

The Sentinel

January 2021



Army of
Tennessee





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“Get there first with the most“

January 2021

The Sentinel

is published by the
Army of Tennessee
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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Army of Tennessee

SONS OF CONFEDERATE
VETERANS

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the Second American Revolution. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the SCV is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes so that future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861 - 1865 period is preserved.

Membership is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces.



Army of Tennessee



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From the Army Commander

Compatriots,

Happy New Year to all of you! If you are like me, you are glad to see 2021. 2020 was a year to forget. Not only because of the virus and the health problems associated with it but also the difficulties it caused in the operation of our Camps in the Army. Camps that could not meet or chose not to meet were common, Camp, Division and National events were postponed or cancelled and recruitment suffered. All is not lost. We are slowly opening back up, events are being planned and we are seeing an uptick in recruiting and reinstatement of former members.

The one thing that did not change was the efforts of our detractors. More monuments were attacked and removed; the "Cancel Culture" crowd found "helpers" on both sides of the aisle to advance their cause. The latest to throw the South under the bus was the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). Their new policy recently announced mentions no stance on the Confederate Battle Flag, other than to say they are intentionally not mentioning it. Their stated purpose shows the desire to protect the monuments of the Federal soldiers but the before mentioned opposition to the removal of Confederate Monuments has been deleted. Fair weather friends at best. If you have not read the policy it is on page 25 and CiC McCluney's response is on page 26 of this issue.

Bills in various State legislatures have been pre filed seeking to change, rename or remove anything Confederate. Many of these bills at first glance don't seem to stand a chance of passage but in today's climate you cannot let them go unchallenged. Start a letter writing campaign or send postcards to the legislators to remind them we care and WE VOTE!

2021 will have challenges. How we react will determine where we end up. We can take the "Oh woe is me approach and hide in a hole (or a basement)" or we can get proactive and show people we are still here. I believe our people still care, they want to be safe but the desire to honor their Confederate soldier is still there.

On the National level we are still waiting on a date for the Forrest reinterment at Elm Springs. In June, the Alabama and Tennessee Divisions will unveil a new monument to the soldiers who rode with Forrest at the Boyhood Home in Chapel Hill. Plan your events as you can, lets publicize them and get our members to attend.

The cancellation of events or restrictions placed on us by Governors has definitely hurt the sale of the AoT Challenge coins. You sell more in person than by mail order. As of today's date we have donated \$492 to the Divisions in the AoT. The Kentucky Division has been the biggest recipient with \$300. I will have the coins with me as I travel around and they can be mailed with a minimum order of 10.

Let me know as far in advance as you can about events in your area so I can try to attend. It doesn't take long for a calendar to be filled. On page 9 I have listed the dates of the Division Reunions that I am aware of. My plan is to make as many as possible.

The AoT Workshop is scheduled for March 27th in Guntersville, Alabama. The registration form is on page 6 along with the lineup of speakers. I also plan on a short Q&A session (time permitting) at the end of the event. I would like to see other Divisions step up and hold a workshop. We have one Division that is looking at holding one and they will remain anonymous until they are ready to announce. The main requirements are a centralized location to insure attendance, registration fee has to be affordable, it helps if the Division will budget a little funding to help the host camp put it on and finally, not be in conflict with a major event.

This issue features several articles about Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson including a speech given on Lee by Councilman Carl Jones in January 2015 at the observance of Robert E. Lee Day at the Blount County, Alabama Courthouse. The speech was also published by the Abbeville Institute the same year. January is the month when most Camps and Divisions hold Lee - Jackson events. Post pictures everywhere you can. Let the public know we still admire these two men. If nothing changes I will attend the Lee Day Remembrance on January 16th in Fitzgerald, Georgia and on the 23rd, the Lee Day event held by the Alabama Division at Oxford, Alabama.

Send photos of events to AoTcommander@alscv.org

For the Cause,

Jimmy Hill
Commander
Army of Tennessee

From the Army Councilman

Jefferson Davis once wrote “The principles for which we contended are bound to reassert themselves, although it may be at another time, and in another form.”

The present political and cultural climate that we’ve recently found ourselves in has shone a new light on the profound truth of what President Davis was referring to. The growing divide in American politics is bringing to the forefront the validity of the Cause for which our ancestors offered their lives. Even political commentators like Rush Limbaugh, who has long revered Abraham Lincoln and referred to the south as “traitors”, is talking about the ever-growing discussion of secession. And this affords us an opportunity, as with the topic of potential secession now a household concept, it offers us the platform to reach more open ears, and open minds, with the true nature of the Confederate Cause.

It is fashionable in the American mind today to try and dumb down the secession of the Southern States in 1861 to a one-word Cause, that word of course being “slavery”. Others on our own side prefer to point to taxes, tariffs and the economic issues. The truth is that the reason for secession had been there since the union was first formed. George Mason pointed out in the Philadelphia Convention that a country with peoples so differing in their “manners”, “habits” and “customs” could not live under a centralized or consolidated “national” government. He was correct and as early as 1794 even Representatives from Connecticut and Massachusetts had reached this realization as they proposed dissolving the Union to John Taylor of Caroline in the Chamber of the US Senate. Lincoln’s war was, simply stated, a clash of cultures that had reached the unavoidable conclusion that they were incompatible, and Lincoln’s forcing the union back together through invasion and bloodshed made the matter exponentially worse.

Lincoln’s presidency was truly transformational as it cast the principles behind the Declaration of Independence into the proverbial ash heap, turned the constitution on its ear, paved the way for the progressive era and set us on a path towards empire. It cemented into American governance a re-emergence of the very ancient principles that our founding generation sought to avoid. During the height of the progressive era President Woodrow Wilson gleefully remarked that the end result of Lincoln’s victory was that “the United States government is now, through its courts, the final arbiter of the limits of its own power.” The Confederate soldier took up arms in an effort to prevent this and had he been victorious, it is doubtful that we’d be seeing the current potential catastrophe that is playing out right before our eyes. No greater example of true patriotism exists in the annals of American history.

Now is our time to bring this message to the masses in our homes, neighborhoods and communities. I don’t know that we will ever have a better opportunity to use current issues as an opportunity to illustrate the valor, nobility and correctness of the Confederate soldier and his efforts to defend our Beloved Southland.

We’ve got a lot of work to do. We have new members to recruit, Camps to grow, a museum to complete and a lot of shouting from the rooftops to undertake. We have a grand opportunity and an attentive audience among the general public. Let’s make the most of it.

Deo Vindice,

Carl Jones
AOT Councilman



Army of Tennessee

Workshop



Hampton Inn
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
March 27, 2021
14451 Highway 431 South
Guntersville, AL 35976

Hosted by the Alabama Division and the Capt. John Rayburn Camp 452 Guntersville, AL

Registration is \$10 which includes lunch. Pre-registration by March 10th for lunch. After March 10th, the registration fee will be \$10 (no guaranteed lunch included. If extra lunches are available it will be first come, first serve) Hotel rooms are available with room rates posted to the Division Commanders.

All Divisions are welcome to attend!

Speakers include: Membership Coordinator Eric Previti (GHQ), Heritage Chief Donnie Kennedy, Make Dixie Great Again Phase 2, Georgia Division Commander Tim Pilgrim, Legal issues with Monument Protection, Lt CiC Jason Boshers, Fundraising ideas and ATM Commander J.C. Hannah, genealogy and vetting members

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers: Home: (____) _____ - _____

Cell: (____) _____ - _____

E-mail Address: _____

SCV Camp Name & Number: _____ Division: _____

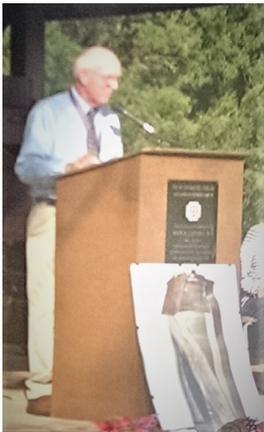
Please send this completed form, together with a check or money order in the amount of \$10 (by March 10th for lunch) made payable to Capt. John Rayburn Camp 452, SCV After March 10th, send this form and \$10 (No guaranteed lunch) and mail it to:

AoT Workshop
c/o Larry McCoy
1608 Wyeth Dr.
Guntersville, AL 35976-2330

Contact Workshop Coordinator Reggie Hughes at 256-572-5319 if you have questions.

