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A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHERN MEN

A FISCAL QUARREL CALLED THE CIVIL WAR

by Devika Patel, as appeared in www.takimag.com on June 03, 2011

Confederates are a misunderstood bunch. April marked 150 years since the first shots were fired at Fort Sumter, launching the Civil War. Though hostilities didn't last half as long as Vietnam or even our current Afghan skirmish, it's the war that killed the most Americans and also is believed by many to be the most justified of our nation's wars. After all, the bloodshed freed the slaves and paved the path for civil rights and Kumbaya. But even if the story has a happy ending (sort of), and even if slavery was intolerable, inhumane, evil, and economically idiotic, modern Americans stubbornly ignore the obvious fact that Lincoln's war directly opposed the spirit with which this nation was founded, when 13 states decided to secede from their union, or "the British Empire" as it's sometimes called. They founded a new nation through secession four score and seven years prior to Lincoln's famous proclamation, which ludicrously implied his fight against secession was in the same spirit as our nation's founding. In truth, Lincoln's tyrannical, tax-loving nature was exactly the sort of oppression that Washington, et al., tried to dispose of back in 1776. The war was barely about slavery.

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THOUGHTS FROM REVEREND BOB

When it was obvious that the military fortunes of the South were going badly in early 1865, a few units usually at Battalion, Regiment or Brigade level passed resolutions that they would never accept peace with the Union without full recognition of the Independence of the Confederate States. Today as States 'Rights and the Constitution are becoming the focus of more and more State governments. I believe we in the SCV should support these efforts.

Here is one of the very best examples of the officers and men of Samuel McGowan's famous Brigade, who signed the following declaration, some signing with their own blood.

Resolution Adopted by McGowan's Brigade, South Carolina Volunteers, 6 February, 1865

1st That the war in which we are engaged is a war of self-defense; that in the beginning, nearly four years ago, we took up arms in defense of the right to govern ourselves, and to protect our country from invasion, our homes from desolation, and our wives and children from insult and outrage.

2nd That the reason which induced us to take up arms at the beginning have not been impaired, but on the contrary, infinitely strengthened by the progress of the war. Outrage and cruelty have not made us love the perpetrators. If we then judged that the enemy intended to impoverish and oppress us, we now know that they propose to subjugate, enslave, disgrace and destroy us.

3rd As we were actuated by principle when we entered the service of the Confederate States, we are of the same opinion still. We have had our share of victories, and we must expect some defeats. Our cause is righteous and must prevail. In the language of General Greene, in the darkest hours of the Revolution, when he was struggling to recover South Carolina, then entirely overrun and suffering under the scourge of Carleton: "Independence is certain, if the people have the fortitude to bear and the courage to persevere."

4th To submit to our enemies, now, would be more infamous than it would have been in the beginning. It would be cowardly, yielding to power what was denied upon principle. It would be to yield the cherished right of self - government and to acknowledge ourselves wrong in the assertion of it; to brand the names of our slaughtered companions as traitors; to forfeit the glory already won; to lose the fruits of all sacrifices made and the privileges endured; to give up independence now nearly gained, and bring certain ruin, disgrace and eternal slavery upon our country. Therefore, not subdued by past reverses, and unawed by future dangers, we declare our determination to battle to the end, and not to lay down our arms until independence is secured. Is life so dear and peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it Heaven! ☪

I have not said one word that could hurt the feelings of a colored man or woman...we will owe this victory in great part to the colored man. - Wade Hampton, 1876

I have found that wearing my "Hampton's Red Shirt" while representing the Camp almost always invokes conversation of interest about the years of Reconstruction, and often misunderstanding of Wade Hampton himself and the 1876 movement to retake South Carolina from a radical occupying regime.

Most critics of my attire often site prominent SC leaders such as Matthew Butler, Martin Gary and Ben Tillman, as "Red Shirts with a quest for white supremacy". This should be of no surprise, as Wikipedia – the modern online source of mis-history, states "The Red Shirts were a white paramilitary organization that arose to suppress African American civil rights and voting rights...using violence and assassination for intimidation." While it certainly cannot be disputed that clashes between blacks and whites turned deadly during the 1876 election campaign in areas such as Hamburg, Ellenton and Chainhoy, Hampton's influence brought many black and white South Carolinians together against carpet bagging Republicans that

had neither groups within their personal and political interests.

Walter Brian Cisco wrote: "At Early Branch, Hampton was met at the station by a Red Shirt escort that included a contingent of blacks. Among these black Red Shirts may have been the "mounted black cadre", a group that traveled to join Hampton at some of his campaign stops around the state. Several in the cadre were black Confederate veterans. The Garden Corner Campaign Club, a black choral group, sang songs 'each having its theme the good time coming when the thieves and disturbers would be sent away, honest folk would conduct the government and the races would be at peace.' So many black supporters appeared at Hampton meetings that some Northern Republicans would claim that they must be servants of the speakers, or paid to be there. It was even charged that whites put on burnt cork and donned wigs to impersonate black Democrats."

Additionally, Edmund Drago discusses in his 1998 book *Hurray for Hampton, Black Red Shirts in SC during Reconstruction*, severe political divisions among blacks debunking myths that all blacks in the state backed reforming Republicans. Drago points out that many SC blacks had realized the betrayal in the

corruptness of the Republican leadership, and believed Hampton could restore peace and prosperity.

We all know history is never as definitive as it presents itself. Democrats and Republicans have never aligned directly amongst racial divisions. Furthermore, residents of SC's upstate certainly cannot be defined by the culture of low country society or the farming communities in the Pee Dee.

The Red Shirts that followed Wade Hampton commonly believed that there needed to be a change in the stranglehold that gripped our state. The methods to facilitate this change differed greatly depending on their personal circumstances. However, Hampton believed in the common good for ALL of South Carolinians, regardless of race, economic stature, or occupation.

I'm always proud to represent the Wade Hampton Camp by wearing my Red Shirt. But I'm most excited when someone asks me "Weren't they a bunch of racists?" My answer is always "No, they just wanted their State back!"

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting on June 23 at 6pm at Seawell's ☪.

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

CARL POTTER

Compatriots:

I have asked for and been granted consent of the Executive Council on a new project. We are honoring our Ancestors beginning this year and for the next 4 years with the Sesquicentennial Celebration events across the country. This is a Historical event that I am proud to be a part of. However, I believe that we should also recognize our soldiers and brothers in arms that are here among us. To my knowledge no one here at the Wade Hampton Camp has taken the opportunity to honor the men that has served our country that are standing in the ranks among us. It is time that we do. The Sons Of Confederate Veterans has authorized a War Service Medal for this purpose. The eligibility dates for the War Service Medal are the dates determined by the American

Legion which are: (World War I) April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; (World War II) December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (Korean War) June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; (Vietnam War) Jan 1, 1961 to May 7, 1975; (Lebanon/Grenada) August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984; (Operation Just Cause - Panama) December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990; (Operation Desert Shield/Storm) August 2, 1990 to Nov 30, 1995; (Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan) - Sept. 11, 2001 to present; (Cessation not yet defined). All dates are inclusive. What I need from each person that is eligible is a copy of your DD-214 showing that you were honorably discharged from service following at least one of the above dates. Please **bring it to me at the June or July** meeting if you wish to be included in this ceremony. **DO NOT BRING ME YOUR ORIGINAL**

DD-214 I have no way of safe guarding it, please bring me a copy of the original. I must send this off to National Headquarters along with a lengthy form. So be prepared to answer some questions or you can go to the National website under forms. Go to the bottom of the page, it is the last form, fill it out and bring it with you to the meeting. I will send them all in together as one to National. I will be asking National Commander Givens and State Commander Simpson to present the Medals as soon as we can get everything arranged. This will be a one-time event for our current membership. **Make certain that your dues are current.** If you have previously been awarded this Medal, please let me know this as well. Hopefully, in the future each new member will be asked if he served and also presented with the Medal if appropriate. ☪

The rebellious Founding Fathers were quite clear when drafting the Constitution: “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” These idealists understood that centralized government was a necessary evil, but they limited federal power and its revenue sources to the best of their ability. The Civil War was a battle over revenue.

Ask any knowledgeable Southerner, and he or she is likely to agree with Charles Dickens, who wrote: *...the Northern onslaught upon slavery is no more than a piece of specious humbug disguised to conceal its desire for economic control of the United States. ... Union means so many millions a year lost to the South; secession means loss of the same millions to the North. The love of money is the root of this as many, many other evils. The quarrel between the North and South is, as it stands, solely a fiscal quarrel.*

This fiscal quarrel dated back to the country’s founding, when a tariff was drafted into the Constitution and one of the first pieces of legislation the new Congress passed was the tariff of 1789, a duty of five to ten percent on imported goods. Before the Civil War, this tariff raised more than nine of every ten dollars in federal revenue.

The first protective tariff was born in 1816, aimed at protecting Americans from having to compete with Europe’s cheap labor. This duty was also aimed at spreading around the Southern wealth and boosting the Northern industrialists’ selling power. Since the South exported most of its cotton and tobacco crops (only 20% of the Southern crop was sold domestically), it could either be paid for its exports in hard cash or through manufactured European goods. If Southerners chose the latter, they got a better price. It was a no-brainer, since before 1824, US tariff levels hovered around 20%. It was economical to buy from Europe, whose lower labor costs allowed their manufacturers to undercut their higher-paid counterparts in the Northern US.

Northerners, who initially wanted protection for their burgeoning manufacturing industry, now saw an opportunity for monopoly through what was slowly becoming a prohibitive tariff. If Congress kept raising the duty rate on imported goods, those rich Southerners would be forced to buy manufactured knickknacks such as iron and textiles from Northern factories. It was a sweet deal for the industrialists. Northern political dominance enabled Congress to pass a tariff averaging 35% late in 1824. When Congress passed the “Tariff of Abominations” in 1828, under which duties averaged over 50%, Southerners were more than a bit ticked off. They wound up paying 87% of total federal revenues.

In response to the Tariff of 1828, South Carolina refused to collect any duties on imported goods sold in her ports, and this so-called “nullification” of federal tax law precipitated a crisis in which the very first talk of secession was

heard. President Andrew Jackson eventually caved, and the feds agreed to roll back tariffs to their 1816 levels over a ten-year period, and the levies would settle at around 15% by 1842. Congressional Democrats, mostly Southerners, were able to reduce the tariff laws further in the 1840s and 1850s. The 1857 rates were the lowest in history. Peace was achieved until the Panic of 1857, when protectionists again rallied for a high tariff as a remedy for the ensuing recession.

In May 1860, Congress waited until the senators from the lower six Southern states were missing from the rosters and spawned the Morrill Tariff, which took effect in March 1861, a few weeks before fighting began at Sumter. This tariff effectively undid Jackson’s compromise. The average tariff rose from about 15% to 37%, with increases to 47% within three years. And with the Southerners missing from the US Congress during the four-year war, tariffs on European goods skyrocketed to 49% by 1868. (Hey—who said war was cheap? But after the war had ended and funding for its efforts was no longer needed, high tariffs remained. Big surprise. When have the feds EVER given up a revenue stream?).

Northern citizens knew which side of their bread was dripping with Dixie butter. On December 10, 1860, the *Chicago Daily Times* wrote of secession’s potential economic impact:

In one single blow, our foreign commerce must be reduced to less than one-half of what it is now. Our coastwise trade would pass into other hands. One-half of our shipping would lie idle at our wharves. We should lose our trade with the South, with all of its immense profits. Our manufacturers would be in utter ruins.

Money, the root of all of evils, was also the root of US history’s deadliest war. Slavery had little to do with either side’s hurt feelings.

But beyond the tariff war, the Southerners had an even bigger gripe: They despised Lincoln. His Republican party was strictly a Northern invention, founded only a few years before Sumter in 1854, and his election meant that Southern issues would be ignored for four years. In truth, they had no idea how bad a president old Abe would be. The “Great Emancipator” showed how much he respected liberty when he suspended habeas corpus rights a month into the conflict and declared martial law. Not only did Lincoln hijack Southern citizens’ right to govern themselves, he now sought to expand his executive power at the expense of his citizens’ civil rights. Americans are surprisingly willing, both then and now, to hand over their liberties without demanding proof when the state claims the country is under threat.

Lincoln had no beef with slavery. This is the same guy who said: *I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no*

inclination to do so....If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it....What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union.

He wanted a strong, centralized government that ruled over the weakened states with as much power as he could seize. Though he never lived to see fascism or communism, Lincoln clearly understood the role of dictator.

Even after Lincoln’s death and for twelve years after the war had ended, Reconstruction further proved that the fighting had little to do with slavery. If the North cared primarily about freeing slaves, soldiers would have vacated the South shortly after Lee’s surrender. Instead, there was nation-building in Dixie. Anyone connected to the previous regime or military (essentially all Southern males) could no longer vote, run for office, or exercise any of their constitutional rights without pledging support for the Union. A Southerner was forced to surrender his dignity and vow allegiance to the conquerors who had ravaged his people and his land. Southerners had their right to a representative government suspended indefinitely their dignity trampled, and over a quarter million of their citizens killed by foreign invaders from the North, then were forced to suck it all up and like it. Not surprisingly, the vanquished South held onto its anger for generations after Appomattox. Even now, in the modern, post-industrial South, being called a Yankee is no compliment. And it has little to do with the Emancipation Proclamation.

It’s comforting to think that the crux of the conflict was slavery and that the war was a victory for all Americans, but that theory isn’t rooted in reality. Still, teachers continue to spoon-feed their students this nonsense for the same reason they often show movies in class: It keeps the kids entertained, in their seats, and it prevents curious minds from asking difficult questions that could cause trouble with parents, principals, or school boards. (I taught at a public high school for a year and breathe audible sighs of relief every day that I’m free of that job. Teenagers are gruesome, volatile creatures, much like feral dogs in heat. And my fellow educators in the faculty room were even worse. It was hardly a good recipe for serious education.)

Though history is written and rewritten by the victors, and is therefore a load of self-aggrandizing crap, it behooves us to examine our actions and learn from our myriad mistakes. Self-reflection is never fun and the huddled masses typically prefer propaganda to unbiased representations, but our refusal to acknowledge that the Southern states had a multitude of legitimate gripes against the Union is as blind as believing that instability and oppression in Libya were threats to US interests: It may sound pretty but has no basis in fact.



Important Dates in The Second War for Independence:

Jun. 03, 1808:	Birthday of Confederate President Jefferson Davis
Jun. 06, 1862:	Battle of Memphis, TN. Brig. Gen. Turner Ashby killed in action near Harrisonburg, VA
Jun. 07, 1862:	Union Gen. Butler hangs citizen William B. Mumford for tearing down Union flag over New Orleans Mint.
Jun. 08, 1862:	Valley Campaign. Confederate victory at the Battle of Cross Keys, VA
Jun. 09, 1862:	Valley Campaign. Battle of Port Republic.
Jun. 16, 1862:	Battle of Secessionville, James Island, SC
Jun. 25, 1862:	Seven Days' Battles begin with fighting at Oak Grove.
Jun. 01, 1863:	Battle of Cold Harbor, VA begins
Jun. 09, 1863:	Battle of Brandy Station, VA
Jun. 15, 1863:	Battle of Winchester, VA. The British House of Lords debate the seizure of British ships by U.S. vessels.
Jun. 20, 1863:	Vicksburg Campaign. The Confederate city comes under intense shelling from Federal batteries.
Jun. 24, 1863:	Gens. Longstreet and Hill's corps cross the Potomac.
Jun. 28, 1863:	Gen. Lee orders Longstreet, Hill, and Ewell to march towards Gettysburg.
Jun. 10, 1864:	Gen. N.B. Forrest leads his cavalry to a brilliant victory at Brice's Crossroads
Jun. 11, 1864:	Gen. N.B. Forrest's men follow and attack beaten Federals as they struggle back towards Memphis, TN
Jun. 12, 1864:	Gen. J.E.B. Stuart begins his four day "Ride Around McClellan"
Jun. 13, 1864:	After maneuvering around McClellan's right flank and passing through Hanover Court House, Gen. Stuart and his men fight at Haw's Shop, VA
Jun. 14, 1864:	Atlanta Campaign. Gen. Leonidas Polk killed at Pine Mountain, GA
Jun. 23, 1865:	Ft. Townsend. Gen. Stand Waite surrenders his Indian command in the last formal surrender of a large Confederate force.

June Camp Meeting
THURSDAY, JUNE 23RD
6 O'CLOCK P.M.



SEAWELL'S
RESTAURANT
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Columbia, SC

Y'ALL COME!!!

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C/O Adjutant Carl Potter
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