing from you,

Remember how the flood of years Has rolled across the erring slain; Remember, too, the cleansing rain Of widows' and of orphans' tears.

The dead are dead — let that atone: And though with equal hand we strew The blooms on saint and sinner too, Yet God will know to choose his own.

The wretch, whate'er his life and lot, Who does not love the harmless dead With all his heart and all his head — May God forgive him, I shall not.

When, Salomon, you come to quaff The Darker Cup with meeker face, I, loving you at last, shall trace Upon your tomb this epitaph:

"Draw near, ye generous and brave — Kneel round this monument and weep For one who tried in vain to keep A flower from a soldier's grave."

Mississippi Division News

SCV CARTAG



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 Old Capitol Collection 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 grand-sires!

A sampling of conserved flags are beautifully framed, then put on display at the Old Capitol (3rd Floor) and Beauvoir (Museum). According to the

Department of Archives and History, many more will be displayed in the new Museum of Mississippi History currently under construction and scheduled to open during our state's bicentennial in December of 2017

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.

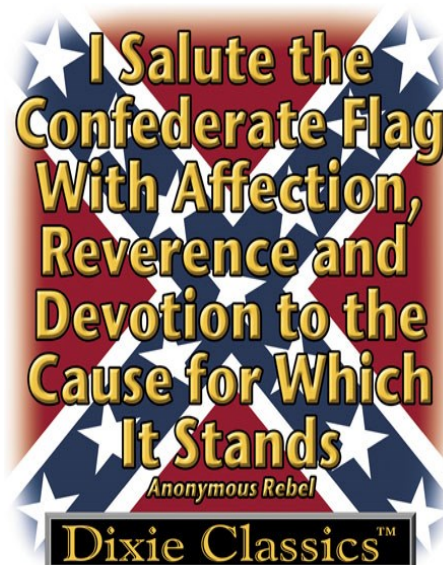
Life Memberships

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



National News

C-i-C's Corner

Keeping the Charge

One of the great pleasures I have had this year is expanding our working relationship with like minded leaders of pro-Confederate organizations. While attending the memorial service for Capt. Henry Wirz in Andersonville, GA, I had the honor of sharing the podium with the President General of the UDC, Mrs. Julie Hardaway, and the Commanding General of the MOS&B, Mr. Thomas Rhodes. Regardless of which leader was speaking, one message came through loud and clear: we are united in our effort to promote and defend Southern history. We are not alone in our appreciation for Southern history. As our SCV national poll shows, even outside the South, a clear majority of Americans view Southern history positively. When Southerners are polled, that "majority" becomes a super-majority!

While addressing the crowd in Jacksonville, FL, during the dedication of the Kirby Smith/Florida SCV Division's new flag park and monument, it was pointed out that we are putting up more monuments than our enemies are taking down. Soon, the SCV will celebrate the restoration of the Forrest Plaza— "They take them down; WE put them up." They destroy; we create. When celebrating the Forrest Plaza restoration, we will also celebrate the new monuments that have been erected, the old monuments we have rescued and relocated, and our flag parks celebrating Southern history. The world must be told that the SCV and related organizations are not retreating; we are advancing toward total victory over the haters of our culture.

Every great river begins with one drop of rain. One drop will not make a river, but collectively, all those drops will create a mighty flow. Likewise, each "little" effort on our part is like that one drop of rain.

Don't ever think that "my little effort will not make a difference." Mailing those postcards in your Confederate Veteran, sending emails or letters to elected officials in your community, displaying your work in cemeteries, road clean-up, living history displays, gun shows, and other community activities does make a difference. Keep those raindrops flowing, and we will overwhelm our enemies.



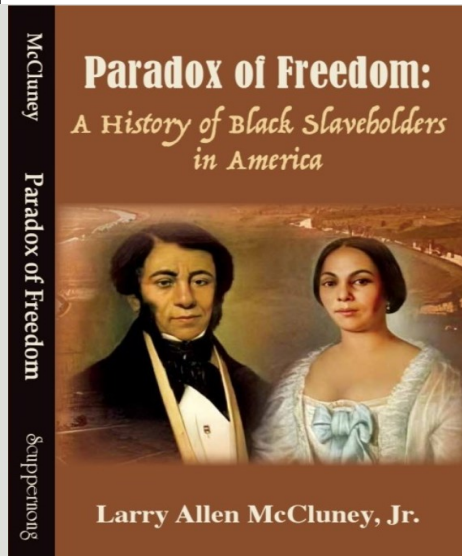
Paradox or Freedom

The Latest Work by Larry McCluney

This book delves into the little-known history of Free Black slaveholders exploring the social, economic, and legal factors which shaped their lives and experiences from Colonial times through Reconstruction.

Get Your Copy Today!

You can order from www.booksbylarry.com and get the author's signature. You can book him for a camp meeting by contacting him at [662-299-9540](tel:662-299-9540) Or confederate@suddenlink.net



Paperback: \$20.00

Hardback: \$30.00

BEAUVOIR

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.

Message from the CiC



Gentlemen and Fellow Compatriots,

It is with great sadness that I must announce the death of a good friend and Confederate warrior, Harold K. Edgerton, respectfully known as "HK." HK gained international recognition during his Historical March Across Dixie, which began in Asheville, NC, in 2002 and culminated in Austin, TX, on January 26, 2003. His march brought attention to the decision by then-Governor George W. Bush to remove historic Confederate plaques from the Texas Supreme Court Building. In response to that anti-Confederate effort and mounting anti-Confederate bias, HK put on his Confederate uniform and began his march carrying the Confederate Battle Flag. Many members of the SCV joined HK during his march, and we all noted his courage and willingness to educate the uninformed about true Confederate history.

HK graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1976, earning a B S degree, and had a successful professional career. His belief in Civil Liberties and, therefore, Civil Rights was displayed in his efforts as a leader of the Asheville NAACP and, later, after that organization became a vociferous enemy of the Confederate Cause, HK became an advocate of true Southern and Confederate history.

