



The Courier

Newsletter of the Sam Davis Camp No. 1293 SCV

Sons of Confederate Veterans** Brentwood, Tn ** August, 2015**

For the Last Time... No!

A new video entitled “Was the Civil War About Slavery?” from Prager University is currently making the rounds on the Internet. A caption claims that the video “settles the debate once and for all,” superseding over a century’s worth of scholarship by historians who have argued this matter.

But does it really?

The video is filled with misconceptions and myths about the Civil War. The few facts it does get right are vastly outnumbered by the promulgation of incessant fallacies and significant omissions that would severely contradict the narrative.

It is true that several states in their secession ordinances claimed the reason for seceding from the government concerned slave rights. However, this was not the case for the mid-south states, which definitively rejected secession on those grounds and provided different explanations for leaving the union. Tennessee, Arkansas, Virginia, and North Carolina departed from the union only after Lincoln resupplied Fort Sumter and pledged to raise an army of 75,000, while Congress was not in session, with the express purpose of invading other states.

Notwithstanding the fact that some slave states mentioned slavery in their secession ordinances, this pronouncement was not as universal as is commonly believed. For instance, the secession ordinances of Georgia, Mississippi, Florida,

Louisiana, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee do not mention slavery or the slave motive at all. Arkansas’ secession ordinance suggests the primary reason it announced its withdrawal from the union was Lincoln’s proclamation “to the world that war should be waged against such States until they should be compelled to submit to their rule.” In October 1861, the separatist government of Missouri passed an ordinance which charged that the United States had:

“violated the compact originally made between said Government and the State of Missouri, by invading with hostile armies the soil of a State, attacking and making prisoners the militia while legally assembled under the State laws, forcibly occupying the State capitol, and attempting through the instrumentality of domestic traitors to usurp the State government, seizing and destroying private property, and murdering with fiendish malignity peaceable citizens, men, women, and children, together with other acts of atrocity.”

The film asserts that “The secession documents of every southern state made clear, crystal clear, that they were leaving the union in order to protect their “peculiar institution” of slavery.” This is a bold-faced lie, and a cursory 5 minute glance at the secession ordinances tells a different tale. While some of the states in the Deep South articulated that they were leaving the union because they feared the dissolution of slave rights, the union government did not attempt to impose any anti-slavery

legislation at all. In fact, northern officials continued to assert that they would not interfere with slavery where it already existed. The entirety of the debate concerning the expansion of slavery from the 1820s-1850s was predicated on the potential for slavery to expand into the western territories, not its existential presence in the slave states.

The video claims that “state’s rights” is a faulty argument because it implies that the southern states were seeking only the right to maintain slavery. Notwithstanding the fact that states don’t have rights (only powers), the southern states clearly sought to invoke the same principles that were employed to sever all political ties with Great Britain – secession. Lincoln was perfectly willing to accept the “state’s right to slavery” in the slave states that remained in the union (Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri), but of course the film doesn’t mention that.

The video objects to the idea that economics played any role in the conflicts that led up to secession and the war, but for the south this was a paramount truth. In the decades prior to the Civil War, the south was constantly hampered by protectionist tariffs. In 1828, the Whigs employed the Tariff of Abominations, which destroyed the agrarian economy of the south. This was such a controversial issue that Andrew Jackson encouraged the passage of the Force Bill, which would allow

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Samuel Davis

Next Camp Meeting: Thursday, August 27th

Oglesby Community Center

Supper at 6:00, Meeting at 7:00

Confederate Calendar

August 27th ~ Sam Davis Camp meets at 6:00 p.m., Oglesby Community Center. The Center is adjacent to the Woodson Chapel Church of Christ on Edmondson Pike, 1/2 block South of the intersection of Edmondson Pike and Old Hickory Blvd.

September 26th (Saturday) ~ Work Day at the Oglesby Community Center (our home base). Paint up and fix up, at this time in lieu of our regular meeting, circumstances allowing.

October 22nd ~ Sam Davis Camp meets at 6:00 p.m., Oglesby Community Center.

November 11th ~ Nashville Veteran's Day Parade, 11:00 a.m., 16th & Broad

November 29th ~ Annual Battle of Franklin / Winstead Hill Memorial March

December 3rd ~ Sam Davis Camp November/December meeting. Elections will be held!

December 12th ~ South Carolina Secession Party at Battery Andrews

December 13th ~ Battle of Nashville Remembrance, 2 -4 p.m.

Forthcoming 2015 Programs

August -- Tennessee Backroads Heritage and the Tullahoma Campaign with guest speaker Jim Lewis from the Murfreesboro National Battlefield Park.

October -- Gary Carlyle, Commander, Alabama Division SCV



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him to invade South Carolina to enforce the tariff. When it came to the 1860s, the issue reared its ugly head again in the form of the Morrill Tariff, which raised the rates to a huge extent and caused additional controversy in an already fractured time. For many in the south, enough was enough. British sentiment at the time corroborated this, as the policy served to punish free trade with European powers as well. While the video suggests that the north was hurt economically by not maintaining slavery, they benefitted completely to the detriment of the south by the protectionist policies the government implemented.

Outside of the political circumstances that led to the secession of several states, a large cross section of the personal writings of southern soldiers shows that support for slavery was a rare motive for most actors. This can be demonstrated even by the writings of James McPherson, an extremely pro-union historian, in his book *What They Fought For*. Based on an unprecedented study of 25,000 letters and 250 diaries, McPherson determined that the "pro-slavery motives," which he defined extremely loosely, represented about 20% of the sample, an extreme minority of causes articulated in the correspondence of soldiers. "Ideological motives" including autonomy and self-government represented 40% of the sample size. "Patriotic motives" tripled the pro-slavery ones by representing 60% of the sample size. Shelby Foote's astounding three-volume narrative also generally confirms the same position - very few people that actually fought in the battles hinged their reasons upon the "peculiar institution." The video also suggests that poor whites were innately helped by the existence of slavery, but this was not the case because the institution made it tougher for poor whites to compete

with cheaper labor.

Prior to Lincoln's commitment to raise an army against the south without congressional approval, the mid-southern states actually held state conventions that culminated in the rejection of secession on the grounds that they did not believe Lincoln would behave as tyrannically as the Deep South said he would. For instance, Virginia met in early 1861 and rejected several proposals for secession prior to changing its position after Lincoln's later actions.

Despite the reasons for which the Southern states left the union (which I contend differed by state for the reasons above), war between the North and South was not a foregone conclusion even until April of 1861. The South attempted to buy federal property from the Union peacefully, and for a time this seemed like a plausible course of reconciliation. The top ranking union military commander, Winfield Scott, urged Lincoln to allow the seceding states to "depart in peace." Scott communicated informally to the southern states that Fort Sumter would be abandoned, and a peaceful solution could be achieved. Secretary of State William Seward pled with Lincoln to sell the union property to the south to avoid war and to avoid an incendiary action that would start war. Meanwhile, prominent politicians in the Congress attempted to construct several means of peaceful settlement, including the aforementioned Corwin Amendment and the Crittenden Compromise.

Additionally, Lincoln had no problem with the perpetuation of slavery in the slave states that remained loyal to the union. In fact, he sanctioned slavery in these states through the Emancipation Proclamation by way of omitting the names of these states - they weren't considered to be "in rebellion." All of the Confederate States, on the other hand, were listed. Lincoln happily allowed slave states to



remain in the union with the acknowledgment that slavery could continue to exist there.

The video states that “as the war progressed, the moral component – ending slavery, became more and more fixed in his mind.” It announces that “his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 turned that into law.” Unfortunately for executives, presidential edicts are not law. In fact, the proclamation, while acting to protect slavery in the Border States, was extremely controversial, even in Lincoln’s own party. Cabinet members believed the decree would be viewed only as a wartime measure and be shredded by the courts.

The video goes on to announce that “It’s to America’s everlasting credit that it fought the most devastating war in its history in order to abolish slavery.” It suggests that the union army abolished slavery, but it did no such thing. The states disposed of slavery through the passage of the 13th Amendment, which was ratified almost 8 months after Lincoln’s death.