Major Henry Wirz Memorial Service

by Jimmy Hill



Andersonville, GA. - November 8th was an overcast day in Andersonville as preparations were being finalized for the 45th Wirz Memorial Service. The event was sponsored by the Alexander H. Stephens Camp 78, Georgia Division, of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Camp Commander James Gaston was the Master of Ceremonies. Over 100 people gathered for the service. This was my first time to attend the Memorial Service although I have been to the prison site before. Dignitaries from various heritage groups were recognized and they spoke on the importance of remembering Major Wirz and the injustice he suffered at the hands of the Federal government. Mrs. Lunelle McCallister (wife of Compatriot David McCallister) of Florida was the guest speaker. She spoke on how the tragedy occurred, the attempts to have men implicate Jefferson



Davis, including Wirz to no avail. There was no doubt what the outcome of the trial was going to be. Someone had to pay for the "atrocities" that occurred at Andersonville. Even though the conditions were no worse than conditions of northern prison camps and attempts for prisoner exchanges fell on deaf ears from the Lincoln administration, Wirz would be held responsible. On November 10th 1865, Major Wirz was hanged in Washington D.C., Mrs. McCallister backed up her comments with facts and figures from the period.

Commander Gaston read a letter sent to him by Col. Heinrich Wirz. In the letter Col. Wirz thanked those responsible for the continuation of the memorial services and the work towards gaining a pardon for Major Wirz. One of the more moving parts of the program was the reading of a letter by Mrs. Charlotte Chambliss from a young lady who witnessed the events at Andersonville 155 years ago. She told of going to the prison camp and walking to the top of the stockade wall to view the prisoners. She saw first hand the conditions of the camp. She also wrote that the Confederates were in poor condition as well. There was not enough food to go around for prisoners or guards. Major Wirz was in an impossible situation. As Mrs. Chambliss read the letter it came to an abrupt ending as the author never finished it.

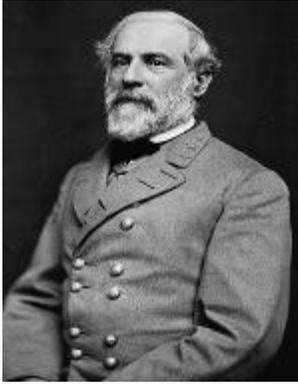
The 45th Memorial Service to Major Henry Wirz came to a close with the singing of Dixie and the laying of a wreath at the Wirz monument. An artillery salute was fired by SCV Camp 1399, Anderson Battery and the service ended.

Although this was my first Wirz Memorial Service to attend I don't think it will be my last. A memorial service to a Confederate hero and martyr. The last words from Major Wirz were "I have nothing to say, only that I am innocent, and will die like a man, my hopes being in the future. I go before my God, the Almighty God, and he will judge between me and you."



File photo

Robert Edward Lee



Robert E. Lee was born January 19, 1807 at Stratford Hall Plantation in Westmoreland County, Virginia to General Harry "Light horse" Lee and Anne Hill Carter Lee. His father died in 1818 leaving Lee's mother to raise six children on her own. It was a hard and difficult struggle but the Lee family persevered with the help

of family and friends. Robert entered West Point in 1825 and graduated second in his class in 1829 behind Charles Mason. After graduation his mother died at her home on July 26th, 1829. While home in the summer of 1829 he began to court Mary Custis, who he had known as a child. Her father did not find him to be a fit suitor but finally had a change of heart and gave his blessing to the young couple. They were married in 1831 while Lee was serving at Fort Monroe.

Robert E. Lee began his military as an engineer, serving in various locations in the country. He fought with distinction in Mexico, where he was also wounded. Lee's reputation increased in recognition and respectability, and in 1852 he was named superintendent of West Point. There he would remain until 1855 when he became second in command under Col. Albert Sidney Johnson of a cavalry regiment in Texas.

In 1857 his father in law died leaving Robert to execute the will and finalize the estate. Mary inherited "Arlington" as part of the estate. In 1859 Lee was sent to Harpers Ferry by President Buchanan to put down the uprising and to bring about the arrest of its leaders. After a brief fight Lee's men were able to capture John Brown and most of his followers. They were brought to trial and hung. In 1860 until March of 1861, Lee served at Fort Mason, Texas. When Texas seceded Lee accepted a position in Washington with the 1st Cavalry.

It was during this time that the secession movement began, and Lee was torn between his feelings toward the Union but also his allegiance to Virginia. On April 18, 1861 Lee was offered field command of the United States Army. On the following day, he received word that Virginia had seceded from the Union; he submitted his letter of resignation from the United States Army on April 20.

Arlington, Washington City, P.O.

20 Apr 1861

Lt. Genl Winfield Scott

Commnd U.S. Army

Genl,

Since my interview with you on the 18th Inst: I have felt that I ought not longer to retain any Commission in the Army. I therefore tender my resignation which I request you will recommend for acceptance. It would have been presented at once but for the struggle it has Cost me to separate myself from a Service to which I have devoted all the best years of my life, & all the ability I possessed. During the whole of that time, more than a quarter of a century, I have experienced nothing but kindness from my superiors & the most cordial friendships from any Comrades. To no one Genl have I been as much indebted as to yourself for kindness & Consideration & it has always been my ardent desire to merit your approbation. I shall carry with me, to the grave the most grateful recollections. of your kind Consideration, & your name & fame will always be dear to me. Save in the defense of my native state shall I ever again draw my sword.. Be pleased to accept any more ?? wishes for "the Continuance of your happiness & prosperity & believe me.

Most truly yours

R.E. Lee

Three days later, Lee accepted the position of commander of Virginia forces. From this point onward, Lee's identity became intrinsically linked to the Confederate cause. At the age of 55, on May 31, 1862, Robert E. Lee was assigned to command the troops which he named "The Army of Northern Virginia".

Battle after battle Lee was able to press the Federal army to withdraw. In the ninety days after taking command, Lee had pushed the federals to within 20 miles of Washington. Sharpsburg was essentially a draw but it did force the retreat of Lee back to Virginia. The greatest victories were yet to come at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Completely routing the enemy at both battles, it came with a high cost. At Chancellorsville, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was mortally wounded and would die a few days later. This loss of life would change forever the fortunes of the Army of Northern Virginia. Widely regarded as his best Corps Commander, Jackson would be sorely missed at Gettysburg. The Army of Northern Virginia fought mostly a defensive battle after the arrival of Ulysses S. Grant in 1864 to the eastern theater of the war. Still, Lee and his army continued to impale massive casualties on the Army of the Potomac. The Battle of Cold Harbor was one of many where the Federal Army paid a high price. The effect however with the unrelenting battle plan of Grants was the attrition of supplies and men from the Army of

Virginia. The siege of Petersburg lasted from June 1864 to March 1865. In April 1865 Lee moved out of Richmond in an attempt to link up with General Joseph Johnston. His army put up one more fight but on April 9th, 1865 General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Grant at Appomattox Court House. Lee has been compared to General George Washington in terms of the respect which he earned from his soldiers, his region, and the nation. On May 29, 1865, President Andrew Johnson issued a Proclamation of Amnesty and Pardon to persons who had participated in the war. There were fourteen excepted classes, though, and members of those classes had to make special application to the President. Lee sent an application to Grant and wrote to President Johnson on June 13, 1865: Being excluded from the provisions of amnesty & pardon contained in the proclamation of the 29th Ultio; I hereby apply for the benefits, & full restoration of all rights & privileges extended to those included in its terms. I graduated at the Mil. Academy at West Point in June 1829. Resigned from the U.S. Army April '61. Was a General in the Confederate Army, & included in the surrender of the Army of N. Virginia 9 April '65

On October 2, 1865, the same day that Lee was inaugurated as president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, he signed his Amnesty Oath, thereby complying fully with the provision of Johnson's proclamation. Lee was not pardoned, nor was his citizenship restored. Three years later, on December 25, 1868, Johnson proclaimed a second amnesty which removed previous exceptions, such as the one that affected Lee.

Lee made numerous improvements to Washington College during his tenure there. He instituted an honors system based on the system at West Point. The use of his name by the trustees allowed for much needed fundraising to improve the campus. Washington College quickly became known as a leading Southern College.

Lee was stricken on September 28, 1870 in Lexington and died a few weeks later on October 12. Robert E. Lee was buried in Lexington and remembered as an educator, a soldier, and a Christian gentleman who lived his life with dignity.



