

# The Delta General

December, 2010

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The official publication of the  
Brig/Gen Benjamin G. Humphreys Camp #1625, MS Division, SCV

## CAMP NEWS: EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Dec. 16, 2010** – regular Camp meeting
- **Jan. 22, 2011** – Lee and Jackson Banquet
- **Feb. 12, 2011** - Reenactment of Jefferson Davis Leaving Vicksburg to go to Montgomery, AL to become President of the Confederacy—Time and contact info is TBA
- **Feb. 19, 2011**— A parade up Dexter Avenue to the Alabama State Capitol Building, a reenactment of the swearing in of President Jefferson Davis and a selection of speakers at the Capitol Building.
- **Feb. 25-27, 2011**— Archusa Creek Park in Quitman, MS, will host a reenactment with battles on Saturday and Sunday. There will be memorial services at the Quitman Cemetery on Saturday and at the Clarke County Courthouse on Sunday. Re-enactors and living history participants are needed. Contact Dennis Avera at 601-776-5052 or [aaronavera@yahoo.com](mailto:aaronavera@yahoo.com) for more information.

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### FROM THE EDITOR:

## GETTING YOUR CAMP NEWSLETTER, CONFEDERATE VETERAN, AND STATE NEWSLETTER?

If your not, maybe you need to let us know of a change in address or e-mail. We cannot get the news out to you without your helping in keeping us informed about your whereabouts.

The Confederate Veteran magazine is mailed at Non Profit bulk mail rates and the US Postal Service will not forward them if you have a change of address. Please report address changes as soon as soon as possible to the Camp Adjutant who will inform GHQ. If you have any question about GHQ having your correct information, you can check it by entering your SCV ID number and your last name in the box at the following link: <http://www.scv.org/checkData.php> . If a correction needs to be made, you will see a form for that purpose, which will notify Elm Springs to update their records. Don't miss out on articles about coming events or happenings around the Confederation as we approach the Sesquicentennial of the War for Southern Independence.

## GENERAL LEE AND SANTA CLAUSE



First appearing in 1867 as part of Mrs. Louise Clack's Christmas Gift To Her Little Southern Friends, this wartime exchange between General Robert E. Lee and three young girls has become a bit of Yuletide warmth shared among Southerners -- even if only connected by the internet.

Originally published by Guild Bindery Press, Mrs. Clack's children's book contributed quite a bit to the post-War revelation of another side of Lee's character. His personal honor and courageous audacity on the battlefield was the given. The kind and gentle nature with all, particularly children, was the other.

But the story was never intended for profit. All the royalties from Mrs. Clack's gift to her little Southern friends went to the orphans of the South. She wanted it that way. And in 1996, when the tale was reprinted by Alexander Books, a part of the profits were earmarked to assist in the upkeep of Stratford Hall, Lee's birthplace.

Is it a true story? Who knows? But historical wisdom gently admonishes and reminds: Is there any evidence it didn't happen? If not, then let us believe it. As the undisputed inspiration of them all goes: "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus!"

[This piece is taken from the book GENERAL LEE AND SANTA CLAUSE, originally published in 1867, pages 32-35, now in the public domain.]

CAMP NEWS:

CAMP ADJUTANT'S REPORT: DAN McCASKILL

Commander Claude "Junior" Stillman called the Meeting to order around 7:00 pm. Junior asked Camp Chaplain Earl McCown to open the Meeting with a word of prayer and to bless the food brought by the ladies of the OCR. Color Sergeant Joe Nokes was absent so Commander Stillman led us in the Pledges and Salutes to the Flags. Commander Stillman welcomed everyone to the Camp Meeting.

Commander Stillman had the pleasure of swearing in new camp member George Brumfield and presenting George with his membership certificate and card. Membership certificate and card for John Favara will be mailed to him by the Camp Adjutant.

Commander Stillman welcomed everyone to the Camp Meeting. He asked the members to be thinking of a civic program, event or task that members of the Camp could participate in to bring more public awareness to the SCV. One such event was attended by members of the Camp sponsored by Cottonlandia Museum in Greenwood. The museum auctioned shots from the "Blakely" to help raise money for the museum. Henry McCabe brought the "Blakely" to Fort Pemberton; Larry McCluney and Dan McCaskill assisted Henry crew the gun. This event raised \$ 350 for the museum, \$ 100 for "Save the Battle Flag Fund" and we made

contact with six potential members.

Officer Reports: 1st Lt. Commander Gator Stillman and 2nd Lt. Commander Ronnie Stewart were absent. Adjutant Dan McCaskill reported that all membership dues had been paid to National and Division. Camp membership now stands at 55. Unfortunately, the Camp lost a member on November 3rd, Edwin Ray Haley. Edwin had re-joined the SCV just prior to his passing. With his death, Camp membership falls back to 54. The Camp Budget looks good and we may have around a \$ 400 carryover into the next year. Camp Editor Larry McCluney inquired if everyone was receiving their Delta General by email without problems. Larry gave an update on the progress at Beauvoir. The completion date of June 3rd on the new library building is still obtainable. However, the Combined Board voted to delay the dedication of the Library until it can be furnished. Beauvoir has enough money to complete the building but need to raise money to furnish the library. The Board felt it would look bad dedicating an empty building. Also, a full kitchen and banquet area is to be added, at no cost to Beauvoir, to the library while construction is ongoing. This will save Beauvoir \$250,000. Confederate Memorial Service at Beauvoir has been moved to April 30, 2011, so mark your calendars.

Camp Business: With the passing of Edwin Haley, Dan McCaskill proposed to the Camp members that the Camp purchase a "Brick for Beauvoir" in memory of Edwin at a cost of \$ 50. Earl McCown made the motion to purchase a brick in memory of Edwin Haley, Kenneth Ray seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Program: There was no program for the evening. It was announced that the Raid on Holly Springs Sesquicentennial Committee will meet December 4, 2010 at the Batesville Public Library at 2:00 pm; the re-enactment of Jefferson Davis' farewell speech in Vicksburg before going on to Montgomery will be held at the Old Courthouse Museum February 12, 2011. Times for the event to be announced. February 19, 2011 will be the re-enactment of the swearing in of Jefferson Davis as President of the Confederacy in Montgomery, Alabama.