Much is made of the remarks of Vice President of the Confederate States of America Alexander Stephens, when he expressed that blacks were a naturally inferior race. However, the video does not hold Abraham Lincoln to the same standard. Quoting directly from the Lincoln-Douglas debates, Lincoln made the following pledge: “I have no purpose to introduce political and social equality between the white and black races. There is physical difference between the two which, in my judgment, will probably forever forbid their living together upon the footing of perfect equality.”

In his September 18, 1858 debate with Douglas, Lincoln also said the following:

“I will say then that I am not, nor ever have been in favor of bringing about in anyway the social and political equality of the white and black races – that I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people;

and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race. I say upon this occasion I do not perceive that because the white man is to have the superior position the negro should be denied everything.”

These quotes and sentiments are alarmingly similar to those of Stephens, but only one party is vilified.

The narrator states categorically that “Lincoln’s view [on slavery] never changed.” This is perhaps the most absurd claim that is made. In reality, Lincoln’s views “changed” on slavery when it became politically expedient. Lincoln was a racist in a time where racism was commonplace; one can simply reference the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates for corroboration of this. He confirmed this notion in several speeches and in his First Inaugural Address, that he supported the Corwin Amendment, then being considered by the Congress – which would have explicitly prevented the abolition of slavery in any of the states for all time.

Lincoln took conscientious strides, especially in the first years of the war, to ensure that slaves belonging to union forces were not emancipated. He rebuked John C. Fremont directly when the commander tried to enact an emancipation proclamation in Missouri, because the slaves of forces fighting for the Union were not protected. For doing this, Lincoln relieved Fremont of duty.

Lincoln admitted, in several letters and speeches, that he was waging war against the South to prevent secession, not to abolish slavery. He most famously did this by writing to Horace Greeley in 1862:

“My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is

not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union.”

Lincoln should not be considered as someone that fought from the beginning to end slavery, as even he did not make such a claim about his intentions.

The Union government, on several occasions and through numerous official proclamations, also assured the public that it was not waging war over slavery. This happened most flagrantly by means of the Crittenden-Johnson Resolution in July of 1861:

“Resolved by the House of Representatives...that this war is not waged upon our part in any spirit of oppression, nor for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, nor purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and to preserve the Union, with all the dignity, equality, and rights of the several States unimpaired; and that as soon as these objects are accomplished the war ought to cease.”

It is true that government claims should be often met with scrutiny, but the fact that the North did not even attempt to refute this narrative is a persuasive factor that contests the common narrative.

The video contends that Lincoln really transcended his time by seeking to forge a fair and equitable new future for slaves, but in truth he was working until the last days of his life to arrange for the forced colonization of former slaves to Africa. Over the last decade, more and more documents have surfaced to confirm this and provide more details, including a huge cache of documents released by the Associated Press in 2011. Phillip Magness’ book *Colonization After Emancipation* is a pivotal account that details this thoroughly.

Perhaps most tellingly, most of



the western world abolished slavery without the need for civil war or military intervention. Jim Powell's seminal work on the subject, *Greatest Emancipations: How the West Abolished Slavery* articulates this case best. When it came to England, slavery became extinct through peaceful means about two decades before the American Civil War. The French Republic eliminated slavery in 1794 – it was revived by Napoleon Bonaparte for a time, and obliterated completely by 1818, when the Napoleonic Wars had ended. Cuba, Brazil, and Congo also ended slavery peacefully in the 19th century. In the United States, many states voluntarily ended slavery through peaceful means through gradual emancipations and compensation plans.

In synopsis of all of these circumstances, it can be best illustrated that the Civil War was waged mostly because of Lincoln's desire to prevent severance efforts and to cling to the faulty myth of "perpetual union." Northern Copperheads, many northern Republicans, and even people within his own cabinet did not wish to embark upon the war. The strong tides of opposition to the war, even in the north, caused many at the time to refer to the conflict as "Mr. Lincoln's War."

