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Chris Drawdy, Editor

A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHERN MEN

THAT IT WAS NOT WHAT THEY SAY IT WAS

by Frank Conner, as appeared on www.georgiaheritagecouncil.org May 4, 2001.

As we head into the sesquicentennial remembrance of the "American Civil War," and the liberal media run out all of their big guns to blast the conservative South yet again, this would be a good time to note that it was not a civil war. A civil war is defined as a war fought between two factions within a nation for the control of that nation. Our "civil war" was fought between two sovereign nations. The sovereign United States of America invaded and conquered the sovereign Confederate States of America, to drag it back into the US, so the Southern states would then function as the dirt-poor agricultural colonies of the Northern capitalists (which they did until WWII).

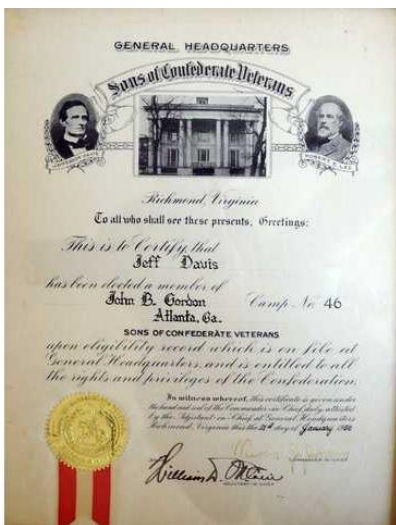
Why was the Confederate States of America a real-sure-enough sovereign nation?

The USA was officially established as a country in 1781, during the Revolutionary War. Its first official charter was the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union, which organized the US as a loose confederation of almost-sovereign states--virtually-independent nations, with a very weak central-government to wage wars and negotiate peace treaties. One of the key factors that determined how the US would be organized was the clear realization by the original Founders that the North and the South despised each other because of a gigantic culture-clash between the peoples of both regions (which persists to this day). Therefore, if either region ever gained control of the central government, it would undoubtedly use that power to grind the other region into the dirt, and the result would likely be a real civil war.

But in a confederation, the states would mostly go their own individual ways, and deal with each other only at arm's length; and the central government would be so weak that it could not be used by one region as a hammer to bludgeon the other region. Therefore, the original Founders felt safe in constructing the US confederation as a "perpetual union," such that once a state had joined the US, it could not secede without the permission of the central government and all of the other states. Had the Southern states attempted to secede from the US of their own volition under the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union, their secession would have been unlawful--a rebellion against the US government.

See **WHAT THEY SAY**, Page 3

CIVIL WAR AT 150: JEFFERSON DAVIS' DESCENDANT KEEPS FIGHTING SPIRIT ALIVE



Jeff Davis has been a member of SCV since 1956

Nearly eight years ago, Gainesville's Jeff Davis strongly advocated letting voters decide whether they wanted to keep the contentious 1956 Georgia flag, which featured the rebel emblem. These days, as chairman of the Sons of Confederate Veterans' Media/Public Relations Committee, he is battling what he deems as attacks against Southern heritage, an attitude he likens to "cultural Marxism."

It seems that, despite health problems slowing his pace, Davis hasn't lost the fighting spirit of his Confederate ancestors — including the most famous one, distant cousin Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America. In a recent interview at his apartment off Thompson Bridge Road, the 81-year-old retired broadcaster talked about his extensive forays into politics and service organizations, as well as his keen interest in Civil War history.

He also talked about the North-South conflict's sesquicentennial, a commemoration of Civil War events that began with shots fired on April 12, 1861 at Fort Sumter, S.C. "Political correctness has really worked on the Sons of Confederate Veterans something terrible," Davis said. "There have been a lot of terrible untruths. I have wanted to find a way, without being hostile, to correct a lot of the images that have taken place throughout the country." Images, he believes, that began in the 1970s, years after the Civil War's centennial, when there was more of national movement to remember the "tragic event" that led to more than 625,000 war deaths.