HK was a frequent speaker at pro-Confederate events, always drawing a crowd and leaving folks inspired to do more for the Southern Cause. HK was an honorary member of numerous Confederate organizations, including but not limited to various SCV Camps, UDC Chapters, and Order of Confederate Rose chapters. In 2002, I watched HK, dressed in his Confederate uniform and holding a Confederate Battle Flag, confront, educate, and amaze students at Grambling State University, a traditionally Black University, during his march across Dixie. He was a bold champion for the Cause of the South and will be missed.

To honor his courage in defending the South, I am asking that a memorial bench be placed near the Forrest Plaza, and that HK be enrolled in the 21st Century Confederate Heroes. This bench and Confederate Heroes enrollment will cost approximately \$3,000.00. The Kennedy Twins are pledging \$300.00 to start this effort. The SCV will have something on our National website soon for HK donations, or you may mail checks to Headquarters. Be sure to note that the check is for HK memorial on the memo line.

Please keep HK's family in your prayers and keep fighting for the Rights of



M and Th nights at 7:00 PM CT on Facebook.

Southerners just like HK was so willing to do.

Deo Vindice,
Walter D. (Donnie) Kennedy, SCV Commander-in-Chief



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



131st Annual Sons of Confederate Veterans

National Reunion: July 15-19, 2026

Griffin Gate Resort and Conference Center

Lexington, Kentucky



Griffin Gate Marriot

See the Marriot

Lexington, Kentucky - the heart of the Bluegrass!

We have reserved a select number of rooms - Monday & Tuesday nights are already near capacity. Consider staying at **The Beaumont Inn** in Harrodsburg, Kentucky (same group rates) and touring the nearby Perryville Battlefield early in the week.

Still plenty of available rooms - Thursday thru Saturday, but they are filling quickly. Reserve your rooms early.

If the hotel site will not easily accept your reservation - call 502-229-2925 and we will increase the number of available rooms.

131st Sons of Confederate Veterans National Reunion

Griffin Gate Resort and Conference Center Lexington, Kentucky

July 15-19, 2026



REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Member # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

SVC Camp Name _____ Camp # _____ State _____

Your Rank, Title or Position _____

Spouse Name (for name badge) _____

DATE:	TIME:	EVENT:	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
ALL		SCV Only Reunion Registration includes 1 Medal (All SCV Members must pay for Registration.) Early Registration at: Houston \$90/After Houston \$110) Registration Ends June 20, 2026	\$90.		
Sat July 11, 2026	5:00 pm	"Welcome to Kentucky!" BBQ No Charge . Please check for attending/how many			
Tues July 14, 2026	6:00 pm	Dinner- Battle of Richmond - Phil Seyfrit	\$85.		
Wed July 15, 2026	9am-5pm	Richmond Battlefield Tour - Lunch included	\$90.		
Thurs July 16, 2026	6:45-7:45	Chaplain's Breakfast	\$55.		
Thurs July 16, 2026	12:30-1:30	Heritage Luncheon	\$65.		
Thurs July 16, 2026	1:45-6 pm	Kentucky Military Museum Tour and Bourbon Tour	\$85.		
Fri July 17, 2026	6:45-7:45	History Breakfast	\$55.		
Fri July 17, 2026	12:15-1:30	SCV Awards Luncheon	\$65.		
Fri July 17, 2026	6:45-7:45	Mechanized Cavalry Breakfast	\$55.		
Sat July 18, 2026	6-7 pm	SCV Awards Banquet and Ball	\$130.		
		EXTRA Ancestor Memorial Ad (1 free with registration) to submit extra ancestor use the back of this form or separate sheet	\$10.		
		EXTRA Reunion Medal (note: 1 medal is included with registration)	\$35.		
		2026 Numbered (1-25) Reunion Medal (<i>This medal is NOT included with registration</i>)	\$110.		
		FINAL TOTAL - Registration Only _____ PAID _____ CHECK _____ <i>Prices for Tours and Meals will be determined at a later date.</i>			

Make Check Payable to : 2026 SCV Reunion
Mail to: Kentucky Bluegrass 2026 / Kris Hawkins
P.O. Box 122 Harrodsburg, KY 40330

BLACK CONFEDERATES

W

hile I have covered this topic numerous times in the past I will keep on asserting the role that many people, of so called "colour," played in fighting for the Confederacy until I am blue in the face. I will not let history ignore one side of these brave veterans because it's deemed to be "not politically correct," largely by Union biased writers; some of them astute academics. Take me to a tree and hang me there, as were so many dissenting voices in the past, for I will honour all veterans, whether they be black, white or brindle, no matter what side. I will swing defiantly from my branch in protest for all to see, a martyr to victory in history and full recognition of all Americans who stood bravely to fight for their country as they saw it fit, right and proper to do so.



In this picture above, (previous page) a group of former Confederate soldiers pose with a Southern Battle flag. Members of the *Egbert Jones Camp UCV* and guests of *Mr and Mrs Robert A. Moore* in *Huntsville, 2 February 1928*. Ten of the men are white, two are black, some wearing medals. If we do a quick survey based on this group, we could assume 20% of the soldiers were black; simple arithmetic; that is... if this picture is indicative of the army as a whole. Of course it isn't but the North would have us believe there were none at all; that it's all the invention of *Sons of Confederate Veterans* to somehow clear their conscience about slavery. My goodness some of the plantations were owned by Northerners and many Southerners had already freed their slaves. Slaves were brought to America by the United States not the Confederacy, only a handful of Southerners owned slaves. Do you sincerely believe these white men would allow some strange black men to attend their reunion if they weren't known to them and were not true veterans?