Army of Tennessee Division Reunions 2021 (in calendar order)

**March 2021 - Ohio Division
(Place and date TBD)**

**April 16-17 - Tennessee Division
Humboldt, TN**

**June 4-5 - Alabama Division
Prattville, AL**

**June 4-6 - Florida, Division
Trenton, FL**

**June 4-6 - Georgia Division
Macon, GA**

**June 4-6 - Mississippi Division
Vicksburg, MS**

**June 26 - Kentucky Division
Falmouth, KY**

**October 23 - Indiana Division
Bluffton, IN**



Discovering Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson: A Biography

Thomas Jonathan Jackson was born on January 21, 1824, in Clarksburg, Virginia (now West Virginia). Thomas' father died when Thomas was two years old, leaving Thomas' mother widowed with little money and many debts. To support her three surviving children, Thomas' mother became a teacher and also sewed. Mounting financial problems forced her to sell all her property, even the family home in Clarksburg. Four years later, Thomas' mother re-married and moved the family to a neighboring county. When Thomas was seven she became very ill and sent the children to live with relatives. Later that year Thomas returned home to be at his mother's side when she died. Thomas loved his mother deeply, and he remembered her with appreciation all his life.

After their mother's death, Thomas and his sister Laura lived with their Uncle Cummins on Jackson's Mill. The young Thomas quickly grew to like to his uncle and enjoyed working on the farm. But Thomas lived a lonely and independent life with his uncle, and received only three years of formal schooling. Worse, Thomas did not begin school until he was thirteen.

When he was eighteen, Thomas entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Lacking the financial and educational advantages of his classmates, Jackson ranked at the bottom of his class his first year, though he improved with each year. When he was graduated in 1846, Thomas ranked seventeenth out of the fifty-nine graduates in his class. After graduation, Jackson and the other West Point cadets became officers of the United States Army, and Jackson joined an artillery unit sent to fight in the Mexican War, a territorial conflict between the United States and Mexico.

The Mexican War gave Jackson his first experiences in battle, and a fellow soldier said that Jackson was “as calm in the midst of a hurricane of bullets as though he were on dress parade at West Point.” Jackson was a part of an army bound for Mexico City, though the palace Chapultepec stood in between the American army and the Mexican capital. Chapultepec was a formidable castle atop a 200-foot hill that protected the entrances to city. The assault on Chapultepec began at dawn, but intense gunfire from the castle quickly pinned down American troops. At this point, Jackson's unit advanced towards the trapped troops and immediately came under heavy fire. Though most of the unit retreated and its horses fell dead from Mexican fire, Jackson held his ground. Surrounded by a storm of artillery and musket fire, Jackson helped rally his unit and began firing on the fortress of Chapultepec. Reinforcements eventually arrived to continue the attack, which resulted in the capture of Mexico City. Stories of Jackson's heroism spread throughout the army, and he

received three promotions for his bravery during the fighting. 2 The Stonewall Jackson House, Lexington, Virginia.

When the Mexican War was over, Jackson returned to the United States. From 1849-1851, he served at Army posts in New York and Florida. Tiring of peacetime Army life, Major Jackson accepted a teaching position at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, Virginia, in 1851. While Jackson had proven himself on the battlefield in Mexico, the peaceful life in Lexington presented Jackson with very different challenges. Jackson was naturally uncomfortable in social gatherings and had difficulty making casual conversation. Because of these difficulties, Jackson often left people thinking he was reserved and awkward. Jackson, however, gradually adjusted to life in Lexington. In addition to teaching at VMI, Jackson became a business partner in a tannery, a director of the Lexington Savings Institution, and a member of the Franklin Society, Lexington's debate club. Jackson also became deeply religious while in Lexington. He joined the Lexington Presbyterian Church, founded a Sunday school for free and enslaved blacks, and was a founder and director of the Rockbridge Bible Society.

It was Jackson's faith that introduced him to his first wife, Elinor Junkin. They became close friends while teaching at the Presbyterian Sunday school in February 1852, and became engaged by Christmas of that year. Elinor was an educated and pious daughter of George Junkin, a Presbyterian minister and president of Washington College. Thomas and Elinor were married on August 4, 1853, in the Junkin home. The new couple went on a wedding tour of the North, visiting Philadelphia, Niagara Falls, Montreal, Quebec, and Boston, accompanied by Elinor's sister Margaret.

Deaths in Jackson's family soon marred his happy life in Lexington. Elinor died in childbirth just after their first anniversary. Two years later, the grieving Thomas took an extended tour of Europe. When he returned, he began courting Mary Anna Morrison. At the age of thirty-three, Thomas was eager to start a new family, and Thomas and Mary Anna married in 1857. Unfortunately, the Jacksons' first daughter died in infancy.

In 1859, Thomas and Mary Anna moved into the only house Thomas ever owned. Mary Anna wrote, “it was genuine happiness to him to have a home of his own...and it was truly his castle.” They began decorating their home with furniture they bought on their honeymoon and other trips north. During the

summer months, they worked in their flower and vegetable gardens. Thomas and Mary Anna traveled to various springs to take water cures, drinking mineral water and bathing in natural mineral springs, a popular way to treat illness in the mid-19th century. The Jacksons were to enjoy their peaceful lifestyle for only a few years. After Virginia seceded on April 21, 1861, Major Jackson left home to lead the VMI cadets to Richmond.

As an officer, Jackson led by his own example. One Confederate soldier wrote of Jackson: "From the calm, collected [person that he appears to be], he becomes the fiery leader. Passing like a thunderbolt along the front he is everywhere in the thickest of the fight, holding his lines steady, however galling the fire, and rallying his men to charge where the danger is greatest and the pressure heaviest..."

At the first battle of Manassas in July 1861, Jackson acquired the nickname "Stonewall." The morning of the battle, Union troops were overwhelming the Confederates, who had begun to retreat. Another Confederate officer, General Bernard Bee, pointed to Jackson's unit and shouted to his fleeing troops, "There stands Jackson like a stone wall, rally behind the Virginians!" Jackson's brigade held its ground and turned the tide of the battle. After that day, Thomas was known as "Stonewall" Jackson, and his brigade as the "Stonewall Brigade."

During the Valley Campaign of 1862, Jackson's troops were outnumbered three to one. Against this disadvantage, Jackson fought six major battles and defeated the three armies that President Lincoln sent to secure the Shenandoah Valley. Jackson used complex maneuvers to isolate, confuse, and overwhelm the Union forces in the Valley. Relying on tactical deception, Jackson's "foot cavalry" faked marches and attacked Union forces from unexpected directions. Jackson became known and feared for his highly effective use of misdirection and elaborate maneuver.

One of Jackson's greatest battles was his last, the Battle of Chancellorsville near Fredericksburg, Virginia. In a meeting with the commanding general, Robert E. Lee, Jackson and Lee decided to split their army, and send Jackson's larger portion around the Union Army. Jackson launched a surprise attack against General Joseph Hooker's vulnerable right flank. The attack shattered two miles of the Union position.

After nightfall on May 2, 1863, Jackson and his staff rode along enemy lines to plan another attack. When Jackson and his staff returned to their own lines, Confederate soldiers opened fire, thinking the shadowy figures to be Union cavalry. Jackson was shot twice in the left arm, which was amputated in an attempt to save

After nightfall on May 2, 1863, Jackson and his staff rode along enemy lines to plan another attack. When Jackson and his staff returned to their own lines, Confederate soldiers opened fire, thinking the shadowy figures to be Union cavalry. Jackson was shot twice in the left arm, which was amputated in an attempt to save his life. Jackson rallied briefly, but caught pneumonia and died on May 10, 1863, at a hospital in Guinea Station, Virginia. His body was brought back to Lexington for burial.

Written by Stonewall Jackson House Staff, 1991.

Revised by Stonewall Jackson House Undergraduate Intern, 2005.



Robert E. Lee and Lord Acton: Forced Centralization and the Results they Envisioned

by John M. Taylor

Editors notes: The Lee article was first published in January 2017 and the Jackson article in January 2016 but considering the circumstances then and now, I felt a reprint of these articles were relevant.

After the rancor of the 2016 presidential election, including the rhetoric of America First versus globalism, it seems like an appropriate time to reflect on warnings of two great men of the Nineteenth Century. Robert E. Lee, a devout Episcopalian from Virginia and Lord Acton, a devout Catholic from England, exchanged both interesting and prophetic correspondence in November and December 1866.