With no other business coming before the Camp, Junior asked Earl to dismiss the Meeting with a word of prayer. Junior thanked the ladies of the Order of Confederate Rose for the wonderful food. Attendance for the Meeting was 11. Only one member of the OCR was present.

Submitted by, Dan A. McCaskill, Adj.

OCR NEWS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: SANDRA STILLMAN

For those members who are not aware, OCR dues were due at the end of September. If you have not renewed you are now delinquent and late fees are now being assessed. Lets make all effort to renew our membership as we prepare for the Sesquicentennial that is around the corner starting December 20, 2010.

DR. BRANDON BECK TO SPEAK AT LEE AND JACKSON BANQUET

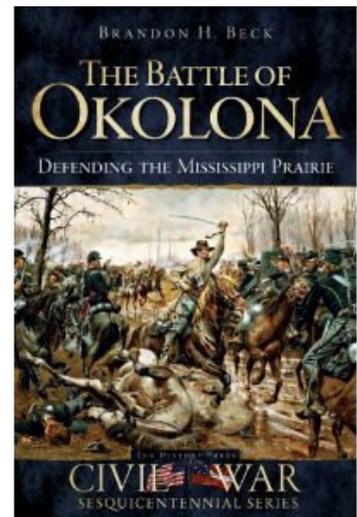


Dr. Brandon Beck of Columbus, Miss. And the Lt. Commander of the Caledonia Rifles SCV Camp 2140, Caledonia, Miss. Will speak at our Lee and Jackson Banquet to be held on January 22, 2011. He will talk about his new book "Defending the Mississippi Prairie; The Battle of Okolona" published by the History Press. This will be a pot luck affair. All Camp reenactors are asked to come dressed in period attire to help with colorguard duties. The social will begin at 6:00 pm, supper at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting at the fellowship hall of the First Presbyterian Church where we have our Camp meetings.

Historian and author Dr. Brandon Beck is been better known in Civil War history circles for his books on the war in Virginia, specifically the Shenandoah Valley region,

where he lived and taught for a while, founding the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University. 'The Battle of Okolona - Saving the Mississippi Prairie' is his first foray into the war in the West and it is an auspicious debut for him in that theater. Dr. Beck sheds some light on one of the lesser known actions that helped save northeast Mississippi and elevated Confederate commander Nathan Bedford Forrest to even greater fame.

Dr. Beck will have books for sale and to sign books as well. More information will follow about this event. Lets all mark our calendars for this great night of fellowship.



## MISSISSIPPI DIVISION, SCV NEWS: BEAUVOIR REPORT

Beauvoir's annual Christmas at Beauvoir evening event returns, with a Victorian-style Christmas celebration! The event runs 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Dec 3rd-5th, 2010. Apple Cider will be served on Friday evening, with live period music. The House will be decorated in a Victorian fashion, Santa Claus will be in attendance as well, so be sure to bring your cameras! The Beauvoir Stars and Bars Gift Shop will be open for shopping for unique gift items for that special someone!

### **Bids are in for the restoration of the United Daughters of the Confederacy Memorial Arch!**

The low bid is \$163,800.00, from Arcon General Contractors of Clinton, Mississippi. They will complete the job in 154 work days. Columbus Marble Works will supply the marble, as they did for the original Arch. The original bronze medallion of President Davis and original wrought iron gates are included in the new Arch. The new Arch will be placed in Beauvoir's Confederate Cemetery.

### **Jefferson Davis Presidential Museum and Library Update**

Two thirds of the second floor of the new Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum have been poured, and we hope progress will keep in step with the weather!

### **A note on the BP Oil Spill**

The BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico has hurt all tourism on the Gulf Coast. Beauvoir is down 25% in sales and attendance. Please keep us in your hearts and prayers as we work through this tough time-THANK YOU!!!!

the Combined Boards of Beauvoir has announced that the next meeting of the Boards will be on **No-venber 13, 2010** at Beauvoir. The meetings are open to mem-bers of the Division but seating capacity is limited. Other upcom-ing meetings will be on Feb. 12, 2011 and April 23, 2011.

The Gift Shop keeps adding great items for everyone. Stay tuned, more good news to come!

Rick Forte Sr., Chairman of the Combined Boards and Acting Director



## SILAS CHANDLER DISHONORED?

Approximately two to three months ago the Southern Iron Cross was mysteriously removed from Silas Chandler's grave in Greenwood Cemetery in West Point. No one seems to know why or when it was removed. On September 17, 1994 the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of the Confederate Veterans placed the Southern Cross on Silas Chandler's grave in honor of his service to the Confederacy. Descendants of Silas attended the ceremony and participated in this memorable event. Also present were descendents of Andrew Chandler. For six years the cross has remained on the grave untouched. I was acquainted with a member of Silas' descendents. Even he was honored Silas had been honored for his participation in the war. Now all of a sudden the cross mysteriously disappears. Compatriot Jessie Riggs of the Caledonia Rifles SCV Camp called my attention to a blog site "Civil War Memory" managed by Kevin Levin. The site address is <http://cwmemory.com>. There is an article entitled "Civil War culture, Lost Cause, Slavery, Southern History on the site. It seems this all began when a descendent of the Chandlers took a picture of Silas and Andrew to an Antique Roadshow. Following that show Kevin Levin made a comment about the Chandlers on his blog. Mr. Levin received a post on his blog from a great granddaughter of Silas Chandler. She posted this on his blog:

"I am the great Granddaughter of Silas Chandler. The lies being told about Silas fighting in the Confederate army keep growing. And that is what they are "LIES". The majority of the descendents of Silas are also disgusted about all of the lies told about our ancestor. Silas was a slave, and did what he had to do in order to survive. I am a black Chandler who grew up in West Point, Mississippi where it was unheard of to even look at or even speak to a white Chandler. I have a letter signed by the majority of the descendents of Silas demanding the Iron Cross and Confederate flag be removed from Silas' grave. Signing this letter is the Granddaughter of Silas who is 107 years old and still lives in Long Island, New York. I grew up with my Grandfather, who was the son of Silas. He told us all about Silas and how he saved his money and hid it in the barn and bought his freedom. He also bought the land where he built his house. That record is in the Clay County Court house as of this day."

