



*The SOUTHERN CROSS  
Newsletter of the Sterling  
Price Camp #145  
Sons of Confederate  
Veterans  
St. Louis, MO  
Early Winter Edition, 2018*

## **Charge to the Sons**



“To you Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will submit 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 he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.”

General Stephen Dill Lee

## **2018 Camp Officers**

Commander – Ray Cobb;

First Lt. Commander – Bill Napier;

Second Lt Commander – Robert Kennedy;

Sgt. at Arms – Dan Maltman;

Adjutant – Chuck Knight;

Historian – Gene Dressel;

Chaplain – James England;

*Greetings! This time of the year (December) I often think of my gg grandfather's sacrifice. Elias James was shot in the head on Christmas Eve, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 1864. A piece of his skull was knocked out. His unit, the Fourth Alabama Cavalry was along the Tennessee river fighting near Decatur, Alabama. They were greatly outnumbered. One cousin, Sgt. William C. Hester, wrote home saying, "The Yankees are as thick as black birds up here!" His comrades picked Elias up off the battlefield and took him home (60 miles southwest as the crow flies). He arrived home with frozen blood and stiff clothes. The doctor saved his life by patching up the hole in his head with a silver dollar. He was never able to return to the war but his younger brother Enoch James carried on.*

*These men lived in the freedom hills of Franklin County, in North Alabama, an area with strong anti-secession sentiments yet they had an even stronger sense of a citizen's duty to defend one's state. They respected the democratic process, served Alabama, and the young Confederacy. Just like in those days, we are greatly outnumbered today. Everyone of you is very precious to our families, our camp, our division, our organization, and our nation. Have a very safe Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

*God bless,*

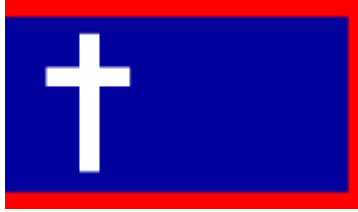
*-Scott Williams, your camp editor.*

*Sterling Price Camp, #145 SCV*

[MOCSA1861@gmail.com](mailto:MOCSA1861@gmail.com)

*Figure 1 Washington Telegraph, Washington, Arkansas, Dec 1865.*





## Camp Calendar

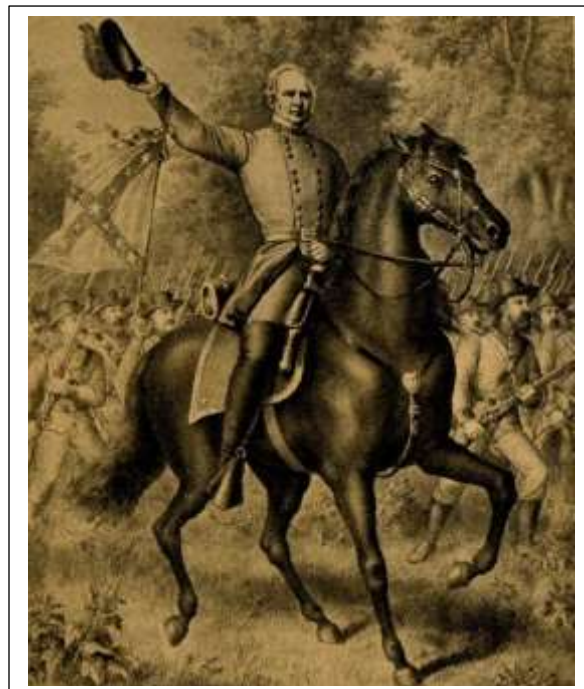
12:30 PM Social Time

1:00 PM Meeting Starts

Please join us. All monthly meetings are held at the Schnuck's Supermarket at 12756 Olive Street Boulevard in Creve Coeur. It is approximately 1.9 miles west of I-270 on the south side of the street. Take the Olive Boulevard exit off INT 270 and go west about one mile until a half a block after you pass Mason Road, then turn left into Bellerive Plaza and at the stop sign make another slight left into the Schnucks parking lot. We have been asked to park near the Firestone Tire Store at the left end of the lot as you face the store. The "Back Stage" room is located inside the front part of the store, on the Firestone store side, about 40 feet beyond the self-checkout counters. **Please note:** There is prepared food available at the Deli. **ONLY FOOD PURCHASED AT SCHNUCKS MAY BE BROUGHT INTO THE ROOM.**

If you are interested in presenting at a program, or know of someone who is in 2018, contact Bill Napier, our Program Director.

Date	Program	Presenter	Function
Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018	Confederate Sea Raiders	Chuck Knight	Camp Meeting
Saturday, Jan 5, 2019	Battles of the Southwest	Dr. Massey	Camp Meeting
Saturday, Feb 2, 2019	Battle of Belmont	Sam Storey	Camp Meeting



## November Meeting

Bill Napier gave an outstanding and passionate presentation at November's camp meeting. During our discussion Hal Fleming gave an excellent summary on the life of Holt Collier who was a black Confederate veteran that hunted bear with President Theodore Roosevelt. The state of Mississippi made an excellent 15-minute documentary on **Holt Collier**. It is available to download/watch on [YouTube](#). Click on the below image to watch the movie.



Holt Collier Documentary

5,724 views

👍 97    💬 2    ➦ SHARE    📌 SAVE    ⋮

[Watch 15 minute documentary on Confederate Holt Collier](#)

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**December Meeting: Confederate Sea Raiders, by Chuck Knight**  
Don't Miss It!



## Featured Confederate



### **Lt. Col. Henry E. Peyton, Gen. Robert E. Lee's Inspector-General**



### **Lived and died homeless in St. Louis**

By Scott Williams

In 1861 Henry Edmund Peyton, a native of Virginia, had enlisted as a private in the Loudoun Cavalry (Co K 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry. At the battle of Manassas, Peyton served as a courier for Gen. Beauregard. In the heat of battle, a solid shot cannon ball took off the head of the general's horse. Peyton immediately sprang from his horse and gave it to Beauregard. He then took a horse from a dead comrade and continued his courier duties. After the battle, due to his cool performance in combat, Beauregard promoted Peyton to Major and he served on his staff. Following the Battle of Shiloh, he returned to Virginia to serve on the staff of Gen. Robert E. Lee. General Lee, s promoted Peyton to Lt. Colonel where he served as Inspector-General of the Army. He remained at that position until Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.