Most Southerners possess at least some knowledge of Lee; however, Acton may not be quite as well known. Lord Acton, an admirer of the John Locke/Thomas Jefferson philosophy of limited government, was considered a classical liberal in his era, and in modern vernacular, would likely be described as a right-leaning libertarian, at least from the standpoint of his views on government. Perhaps his greatest claim to fame is his timeless quote: “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Acton realized the U.S. Constitution was a good attempt at establishing a constitutional republic with checks and balances, but still had a few flaws. Patrick Henry noted this as well, and the Confederate Constitution corrected virtually every flaw in the original document. Acton identified States’ Rights as necessary for the States to keep the central government in check—The increased power granted by the States to the central government was a source of great concern.

Though Robert E. Lee believed (and was taught at West Point) the Union is a voluntary confederation of States, he was initially opposed to secession. However, Lincoln’s call to invade the seceded States became very problematic; Lee was adamant that coercion was a blatant violation of the U.S. Constitution and antithetical to the entire basis of the American experiment.

Lee and Acton believed a voluntary constitutional republic was the ideal form of governance and the correspondence of these gentlemen reflected their beliefs. After the South’s failure to establish independence, Lee and Acton lamented the damage to States’ Rights, as they had just witnessed Lincoln’s multiple abuses of constitutional authority. They predicted even greater danger on the horizon. In his November 4, 1866, letter to Lee, Acton stated:

I saw in States’ rights the only availing check upon the absolutism of the sovereign will, and secession filled me with hope, not as the destruction but as the redemption of Democracy. The institutions of your Republic have not exercised on the old world the salutary and liberating influence which ought to have belonged to them, by reason of those defects and abuses of principle which the Confederate Constitution was expressly and wisely calculated to remedy. I believed that the example of that great Reform would have blessed all the races of mankind by establishing true freedom purged of the native dangers and disorders of Republics. Therefore I deemed that you were fighting the battles of our liberty, our progress, and our civilization, and I mourn for the stake which was lost at Richmond more deeply than I rejoice over that which was saved at Waterloo. Lee responded to Acton on December 15th:

I yet believe that the maintenance of the rights and authority reserved to the states and to the people, not only are essential to the adjustment and balance of the general system, but the safeguard to the continuance of a free government. I consider it as the chief source to our political system, whereas the consolidation of the states into one vast republic, sure to be aggressive abroad and despotic at home, will be the certain precursor of that ruin which has overwhelmed all those that have preceded it. I need not refer one so well acquainted as you are with American history, to the State papers of Washington and Jefferson, the representatives of the federal and democratic parties, denouncing consolidation and centralization of power, as tending to the subversion of state Governments, and to despotism. The New England states, whose citizens are the fiercest opponents of the Southern states, did not always avow the opinions they now advocate. Upon the purchase of Louisiana by Mr. Jefferson, they virtually asserted the right of secession through their prominent men; and in the convention which assembled at Hartford in 1814, they threatened the disruption of the Union unless the war should be discontinued.

Reflecting on the wisdom of Lee and Acton, Emory University professor Donald Livingston observed: “Had the Confederate States of America survived, the world

would have had the model of a vast-scale federative polity with a strong central authority explicitly checked by the ultimate right of a state to secede. It would have shown the world that an alternative existed to the modern state.” In our world, we have a central bank that manipulates interest rates and credit; corporate welfare that includes blatant bailouts of industries that would and should collapse under free market capitalism; industries protected from competition; foreign interventionism, and an intrusive government that seeks to get involved in every phase of the average person’s life.

The dangers of centralization and empire so astutely predicted by Lee and Acton are patently obvious today. Semmes, Stephens, Cleburne, and others made similar observations. In the Orwellian times in which we live, it also illustrates a central reason why the Thought Police in the modern Ministry of Truth discredit anything referencing “Confederates” for it was they who identified the transformation of the original voluntary republic of sovereign States into a forced coalition of States subservient to the central government.

God Bless the Southland!

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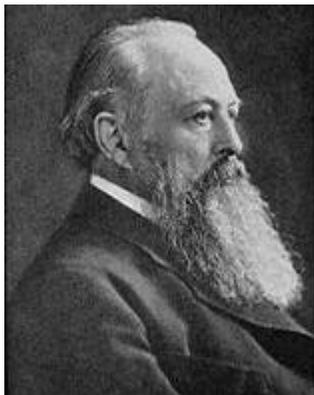
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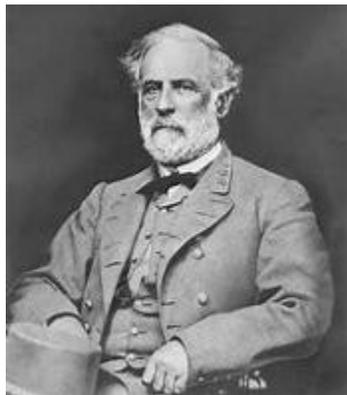
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Lord Emerich Edward Dahlburg Acton



General Robert Edward Lee

The Thought Police and Stonewall Jackson

By: John M. Taylor

Anyone curious about this country’s direction should read *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley along with *1984* and *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. I’ve been advised Ayn Rand’s *Atlas Shrugged* provides another explanation for what appears to be a drive toward a dystopian society. It is clear that the Thought Police referenced by Orwell have established a strong foothold in modern America. Connected with that agenda, the influences of Germany’s early 1900’s Frankfurt School have come home to roost. It was there that “Political Correctness” was born, based on their advocacy of cultural Marxism, an agenda derived from the beliefs of Adorno, Marcuse, Horkheimer, Fromm, Kant, Hegel, Freud, Lukacs, Weber, and Karl Marx himself.

It is well documented that many followers of Marx who were thrown out of power in 1840’s Europe moved to America and became strong supporters of Lincoln and the Republican Party. Union officers from this group included Joseph Weydemeyer, Louis Blenker, August Willich, Carl Shurz, Franz Seigel, etc. The simple fact is that the South has been fighting Marxists in one form or another for over 150 years.

We’ve seen the cultural Marxists assault Southern heritage and history for years. This was ramped up after mass circulation of highly suspicious pictures of a drugged-out young man accused of shooting nine people in a South Carolina church. The media jumped on this like vultures and instantly blamed the Confederate Flag, which had as much to do with it as his Gold’s Gym t-shirt, i.e. nothing at all. Once the agenda picked up speed, a caravan of people playing the role of “useful idiots” jumped on the anti-South bandwagon.

“Useful idiots” is a term often credited to Russian communist Vladimir Lenin, referencing people who can be used to push an agenda they may not be totally aware of. Interestingly, Lincoln has often been likened to Lenin, based on their success with massive nationalization and centralization of government power. After Lenin, Joseph Stalin turned it up a few notches and began to rewrite history, change names of places, etc.

Whether these people are truly useful idiots or simply historical illiterates is unclear, but critics of Southern history included many who either claim to be Southern or reside in the South. The list includes Nikki Haley, Jenny Horne, Hugh Freese, Steve Spurrier, Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Steve Earle, Jimmy Buffett, etc. Though she was missing a top hat and cane, Horne’s ridiculously fallacious rant was worthy of an Academy Award. Conversely, members of the group Alabama,

Democratic Senator Jim Webb, Republican Haley Barbour, Pastor Chuck Baldwin and others took the opposite side and defended Southern history. (Webb is an historical expert and wrote the excellent book *Born Fighting*, about the Scots-Irish.)

Most of us who know Southern history remember Irish-born Confederate General Patrick Cleburne's warning that attacks such as these would become inevitable if the South failed to gain its independence—the victor would write history as they wanted it to be. Though Cleburne probably said it the loudest, this warning was echoed by Jefferson Davis, Richard Taylor, Stephen D. Lee and many others who fought for Southern Independence.

There were many Confederates who saw the War Between the States as the Second American Revolution but perhaps none were more committed to this belief than Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson. Jackson was Scots-Irish on his great-grandfather's side and English on his great grandmother's. He was born into humble beginnings on January 21, 1824, in Clarksburg, Virginia (now West Virginia), the third child of Julia Beckwith Neale and Jonathan Jackson, a lawyer. His father and sister Elizabeth died of typhoid fever in March 1826. Julia gave birth to daughter Laura Ann on March 27, 1826, a day after Jonathan's death.

The Jacksons were in dire financial straits. Julia married Captain Blake Woodson in 1830 but their circumstances remained meager. The children were disbursed to various relatives. Thomas was sent to live with his Uncle Cummins Jackson and here he was exposed to lumber mills, gristmills and other forms of outdoor work. This is also where the introverted Jackson periodically attended Negro churches and gained exposure to Negro music and songs.