How many times do I have to say it? The war **was not about slavery!** Slavery was an issue but it was not black and white, nothing ever is, unless you are a simpleton. I am not often so emotional in editorials but come on folks, wake up and look at history in a more realistic and objective fashion! I would like to see some Southern black men represented in statues on battlefields, there is a nice one at *Vicksburg* to Union soldiers but *Nathan Bedford Forrest* wouldn't object to having a black Confederate by his side in *Forrest Park*. "I came here as a friend...let us stand together. Although we differ in color, we should not differ in sentiment - LT Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, CSA, Memphis, Tennessee - July, 1875" Put your money where your mouth is, instead of wanting to remove the General put a white and black infantryman on either side of him. The war was about Independence and a group of States wanting to separate from the Union and establish their own independent country. They thought it could be done peacefully but when invaded, Southerners rose to defend their homes and families. Throughout, the South largely fought a defensive war. At the end, when *CSS Shenandoah* surrendered her colours, there was a black man amongst the crew. There were American Indians fighting for the South, they too were the last to surrender and there were numerous *African Americans* fighting for the dignity of man and freedom on both sides.

The war is still a battleground for controversial concepts even now 150 years later; one of them being that thousands of African Americans didn't willingly and loyally fight on the side of the Confederacy. The argument forwarded supporting this is that present day so called "neo-Confederates" are eager to find ways to defend the principles of the Confederacy; what a load of baloney! Stepping into this maelstrom is Harvard historian John Stauffer, (shown previous page inset) who studies anti-slavery movements, so called civil war and American social protest. (Stauffer is chair of the History of American Civilization Program, and Professor of both English and African-American Studies.) At Harvard Faculty Club, Stauffer opened the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute's Fall Colloquium Series with a lecture on "Black Confederates."

Stauffer acknowledges that critics of the concept now dominate the academic arena, including one scholar who called it, "A fiction, a myth, utter nonsense." How sad that veterans must be so ignored so as to fit into a nice, neat little package. In the picture above, veterans proudly march, behind them is another dark face possibly two with long grey beards. These are not modern day "neo-Confederates." Stauffer is unlikely to have an objective view because of his determined study being very anti-slavery and anti-South. As a broadcast journalist, I am also anti-slavery but born and trained to be objective. I tell the story as I see it, not as others wish me to see it. I don't have academic institutions dictating my political concepts. Don't get me wrong, I admire his qualifications and Harvard, but let's please look a little deeper.

Acknowledging the seeming public acceptance in general, Stauffer cites a recent poll showing 70% of 'white' Southerners believe that the cause of the Civil War was not slavery but a deep divide over States' Rights. Now how on earth, in a free democracy, can you have an official poll that excludes black people in your community? Isn't that what the war was all about? As far as I know you can't, not in America. Stauffer also relinquishes his firmly held convictions by saying there is evidence that black Confederates are at least partly true; an assertion that he says got him "beaten up" in a discussion at a Washington, D.C., history event months ago. Obviously he avoids that rugged road and row now.



Professor Stauffer claims, "Although no one knows for sure the number of slaves who fought and laboured for the South, blacks who shouldered arms for the Confederacy numbered more than 3,000 but fewer than 10,000 among the hundreds of thousands of whites who served." Where does this figure come from? He adds that black labourers for the cause numbered from 20,000 to 50,000. Interestingly, even the great social reformer and a man I have much admiration for, Frederick Douglass, a sort of Martin Luther King of his day, supports the story of Black Confederates. Stauffer studied Douglass for his 2008 book "Giants: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln." In August 1861, Douglass published an account of the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) and noted that there were blacks in Confederate ranks. Not black units but within Confederate ranks, in other words they were **integrated**! A few weeks later, Douglass brought the subject up again, quoting witnesses to the battle who said they saw black Confederates. Then in September he said, "There are at the present moment many colored men in the Confederate Army-as real soldiers, having muskets on their shoulders, and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down loyal troops, and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government...there were such soldiers at Manassas and they are probably there still-Frederick Douglass

September 1861." Douglass also talked to a fugitive slave from Virginia, another witness to the same battle who asserted that entire black units were forming in Georgia, South Carolina, and Virginia. Stauffer says, "His case can be seen as representative. Masters put guns to (the heads of slaves) to make them shoot Yankees." Now where did he get this juicy piece of information? What concerns your Editor is that his theory is not backed up by actual recorded facts but assumptions. No doubt there were some slaves who felt compelled by their masters but does that mean all of them were? I don't think so and not all blacks were slaves, many were free men and women.



With only a little digging you can find that a few other lesser

known Confederate militia units of *free men of colour* were raised throughout Louisiana at the beginning of the war. These units included: the *Baton Rouge Guards* under Capt. Henry Favrot, portions of the *Pointe Coupee Light Infantry* under Capt. Ferdinand Claiborne, *Augustin Guards* and *Monet's Guards* of *Natchitoches* under Dr. Jean Burdin. The only official duties ever given to the *Natchitoches* units were funeral honour guard details. After an August 1861 battle near Hampton, Virginia, Union army Colonel John W. Phelps, 1st Vermont Infantry reported on Confederate forces he faced. Colonel Phelps writes, "My scouts report that among the Confederate artillery there is the *Richmond Howitzer Battery* that is manned by negroes!"

There is an account of an unidentified African American fighting for the Confederacy from two Southern 1862 newspapers describing, "...a huge negro fighting under the command of Confederate **Major General John C. Breckinridge** against the 14th Maine Infantry Regiment in battle near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on August 5, 1862. The man was described as being armed and equipped with knapsack, musket, and uniform and helping to lead the attack. The man's status of being a freedman or a slave is unknown." Following the July 1862 Surrender at Murfreesborough, Tennessee, Lieutenant Colonel John G. Parkhurst of the 9th Michigan Infantry reports African Americans serving with the Confederate 1st Regiment Texas Rangers and 1st Georgia Rangers. His report states, "There were also quite a number of negroes attached to the Texas and Georgia troops who were armed and equipped, and took part in several engagements with my forces during the day." Several African Americans are known to have participated in some capacity on the Southern side at Gettysburg. After the battle in July 1863, "...reported among the rebel prisoners were seven blacks in Confederate uniforms fully armed as soldiers."



