



# TRAVELLER

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

Sons of Confederate Veterans, Germantown, TN

Duty, Honor, Integrity, Chivalry

DEO VINDICE!

**November, 2017**



## CAMP MEETING

**November 13, 2017**

**Speaker: George Browder**

**Topic: Germantown in the War of  
Northern Aggression**

**---and---**

**Election of Camp Officers to be Held**

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

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

The situation was bleak for the Confederates in the spring of 1865. The Yankees had captured large swaths of Southern territory, General William T. Sherman's

Union army was tearing through the Carolinas, and General Robert E. Lee was trying valiantly to hold the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, against

General Ulysses S. Grant's growing force. Lee and Confederate President Jefferson Davis had only two options. One was for Lee to unite with General Joseph Johnston's army in the Carolinas and use the combined force to take on Sherman and Grant one at a time. The other option was to arm slaves, the last source of fresh manpower in the Confederacy.

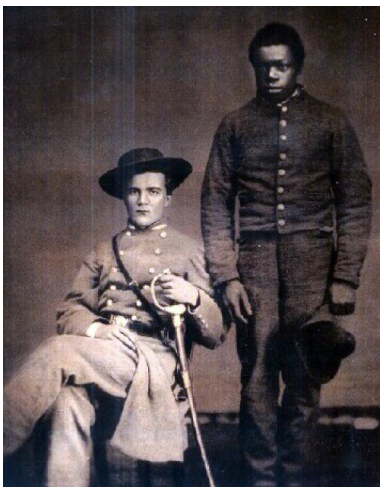
The idea of enlisting blacks had been debated for some time. Arming slaves was essentially a way of setting them free, since they could not realistically be sent back to plantations after they had fought. General Patrick Cleburne had suggested enlisting slaves a year before, but few in the Confederate leadership considered the proposal, since slavery was the foundation of Southern society. One politician asked, "What did we go to war for, if not to protect our property?" Another suggested, "If slaves will make good soldiers, our whole theory of slavery is wrong." Lee weighed in on the issue and asked the Confederate government for help. "We must decide whether slavery shall be extinguished by our enemies and the slaves be used against us, or use them ourselves." Lee asked that the slaves be freed as a condition of fighting, but the bill that passed the Confederate Congress did not stipulate freedom for those who served.

On February 10, 1865, with support from the Davis administration, Congressman Ethelbert Barksdale of Mississippi introduced a bill granting Davis the power to accept black men as soldiers, but only with their masters' permission. Masters were also permitted, but not required, to emancipate slaves who completed terms of service in the Confederate army. After strenuous debate, and with the endorsement of General Robert E. Lee, the House of Representatives narrowly passed this bill on

## DID YOU KNOW?

by Beecher Smith

## Black Soldiers Fought for the Confederacy



**A Confederate officer and his slave**

On March 13, 1865, with the main Confederate armies facing long odds against much larger Union armies, the Confederacy, in a desperate measure, reluctantly approved the use of black troops.

February 20 and sent it to the Senate. That body had already defeated a bill calling for the involuntary enlistment of 200,000 black men, and would likely have defeated the Barksdale bill had not Virginia's two senators, R. M. T. Hunter and Allen T. Caperton, changed their votes due to instructions from the General Assembly. The Senate, by a one-vote margin, approved a slightly amended version of the Barksdale bill on March 8; Davis signed it into law on March 13, 1865. In the intervening days, the General Assembly passed a law explicitly allowing black men to carry rifles, which state law previously had prohibited. North Carolina's elected officials, by contrast, published their objections to the measure in a series of legislative resolutions.