One of Jackson's teachers, Colonel Withers, recognized his intelligence and sterling character. Withers helped Jackson gain a constable's position in June 1841. During this era there was periodic sectional animosity. As a patriotic Southerner, Jackson sought appointment to West Point. With assistance from Captain George Jackson, Mr. Jonathan Bennett, and other western Virginia relatives, he gained appointment in 1842, and finished seventeenth in a class of fifty-nine upon his 1846 graduation.

Jackson served with distinction as a lieutenant in the Third U.S. Artillery during the Mexican War. He attained the rank of brevet major by war's end. While in Mexico, he learned some Spanish and explored Catholicism. Post Mexican War, Jackson was sent to Fort Hamilton on Long Island. Jackson did not become a Catholic due to his disagreement with church doctrine. He applied for baptism at the Episcopal Church to affirm his Protestant beliefs and eventually became a Calvinist and member of the Presbyterian Church.

Beginning in 1851, Jackson began teaching artillery, natural philosophy and other courses at Virginia Military Institute. Jackson was a strict, no-nonsense teacher and had students challenge him to duels and even threaten to kill him. Behind his back, they ridiculed him as "Tom Fool" and Old Blue Light." It was as a teacher that many of his idiosyncrasies came to light. Also, in the late 1850's Jackson began to teach Sunday School to Black slaves and freedmen. This was in defiance of a Virginia law but not God's law. He also helped fund Black churches until his death.

Jackson married two times – both wives were daughters of Presbyterian ministers. His first wife was Eleanor Junkin and she died in childbirth. His second wife was Mary Anna Morrison with whom he had a daughter.

In 1859, John Brown committed treason by attempting to invade Virginia. The Secret Six, a mixed bag of New England industrialists, abolitionists, and Unitarian social reformers, financed Brown. On December 2, 1859, Jackson witnessed Brown's execution.

When Virginia left the Union in 1861, Jackson commanded the troops at Harper's Ferry. In June he was put in command of a brigade under Joe Johnston. Jackson's impeccable war record and unbending Christian faith are well documented. As a strict devotee of principle, he would never be deterred by anyone who failed to see the righteousness of the South's cause of independence. As Jackson said, "What is life without honor? Degradation is worse than death."

The South is simply facing a modern version of an old enemy. Thus far, contemporary battles have been mostly philosophical. No amount of propaganda could sway Jackson from doing what was right. We must follow the lead of Jackson, Lee, etc., ignore the Thought Police and figuratively "give them the bayonet" by relentlessly pushing the truth—that is one thing we definitely have on our side.

God Bless the Southland!

John M. Taylor is a member of the Gen. Edmund W. Pettus Camp 574, Alabama Division and former Editor of the Alabama Division newsletter "Alabama Confederate"



Walkways of Remembrance
 Bricks and Pavers For the Walkways for the
 General Headquarters for the Sons of Confederate Veterans at Elm Springs
 and the
 Confederate Museum at Elm Springs

Remember and honor your Confederate Ancestor, a family member or any cherished memory with the purchase of a Memorial Brick to be laid for a walkways at the General Headquarters for the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs.

Brick sizes:

The 4" x 8" brick will allow 3 lines with 21 characters (including spaces) per line and will cost \$50.

The 8" by 8" brick will allow 6 lines with 21 characters (including spaces) per line and will cost \$100.

Layout for 4" x 8" brick with 3 lines max and 21 characters per line max (including spaces) \$50

Layout for 8" x 8" brick with 6 lines max and 21 characters per line max (including spaces) \$100

Make checks payable to SCV and write "Bricks" in the memo line. Please fill out this form and mail to:
 SCV, P.O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402
 Credit card payments are available by calling 1-800-MYSOUTH and contacting Merchandising.

Please include all your contact information so we can contact you.

Name: _____
 Address/City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone number: _____
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Memorial Park Bench

Remember and honor your Confederate ancestor, loved one, family member or organization with the purchase of a Memorial Park Bench. These sturdy, long-lasting and beautiful benches will be placed along the walkways and the Memorial Garden on the property of the scenic General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Confederate Museum at Elm Springs.

The benches are available to individuals, camps, divisions and organizations. The inscription and use of a logo is of your own choosing. The cost for the bench is \$1,800.

Disclaimer: The General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the General Executive Council reserve the right to approve the use of symbols, logo, wording and placement of the benches.



Will you be using a logo? _____ If so, please attach logo with form or email.

Inscription of up to 5 lines:

Make checks payable to SCV and write "Bench" in the memo line. Please fill out this form and mail to:
SCV, P.O. Box 59, Columbia, TN 38402
Credit card payments are available by calling 1-800-MYSOUTH and contacting Merchandising.

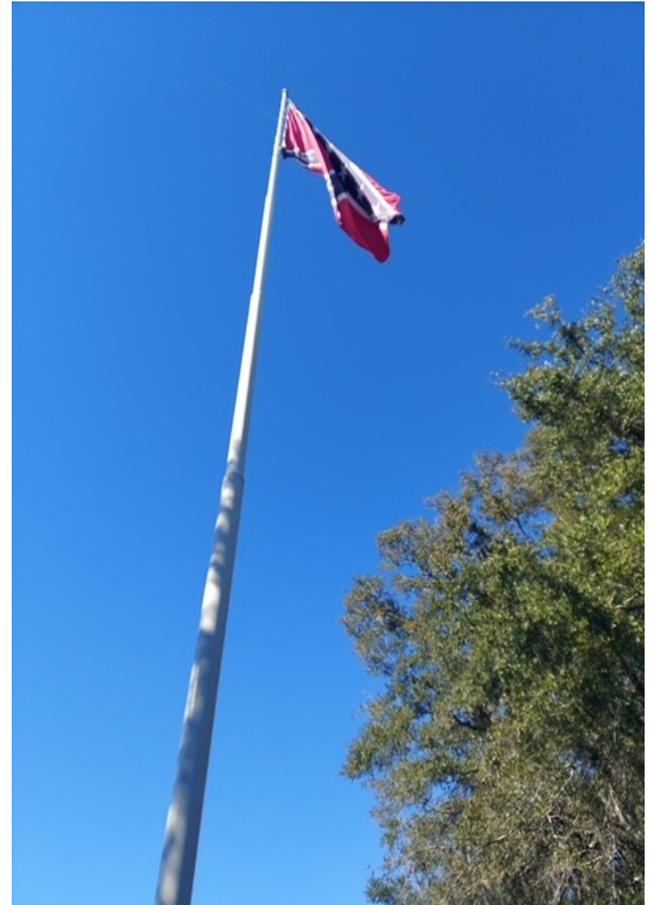
Please include all contact information so you can be contacted when your bench arrives.

Name: _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

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Pictured above are the front and back of the new AoT Challenge coin. They are \$10 each. I will have them with me as I visit the Divisions or I can mail them to you. (Minimum mail order 10 coins).

\$5 of each coin sold goes back to the Division of that AoT member as a donation. Use it for projects, legal fees, etc. I am using a Priority mail box to send them that includes a flat rate postage of \$8, so add that to your check. The box will hold 35 coins.

Email me to place an order or for more information at AoTcommander@alsc.org

As soon as I receive your check or money order I will mail your box.

Send to: Jimmy Hill
13476 Wendy Drive
Madison, AL 35757

The Battle flag is flying again at the White Springs, Florida site after repairs were made to the pole.

The Cause of Jackson and Lee

by Carl Jones

Robert E. Lee said “Everyone should do all in his power to collect and disseminate the truth, in the hope that it may find a place in history and descend to posterity. History is not the relation of campaigns and battles and generals or other individuals, but that which shows the principles for which the South contended and which justified her struggle for those principles.”

In honoring him today, I wish to adhere to his will in this regard and speak to you on the cause that he and those who followed him into battle offered their lives for.

I have suggested for some time that to understand the travesty of Lincoln’s war of 1861 through 1865, one must first have some basic understanding of the outcome of the Philadelphia Convention in 1787, which proposed a constitution for the United States, and ratification of that constitution in 1788. Additionally, to understand the current political situation that we find ourselves in today, one must likewise have some basic understanding of Lincoln’s war and the damage to the original union that it inflicted. There is an idea among some that because the events that Lee participated in occurred over 150 years ago they are “irrelevant” to us today. This is an example of extreme short-sightedness on the part of the American populace.