According to the "The Peytons of Virginia" Lt. Col. Henry E. Peyton was the son of the Rev. Henry Samuel Peyton (1804-1845) and Carolina Edmonia Winston. Following the war, he returned to Loudoun County, Virginia. There he became active in politics of the Democratic party. He and wife Mary nee Braden had one son born, but his wife died Oct 29, 1878 a few days after his son's birth. The child was named, Cabell Yelverton Peyton. Mary was buried at

the Catoctin Free Church cemetery, Paeonian Springs in Loudoun County, Virginia. She was the daughter of Noble and Mary Ann Braden. It appears the son was raised by a sister of the mother which allowed Col. Peyton to pursue his career. By 1904 the son had relocated to Baltimore County where he married a Miss Susan Griswold Larmour and in 1912 he inherited a sizeable estate from his mother's family.

Col Peyton moved to Washington DC serving as Principle Executive Clerk of the U.S. Senate from 1879-1881. At some point he went to Texas and was employed by the Democratic Committee of Texas. Sometime in the 1900 timeframe, approaching 65 years of age, he decided to come to St. Louis to look for work. In his possessions he carried a bundle of papers, including many letters of recommendations. These were from very prominent leaders such as Gen. Robert E. Lee, Gen. John B. Gordan, US Sen. John H. Reagan (former Confederate Postmaster General), Gov. Charles A. Culberson of Texas, William Hearst of the New York Times, B. F. Yoakum (RR visionary and tycoon), J. Riley Gordan (famed Texas architect), among many others. A letter from former Missouri Governor David R. Francis (President of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition) promises to try to obtain him work as soon as the World's Fair Committee finished their work. Peyton in the meantime was staying in the Beer's Hotel, but due to dwindling funds moved to a third-rate Central hotel on Market Street, paying 15 cents for a night. During this time Gov. Francis was out of town.

After September 8<sup>th</sup> 1900 he could no longer afford any hotel and was forced to live on the streets. The hotel manager at this time stated he never alluded to his past, but he could speak intelligently on any subject. He did complain of his poor health and that he came to St. Louis for "electric treatments". It was observed that Peyton would go each day to the Planter's House and Southern Hotels and scan the registers to see if he could find an old friend that could relieve him of his current situation. Finding no one, "he confessed that he could no longer pay for his room." Peyton was found in a semi-unconscious condition at Seventh and Chestnut. He was moved to City Hospital and never regained consciousness. Doctors diagnosed him with pneumonia and the hospital treated him as a charity case. On examining his possessions and learning his identity, it was determined by the doctors and St. Louis veterans that a collection should be taken to pay for his final arrangements. His son was contacted by telegram and it was his wish that his father be buried by Camp, United Confederate Veterans. Capt. Frank Gaiennie taking command of the arrangements. The service was conducted by the Rev.

Robert E. Lee Craig of Church of the Redeemer Episcopal, the son of Confederate Maj. Edward C. Craig, Col. Peyton was interred in Wesleyan cemetery in University City. In 1952 the cemetery was closed and the land redeveloped for a shopping center. His grave has been moved but its location has not yet been found.



Francois "Frank" Gaiennie, was in Co G. 3rd Louisiana infantry, CSA. He saw action at Wilson's Creek, Elkhorn Tavern, luka, Corinth, and Vicksburg, among other battles. He was born Feb 9, 1841 in New Orleans, the son of Louis Rene Gaiennie and Natalie Lafonta. He was married to Maria Louisa Elder of New Orleans. They had two daughters and four sons. In 1873 he moved to St. Louis. He established Gaiennie & Marks Company. Served as Director, Vice-President and President of the Merchants Exchange, Police Commissioner, Vice-President of the National Board of Trade, and Commander of the St. Louis Camp of the United Confederate Veterans. He died Feb 8, 1921 and is buried at Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri.

**We must not falter in our duty to these loyal men who, more than 50 years ago, responded to their country's call and need, who fought valiantly for a principle and who with steadfast hearts clung faithfully to a bankrupt government, surrendering the best years of their lives to the cause of which the southern Confederacy contended.**

The Daily Commonwealth (Greenwood, Mississippi), 17 Oct 1917

## The Old Knapsack, At the Battle of Prairie Grove

By Sgt. Samuel Pittman



*Figure 2 Reunion of Co. K, 34th Arkansas Infantry, CSA, at a Reunion on the old Prairie Grove Battlefield. Sgt. Samuel Pittman, on extreme left with cane.*

"We knew now that the battle was on and we knew very near where it would be. Right in the midst of our homes, within hearing of our loved ones. It would be impossible for me to describe their feelings at this point. Any judge of human nature could have seen that these men were going to fight, although few of them were ever on a battlefield. But the springy step, the compressed lips, and the steady expression of the eyes proved that they were determined to do their best. Opposite an old church, strewn in the road and on the sides were lying the bodies of those killed in the cavalry fight a few minutes before. With a yell and at the double quick we sprang over them and passed up the road. All morning that infernal old knapsack had been beating a tattoo on my poor back and under any other circumstances would have brought froth yells of pain at every step. A little farther on we met old man Linden in a dog trot. Swinging his hat and shouting at us to "Go in, Boys, that's the way I done in the Black Hawk War." He turned and trotted along by my side for a little while and proposed to take my knapsack and take care of it but I told him we were going right on to Springfield, Mo. And that from that point we would invade the North and as it would likely be cold up there, I would need my clothes, and if he took them, perhaps I might not find him again. I also knew the old man could not carry that pack fifty yards in a day and I clung to it with a desperation worthy of a better object. At the brow of the hills, west of old man Roger's place, came the short quick command "By file right, March, and we were in the woods, halted, fronted, and marched to a ravine east of the Borden Orchard. Here we were halted and ordered to "Lie down". Just in our front was a rebel battery and pretty soon we saw a line of blue coats making for it. They shot



down the horses and came on with a cheer. And now came the parting with the old knapsack and all my soldier equipage. I think the first shot that was fired after we rose up, cut the strap that bound the knapsack to my right shoulder, and it swung around and slipped to the ground. I had no time to think of it, but when I remember the torture it had been and the loss of all my worldly goods, camp treasure, etc. I bitterly lamented the fate that caused me to lug it all over that weary trip and then turn it over to the enemy."



