



THE VALLEY DEFENDER

Col. Randal W. McGavock Camp #1713
Hermitage, TN
Sons of Confederate Veterans

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PLEDGE TO THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

I salute the Confederate Flag with Affection, Reverence, and Undying Devotion to the Cause for which it stands.

WHO SAID IT?

“Governor, if I had foreseen the use these people desired to make of their victory, there would have been no surrender at Appomattox, no, sir, not by me. Had I seen these results of subjugation, I would have preferred to die at Appomattox with my brave men, my sword in this right hand.”
See *Editors Note* for answer

FEBRUARY MEETING

The Camp will meet Tuesday, March 2, 2010 in the Hermitage’s Boardroom at 6:30 p.m. Our speaker on March 2 will be Forrest Shoaf, a board member of the Ladies Hermitage Association, who will speak about the Battle of Nashville.

COMMANDERS DISPATCH

Gentlemen,

As you may be aware or not, this month’s Meeting it is time for Election of Camp Officers. As stated in Our By-Laws: Camp Officers will be elected every 2 yrs. We will elect Our

Camp Commander, Lt Commander, Adjutant, and Chaplain. I want to “Thank All Ya’ll” for letting me be your Camp Commander for these past 2 years. I hope everyone has been pleased with the projects I have helped you to start and accomplish. We still have many projects to finish if possible and some we need to get started on. We have the “Flag Pole” on the grounds of “The Hermitage” to complete. We still are not sure what “The Hermitage” is going to do with The Pump House so this project is on hold waiting to see how The Pump House will fit into The Hermitage’s agenda. Plus we need to start making plans for Confederate Memorial Day!!

“The Battle of the Shrubs” is still on hold waiting on the “Heavy Artillery” to soften up the earthworks. But I have heard rumors that our person who is donating the Shrubs may have to back out due to the financial difficulties with the present economy the way that it is. So make sure you are ready to nominate and elect Our Camp Officers at this March Meeting!!!

We will have an excellent speaker, Forrest Shoaf talking on “The Battle of Nashville” and the military strategy!! So be there!!!

This meeting will be filled with many plans for the coming months so see all ya’ll Tuesday Night March 2 at 6:30 P.M. at the boardroom of “The Hermitage”!!

In Your Humble Service!!!
Camp Commander
John R. Mertz

Carry On!!!

Honor, Respect, & Heritage!!!

The Constitutional Crushing Adventures of Fuhrerham Lincoln

by Ty MC

President's Day Reality Check

“The cause of the war was the iron will of Abraham Lincoln who...believed first in the dictum: “Our Union . . . it must be preserved!” Rather than see a house divided, Lincoln would reunite it in blood.”

Hordes of Americans, including Ken Burns, PBS' modern day answer to Nazi Germany's propaganda filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl, have been coerced into believing that Abraham Lincoln was the greatest president in United States history, "The Great Emancipator," and the annointed savior of the Union.

Unlike most Americans, only Ken Burns had the power to present his conceptualization of Lincoln to a captivated national audience as part of his eleven hour *Civil War* documentary as the passage below from Jim Cullen's book *The Civil War in Popular Culture: A Reusable Past* illustrates:

"It was time to kill Abraham Lincoln, a moment Ken Burns had long been dreading. He had visited dozens of Civil War sites, many of them places of great sorrow, in the process of assembling the monumental Civil War documentary. However there was something about Lincoln's death that seemed almost too much to bear. Indeed, when he needed footage of Ford's Theater where the assassination had taken place, the director sent a film crew ahead without him. But as he was mixing the soundtrack, he had to face the murder. 'Just as the pistol was about to ring out in the studio, I looked at my editor, who had tears in his eyes, and yelled Stop!'" Burns recalled. 'The engineer hit the panic button and the rolls of film and tape came to a halt just a fraction of a second before the gun shot sounded.'"

All tears and handkerchiefs aside, when one steps back from Burns's over-sensitive depiction to look at the big picture surrounding the entire Lincoln legacy, it becomes much more difficult to find anything but his tragic death to get choked up about—especially, when it comes to his actual beliefs on the matter of slavery.

To *New York Daily Tribune* editor Horace Greeley, Lincoln confessed that if it were possible to restore the Union without freeing a single slave, he would do so. True to his word in the actual Emancipation Proclamation, "Honest Abe" denied freedom to the slaves in Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, West Virginia and parts of Tennessee where he actually he had immediate power to abolish America's peculiar institution.

British author Charles Dickens, most famous for his classic novels *A Christmas Carol*, *Oliver Twist* and *A Tale Two of Cities*, was a contemporary critic of Lincoln's "War of Northern Aggression" who also said "bah humbug" to the notion that both he and his Union Army were fighting to free the



slaves, writing as early as 1861:

"The case stands, and under all the passion of the parties and the cries of battle lie the two moving causes of the struggle. Union means so many millions a year lost to the South; secession means the loss of the same millions to the North. The love of money is the root of this as of many, many other evils. The quarrel between the North and South is, as it stands, solely a fiscal quarrel."

Shortly after Lincoln's election in 1860, Congress enacted the heavily one-sided, Northern favoring Morrill Tariff, blatantly ignoring the fact that this highly controversial initiative constituted nothing short of economic suicide for Southern exporters and importers, doubling the rates of all previous enacted tariffs to at least 47 percent, with rates for iron products soaring well over 50 percent.

Therefore, the Confederate seizing of Fort Sumter, which touched off the Civil War, represented the icing on the cake for Southern secession and a temporary end to the most tyrannical tariff passed in U.S. history. So why did Lincoln finally decide to sign the Thirteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution or "The Emancipation Proclamation" in July 1862?

The answer may be much the same as former President Bill Clinton's constant waffling on certain issues such as whether or not to allow gays to openly serve in the military: public opinion polls. As the war dragged on and Northern casualties escalated to over a quarter million, Lincoln's calls for men to fill his ranks became less and less popular as more and more Northerners began to urge the President to let the Southern people go.

"In order to preserve the Union" as he would later advocate in his famous *Gettysburg Address*, Mr. Lincoln needed a more tangible evil to justify his war than collecting back Southern taxes. With the rise of the abolitionist movement reaching never before seen heights in popularity, thanks largely to the efforts of Greeley and others like Frederick Douglas and Harriet Beecher Stowe's epic novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, freeing the slaves rapidly became his most logical public relations savior.

Will The Real Great Emancipator Please Stand Up

If Lincoln did not truly liberate the slaves, who did?

According to Pulitzer Prize award-winning Civil War author James McPherson in his essay entitled *Who Freed The Slaves?:*

"THE SLAVES FREED THEMSELVES! They saw the Civil War as a potential war for abolition well before Lincoln did. By flooding into Union military camps in the South, they forced the issue of emancipation on the Lincoln administra-

tion. By creating a situation in which Northern officials would either have to return them to slavery or acknowledge their freedom... Union officers, then Congress and finally Lincoln decided to confiscate this human property belonging to the enemy and put it to work for the Union in the form of servants, teamsters, laborers and eventually soldiers in Northern Armies. Weighed in on the scale of war, these 190,000 black soldiers and sailors tipped the balance in favor of Union victory."

African-American economist Walter Williams is far more critical of Lincoln and his Union cronies' justification for waging war against the South. "The only good coming from the War Between the States was the abolition of slavery," concludes Williams... "By destroying the states' right to secession, Abraham Lincoln opened the door to the kind of unconstrained, despotic, arrogant government we have today."

Williams blunt, modern day summation of the major causes of the conflict between Blue and Gray, gives even more credence to the retrospective advice passed on by Confederate General James Longstreet to visiting British Colonel Arthur Fremantle during the Battle of Gettysburg: "It has always been of my opinion that the South should have freed the slaves and then fired on Fort Sumter."

Wrong Address

No matter where 21st century American tourists travel in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to get a totally biased low down on Lincoln's absolutely misleading *Gettysburg Address*, they would be wise to file away the following remarks from one of America's greatest skeptics, H.L. Mencken for future fair and balanced reference:

"The Gettysburg speech was at once the shortest and the most famous oration in American history...the highest emotion reduced to a few poetical phrases...But let us not forget that it is poetry, not logic; beauty, not sense...The doctrine is simply this: that the Union soldiers who died at Gettysburg sacrificed their lives to the cause of self-determination – that government of the people, by the people, for the people, should not perish from the earth.

"It is difficult to imagine anything more untrue. The Union soldiers in the battle actually fought against self-determination; it was the Confederates who fought for the right of their people to govern themselves. What was the practical effect of the Battle of Gettysburg? What else than the destruction of the old sovereignty of the States, i.e., of the people of the States? The Confederates went into battle free; they came out with their freedom subject to supervision and the veto of the rest of the country—and for nearly 20 years that veto was so effective that they enjoyed scarcely more liberty, in the political scene, than so many convicts in the

penitentiary."

At a Lincoln memorial lecture presented at Gettysburg College in 1990, Carl N. Degler, a professor of American History at Stanford University expounded similar sentiment:

"The Civil War, in short, was not a struggle to save a failed union, but to create a new nation that until then had not come into being."

Dengler then went on to compare Lincoln to his 19th century contemporary Otto von Bismarck who also succeeded in creating a United Germany in much the same manner with the use of "iron and blood."

As you will see in the next section, "Fuhrerham Lincoln's" union preserving policies, that resulted in the death of more than 600,000 Union and Confederate soldiers, could have served as the blue print for another more infamous and nearly successful global government state-expansion plan known as *Mein Kampf*.

Unending Praise for America's First Fuhrer and His Unnecessary War

Unfortunately, the lies cleverly hidden in the *Gettysburg Address* were only a minor cog in Fuhrerham Lincoln's overall premeditated plan to obliterate the U.S. Constitution and its provisions to uphold individual states rights; separation of powers or checks and balances; protection of civil liberties; and especially the straightforward language regarding the specific purposes and limited scope of the federal government.

After his assassination in April 1865, almost every American president, most notably Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Lyndon Baines Johnson and, most recently, Barrack Hussein Obama have invoked the martyred name of Fuhrerham Lincoln to justify levithan and unconstitutional government expansion programs such as FDR's "New Deal" and LBJ's "Great Society" and Obama-Care.

As Austrian economist Thomas J. DiLorenzo surmises in his best selling book *The Real Lincoln: A New Look at Abraham Lincoln, His Agenda and an Unnecessary War* :

"More words have probably been written about Abraham Lincoln than any other political figure. According to one source, more than 16,000 books have been written on virtually every aspect of Lincoln's private and public life... Anyone who delves into this literature with an open mind and an interest in the truth cannot help but be struck by the fantastic lengths to which an entire industry of Lincoln scholars has gone to perpetuate countless myths and questionable interpretation of events."

Even more interesting and more damning to the notion that Fuhreham Lincoln was the greatest President in United States history, again according to DiLorenzo:

“Historians have long referred to Lincoln as a ‘dictator,’ but they usually refer to him as a ‘good’ or even ‘great’ dictator... In 1900 James Ford Rhodes, who was quite worshipful of Lincoln, wrote that ‘never had the power of a dictator fallen into safer and nobler hands.’”

For those keeping score at home, the following is an abbreviated list of “Dishonest Abe’s” dozens of un-safe and un-noble constitutional crushing adventures:

Summoning the militia to invade the South, using the Navy to blockade Southern ports, initiating a draft and spending millions of tax dollars for war-making purposes without Congressional approval as stipulated in the U.S. Constitution.

Imposing martial law and suspending habeas corpus to deny any one imprisoned by Union forces the right to an immediate and fair trial.

Defying the orders of the Supreme Court and even signing a warrant for the arrest of the Chief Justice of the United States anytime their decisions did not match his erroneous interpretations of the Constitution.

Censoring the media by imprisoning newspaper publishers, ordering entire newspaper operations burned, as well as monitoring and censoring all telegraph communications.

Deporting Ohio Congressman Clement L. Vallandigham to Canada for speaking out against the president's decision to raise the income tax.

Suppressing free elections in Maryland through voter intimidation.

Gutting the Second and Fifth amendments of the Constitution by forcibly confiscating both firearms and private property.

In addition to not freeing slaves in any of the states that were actually under Union control until halfway through the war, Fuhreham Lincoln fired two of his commanding generals who did free slaves in 1861 and 1862.

As a result, the underground railroad didn’t actually end at the Mason/Dixon line but extended all the way to Canada because Northern states such as Fuehrerham Lincoln’s home state of Illinois still had laws that any escaped slave could be whipped if found within state borders for more than three days.

Falling well short of Adolf Hitler’s Jewish extermination program that involved gas chambers, torture and all the other horrors of Nazi death camps, Fuhreham Lincoln’s more tempered solution of how to get rid of freed slaves was to deport

them back to Africa by negotiating the creation of new county in the “Mother Land”—under his hypocritical and racist grounds that:

“The idea of perfect social and political equality with the Negro is but a specious and fantastic arrangement of words, by which a man can prove a horse chestnut to be a chestnut horse.”

Fuhreham Lincoln’s extremely long train of Constitutional abuses is even more unconscionable when you consider that the slaves would have been freed with or without waging the war between states.



According to economic historian, Jeffrey Rogers Hummel in his book *Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men*:

“No abolition is completely peaceful, but the United States and Haiti are just two among all slave states where violence predominated...Slavery was doomed *politically* even if Lincoln had permitted the small Gulf Coast Confederacy to depart in peace. The Republican-controlled Congress would have been able to work towards emancipation within the Border States where slavery was already declining. In due course, the Radicals could have repealed the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. With chattels fleeing across the borders and raising slavery enforcement costs, the peculiar institution’s final destruction within an independent south was inevitable. Even future Confederate Vice-President Alexander Stephens had judged, ‘slavery much more secure in the Union than out of it.’”

On an even larger scale, each and every action perpetuated in Fuhreham Lincoln’s four year campaign to centralize federal government by tyrannically shredding the U.S. Constitution stands as a vivid testimony of what happens any time an entire nation either willingly or unwillingly becomes totally dependent on government to meet even the most basic of human needs.

As Austrian born and Noble Laureate economist Friedrich Hayek consistently pointed out throughout Hitler’s rise to

power:

“In any government-controlled economy, all economic questions become political questions, because it is no longer a question of reconciling as far as possible individual views and desires, but one of imposing a single scale of values.”

Hayek further expounded on this dangerous type of “leader worship” in his 1944 book *The Road To Serfdom*, where he noted;

“that there is general agreement about a few functions of government, such as providing national defense and punishing violent criminals. But as government expands beyond the realm of general agreement, it must enforce conformity. Socialistic economic planning, leads to more and more coercion as government officials gain the power to decide what work people must do; which kind of cars, pens, apples, and everything else that must be produced; and who should get them. That power attracts those who don’t have the scruples about imprisoning or even executing people.”

A much more concise summation of the government fiat on display during Fuhrerham Lincoln’s War of Northern Aggression comes from the ancient Greek philosopher Plato who said:

“The people have always some champion whom they set over themselves and nurse into greatness. This and no other is the root from which a tyrant springs when he first appears as a protector.”