The War Department, however, acted quickly upon the new legislation, and General Orders No. 14 authorized the enlistment of free blacks as well as slaves whose masters signaled their approval by manumitting them before enlistment. No men still enslaved would be accepted as Confederate soldiers. Newspapers throughout the Confederacy immediately reported the widespread enlistment of thousands of black soldiers, but the actual results were far more modest. Only two units were ever created, both in Richmond. The first enrolled approximately sixty orderlies and nurses from Winder and Jackson Hospitals; the second, created at a formal recruiting center, never numbered more than ten recruits. The first company was hastily put into the trenches outside Richmond for a day in mid-March, but the unit canceled a parade scheduled for the end of the month due to the fact that the men lacked uniforms and rifles. Based on this, it is unclear how much fighting they could have done. The second unit was housed in a former prison and carefully watched by military police, suggesting that white Confederate officers did not trust these new black soldiers.

The measure did nothing to stop the destruction of the Confederacy. Several thousand blacks were enlisted in the Rebel cause, but they could not begin to balance out the nearly 200,000 blacks who fought for the Union.

The standard version is that blacks were forced into CSA service and they only served as servants, cooks, teamsters, and such. This is not accurate and is actually a myth because the truth is hard for many to swallow, since the whole idea of the Civil War is then called into question.

There are many accounts of blacks in CSA service as soldiers. There are several CSA regimental reunion photographs taken in the teens and twenties showing blacks standing shoulder-to-shoulder with their white comrades. If they were servants, they would not have been given such places of honor in a segregated South. There are also records and newspapers of the time commenting on black CSA soldiers.

The real proof was found in the 1990's when genealogists looking at pension records found black CSA soldiers applications where they listed rank, regiment, and occupation as "soldier".

Many will deny this and call me a fanatic and such, but if it is true, then the whole notion that the Civil War was over slavery doesn't hold water any more, and therefore, Americans will be left with the painful question of why over 660,000 Americans died.

There were Black Confederate soldiers. This is a fact, not fiction. Conservative estimates state that over 50,000 African-Confederates served in the Confederate Army. Many of these men saw combat and participated in it. Some died.

Although the Confederate Congress did not authorize Colored Units in the Confederate Army until 1865, when it was too late, there were many unofficial soldiers overlooked by officers who were desperate to fill the ranks so quickly dwindling. Also, many individual Southern states authorized colored militia units. For example, Alabama in 1862.

The following article appeared several years back in the *Washington Times*. It was written by Walter Williams, an economics professor at George Mason University, a nationally syndicated columnist, and an *African-American*:

Most historical accounts portray Southern blacks as anxiously awaiting President Abraham Lincoln's "liberty-dispensing troops" marching south in the War Between the States. But there's more to the story; let's look at it.

Black Confederate military units, both as freemen and slaves, fought federal troops. Louisiana free blacks gave their reason for fighting in a letter written to New Orleans' Daily Delta: "The free colored population love their home, their property, their own slaves and recognize no other country than Louisiana, and are ready to shed their blood for her defense. They have no sympathy for Abolitionism; no love for the North, but they have plenty for Louisiana. They will fight for her in 1861 as they fought in 1814-15." As to bravery, one black scolded the commanding general of the state militia, saying, "Pardon me, general, but the only cowardly blood we have got in our veins is the white blood."

Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest had slaves and freemen serving in units under his command. After the war, Forrest said of the black men who served under him, "These boys stayed with me. - and better Confederates did not live."

Articles in "Black Southerners in Gray," edited by Richard Rollins, gives numerous accounts of blacks serving as fighting men or servants in every battle from Gettysburg to Vicksburg.

Professor Ed Smith, director of American Studies at American University, says Stonewall Jackson had 3,000 fully equipped black troops scattered throughout his corps at Antietam - the war's bloodiest battle. Mr. Smith calculates that between 60,000 and 93,000 blacks served the Confederacy in some capacity. They fought for the same reason they fought in previous wars and wars afterward: "to position themselves. They had to prove they were patriots in the hope the future would be better ... they hoped to be rewarded."