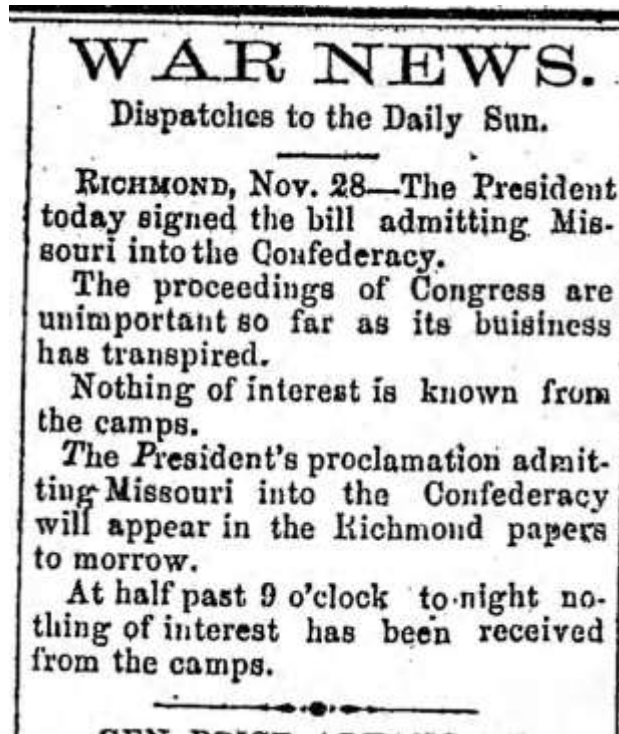
Missouri's Last Confederate veteran was John Thomas Graves, of Pike County, Missouri. He lived to age 108, dying May 9, 1950 at the Missouri Confederate Home in Higginsville, Mo. Born Jan 1, 1842. He had served in Jo Shelby's command.

***"...While so gigantic a war was an immense evil; to allow the right of peaceable secession would have been ruin to the enterprise and thrift of the industrious laborer, and keen-eyed business man of the North. It would have been the greatest calamity of the age. War was less to be feared."***

*– Charles Bancroft on the "Civil War" in "The Footprints of Time. A Complete Analysis of the American System of Government." (1875)*

*Massachusetts-born historian, clergyman (1819-1877).*

*Thanks to the Stoddard Rangers Camp for passing this along!*



*Figure 3 The Southern Republic (Opelika, Alabama), 30 Nov 1861, Sat paper.*

## Persimmons

Published in the Greensboro Patriot, North Carolina

25 June 1868

About General Edward "Alleghany" Johnson on the march to Bristoe Station in the fall of 1863. The general was riding along the road, and perceiving one of his men up a persimmon tree, He hollered out to him: "I say there, what are you doing up there! Why ain't you with your regiment!

"I'm getting 'simmons, I am", replied the soldier.

"Persimmons, thunder! They are not ripe yet. They are not ripe yet. They are not fit to eat.", says the general.

"Yes, but General", persisted the Confederate, "I am trying to draw my stomach up to suit the size of my rations. If it stays like it is now, I shall starve."

The General had nothing further to say but rode on.

## Franklin Roosevelt. History that relates to the Sterling Price Camp, SCV.

During the administration of Franklin Roosevelt, there was a rightful concern that the special emergency powers of the President were going to be abused. The parallels to Abraham Lincoln were just too great. This included the opinions of one Democrat expressed at a our very own meeting of the Sterling Price Camp in St. Louis, on 7 Nov 1935 (see clipping below). There was reason for this alarm. For example, the New York Herald-Tribune published the headline on Roosevelt: "For Dictatorship If Necessary." The word dictator pretty much sums up the concern. Even "Eleanor Roosevelt found the reaction 'a little terrifying,' realizing the public would do whatever FDR wished." Comparisons can also be drawn to the removal of Missourians with General Order Number 11 with the removal of Japanese Americans from their homes. Just like today, many people are always willing to give away their Constitutional freedoms, or take them away from others. Freedoms that American soldiers sacrificed their lives defending. That includes Confederate soldiers. (Thanks to Keith Daleen for forwarding the below clipping to camp historian, Gene Dressel.)

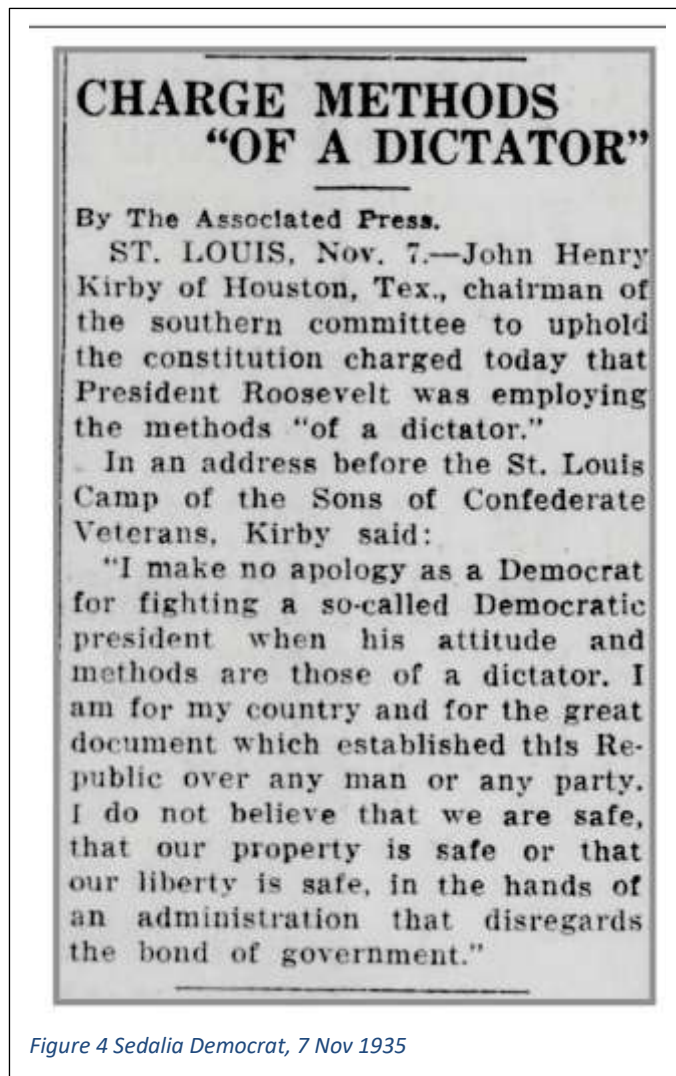
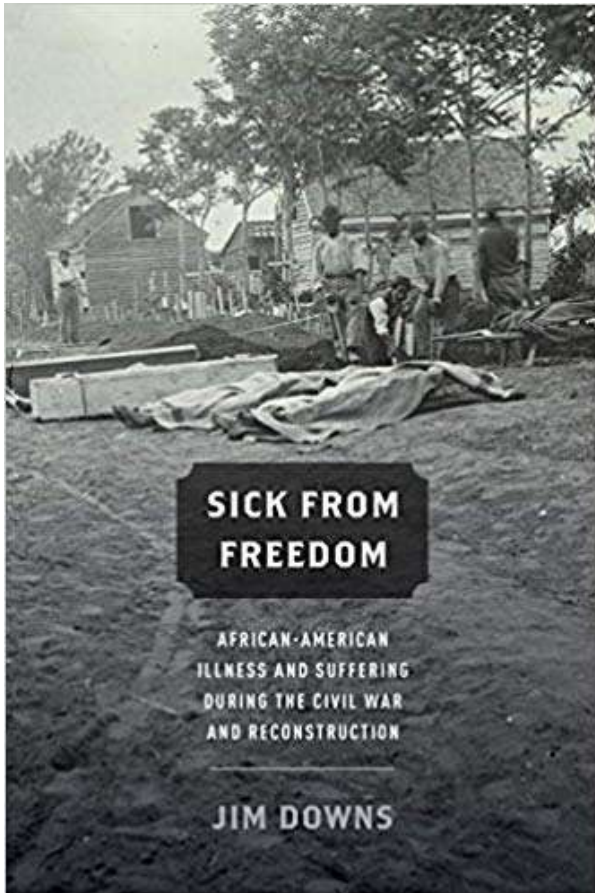


