



TRAVELLER



The official publication of the General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, Tennessee

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

Deo Vindici

May, 2013

CAMP MEETING

May 13, 2013

Speaker: Mr. Fred Lincoln

Topic: "General William Hardee C.S.A"

7:00 p.m. at the Germantown Regional

History and Genealogy Center

Don't miss our next camp meeting.

Spielberg's Upside-Down History: The Myth of Lincoln and the Thirteenth Amendment by Thomas J. DiLorenzo

"Armies of scholars, meticulously investigating every aspect of [Lincoln's] life, have failed to find a single act of racial bigotry on his part."

~ Doris Kearns-Goodwin, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, p. 207.

"I will say then that I am not, nor ever have been in favor of bringing about in any way 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 . . . I as much as any man am in favor of the superior position assigned to the white race."

~ Abraham Lincoln, First Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Ottawa, Illinois, Sept. 18, 1858, in *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* vol.3, pp. 145-146.

Steven Spielberg's new movie, *Lincoln*, is said to be based on several chapters of the book *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns-Goodwin, who was a consultant to Spielberg. The main theme of the movie is how clever, manipulative, conniving, scheming, lying, and underhanded Lincoln supposedly was in using his "political skills" to get the Thirteenth Amendment that legally ended slavery through the U.S. House of Representatives in the last months of his life. This entire

story is what Lerone Bennett, Jr. the longtime executive editor of *Ebony* magazine and author of *Forced into Glory: Abraham Lincoln's White Dream*, calls a "pleasant fiction." It never happened.

It never happened according to the foremost authority on Lincoln among mainstream Lincoln scholars, Harvard University Professor David H. Donald, the recipient of several Pulitzer prizes for his historical writings, including a biography of Lincoln. David Donald is the preeminent Lincoln scholar of our time who began writing award-winning books on the subject in the early 1960s. On page 545 of his magnum opus, *Lincoln*, Donald notes that Lincoln did discuss the Thirteenth Amendment with two members of Congress – James M. Ashley of Ohio and James S. Rollins of Missouri. But if he used "means of persuading congressmen to vote for the Thirteenth Amendment," the theme of the Spielberg movie, "his actions are not recorded. Conclusions about the President's role rested on gossip . . ."

Moreover, there is not a shred of evidence that even one Democratic member of Congress changed his vote on the Thirteenth Amendment (which had previously been defeated) because of Lincoln's actions. Donald documents that Lincoln was told that some New Jersey Democrats could possibly be persuaded to vote for the amendment "if he could persuade [Senator] Charles Sumner to drop a bill to regulate the Camden & Amboy [New Jersey] Railroad, *but he declined to intervene*" (emphasis added). "One New Jersey Democrat," writes David Donald, "well known as a lobbyist for the Camden & Amboy, who had voted against the amendment in July, did abstain in the final vote, but *it cannot be proved that Lincoln influenced his change*" (emphasis added). Thus, according to the foremost authority on Lincoln, there is no evidence at all that Lincoln influenced even a single vote in the U.S. House of Representatives, in complete contradiction of the writings of the confessed plagiarist Doris Kearns-Goodwin and Steven Spielberg's movie (See my review

of Goodwin's book, entitled "A Plagiarist's Contribution to Lincoln Idolatry").

Lincoln's First Thirteenth Amendment Gambit

There is no evidence that Lincoln provided any significant assistance in the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment in the House of Representatives in 1865, but there *is* evidence of his effectiveness in getting an earlier Thirteenth Amendment through the House *and the Senate* in 1861. This proposed amendment was known as the "Corwin Amendment," named after Ohio Republican Congressman Thomas Corwin. It had passed both the Republican-controlled House and the Republican-dominated U.S. Senate on March 2, 1861, two days before Lincoln's inauguration, and was sent to the states for ratification by Lincoln himself.

The Corwin Amendment would have prohibited the federal government from *ever* interfering with Southern slavery. It read as follows:

"No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State."

"Person held to service" is how the Constitutional Convention referred to slaves, and "domestic institutions" referred to slavery. Lincoln announced to the world that he endorsed the Corwin Amendment in his first inaugural address:

"I understand a proposed amendment to the Constitution – which amendment, however, I have not seen – has passed Congress to the effect that the Federal Government shall never interfere with the domestic institutions of the States, including that of persons held to service [H]olding such a provision to now be implied constitutional law, *I have no objection to its being made express and irrevocable*" (emphasis added).

Believing that slavery was already constitutional, Lincoln had "no objection" to enshrining it explicitly in the text of the U.S. Constitution on the day that he took office. He then sent a letter to the governor of each state transmitting the approved amendment for what he hoped would be ratification and noting that his predecessor, President James Buchanan, had also endorsed it.

Lincoln played a much larger role in getting this first Thirteenth Amendment through Congress than merely endorsing it in his first inaugural address and in his letter to the governors. Even Doris Kearns-Goodwin knows this! On page 296 of *Team of Rivals* she explained how it was Lincoln who, after being elected

but before the inauguration, instructed New York Senator William Seward, who would become his secretary of state, to get the amendment through the U.S. Senate. He also instructed Seward to get a federal law passed that would repeal the personal liberty laws in some of the Northern states that were used by those states to nullify the federal Fugitive Slave Act, which Lincoln strongly supported. (The Fugitive Slave Act forced Northerners to hunt down runaway slaves and return them to their owners).

As Goodwin writes: "He [Lincoln] instructed Seward to introduce these proposals in the Senate Committee of Thirteen without indicating they issued from Springfield [Illinois]. The first resolved that 'the Constitution should never be altered so as to authorize Congress to abolish or interfere with slavery in the states.'" The second proposal was that "All state personal liberty laws in opposition to the Fugitive Slave Law be repealed."

So, go and see Spielberg's Lincoln movie if you must, but keep in mind that it is just another left-wing Hollywood fantasy.

Thomas J. DiLorenzo is professor of economics at Loyola College in Maryland and the author of [The Real Lincoln: Lincoln Unmasked: What You're Not Supposed To Know about Dishonest Abe](#), [How Capitalism Saved America](#), and [Hamilton's Curse: How Jefferson's Archenemy Betrayed the American Revolution – And What It Means for America Today](#). His latest book is [Organized Crime: The Unvarnished Truth About Government](#).



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Confederate Silver Dollar

Coin in plastic sleeve \$65.00 ea.
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The coin itself is one troy ounce of .999 fine silver. It was minted in Washington State by the Northwest Territorial Mint (NWTM).

One side of the coin features the Great Seal of the Confederacy, showing Colonial George Washington astride his horse. The other side of the coin was designed in 2002. The scripture "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" is from Psalm 33:12 and celebrates the strong Christian faith and tradition of the old South. The centerpiece is an eagle from a U.S. 1830s silver half-dollar, a coin in circulation during the war. The Breastplate or shield has the "Stars and Bars" of the battle flag with CSA (Confederate States of America) above.

Much history rests in this coin. It can be kept as a treasured keepsake or given as a gift.

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*See Camp Commander
for more information
Tarry Beasley*

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Commander's Corner

Gentlemen,

APRIL'S CAMP MEETING was excellent as usual but Dr. Brad Waters did a more than outstanding job on the Trans-Mississippi battles in Louisiana and Arkansas or the Red River Campaign. If you missed that one you ought to kick yourself good and hard. Mark Buchanan reported on the latest development on the Memphis Parks War and the status thereof. I believe he will update us on the latest at the May meeting.

NEW MEMBERS joining us at the April meeting were Randy Poole and Thomas Davis. We are appreciative of these new members who are already assisting with the Germantown Historic Tour our Camp is putting on thanks to the work and support of most of our members.