Dr. Lewis Steiner, Chief Inspector of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, while observing Gen. Jackson's occupation of Frederick in Maryland 1862: "Over 3,000 Negroes must be included in this number (Confederate troops.) These were clad in all kinds of uniforms, not only in cast-off or captured United States uniforms, but in coats with Southern buttons, State buttons, etc. These were shabby, but not shabbier or seedier than those worn by white men in the rebel ranks. Most of the Negroes had arms, rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie-knives, dirks, etc.....and were manifestly an integral portion of the Southern Confederate Army." This event is supported by a photo of the time and was covered in an earlier edition of the Bugle in full. (See issues # 3, 37 and 39 in the Dropbox.)

Union Brigadier-General D. Stuart reports, "...the enemy, and especially their armed negroes, did dare to rise and fire and did serious execution upon our men. The casualties in the brigade were 11 killed, 40 wounded, and 4 missing; aggregate, 55...." After the war, the State of Tennessee granted Confederate Pensions to nearly 300 African Americans for their service to the Confederacy. While an accurate estimate of the number of African Americans who served in the Confederate armed forces will never be known, the United States Census of 1890 lists 3,273 African Americans who claimed to be Confederate veterans. (So Stauffer is correct when he says likely to be more than 3,000.) This figure doesn't include the dead and we know they far outnumbered survivors. Now we know where he got that initial statistic.

Naval historian Ivan Musicant has written that blacks served in the Confederate Navy. Ivan Musicant says, "Free blacks could enlist with the approval of the local squadron commander, or the Navy Department, and slaves were permitted to serve with their master's consent. It was stipulated that no draft of seamen to a newly commissioned vessel could number more than 5% blacks." Though figures are lacking, a fair number of blacks served as coal heavers, officers' stewards, or at the top end as highly skilled tidewater pilots. William C. Davis, author of "A Government of Their Own": The Making of the Confederacy says, "One of the lost chapters of civil war history has been the passive and even active support that

BLACK CONFEDERATES



Compiled and Edited by
CHARLES KELLY BARROW,
J. H. SEGARS, AND R. B. ROSENBERG

many Southern blacks, free and slave, gave to the Confederacy."

The book "Black Confederates" shines a light on the overlooked facet of this assumed 'contrary' behaviour by a group of African-Americans who appear to have thought of themselves first and foremost as Southerners, as belonging to the South and the South as their homeland. Can Confederate history or black studies afford to ignore the efforts of black Americans fighting on the Confederate side? This behaviour is seen by sceptics as contradictory, revealing and underscoring the terrible complexity of the War Between the States. Another book by J. H. Hank Segars contains

BLACK SOUTHERNERS IN CONFEDERATE ARMIES

A Collection of Historical Accounts



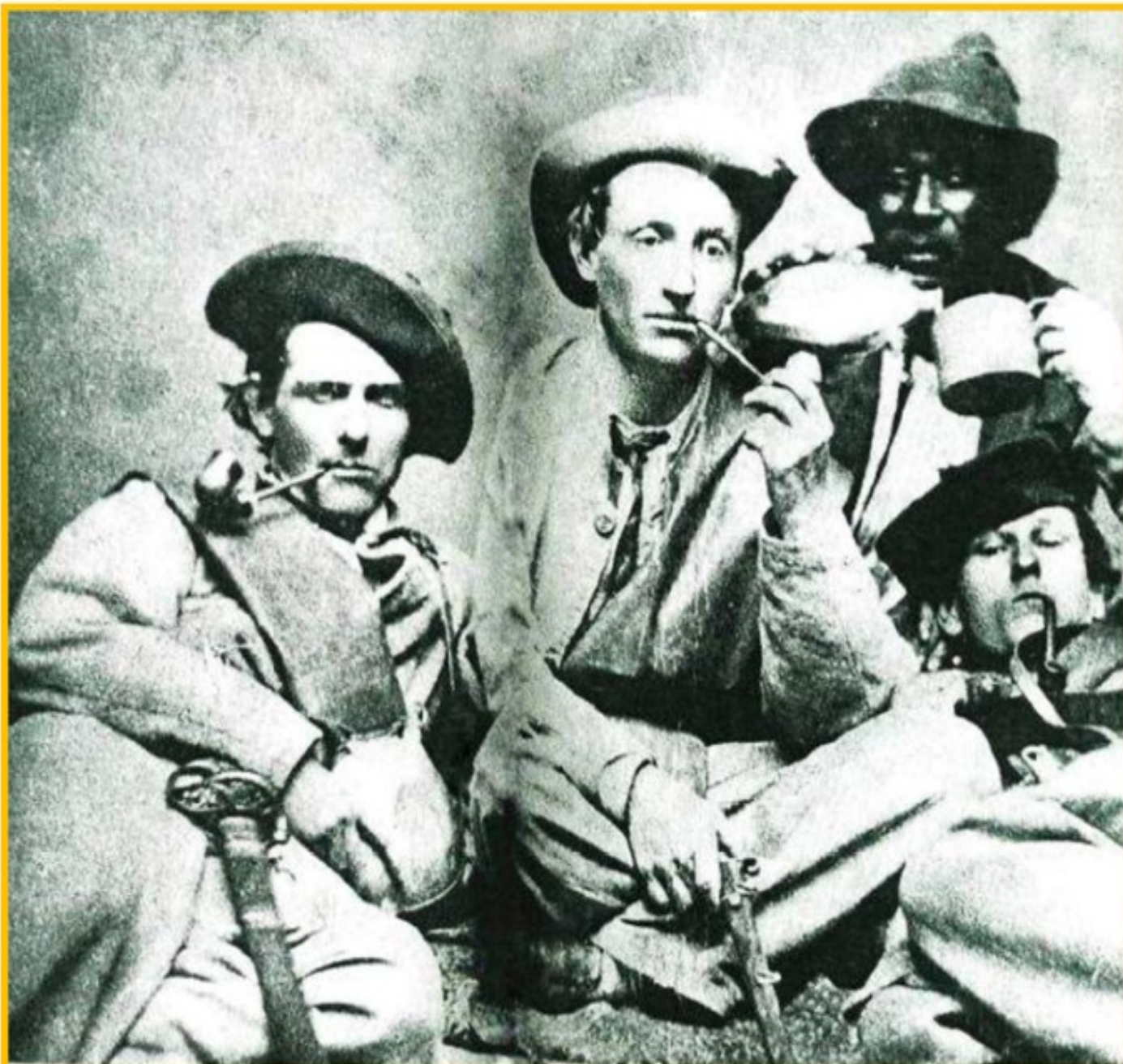
Compiled and Edited by J. H. Segars and Charles Kelly Barrow