Begin Planning For Battle's Anniversary

Exactly two years from today — Valentine's Day 2012 — we'll observe the 150th anniversary of the day when Union gunboats and Confederate gunners exchanged "Iron Valentines" at Fort Donelson, on the banks of the Cumberland River in Dover.

This event, along with a short-but-pivotal battle at Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and the surrender of Fort Defiance in Clarksville, ultimately led to the fall of Nashville and foreshadowed the outcome of the Civil War.

It was very much the turning point of the war — this string of events that occurred in February 1862, right here in northern Middle Tennessee.

It's history that is physically preserved through the remnants of earthen fortifications, particularly at Fort Donelson National Battlefield and at Fort Defiance on New Providence hill — now under redevelopment by the city of Clarksville as part of the RiverWalk master plan.

We have an opportunity, led by a Clarksville Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, to seize the moment heading into the 150th anniversary year, by telling the story of the Civil War in northern Middle Tennessee to the world like it's never been told before.

We can do this by using a regional approach of connecting the dots between forts Henry and Heiman on the Tennessee, Fort Donelson in Dover, and Fort Defiance/Bruce in Clarksville.

This is the right thing to do. It's our history.

It's a history that touches all lives, and it can certainly boost local heritage tourism revenue and head counts making it a business interest and investment as well.

Today — weather permitting — would be a great day to take a drive to Fort Donelson if you haven't already planned to do so. By visiting these sites at this time of year, you can get a better sense of how Union and Confederate troops did battle along the snowy, slushy slopes of Dover between Feb. 13-16, 1862.

The weather, itself, factored heavily into the hardship and suffering of this battle.

The Union army under the command of then-Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant captured the fort after a combined naval and land attack.

More than 14,000 Confederates were captured. Grant instantly became a hero in the North, and his popularity would carry him to the U.S. presidency later after the war.

At Fort Donelson, you can see the fort and surrounding rifle pits, garrison quarters for the Confederate troops, the Confederate monument, the water batteries and seacoast cannon emplacements, Fort Donelson National Cemetery, and the Dover Hotel where Confederate Brig. Gen. Simon B. Buckner handed over the fort to Grant on the morning of Feb. 16, 1862.

The events at Fort Donelson sent shock waves up the Cumberland to nearby Clarksville, and Nashville. It led to the subsequent fall of Fort Defiance overlooking the confluence of the Red and Cumberland rivers at Clarksville.

Fort Defiance was constructed on the property of Clarksville pioneer Valentine Sevier. During the Union capture of Clarksville, Fort Defiance was abandoned by Confederate forces, leading to the fall of Nashville as the way was opened into the heart of Middle Tennessee.

Confederate troops briefly reoccupied Fort Defiance in the summer of 1862.

But for the rest of the war, Col. Sanders D. Bruce of Kentucky, for whom the fort was renamed while under Union occupation, commanded and expanded the fort.

Today, the earthworks at Fort Defiance/Bruce remain re-

markably well preserved, and a new exhibit center with information on the fort and the occupation of Clarksville from 1862-65 is in development.

That occupation of Clarksville is a story in itself, and was even chronicled at some length in Ken Burns' acclaimed PBS television documentary, "The Civil War."

The history that lives here should be shared with the world because it is that significant.

So let the planning begin for a befitting sesquicentennial.

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THREE GENERATIONS



A fine looking bunch of Richard Bakers

EDITORS NOTE

This month the WHO SAID IT? quote is from General Robert E. Lee, CSA - as told to Texas ex-governor F. W. Stockdale. I used this because Janie and I just watched a show on the History Channel about April 1865. Lee had to choose between

guerrilla war urged by some or honorable surrender. He chose honor. We all know how that worked out.

The Color Print is the Battle of the Monitor and Merrimack-March_9_1862.

Special huzah to Richard Baker for sending me pictures. I especially liked the one I used of him and his son and grandson. It's Richard Baker x 3.

GO PREDSS!!