Figure 4 Sedalia Democrat, 7 Nov 1935



# Sick from Freedom



In the book, Sick from Freedom, author historian Jim Downs of Connecticut College shows the reality of Lincoln's "root, hog, or die" style emancipation. "After combing through obscure records, newspapers and [medical] journals Downs believes that about a quarter of the four million freed slaves either died or suffered from illness between 1862 and 1870." The contents of this book will dispel any romantic views of the arrival of emancipation by the Union Army.

What was especially destructive was a small pox epidemic that broke out in a Union camp near Washington DC. Medical authorities blame the forcing of refugee slaves into unsanitary living conditions as the epidemic source. From smallpox alone, among slaves/ex-slaves, deaths from 1863-1865 was 60,000. No doubt thousands of soldiers and southern white civilians also died but no records exist to estimate a total death toll. This and other epidemics did not just stop at war's end. The small pox epidemic, for example continued through 1868 with devastating consequences. For certain no one predicted Lincoln's war would be killing

people in 1868, but it did.

From this reviewer's opinion, Dr. Downs' estimation that this was the "largest biological crisis of the nineteenth century" is reasonable for a war fought by total-war operations, widespread epidemics, and among a vulnerable population that depended upon the plantation system for sustenance. On the other extreme, Lincoln apologist James McPherson's widely touted estimation of 50,000 total civilian (black and white) casualties for the 1861-1865 war is a deplorably inadequate estimate. The "battle cry of freedom" was actually the sound of one million wailing voices unable to secure food, clothing, shelter, and medical treatment. Believing the federal propaganda that emancipation awaited them once they reached federal lines, many sacrificed their lives, and their children's lives in vain. Even Elizabeth Keckley, a former slave and servant of the Lincoln family had criticism for what she saw, "Poor dusky children of my own race—the transition from slavery to freedom was too sudden for you!"

Let it be known that Dr. Downs does not take a pro-southern stand or hold any punches against slavery, but he does make it clear that slaves had relatively good medical care on the plantations. Some plantations even had hospitals and often quarantine houses for the sick. On plantations there was a kinship support system with healers that grew medicinal herbs to treat

a variety of health concerns. If the traditional healer failed the patient, they could obtain care from the slaveholder which was backed by municipal care and state hospitals. For slaves that left the plantation, many ended up in a federal refugee camps with conditions much worse than slavery.

Many places were very grim for ex-slaves, one in particular was recently designated a National Monument by President Trump. This was Camp Nelson, Kentucky where Union soldiers were very brutal to refugee slaves. Here, Dr. Downs reconstructed the lives of one freed slave family. Joseph Miller came there with his wife and four children for help. By agreement Joseph enlisted in the U.S. Colored Troops so his family could obtain shelter and food. His family was staying in tents setup among others in the camp. The Army against its promise told Miller his family had to leave. Miller protested to the commander of the Union guard that his "seven-year-old son was sick and slowly recovering" but moving him would kill him. His family had no place to go. The guard said if his family "did not get up in the wagon he would shoot the last one of them." The Miller family was turned them out "to scavenge in a war-ravaged and disease-ridden landscape". His sick son died that very day, froze to death in that wagon. By 1865 the entire family including Joseph Miller himself were dead. Miller very well likely died from a broken-heart.

In Tennessee the story was no different, ex-slaves were "dying by scores – that sometimes 30 per day die and are carried out by wagonloads without coffins, and thrown promiscuously, like brutes, into a trench". Witnesses also speak of federals tossing these bodies into burial wagons, intermingled with carcasses of dead mules destined for burial in a common grave.

Sick from Freedom, published in 2012, brings groundbreaking information about the hundreds of thousand freedman/women/children that died as a result of Lincoln's war.

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## Ravages in the South

### Arkansas-Missouri

**(Published in the Howard Union, Glasgow, Missouri, Nov 2, 1865)**

In the resumption of mail service in the South evidence of this despoliation of land by the rebellion is brought out. As employee of the Post Office Department, now superintending mail matters in Arkansas, writes that, "on the mail route from Fort Smith in that State, to Caswell (Cassville), in Missouri, there is not a house nor habitation where a mail carrier could refresh himself or beast, in a distance of nearly two hundred miles. From Fayetteville to Caswell (Cassville) by the old mail road the distance is seventy-five miles, and there is not a house or garden fence left standing nor a field under cultivation."

# Why the War Was Not About Slavery

By Clyde Wilson on Mar 9, 2016 [Abbeville Institute](#)



Conventional wisdom of the moment tells us that the great war of 1861—1865 was “about” slavery or was “caused by” slavery. I submit that this is not a historical judgment but a political slogan. What a war is about has many answers according to the varied perspectives of different participants and of those who come after. To limit so vast an event as that war to one cause is to show contempt for the complexities of history as a quest for the understanding of human action. Two generations ago, the most perceptive historians, much more learned than the current crop, said that the war was “about” economics and was “caused by” economic rivalry. The war has not changed one bit since then. The perspective has changed. It can change again as long as people have the freedom to think about the past. History is not a mathematical calculation or scientific experiment but a vast drama of which there is always more to be learned.

I was much struck by Barbara Marthal's insistence in her Stone Mountain talk on the importance of stories in understanding history. I entirely concur. History is the experience of human beings. History is a story and a story is somebody's story. It tells us about who people are. History is not a political ideological slogan like "about slavery." Ideological slogans are accusations and instruments of conflict and domination. Stories are instruments of understanding and peace.