correspondence, military records, narrative reminiscences, newspaper accounts, and more from these brave men who served what they considered to be "their country."

Segars is a native of Eatonton, Georgia, managing editor of *Southern Lion Books*, an independent publisher of regional books and a consultant to first-time authors. (I guess he is a 'neo Confederate'.) Segars earned an A.B. from *West Georgia College* and an M.Ed. from the *University of Georgia*. He's author and editor of a number of books about the American South, including *Andersonville: The Southern Perspective* and *Black Confederates*, both published by *Pelican*. Segars is the founding president of the *Northeast Georgia Civil War Round Table* and now lives near rural *Madison, Georgia* with his wife. *Charles Kelly Barrow*, a native Georgian born in *Atlanta* was raised in *DeKalb County* and the *Tucker* area. With *J. H. Segars* and *R. B. Rosenberg*, he compiled and edited the anthology "Black Confederates." In 1979, he joined the *Sons of Confederate Veterans* and currently serves as second vice-president of the *Pike County Historical Society* and as the *Historian-in-chief* of the *SCV* (the youngest ever appointed.) He graduated from *Shorter College* in 1988 with a B.S. in Social Science. Now a social studies teacher at *Flint River Academy*, he's working on his Master's degree at *Piedmont College*. He resides in *Zebulon, Georgia*.

A member of the *Indiana Twentieth Regiment*, encamped near *Fortress Monroe*, writes to his newspaper, "Yesterday morning *General Mansfield* with *Drake de Kay*, *Aide-de-Camp* in command of seven companies of the *20th New York German Rifles*, left *Newport News* on a reconnaissance. Just after passing *Newmarket Bridge*, seven miles from camp, they detached one company as an advance and soon after their advance was attacked by 600 of the enemy's cavalry. The company formed to receive cavalry but the cavalry advancing deployed to the right and left when within musket range and unmasked a body of seven hundred *Negro infantry*, all armed with muskets, who opened fire on our men, wounding two lieutenants and two privates and rushing forward surrounded the company of Germans who cut their way through killing six of the negroes and wounding several more. The main body, hearing the firing, advanced at a double-quick in time to recover their wounded and drive the enemy back but did not succeed in taking any prisoners. The wounded men testify positively that they were shot by *Negroes* and that not less than seven hundred were present, armed with muskets. This is indeed a new feature in the war. We have heard of a regiment of *Negroes* at *Manassas*, and another at *Memphis*, and still another at *New Orleans* but did not believe it till it came so near home, and attacked our men. There is no mistake about it. The *20th German* were actually attacked and fired on and wounded by *Negroes*. It is time that this thing was understood and if they fight us with *Negroes*, why should not we fight them with *Negroes* too? We have disbelieved these reports too long and now let us fight the devil with fire. The feeling is intense among the men. They want to know if they came here to fight *Negroes* and if they did, they would like to know it. The wounded men swear they will kill any *Negro* they see, so excited are they at the dastardly act. It remains to be seen how long the Government will now hesitate, when they learn these facts. One of the Lieutenants was shot in the back part of the neck, and is not expected to live-Sandusky *Ohio Register* December 31, 1861. *Indianapolis Journal* 23 December 1861"

The words of Irish-born Confederate Major General Patrick Cleburne from his January 1864 letter, proposed the mass emancipation and enlistment of Black Southerners into the Confederate Army, his words are both profound and very accurate, "Every man should endeavor to understand the meaning of subjugation before it is too late...It means the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern schoolteachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the war; will be impressed by the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit objects for derision...The conqueror's policy is to divide the conquered into factions and stir up animosity among them... ..It is said slavery is all we are fighting for, and if we give it up we give up all. Even if this were true, which we deny, slavery is not all our enemies are fighting for. It is merely the pretense to establish sectional superiority and a more centralized form of government, and to deprive us of our rights and liberties-Major General P. Cleburne." Now you have some of the evidence, you decide...but don't shun any veterans simply because they had a different skin colour.



Cavalry troopers. Not only are there black Confederate soldiers, here's proof positive they were integrated, unlike the North.



Ransom Gwynn (seated front centre) with white Confederate veterans at what was billed as the "Last Confederate Reunion" Montgomery, Alabama September 1944. Rev. Ransom Gwynn attended at least two Confederate reunions (1937 and 1944) on the claim that he had been a "body guard" to his former master. Again Mr Gwynn's role is questioned, but answer me this, why is he seated in the front and centre of these veterans? This is a sign of great respect.

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This article was provided by Robert Taylor, writer for the Australian Civil War Roundtable



AMERICA'S 19th CENTURY SLAVERY DILEMMA.

By Danny Allsopp-ACWRTQ.