These comments lean toward an antagonistic, bigoted view concerning the relationship between the white Chandlers and the Black Chandlers. Ms Sampson's attitude even goes further by denying the family history. She seems to be one who has an intense hatred for whites. Kevin Levin on his blog site said he contacted Myrna Chandler Sampson. He asked her if she would be willing to share her letter with the general public. Ms Sampson agreed to share it. Here is the letter she said in the previous quote by her that was signed by a majority of Silas' descendents.

To: Descendents of Silas Chandler

From: Myra Chandler Sampson, Great Granddaughter of Silas Chandler, Sara Chandler Wims, Great Granddaughter of Silas Chandler, George Duckett, Great Grandson of Silas Chandler

Re: Confederate Flag on Silas Chandler's Grave

It has come to our attention that a Confederate flag has been placed on our Great Grandfather Silas Chandler's grave along with the Confederate iron cross in Greenwood Cemetery in West Point, Miss. The Confederate flag and the iron cross are symbols of oppression. They represent the worse of this country. Slavery, Civil War, lynchings, segregation, Ku Klux Klan, and terrorism. Many hate groups fly the Confederate flag alongside the Nazi flag. Silas Chandler was not given his freedom as many of us have been

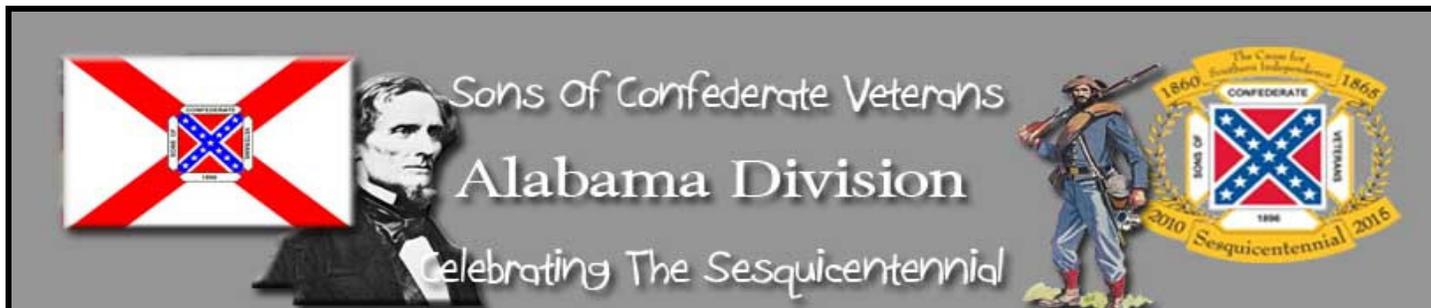
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The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the Second American Revolution. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are

the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today the Sons of Confederate Veterans is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Souther Cause. (From 1800mysouth.com , the new SCV recruitment website)



Sat. - February 19, 2011 - Montgomery, AL

It is time to mark your calendar for the SCV Sesquicentennial Event to be held in Montgomery, AL on Saturday February 19, 2011. This event will feature a parade up Dexter Avenue to the Alabama State Capitol Building, a reenactment of the swearing in of President Jefferson Davis and a selection of speakers at the Capitol Building. Just like was done for the Flag Rally in 2000 in Columbia, South Carolina and for the Hunley Funeral in Charleston in 2004 - it is IMPERATIVE that this event be well attended. We must show the world that we will not permit the History and Heritage of the Confederacy to be forgotten and unobserved during the Sesquicentennial.

It is up to us to see that this history is remembered and portrayed in the right way so start planning your visit to Montgomery - organize vans and buses - so we can show the world we remember our Confederate Heroes. Activities to include-

- Heritage March up Dexter Ave to the Capitol
- Speeches from leaders of descendant organizations
- Remarks from prominent officials
- Re-enactment of the swearing in of Jefferson Davis
- Re-enactment of the raising of the first Confederate Flag
- Firing of Rifle and Cannon salutes and more

## KNOW YOUR ENEMY – WHAT OUR DETRACTORS SAY ABOUT THE SCV

– From the Caladonia Rifles Newsletter

**Editor's Note:** This article was ran in last month's Delta General and I thought were needed to revisit it because as we go into the sesquicentennial we need to be more and more aware of how our detractors will be viewing us as a group. This means we need to be armed with the education of the truth about our ancestor's fight and prepared to defend it with facts.

"The term neo-Confederacy is used to describe twentieth and twenty-first century revivals of pro-Confederate sentiment in the United States. Strongly nativist and advocating measures to end immigration, neo-Confederacy claims to pursue Christianity and heritage and other supposedly fundamental values that modern Americans are seen to have abandoned. Neo-Confederacy also incorporates advocacy of traditional gender roles, is hostile towards democracy (?), strongly opposes homosexuality, and exhibits an understanding of race that favors segregation and suggests white supremacy. In many cases, neo-Confederates are openly secessionist."

"Neo-Confederacy has applied to groups including the **United Daughters of the Confederacy** of the 1920s and those resisting racial integration in the 1950s and 1960s. In its most recent iteration, neo-Confederacy is used by both proponents and critics to describe a belief system that has emerged since the early-1980s in publications like *Southern Partisan*, *Chronicles*, and *Southern Mercury*, and in organizations including the League of the South, the Council of Conservative Citizens and the **Sons of Confederate Veterans**. Overall, it is a reactionary conservative ideology that has made inroads into the Republican Party from the political right, and overlaps with the views of white nationalists and other more radical extremist groups."

*From: The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) web site. In case you didn't get that, SCV and UDC members are reactionary Christian homophobic racists, who wish to destroy democracy by their adherence to 'abandoned' concepts like tradition and heritage. I'll bet you didn't even realize you were such a danger to what's left of the Republic. And is there a 'Northern Poverty Law Center'? So much for equality...*



Chandler continued from page 3 . . .

lead to believe. Our Grandfather, George W. Chandler who was the son of Silas, often told us the story of how his father, Silas saved his pennies. He hid them in the shed where he buried them because slaves were not allowed to own money. With these saved pennies, he proudly bought his freedom from the Chandler family who owned him. Once Silas Chandler gained his freedom he instilled his love of freedom in his son George W. Chandler. George W. Chandler became an avid collector of firearms to protect his family from any and all oppressors. In a cynical attempt to further their political objectives, the descendents of Silas' oppressors have decided to place an iron cross and a confederate flag on Silas' grave. This is equivalent to the descendents of the Gestapo placing a swastika on the grave of a Holocaust victim. The placing of the Confederate flag on Silas' grave is a gross affront to the memory of Silas, and nothing more than an attempt to rewrite history. We are soliciting your signature on the enclosed petition to have the flag and iron cross permanently removed from his grave. Please sign and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided. If you know of any descendents of Silas Chandler that did not receive this letter, please inform us at \_\_\_\_\_."

Ms. Sampson's above letter is not all the comments she made to Kevin Levin. She went on further denouncing the history of Silas printed on the 37th Texas Cavalry page. She also accused members of the white Chandlers as being members of the Mississippi Sovereign Commission. She accused them of listing her Grandfather George on their list as "one of the negroes for the whites to keep an eye on." Supposedly George Chandler gave her a complete different history of Silas and the white Chandlers than we know. Ms. Sampson related in another interview on a blog "The Marginalized.com" that Silas Chandler was a slave and not a soldier during the war. In this article she gave the same story I have already quoted from her interview with Mr. Levin. My only response to this is why did Silas have a Confederate uniform on in the picture and why was he holding Confederate weapons? I guess Andrew must have forced him to hold them.

On another blog site, "The Civil War" by Martha M. Boltz, Ms Boltz wrote about this controversy. She said "I've met and talked with a delightful older gentleman who for many years was a press man for the Washington Times, Bobby Chandler. I've heard Bobby give a talk on his ancestor Silas Chandler of Mississippi, who served beside his 'master' during the war; I have seen a photograph of the two of them in the war period, both holding long knives, and a rifle lying across Silas' lap, his hand at the ready. And when young Andrew Chandler was badly wounded, and battlefield doctors wanted to amputate his leg, it was his servant, Silas Chandler who picked him up and carried him all the way home to be cared for. Bobby Chandler tells the story with a high degree of pride and a sense of accomplishment. It happened." There is a site on the internet "37th Texas Cavalry" by Michael Kelley. A fitting tribute to both Chandler boys is written along with a color picture painted in the past five years of a wounded Andrew with Silas assisting him. A short letter heads up the article from Harold Chandler, 4th generation grandson of Silas Chandler. Mr. Chandler wrote these words:

January 11, 2004 – There has been some response from the Chandler family. The handful or so who have responded really like it. I gathered a few of them had never seen the site too from their comments. They really liked the way you put everything together. I think it's fair to say that the artist rendition and your site is a hit. Thanks again for your dedication and work on this huge project you've encountered.

Sincerely, Harold Chandler

From this article we can see there is a split in the Silas Chandler family over the history of Silas. I am really not sure from what I have found out how many family members side with Myrna Sampson; nor do I know where she resides. The other side of the family which includes Harold Chandler and Bobby Chandler seem to acknowledge the historical truth about Silas going to war with Andrew, fighting for the Confederacy and then coming home to Palo Alto to settle down and raise a family.

Back to Silas' gravesite. Based on this controversy apparently stemming from hatred for the South, I lean toward the idea a radical member of the family removed the cross and flag. This individual was possibly influenced by Myrna Sampson. I do not know for sure; however, I am going to pursue this further. As this story continues

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## NAACP PROTESTS S.C. SECESSION BALL FOR DECEMBER 20, 2010

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Compatriots and Southern Brothers and Sisters,

Our Confederate Heritage is continually under attack and now on the eve of the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the secession of South Carolina, the "*sesquicentennial war*" has begun and the opposition has renewed its intent to bring dishonor and disgrace to the memory of the brave men and women who stood for true Constitutional Liberty and opposed a tyrannical and oppressive federal government. It has been announced that some groups are planning to stage a protest that night; we cannot allow this attack to go unanswered; we must speak now and do so loudly.

The upcoming Commemorative Ball and Theatrical Performance, reenacting the signing of the SC Ordinance of Secession on December 20, 1860, has gained International attention and again placed South Carolina's Confederate Heritage in the cross hairs of political correctness. What will you do...what can you do? Realizing the season and Joy of Christmas is upon us and financial burdens rest heavy upon many families, it may be difficult or impossible for each of you to join us in Charleston for this historic event on MONDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup> 2010. However, I am constantly reminded of the many sacrifices made by our Confederate fathers, many paying the ultimate sacrifice. If you have not secured tickets to this evening of celebration and remembrance, but somehow feel you can bear the weight of the cost, please make your plans to join us in large number to overwhelmingly validate our purpose, our heritage and our right to assemble without fear or reservation and tell the world we are Confederate and we are Southern. Like the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the 170 men who "unanimously" signed the SC Ordinance of Secession, they risked their lives, fortunes and sacred honor.....can we risk less?

If you cannot attend, please pray for the evening's events and for all who will be present asking our Heavenly Father to grant His blessing, peace and mercy; all to His Glory. This is our time, our place, our Home. Join me and hundreds of other Southerners in Charleston to commemorate history and enjoy a one of a kind evening you will remember for the rest of your life!

<http://www.scscessiongala.org/index.html>

In memory of the Men who wore the Gray!

Mark A. Simpson, *Commander*

South Carolina Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

# CAUSES OF SECESSION: WHY THE SOUTH LEFT THE UNION

## A Southern Perspective

Editor's Note: As we enter the 150th Anniversary of the War for Southern Independence, let us reeducate ourselves on the causes of that war and why our ancestors fought. For more than 40 years Southerners spoke of "disunion" over a variety of issues. By the time Abraham Lincoln was elected president a single issue, the rise of the abolitionists, became the focal point of Southerners.

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**Tariffs** – Tariffs were permitted in the Constitution to allow the United States to generate revenue. The first act, the Tariff Act of 1789, did just that, fairly raising revenue through tariffs on imported goods. In the Tariff of 1816, however, the United States tariff structure changed from revenue producing to protectionist. These protectionist tariffs had been proposed by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton back in 1789 but the concept was pretty much ignored. Hamilton's original reason was to promote the industrialization of the North.

Tariffs levied in 1816 were aimed at lucrative Southern markets. Many Northern politicians were looking at wealthy plantation owners and wanting to share that wealth with their constituents and tariffs were the means by which to accomplish this goal. Protectionist fervor, fanned by pre-1816 success creating industrial growth through the Embargo Act was somewhat muted by shippers and merchants who opposed tariffs, but in 1820 and 1824 the United States once again was trying to increase tariffs.

The Tariff of 1828 precipitated the first secessionist crisis, in South Carolina in 1832. The battle pitted Vice-President John C. Calhoun against President Andy Jackson, ending with the Nullification Crisis. Luckily, another compromise was reached, courtesy of Henry Clay, and the crisis was avoided. Part of the compromise included a roll-back of tariffs to the 1816 levels over a 10-year period.

When the period was up, however, the pro-Tariff Whigs decided to reapply them to pay for their "internal improvements." The only problem was these internal improvements benefited Northern shipping interests and Western land speculators and not the South. For example, lighthouses had always been state-owned and run. The Northern shipping magnates wanted more lighthouses in the South and when state governments said no, they simply nationalized existing lighthouses and began increasing the number with the tariffs. Tariffs are generally considered to be a "Lost Cause" of the Civil War, but the cited example is directly out of the Georgia Causes of Secession document.

**Expansion of government powers** – Thomas Jefferson knew as President he did not have the power within the Constitution to agree to buy Louisiana from the French, but he did it anyway. This single act set the stage for a major shift in the political power in the United States, away from the states and to the President and Congress. The South felt that the President and Congress only had powers specifically granted them in the Constitution, but northern and western interests wanted a government who would do more for them and favored expansion of these powers. Even the federal judiciary got in the act, extending its authority over the province of state courts, again reducing the power of the states (Martin v. Hunter's Lessee (1816) and Cohens v. Virginia(1821).

Politicians, Northern and Southern, were generally labelled "strict constructionist" or "loose constructionist" based on their concept of how closely the Constitution should be followed in determining the power of the federal government.

**State's Rights** – "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" is directly from the Bill of Rights.

Considered to be a "Lost Cause" advanced after the War Between the States, state's rights involved the decreasing power of the states and rights not granted the federal government being usurped. It is not a southern concept by any means. After the Embargo Act of 1807 and other legislation designed to reduce trade with England, the Northeast attacked the expansion of federal power. In the 1830's the western states wanted a central bank to control speculation and tried a state's rights argument to support their stand.

In 1832 Georgia simply ignored the federal government when it stole the Cherokee Nation in spite of federal rulings preventing them from doing so (Worcester v. Georgia). Andrew Jackson did nothing to force Georgia to obey the ruling of the court, granting Georgia state's rights. Of course, South Carolina used this argument in the early 1830's to justify nullification, which Jackson did oppose with federal troops. When state's rights arguments were proposed in the late 1840's in support of disunion, Congress responded with the Compromise of 1850.

In the early 1850's states rights arguments faded, but by the end of the decade Southerners talking disunion were talking states rights, hardly the "Lost Cause" some want to make it out to be. The South got support from some unusual places: Wisconsin defended the sovereignty of the state in 1859, albeit over sentences im-

posed under the fugitive slave law.

**Sectional differences** – Sectional differences divided the North and South from the time the Constitution was signed. As America expanded a third section developed, the West, with their own needs from the federal government. It would take ten years of fear and hatred (1850-1860) for the Southern sectionalism to expand into Southern nationalism.

**Finance** – One of the first needs of the West was a strong central bank, so it seems unusual that Andy Jackson, the first President from the West killed the idea in 1832. The West wanted expansion and associated growth and they viewed the central bank as being important to controlling inflation brought on by growth, curtailing speculation, and creating available funds for loans. Andrew Jackson, whose legendary speculation included the sale of Cherokee and Creek lands to settlers, was strongly against a central bank. The death of the bank in 1832 and subsequent actions by Jackson and the government created the Panic of 1837 and the associated depression.

The Whig Party rode the depression to National prominence, gaining the White House from Martin Van Buren, Jackson's hand-picked successor. As the depression ended, the South's sale of cotton began an unbelievable growth spurt that continued to the Civil War. Even the Panic of 1857 did not slow the growth in cotton markets. The disparity of wealth between the North/West and the South caused further backlash and fueled the rise of the abolitionists.

**Issue Alliances** – When it came to questions revolving around abolition, the South would normally vote as a bloc, joined by some northern Senators and Congressmen. By 1850, though, the abolition movement had become so powerful in the northeast that they, too, began to vote as a bloc, ignoring party lines. In the 1850's the abolition movement gained strength, continuing to fracture the United States.

In addition to voting as a bloc against abolitionist issues, the South began voting together on issues regarding the expansion of federal powers. They saw the expanding government as problematic while both the North and the West supported a larger government, especially one that could be paid for by tariffs on the South.

**Westward Expansion** – The concept of expanding the United States from "sea to shining sea" divided the South in the 1840's. Mississippi's Henry Foote and Louisiana's Solomon Downs strongly

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supported the concept while Whigs led by Alexander Stephens opposed adding territory, especially that taken in the Mexican-American War. With the admission of California in the Compromise of 1850, the issue of territorial expansion had become moot. It was replaced by the bitter argument over whether the states would be added as slave states or free states.

**Presidential Turmoil** – Under James Monroe the country functioned as a single political unit known as the Democratic-Republican Party. The political turmoil began to arise following the end of Monroe's second term. Four contenders, Jackson (West), John Quincy Adams (North), George Crawford (Deep South) and Henry Clay (sometimes portrayed as an Upper South candidate, Clay was closely aligned with the West) vied to become President. Jackson pulled the highest vote total and the largest number of electoral votes, but not a majority. The election was thrown to the House where Adams made a "Corrupt Bargain" with Clay to gain control of the White House. The next election saw Jackson combine the West and the South to be elected.

The Presidential turmoil really began in 1836, with the ascension of Martin Van Buren to the Presidency. Because of the Panic of 1837 and the resulting depression, Van Buren was unelectable in 1840. Whig war hero William Henry Harrison won the election, but died after catching pneumonia a month after his inauguration. His Ohio background was offset by statements that he did not like anti-slavery agitation and by the presence of pro-slavery Virginian John Tyler as Vice-president. When Tyler assumed the Presidency it was just that, an assumption. The Constitution did not spell out what would happen if the President died, so Tyler merely had himself inaugurated. Tyler drew the wrath of the Whig Party when he vetoed the act creating a national bank.

James Polk, drafted by the Democrats in 1844 was not a candidate but accepted the Presidential nomination. In 1848 he refused to seek a second term. Just like Harrison, Zachary Taylor had been aggressively pursuing the Presidency. Millard Fillmore, his Vice-president, rose to the Presidency in 1850 and signed the Compromise of 1850, something Taylor refused to do. Like Tyler, Fillmore was rebuked when he ran for President. Franklin Pierce easily defeated Whig Winfield Scott and sent the fading Whig Party into a tailspin. Pierce was viewed as unelectable in 1856 because of his support of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the ongoing war in Kansas, and his support of the pro-slavery Lecompton Constitution, so the Democrats elected James Buchanan, a minority President.

With Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860 the South had seen 9 presidents in 24 years with no second terms for any man. As each term came to an end the voting public was more unhappy than it was four years before and candidates were forced to sidestep the divisive issues dividing the country.

**Political Turmoil** – In addition to turmoil over the presidential campaigns there was significant turmoil in the political landscape. James Monroe's "Era of Good Feelings" ended with the Election of 1824 and the election of John Quincy Adams as President. In response to the anti-Jackson feelings of 1828 the Whig Party formed, opposing both Jackson and the modern Democratic Party.

As the Whigs faded from power in the early 1850's they splintered into factional groups, mostly single issue parties. One, the Free Soil Party, was based on a strong belief in abolition. Another, the "Know-Nothings," believed the problems of America were in her acceptance of foreigners. By combining the Northern Whigs with the Free Soilers, the Republican Party blossomed from a single-issue party into a full-fledged movement, a key plank of which was abolition.

**The Mexican-American War** – Mr. Polk's War with Mexico was a thinly disguised land-grab. Democrats were interested in expanding the nation under the recently proposed concept of Manifest Destiny. In and of itself, little happened during the war that could be considered a cause of the American Civil War, however, two things that happened in the United States because of this war are causes of the Civil War. The United States gained California and it entered the U. S. as a free state in The Compromise of 1850.

The first of many attempts to restrict slavery in territories grew out of the Mexican-American War. The Wilmot Proviso was introduced (and passed) by the U. S. House of Representatives, but defeated in the U. S. Senate.

**Texas boundary dispute with New Mexico** – Texas claimed a significant part of the New Mexico territory in 1850. When a constitutional convention in New Mexico drew up an document that excluded slavery from the territory in May, 1850, the Texans had a serious problem with it. They began pushing its claim to the eastern third of the territory. President Zachary Taylor received a delegation of Southern Whigs who had rallied around the Texas. When Alexander Stephens raised the question of impeachment, Taylor responded with a threat to hang rebels as he had hung "spies and deserter in Mexico." Washington remained concerned that this conflict could be the start of a bigger war until the Compromise of 1850 was passed.

Although this conflict decreased follow-

ing the Compromise of 1850, early in The Civil War Texas Rebels tried to take back some of New Mexico until being turned back at the battle of Glorieta.

**Bleeding Kansas** – Some historians view the Civil War as a war created by the "boiling over" of the fighting in Kansas. Created as a territory in the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, this was the test of the Democrats "popular sovereignty" platform and was a dismal failure. Proposed by Stephen Douglas, this gave the territory the power to choose whether it entered the United States as a slave or free state. Pro-slave voters, mostly from Missouri, poured into the state but were offset by free-soilers from New England. The result was total confusion, four different constitutions, one of which fractured the relationship between Buchanan and Douglas in 1858. This division was a portent of the divisive Democrat Convention of 1860.

In 1859, Bleeding Kansas was carried east by abolitionist John Brown when he took the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, then in Virginia. Word spread quickly not just of the raid, but of his hopes for slave revolt and his desire to arm the slaves.

**Utah War** – Mormons had tried to settle in a number of western states but eventually gave and moved to land nobody wanted - Utah. Brigham Young used an intriguing argument combining religious freedom and his own views on the power of the federal government to justify forming an independent nation and raising his own army. Afraid that southern states might interpret this as being a precedent for secession, Buchanan ordered Sidney Johnston to the Utah Territory to quell the rebellion

**Rise of Abolition** – Most people believe that the South was uniform in its support of slavery. A better way to look at it would be to divide the South at the fall line (an artificial line drawn at the navigable end of major rivers, normally at a waterfall). Those above the fall line could normally be considered to be part of two groups, those who tolerated slavery and those opposed to slavery. Below the fall line the South was typically pro-slavery. The only exception was in large cities above the fall line, where coastal Southerners had migrated with their slaves. When the Civil War broke out, Abraham Lincoln tried to take advantage of this knowledge, but it was much more difficult than anticipated.

The concept of abolition was introduced by the Quakers about 1760. Vermont became the first state to abolish slavery in its Constitution of 1777, then came Massachusetts and Pennsylvania in 1780, New Hampshire in 1783, Rhode Island and Connecticut in 1784, Northwest

. . . Continued on page 8

Causes of the War continued . . .

Territories in 1787, New York in 1799, and New Jersey in 1804.

Gradual emancipation and colonization were the most popular plans to end slavery. In 1830 immediate abolition began a rise in popularity that would not abate until the War Between the States. Fueled by abolitionist newspapers such as William Lloyd Garrison's *The Liberator*, the concept of immediate abolition was adopted by gradual emancipationists and colonizationists alike. Societies, first in New England, but then spreading throughout the northern tier of states, supported the views of the abolitionists.

The passage of the Wilmot Proviso in the House was the first sign of doom for the Union. Southerners, though, still had a majority in the Senate until Whig President Zachary Taylor, under the guidance of William Seward, an outspoken abolitionist, advocated the admittance of California as a free state in

1849. Calls came up for a secessionist conference in Nashville from Mississippi. Old southern nationalist John C. Calhoun had organized the convention but convinced Mississippi to call for it so his name would not be associated with the convention.

During the winter of 1849-50 the Deep South agreed to send delegates to the convention to discuss options if California tipped the free state-slave state balance. It was the threat of the convention that brought Henry Clay to the floor of the Senate in January, 1850 with his Compromise of 1850. By the time the convention was called into session, John C. Calhoun was dead and the Compromise of 1850 appeared to be on a somewhat shaky road to passage. Southerners appeared to be placated, at least until the Kansas Wars ("Bleeding Kansas"). The regional war in the mid-west strengthened the abolitionists who formed the Republican Party. During the Election of 1856, their candidate, John C. Fremont, nearly won the Presidency. If it was not clear to Southerners then, the mid-term election sweep of the Republicans proved that the abolitionists

were politically strong enough to end slavery.

During the Lincoln-Douglas debates, Abraham Lincoln had gotten Stephen Douglas to admit that a portion of his "popular sovereignty" idea was illegal. This alienated most of the South, which walked out of the Democratic Convention when Stephen Douglas seemed to be the party's nominee. Since the Whig Party was gone, split in two by the defection of Northern Whigs to the Republican Party, Southern Democrats tried to unite behind John Breckinridge while Constitutional-Unionists supported John Bell from Tennessee. Abraham Lincoln, an abolitionist running on a moderate platform won the Election of 1860 with less than 40% of the popular vote. South Carolina would not wait for the other southern states to meet and seceded that December. Four months later The Civil War began when the Confederate Army fired on Fort Sumter, claiming the federal land was theirs under the policy of eminent domain.

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## THE SECESSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA – DECEMBER 20, 1860

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The doctrine of state's rights, the legality of secession, and the institution of black slavery had been issues of debate in the United States for decades before the election of Abraham Lincoln brought on the secession of the Southern states. Time after time the South had forced political compromises by threatening to dissolve the union, but by 1860 many Northern politicians had come to view the threat as a bluff and were sick of compromising when it came to slavery. Southerners were thoroughly indoctrinated in the issues, and their education emphasized the inviolability of the Constitution and honored such state's-rights leaders as Thomas Jefferson and John C. Calhoun.

"The tug has to come and better now, than any time hereafter," wrote President-elect Lincoln in response to the movements among Southerners toward making good their threat to remove themselves from the United States if he were elected. On November 10, 1860, four days after the election, the legislature in South Carolina, the undisputed leading agitator for secession and the home of John C. Calhoun, became the first of the Southern congresses to call for a convention to consider secession.

Meeting in Charleston on December 20, that convention passed unanimously the first ordinance of secession, which stated, "We, the people of the State of South Carolina in convention assembled, do declare and ordain... that the Union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of 'the United States of America,' is hereby dissolved," making South Carolina a free and independent country. The people of Charleston went wild with joy amid fireworks, booming cannon, and ringing bells. Within six weeks, six other states in the Deep South followed South Carolina out of the Union. Southern diarist Mary Boykin Chesnut wrote, "We are divorced, North and South, because we have hated each other so."

Fascinating Fact: Lincoln had considered the talk of secession to be bluff and bluster. He believed the attachment Southerners felt for the United States would not allow them to leave the Union.



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## CHRISTMAS DURING THE WAR

The irony and bitterness of celebrating Christmas during wartime is poignantly described in the words to Longfellow's poem "Christmas Bells." Longfellow's deep despair during the Civil War started in 1861 following the untimely death of his wife Fanny. On the first Christmas following Fanny's death, Longfellow wrote: "How inexpressibly sad are all holidays, A year later on Christmas day 1862, Longfellow wrote in his journal: "A merry Christmas' say the children, but that is no more for me." In 1863, Longfellow found out that his oldest son Charles, a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac, had been severely wounded in battle. His deep personal despair was reflective of the despair and loss suffered by so many Americans, both in the North and in the South, during the long, terrible Civil War. Shortly after a visit to his son Charles, who was still struggling to recover from his war injuries, on Christmas Day, 1864, Longfellow penned the words to his poem, "Christmas Bells.", which later was put to music know as "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

"I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along the unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Till ringing, singing on its way  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail  
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Even more reflective of the awful despair felt by many were Longfellow's original stanzas 4 and 5 which are not commonly included in the modern hymnals:

"Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound the carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn, the households born  
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Though the Civil War literally tore the country in two and brought pain and suffering of all kinds to American families,

many of our modern Christmas traditions first found their acceptance with American families during the Civil War. One of the earliest depictions of Santa Claus, with his sleigh and reindeers, and Santa crawling down a chimney is found in a Thomas Nest drawing appearing in the January 1863 edition of Harper's Weekly. Christmas trees, gift giving, caroling and Christmas feasts seemed to be firmly established as part of American culture during the Civil War period.

While introduced much earlier by European immigrants, the Christmas tree as a family Christmas tradition was popularized by illustrators in national weeklies. The Christmas tree, which became the center of the Christmas festivities, was decorated with strings of pine cones, popcorn or dried fruit, colored paper and silver foil. Soldiers, longing for home, would use Christmas trees to bring some cheer to the frontlines. One Union soldier from New Jersey in a letter home commented: "In order to make it look much like Christmas as possible, a small tree was stuck up in front of our tents, decked off with hard tack and pork, in lieu of cakes and oranges, etc."

The singing of Christmas carols was also a popular Christmas tradition both a home and on the front. The most popular carols included: "Silent Night", "Deck the Halls", "Away in a Manger" and "Oh Come All Ye Faithful".

Even doing wartime, the Christmas message of charity and love motivates soldiers otherwise engaged in the ugliest of mankind's activities to take care of the poor and needy. On Christmas Day, 1864, after General Sherman's capture of Savannah, Georgia, 90 soldiers from Michigan loaded several wagons full of food and other necessities to distribute to impoverished Southerners living outside of Savannah. To add to the holiday cheer, the soldiers fashioned branches to the ears of the mules to create "reindeer antlers". The Christmas spirit prevailed and the beneficiaries of the Christmas charity were for a brief moment able to enjoy the Christmas season.

Early in the war, the soldiers might have enjoyed a more sumptuous Christmas feast. One Union officer wrote the following on December 24, 1861: "Christmas Eve, and I am on duty as officer of the day, but I am not on duty to-morrow. As much as I desire to see you all, I would not leave my company alone...I give my company a Christmas dinner to-morrow, consisting of turkey, oysters, pies, apples, etc.; no liquors." As the war wore on and the resources on both sides of the battle lines were in short supply, the Christmas meals of the soldiers were less than sumptuous. One Confederate soldier recorded the following on Christmas Day: "Had hard

Tack soaked in cold water and then fried in pork Greece [sic]. Fried in a canteen, split into[sic] by putting into the fire & melting the sodder[sic] off. We pick them up on the field left by other soldiers, also had coffee & pork."

The home front was not much better as the war dragged on. One of the most charming, yet sobering descriptions of the hardships that impact Christmas celebrations is the following story of a Southern parent's attempt to reduce the Christmas expectation of their children:

"I have written so much that it is now after 9 o'clock and yet I have said nothing of Turner's and Mary Bell's party which we gave them last week in lieu of the Santa Claus presents. Mary Bell has been told that Santa Claus has not been able to run the blockade and has gone to war--Yet at this late hour when I went upstairs Thursday night of the party I found that the trusting faith of childhood they had hung their little socks and stockings in case Santa Claus did come. I had given the subject no thought whatever, but invoking Santa Claus aid I was enabled when their little eyes opened to enjoy their pleasure to find cake and money in their socks."

Through it all, Americans, both in the North and South, found hope in the eternal Christmas message of "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men".

**The Delta General  
c/o Larry McCluney**

**1412 N Park Dr  
Greenwood, MS 38930**

**Phone: 662-453-7212**

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Continued from page 1 . . .

Dear General Lee:

We think you are the goddest man that ever lived, and our auntie says you will go right straight to heaven when you die; so we want to ask you a question, for we want to know the truth about it, and we know that you always speak the truth.

Please tell us whether Santa Claus loves the little rebel children, for we think he don't; because he did not come to see us for four Christmas Eves. Auntie thinks you would not let him cross the lines, and we don't know how to find out unless we write and ask you. We all love you dearly, and we want to send you something; but we have not any thing nice enough; we lost all our toys in the war. Birdie wants to send you one of our white kittens--the one with black ears; but Auntie thinks maybe you don't like kittens. We say little prayers for you every night, dear General Lee, and ask God to make you ever so happy. Please let us know about Santa Claus as soon as you can; we want to know for something very, very, very particular; but we can't tell even you why until Christmas time, so please to excuse us.

Your little friends,  
Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie

The above letter was sent the following day, and in about a week the answer was received:

My dear little friends:

I was very glad to receive your kind letter, and to know by it that I have the good wishes and prayers of three innocent little girls, named Lutie, Birdie, and Minnie. I am very glad that you wrote about Santa Claus for I am able to tell you all about him. I can assure you he is one of the best friends that the little Southern girls have. You will understand this when I explain to you the reason of his not coming to see you for four years.

The first Christmas Eve of the war I was walking up and down in the camp ground, when I thought I heard a singular noise above my head; and on looking to find out from whence it came, I saw the queerest, funniest-looking little old fellow riding along in a sleigh through the air. On closer inspection, he proved to be Santa Claus.

Halt! Halt!, I said; but at this the funny fellow laughed, and did not seem inclined to obey, so again I cried Halt!. And he drove down to my side with a sleigh full of toys. I was very sorry for him when I saw the disappointed expression of his face when I told him he could go no further South; and when he exclaimed, Oh, what will my little Southern children do! I felt more sorry, for I love little children to be happy, and especially at Christmas. But of one thing I was certain--I knew my little friends would prefer me to do my duty, rather than have all the toys in the world; so I said: Santa Claus, take every one of the toys you have back as far as Baltimore, sell them, and with the money you get buy medicines, bandages, ointments, and delicacies for our sick and wounded men; do it and do it quickly--it will be all right with the children.

Then Santa Claus sprang into his sleigh, and putting his hand to his hat in true military style, said: I obey orders, General, and away he went. Long before morning he came sweeping down into camp again, with not only every thing I had ordered, but with many other things that our poor soldiers needed. And every Christmas he took the toy money and did the same thing; and the soldiers and I blessed him, for he clothed and fed many a poor soul who otherwise would have been cold and hungry. Now, do you not consider him a good friend. I hold him in high respect, and trust you will always do the same.

I should be pleased to hear from you again, my dear little girls, and I want you ever to consider me,

Your true friend,  
General Robert E. Lee