Few have mentioned the conflict of interest that arises from the outlook of the narrating military officer. While the video claims that it "settles the debate once and for all," it does so through the spectrum of a classic union chronicle. It's simply not a stunning revelation to encounter a union officer that endorses the union narrative. It would be more sensational for an army officer to express a different opinion than the one offered by the video, and the sentiments expressed hardly settles the issue for good.

I think my friend James Rutledge Roesch put it the best: "I like how some guy I've never heard of is, according to some talkshow windbag, supposed to "settle the debate once and for all." Gee, this is only something that American historians have been arguing about for over 150 years!" ~~ Dave Benner

Nothing is Sacred

Any sensible, reasonable person is deeply saddened by the atrocious and tragic murder of nine innocent, people while they attended a Bible study in Charleston, SC. Such tragedy is unthinkable, and I am joined by the overwhelming majority of people across the South in extending my most heartfelt condolences to the families of these folks, and to their community at large. Our prayers continue for their comfort in this time of loss.

The effects of this horrid event have been felt in other ways as well, as the debate has been now renewed, or vastly intensified, over the prudence of having Confederate symbols in public view, and especially on State property. There is nobody more so than yours truly who laments the fact that this situation has been politicized, but that is the world we live in.

As I write this, it has just been made public that the Parks Board in Birmingham, Alabama has voted to remove a 100 year old Confederate Monument in Linn Park of that city, the NAACP is demanding the removal of a Confederate Monument from the Caddo Parrish Courthouse in Shreveport, La., a group calling itself "The United Front for Justice" is likewise calling for the removal of a Confederate Monument in Norfolk, Va., and there are simply too many similar instances across the South to be compiled here.

Many in the South have no issue with the fact that the Confederate Flag no longer flies from the top of the various State Capitols. Of course, unforeseen by most at the time that these flags were removed was that this would become a mere stepping stone to further assaults on Southern history by those on the left.

A monument is defined as "Anything by which the memory of a person or an event is preserved or perpetuated." The United States government has ordained as "national monuments" a list that includes everything from the Admiralty Islands in Alaska, to a monument to dinosaurs in

Colorado, and even White Sand Dunes in New Mexico. Closest to everyone's heart are generally monuments to those who have sacrificed their lives in the various wars that we've undertaken as Americans over the centuries. In this realm are included monuments and memorials to all of the branches of military service, the Beirut Memorial, the Faces of War Memorial, the D-Day Memorial, and the "Grand Army of the Republic" Memorial, the latter of which is located in Peoria, Illinois. Presently, nobody would even remotely suggest removing the flags from these memorials.

Yet, as is often the case, memorials to the Confederate soldier seem to be fair game for such discriminatory practices. Because, for one reason or another, some find the Confederate Flag "offensive", these monuments have of late become sacrificial lambs in the war being waged by the forces of political correctness against common sense and decency. It is not enough that the Confederate soldier fought to defend his home and family, fought bravely and nobly, generally did not own any slaves, or was a devout Christian man. It is likewise not enough that his Cause was in keeping with the very philosophical foundation of what became "America"- the right to choose his own form of government –as was established in 1776 by his own forefathers. No, because a small percentage of misguided people generations later would misuse his Flag in a manner that he neither foresaw nor intended, the Confederate soldier now stands alone among the Veterans of this country in that he is deemed no longer worthy of having his banner adorn the memorials that have been erected in his honor. Perhaps even more disheartening (and frankly, disgusting) is that in many cases, it is his own posterity, his own descendants, who in their official governing capacities and offices are accepting, abiding by and enforcing such determinations- generally for some form or another of political gain. Is this what we've come to?

On December 7, 1960,
President Dwight Eisenhower



issued a proclamation recognizing the Centennial of the War Between the States. He attested that “that war was America’s most tragic experience. But like most truly great tragedies, it carries with it an enduring lesson and a profound inspiration. It was a demonstration of heroism and sacrifice by men and women of both sides who valued principle above life itself and whose devotion to duty is a part of our Nation’s noblest tradition.”

Heroism, sacrifice, principle and devotion to duty- in the Pre-PC era, these were the attributes associated with all of the soldiers of that war, both North and South. Such an outlook allowed that we were a “now magnificently reunited country”, according to President Eisenhower, as he celebrated that both sides “sent into their armies men who became soldiers as good as any who ever fought under any flag.”