Let's consider the war and slavery. Again and again I encounter people who say that the South Carolina secession ordinance mentions the defense of slavery and that one fact proves beyond argument that the war was caused by slavery. The first States to secede did mention a threat to slavery as a motive for secession. They also mentioned decades of economic exploitation and the seizure of the common government for the first time ever by a sectional party declaredly hostile to the Southern States. Were they to be a permanently exploited minority, they asked? This was significant to people who knew that their fathers and grandfathers had founded the Union for the protection and benefit of ALL the States.

It is no surprise that they mentioned potential interference with slavery as a threat to their everyday life and their social structure. Only a few months before, John Brown and his followers had attempted just that. They murdered a number of people including a free black man who was a respected member of the Harpers Ferry community and a grand-nephew of George Washington because Brown wanted Washington's sword as a talisman. In Brown's baggage was a constitution making him dictator of a new black nation and a supply of pikes to be used to stab to death the slave-owner and his wife and children.

It is significant that not one single slave joined Brown's attempted blow against slavery. It was entirely an affair of outsiders. Significant also is that six Northern rich men financed Brown and that some elements of the North celebrated him as a saint, an agent of God, ringing the church bells at his execution. Even more significantly, Brown was merely acting out the venomous hatred of Southerners that had characterized some parts of Northern society for many years previously.

Could this relentless barrage of hatred directed by Northerners against their Southern fellow citizens have perhaps had something to do with the secession impulse? That was the opinion of Horatio Seymour, Democratic governor of New York. In a public address he pointed to the enormity of making war on Southern fellow citizens who had always been exceptionally loyal Americans, but who had been driven to secession by New England fanaticism.

Secessionists were well aware that slavery was under no immediate threat within the Union. Indeed, some anti-secessionists, especially those with the largest investment in slave property, argued that slavery was safer under the Union than in a new experiment in government.

Advocates of the “slavery and nothing but slavery” interpretation also like to mention a speech in which Confederate Vice-President Alexander Stephens is supposed to have said that white supremacy was the “cornerstone” of the Confederacy. The speech was *ad hoc* and badly reported, but so what? White supremacy was also the cornerstone of the United States. A law of the first Congress established that only white people could be naturalized as citizens. Abraham Lincoln’s Illinois forbade black people to enter the State and deprived those who were there of citizenship rights.

Instead of quoting two cherry-picked quotations, serious historians will look into more of the vast documentation of the time. For instance, in determining what the war was “about,” why not consider Jefferson Davis’s inaugural address, the resolutions of the Confederate Congress, numerous speeches by Southern spokesmen of the time as they explained their departure from the U.S. Congress and spoke to their constituents about the necessity of secession. Or for that matter look at the entire texts of the secession documents.

Our advocates of slavery causation practice the same superficial and deceitful tactics in viewing their side of the fight. They rely mostly on a few pretty phrases from a few of Lincoln’s prettier speeches to account for the winning side in the Great Civil War. But what were Northerners really saying?

I am going to do something radical. I am going to review what Northerners had to say about the war. Not a single Southern source, Southern opinion, or Southern accusation will I present. Just the words of Northerners (and a few foreign observers) on what the war was “about.”

Abraham Lincoln was at pains to assure the South that he intended no threat to slavery. He said he understood Southerners and that Northerners would be exactly like them living in the same circumstances. He said that while slavery was not a good thing (which most Southerners agreed with) he had no power to interfere with slavery and would not know what to do if he had the power. He acquiesced in a proposed 13th Amendment that would have guaranteed slavery into the 20th century. Later, he famously told Horace Greeley that his purpose was to save the Union, for which he would free all the slaves, some of the slaves, or none of the slaves. The Emancipation Proclamation itself promised a continuance of slavery to States that would lay down their arms.

All Lincoln wanted was to prevent slavery in any territories, future States, which then might become Southern and vote against Northern control of the Treasury and federal legislation. From the anti-slavery perspective this is a highly immoral position. At the time of the Missouri Compromise, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison said that restricting the spread of slavery was a false, politically motivated position. The best thing for the welfare of African Americans and their eventual emancipation was to allow them to spread as thinly as possible.

Delegation after delegation came to Lincoln in early days to beg him to do something to avoid war. Remember that 61% of the American people had voted against this great hero of



democracy, which ought to have led him to a conciliatory frame of mind. He invariably replied that he could not do without "his revenue." He said nary a word about slavery. Most of "his revenue" was collected at the Southern ports because of the tariff to protect Northern industry and most of it was spent in the North. Lincoln could not do without that revenue and vowed his determination to collect it without interruption by secession. He knew that his political backing rested largely on New England/New York money men and the rising power of the new industrialists of Cleveland, Detroit, and Chicago who were aggressively demanding that the federal government sponsor and support them. The revenue also provided the patronage of offices and contracts for his hungry supporters, without which his party would dwindle away.

Discussing the reaction to secession, the New York Times editorialized: "The commercial bearing of the question has acted upon the North. We were divided and confused until our pockets were touched." A Manchester, N.H., paper was one of hundreds of others that agreed, saying: "It is very clear that the South gains by this process and we lose. No, we must not let the South go."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Congress officially declared that the war WAS NOT AGAINST SLAVERY but to preserve the Union. (By preserving the Union, of course, they actually meant not preserving the real Union but ensuring their control of the federal machinery.)

At the Hampton Roads peace conference a few months before Appomattox, Lincoln suggested to the Confederate representatives that if they ceased fighting then the Emancipation Proclamation could be left to the courts to survive or fall. Alexander Stephens, unlike Lincoln, really cared about the fate of the black people and asked Lincoln what was to become of them if freed in their present unlettered and property less condition. Lincoln's reply: "Root, hog, or die." A line from a minstrel song suggesting that they should survive as best they could. Lincoln routinely used the N-word all his life, as did most Northerners.

A statement in which Lincoln is said to favour voting rights for black men who were educated or had been soldiers has been shown to be fraudulent. Within a few days of his death he was still speaking of colonization outside the U.S.

The South, supposedly fighting for slavery, did not respond to any of these offers for the continuance of slavery. In fact, wise Southerners like Jefferson Davis realized that if war came it would likely disrupt slavery as it had during the first war of independence. That did not in the least alter his desire for the independence and self-government that was the birthright of Americans. Late in the war he sent a special emissary to offer emancipation if European powers would break the illegal blockade.

Saying that the South was fighting only to defend the evils of slavery is a deceitful back-handed way to suggest that, therefore the North was fighting to rid America of the evils of slavery. Nothing could be further from the truth. First of all, secession did not necessarily require war against the South. That was a choice. Slavery had existed for over two hundred

years and there was no Northern majority in favour of emancipation. Emancipation was not the result of a moral crusade against evil but a byproduct of a ruthless war of invasion and conquest. Not one single act of Lincoln and the North in the war was motivated by moral considerations in regard to slavery.

Even if slavery was a reason for secession, it does not explain why the North made a war of invasion and conquest on a people who only wanted to be let alone to live as they had always lived. The question of why the North made war is not even asked by our current historians. They assume without examination that the North is always right and the South is always evil. They do not look at the abundant Northern evidence that might shed light on the matter.

When we speak about the causes of war should we not pay some attention to the motives of the attacker and not blame everything on the people who were attacked and conquered? To say that the war was "caused" by the South's defense of slavery is logically comparable to the assertion that World War II was caused by Poland resisting attack by Germany. People who think this way harbor an unacknowledged assumption: Southerners are not fellow citizens deserving of tolerance but bad people and deserve to be conquered. The South and its people are the property of the North to do with as they wish. Therefore, no other justification is needed. That Leninist attitude is very much still alive judging by the abuse I receive in print and by e-mail. The abuse never discusses evidence, only denounces what is called "Neo-Confederate" and "Lost Cause" mythology. These are both political terms of abuse that have no real meaning and are designed to silence your enemy unheard.

Let us look at the U.S. Senate in February 1863. Senator John Sherman of Ohio, one of the most prominent of the Republican supporters of war against the South, has the floor. He is arguing in favour of a bill to establish a system of national banks and national bank currency. He declared that this bill was the most important business pending before the country. It was so important, he said, that he would see all the slaves remain slaves if it could be passed. Let me repeat this. He would rather leave all the slaves in bondage rather than lose the national bank bill. This was a few weeks after the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

What about this bill? Don't be deceived by the terminology. So-called National Banks were to be the property of favoured groups of private capitalists. They were to have as capital interest-bearing government bonds at a 50% discount. The bank notes that they were to issue were to be the national currency. The banks, not the government, had control of this currency. That is, these favoured capitalists had the immense power and profit of controlling the money and credit of the country. Crony capitalism that has been the main feature of the American regime up to this very moment.

Senator Sherman's brother, General Sherman, had recently been working his way across Mississippi, not fighting armed enemies but destroying the infrastructure and the food and housing of white women and children and black people. When the houses are burned, the livestock taken away or killed, the barns with tools and seed crops destroyed, fences torn

down, stored food and standing crops destroyed, the black people will starve as well as the whites. General Sherman was heard to say: "Damn the ni\_\_ers! I wish they were anywhere but here and could be kept at work."

General Sherman was not fighting for the emancipation of black people. He was a proto-fascist who wanted to crush citizens who had the gall to disobey the government.

The gracious Mrs. General Sherman agreed. She wrote her husband thus:

"I hope this may not be a war of emancipation but of extermination, & that all under the influence of the foul fiend may be driven like swine into the sea. May we carry fire and sword into their states till not one habitation is left standing."  
Not a word about the slaves.

As the war began, the famous abolitionist Theodore Weld declared that the South had to be wiped out because it is "the foe to Northern industry—to our mines, our manufactures, our commerce." Nothing said about benefit to the slaves. The famous abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher enjoyed a European tour while the rivers of blood were flowing in America. Asked by a British audience why the North did not simply let the South go, Beecher replied, "Why not let the South go? O that the South would go! But then they must leave us their lands."

Then there is the Massachusetts Colonel who wrote his governor from the South in January 1862: "The thing we seek is permanent dominion. . . ." "They think we mean to take their slaves? Bah! We must take their ports, their mines, their water power, the very soil they plow . . ."

Seizing Southern resources was a common theme among advocates of the Union. Southerners were not fellow citizens of a nation. They were obstacles to be disposed of so Yankees could use their resources to suit themselves. The imperialist impulse was nakedly and unashamedly expressed before, during, and after the war.

Charles Dickens, who had spent much time in the U.S. a few years before the war, told readers of his monthly magazine in 1862: "The Northern onslaught upon slavery was no more than a piece of specious humbug designed to conceal its desire for economic control of the Southern states."

Another British observer, John Stuart Mill, hoped the war would be against slavery and was disappointed. "The North, it seems," Mill wrote, "have no more objections to slavery than the South have."

Another European thinker to comment was Karl Marx. Like many later Lincoln worshippers, Marx believed that the French Revolution was a continuation of the American Revolution and Lincoln's revolution in America a continuation of the French. He thought, wrongly, that Lincoln was defending the "labour of the emigrant against the aggressions of the slave driver." The war, then, is in behalf of the German immigrants who had flooded the Midwest after the 1848 revolutions. Not a word about the slaves themselves. Indeed, it was the numbers and ardent support of these German immigrants that turned the Midwest from Democrat to Republican and elected Lincoln. It would seem that Marx, like Lincoln, wanted the land for WHITE workers.

Governor Joel Parker of New Jersey, a reluctant Democratic supporter of the war, knew what it was all about: "Slavery is no more the cause of this war than gold is the cause of robbery," he said. Like all Northern opponents and reluctant supporters of Lincoln, he knew the war was about economic domination. As one "Copperhead" editor put it: the war was simply "a murderous crusade for plunder and party power." "Dealing in confiscated cotton seems to be the prime activity of the army," he added.

Wall Street agreed and approved. Here is a private circular passed among bankers and brokers in late 1861:

"Slavery is likely to be abolished by the war power and this I and my friends are all in favor of, for slavery is but the owning of labor and carries with it the care of the laborers, while the European plan, led on by England, is that capital shall control labor by controlling wages. The great debt that capitalists will see to it is made out of the war must be used as a means to control the volume of money."

It is not clear whether this is authentic or a satire, but it tells the truth whichever.

The libertarian Lysander Spooner, an abolitionist, called the Lincoln rule "usurpation and tyranny" that had nothing to do with a moral opposition to slavery. "It has cost this country a million of lives, and the loss of everything that resembles political liberty."

Here is Frederick Douglass, the most prominent African American of the 19th century:

"It must be admitted, truth compels me to admit . . . Abraham Lincoln was not, in the fullest sense of the word, either our man or our model. In his interests, in his associations, in his habits of thought, and in his prejudices, he was a white man. He was preeminently the white man's president, entirely devoted to the welfare of white men. He was ready and willing at any time . . . to deny, postpone, and sacrifice the rights of humanity in the colored people to promote the welfare of the white people of his country."

What better testimony is needed that emancipation was a by-product, not a goal, of a war of conquest. Let me repeat: emancipation was a by-product of the war, never a goal.