Slavery has dogged mankind since the beginning of human history. Stone aged tribes took slaves from battles won. China built its great place in history on the backs of slaves as did Persia, Egypt Rome and the Arab nations. In this article, Danny Allsopp (*Treasurer ACWRTQ*) looks at the origins of slavery as we know it in more modern times and the impact it had when introduced to America. April is Black History Month and Danny's story is a timely look at what still remains a thorny issue in American history-Editor.

Looking back in time, the Portuguese were the first Europeans to export slaves from Africa, with the initial group going to Portugal in 1441. However, once America was discovered, this profitable trade expanded rapidly. Several countries shipped around 20 million Africans to the Americas to work the plantations and mines there. Yet, it's believed about one-quarter of those being shipped died before arriving in the Americas. By 1760, there were some 16,430 black people in New York, most of them slaves. Additionally,

Pennsylvania and New Jersey thrived on their exports to slave islands. Virginia, Georgia, and both of the Carolinas had slave-based agrarian economies as well. By 1808, the United States outlawed the slave trade, but slavery still flourished in the Southern states.



Cinqué was born 1814 in Sierra Leone. A rice farmer and trader among the Mende people, his birth name was Singbe-Pieh. Although transatlantic slave trade was made illegal by international agreement in 1820, the practice remained common, and young farmers like Cinqué were frequent targets of slave traders as agriculture skills were prized by plantation owners in the Americas-Editor.

people involved in this incident was Sengebe Pieh, otherwise called Joseph Cinqué. He was a rice farmer and the father of three children in Sierra Leone. In 1839 he was captured by slave traders. Pieh, along with other men, women and children, were to be shipped to Cuba and sold into slavery. They set sail on the schooner *La Amistad*. However, after three days of sailing, Pieh managed to free himself from his bonds and then freed several others; they killed the captain and some crew and took over the ship. Pieh ordered the ship returned to Africa; however, the second mate managed to alter course at night. Two months later, the USS Brigantine *Washington* seized the *Amistad* off Long Island, New York. This event resulted in the Africans being arrested and charged with murder and piracy. They were imprisoned in Connecticut.

The President of the United States at the time was Martin Van Buren (1837-1841), and it was to him that the Spanish government appealed to send the captive slaves to Cuba. However, court cases over the *Amistad* event were happening. This situation was awkward for Van Buren because he was hoping to be re-elected in the near future and depended on the Southern states for their support. He, therefore, forwarded the Spanish request to the courts and had his Secretary of State John Forsyth place a ship on stand by to return the slaves. Van Buren's government contended that the slaves should be returned because of treaty requirements. The court cases came about due to the *Amistad* Committee being formed in 1839 to arrange legal defence for the would-be slaves. The committee consisted of

Lewis Tappan, Simeon Jocelyn and Joshua Leavitt. Tappan, head of the committee and an abolitionist, was contacted by another abolitionist in Connecticut. Tappan was eager to examine the legality of the whole situation resulting in his committee obtaining legal counsel. Fortunately, the legal people found an interpreter to get relevant information from the captives. They were successful with the District Court, followed by the Circuit Court; however, the government appealed to the Supreme Court. This next step needed a more skilled legal representative. The committee members, Tappan and Ellis Gray Loring, then engaged the former President, John Quincy Adams, to take up the case. He had previous Supreme Court experience, negotiated international treaties and opposed slavery. Although the 72 year old Adams was reluctant at first, he agreed to attempt one last service for a cause he believed in and for the United States as a whole.

In the 1841 court case, Adams pointed out that Africans were free people, illegally captured and sold into slavery; therefore, should be returned to their homeland. The Supreme Court agreed with this argument resulting in the slaves being freed of all charges and returned to Sierra Leone.

With the industrial revolu-

tion, slavery diminished remarkably in the North, but not so in the South. By 1860, the South's cotton industry was worth many millions of dollars utilising some four million slaves. Thus, the North had a more abolitionist approach than the South but didn't have a remedy to stop the institution without destroying the South's economy. The North experienced massive immigration from Europe who brought with them fresh ideas for development in industry. This situation didn't take place in the South; hence a different business mindset and heated debates. This in turn, created a fear in the South that if the

Rather than retiring from public service, Adams won election to the House of Representatives, where he would serve from 1831 until his death in 1848. The only former president to be elected to the chamber-Editor.



North controlled the government in Washington, it would be detrimental to the South's economy, especially if new tariff laws were introduced. The underlying dilemma behind all of this was the issue of slavery.

The Missouri Compromise of 1820 sought to remedy the situation. The North and South debated the slavery issue in the land from the Louisiana Purchase. Whilst Missouri became a slave state, it was agreed that there should be no slave states north of its southern boundary. John Quincy Adams,



At the time of purchase, the Territory of Louisiana's non-native population was around 60,000 inhabitants, of whom half were enslaved Africans. The Acquisition was a long-term goal of President Thomas Jefferson, who was especially eager to gain control of the Mississippi River port of New Orleans. Overcoming opposition of the Federal Party, Jefferson and Secretary of State James Madison persuaded Congress to ratify and fund the Purchase. The Louisiana Purchase was the acquisition of the entire Territory in return for fifteen million dollars, or approximately eighteen dollars per square mile, the United States nominally acquired a total of 828,000 sq. ml (2,140,000 km²; 530,000,000 acres). However, France only controlled what is now the State of Louisiana, most of the rest was the inhabited 'wild lands' of Native Americans-Editor.

however, foresaw future problems. There was another compromise known as the Compromise of 1850 as a result of new lands acquired after the Mexican War (1846-1848). Attempted legislation to prevent slavery in this territory only resulted in heated debates. Kentucky Congressman Henry Clay came up with a modified

The map reveals the Missouri Compromise Line on Missouri's southern border. Every state above the line banned slavery and every state below the line legalized it. Even though Missouri is above the line, it was still deemed a slave state-Editor.



Problems arose when Missouri wanted to join the Union with slavery, threatening the balance between free and slave states.