He asserted that “military history records nothing finer than the courage and spirit displayed at such battles as Chickamauga, Antietam, Kennesaw Mountain, and Gettysburg” and marveled that “America could produce men so valiant and so enduring” recognizing that such a truth “is a matter for deep and abiding pride.”

That both sides would be honored was sort of the unspoken agreement between the two sides in the post-war decades. A half-century after President Eisenhower issued this proclamation, such accolades are afforded to every veteran of every war except the Confederate veteran, who is now categorized by the left, and far too many on the right, only by, as one writer put it, “slavery, Jim Crow and institutionalized racism.” Due to this, the people of South Carolina, Alabama and other Southern States have been awakened to the chilling realization that when we look at the monuments to our family members, we are expected to feel, not “profound inspiration”, but shame.

The truth is, those of the politically correct persuasion, and the victims of their revisionist doctrine, have thought this way about us all along, and are profoundly upset that we dare to

view our forefathers with anything other than the same disdain that they hold for the South. They’ve been for years awaiting the next tragedy to exploit in order to more vocally and publically project their antipathy against us and our people to a larger and more attentive audience. One deranged, murderous individual who happened to own a Confederate flag was all it took.

It matters not a whit to these people that secession is an “American” philosophy, that the Confederate soldier was not fighting to merely defend slavery, and that it was the Union forces who actually acted outside the constitution and the ideas of freedom. There are mountains of evidence to convince any reasonable person that the causes and after-effects of the War for Southern Independence are not as simple as many like to make them, and that the North was every bit as racist and segregated in that era, and the years that followed, as was the South. I could offer here a staunch defense of my ancestors and their Cause, but the PC crowd simply doesn’t care about such facts. They care only about their own agenda.

As with other politically motivated undertakings by those who have no interest in contextual history, or the “enduring lesson” that it can teach us, the efforts to erase Southern history are not carried out in an effort, as Ike said, to instill a “sense of unity and larger common purpose”- they are aimed to divide, and to exploit the division for further personal and institutional gain. Moreover, such efforts will not end with the Confederate Battle flag. Their ultimate aim is any and every aspect of American history, especially “Southern history”, that stands in the way of their perpetually divisive agenda, their desire to inflict a “progressive utopia”, and their version of what passes for “truth”. Whatever they have to destroy in order to maintain relevance for themselves in the pursuit of that end will be considered a fair target. Nothing is sacred to these people. Nothing.

~~ Carl Jones, 2nd Lt Cmdr., Alabama Division, SCV

Morons on the Move, This Time in Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The University of Texas on Friday abruptly canceled weekend plans to relocate a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis after a legal challenge from the same group that recently lost at the U.S. Supreme Court over rejected Confederate license plates.

The cancellation was announced a day after new University President Greg Fenves said he would uproot the century-old statue away from the center of campus, but leave statues of other Confederate figures untouched.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, which says it seeks to celebrate Southern heritage, filed for a temporary restraining order Friday but has not yet received a decision from a judge. However, university spokesman Gary Susswein said the school agreed to wait until a court can review the challenge, all the while expressing confidence that the Davis statue will ultimately be relocated to a museum.

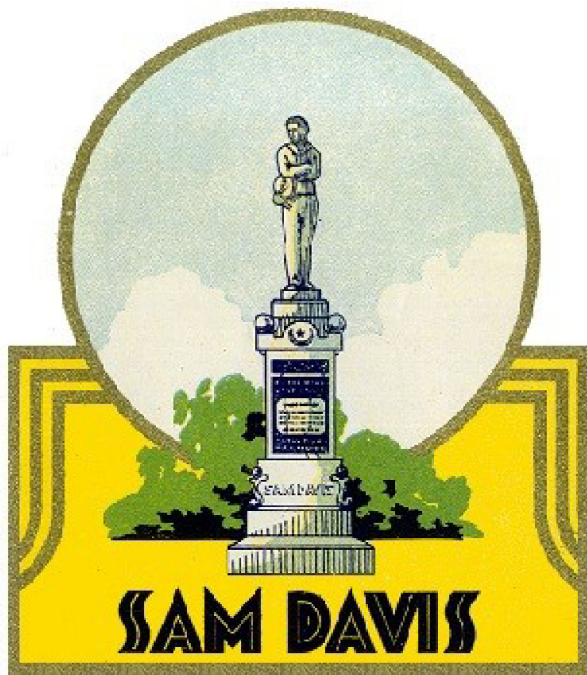
"We are confident we will move ahead with these plans," Susswein said.

