



# The Courier

Newsletter of the Sam Davis Camp No. 1293 SCV

\*Sons of Confederate Veterans\* Brentwood, Tn August, 2018\*

## Causes of the "Civil War"?

In a PBS interview seven years ago historian and Harvard University president Drew Gilpin Faust identified slavery as the cause of the Civil War. "Historians are pretty united on the cause of the Civil War being slavery," she said before adding, . . . "when the various states announced their plans for secession, they uniformly said that the main motivating factor was to defend slavery."

But she commits three errors. First, the American Battlefield Trust suggests that only four of the "various" first seven seceding states issued formal statements citing slavery as a prime reason for leaving. Second, the four upper-South states of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas only joined the Confederacy after President Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to coerce the seven Gulf states back into the Union. They did, however, double the Confederacy's white population and her territory east of the Mississippi River. Third, and foremost, Faust falsely equates the reasons the Northern states chose to fight a war with the reasons Southern states seceded.

She fails to consider that Northerners could have let the cotton states leave in peace, thereby avoiding a Civil War altogether. The original seven-state Confederacy was so weak that many believed her component states might end up humbly asking to be readmitted to the Federal Union. According to historian David Potter: "No one was

much impressed with the Gulf Coast Confederacy. No one was convinced that it would be economically or politically viable."

Moreover, many Northern leaders were prepared to "Let the erring sisters go in peace." Among them was abolitionist Horace Greeley, then editor of The New York Tribune, which was America's largest newspaper. Greeley wrote, "We have repeatedly said . . . that if the slave states choose to form an independent nation, they have the right to do so." President James Buchanan added that many Republicans shared Greeley's opinion when he wrote: "Leading Republicans everywhere scornfully exclaimed

get back in three years."

Faust made a second error by ignoring the reasons that Northerners chose to fight, instead of concentrating only on the reasons the South seceded. She could have, for example, examined resolutions passed by at least six Northern state legislatures in response to the first wave of seceding states. All six suggested that they were prepared to fight a war in order to "preserve the Union."

The elephant in the Civil War history classroom

It is impossible to conclude that the resolutions of any of the six states even hint of a Northern holy war to free Southern slaves. Moreover, the vague abstractions for wanting to preserve the Union, such as the "freedom," "prosperity," and "happiness" presumably enabled by the Federal Union, suggest that they may be nothing more than obfuscations designed to camouflage the true goal of aborting the economic consequences of disunion. Even historian Gary Gallagher who accepts the platitudes at face value, concedes that the average Northerner was preoccupied "then, as now, [by] economic concerns." A truncated Union separated from its Southern states would likely face two significant economic problems.

First, it could not hope to maintain a favorable balance of payments. The South accounted for about 80% of America's exports on the eve of the Civil War. Thus, without



'Let them go;' 'We can do better without them;' 'Let the Union slide,' and other language of the same import." Ohio lawyer and future Republican President Rutherford Hayes was satisfied to let the free states remain alone as his January 4, 1861 diary entry reveals: "The [twenty] free states alone . . . will make a glorious nation . . . scarcely inferior in real power to the thirty-three states we had on the first of November." Similarly, President Lincoln's future War Secretary, Edwin Stanton, said, "Oh, I would let the South go; they will be clamoring to

...continued on page 2...

Samuel Davis

# Next Camp Meeting: Thursday, August 23d Oglesby Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

## Confederate Calendar

**August 23rd** ~ Sam Davis Camp meets at 7:00 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 27th** ~ Sam Davis Camp meets at 7:00 p.m., Oglesby Community Center.

...continued from page 1...

the South's export economy, America would become a perpetual debtor nation forever at the mercy of its stronger trading partners that would deplete her gold supply in order to settle the persistent trade imbalances.

Second, since the Confederate constitution outlawed protective tariffs, her lower tariffs would confront the remaining states of the abridged Union with two consequences. First, since ninety percent of Federal taxes came from tariffs, the government's revenue loss would be sizable. Articles imported into the Confederacy from Europe would divert tariff revenue from the North to the South. Second, and even more importantly, a low Confederate tariff would induce Southerners to buy manufactured goods from Europe as opposed to the Northern states where prices were inflated by protective tariffs.

In January 1861 The Philadelphia Press editorialized, "It is the enforcement of the revenue laws [tariffs], not the coercion of [South Carolina] that is the question of the hour. If those laws cannot be enforced, the Union is clearly gone." In *When in the Course of Human Events* author Charles Adams reasons:

If trade were to shift to the

Southern ports because of a free trade zone, or extremely low duties relative to the North, then [the] great cities [of the Northeast] would go into decline and suffer economic disaster. The image painted by these editorials [from newspapers of Northeastern cities] is one of massive unemployment, the closing of factories and businesses, followed by unrest, riots, and possibly revolution. The inland cities of the North would also go into decline, like Pittsburgh, where duty-free British steel and iron products would cripple the American steel industry.

Consider the iron-producing state of Pennsylvania, which was among the most vigorous advocates of protective tariffs. As the railroad industry boomed for decades after construction started on the transcontinental railroad during the Civil War, tariffs on imported steel rails sometimes approached 100%. Thus, while Pennsylvanians proclaimed that they did not want to interfere with the Southern slavery, they undeniably wanted generous tariff protection.

The false equivalency between the reasons that the South seceded and the reasons that the North chose to fight a war rather than let the seven cotton states depart peaceably is the ignored elephant in the history classroom. ~ Phil Leigh

## Dispatches from Behind Our Own Lines

The camp voted at our July meeting to allow the SCV Florida Division to place a monument at Winstead Hill listing the Florida Regiments (Finley's Brigade) at the "Second" Battle of Franklin. The location of the monument will be determined later.

Also, a big Thank You! is in order to the Sam Davis Camp for

literally saving the SCV National Reunion at the Marriott at Cool Springs last month. Sam Davis members Guy Boye, Bill Powell, Dennis Mann, Tony Rochietti, and Gene Andrews, plus Elizabeth Coker, deserve the thanks on the entire organization for averting a real disaster. These people worked through a real fire storm on Wednesday and Thursday, handing out registration packets to members as they arrived and apologizing to some very angry members who registered months in advance but had no record made of their registration. They fought the "Fourth" Battle of Franklin like real Confederate Warriors.

As one of the people working that week, let me offer a very sincere apology to Camp Commander Monte McDearis and his beautiful wife, Brandi, for the the SCV losing their registration for the Saturday night banquet and ball, but especially to Brandi since she came dressed in her fantastic 1800's pink and white wedding gown for the Southern Ball... just like in *Gone With the Wind*. Monte had a photo copy of his registration form and a photo of his check, cashed by the SCV. So, all was well in the end. ~ Gene Andrews

## Lt. Dowling Wins Another Battle

Houston, August 17th -- A federal judge expressed deep concern for public safety and cited previous incidents involving explosives as he sentenced a Houston man to more than six years in prison for attempting to bomb a statue of a Confederate commander last summer in Hermann Park.

Clad in a green jail uniform and wearing thick-rimmed glasses, Andrew C.E. Schneck, 26, received



his 6½-year sentence without offering a statement or displaying much emotion as several members of his family watched from the court gallery. After completing his time in prison, Schneck will be placed on three years of supervised release, according to the order by U.S. District Judge Ewing Werlein Jr.

Schneck, who was previously arrested for amassing explosives at his parents' upscale home in Southampton Place, near the Museum District, has spent the past year at a federal jail in downtown Houston. He admitted to fashioning a bomb out of materials he collected in an effort to destroy the statue.

The attempted bombing happened amid a wave of protests around the country over civic monuments that venerate heroes of the South during the Civil War (sic).

Schneck pleaded guilty in March before Werlein to a willful attempt to maliciously damage or destroy property in violation of federal law. At the time, a federal prosecutor dismissed a sentence enhancement related to the harm an explosion could have caused, which could have allowed for a longer prison sentence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Feazel said at his plea hearing that on Aug. 19, 2017, a park ranger saw Schneck kneeling with two small boxes in the bushes near the base of a statue of Lt. Richard Dowling. The ranger told Schneck to put the boxes on the ground.

The boxes contained a homemade detonator, a timer, wiring, a battery, a bottle of nitroglycerin and an explosive organic compound known as HMTD, hexamethylene triperoxide diamine, officials said.

Upon being discovered, Schneck reportedly tried to drink some of the liquid explosives but then spit out the liquid and poured the contents of the bottle onto the ground, Feazel said.

The white marble statue of Dowling, an Irish immigrant who lived in Houston and fought for the Confederacy, was erected in 1905 to honor the Confederate victory he led at Sabine Pass.

## A Small Victory

Memphis -- A Nashville court ruled this week in favor of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in the controversy over removing the remnants of confederate statues at two Memphis city parks. The Davidson county judge quietly made his decision Monday.

The chancellor ruled that Memphis GreenSpace are strictly prohibited from disturbing the Forrest statue pedestal, graves, and granite plaza in Health Sciences Park.

They are also prohibited from moving, selling, or disturbing the memorial statues.

Owners of the parks where the confederate statues once stood say the ruling changes nothing because Monday's ruling simply reinforces court orders from July 19th.

"We've complied with everything the court has stated," said Van Turner of Memphis GreenSace. "This just boils down to the sons being upset that we, again removed the rest of the memorabilia out of the Memphis Park and we did so. We're preserving it we're following the court orders," said Van Turner of Memphis GreenSpace.

Lee Millar, spokesman for the SCV said in part in a statement, "though a small victory, this ruling none the less sends a giant message that the scv continues the fight to bring the city and GreenSpace to justice.

This recent order does not set ramifications for violation of the legal court order in the case.

The judge did find in favor of GreenSpace saying other artifacts, markers or plaques face no restrictions. ~ localmemphis.com



## Our Museum is Dedicated

July 20, 2018 -- As contractors poured the concrete base for their new museum, the Sons of Confederate Veterans gathered to celebrate at the group's historic headquarters in Columbia.

Elm Springs, a two-story brick Greek Revival house built in 1837 and neighboring the coming 17,000 square foot facility, hosted the event midway through the organization's annual convention held in Franklin and Columbia.

The new site, running behind schedule, will be at the center of the organization's cause, offering what the group says will be a presentation of the historical facts of the Civil War. Originally planned to be the museum's opening celebration, organization leaders say the weather has hindered the pace of construction.

More than 100 members, some dressed in period attire, attended the gathering joined by Columbia Mayor Dean Dickey.

"This provides a time for us to come out here and celebrate the fact that we are building a museum," said Lt.Col. Mike Landree, USMC, retired, executive director of the SCV.

This year marks the 123rd annual reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

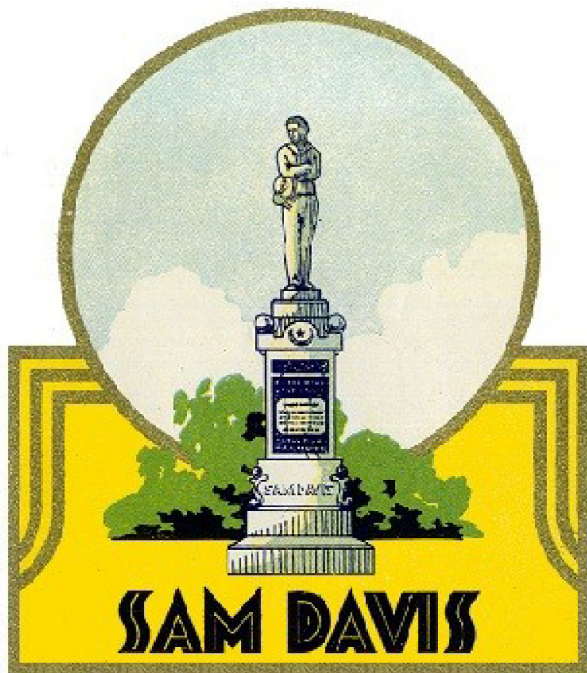
"The whole organization has come together," Landree said. He says the new museum, which broke ground in Oct. 2016, is about educating the public.

"There are two sides to the war and the only one that is really being talked about is the northern side", Landree said.

The museum will house an archive, an exhibition space and the organization's main offices.

With \$5 million raised for the effort and counting, the museum is planned to have a modern and contemporary exterior, but with subdued architecture utilizing period-appropriate construction techniques to attain a level of authenticity. Between 4,500 and





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Sons of Confederate Veterans

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5,000 books and documents will be archived at the new facility's research library.

The neighboring Elm Springs mansion, which currently serves as the organization's national headquarters, will be restored to accurately reflect the 1860s and made available for public viewing. Elms Springs is one of the many antebellum homes located in Middle Tennessee. Others include the Rippavilla Plantation in Spring Hill and The Athenaeum Rectory in Columbia.

"This will be the national confederate museum," Landree said. "We will bring in a lot of tourism dollars and the city has been very generous working with us. We feel at home here and we are at home here."

When the Sons of Confederate Veterans held their inaugural Southern Heritage Festival at Elm Springs in Oct. 2015, the discussion of the use of the Confederate flag and scenes of Confederate monuments being removed circulated through the media.

At least 110 monuments have been lifted from public spaces across 22 states and the District of Columbia in the last three years. "I think level heads are starting to prevail," Landree said. "We make our monuments out of stone and metal. We expect them to stay forever. We may agree and we may not agree but we have a moral obligation to protect those things that past generations felt were important to them."

He says time may skew the light of history, but the facts are the facts. "The war was very well documented," Landree said "If you are willing to read, you are willing to research, you will see it is a messy and complicated issue but the facts are all there."

He says the history of the Civil War is told in two narratives, that of the South and that of the North. He said those facts are always open to interpretation.

"When we say something is absolute, it becomes very, very dangerous," Landree said. "You start fighting over interpretation. That is how you get into a war in the first place and we don't want to have another war."

He says the museum is being built to present those facts. "I think the museum is going to challenge people and what they believe," Landree said. "We are very excited about it."

The Sons of the Confederate Veterans are currently taking donations in support of the museum.

"We saw a place where truth lives," said Charles McMichael of the organization's Louisiana division. "Where truth is taught. The truth, the reality and the principles that sent our forefathers into bloody conflict. You see it — it is being done now. It has been a long journey."

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is an American non-profit and charitable organization of male descendants of Confederate veterans. The organization has facilities in 41 states and five international locations. It works to preserve the history and legacy of the Confederacy with the goal that future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern cause. ~~ Columbia Daily Herald