

The Gray Line News



High Bridge



High Bridge Camp #1581

September 2024

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Camp Commander: Whit Morris	1 st LT. Commander: Chris Burks	2 nd LT Commander: Don Reynolds
3 rd LT. Commander: Zach Morris	Treasurer: Shane Newcombe	Adjutant: Dan Johnson
Chaplain: Ned May	Judge Advocate: Kenny Barnard	Quartermaster / Historian: Tom Haake
Sergeant at Arms: Trey Capps	Surgeon: Gene Kirkman	Camp Sutler: Greg Finn



“DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR SOUTHERN HERITAGE”



COMMANDERS CORNER:

Dear compatriots,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe Labor Day. Labor Day is a celebration of and for the American worker, but this particular holiday, I found myself thinking of some forgotten and unrecognized workers.

The pre-war South was largely an agrarian society, dominated by small family farms not the large plantations often depicted in modern media. When most of the men and many of the boys left to defend their homelands the farm work remained. Most thought they would only be gone a short time, but months soon turned into years.

In that time crops had to be planted and harvested, cattle tended to, cows milked, and firewood needed chopping (not to mention all the other duties of life). We often hear of the women who stepped up in World War II to fill the labor gap, but no one ever speaks of women, children and old men who kept things going during those terrible 4 years.

The South was ravaged when those brave soldiers returned from war but without the diligence of those left behind it would have been so much worse. As we honor the memories of those who fought for their freedoms, don't forget to remember those that made sure there was a home to return to.

Deo Vin dice

Whit Morris

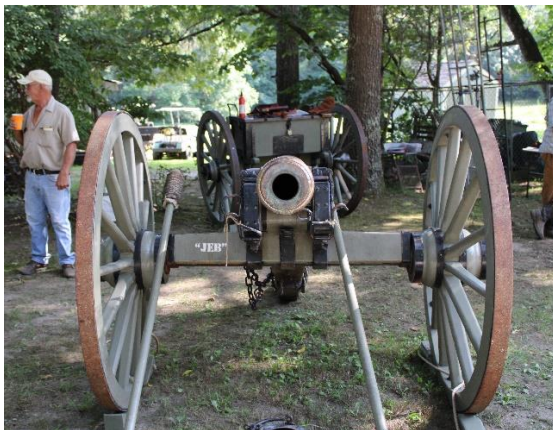
Battles in September 1863

Sept 1 st	ARK	Battle of Devil's Backbone	Sept 10-11 th	GA	Battle of Davis's Crossroads
Sept 3-5 th	ND	Battle of Whitestone Hill	Sept 19 th	GA	Battle of Chickamauga
Sept 8 th	TX...	Battle of Sabine Pass (2 nd)	Sept 22 nd	TENN	Battle of Blountville
Sept 10 th	ARK	Battle of Bayou Fourche	Sept 29 th	LA	Battle of Stirling's Plantation

Canon Certification Class



Our camp participated/held a canon certification class at Camp Members Marvin Basic's home on Saturday August 24th. Camp Members in attendance were Chris Burks, Donnie Reynolds, Dan Johnson, Judah Johnson, Tom Haake, Kenny Barnard, Devlin Moore, Trey Capps, and Billy Capps. Cards were issued by The National Civil War Artillery Association, good for one year. Our thanks to Marvin and his family for the fine meal and hospitality!

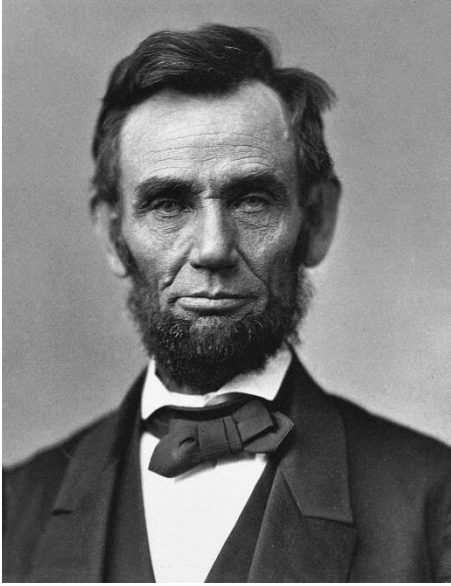


Gettysburg Part 2

The second part of our three-part series was presented at our meeting August 22nd by Travis Easter. He discussed the events and fighting of the second day of the battle. The final and part 3 will be presented at our meeting September 26th.