The statue had been targeted by vandals and had come under increasing criticism as a symbol of racism. State government and businesses around the U.S. have removed Confederate symbols following the mass shooting in June of black church members in Charleston, South Carolina.

In court filings, the Sons of Confederate Veterans argue that the South Carolina shooting set off "orchestrated national hysteria and pressure" to remove Confederate symbols. The group claims that leaders of the 50,000-student campus have no unilateral authority to relocate the statue.

In June, the Supreme Court rejected a free-speech challenge by the group after a state board denied it a Texas license plate bearing the Confederate flag. The court said in a 5-4 ruling that Texas can limit the





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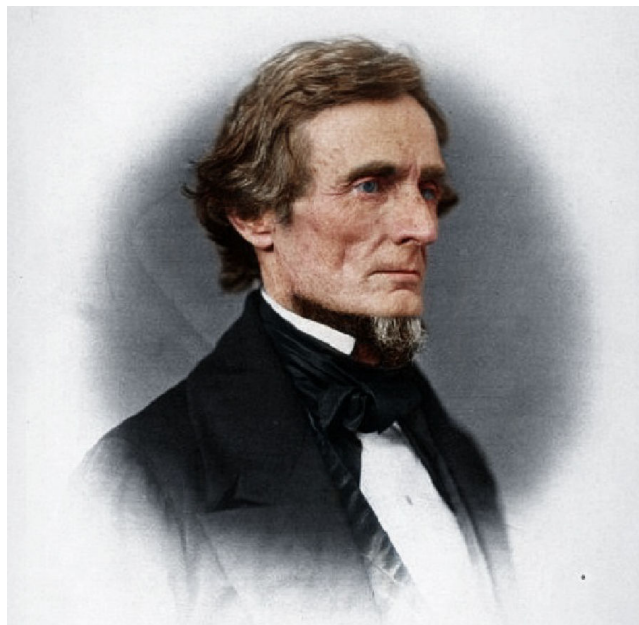
content of license plates because they are state property and not the equivalent of bumper stickers.

"That and Charleston pretty much started this free-for-all against the Confederate flag," said Kirk D. Lyons, a North Carolina-based attorney for the group. "It wouldn't matter if I knew with 99 percent certainty that we'd be blown out of the water in court. It's the right thing to do to stand up to this nonsense."

A court hearing is expected next week but has not yet been set.

The Davis statue has been a point of controversy for years on the Texas campus and the issue had been studied by previous school presidents. The student government adopted a resolution in March supporting the statue being removed entirely.

Fenves said statues of Confederate Gens. Robert E. Lee and Albert Sidney Johnston and Confederate Postmaster General John H. Reagan will remain near the university's central clock tower. He cited those men's "deep ties to Texas" but said Davis is in a separate category.



Jeff Davis made mistakes, but nobody ever doubted that he was totally dedicated to his cause and always did what he believed to be the best. His speeches and messages are eloquent, forthright, moving, and exactly in the style of the Founding Fathers - a republican, small 'r', leader speaking honestly to the citizens. He appeals to reason and the public good. Lincoln's vaunted rhetoric is sentimentalized and phony. As H.L. Mencken said, the Gettysburg Address is a wonderful oration, but you have to remember that it is the opposite of the truth. Jeff Davis was the same man in private letters and conversation and in public speeches and papers. Lincoln was a master of being different things to different people. When Jefferson Davis walked out of that courtroom in Richmond at last a free man after two years of torment, thousands of people, black and white, lined the streets with heads uncovered, in respectful silence. And so he remains in the heart of all true Southerners as the symbol of a righteous cause.
~~ Clyde Wilson