'Comprise'. California became a free state, Utah and New Mexico territories had no reference made about slavery, and the District of Columbia abolished the trade. Yet, with more strict laws to return fugitive slaves, this caused even further debate. Northern sentiment towards a runaway slave caused an increase of the Underground Railroad. This system helped runaway slaves cross into Canada. In fact, in the North, many people were for supporting the runaway slave, and further reinforced by Harriet Beecher Stowe's book *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1852. The South resented both the Northern sentiment and Stowe's book. Lincoln remarked of Stowe, '...the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war'.

In 1854, Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas (left) brought in the Kansas-Nebraska Act. This involved land development between the Missouri River and California and a transcontinental railroad. The actual route was debated between the North and South. Douglas's bill to create these two territories came with the proviso that when each territory wanted Statehood, they could decide whether they wanted slavery or not and this, in turn, rescinded the Missouri Compromise. Unfortunately, the slavery issue over these two territories intensified between Senators, people and the Supreme Court with the Dred Scott case. Scott was a slave in both Illinois and Wisconsin, where there was no slavery; hence he sued for his freedom. Chief Justice Roger Taney ruled in 1857 that a Negro of slave descent could not be a citizen and therefore, unable to sue anyone. Additionally, he held that the law prohibiting slavery in the North was invalid because the Constitution protected slavery. This decision only served to intensify the North's abolitionists. Secession had been in the wind since Henry Clay's Compromise.

Another abolitionist of note was John Brown. He was deeply religious and

believed so strongly in the emancipation of slaves that in 1856 he avenged an attack on an anti-slavery headquarters in Lawrence by killing five pro-slavery settlers at Pottawatomie Creek in Kansas. He later conceived a plan for a slave uprising in Virginia. He organised and led the raiding of a Federal Arsenal at Harper's Ferry in 1859. Unfortunately for him, no slaves joined in the rebellion. After two days of shooting, he and his colleagues surrendered to a force of Marines commanded by Colonel Robert E. Lee. Brown was tried for treason and hanged. Abolitionists regarded Brown a martyr-hero.

In 1858, Abraham Lincoln and Douglas debated with each other over the slavery issue's legality as part of the Illinois elections. Douglas won the debate, but two years later, Lincoln would become President. Secession followed, first South Carolina, then Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Texas all forming a new country, the Confederate States of America with its initial capital at Montgomery, Alabama and their Constitution allowed for slavery. This event led to America's civil war on the basis that it was illegal to secede. Even as late as August 1862, Lincoln declared, 'My paramount object is to save the Union, and not to save or destroy slavery'. The emancipation was not proclaimed until 1 January 1863.



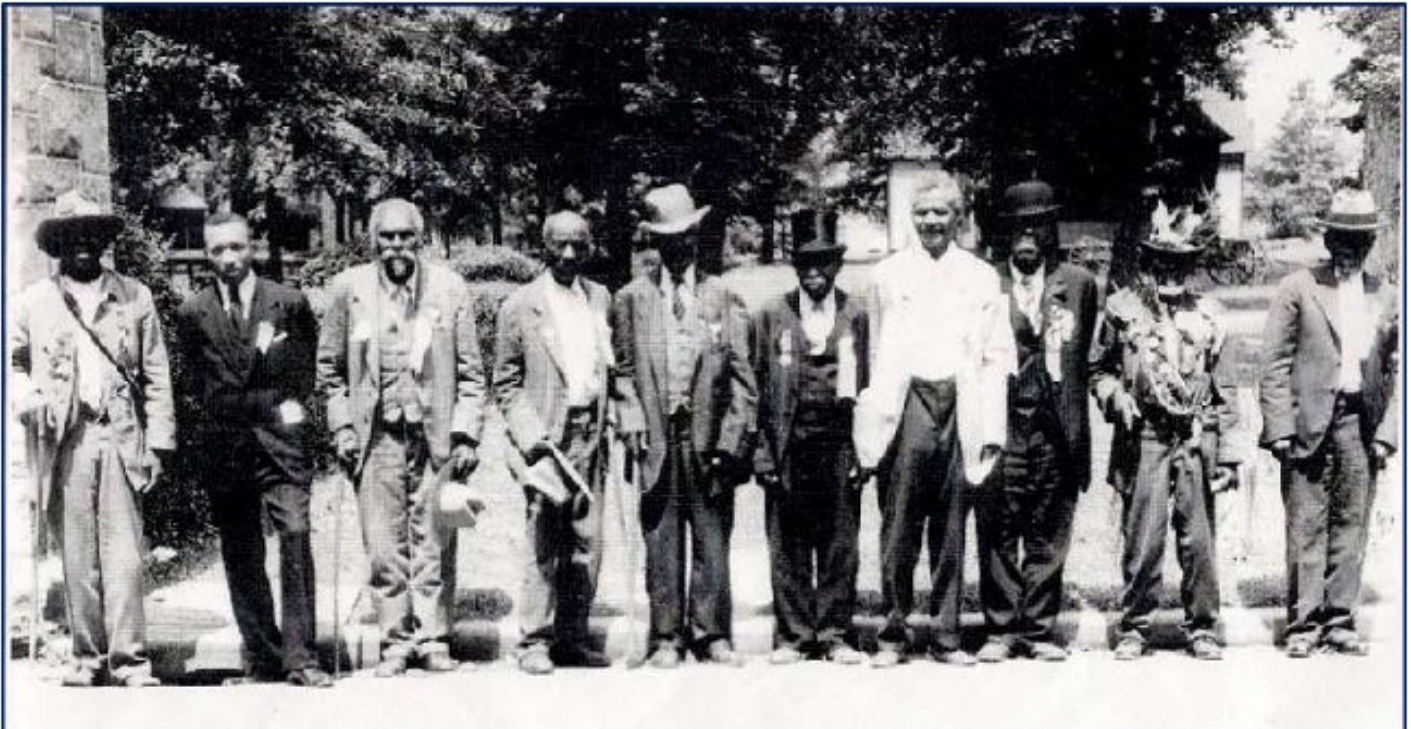
The Harper's Ferry insurrection-- U.S. Marines storming the engine house. Insurgents firing through holes in the doors / from a sketch made during the raid, created and published 1859. On 17 October at 1.25 am the Baltimore & Ohio passenger train is stopped at the one lane bridge. Ironically the first person killed in the raid is a free African American, a railroad employee, Heyward Shepherd is shot and mortally wounded as he investigates the cause of the train's delay-Editor.

Irony abounds; Lincoln's emancipation was for slaves in a State in rebellion, stating 'thenceforward and forever free'. The Union's authority at that point in time had no authority in the Confederate States of America; however, in the North, slavery was allowed to continue. Even more ironic because Lincoln had a plan to ship all black people back to Africa. And more...no black people were allowed at Lincoln's funeral, and yet hundreds attended Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest's funeral. Even before the war, some free black people worked for Forrest because he paid them. Then, during the war, around forty-five African Americans fought with him, with some of them acting as his personal bodyguard.

Curiously, when the Union's General Benjamin Butler was in command of Fort Monroe, a Southern slave owner crossed into federal lines to the fort. Once there, he claimed the return of his run-away slaves. Butler stood his ground and refused. He explained that since slaves were property, they could rightfully be seized as contraband of war, even if they did the 'seizing' themselves. Lincoln thought this to be an ingenious response, as did the rest of the North. From that point, runaway slaves were known as 'Contrabands.' Eventually, in the North, Negro regiments with white officers

were formed, comprising freed slaves. At first, this idea was not popular with existing white soldiers but later realised that in battle, a black soldier might take the bullet that would have otherwise gone to a white soldier. The North still had a racial prejudice against black people and generally would not associate with them, the ranks were segregated. The draft act in the North provoked an uprising in New York City. This was just after Gettysburg and for a few days, mobs randomly attacked and killed innocent blacks.

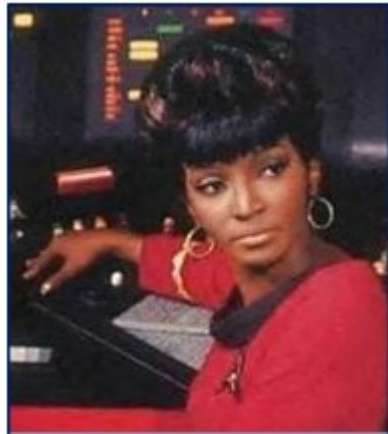
At the end of the war in 1865, the 13th Amendment to the United States of America's Constitution abolished slavery. In 1868, the 14th Amendment granted citizenship, and equal civil and legal rights to African Americans. Then, in 1870, President Ulysses Grant ratified the 15th Amendment- The Right to Vote Not Denied by Race, which effectively gave the right to vote for African Americans. Despite all of this, events didn't go as smoothly as one would expect. Because of discrimination against blacks in the South, Congress responded in 1867-68 with the Reconstruction Acts. This law divided the former Confederacy into five military districts



African Americans attended Confederate reunions and were totally integrated with their white counterparts. They fought as both freed and slaves to preserve their homes and families. Some may have fought to prevent being shipped back to Africa by Lincoln, a country many had no memory of and no idea what part of Africa they could trace their origins to. Gen. N. B. Forrest has been vilified today but during and after the war he was held in high esteem by the Southern coloured community.-Editor.

headed by Major-Generals. They had control of the state legislatures to establish schools for black and white and the rights promised to the blacks by the Civil Rights Acts. Even so, radicals in the government were pitted against U.S. President Andrew Johnson, who made no secret of his prejudices against black people. So much so that he was almost impeached. On top of this, conservatives in the South were not willing to accept social changes thrust upon them. They also had disdain for the 'Sclawwags', those Southerners who had opposed cession now emerged to play their part in the Reconstruction. Again, they detested Northern government officials, agents of business and others pouring into the South, giving them the name 'Carpetbaggers', from the bags containing all their possessions.

A so called 'Black Reconstruction' lasted from 1869 to 1877 until the withdrawal of Federal troops by President Hayes in 1877. The bitterness caused by Reconstruction lasted until the 1960s and still resonates today. By way of example, television had an unexpected cultural impact. The story Star Trek was written by Gene Roddenberry and turned into a television series in 1966. The show was unique in that it showed not just a diversity of characters and different ethnicities, but a black lady, Uhuru, played by Nichelle Nichols as part of the crew on the bridge of Captain Kirk's Enterprise. This was unusual for the time, especially in America where there was still an equality problem of non-whites and women, North or South. The 1960s saw a growing movement in civil rights and only the year before Roddenberry's Star Trek, black American and civil rights activist Malcolm X was assassinated. Star Trek continued and in 1968, another black American civil rights activist, Dr Martin Luther King was assassinated. Star Trek as a television series finished in 1969.



Nichelle Nichols (Uhuru) had a fan in Martin Luther King. At one stage, Nichelle wanted to leave the show to continue a singing career. King spoke to her and said if she did, a white blonde lady may take her place and she would be forgotten. He remarked that not only was she black but also female, thereby lifting such a person out of a stereotype, making her a key career science person on the Enterprise representing Planet Earth. King wanted Nichelle to reflect on this achievement for both black people and women.

He indicated that she had been able to achieve what he had difficulty achieving with all his speeches and protests. Nichelle changed her mind and stayed with the show.

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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!



Long after war's end African Americans proudly marched at reunions and posed for photographs. They wished to have their service recognised and respected. This veteran poses with the flag and a Confederate water canteen. It was taken in 1913 and entitled "The Conquered Banner". For Black History Month (February) we owe it to those veterans to remember them and the sacrifice they made for America, be it the North or South, they fought for freedom and their country. (Photo by Clickenbeard)-Editor.

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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."

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.