GERMANTOWN TOUR It is here, now, this coming Saturday and Sunday the 18th and 19th. Ticket sales are in process through WWW.GermantownTour.com bring your family and friends to this event. Every one of you will enjoy the various presentations and be proud of our Camp's work and the work of these member in particular; Clark Doan, Mark Buchannan, Mike Daugherty, Don Harrison, Margie Potts, Betty and Jack Werne, Skip Swett, Sid Witherington, Joe Burns, and Karl Amelang to name but a few of those helping out as captains of a stop or in the back office paper work.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR YOU TO GET IN THE SHOW

Be at the Saturday 8:45 Ribbon Cutting by Mayor Goldsworthy at the Pickering Center where we meet and help us get a good send off. Bring some friends and neighbors to the Tour. Be there or be square. If you can now assist us or you calendar has cleared call Tarry Beasley at 682-8000 or my cell 240-2014 to assist in any manner. We can always use your assistance. This is the biggest undertaking that the Camp has ever done both in terms of manpower and dollars spent on it. We hope you will come and enjoy it with us if you do not or cannot participate.

NEXT MEETING Monday May the 13th at 7:00 Ten Gen / Pickering Center

Tarry Beasley, Commander
American by Birth
Southern and Saved by the Grace of God

Notes from the Field:

Private James Keith of the Black Horse Troop, Army of Northern Virginia wrote his mother on an official day of fasting and prayer. He told her to think nothing of Lincoln's call for another million Yankee soldiers.

"...I hesitate to give you a scolding for being in bad spirits when there is no occasion for it. If he gets them God help the poor fools & let them take a last look at all they love if love they can for Lee is an insatiable monster & would gobble up a few more hundred thousand Yanks & lick his chops for more!"

Mr. Keith had many daring exploits and close calls fighting the Yankees. He survived the war and became a Judge.

Tribute To The Private Soldier

At the end of General Bragg's official report of a battle, he offers this tribute to the Confederate soldier.

"To the private soldier a fair meed (fitting reward) of praise is due; and though it is so seldom given and so rarely expected that it may be considered out of place, I cannot, in justice to myself, withhold the opinion ever entertained and so often expressed during our struggle for independence. In the absence of the instruction and discipline of old armies and of the confidence which long association produces between veterans, we have had in a great measure to trust to the individuality and self-reliance of the private soldier. Without the incentive or the motive which controls the officer, who hopes to live in history; without the hope of reward and actuated only by a sense of duty and of patriotism, he has, in this great contest, justly judged that the Cause was his own and gone into it with a determination to conquer or die; to be free or not to be at all. No encomium is too high, no honor too great for such a soldiery. However much credit and glory may be given, and probably justly given, to the leaders of our struggle, history will yet award the main honor where it is due – to the private soldier, who, without hope of reward and with no other incentive than a consciousness of rectitude, has encountered all the hardships and suffered all the privations. Well has it been said, "The first monument our Confederacy rears, when our independence shall have been won, should be a lofty shaft, pure and spotless, bearing this inscription, 'To the unknown and unrecorded dead.'"

May Camp Meeting

Our speaker this month's camp meeting is none other than Past Brigade Commander, Past Commander and staunch supporter of the Confederate Soldier, Mr. Fred Lincoln of the 51st Tennessee and the Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp 215. Fred is presenting the great, but seldom told story of General William Hardee C.S.A.



Germantown Historical Tour

It is just days away!

If you haven't volunteered yet, there is still time. If you are a reenactor we can use infantry at the fort. If you have equipment and a uniform we can use that would be a great help. We also need ticket punchers and bus greeters. Please call Tarry Beasley 682-8000 to volunteer!



Traveller is the monthly newsletter of:

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Sons of Confederate Veterans
and
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Order of the Confederate Rose
P.O. Box 171251
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Steve M. McIntyre, Editor



Next Camp Meeting ** May 13, 2013
Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN