

PENNSYLVANIA'S *CONFEDERATE* **HISTORY**



**THE LEADERS, SOLDIERS, SUPPORTERS,
BATTLES, MEMORIALS AND SYMBOLS OF
PENNSYLVANIA'S CONFEDERATE HERITAGE**

Presented by:
The Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans



This educational booklet is intended as an introduction to issues of Confederate history and heritage within Pennsylvania. Along with explaining who we are and what we represent, it provides you with a brief look at the vast amount of Confederate history that is part of our shared Pennsylvania history. It also provides an explanation about the various major symbols of the Confederacy, their history and their place today.

About the Sons of Confederate Veterans

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to insuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.

Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is open to all male descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate armed forces. Membership can be obtained through either direct or collateral family lines and kinship to a veteran must be documented genealogically. The minimum age for membership is 12.

The SCV has ongoing programs at the local, state, and national levels which offer members a wide range of activities. Preservation work, marking Confederate soldier's graves, historical re-enactments, scholarly publications, and regular meetings to discuss the military and political history of the War Between the States are only a few of the activities sponsored by local units, called camps. The administrative work of the SCV is conducted at the national headquarters, 'Elm Springs,' a restored ante-bellum home at Columbia, Tennessee.

The programs of the SCV range from assistance to undergraduate students through the General Stand Watie Scholarship to medical research grants given through the Brooks Fund. National historical symposiums, reprinting of rare books, and the erection of monuments are just a few of the other projects endorsed by the SCV. The SCV works in conjunction with other historical groups to preserve Confederate history. The SCV rejects any group whose actions tarnish or distort the image of the Confederate soldier or his reasons for fighting.

About Pennsylvania, Lee's Keystone Division.

A Division is the state level organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. All of the Camps within Pennsylvania are part of the Pennsylvania Division. The Division is part of the Army of Northern Virginia Department which is one of three regional departments in the SCV.



The purpose of the Division is three fold. Its first duty is to assist and support the member Camps in their efforts to honor and preserve the history of our Confederate ancestors. Second, the Division represents the needs of the Camps and the state as a whole in the Department Council. Finally, the Division coordinates projects and activities that require the efforts of multiple Camps or fall outside the jurisdiction of any Camp.

The Division is active in researching the role Pennsylvanians played in the Confederacy and its struggle for independence. The Division also helps educate Pennsylvanians about the Pennsylvania Confederate Heritage and general history of the period.

Pennsylvania was the birthplace of six Confederate generals who served with honor and distinction during the war. Their support of the Confederacy illustrates the complexity of the period, as each man chose to fight for principle rather than just their native home.

Lt. General John Clifford Pemberton, CSA

General Pemberton was born on August 10, 1814, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1837. He saw his first action in the Second Seminole War and was decorated for bravery and brevetted twice in the Mexican War. In 1848, he married Martha Thompson of Norfolk, Virginia.

When war broke out in 1861, he resigned from the Union Army and joined the Virginia State forces. His first significant duty came in March 1862, when he was promoted to major general and took command of the Department of South Carolina and Georgia.

Many South Carolinians feared that the Pennsylvania-born general was not dedicated to an all-out defense of their department. Pemberton, however, set up the defenses of Charleston including the famous Battery Wagner that successfully help fend off Union invasion attempts for years. In the fall of 1862, President Davis promoted Pemberton to lieutenant general and ordered him to defend Vicksburg, Mississippi. Its defenses were the last major river obstacle to Union control of the river and splitting the Confederacy in two.

Pemberton took command of the Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana on October 14, 1862. He immediately put his years of administrative experience to use solving supply problems and improving troop morale. For several months he enjoyed remarkable success, defeating attempts by Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to take Vicksburg in the winter of 1862-63.

In the spring, Grant crossed the Mississippi below Vicksburg. Pemberton was ordered by President Davis not to move his army from the city. Davis then ordered Gen. Joseph E. Johnston to Mississippi to relieve Vicksburg. Johnston ordered Pemberton to unite his forces and attack Grant even if that meant abandoning the defense of Vicksburg. Pemberton kept his forces at Vicksburg, following the higher of the conflicting orders. Meanwhile Grant moved swiftly closer with victories at Port Gibson, Raymond, and Jackson.

Pemberton moved his army east from Edwards Station, all the while maintaining close contact with Vicksburg. In this manner he hoped to head Grant off, while keeping Vicksburg protected. However, another order from Johnston forced Pemberton to reverse direction to join with Johnston's forces which had been defeated at Jackson. Before he could reach Johnston, Pemberton was forced into battle at Champions Hill and suffered a major defeat.

Pemberton retreated to Vicksburg to try to save the city, as ordered by President Davis, even if that meant risking the loss of his army. He and his men endured a forty-seven day siege before surrendering on July 4, 1863.

Pemberton resigned both to end the distracting controversy over the loss of Vicksburg and because there were no posts available for someone of his rank. He rejoined and served the remainder of the war as a lieutenant colonel of artillery in Virginia and South Carolina, rather than give up fighting for the Confederacy.

After the war he settled on a farm near Warrenton, Virginia, and eventually returned to Pennsylvania, where he died July 13, 1881, in the village of Penllyn. He is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia.



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Brig. General Josiah Gorgas, CSA

Josiah Gorgas, born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on July 1, 1818, was the youngest of ten children. At seventeen, his brother-in-law became his official guardian and got him a job in a printing office in New York. Gorgas showed promise to Congressman Graham Chapin, who recommended his appointment to West Point.



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Gorgas graduated sixth in his fifty-two member class in June, 1841 and joined the Corps of Ordnance. Gorgas served at Watervliet Arsenal, New York, and Detroit Arsenal in the Northwest. He then served under General Winfield Scott during the Mexican War as the chief of the ordnance depot in Vera Cruz. He received his promotion to first lieutenant before the war ended. He went back to his work at various arsenals in the North before being transferred to the Fort Monroe Arsenal.

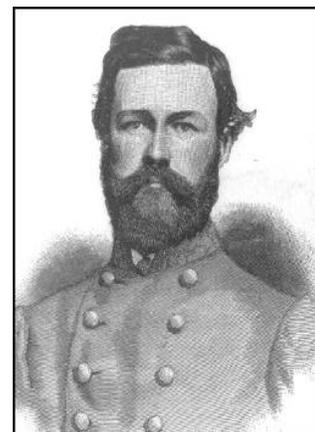
On December 26, 1853, Gorgas married Amelia Gayle, the daughter of a former governor of Alabama. In 1856, Gorgas was promoted to Captain. He was transferred back North to Kennebec Arsenal in Maine and then in July of 1860 to Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia. In February of 1861 Gorgas declined a position in the Confederate artillery corps. In April, he changed his mind, resigned his commission in the Union Army and accepted the Confederate major's commission as Chief of Ordnance.

The Confederacy did not have a functioning Ordnance Department nor the means by which to produce the ordnance needed to sustain the upcoming war effort. Gorgas worked to build up the Confederacy's industrial capacity. Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond and several of the South's lesser forges were improved and new technologies were employed. Gorgas also began massing what support he could from foreign nations. To open a path for the arrival of foreign war materials, Gorgas developed his own fleet of blockade runners which successfully imported more than 300,000 rifles in one year alone. In addition to arms and ammunition, they imported tools, medicine and various other supplies.

Thanks to his innovative methods, vision and use of new technologies, Gorgas built the Confederacy into a state of industrialization that allowed the war effort to continue. After the War, he served as president of The University of Alabama. He died on May 15, 1883 in Tuscaloosa, AL where he is buried. His son, William Crawford Gorgas (1854-1920), became surgeon general of the United States.

Brig. Gen. Johnson Kelley Duncan, CSA

Duncan was born in York, PA in 1827. He graduated from West Point in 1849 and went on to serve in Florida against the Seminoles. Afterward, he headed to the Northwest exploring routes for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He resigned from the Army in 1855 to become the Superintendent of Government Construction in New Orleans. When the war broke out, he was the Chief Engineer of the Board of Public Works for Louisiana.



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Duncan enlisted and became the Colonel of artillery defending the forts around New Orleans. The forts under his command were Fort Jackson and Fort St. Phillip. Ft. Jackson had 127 guns and Ft. St. Philip had twenty heavy guns. On January 7, 1862 he was promoted to Brig. General.

Duncan was captured at Fort Jackson when New Orleans fell. He was exchanged and upon his release was reassigned as Chief of Staff to General Braxton Bragg. President Jefferson Davis considered him one of the rising stars of the new Confederacy. Unfortunately, he died of illness near Knoxville, TN on December 18, 1862. He is buried in McGavock Cemetery, Franklin, TN.

Brig. General Richard Griffith, CSA

General Griffith was born January 11, 1814 near Philadelphia, PA. His military career took him to Mississippi. He joined the Confederacy in early 1861 as a Colonel of Infantry. He was quickly promoted after service in the Virginia battles of 1861.

The 13th, 17th, 18th and 21st Mississippi Infantry were formed into the only all Mississippi Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia, in December 1861. The Brigade was placed under the command of General Griffith.

During the Seven-Days Battles in 1862, at Savage's Station, General Griffith was mortally wounded. The command passed to Col. William Barksdale of Columbus, Mississippi, later promoted to Brigadier General. The Brigade would take on his name and gain fame at many battles, particularly at Gettysburg, PA.

General Griffith was carried to Richmond where he died later that day: June 29, 1862. He was buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Jackson, MS.

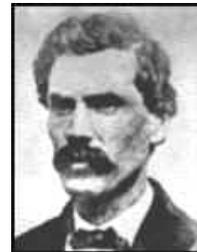


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Brig. General William McComb, CSA

General McComb was born on November 21, 1828 in Mercer County PA. He remained in Pennsylvania until about 1856. At that time, he went to Montgomery county, Tenn., where he engaged in superintending the erection of a large flouring mill at Price's landing, on the Cumberland river.

At the breakout of war, he enlisted as a private in one of the companies of the Fourteenth Tennessee regiment. He was promoted to lieutenant soon afterward, and made adjutant of the regiment. The regiment was reorganized at Yorktown, Va., in the winter of early 1862 and William McComb was elected major. In the second battle of Manassas Colonel Forbes was killed, and McComb became colonel of the Fourteenth Tennessee. McComb, himself was then wounded at the Battle of Sharpsburg. At the battle of Chancellorsville, Colonel McComb was wounded again. He did not recover in time to take part in the battle of Gettysburg. He did return to duty and participated in the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg Battles. On the death of General Archer, his and Gen. Bushrod Johnson's brigade were consolidated, and Colonel McComb was placed in command of the consolidated brigades, receiving his commission as brigadier-general on the 20th of January, 1865. He surrendered with the rest of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.



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After the war, he lived in Alabama and Mississippi for a short time, before settling in Virginia in 1869. After working as a farmer for almost 50 years, McComb died on his plantation in Louisa County near Gordonsville, Virginia, on July 21, 1918. He is buried there.

Brig. General William Stephen Walker, CSA

General Walker was born April 13, 1822 in Pittsburgh, PA. He fought in the Mexican War and in 1855 was commissioned a cavalry captain. Walker resigned his U.S. Army commission in 1861 and joined the Confederate cause as a lieutenant.

He was promoted to colonel, and then in Oct. 1862 promoted again to brigadier general. He had command of South Carolina military district and then a brigade command. He was wounded and captured at Bermuda Hundred during the Petersburg campaign.

He died on June 7, 1899, in Atlanta, Ga. He is buried at Oakland Cemetery.



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Many people are surprised to learn that it is conservatively estimated that over 2,200 Pennsylvanians fought for the Confederacy¹. Although the names of many of them are lost to history, many others are not. Already you have learned a little about the six native Pennsylvanians who were Confederate generals. The three men below represent the many thousands of others whose service and sacrifice has been ignored by history, leaving modern Americans without the lessons their dedication teaches us about ourselves.

Capt. George Junkin

George Garnett Junkin was born on November 19, 1837 in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Washington College in 1859 and, at the outbreak of war, enlisted with the 4th Reg., Va Inf., the first of four companies that formed the "Stonewall Brigade". As a Lt. and A.A.G. on Stonewall Jackson's staff, he was captured on March 3, 1862 at Kernstown, Md. He described his capture in a letter written to Gen Jackson on September 10, 1862 in which he also offered his resignation as he had given an oath of allegiance to the United States so that he could be exchanged. He had originally refused to give the oath, but his father told him that he feared his mother was near death. Upon release, Junkin found that he had been misled. He re-enlisted, and was approved by Gen. Robert E. Lee, effective October 23, 1862.

On November 15, 1862, Junkin was appointed Captain in command of Company E, 27th Battalion, Virginia Mounted Rifles. On September 19, 1864, he was badly wounded. However, he again returned to his duty. On April 12, 1865, three days after Lee's surrender, he was wounded again, making him the last man wounded on Virginia soil during the war.

After the war, he practiced law in Christiansburg, Virginia, and was serving as Commonwealth Attorney for the state of Virginia at the time of his death on February 22, 1895. George Junkin was portrayed in the movie "Gods and Generals", but the portrayal was a dishonor to his memory. In the film he was portrayed as having deserted and was executed. His true story of sacrifice and dedication deserves to be told and his service properly honored.

Pvt. John Wesley Culp

Among the famous stories of the War, is that of John Wesley Culp. Wesley, as he was called, was a native of Gettysburg, PA. As a teenager, he went to work in a Gettysburg harness company. In 1858, he followed the company to Shepherdstown, Va.

When the the War broke out in 1861, Wesley enlisted in the 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment. This regiment was part of the famous "Stonewall Brigade". The fortunes of war brought Pvt. Culp back to Gettysburg in July 1863. The hill owned by his uncle, Henry Culp, was the key position on the Union Army's right flank. On July 2, the 2nd Virginia Infantry attacked Culp's Hill. During the battle, Wesley Culp was shot and killed. Pvt. Culp's body was buried on the hill by his fellow soldiers. Although a rifle stock with his named carved in it was found, his body has never been located.



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Father Emmeran Bliemal

Father Bliemal was ordained in Pittsburgh in 1852 and ministered in the Johnstown area until 1860. He was then transferred to a small parish in Nashville, TN. When Nashville was captured by Union forces in 1862, Father Bliemal went to work smuggling medicine to Confederate forces outside the city. Although caught twice, he continued his work of mercy. In November 1863, Father Bliemal joined the Confederate army as the Chaplain of the 10th TN Inf. At the Battle of Jonesboro on August 31, 1864, Father Bliemal was killed while hearing the confession of the regiment's colonel.

1. Christian B. Keller, *Keystone Confederates: Pennsylvanians Who Fought for Dixie*, in Blair, William, and William Pencak, eds., *Making and Remaking Pennsylvania's Civil War*, University Park, Pa.: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001.
2. Robinson, Richard D. and Elisabeth C. *Repassing at My Side...A Story of the Junkins*. 1975, Southern Printing County, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Support for the Confederacy was not limited to those men who joined and fought in the Confederate military. Thousands more Pennsylvanians supported the Confederate efforts politically and economically. These “Copperheads” based their support on their desire that the South be allowed to secede in peace.

Pennsylvania Secession?

There was much talk of Pennsylvania secession in the early months of 1861. Various newspapers openly published calls for secession based on economic ties to the South. Not all the support for the South was economic. Many Pennsylvanians felt a kinship with Virginia, a strong partner with Pennsylvania since the Revolution. William Bigler in a Jan. 21, 1861 speech on the Senate floor proclaimed that "Pennsylvania will never become the enemy of Virginia. Pennsylvania will never draw the sword on Virginia." He, like many other Pennsylvanians supported the Crittenden Compromise and peaceful Southern secession.

President Buchanan, himself a Pennsylvanian, took a constitutional, non-coercive approach to the secession crisis. This approach was rooted in a sound interpretation of the Constitution. Even today, the Pennsylvania Constitution declares that the People have a right to alter or abolish their government if they so wish. Leading Philadelphia Democrat William B. Reed called for a Pennsylvania convention "to determine with whom her lot should be cast, whether with the North and East, whose fanaticism has precipitated this misery upon us, or our brethren of the South whose wrongs we feel as our own." Robert Tyler, former chair of the state Democratic Executive Committee, wrote, "should the Border States join the Southern Confederacy within one, two or three years, it would then become a most serious question to determine the political status of Pennsylvania and New Jersey in that relation." And George W. Woodward, chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court not only argued for the South's right to peaceful secession, he added, "I wish Pennsylvania could go with them."

After Ft. Sumter, war fever set in and leading Philadelphia secessionists like Tyler were run out of town by mobs. George McHenry, former director of the Philadelphia Board of Trade and delegate to the Democratic Convention of 1860, was forced to flee to London for his own safety and advocated for the Confederate cause from there, including publishing writings on why Pennsylvania should secede.

“Copperheads”

Support for Lincoln's war began to ebb as early as the summer of 1861. A tavern-keeper, speaking at a pro-Southern meeting in Kirkwood, Lancaster County, in August 1861 was reported by the *West Chester Village Record* as having said: "I am in favor of secession, and believe the South are justifiable in their rebellion and hope they may succeed." He added, "I am for the whole country, North, South, East, and West; all except God-damned New England." Pro-Southern meetings occurred throughout Pennsylvania during the war. Student Tellico Johnson reported that in 1864 students from what is now Penn State attacked and beat members of a caravan of several wagonloads of Southern sympathizers, including women and children, who passed by the college on their return from one such rally.

From the many attacks upon them in the newspapers of the period, it is clear that many Pennsylvanians supported the Confederate cause behind the scenes to the very end. After the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1-3, 1863, the first edition of the *Star and Banner* not only told of the major battle, but also of the aid the Confederate army was given by various local citizens.

As the war went on, opposition continued to increase. Riots and murders in opposition to the draft broke out throughout Pennsylvania. Although not all of these were based on support of the Confederacy, they were all in opposition to a Union by Force. It is possible to gain some idea of the magnitude of the opposition to the war by 1864 by looking at the election results. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln won the state with 56.3% of the vote. In 1864, he won with only 51.6% of the vote, despite reports of many “copperheads” being barred from the polling places. A look at the county by county results shows that more than half of Pennsylvania's counties, mostly rural, did not go for Lincoln in 1864.

Pennsylvania was the site of numerous military operations by Confederate forces from 1862 through 1864. Most were cavalry operations, but the greatest battle of the war was fought here in Pennsylvania and its field is the symbol of that war even to this day. This publication provides an overview of just a few of the major actions.

Raid of Mercersburg, Chambersburg & Cashtown - Oct. 10-11, 1862

In a daring raid in the aftermath of the Battle of Sharpsburg, Gen. Stuart took his cavalry into Pennsylvania and raided Mercersburg, Chambersburg and Cashtown. Stuart left Virginia on October 9 with 1,800 cavalrymen. At the time, the Union Army of the Potomac was still camped in western Maryland and Stuart was trying to gather information on McClellan's army and harass his supply lines. On the evening of October 10, the Confederate troopers entered Chambersburg after having already captured Mercersburg at noon. About half of the supplies for the Union army came through the rail center, and Stuart planned to destroy a railway bridge in the town. On the morning of October 11, they began cutting telegraph lines, seizing government supplies they could carry and destroying those they could not. Stuart ordered his troops to respect private property, "Individual plunder for private use is positively forbidden, and in every instance must be punished in the severest manner, for an army of plunderers consummates its own destruction." Attempts to destroy the steel railroad bridge failed, and Stuart ordered his men to turn back to Virginia by the afternoon of October 11, passing through Cashtown. The raid covered nearly 130 miles, netted 1,200 horses and 500 guns, and captured 30 local officials to be exchanged for Confederate civil prisoners. His force suffered just one man wounded and two missing.

The Valley Spirit noted on October 15, 1862 that "The town was surrendered on the terms that private property would be respected and citizens unmolested." William Heyser, a prominent town businessman, spoke in his diary, on October 11, 1862, of the behavior of the troops: "The troops were well disciplined and polite. Not a single horse or person injured." Alexander McClure, a town leader, echoed Heyser's sentiment, "His (General Stuart's) demeanor to our people was that of a humane soldier. In several instances his men commenced to take private property from stores, but they were arrested by General Stuart's provost guard. In a single instance only, that I heard of, did they enter a store by intimidating the proprietor."

Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3 1863

Following his stunning victory at Chancellorsville in May, 1863, General Lee received approval from his government to carry the war into the north. Lee hoped the move would drive Lincoln to consider peace and, at least, disrupt the Union war effort. On June 3, advance troops of the Confederate army left their camps near Fredericksburg and started north. On June 28, Longstreet and Hill's corps were at Chambersburg and divisions of Ewell's corps had crossed the mountains to York and Carlisle, and were preparing to move against Harrisburg. Lee, learning that the Union army was in close pursuit, decided to concentrate his entire army and offer battle. By June 30, both armies were converging upon Gettysburg and the battle, which would be the turning point of the war, was set to commence.

Day 1 - Gettysburg was occupied by Brigadier General John Buford's division of Union cavalry. Gen. Hill sent the divisions of Major General Henry Heth and Major General William Pender down the Chambersburg Road to drive Buford away and occupy Gettysburg. The battle began at 5.30 a.m., when shots were exchanged over Marsh Creek. By 4 p.m., the Union army was in retreat through Gettysburg to Cemetery Hill. The day's action had resulted in a Confederate victory, but Union forces held onto the high ground south of Gettysburg, where their position was soon strengthened by reinforcements.

Day 2 - The success of his army in the fighting on July 1 encouraged Lee to renew the battle on July 2. Lee directed Longstreet to attack the Union left flank. While Longstreet carried out the main offensive, Ewell was ordered to conduct a demonstration against the Union right but, if an opportunity should arise, to mount a full-scale attack.

In the early afternoon, Longstreet attacked. After furious fighting, Longstreet's forces broke through the Union line and pursued the retreating forces to the base of Little Round Top, but Union reinforcements

stopped their advance. On the Union right, Ewell did not attack until evening, after Longstreet's onslaught had subsided. The effort to storm Cemetery Hill was ultimately unsuccessful. Ewell's attacks were also repulsed at Culp's Hill, where Pvt. Culp was killed. Each army suffered around 9,000 casualties. Lee's forces had again gained ground, but had failed to dislodge the Union army from its strong position.

Day 3 - Lee's confidence was unshaken by the events of July 2. That night, he ordered Longstreet, who had been reinforced by Major General George Pickett's division, to renew his assault on the Union left. Ewell, who had also been reinforced, was to storm Culp's Hill. Stuart's cavalry, which had rejoined the army late that day, was ordered to attempt to penetrate to the Union rear.

Morning brought a Union effort to retake all of Culp's Hill. With Ewell already engaged, Lee rode to Longstreet's headquarters. With the hope of a coordinated attack now lost, Lee was forced to modify his plans. He determined to shift his main attack to the Union center on Cemetery Ridge. The plan was first to subject the Union position to bombardment by nearly 140 cannon, then to send Pickett, Pettigrew and half of Trimble's divisions, roughly 12,000 men, forward to smash the Union center.

While Longstreet was preparing for the attack, Ewell's forces were defeated in their counterattacks on Culp's Hill, and withdrew around 11:00 a.m. At 1:00 p.m., Longstreet began the massive bombardment of the Union line. The Union army replied with approximately 80 cannon and a giant duel ensued which lasted for nearly two hours. After the bombardment, the infantry went forward in what history has deemed: "Pickett's Charge." Marching and then charging into the muzzles of thousands of rifles and scores of cannon, their valiant formations were cut to pieces and they suffered great losses. A small Confederate force penetrated the Union line, but was could not hold it long enough for help to arrive. The attack ended in disaster, with nearly 5,600 Confederate casualties.

Three miles east of Gettysburg, Stuart's cavalry was engaged with Union cavalry under Brigadier General David Gregg. The cavalry clash was indecisive, but Stuart was unable to attack the Union rear. The battle was over. Union losses numbered approximately 23,000, while estimates of Confederate losses range between 20,000 and 28,000.

Burning of Chambersburg, July 30, 1864

In response to the Union army's burning of Lexington, VA, the Confederate army sent a cavalry force into Pennsylvania to either get repayment for the damages to civilian property or suffer a like fate. Gen. McCausland and his Confederate troops pushed through Maryland and Pennsylvania territory through the clear night of July 29th. The men were exhausted from the continuous marching and riding and having not slept for two days. They made a rest stop in Mercersburg to feed their horses and regroup the cavalry shortly after sunset. While many Chambersburg locals thought the Confederate force couldn't take the town, the bankers evacuated the town, taking with them the Chambersburg cash reserves.

At 3 am, the first Confederate forces reached the outskirts of Chambersburg. The small Union force under Gen. Couch quickly withdrew from the city. By sunrise, over eight hundred Confederate soldiers occupied the streets. The Courthouse bell was rung to call people to the center of town and they were presented with a written order from Gen. Early demanding \$500,000 in US currency, or \$100,000 in gold in repayment of damages for the destruction of Lexington. The banks being empty, the debt could not be paid.

At the expiration of the deadline to make payment, Gen. McCausland ordered brigades to fire the town. For one hour, the squad set buildings, homes, and businesses on fire. The burning was concentrated in the middle of the town. All of the large buildings were destroyed, including the court house. As the huge columns of smoke and fire enveloped the town, the Confederates pulled back. While there were horrific stories of disabled people being locked in burning homes, or women forced to bring back possessions into their burning homes, no Chambersburg resident was killed during the incident. The only person to be killed was a straggling Confederate who was caught and murdered by a group of angry of residents after the rest of the troops had left.

Pennsylvania is the final resting place of hundreds of Confederate soldiers who died in battle, as prisoners or as old veterans long after the war. It is home to many monuments to the brave soldiers of the Confederate army who struggled here. It is also the place where the veterans of that epic conflict came together in mutual respect and peace.

Eternal Light Peace Memorial

On July 3, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt came to Gettysburg, PA to dedicate the Peace Memorial on the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The monument was constructed with granite from Maine and limestone from Alabama, symbolizing the unity of the nation. Its eternal flame serves as a beacon of light and peace.

The memorial was conceived by Union and Confederate veterans who first proposed the monument during the 1913 Anniversary. Funds for the project were difficult to find and the Great Depression postponed its construction. Various governors, veteran groups and several state legislatures joined in the effort and the memorial project was finally driven to completion.

Over two thousand aged veterans from both sides with an average age over 95 years old (the oldest was 112 years old) showed up for that reunion in 1938 and camped in tents for the event. An estimated 250,000 people attended the dedication while another 100,000 were stuck on jammed highways. The dedication of the memorial by President Roosevelt was the highlight of four days of activities and events.

Roosevelt said at the dedication, "All of them we honor, not asking under which Flag they fought then - thankful that they stand together under one Flag now."



Gettysburg NMP

On September 3, 2004, descendants of the Confederate and Union soldiers who fought in that epic battle gathered again at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial for a memorial service sponsored by the Pennsylvania Division, SCV. They stood together in memory of those brave men who battled on that hallowed field and to voice their unified opposition to those who defame the symbols of those soldiers. Descendants from both sides expressed support and defense of the Confederate Battle Flag. Henry Kidd, speaking for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, said, "It doesn't matter how much rain; it doesn't matter how many tears; the blood will never be washed away from this soil. I am here tonight to claim back the honor of the Confederate soldier and his flag."

Today the light still burns all day and through the night over the inscription that reads, "An Enduring Light to Guide Us in Unity and Fellowship". It is not only a symbol of the spirit of reconciliation of the veterans of that war, but also a call to treat all people and their heritage and symbols with equal respect. The Pennsylvania Division and all of the Sons of Confederate Veterans share that same goal.

The United States Monument to Confederate Dead

Under two markers, 184 known and 224 unknown Confederate soldiers are buried in Philadelphia National Cemetery. The dedication of the monument erected by the United States to the known prison dead buried there took place in 1911 with many Confederate and Union veterans present. It was the first monument ever erected by the U.S. government to Confederate dead. The light granite monument marks the resting place of the Confederate soldiers who died in Philadelphia and in the prison at Chester. A sword and scabbard crossed are chiseled in front near the top, and bronze tablets bearing the names of the 184 dead are on the sides. The following inscription is on the front of the shaft:

"ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES To Mark the Burial Place of 184 Confederate Soldiers and Sailors, as shown by the Records, who, while Prisoners of War, died either at Chester, Pa., or were there buried, or at Philadelphia, and were buried in Glenwood Cemetery, and whose Remains were subsequently removed to this Cemetery, where the Individual Graves cannot now be identified."

The words of Mr. John Beard, the keynote speaker at the dedication, still ring true today:

"It is fitting and appropriate that the first monument ever erected by the Federal government to Confederate dead should be in a Federal cemetery under the very shadow of old Independence Hall, the birthplace of thirteen sovereign States, and also under the shadow of the building where the Constitution of the United States, for the principles of which those dead gave their lives, was framed. Is not this action of the Federal government pregnant with the hope that the time has at last come when an American citizen can contemplate the achievements of his fellow-countrymen, from whatever section of the Union they may hail, with the same pride as the Englishmen who, pointing to the names of England's heroes emblazoned on the walls of Westminster Abbey who fought in days gone by for different and oftentimes antagonistic convictions, but who fought nobly and well whichever side they espoused, tells us of victor and vanquished alike -- that they are the men who in the past history of his country illustrated the heroism, the nobility, and the highest virtues of the Anglo-Saxon race?

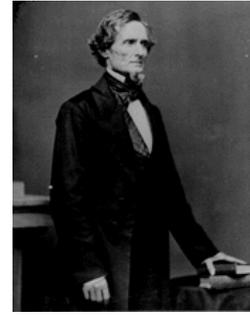
The superb courage of the Southern soldiers upon the field of battle and the consummate skill of the Southern Commanders are recognized and admitted by all. Even Colonel (Teddy) Roosevelt in his "Life of Thomas H. Benton" has said that General Lee was the greatest military commander that the English-speaking people has ever produced, and that the Army of Northern Virginia was the greatest fighting machine the world has ever seen.

But the South is to be judged not alone by the courage and efficiency of her armies and the skill of her commanders, but by the righteousness of the cause for which they fought and suffered. The question of paramount magnitude is the justice of that cause; not that there should be a doubt in any candid, well-informed mind, but from the fact that such persistent efforts have been made to fasten upon the South the stigma and to impress posterity with the conviction that the Southern States were in rebellion and the Southern patriots were traitors, and an unjust and partial world is too ready to stamp upon the back of the defeated soldier "Rebel" and "Traitor," however just his cause, and to emblazon upon the shield of the victorious warrior "Hero" and "Patriot," however unjust his cause. Therefore we of this generation are under a high and sacred obligation to the preceding generation to rescue their names and fame from the aspersion of treason and rebellion.

The Southern States were justified in their action in 1861 upon both principle and authority. They had both precept and precedent, and yet the Southern people of '61-65 have been stigmatized as rebels. If it be rebellion in man to pour out the best blood that flows in his veins upon the battle's bloody plain in freedom's holy sacred cause; if it be rebellion in an American citizen to defend those constitutional rights which are his dearest birthright and greatest inheritance from those great founders of this great republic, then we accept the appellation and feel a pride in saying that we were members of that rebellious body or are the descendants of those rebels."

The Confederate States of America

The Confederate States of America was founded in 1861 and never surrendered, although various military units surrendered individually. It was a new nation of 11 seceded states as well as two states which had competing governments that declared allegiance to both the Union and the Confederacy. Jefferson Davis (right), of Mississippi, was the President of the C.S.A. and the capital city was Richmond Va. for the majority of those years.



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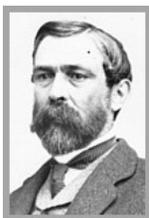
The Confederacy was very similar in political structure to the United States, using almost an identical Constitution. The Founders of the Confederacy believed that they were the true protectors of the Constitution, which they knew the United States had violated. A few differences between the Confederate Constitution and the Union Constitution were that the President was elected to only one 6 year term, the Postal Service of the Confederacy was designed to be self-sufficient after one year (which it succeeded in doing) and they included a ban on the importation of slaves.

Although short of nearly all the tools of war, the Confederacy accomplished things the United States would not see for many years. By the first major battle of the war, the Confederate armies already included racially integrated units and a few black officers. It wouldn't be until after World War II that the United States desegregated its military. The Confederacy also pioneered many new military inventions: land mines, gas warfare (noxious, non-toxic), the first successful submarine and many others. The Confederacy also brought together people of all ethnicities, faiths and backgrounds in the name of Independence as their ancestors had before them.

The Confederacy also produced some of the greatest military commanders in the history of the world. Along with the great Robert E. Lee were many others whose names and deeds still stir the hearts of millions such as: "Stonewall" Jackson, John Mosby, Nathan Bedford Forrest and J.E.B. Stuart.

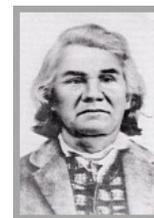
Despite all the great innovations, the successes of the armies in the field and the efforts of so many dedicated and talented men, the weak position in terms of man power and industry that the South started with could not be overcome. As the war ran longer and the South lost more territory, men and material, the hope of a Confederate victory vaporized.

Diplomatically, the Confederacy never was able to secure true recognition from abroad. The French involvement in the American Revolution of 1776 was not repeated during the War Between the States, although they were granted belligerent status by the British and French. France, more pro-Southern than England, would not act alone in fear that their position in European affairs might suffer. Thus Britain and France acted in concert, or rather, together they failed to act. They sided with neither and alienated both during the war.



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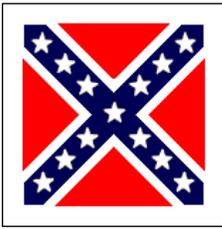
After the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, the rest of the Confederacy fell quickly. One by one the remaining armies in the field surrendered. The last large army, the Army of Tennessee, surrendered under Gen. Joseph Johnston on April 26, 1865. Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor (left), son of President Zachary Taylor, surrendered the last Army east of the Mississippi on May 4, 1865. Gen. Stand Watie (right), the highest ranking Native American, was the last Confederate general to surrender an army on June 23, 1865.



Library of Congress

Interestingly, although the armies were defeated and its leaders imprisoned without trial, the government of the Confederate States of America never officially surrendered or disbanded. It is also interesting to note that slavery continued in the United States all during the war and for many months after the defeat of the Confederacy, proving that the war was not truly about freeing slaves. As with all conflict, it was about power and control. If we fail to see the truth of what happened and learn from it, we risk repeating the mistakes of the past in our own time.

Confederate Symbols



Battle Flags

The most revered and most recognizable symbol of the South is the Battle Flag. The Army of Northern Virginia Battle Flag is a square flag featuring a blue St. Andrew's Cross holding 13 white stars upon a red background, surrounded by a white border. A rectangular flag with an elongated St. Andrew's Cross holding 13 white stars upon a red background without a white border was the Battle Flag for the Army of Tennessee and a Naval Jack. In more recent times, that version has been used by organizations making false claims to Southern Heritage and by peddlers of hate who have no right to use it.



The Battle Flag was created for use by infantry units and was incorporated into the 2nd National and 3rd National flags of the Confederacy. It was never a National flag of the Confederacy, but rather a "Soldier's Flag".



Bonnie Blue Flag

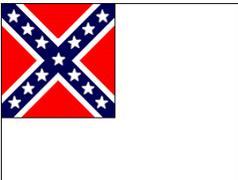
Although never an official flag of the Confederacy, it was a temporary national symbol from the infancy of what was to become the Confederate States of America. The single star is a symbol of unity and it is to this day a symbol of Southern Heritage and the spirit of Southern Unity.



1st National Flag (Stars and Bars)

A new nation needed a national flag and so came the 1st National Flag, commonly known as the "Stars and Bars". The 7 states that originally formed the Confederacy designed the Stars and Bars. That is the reason there are only seven stars in the canton of the true Stars and Bars. As other states joined, more stars were added.

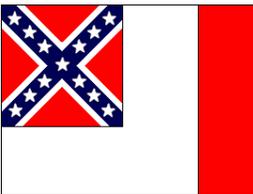
The Stars and Bars was much too similar in appearance to the U.S. flag. In the smoke-filled confusion of battle, the flags were hard to distinguish from one another. Although replaced by the 2nd National flag, the Stars and Bars did not disappear. Many units used it and Gen. Lee used a version of it for his headquarters.



2nd National Flag (Stainless Banner)

The 2nd National Flag or "Stainless Banner" incorporates the Southern Cross from the Battle Flag in the canton of a pure white flag. The startling contrast of the red against the simplicity of the rest of the flag and the fact that it flew over some of the greatest victories, is why it is called the "Stainless Banner". Unfortunately, it was also found to be problematic in the confusion of battle. In conditions where

no wind lifted it or when it became wrapped around its pole, it resembled a flag of surrender. To avoid confusion, the flag was changed once again.



3rd National Flag

A striking flag, the 3rd National is the Stainless Banner plus a broad red vertical bar at the far end. This made the flag very distinctive and removed confusion about the disposition of the units, even in light winds or when the flag became entangled. It remains today as the official symbol of the Confederacy from a historical perspective and a very popular flag for Confederate descendants.

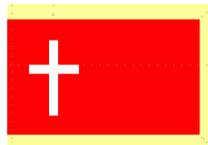
There were also scores of other designs that are less well known. Below are a few of those flags:



Van Dorn Flag



Choctaw Brigade



Cumming's Brigade



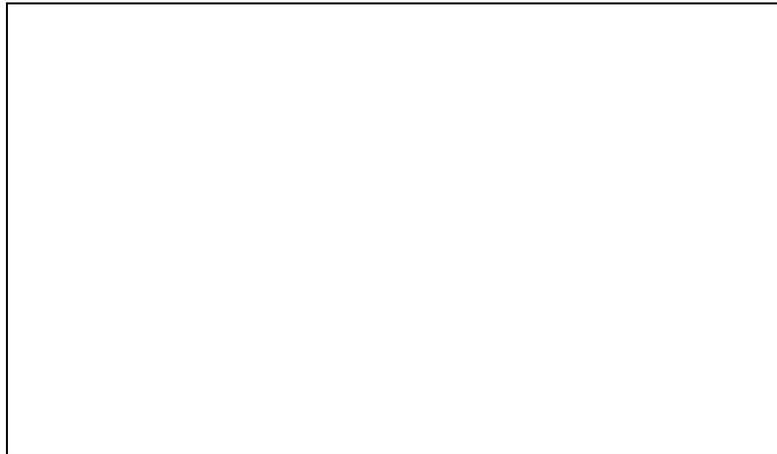
Hardee's Corps



Breckinridge's Corps



To learn more about Pennsylvania's Confederate Heritage and History, the Pennsylvania Division or the Sons of Confederate Veterans, please use the contact information provided below:



On the Front Cover:
Statue of Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton at Vicksburg Battlefield – M. Duminiak
Pvt. John Wesley Culp – Library of Congress
Marker to Unknown Confederate Dead at Philadelphia National Cemetery – M. Duminiak