The Crimes of Abraham Lincoln: An Examination



Abraham Lincoln's tenure as president during the War has been subject to much scrutiny, particularly regarding his actions that many argue were Unconstitutional and tyrannical. His policies and decisions led to significant violations of civil liberties, suppression of dissent, and the bypassing of Constitutional protocols.

One of the most contentious actions taken by Lincoln was the suspension of habeas corpus. In April 1861, Lincoln bypassed Congress and suspended this fundamental right, allowing for the arrest and imprisonment of individuals without trial. Over 38,000 Northern critics were detained, many of whom were held without charges or any form of due process. This suspension, argued by many as a blatant violation of the Constitution, set a dangerous precedent for executive overreach.

Lincoln's administration was notorious for its suppression of dissenting voices in the media. More than 300 newspapers were shut down for varying periods, and postal censorship was implemented to control the

narrative surrounding the war. This suppression of Free Speech was a direct affront to the First Amendment and demonstrated Lincoln's willingness to undermine Constitutional Rights to maintain his political agenda.

Lincoln's use of military power extended beyond the battlefield. He declared martial law in Delaware and orchestrated the invasion of Maryland, interfering with state elections to prevent Secession. This imposition of military authority over civilian matters further exemplified his disregard for Constitutional boundaries.

Perhaps the most significant of Lincoln's transgressions was his decision to initiate war without Congressional authorization. According to the Constitution, only Congress has the power to declare war. Lincoln's unilateral decision to wage war against the Southern states, which had legally Seceded, fits the constitutional definition of treason—making war upon the States. His actions fundamentally altered the balance of power between the federal government and the States, centralizing authority in a manner that contradicted the founding principles of the Republic.

The South's economic clout was undeniable, driven largely by its cotton production. Cotton was the chief crop exported, constituting 60% of all U.S. exports. This economic juggernaut meant that the Southern States were crucial to the Northern economy. Their production and consumption levels were far greater than the North's, making the South a vital component of federal revenue through tariffs on imports needed for plantation operations.

The South's significant contribution to federal revenue came primarily from import tariffs. Despite having a smaller population than the North, the South's economic activities generated a substantial portion of the government's income. The Morrill Tariff of 1861, which raised import duties to protect Northern industries, disproportionately affected the South. This tariff increased the cost of imported goods, placing an additional financial burden on Southern States and deepening the economic divide.

Lincoln's insistence on preserving the Union was as much about maintaining economic control rather than it was about political unity. His inaugural address made it clear that he intended to continue collecting tariffs from the Southern States, even by force if necessary. The loss of the South would have resulted in a severe loss of federal revenue, threatening the financial stability of the government and the Northern economy.

Lincoln's public persona as "Honest Abe" stands in stark contrast to the political machinations and deceptions he employed. His support for the Corwin Amendment, which would have Constitutionally protected Slavery forever, reveals his willingness to compromise on the issue of Slavery to preserve Northern control over the Southern States. Additionally, his proposal for gradual abolition by 1900, coupled with federal aid to Southern states, demonstrates that his primary goal was union preservation and control over the Southern States, not the immediate end of Slavery.

The Emancipation Proclamation, issued in 1863, is often hailed as a landmark in the fight against Slavery. However, it was a strategic move designed to weaken the Confederacy rather than a genuine effort to free all

Slaves. The proclamation applied only to States in “rebellion,” where Lincoln had no authority to enforce it, while Slavery remained untouched in Union-held States and territories. This selective emancipation highlights the political and military strategy behind the proclamation, rather than a principled stand against Slavery. Lincoln's legacy is marred by actions that violated Constitutional Principles and civil liberties. His suspension of habeas corpus, suppression of the press, use of military power against civilians, and initiation of war without Congressional approval all point to a presidency characterized by overreach and authoritarianism. The economic motivations behind his actions, particularly the need to maintain federal revenue from Southern tariffs, further complicate the narrative of Lincoln as a champion of liberty and equality. Understanding these aspects of his Presidency provides a more nuanced view of his role in American history and the true causes of the War.

Lincoln's strategic use of military forts to enforce revenue laws was a pivotal aspect of his approach to dealing with the seceding Southern States. Fort Sumter, located in Charleston Harbor, was emblematic of this strategy. The forts served not merely as military installations but as essential tools for ensuring that federal revenue laws, particularly tariffs, were enforced. As articulated at the time, the guns of these forts were positioned to cover key ground necessary for the United States to maintain control over the collection of tariffs. This was about forcing South Carolina specifically, but about maintaining the flow of revenue crucial to the federal government.

When South Carolina seceded on December 21, 1860, Northern newspapers quickly highlighted the economic imperatives at play. They suggested that the federal government could not avoid collecting revenues at Southern ports, even after secession. Any State adopting a rebellious stance would still be compelled to contribute revenue or face the destruction of its foreign commerce. This stance underscores the economic motivations behind Lincoln's resolve to maintain control over the Southern States.

The actions of Congress in 1860 and the Radical Republican Party's platform significantly contributed to the South's decision to secede. The Morrill Tariff, one of the highest tariffs in U.S. history, was a prime example of the economic burdens placed upon the South. This tariff increased the costs of imported goods necessary for Southern plantation operations, further straining an already fraught relationship.

Rep. John H. Reagan of Texas encapsulated the Southern perspective on these punitive tariffs. He articulated that the South was being excessively taxed to support Northern interests, including manufacturing, shipping, and infrastructure projects. The South's economic contributions were building Northern cities and railroads, while Southern states received little in return.

The South's desire for Independence mirrored the motivations of the American Revolution—primarily over-taxation without adequate representation. The South felt that it was being exploited economically to benefit Northern industrialists and financiers. Lincoln, perceived as being in the pocket of these Northern interests, was seen as imposing heavy tariffs on the South while protecting Northern manufacturers. This protectionism was not only about economic gains but also about maintaining what the North viewed as an emerging empire.

The British Quarterly Review commented on the situation, highlighting the stark contrast between American ideals and Lincoln's actions. The Review noted that America, once seen as a beacon of free trade, had established a heavy protectionist tariff. The United States had become a land of stringent controls, censorship, and arbitrary imprisonment—akin to the authoritarian regime of Napoleon III in France. This commentary underscores the extent to which Lincoln's government had deviated from the Principles of Liberty and free trade.

To ensure compliance with federal tariffs, Lincoln imposed a de facto blockade on Southern ports. This was in response to the South's declaration of a tariff-free trade zone, which threatened to undermine Northern economic interests by circumventing the heavy tariffs imposed on Southern goods. The blockade aimed to prevent the South from exporting cotton and importing goods without paying the tariffs that filled federal coffers.

The firing on Fort Sumter by South Carolina was a direct response to these economic pressures. The South was not acting out of sheer aggression but in defense of its Constitutional Rights and economic interests. The State Republic of South Carolina, like other Southern states, had entered the Union voluntarily and felt it had the right to secede and protect its Sovereignty and economic welfare against what it viewed as federal overreach.

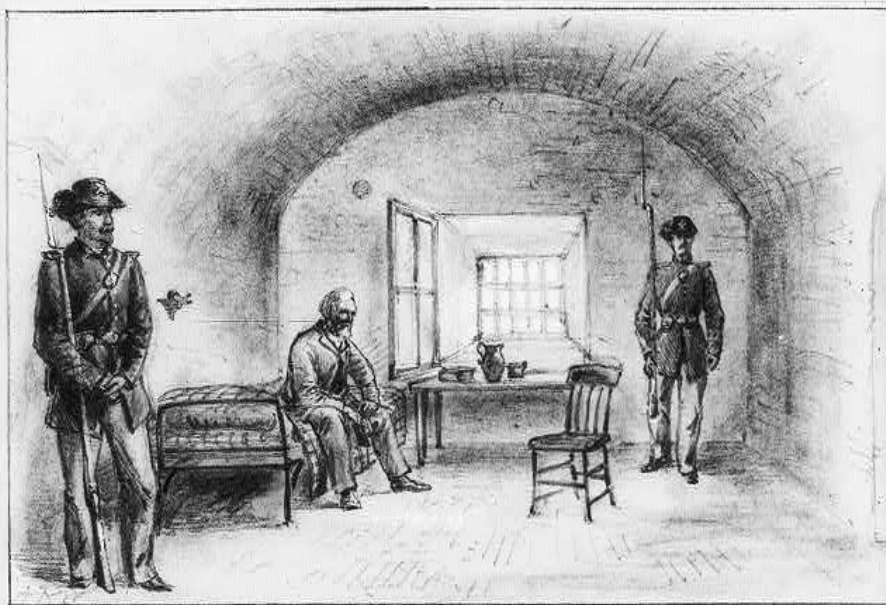
Lincoln's presidency, while often hailed for preserving the Union, was marked by significant violations of constitutional principles and civil liberties. His suspension of habeas corpus, suppression of the press, use of

military power against civilians, and initiation of war without Congressional approval all point to a Presidency characterized by overreach and authoritarianism. The economic motivations behind his actions, particularly the need to maintain federal revenue from Southern tariffs, further complicate the completely false narrative of Lincoln as a champion of liberty and equality. Understanding these aspects of his presidency provides a more nuanced view of his role in American history and the true causes of the War.

Lincoln's decisions were heavily influenced by powerful Northern industrialists who had significant economic interests in maintaining the Union and control over the South. These interests pressured Lincoln to impose a blockade against the Southern States, which were seen as economic rivals. By disguising his actions under the pretense of resupplying Fort Sumter, Lincoln maneuvered the South into a position where it would be forced to initiate conflict. This strategy was designed to portray the Confederacy as the aggressor, thereby justifying the Northern war effort and rallying public support.

The strategic resupply and arming of Fort Sumter and Fort Pickens were deliberate provocations intended to elicit a military response from the Confederacy. Lincoln's actions effectively violated the existing Armistices and set the stage for war. This maneuver allowed the North to maintain the appearance of innocence, framing the South as the instigator of the conflict. The ensuing bombardment of Fort Sumter by Confederate forces was the spark that ignited the War, exactly as Lincoln and his supporters had anticipated.

Confederate leaders, often labeled as traitors in contemporary narratives, were viewed by many of their contemporaries as Patriots fighting for the right of self-determination. These leaders were aligned with the Jeffersonian ideals of States' Rights and limited federal government. They believed in the constitutional right to Secede from the Union, a Right that had been explicitly reserved by Several States when they ratified the Constitution.



Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy, spent two years in prison after the war but was never charged with treason or any other crime. This lack of charges underscored the legal ambiguity surrounding secession. When Davis was released on May 11, 1867, he was greeted with respect and admiration by many, both Black and White. This public display highlighted the widespread recognition of the Confederacy's leaders as defenders of their Constitutional Rights rather than traitors.

When New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia ratified the Constitution, they

explicitly reserved the Right to Secede. This reservation was a safeguard to ensure their Sovereignty and the ability to withdraw from the Union if it no longer served their interests. The inclusion of this provision reflected the prevailing belief in the right of self-determination and States' Rights.

The War, often portrayed as a moral crusade against Slavery, was actually deeply rooted in economic interests and the struggle for political power. Lincoln's actions, influenced by Northern industrialists, were aimed at preserving the Union to maintain economic control over the Southern States.

The provocations at Fort Sumter and Fort Pickens were part of a broader strategy to force the South into war, allowing the North to position itself as the defender of the Union. The Confederate leaders, far from being mere traitors, were driven by a commitment to the principles of self-determination and Constitutional Rights. Their actions and the subsequent lack of charges against them highlight the complex motivations and legal nuances that underpinned the War.

Robert E. Lee Quote of the Month

“How great is my remorse at having thrown away my time & abused the opportunities afforded me. Now I am unable to benefit either myself or others & am wrecked in this world, the punishment due to my sins and follies.”

— Robert E. Lee, July 26th, 1863, in a letter to his wife Mary Custis Lee.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Sept. 14th Heart of Virginia: Setup @ 7:30 Details to follow via e-mail.

Sept. 21st & 22nd Civil War Re-Enactment Saylor’s Creek Battlefield Details to follow.

Sept. 26th 7:00 pm @Charley’s Café: Camp Meeting & Presentation by Adam Pantaze on Gettysburg Part III

Sept. 28th 8AM Roadside Cleanup Saylor’s Creek Road, Meet at Marshall’s Crossroads..... Rain Date Oct 5th.

October 24th 7:00 PM @ Charley’s Café: Camp Meeting

November 21st 6:00 PM @ Charley’s Café: Holiday Banquet & Presentation by Frank Powell, Publisher of Confederate Veteran Magazine

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