How about these curiosities from the greatest of Northern intellectuals, Emerson. He records in his journals: "But the secret, the esoteric of abolition—a secret, too, from the abolitionist—is, that the negro and the negro-holder are really of one party." And again, "The abolitionist wishes to abolish slavery, but because he wishes to abolish the black man." Emerson had previously predicted that African Americans were like the Dodo, incapable of surviving without care and doomed to disappear. Another abolitionist, James G. Birney, says: "The negroes are part of the enemy."

Indeed a staple of Northern discourse was that black people would and should disappear, leaving the field to righteous New England Anglo-Saxons. My friend Howard White remarks: "Whatever his faults regarding slavery, the Southerner never found the existence of Africans in his world *per se* a scandal. That particular foolishness had its roots in the regions further North."

In 1866, Boston had a meeting of abolitionists and strong Unionists. The speaker, a clergyman, compared the South to a sewer. It was to be drained of its present inhabitants and "to be filled up with Yankee immigration . . . and upon that foundation would be constructed a new order of things. To be reconstructed, the South must be Northernized, and until that was done, the work of reconstruction could not be accomplished." Not a word about a role for African Americans in this program.

One of the most important aspects of the elimination of slavery is seldom mentioned. The absence of any care or planning for the future of black Americans. The Russian Czar pointed this out to an American visitor as a flaw that invalidated the fruits of emancipation. We could fill ten books with evidence of Northern mistreatment of black people during and after the war. Emancipation as it occurred was not a happy experience. To borrow Kirkpatrick Sale's term, it was a Hell. I recommend Kirk's book *Emancipation Hell* and Paul Graham's work *When the Yankees Come*, which are available here.

I suspect many Americans imagine emancipation as soldiers in blue and freed people rushing into one another's arms to celebrate the day of Jubilee. As may be proved from thousands of Northern sources, the Union soldiers' encounter with the black people of the South was overwhelmingly hate-filled, abusive, and exploitive. This subject is just beginning to be explored seriously. Wrote one Northerner of Sherman's men, they "are impatient of darkies, and annoyed to see them pampered, petted and spoiled." Ambrose Bierce, a hard-fighting Union soldier for the entire war, said that the black people he saw were virtual slaves as the concubines and servants of Union officers.

Many black people took to the roads not because of an intangible emancipation but because their homes and living had been destroyed. They collected in camps which had catastrophic rates or mortality. The army asked some Northern governors to take some of these people, at least temporarily. The governors of Massachusetts and Illinois, Lincoln's most fervid supporters, went ballistic. This was unacceptable. The black people would be uncomfortable in

the North and much happier in the South, said the longtime abolitionist Governor Andrew of Massachusetts. Happier in the South than in Massachusetts?

What about those black soldiers in the Northern army, used mainly for labour and forlorn hopes like the Crater? A historian quotes a Northern observer of U.S. Army activities in occupied coastal Carolina in 1864. Generals declared their intention to recruit “every able-bodied male in the department.” Writes the Northern observer: “The atrocious impressments of boys of fourteen and responsible men with large dependent families, and the shooting down of negroes who resisted, were common occurrences.”

The greater number of Southern black people remained at home. They received official notice of freedom not from the U.S. Army but from the master who, when he got home from the Confederate army, gathered the people, told them they were free, and that they must work out a new way of surviving together.

Advocates of the war was “caused by slavery” say that the question has been settled and that any disagreement is from evil and misguided Neo-Confederates deceived by a “Lost Cause” myth.

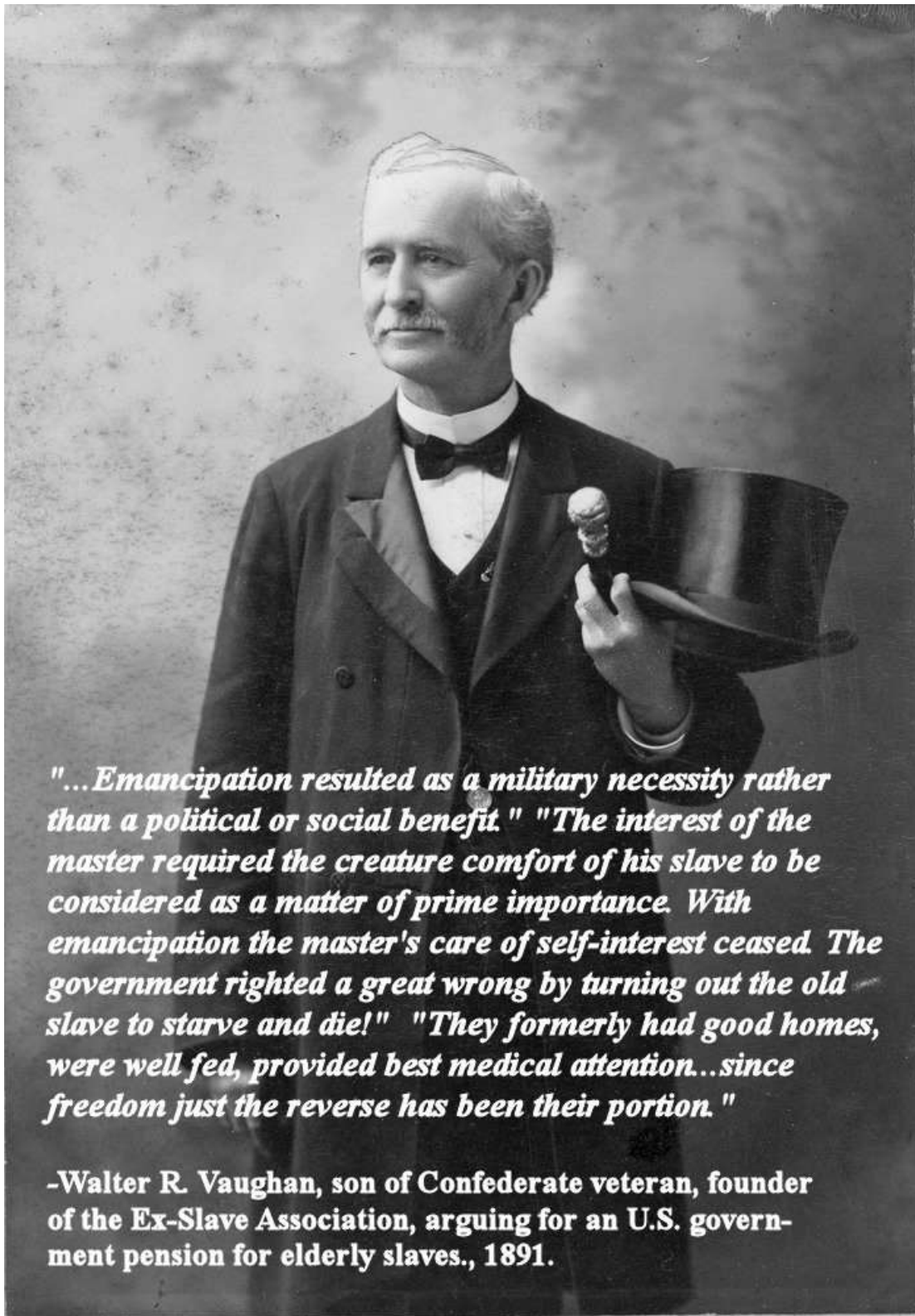
In fact, no great historical question can ever be closed off by a slogan as long as we are free to think. Howard White and I recently put out a book about the war. Careful, well-supported essays, by 16 serious people. Immediately it appeared on amazon, someone wrote in: “I’m so tired of the Lost Cause writing. Don’t believe the bullshit in this useless pamphlet.” He could not have had time to actually read the book. It can be dismissed unread because he has the righteous cause and we do not. This is not historical debate. It is the propaganda trick of labeling something you do not like in order to control and suppress it. Such are those who want the war to be all about slavery—hateful, disdainful, ignorant, and unwilling to engage in honest discussion.

But if you insist on a short answer solution as to what caused the war I will venture one. The cause of the greatest bloodletting in American history was Yankee greed and hatred. This is infinitely documented before, during, and after the war.

Glory, Glory, Halleluhah

About Clyde Wilson

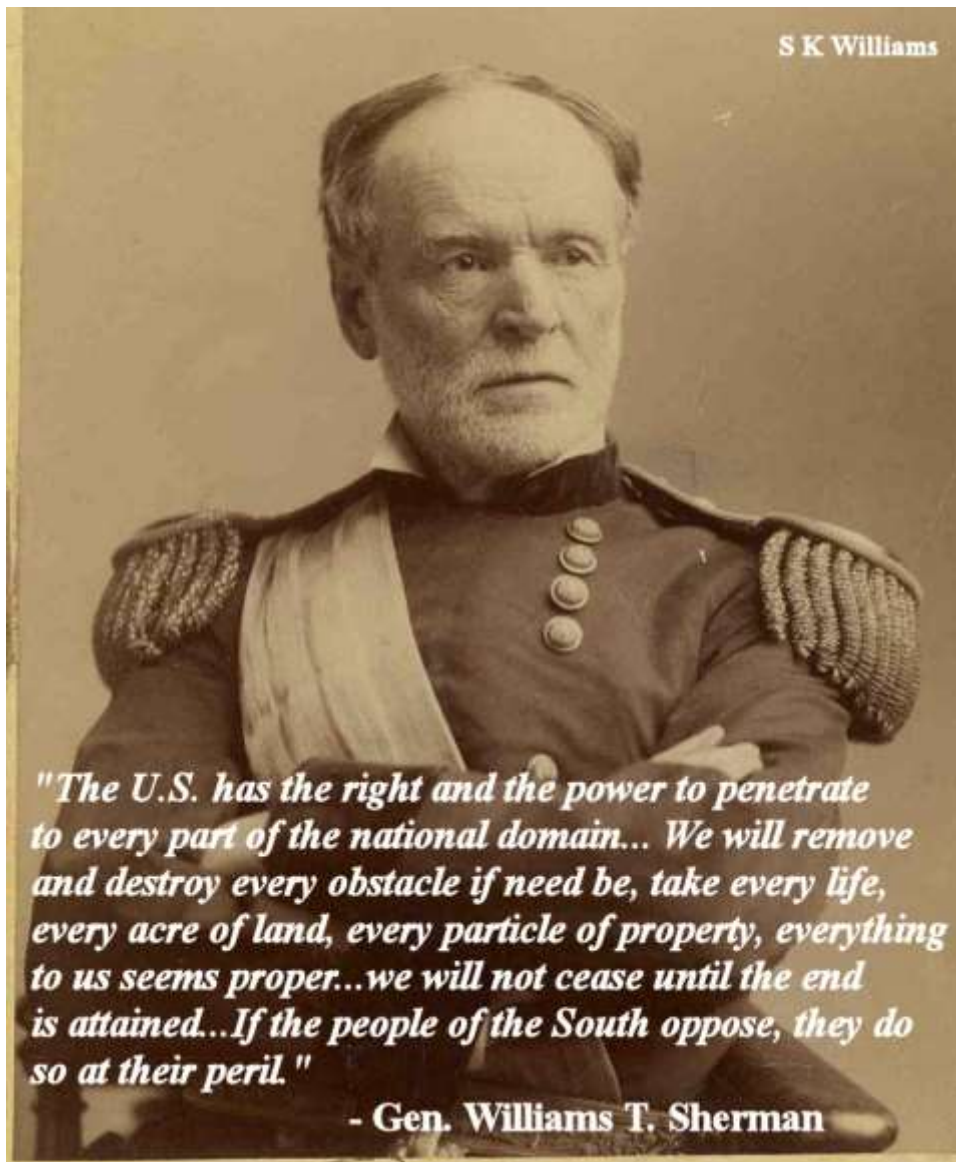
Clyde Wilson is a distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at the University of South Carolina where he was the editor of the multivolume The Papers of John C. Calhoun. He is the M.E. Bradford Distinguished Chair at the Abbeville Institute. He is the author or editor of over thirty books and published over 600 articles, essays and reviews and is co-publisher of [www.shotwellpublishing.com](http://www.shotwellpublishing.com), a source for unreconstructed Southern books. **More from Clyde Wilson** <https://www.abbevilleinstitute.org/clyde-wilson-library/>



*"...Emancipation resulted as a military necessity rather than a political or social benefit." "The interest of the master required the creature comfort of his slave to be considered as a matter of prime importance. With emancipation the master's care of self-interest ceased. The government righted a great wrong by turning out the old slave to starve and die!" "They formerly had good homes, were well fed, provided best medical attention...since freedom just the reverse has been their portion."*

**-Walter R. Vaughan, son of Confederate veteran, founder of the Ex-Slave Association, arguing for an U.S. government pension for elderly slaves., 1891.**

Walter R. Vaughan (1848-1915) Buried in Valhalla Cemetery, St. Louis County, Mo. Attempted to alleviate a wrong committed by the Lincoln Administration on ex-slaves.



*"...Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government..."*

-Declaration of Independence



Feel free to print a copy to give to a friend.