See **CIVIL WAR AT 150**, Page 2

This month, the Wade Hampton Camp will sponsor the HL Hunley Award for three local high school JROTC cadets from Spring Valley High School, Lexington High School, and Swansea High School. The award program is was designed to promote visibility of SCV Camps in the community as well as having outstanding young JROTC cadets wearing the Sons of Confederate Veterans Medal on their chest for three years. The following is an email sent by Past Commander Jeff O'Cain and shows the effect this great award is having on our community:

This afternoon I needed a fuse for an AC compressor so I quickly ran up to the nearby Wood True Value Hardware store. Clad in dirty jeans and a SCV logo'd t-shirt, I went in and proceeded directly to the aisle where I already knew the large buss fuses were. A sharp looking young black store employee walked quickly up to me. Where are the sales people when you do need help? Somewhat annoyed at the prospect of getting help when I didn't need

it, I expected the routine "Can I help you, sir?" but was greeted with "You're in the Sons of Confederate Veterans?" Somewhat surprised and then realizing I did, indeed, have an SCV t-shirt on, I said, "Yes I am, young man." To which he smiled and replied, "I received the HL Hunley Award last year at my high school." "And how did that go?" I asked.

"I go to Eau Claire High and there wasn't a prouder cadet at our banquet and I really appreciate getting such a great award!" (Eau Claire HS is about 98% black) I then boasted, "Well, I'm a past commander of the Camp that sponsored your award, the Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp here in Columbia." "Yes, yes, it was a man from the Wade Hampton Camp that made the presentation. I can't remember his name but a nice man."

"So what are your plans?" I asked. "I graduate in May and plan to go to tech school during the summer and then The Citadel in the fall. I understand there is an SCV Camp there." Of course I couldn't

resist telling him the Citadel Camp name, "Star of The West". To which he told me how the Citadel cadets had engaged the Star of the West way before Ft. Sumter.

"You do know that you can, in fact, join the Camp. It has nothing to do with race. I am certain they would welcome you, especially since you are an HL Hunley Award recipient. You might even discover you have a Confederate ancestor. The history books don't tell the whole story of the thousands of black Confederate soldiers that served."

"I know...history is a funny thing. It doesn't always tell the truth or the whole story." he said.

At that point the Mr. Wood, the storeowner, walked up and I finished by purchase at the register. As I turned to leave the young man approached me again and thanked me once more for an award he obviously deserved. Simply put, I was very moved and wanted to share with you a chance encounter today that actually out shined the beautiful weather! ☾

CIVIL WAR AT 150

These days, Davis believes, the accepted notion is that the South's refusal to budge from slavery triggered the war. "The biggest thing is to say the South was the leading advocate of slavery in the entire world, that the war was fought over slavery and nothing else," he said. "That's the biggest lie that has been pushed."

The SCV doesn't deny slavery wasn't an issue, but there is so much more to the story, he said.

"Anybody who looks at the first two years of the war and what (President Abraham) Lincoln and his cabinet said — they all said 'South, come back into the country. We don't want to disrupt slavery. That's not our purpose. Our purpose is to preserve the Union.'" Also, slavery began as an enterprise of Northern entrepreneurs.

"Slavery was a terrible thing, for all of us, and we all should ought share our responsibilities for whatever it was we did, but don't lay it all on the South, because we didn't start it," Davis said. With his name well-known among Confederacy buffs, Davis also has spent much of his life researching his heritage.

The West Virginia native, born John Albert Davis, earned the nickname "Jeff" from friends and then his mother, making it stick for good. He'd go on to become "something of an expert" on his ancestor, including picking up on lesser-known facts, such as Davis adopting a black boy

during his days leading the Confederacy.

Also, Jefferson Davis "was probably the best military mind in the country at the time the war was approaching," he said. He was secretary of war under President Franklin Pierce between terms in Congress.

"He kind of did himself in, modernizing the U.S. Army in the 1850s," said Davis, whose grandfather also served in the prestigious "Stonewall Brigade," a group of raw recruits turned into a fighting machine by Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. Davis attended Gordon Military College in Barnesville before moving into a career that included journalism and politics.

In the 1950s, he befriended Vice President Richard Nixon, who later tapped him to lead his Georgia presidential campaign against the Democratic candidate and eventual victor, John Kennedy. Active in civic affairs, Davis would go on to head the Georgia Jaycees and then serve as vice president at the Jaycees' national and world levels. In 2003, he helped form the Georgia Heritage Council "to pursue reform" of state government. The group came out advocating "strict enforcement of existing illegal immigration laws by state agencies" and opposition to "ethnic cleansing" of America's religious heritage.

One of the most polarizing issues at the time, however, was Georgia's flag,

which had been changed in 2001 to incorporate a smaller design of the former flag that featured the battle flag of the Confederacy. In a 2004 referendum, voters were given a choice between the 2001 flag and a new design that excluded the Confederate emblem. At the time, as today, many decried the rebel flag as a symbol of hate and racism.

The Georgia Heritage Council pushed for the 1956 flag, which featured the emblem, to be included on the state referendum. "Southern Heritage is an integral part of both our country's and Georgia's Heritage," Davis said in a Sept. 30, 2003, news release. Davis does believe there has been some respect given the Confederacy in recent times.

Last Memorial Day, President Barack Obama sent a wreath to the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. "He was asked not to by a number of leading Americans," Davis said. Also, "there is no more hospitable and cordial relationship between two organizations" than the one that exists between the Sons of the Union Veterans and the Sons of the Confederate Veterans. "It is something (they have) in common: Their forbearers did what they thought what was right and they were part of Americana, whether they were North or South," he said. ☾

But soon after the startup of the US in 1781, it became apparent that the Articles had some serious flaws; so in 1787, the states sent delegates to a convention in Philadelphia to determine how to fix them. But instead, the delegates decided to junk the Articles, and create a new government charter, the US Constitution. The Constitution would reorganize the US as a totally-different kind of country--a federation consisting of states tied more-closely together under a far-more-powerful central government with a president who would be given a frightening amount of power.

In working out the details of the Constitution, the new Founding Fathers also recognized that the central problem they faced was the hatred of the North and the South for one another; and this would be a far-more-serious problem under the Constitution than under the Articles. So they tried to lay out the Constitution in such a way that the political power of the North would always be perfectly balanced against the political power of the South in the federal government--into the far-distant future. But in case something unforeseen occurred, and one region did gain control of the government, there had to be a safety valve to prevent a civil war. The safety feature the Founders used was to make no mention of perpetual union in the Constitution. Thus, if one region gained total control of the government and squeezed the other region intolerably, the squeezed region could now secede from the US and form its own country, rather than wage an all-out civil war with the other region. The US Constitution was adopted in 1789, and it remains in force as the US government charter today.

What the Founders had feared might occur did occur. During the first half of the 19th century, there was a tremendous unforeseen population-shift to the North, as the new immigrants all headed there. So great was the accompanying shift of political power that in the 1860 elections, a purely-Northern political party, the Republican party, founded only six years earlier, won full control of the White House and both houses of Congress, on a platform that would

squeeze the South dry financially. Abraham Lincoln had not even been on the ballot in a number of Southern states; and even had the Democratic party not split apart in the South, the Republicans would still have won everything in sight. Worse, there was no way for the South to regain population parity--thus political parity in the federal government--with the North ever again.

And so, following that election, the Southern states, seeing the handwriting on the wall, seceded from the US lawfully under the US Constitution, and formed their own sovereign nation, the Confederate States of America. Only by so doing could they continue to control their own fate.

But there was a war anyway. At this point, President-elect Lincoln, a dark-horse Whig whose only initial powerbase was the Northern capitalists, urgently needed to drag the South back into the US so that he could get reelected in 1864 (a number of the capitalists would lose fortunes if the South were allowed to remain free). And so Lincoln forced a war upon the Confederate States of America and manipulated the CSA into firing the first shots in it to give him the moral high-ground; and then he invaded and conquered the CSA and dragged it back into the US at bayonet-point. And so much for "government with the consent of the governed."

Lincoln was assassinated right after the end of the war. The new president, Andrew Johnson, believed that Mr. Lincoln's War badly needed the stamp of approval of the U.S. Supreme Court, to convince everyone that it had been a just and constitutional war to put down a rebellion. The ex-president of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis, had been captured and now languished in a federal prison. President Johnson ordered that he be tried for treason by the U.S. Supreme Court. (The chief justice was Salmon P. Chase, a red-hot Radical Republican, so a conviction seemed certain.) And by convicting Davis,

the Supreme Court would also be convicting the South.

President Johnson sent the US attorney general out to find a prominent Northern lawyer to prosecute the government's case against Jefferson Davis. That seemed an easy task, because the winning prosecutor would gain eternal fame (and accompanying fortune). Yet no lawyer would ever agree to prosecute this case. Why not? Because the lawyers approached were agreed that the secession of the Southern states had been lawful under the Constitution, and there was no way to prove otherwise in a court of law. Thus, it was agreed among the legal fraternity that Mr. Lincoln's War had been unconstitutional, and was definitely not a civil war.

Editor's Note: - The indictments against Jefferson Davis and 19 other Confederate officials were dismissed (prosecution dropped the case) in February 1869 because the U.S. Government knew it could NOT win a conviction. Davis had been released on bail in 1867 after having been held in prison for two years after the war (captured May 1865).

"If you bring these [Confederate] leaders to trial it will condemn the North, for by the Constitution secession is not rebellion. Lincoln wanted Davis to escape, and he was right. His capture was a mistake. His trial will be a greater one." --- Chief Justice Salmon Chase, July 1867 (Foote, The Civil War, Vol.3, p.765)

This was an intolerably-embarrassing situation. The US government had to do something; so in an unrelated case (Texas v. White, 1869), the Supreme Court arbitrarily decreed that the secession of the South had been unconstitutional, basically because the Supreme Court now said it was unconstitutional. But the fact remains that Mr. Lincoln's War was not a civil war; and each time the historians and other educators, and the media people, and the government officials call it a civil war, they lie through their teeth. ☞

CARL POTTER

ADJUTANT'S DESK

Compatriots:

In reviewing the Camp roster and attempting to make contact with several Compatriots, it has been discovered that we do not have the most current information on most of our membership. Usually addresses remain the same, however, phone numbers and e-mails change like socks. My information is included in this section; please send me an update of your current address, phone number and e-mail. Also send your Membership ID number so that I can verify that as well. Everyone knows that membership dues will be due following the National Convention. Please don't make me waste our Camp funds by having to send out reminders in the mail. I know it doesn't sound like much for one or two and it's not. However, if I have to send out 100 reminders at \$0.44 each, plus the paper, envelopes and ink, that quickly adds up. So please, let's have our dues in by the Camp Meeting time in August. I will save you a stamp, if you like, just bring it to the August meeting and I'll take care of it from there. I would enjoy seeing 200 members show up at once. I don't think it has ever been done. Would you like to give it a try? If you haven't been in a while and plan on being here, please send me a message or call me so that we can plan for a large crowd at carl@cmpotter.us or (803) 730-1811. Bring a friend along, maybe they would like to join also. ☞

Important Dates in The War of the Southrons:

May 6, 1861:	Arkansas and Tennessee vote to secede from the Union.
May 16, 1861:	Confederate Congress admits Tennessee into the Confederacy.
May 20, 1861:	North Carolina becomes the 11th and final full state to secede from the Union.
May 24, 1861:	Yankee troops first set foot on Southern soil.
May 8, 1862:	Valley Campaign, Battle of McDowell, VA is a victory for Gen. Jackson.
May 1, 1863:	Battle of Chancellorsville, VA begins.
May 2, 1863:	Battle of Chancellorsville: Gen. Jackson's flank movement is successful. Later he is accidentally wounded by his own men.
May 3, 1863:	Battle of Chancellorsville: Federals frontal assault fails at Fredericksburg.
May 5, 1863:	Battle of the Wilderness, VA, begins.
May 18, 1863:	The Federal assault on Vicksburg begins.
May 27, 1863:	At Port Hudson, LA, the 13,000 man Federal army attacks the 4,500 Confederate defenders in the 1st assault on the post. After heavy Federal loses, the attack fails.
May 7, 1864:	In Northern Georgia, U.S. Gen. Sherman, with 3 armies numbering 100,000 men, begin their barbaric march to Atlanta.
May 10, 1864:	Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson dies of his wounds of May 2nd.
May 10, 1864:	Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, VA.
May 11, 1864:	Battle of Yellow Tavern, VA. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart is mortally wounded in his cavalry battle outside of Richmond.
May 12, 1864:	Gen. J.E.B. Stuart dies.
May 21, 1865:	Under the command of Lt. Waddell, the CSS <i>Shenandoah</i> enters the sea of Okhotsk, looking for Yankee whalers.
May 22, 1865:	C.S. President Jefferson Davis is imprisoned at Ft. Monroe, VA.

May Camp Meeting
THURSDAY, MAY 19TH
6 O'CLOCK P.M.



SEAWELL'S
RESTAURANT
1125 Rosewood Drive
Columbia, SC

SPEAKER
 Allen Roberson,
Confederate Relic Room
and Military Museum

WWW.WADEHAMPTONCAMP.ORG



Wagner, SC 29164

PO Box 70

C/O Adjutant Carl Potter

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