Contrary to popular and oft-stated opinion, we did not just awaken one day to the political and economic mess we’re in due to the outcome of the last election, or even the several before it. The proverbial snowball has been rolling down hill and gaining in size, as well as potential calamity, for quite some time. In actuality, to understand the disparity between “Red States and Blues States”, “Liberals and Conservatives” or even “Traditional conservatives and Neo-Conservatives”, it is necessary to go back further than the adoption of the Constitution and to acquire some form of understanding of the disparity in the cultures of the various groups of British settlers who would ultimately form “America”. There were those during the ratification process of the constitution who recognized that these cultures could never be bonded together under a central government, but their efforts to prevent the constitution’s adoption were defeated under the submission that, since the constitution delegated only limited powers, the government that it would create would have no jurisdiction into the affairs or governance of the various States. Everyone, it was supposed, would be able to live as they chose without interruption from an authority that was being created only to act on behalf of the States with regards to certain specific, enumerated and limited powers.

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay would make this argument in what came to be known as the Federalist essays. Although these writings carried little weight outside the State of New York with regards to promoting the Constitution’s ratification, being that James Madison- one of the key players in both the Philadelphia Convention as well as the Virginia Ratifying Convention -was a principle writer of these essays, I’ll use his own explanation, from *Federalist 39*, of the government then under consideration.

In an effort to convince readers of the constitution’s republican nature Madison laid out a detailed description of how the elected representatives under the new government would attain office, after which he took the constitution’s opponents to task. He said:

“Could any further proof be required of the republican complexion of this system, the most decisive one might be found in its absolute prohibition of titles of nobility, both under the federal and the State governments; and in its express guaranty of the republican form to each of the latter.”

Recognizing that opponents were of the persuasion that this explanation “was not sufficient,” and that the constitution “ought, with equal care, to have preserved the federal form, which regards the Union as a Confederacy of sovereign states” but instead “regards the Union as a consolidation of the States” Madison said that, “it is asked by what authority this bold and radical innovation was undertaken?”

After asserting that “this objection requires that it should be examined with some precision” he endeavors to further explain the precise arrangement and form that the new government would take. He writes:

“On examining the first relation, it appears, on one hand, that the Constitution is to be founded on the assent and ratification of the people of America, given by deputies elected for the special purpose; but, on the other, that this assent and ratification is to be given by the people, not as individuals composing one entire nation, but as composing the distinct and independent States to which they respectively belong. It is to be the assent and ratification of the several States, derived from the supreme authority in each State, the authority of the people themselves. The act, therefore, establishing the Constitution, will not be a national, but a federal act.”

Proponents of the Constitution sold the document to the States on the basis that the sovereignty of each State to

retain all powers not expressly delegated was not to be in any manner effected by the constitution's ratification. The new government was to take a "federal" form, and to establish a "union" of sovereign republics rather than a singular "nation" under one parent government.

Madison further explained that, "The idea of a national government involves in it, not only an authority over the individual citizens, but an indefinite supremacy over all persons and things, so far as they are objects of lawful government. Among a people consolidated into one nation, this supremacy is completely vested in the national legislature."

However, he explained "among communities united for particular purposes, it is vested partly in the general and partly in the municipal legislatures. In the former case, all local authorities are subordinate to the supreme; and may be controlled, directed, or abolished by it at pleasure. In the latter, the local or municipal authorities form distinct and independent portions of the supremacy, no more subject, within their respective spheres, to the general authority, than the general authority is subject to them, within its own sphere."

Referring to the form of this newly proposed government, and with regards to the specific delegated powers enumerated within the constitution, he concludes that "In this relation, then, the proposed government cannot be deemed a national one; since its jurisdiction extends to certain enumerated objects only, and leaves to the several States a residuary and inviolable sovereignty over all other objects."

The only powers comprising the "sphere" -an analogy that Alexander Hamilton would likewise use in the New York Convention to explain the "Supremacy Clause" - within which the new government was to be "supreme" are found under Article I. All others, as the 10th Amendment would later state, are "reserved to the States."

Just shortly over a decade after the constitution was ratified, when the John Adams administration would sign into law a set of acts that would comprise a flagrant violation of the general government's lawful authority, then Secretary of State James Madison would pen the Virginia Resolution of 1798 which re-asserted the premise under which the constitution was accepted. He wrote that "this Assembly doth explicitly and peremptorily declare, that it views the powers of the federal government, as resulting from the compact, to which the states are parties; as limited by the plain sense and intention of the instrument constituting the compact; as no further valid that they are authorized by the grants enumerated in that compact; and that in case of a deliberate, palpable, and dangerous exercise of other powers, not granted by the said compact, the states who

are parties thereto, have the right, and are in duty bound, to interpose for arresting the progress of the evil, and for maintaining within their respective limits, the authorities, rights and liberties appertaining to them."

He continues by proclaiming, "that a spirit has in sundry instances, been manifested by the federal government, to enlarge its powers by forced constructions of the constitutional charter which defines them; and that implications have appeared of a design to expound certain general phrases (which having been copied from the very limited grant of power, in the former articles of confederation were the less liable to be misconstrued) so as to destroy the meaning and effect, of the particular enumeration which necessarily explains and limits the general phrases."

Madison is referring to the advocacy of "implied powers" being advanced and he acknowledged that these actions were being taken "so as to consolidate the states by degrees, into one sovereignty, the obvious tendency and inevitable consequence of which would be, to transform the present republican system of the United States, into an absolute, or at best a mixed monarchy."

Not only were the United States not unified as "one indivisible nation" under a parent governing authority, but it is the duty of the States, Madison said, to "interpose" in an effort to ensure that such an arrogation of undelegated, and thus unlawful, power was never undertaken.

Interestingly, during the Philadelphia Convention, Madison had argued for a federal "negative" (veto power) over State laws. As well, he had later attempted to have three notable protections of individual rights, as recognized in the Bill of Rights, made applicable against the States. Both positions were in an effort to put into place a stronger, "more energetic" central government, and both proposals were unanimously defeated in convention. But, as Kevin Gutzman makes clear in his excellent book *James Madison and the Making of America* Madison accepted what the States desired, and throughout the remainder of his political career he largely abided strictly by the constitution as ratified, even though its form had been in opposition to his own personal desires for the new government. Such statesmanship is virtually unheard of today.

In fact, such statesmanship would be limited even within Madison's own generation, and it would deteriorate further with the future waves of politicians ascending to elected office. Unlike Madison, his co-author of the *Federalist*, Alexander Hamilton, having given great effort to sell the constitution to his State of New York on the basis that it was limited in scope and encompassed a separation of powers between the States

and general government, then spent the remainder of his life working to rewrite, or “re-interpret”, the constitution to better suit his own monarchical tendencies. Hamilton was admiring of the British system and he would find willing accomplices to help fulfill his designs in the persons of John Marshall, Joseph Story and Daniel Webster, among others. While these men would chip away at the edges of constitutional restraints, Abraham Lincoln would emerge much later to take such usurpation to an extent that I believe would have horrified even Hamilton.

Throughout the Philadelphia Convention arguments were made in favor of a national government that would abridge the authority of the States and essentially transfer all but the most menial powers to the new “central” government, making it supreme in all endeavors. Subsequently, every attempt at this centralization of power was forthwith rejected by the convention.

It was not only the Southern States who rejected the formation of a national government in favor of a federal union, but delegates from some Northern States as well.

John Lansing, for example, said in the Philadelphia Convention that “Had the legislature of the State of New York apprehended that their powers would have been construed to extend to the formation of a national government, no delegates would have appeared on the part of that State. New plans annihilating the rights of the States can never succeed.”

So, not only is Lansing suggesting that New York would object to a national government which would annihilate the rights of the States, but he is asserting that the convention would not have even been represented by his State had they suspected that such a proposal would have been submitted. He and Robert Yates, who would later write in opposition to the constitution under the pen-name “Brutus”, exited the Convention prior to its conclusion.

The plan for a national government was shredded in the Convention, and to further bolster this fact every State, as a condition of ratification, would insist on what became the 10th Amendment which says that “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.”

The end result was a “general” government with clearly enumerated powers delegated to it, allowing it to act only in specific instances and as merely an agent of the various States.

Madison said in *Federalist 39* that “Each State, in ratifying the Constitution, is considered as a sovereign

body, independent of all others, and only to be bound by its own voluntary act.”

Still skeptical, three States (Rhode Island, New York and Virginia) asserted as a condition of ratification that they reserved the right to “resume” all delegated powers should the new government become “perverted to their injury or oppression.” In other words, as a condition of joining the union they insisted on a recognition of their right to secede, and this shows plainly that while creating a union under this new constitution, they had the highest expectations that their sovereignty would be maintained- if it is accepted that a State may secede, the sovereignty of that State must first be recognized.

Who ratified the constitution? It was not, as is often suggested, “the people” at large, or “the people of the United States.” It was “the people” of the states who are “the supreme authority in each State.” The preamble to the constitution makes clear that it is a constitution “for” the United States, and not a constitution “of” the United States. This is the basis upon which the union was formed, and it was the understanding of the people who ratified it that the constitution established a plural “union” rather than a singular “nation”.

The problem where Abraham Lincoln is concerned is that he rarely spoke of the constitution unless it was politically expedient to do so. His contemporaries noted of him that he was more apt to assert decisions based on what he perceived to be practical rather than what the constitution actually allowed. Stated another way, he was an advocate of arbitrary government based on personal whims rather than a statesman acting within the confines of powers actually consented to him and derived from the compact that the union was formed on. In the union as it was created, the constitution was itself the basis for political power in the general government. In Lincoln’s practices as a politician, his own idea of “what was good for the people” would replace what had been consented to his office, leaving him restrained, not by any rule of law, but only by his own desires. Is this not indicative of the very form of government that the Colonials had fought for eight years to escape from?

In the Declaration of Independence the Founders said of government that “government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed” and that the only legitimate purpose of government was the protection of the God-given rights of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” To secure these rights they “altered”, “abolished” and “threw off” a tyrannical government, and established their former “colonies” as “free and independent States.” “States” on par with the “State” of Great Britain.

Conversely, Lincoln said of government that it was “a leading object” whose purpose it was “to elevate the

the condition of men: to lift artificial weights from all shoulders: to clear the paths of laudable pursuits for all: to afford to all, an unfettered start, and a fair chance in the race of life. This is the leading object of government for whose existence we contend.”

According to this nefarious view, the individual is incapable of making his own way in life. He is incapable, without the all-knowing, all-caring hand of a central authority backed by authoritarian force, to elevate himself through his own ambitions, hard work and personal achievement. Government must exist to “level the playing field” and “clear the path” for the individual. When President George W. Bush said “government should provide a hand up” and Barack Obama said “you didn’t build that” both men were channeling their inner Lincoln.

It was to establish this view of government that the South was invaded. The South whose people had played a pivotal role in settling this continent, whose sons had established and defended the newly formed States from British invasion, the South whose statesmen were titans among the founding generation and who helped to craft the constitution into a form they believed most protective of liberty, the South who had shed its blood in Northern States to defend against British subjugation were now to be subjugated themselves by the very government that they had helped to establish.

Robert E. Lee dreaded the idea of secession. He considered the more vocal elements on both sides leading up to secession to be “hotheads” and hoped that calm and rational thought would prevail, and that the union would be preserved by arbitration.

Biographer, Douglas Southall Freeman, says that secession was a time of “deep depression” for Lee who wrote to his son Custis that “The Southern States seem to be in a convulsion.....My little personal troubles sink into insignificance when I contemplate the condition of the country, and I feel as if I could easily lay down my life for its safety.”

But secession came, and Lee was faced with a decision to either remain with the union, or to follow his own State. He recalled that before he was a soldier, he was a Virginian, and it is in error to suggest that he anguished over the decision to go as Virginia went. His wife wrote later that “From the first commencement of our troubles he had decided that in the event of Virginia’s secession, duty would compel him to follow.”

She recalled that her husband had “wept tears of blood over this war, but as a man of honor and a Virginian, he must follow the destiny of his State.”

Thus, when offered command of the Union army which was to invade the seceded States, he resigned his

commission and offered his sword to Virginia and to the defense of the South.

What does this tell us? Here is a man whose own Father had helped establish American Independence. A man whose adult life had been committed to the service of the Union, and who dearly loved the principals for which the Union was formed. A man who regretted any perceived disruption of the Union, and who opposed secession. And yet, he was willing to forgo his personal emotions and offer his life to defend his home, his people and his native Country of Virginia. What this suggests to me is that, as badly as he anguished over the division of the union in general, and the departure of his State in particular, weeping “tears of blood” over these circumstances, he possessed even more indignation at the idea that his people would face an unlawful and an unjust subjugation in an effort to prevent their God-given right to independence. For this, he was even more willing to offer his service, and his life.

Lincoln’s armies devastated the South. From the earliest stages of the war cities were destroyed, civilians were targeted, looting and rapine were inflicted, homes and crops were burned, and every rule of just war was violated by the invading union armies. With approval from the highest levels William T. Sherman pursued a form of warfare meant to “eradicate the Southern people” and to bring to bear “the hard hand of war” boasting at one point that “for five days, ten thousand of our men worked hard and with a will, in that work of destruction, with axes, sledges, crowbars, claw bars, and with fire.... Meridian no longer exists.”

Contrary to what we are told, and what our children are taught, this was not a “civil war” wherein the South was vying to “destroy the union.” But it was indeed a revolution. It was a revolution by the Lincoln administration and radical elements within the Republican Party to overthrow the plain meaning of the Constitution. It was a war aimed at destroying the sovereignty of the States and elevating a formerly “general government” with limited powers to the position of “supreme authority” with sweeping powers, and relegating the “free and independent States” to the position of “provinces” subservient to a newly self-ordained “mixed-Monarchy.”

It was this that Lee, Jackson and the men who followed them into battle contended against. Far from attempting to “destroy the union” these men were in fact willing to lay down their lives in defense of the very principals that the union had been built on- the principal that the governed, not the government, are the source of all legitimate authority.

Robert E. Lee led his men into battle in defense of principals that English Philosopher, Lord John Dahlberg

Acton said “would have blessed all the races of mankind by establishing true freedom purged of the native dangers and disorders of Republics.” The cause of Robert E. Lee in 1861 was the same cause of his Colonial forefathers in 1776, and if those men were Patriots, it must be admitted by anyone with a shred of integrity that so were our men in gray likewise Patriots.

History, if logically considered, is blatantly obvious in that these men went to war, not to preserve African bondage, which many themselves deplored, but to defeat the tyrannical notion that “might makes right” and to preserve, protect and defend a system of governance secured for them and handed down to them by their ancestors- a system built on the inherent belief that the right to self-governance is a gift from God, and an inheritance that no man, and no government, may justly take away.

Today, you and I will be ridiculed by politically correct and historically ignorant people for being here. But thankfully, in spite of the narrative leveled against us, in spite of all efforts to conceal historical truth and in spite of all the forces that exist only to deceitfully attempt to tarnish the nobility of our ancestors, we have the satisfaction of knowing the truth. And the truth is that time has proven the cause of Robert E. Lee to have been correct. The evidence of this is found in a government that, knowing no limitations to its own powers, and under the guise of “elevating the condition of men” now controls every aspect of our lives.

Truth necessarily defeats any “shame” with which our detractors would attempt to level against us, and truth is the foundation of a Heritage forged on the field of battle and handed down to us by our ancestors who followed Lee and Jackson. It matters not that his cause was defeated, the legacy of Robert E. Lee and the men who followed him still stands.

And it is that legacy which affords you and me the right to stand proudly beneath the Christian Cross of St. Andrew and, in the presence of all who would deny us our Heritage, proclaim with pride that “I am Southern and I will not apologize.” I am Southern by birth, Southern by ancestry, Southern by tradition, Southern by culture, Southern by Heritage, Southern by blood. I am Southern by the unyielding Grace of Almighty God.

Thank you for being here, and may God Bless Dixie.

Editors note: This speech was given by Carl Jones on January 19, 2015 for the observance of Lee - Jackson Day at the Blount County Courthouse and was published by the Abbeville Institute on January 21, 2015.



After hurricane Zeta hit the Mississippi gulf coast and the damage sustained at Beauvoir the home of President Jefferson Davis has reopened to the public.



Longstreet-Zollicoffer Camp 87, Sons of Confederate Veterans, held its annual Toys for Tots toy drive at its annual Christmas Party in December held at Confederate Memorial Hall (Bleak House). Pictured L-R are Adjutant John Hitt, Lance Corporal Jordon Hedrick, Commander Earl Smith and Member Jim Roper.





Longstreet-Zollicoffer Camp 87, Sons of Confederate Veterans, welcomed new members into its ranks at its October meeting held at Confederate Memorial Hall (Bleak House) in Knoxville. Pictured L-R are Commander Earl Smith, new members Stephen J. Heisler and Charles R. Yonce, II and Adjutant John Hitt.



The Captain Thomas H. Hobbs Camp #768 in Athens, Alabama celebrated its 30th anniversary as a camp on November 19th, 2020. Pictured above is a cake bearing the likeness of Captain Hobbs who was mortally wounded at Gaines Mill, VA in 1862.



Members of the Jim Davis Camp 1425 Macon County, met to change out our flag on the square. We also had guest, Rich Garcia and Tamathy Page from the Gainesboro Invincibles Camp and Aunt Polly Eaton Williams Order of Confederate Rose Chapter 10.

A good crowd gathered to celebrate the event including three Past Camp Commanders, one of the original Charter members of the camp and many of the current members. Also on hand were Lt CiC Jason Boshers and wife Linda, Alabama Division Commander Mike McMurry and NE Lt. Brigade Commander Robert Jewellson.

Samuel C. Kelly Camp 454 Commander Zachary Grizzard gave a program on the ransacking of Athens by Colonel John B. Turchin and the 19th Illinois Cavalry



Pictured at left: The Forrest Camp #215, Memphis placed double tarps to protect the NB Forrest pedestal at Forrest Park from the winter weather.

(L to R) Lt Cmdr Mike Riggs, Mike Cross, Lee Millar and Camp Commander Harry Adams

It's never too early to pre-register!



~ Sons of Confederate Veterans 2021 Reunion ~

Official Registration Form (Page 1 of 2)

Metairie, Louisiana * July 21-24, 2021
 Beauregard Camp 130
 scv-bcamp130.org

NAME (Print): _____

SCV CAMP NAME & NUMBER: _____

TITLE/POSITION: _____

PERSONAL ADDRESS: _____

Zip: _____

PHONE: (_____) _____ CELL: (_____) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

~ Tickets Purchased ~

Event / Date	Price \$	Quantity	\$
Reunion Registration (After July 1, 2021 = \$75) ¹	\$65		
SCV Prayer Breakfast <i>Thursday, July 22, 2021 @ 6:30 a.m.</i>	\$40		
Ladies' Tour and Luncheon - Beauregard-Keyes House <i>Thursday, July 22, 2021 @ 11:00 a.m.</i>	\$50		
SCV Heritage Luncheon <i>Thursday, July 22, 2021 @ 12:00 p.m.</i>	\$50		
Confederate Memorial Hall Tour (Limit 110 people) <i>Thursday, July 22, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.</i> <i>An overflow tour group, if needed, will be Saturday, July 24th @ 2:00 p.m.</i>	\$40		
SCV Awards Luncheon <i>Friday, July 23, 2021 @ 12:00 p.m.</i>	\$50		
Destrehan Plantation Tour and Dinner (Limit 275 people) <i>Friday, July 23, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.</i>	\$60		
Mechanized Cavalry Breakfast <i>Saturday, July 24, 2021 @ 6:00 a.m.</i>	\$40		
SCV Banquet & Grand Ball <i>Saturday, July 24, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.</i> <i>Note: Dress/Attire is Coat & Tie or Period Uniform/Civilian</i>	\$70		
Ancestor Memorial ~ Each @ 2 Lines per Memorial (See Page 2)	\$10		

¹ Registration includes Medal and Program



Official Registration Form (Page 2 of 2)
~ Sons of Confederate Veterans 2021 Reunion ~
 Metairie, Louisiana * July 21-24, 2021
 Beauregard Camp 130

Fill in *Ancestor(s)* Name & Unit (Each - Two Lines of 45 Characters -- Use Back of Form if Necessary)

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Sub Total ~ Price of Tickets & Memorials Page 1

Reunion Program Inclusions/Advertising Option Rates²

FULL PAGE \$150.00
 HALF PAGE \$75.00
 QUARTER PAGE \$ 50.00

***Final Total ~ Price of Tickets, Memorials and Program
 Options/Advertising***

~ MAKE CHECKS PAYBLE TO ~

~ Beauregard Camp 130 ~

~ MAIL BOTH PAGES & PAYMENT TO ~

Beauregard Camp 130
 P.O. Box 10413
 New Orleans, Louisiana 70181



Host Hotel: Copeland Tower & Conference Center
 2601 Severn Avenue
 Metairie, Louisiana 70002
 Reservation Desk: 800-277-7575 Booking ID: SCV2021

² Circle selected *Inclusions/Advertising Option* on the Form Above, Include Payment, and Attach Information to be placed in the Reunion Program. Orders and Information for *Ancestor Memorial & Inclusions/Advertising Options* must be received by June 7, 2021 at the MAIL ADDRESS to be included in the Reunion Program.

JUST RELEASED

MUTT COOPER'S

Confederate Soldier



Confederate Soldier is a song written in response to the removal of the Confederate Statues and Flags, without regard for heritage or history, from public and private property for the sake of political correctness.

* Proceeds from the CDs will be donated to the Heritage Defense/ Museum fund.

to order visit: MUTTCOOPER.COM



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR NATIONAL POLICY ON MONUMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION

The Sons of Union Veterans condemns the criminal vandalism or unlawful destruction of monuments dedicated to the memory of American Soldiers from all wars as a breach of faith and duty to our ancestors, and to the principles of freedom they fought to preserve and pass on to their descendants.

I. The primary purpose of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is to perpetuate the memory of the soldiers and sailors who fought and sacrificed for the Union from 1861 to 1865 and in many cases were wounded or died to save the United States of America.

a. It is our solemn duty to honor the soldiers belonging to the Union, "Boys in Blue" who fought that terrible war and to oversee the process of preserving the memories of those soldiers and sailors, and their courage, tenacity and strength, by raising monuments commemorating their service and deeds. The erection of such monuments has continued down through the years, extending even unto the present day. These monuments can be found in cities, towns, and villages across the entire country, and indeed, beyond our shores.

b. Furthermore, we seek to honor the men and women, both public and private, who provided the inspiration and leadership, which lead to the salvation of the Union and the liberation of a people from bondage.

c. One of the ways we perpetuate the memory of the "Boys in Blue" is to care for and work to repair those monuments dedicated to their sacrifice when the need arises. To this end, we have established ways by which we may assist in the erection and repair of monuments and memorials. This work is ongoing.

d. Recent, criminal acts of vandalism and outright destruction of monuments dedicated to our Union heroes by groups or individuals demanding their elimination or removal have increased. With regard to the vandalism or destruction of such monuments it is the policy of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, that there should be criminal prosecution of perpetrators of such crimes by legal authority.

e. In cases of organized attempts to remove monuments, those efforts to remove them are to be actively opposed in all ways that are both practical and legal. The methods by which this active opposition would happen will differ from case to case, given the unique situation involved in each event. However, in all cases, the Commander-in-Chief, or his designee, acting with his instructions and under his authority, should set the course of action to be followed in addressing the problem.

II. Monuments serve the necessary purpose of inspiring and educating future generations of Americans on the sacrifices made by their forefathers. Further, monuments are visible signs of the patriotism and selflessness shown by American soldiers and sailors, who placed the country before their own lives and fortunes, to ensure the preservation of the Nation. By this policy, we state our intent and reaffirm our commitment to our honored dead and dedicate ourselves to do all in our power as an organization, to ensure that the memorials to them will be preserved for the inspiration and education of future generations.

Approved by the Council of Administration, 6 November 2020



Announcement #3 – December 16, 2020

Compatriots,

During the late 19th and 20th centuries, Confederate and Union veterans had their separate organizations, but maintained fraternal relations between the two. For many years, their descendant organizations have done the same. In fact, when our beloved battle flag and Confederate monuments came under attack, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) supported us in recent years. This is no longer the case.

At their recent National Encampment, the SUVCW issued their new official position on monument protection. They have removed all references to Confederate memorials and our beloved battle flag. It appears that they have become weak-kneed in the face of the *“Cancel Culture”* and seem to believe if they disassociate themselves from their fraternal brothers of the South that they and their monuments will be overlooked. We know this is not the case as **ALL** things that are *“Traditionally American”* and not just Southern are under attack as *“those people”* attempt to rewrite history to suit their agenda.

If we are asked about the SUVCW's stance on these matters, just mention the fact that they state that *“the SUVCW supports and preserves all memorials to American veterans and since the Federal Government have recognized our brave Confederate ancestors since 1903 as ‘American Veterans’ then they too are American memorials.”*

Just as our ancestors fought alone during the War for Southern Independence, we find ourselves once again alone as we face a war of cultural genocide. We knew it would come to this, but we will endure and persevere as we fight this war together as brothers. Please pray for myself and the General Executive Council as we go forward once again into the breach that we make the decisions that are needed to advance the Cause and continue the Charge that was given to us.

Deo Vindicie,

Larry McCluney, Jr.
 Commander-in-Chief
 Sons of Confederate Veterans

