



# TRAVELLER

Award Winning Publication of the General Robert E. Lee  
Camp, #1640

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, TN

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

DEO VINDICE!

August, 2017



## CAMP MEETING

August 14, 2017

Speaker: **Brian Hicks**

Topic: " **Battle of Hernando, Mississippi** "

**7:00 p.m. at the at the Germantown  
Regional History and Genealogy Center**

**Don't miss our next meeting!**

these states came together in Philadelphia in 1787 to write a constitution and form a union.

During the ratification debates, Virginia's delegates said, "The powers granted under the Constitution being derived from the people of the United States may be resumed by them whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression." The ratification

documents of New York and Rhode Island expressed similar sentiments.

At the Constitutional Convention, a proposal was made to allow the federal government to suppress a seceding state. James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution,"

rejected it. The minutes from the debate paraphrased his opinion: "A union of the states containing such an ingredient (would) provide for its own destruction. The use of force against a state would look more like a declaration of war than an infliction of punishment and would probably be considered by the party attacked as a dissolution of all previous compacts by which it might be bound."

America's first secessionist movement started in New England after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Many were infuriated by what they saw as an unconstitutional act by President Thomas Jefferson.

The movement was led by Timothy Pickering of Massachusetts, George Washington's secretary of war and secretary of state. He later became a congressman and senator. "The principles of our Revolution point to the remedy — a separation," Pickering wrote to George Cabot in 1803, for "the people of the East cannot reconcile their habits, views, and interests with those of

## Were Confederate Generals Traitors?

By Walter E. Williams

My "Rewriting American History" column of a fortnight ago, about the dismantling of Confederate monuments, generated considerable mail. Some argued there should not be statues honoring traitors such as Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis, who fought against the Union. Victors of wars get to write the history, and the history they write often does not reflect the facts. Let's look at some of the facts and ask: Did the South have a right to secede from the Union? If it did, we can't label Confederate generals as traitors.

Article 1 of the Treaty of Paris (1783), which ended the war between the Colonies and Great Britain, held "New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be free sovereign and Independent States." Representatives of



the South and West." His Senate colleague James Hillhouse of Connecticut agreed, saying, "The Eastern states must and will dissolve the union and form a separate government." This call for secession was shared by other prominent Americans, such as John Quincy Adams, Elbridge Gerry, Fisher Ames, Josiah Quincy III and Joseph Story. The call failed to garner support at the 1814-15 Hartford Convention.

The U.S. Constitution would have never been ratified — and a union never created — if the people of those 13 "free sovereign and Independent States" did not believe that they had the right to secede. Even on the eve of the War of 1861, unionist politicians saw secession as a right that states had. Rep. Jacob M. Kunkel of Maryland said, "Any attempt to preserve the union between the states of this Confederacy by force would be impractical and destructive of republican liberty." The Northern Democratic and Republican parties favored allowing the South to secede in peace.

Northern newspapers editorialized in favor of the South's right to secede. New-York Tribune (Feb. 5, 1860): "If tyranny and despotism justified the Revolution of 1776, then we do not see why it would not justify the secession of Five Millions of Southrons from the Federal Union in 1861." The Detroit Free Press (Feb. 19, 1861): "An attempt to subjugate the seceded States, even if successful, could produce nothing but evil — evil unmitigated in character and appalling in extent." The New-York Times (March 21, 1861): "There is a growing sentiment throughout the North in favor of letting the Gulf States go."

Confederate generals were fighting for independence from the Union just as George Washington and other generals fought for independence from Great Britain. Those who'd label Gen. Robert E. Lee as a traitor might also label George Washington as a traitor. I'm sure Great Britain's King George III would have agreed.

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

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## **Army Still Considers Reconciliation an Honorable Principle**

The U.S. Army denied requests from several New York Democrats to rename streets on the city's Fort Hamilton military installation.

The Bay Ridge, Brooklyn property is a base for the New York Army National Guard and Reserves and was a key U.S. battery during the Revolution and World War II.

Fort Hamilton - which sits at the foot of the Verrazano Bridge - combined with Fort Wadsworth on the Staten

Island side to serve as a crucial defense of New York Harbor.

Rep. Yvette Clarke (D) of Brooklyn was one of several city Democrats who demanded that streets on the base like "General Lee Avenue" and "Stonewall Jackson Drive" be renamed.

Clarke joined Nydia Velazquez, Hakeem Jeffries and Jerrold Nadler in sending a letter of protest to the Army over the Confederate names.

"These monuments are deeply offensive to the hundreds of thousands of Brooklyn residents and members of the armed forces stationed at Fort Hamilton whose ancestors Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson fought to hold in slavery," Clarke wrote, according to the New York Daily News.

"For too many years, the United States has refused to reckon with that history," she said.

The Army's deputy assistant chief of staff, Diane Randon, told Clarke that changing the names would be "contrary to the Nation's original intent in naming these streets, which was the spirit of reconciliation."

Clarke said she will continue to protest the street names, and several Bay Ridge residents told the Daily News they understood the Army's view but agree with the congresswoman.

One local veteran said Lee and Jackson betrayed the Union and added that if the Army was to rename the avenues it would be an admission that they were wrong to bestow the names in the first place.

Rep. Dan Donovan (R-N.Y.), who represents the fort, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the controversy from local TV station NY-1.

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## **Stupidity or Insanity? (You Decide): Board Drops 'Lynch' from School Names**

By Lukas Mikelionis August 10, 2017

A school board in Portland, Ore., has dropped "Lynch" from the names of two elementary schools, claiming it had negative connotations and made some people feel uncomfortable.

The move Wednesday evening by the Centennial School District's board also included a slight alteration to the name of a third school.

But the move has sparked criticism, including on social media, from some community residents and former students.

They claim the board's decision is a sign of political correctness running amok.

The district had received complaints in recent years that the names of Lynch Meadows Elementary School, Lynch View Elementary School and Lynch Wood Elementary School reminded them too much of “lynch mobs” and “lynchings,” conjuring the image of people being hanged by an angry mob, KATU reported.

All three schools were named after the Lynch family, who donated land for the schools more than a century ago.

There’s disagreement over the derivation of “lynch mob” and “lynching.” Some say it started with an 18<sup>th</sup> century politician named Charles Lynch, NPR reported. Others link the words to Capt. William Lynch, an 18<sup>th</sup> century Virginian who was a proponent of quickly dispensed “justice” – although accounts vary.

Complaints suggested that the names of Lynch Meadows Elementary School, Lynch View Elementary School and Lynch Wood Elementary School could make people feel uncomfortable as the word "lynch" has negative associations.

On Wednesday, the school board agreed to drop Lynch from both Lynch Meadows and Lynch Wood Elementary. But it agreed to rename Lynch View Elementary as Patrick Lynch Elementary School, KOIN 6 reported.

As Sharlene Giard, the school board’s chairwoman, told the community Wednesday: “We have children of color and other cultures and we want to make sure that they are able to cross the threshold of those three schools and be comfortable in their surroundings.”

But after the school board’s decision, community members voiced their dissatisfaction.

“I’m just disheartened because where will it stop?” one local resident said, according to KOIN 6. “Any moment someone could be offended by any name. Do we keep changing the name of everything? That would be the question, right?”

“It’s official. We are now Meadows Elementary School. I won’t change the name of the group!” wrote Andrea Vaughn in a Facebook group called Lynch Meadows Elementary School Alumni.

Another former student, Rob Grimes, criticized the school district on its Facebook page, calling the board’s decision “pure ignorance.” He accused the board of disrespecting the Lynch family that donated the land.

"This isn't even a matter of political correctness because it wouldn't apply or make sense in this case," Grimes wrote. "This is just pure ignorance and playing to the fears or concerns of the very few."

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CITIZENS TO SAVE OUR PARKS  
AND THE  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

# Help Save Our Parks



## Fight City Hall ? We ARE !!!

The Forrest Camp 213 and the CTSOP have filed suit against the Memphis City Council for their illegal attempt to change the names of our three Confederate parks. We have been joined by all area camps & many UDC members. These parks, Forrest Park, Confederate Park, and Jefferson Davis Park, are our history, our Confederate heritage, and a lasting tribute to our Confederate ancestors. They must not be destroyed or taken away by mis-guided politicians.

**Help us to save our historic parks: Forrest Park, Confederate Park, and Jefferson Davis Park.**

**Can you, or your group donate \$100, \$500 or \$1000 to the defense ?**

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Contribute through PayPal at : [www.citizenstosaveourparks.org](http://www.citizenstosaveourparks.org)

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**Parks Defense Fund**

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**SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS**

# Help Save General Forrest



The Memphis City Council has passed a resolution to remove the Forrest Equestrian Statue from Forrest Park and to dig up the graves of General Forrest and his wife MaryAnn from beneath the statue.

The SCV and the Forrest family descendants must raise money to fight the city in this second attack on General Forrest. We need your help.

## Help us to save the graves and monument of General Forrest

Can you, or your camp or Division donate \$100, \$500 or \$1000 to the defense ?

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**Traveller** is the monthly newsletter of:

The General Robert E. Lee Camp #1640  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
and

The Mary Custis Lee Chapter,  
Order of the Confederate Rose  
P.O. Box 171251  
Memphis, Tennessee 38187

Steve M. McIntyre, Editor

**Next Camp Meeting \*\* August 14, 2017**  
Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN