Confederate History: Dispelling the Myths

History books, the media, the school systems, etc. abound in falsehoods and inaccuracies of Confederate and Southern history. This fact sheet will help to clarify and dispel some of these rampant inaccuracies.

MYTH: The War of 1861-1865 was fought over slavery.

FACT: Terriby untrue. The North fought the war over money—plain and simple. When the South started Seccession, Lincoln was asked, “Why not let the South go in peace?” To which he replied, “I can’t let them go. Who would pay for the government?” Sensing total financial ruin for the North, Lincoln waged war on the South. The South fought the war to repel Northern aggression and invasion.

MYTH: Only Southerners owned slaves.

FACT: Entirely untrue. Many Northern civilians owned slaves—prior to, during and even after the War of Northern Aggression. Surprisingly, to many history-impaired individuals, most Union Generals and staff had slaves to serve them! William T. Sherman had many slaves that served him until well after the war was over and did not free them until late in 1865.

U.S. Grant also had several slaves, who were only freed after the 13th Amendment in December 1865. When asked why he didn’t free his slaves earlier, Grant stated, “Good help is so hard to come by these days.”

Contrarily, Confederate General Robert E. Lee freed his slaves (which he never purchased—they were inherited) in 1862! Lee freed his slaves several years before the war was over, and consid-
Adjutant Report

Col. William Norris Camp #1398
May 5, 2015, monthly meeting minutes

Commander Frank Brown Jr. called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Members present were: Commander Brown, Dave Redden, Bob Brewer, John Hower-ton, Bruce Funk and Mike Bertocchi. Special guest was Katey Brewer.

- The invocation was given by Bob Brewer.
- Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag and the Salute to The Confederate Flag was led by Commander Brown.
- Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans was read by Commander Brown.

The Guest Speaker was Ted Alexander.

Topics discussed was the Aug. 22 Potomac River Crossing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Brown Jr., Commander

Guest Speaker:
Brett Spaulding

Park Ranger Brett Spaulding was born in Altoona, Pa. He served in the United States Army and attended The Pennsylvania State University where he received a degree in Geography with a minor in History. In 2001, Spaulding took a position as a seasonal Park Ranger on the Blue Ridge Parkway and later that year was hired as a full-time Par Ranger at Monocacy National Battlefield. While at Monocacy, he wrote and published the book “Last Chance for Victory: Jubal Early’s 1864 Maryland Invasion” and appeared as a historian in the Emmy Award-winning Maryland Public Television documentary “Heart of the Civil War.”
Confederate History: Dispelling the Myths

Continued from page 1

erably earlier than his Northern counterparts. And during the fierce early days of the war when the South was obliterating the Yankee armies!

Lastly, and most importantly, why did Northern states outlaw slavery only after the war was over? The so-called “Emancipation Proclamation” of Lincoln only gave freedom to slaves in the South! Not in the North! This pecksniffery even went so far as to find the state of Delaware rejecting the 13th Amendment in December 1865 and did not ratify it (13th Amendment/free the slaves) until 1901!

**MYTH:** The Confederate Battle Flag was flown on slave ships.

**FACT:** None of the flags of the Confederacy or Southern Nation ever flew over a slave ship. Nor did the South own or operate any slave ships. The English, the Dutch and the Portugese brought slaves to this country, not the Southern Nation.

But, even more monumental, it is also very important to know and understand that Federal, Yankee and Union ships brought slaves to America! These ships were from the New England states, and their hypocrisy is atrocious.

These Federals were ones that ended up crying the loudest about slavery. But without their ships, many of the slaves would have never arrived here. They made countless fortunes on the delivery of slaves as well as the products made from raw materials such as cotton and tobacco in the South.

This is the problem with Yankee history. History is overwhelmingly portrayed incorrectly by most of the Federal and Yankee books and media.

**MYTH:** The Confederate Battle Flag represented the Southern Nation.

**FACT:** Not true. While the Southern Battle Flag was carried into battle, the Southern Nation had three different National flags during the course of the war.

The First National Flag was changed due to the resemblance of the U.S. flag.

The Second National Flag was subsequently modified due to the similarity to a flag of truce.

The Third National Flag was the adopted flag of the Confederacy.

The Confederate Battle Flag was never a National Flag of the Confederacy. It was carried into battle by several armies such as the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of Tennessee. It was also used as a Naval Jack by the Confederate Navy.

**MYTH:** The Confederate Battle Flag is known as the “Stars and Bars.”

**FACT:** A common misconception. The First National Confederate Flag is correctly known as the “Stars and Bars.” The Confederate Battle Flag is known as the “Southern Cross.”

See Myths, page 4
Confederate History: Dispelling the Myths

Continued from page 3

**MYTH:** The Confederate Battle Flag represents racism today.

**FACT:** The Confederate Battle Flag today finds itself in the center of much controversy and hoopla going on in several states. The cry to take this flag down is unjustified. It is very important to keep in mind that the Confederate Battle Flag was simply just that. A battle flag. It was never end a National flag, so how could it have flown over a slave nation or represented slavery or racism? This myth is continued by lack of education and ignorance. Those that vilify the Confederate Battle Flag are very confused about history and have jumped upon a bandwagon with loose wheels.

**MYTH:** The United States Flag represented freedom.

**FACT:** No chance. The U.S. flag flew over a slave nation for over 85 years! The North tolerated slavery and acknowledged it as a Division of Labor. The North made a vast fortune on slavery and it’s commodities. It wasn’t until the South decided to leave the Union that the North objected. The North knew it could not survive without the Southern money. That is the true definition of hypocrisy.

**MYTH:** Abraham Lincoln was the Great Emancipator.

**FACT:** While Lincoln went down in history as the Great Emancipator, many would not care to hear his real thoughts on people of color. Martyred President Abraham Lincoln was fervently making plans to send all freed slaves to the jungles of Central America once the war was over. Knowing that African society would never allow the slaves to return back to Africa, Lincoln also did not want the slaves in the U.S. He thought the jungles of Central America would be the best solution and conducive to the freed slaves best interest. The only thing that kept this from happening was his assassination.

**MYTH:** The South revered slavery.

**FACT:** A very interesting fact on slavery is that at the time of the War of 1861-1865 officially commenced, the Southern States were actually in the process of freeing all slaves in the South. Russia had freed its servants in 1859, and the South took great note of this. Had military intervention not been forced upon the South, a very different America would have been realized then as well as now.

**MYTH:** The Confederate Army was comprised of rich slave owners.

**FACT:** Very far from true. The vast majority of soldiers in the Confederate Army were simple men of meager income. Most of which were hard-working farmers and common men. Then, as now, very few rich men ever fight a war.

See Myths, page 5
**Confederate History: Dispelling the Myths**

Continued from page 4

**MYTH:** Only the North had men of color in their ranks.

**FACT:** Quite simply a major falsehood in history. Many black, both free and of their own will, joined the Confederate Army to fight for their beloved Southern home. Additionally, men of other ethnic extraction fought as well. Oriental, Mexican and Spanish men as well as Native American Indians fought with pride for the South.

Today, many men of color are members in the heritage group SCV—Sons of Confederate Veterans. These men of color and pride rejoice in their heritage. The continued attacks on the Southern Nation, the Confederacy, and her symbols are a terrible outrage to these fine people. These attacks should be denounced with as much fervor as those who denounce the South.

**MYTH:** The Confederate Flags are an authorized symbol of Aryan, KK and hate groups.

**FACT:** Quite the contrary. These despicable organizations such as the KK and Aryans have taken a hallowed piece of history, and have plagued good Southern folks and the memories of fine Confederate soldiers and fought under the flag with their perverse agenda. In no way does the Confederate Flag represent hate or violence. Heritage groups such as the SCV battle daily the damage done to a proud nation by these hate groups. The SCV denounces all hate groups, and pridefully boast Heritage—not hate.

**MYTH:** The Sons of Confederate Veterans are a racist hate group.

**FACT:** This is a blatant attack on one of the finest heritage groups ever. The SCV are a historical, patriotic and non-political organization comprised of descendents of Confederate soldiers dedicated to insuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved and represented to the public. The SCV continues to educate the public of the memory and reputation of the Confederate soldier as well as the motives for his suffering and sacrifice.

The SCV are in no way affiliated with, nor does it recognize or condone the terrible legacy of hate groups.
The newsletter of the Colonel William Norris Camp #1398 is published 12 times a year by the camp as a service to its membership and to the public.

Officers

Frank Brown Jr., Commander
5008 Tothill Drive
Olney, MD 20832
Phone: 240-876-7470
Email: fbrwnmcbrwn@aol.com

David Redden, 1st Lt. Commander
19109 Dowden Circle
Poolesville, MD 20837
Phone: 301-351-7260
Email: daveredden@hotmail.com

Major David King Jr., 2nd Lt. Commander
5611 Oak Place
Bethesda, MD 20817
Phone: 301-530-7634
Email: Dejota.King@verizon.net

Dan Buckingham, 3rd Lt. Commander
11521 Front Field Lane
Potomac, MD 20854
Phone: 301-983-9002
Email: danbuckingham@hurrisafe.com

Bob Brewer, Historian
205 E. Deer Park Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Phone: 301-977-0087
Email: brewer000@verizon.net

Steve Fernandez, Color Sergeant
702 Grandin Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 301-943-0039
Email: remissong2730@msn.com

Thomas Keefer, Chaplain
12558 Cross Bridge Way
Germantown, MD 20874
Phone: 301-980-9826
Email: tskeef@yahoo.com

John Howerton, Recruiting Officer
5031 Edmonston Road
Hyattsville, MD 20781
Phone: 301-779-0519
Email: jech95@netzero.net

Jim Stargel, Heritage Office/Quartermaster
Email: jim.stargel@ffa.gov