Many knew Lincoln had little love for enslaved blacks and didn't wage war against the South for their benefit. Lincoln made that plain, saying, "I will say, then, that I am not, nor have ever been in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races ... I am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race." The very words of his 1863 Emancipation Proclamation revealed his deceit and cunning; it freed those slaves held "within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States." It didn't apply to slaves in West Virginia and areas and states not in rebellion. Like Gen. Ulysses Grant's slaves, they had to wait for the 13th Amendment; Grant explained why he didn't free his slaves earlier, saying, "Good help is so hard to come by these days."

Lincoln waged war to "preserve the Union". The 1783 peace agreement with England (Treaty of Paris) left 13 sovereign nations. They came together in 1787, as principals, to create a federal government, as their agent, giving it specific delegated authority -specified in our Constitution. Principals always retain the right to fire their agent. The South acted on that right when it seceded. Its firing on Fort Sumter, federal property, gave Lincoln the pretext needed for the war.

The War Between the States, through force of arms, settled the question of secession, enabling the federal government to run roughshod over states' rights specified by the Constitution's 10th Amendment.

A few thousand blacks did indeed fight for the Confederacy. Significantly, African-American scholars

from Ervin Jordan and Joseph Reidy to Juliet Walker and Henry Louis Gates Jr., editor-in-chief of *The Root*, have stood outside this impasse, acknowledging that a few blacks, slave and free, supported the Confederacy.

How many supported it? No one knows precisely. But by drawing on these scholars and focusing on sources written or published during the war, it is estimated that between 3,000 and 6,000 served as Confederate soldiers. Another 100,000 or so blacks, mostly slaves, supported the Confederacy as laborers, servants and teamsters. They built roads, batteries and fortifications; manned munitions factories—essentially did the Confederacy's dirty work.



African Americans were the first to publicize the presence of black Confederates. Frederick Douglass bemoaned the Confederate victory of [First Manassas](#) in July 1861 by noting in the August 1861 issue of his newspaper, Douglass' Monthly, that "among rebels were black troops, no doubt pressed into service by their tyrant masters." He used this evidence to pressure the administration of Abraham Lincoln to abolish slavery and arm blacks as a military strategy. It was "the speediest method of terminating the war," he said.

The Union's emancipation policy ultimately forced the Confederacy to offer freedom to slaves who would fight as soldiers in the last month of the war. But before slaves were accepted as recruits, their masters first had to free them, and freedom did not extend to family members. Only a hundred or so slaves accepted the offer.

Ironically, the majority of blacks who became Confederate soldiers did so not at the end of the war, when the Confederacy offered freedom to slaves who fought, but at the beginning of the war, before the U.S. Congress established emancipation as a war aim.

The Union's emancipation policy prompted blacks, slave and free, to recalculate the risks of fleeing to Union lines versus supporting the Confederacy. Frederick Douglass declared that Emancipation was a potent source of black power.

The issue of ending slavery only became popular almost two years into the war, after Lincoln's government realized it was the most powerful propaganda tool they had. But it also should be remembered that the vast majority of soldiers who fought for the Confederacy were not slave owners. A classic example of this is that, during the war, a poor white Confederate private who was taken prisoner (on Confederate soil) was asked if he was fighting to preserve the institution of slavery. He shook his head and politely told his northern captors, "I'm fighting because *you're here*."

Sources:

<http://www.marinersmuseum.org/blogs/civilwar/?p=2873>

<http://militaryhistorynow.com/2012/06/20/black-in-grey-did-african-americans-fight-for-the-confederacy/>

<http://www.theroot.com/yes-there-were-black-confederates-here-s-why-1790858546>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slaves\\_and\\_the\\_American\\_Civil\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slaves_and_the_American_Civil_War)

John Stauffer, *The Black Hearts of Men: Radical Abolitionists and the Transformation of Race*

## Temporary Injunction in Virginia

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, litigating to protect Southern and U.S. history, were granted today an extension of the Temporary Injunction against the City of Charlottesville, VA, and its City Council, generally preventing disturbance or alteration of the Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson Monuments in the City of Charlottesville, VA. The pronounced intentions and intended acts of the Charlottesville City Council, in violation of Virginia's Veterans' Monuments and Memorials Statute, have been enjoined through a Court of law.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans will continue efforts to ensure that the history of our Great Republic, and the memorials dedicated to Southern and Confederate Veterans are protected and given the honors to which they are entitled and to which they well deserve.

The rule of law and the honor of Confederate heroes has won the day.

The lawless and the enemies of history, heritage, and truth are currently prohibited from destroying the honor of true American heroes and veterans.

Scott D. Hall, Esq  
Judge Advocate-in-Chief  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

## City of Memphis Defies Tennessee Heritage Act

The City of Memphis, in a "surprise" move, is acting in defiance of the Tennessee Heritage Act of 2013-2016.

They just passed an ordinance to declare the statues a nuisance, enclose and cover, then take down the historical sculptures of Jefferson Davis and Nathan B. Forrest.

The Tennessee Historical Commission has denied the petition for waiver from the Heritage TWICE. Additionally, the Forrest Monument is the headstone for Mr. and Mrs Forrest. They intend to violate the graves of Tennessee citizens. If they will be allowed to do this, NO GRAVE IS SAFE FROM THE GHOULS!

They would be violating the Tennessee Cemetery Law!

These monuments are more than just a Memphis treasure; they belong to the people of Tennessee and the citizens of the world, and deserve to be viewed in their current locations.

This is not just an issue for those who love American history.

**Please write your representatives IMMEDIATELY. Tell them to block the city of Memphis from breaking state law!**

Below is the link to contact your legislators.

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/legislators/>

### SCV LIFE MEMBERS ROSTER

T. Tarry Beasley II	T. Tarry Beasley III
T Tarry Beasley IV	Winston Blackley
Eugene Callaway	John Cole
W. Kent Daniel Jr.	James Anthony Davis
Hubert Dellinger Jr., MD	H. Clark Doan
Gary Douglas	Robert Freeman
Eugene Forrester	Donald Harrison
Frederick Harrison	Frank Holeman
M. Gary Hood	William P Hunter, Jr.
Bobby Lessel	Jerry C. Lunsford
C. Bruce Lynch	Frank M. McCroskey
James Lee McDowell	
Michael Christopher McDowel	
Steve McIntyre	Arthur Oliver
Charles Wendell Park	Steve Reason
Larry J. Spiller, Jr.	Larry J. Spiller, Sr.
Osborn Turner, IV	Charles L Vernon
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A society of male descendants of the  
military and governmental leadership of the  
Confederate States of America.

**Lt. Dabney M. Scales Chapter No. 141  
Military Order of the Stars and Bars  
Memphis, Tennessee**

For more information on the MOSB  
and the Memphis Chapter, contact:

**T. Tarry Beasley II**

Tarry@BeasleyLawFirm.org

(901) 682-8000

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 ?

I wish to join CTSOP.      Please sign me up as a member.      No membership fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please donate to our cause:      Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_      check number \_\_\_\_\_

**Parks Defense Fund**

PO Box 241875,      Memphis, TN      38124

**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 ?

Please sign me up as a supporter.      No membership fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please donate to our cause:      Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_      check number \_\_\_\_\_

### Forrest Park Defense Fund

PO Box 241875,      Memphis, TN      38124

COLLECTOR'S

# FORREST COMMEMORATIVE COIN

Solid bronze

**\$ 10 each — All proceeds go to  
Parks Defense Fund**

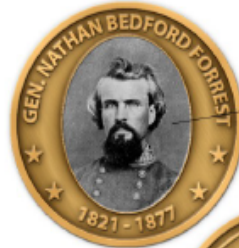
Contact: Harry Adams, Forrest Camp 215

[harryadamscsa@gmail.com](mailto:harryadamscsa@gmail.com)

\$10 each, plus \$1 each for shipping. Send your check to

Save the Parks

PO Box 241875, Memphis, TN 38124



**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 \*\* November 13, 2017**  
**Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center, 7779 Old Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN**