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# Officer's Call

## *The Lincoln Myth*

By Dr. Gary Loudermilk

Anyone who has attended public schools knows Abraham Lincoln as the author of the Emancipation Proclamation and the famous Gettysburg address. We were taught that this benevolent man freed the slaves and we have seen pictures of and/or visited in person the beautiful Lincoln Memorial in Washington. In numerous polls to determine the most popular president Lincoln almost always ranks number one or two. However, there is a "Lincoln" that we no longer read about in our history books and this article is about that man. Research and un-refuted historical data indicate that Lincoln was first and foremost a politician. Often his position on a question was based more on what he thought politically expedient at the time rather than on any moral compass he might have had.

One source of insight into Lincoln the man can be found in how his contemporaries viewed him. There are many speeches, letters and other documents still surviving from the time of Lincoln's presidency to illustrate in what regard his fellow men held him. The violence of the criticism aimed at Lincoln by the great men of his time on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line was startling. Mr. Lincoln was deeply reviled by many who knew him personally, and by hundreds of thousands who only knew of him. One example is an article in the Salem Illinois Advocate, a newspaper printed in Lincoln's home ground of central Illinois. The article was written as Lincoln approached Washington by train for his 1861 inauguration. It read:

*"The illustrious honest old Abe has continued during the last week to make a fool of himself*

*and to mortify and shame the intelligent people of this great nation. His speeches have demonstrated the fact that although originally a Herculean rail splitter and more lately a whimsical story teller and side splitter, he is no more capable of becoming a statesman, nay, even a moderate one, than the braying ass can become a noble lion. People now marvel how it came to pass that Mr. Lincoln should have been selected as the representative man of any party. His weak, wishy-washy, namby-pamby efforts, imbecile in matter, disgusting in manner, have made us the laughing stock of the whole world. The European powers will despise us because we have no better material out of which to make a President. The truth is, Lincoln is only a moderate lawyer and in the larger cities of the Union could pass for no more than a facetious pettifogger. Take him from his vocation and he loses even these small characteristics and indulges in simple twaddle which would disgrace a well-bred school boy."*

The most esteemed orator in America, Edward Everett, wrote about Lincoln in his diary: *"He is evidently a person of very inferior cast of character, wholly unequal to the crisis."*

From Washington, Congressman Charles Francis Adams wrote, *"His speeches have fallen like a wet blanket here. They put to flight all notions of greatness."*

So how was Lincoln remembered a few years later? One viewpoint can be found in a book published forty years after the War in 1904. In that era authors and speakers could critique Lincoln without being accused of "racism", a term yet to be invented, and they did so.

*- Continued on Page 5 -*

Military Order of the Stars and Bars International,  
P O Box 18901, Raleigh, NC 27619-8901  
Email: [Headquarters@mosbihq.org](mailto:Headquarters@mosbihq.org)

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## Article Submittal Request

If you have an article that you would like to be considered for publication, please send your submittal to Jeff Sizemore (Editor General) at [swampeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:swampeditor@yahoo.com).

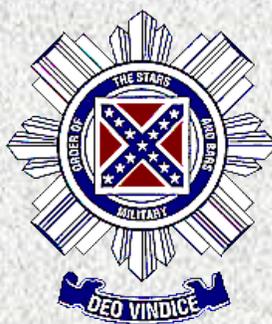
Chapter and Society News is also welcome. Please email to the address. The preferred submittal is one in which the articles are in MS Word format and that all pictures are in jpeg format as this makes it easier to format to the proper scale within this publication.

Note that references and footnotes are requested to support where the original information is acquired as it is up to the article writer to provide such material.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thanks.

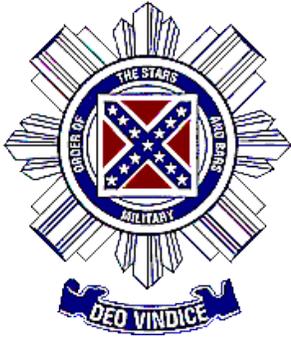
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officials. We are dedicated to the preservation and education of the memory of our ancestors and the traditional values of our Southern Heritage. Address all general business or advertising correspondence to MOS&B IHQ, P O Box 18901, Raleigh, NC 27619-8901.



## Commander General's Message

On September 24, 2016 the General Executive Council (GEC) met in Richmond, Virginia. I would like to thank Comptroller General Conway Moncure for making superb arrangements for the hotel accommodations, meeting room and tours following the meeting. We were able to hold our meeting at the Museum of the Confederacy and tour both the Tredegar Iron Works and Shockoe Hill Cemetery.



Named for the famous iron works at Tredegar, Wales, Tredegar Iron Works opened in 1837 and stood as Richmond's foremost business concern for more than a century. The city's location next to a waterpower source, its proximity to working coalfields, and the development of the railroad industry in the 1830's and 1840's, made Richmond the iron and coal center of the South. Iron ore was brought to the city from western Virginia via the James River and Kanawha Canal, which ran past Tredegar.



The onset of the War Between the States in 1861 meant a steady workload for Tredegar. The Confederate authorities selected Richmond as the capital of the Confederacy that year, in part because of Tredegar's irreplaceable value to the fledgling nation. Shortages of both raw material and skilled labor kept Tredegar from functioning at full capacity during the war years; nonetheless, Tredegar produced more than 1,000 cannons for the Confederacy. It also

made armor plating for use on Confederate ironclad warships, including the famous CSS *Virginia*.

Today both the National Park Service and the Museum of the Confederacy have excellent museums on the site.

We were very fortunate to have a private guided tour of Shockoe Hill Cemetery by Jeffrey Burden, immediate past president of the Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery (FOSHC) and past Commander in Chief of MOLLUS. FOSHC has an ongoing project to determine the names of the soldiers who are buried there and to provide headstones for them. There are roughly 250 Confederate soldiers who are buried there in unmarked graves, as well as an unknown number of Union soldiers. Most of the graves were provided for the patients of the Richmond Alms House – a military hospital located directly across the street from the cemetery.



The first challenge that confronted FOSHC was to determine the names of the men who were buried there. That was just the first obstacle to be overcome. Once the name of a de-



ceased soldier was known they then attempted to determine the individual's next-of kin. In cases where the next-of-kin cannot be determined, FOSHC asks organizations such as ours to "adopt a soldier" and provide the funding to purchase and install a headstone. That is exactly what MOS&B did. The FOSHC program is particularly redeeming because they will match any donation and provide a second headstone for another soldier who is buried there.

In 2014 the MOS&B purchased a headstone for Pvt. Jacob Seither, Company K, 14<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry Regiment. A second monument was also installed in our name for an unknown soldier who died from drowning in 1862. We are indebted to the members of the Friends of Shockhoe Hill Cemetery for their unselfish and heartwarming work. We salute the members of FOSHC for their dedication to preserve the memories of those individuals who fought for our cause.

Deo Vindice!

***Harold F. Davis, JJJ***

Commander General

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- From Page 1: *The Lincoln Myth* -

The 1904 book, "Facts and Falsehoods about the War on the South" contains a scathing review of Lincoln and his presidency. The book is notable because of its well-known author, Elizabeth Avery Meriwether (writing under the pseudonym of George Edmonds.) Ms. Meriwether (1824-1916) was an author, publisher and prominent activist in the women's suffrage movement in the United States. She is depicted in a life-size bronze statue in the Women's Suffrage Memorial in Market Square in Knoxville, Tennessee, along with Anne Dallas Dudley of Nashville and Lizzie Crozier French of Knoxville.

Here are some of Ms. Meriwether's comments on Lincoln.

*"Amid the universal din of praise that it has become the fashion to sing of Lincoln, only the student remembers the real facts, only the student knows not only that the Lincoln of the popular imagination of today bears little or no resemblance to the real Lincoln, but that the deification of Lincoln was planned and carried out by the members of his own party, by men who but a few short hours before Booth's bullet did its deadly work at Ford's theater, were reviling him as a buffoon, a coarse, vulgar jester. History affords no stranger spectacle than this, that today, nearly forty years after his death, the American people, North and South, have come to regard almost as a god a man who, when living, and up to the very hour of his death, was looked upon with contempt by nearly every man of his own party who intimately knew him, even by members of his Cabinet, by Senators, Congressmen, preachers and plain citizens."* [Facts and Falsehoods, p.2]

These opinions define how others thought of him at the various times but perhaps the best measure of the man can be found in his own words. Was he our country's best President or was he a political hack? Did he care for the African-American and really want to end slavery or did he use that issue to further his personal agenda? Did he believe what he said in the Gettysburg Address or was that just an-

other chance to "politic"? These questions and other similar ones have been answered in a very positive and favorable light in our text books today but do they portray the real Lincoln? Using Lincoln's own words we can each reach our own conclusions.

In an 1858 letter, Lincoln said, *"I have declared a thousand times, and now repeat that, in my opinion neither the General Government, nor any other power outside of the slave states, can constitutionally or rightfully interfere with slaves or slavery where it already exists."*

Debating with Senator Stephen Douglas, Lincoln said, *"I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of making voters or jurors of Negroes nor of qualifying them to hold office nor to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races, which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality."*

In his first Inaugural Address on March 4, 1861, Lincoln was very clear about his stance on slavery. *"I declare that I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this, and many similar declarations, and had never recanted them."*

Here is a portion of Lincoln's public response to Horace Greeley on August 22, 1862 after Greeley had attacked him for delaying emancipation. *"My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and it is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that."*

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Lincoln was also clear about how he intended to use the Emancipation Proclamation: *"I view the Proclamation as a practical war measure, to be decided upon according to the advantages or disadvantages it may offer to the suppression of the rebellion."*

So, who was Lincoln? The debate will continue but it is certain that much of what we are told about him today is myth. At the end of an old John Wayne movie, a newspaper reporter says, "As our late editor used to say, When the Legend becomes a fact, print the Legend!" Maybe that applies to myths as well.

Dr. Gary M. Loudermilk has been active in Confederate Heritage groups for over thirty years. He is a past Commander of the Texas Society, Military Order of Stars and Bars and currently serves as National Communications-General and Scholarship Chair for the MOS&B. His formal education includes a Ph.D. in Adult Education Administration.

## *A Tribute To Robert E. Lee*

Richmond, Oct. 13, 1870

Richmond presents today a scene of mourning hardly witnessed in this generation. The stores and public buildings are all closed. The bells in all parts of the city are tolling. On many doors are pictures and photographs of Gen. Lee, draped in crape, with evergreen. The citizens are standing in groups on the principal thoroughfares and talking in subdued tones of the sad event. The feeling that he ought to be buried here, at the State's expense, is universal, and the Legislature, in making this request of his family, reiterated the public desire. The City Council met this afternoon, at the call of the Mayor. Gov. Walker sent the following Message to the General Assembly:

*"It is with unaffected grief that I announce to you the painful intelligence of the death of Gen. Robert E. Lee at Lexington, yesterday morning. He died as he had lived, a noble example of the sublime principles and teachings of the Christian religion. He goes down to the tomb amid the lamentations of an affectionate and sorrowing people. Of exalted public and private virtue in his life and career, he filled up the full measure of our conception of a man. A stricken family, a bereaved State and an afflicted people bow with reverence and humility before this visitation of Divine Providence. It is fitting that you, the representatives of the people, should take such appropriate action as the melancholy occasion suggests, and I believe you would but give expression to the universal desire of the people should you solicit the interment of the remains upon the grounds owned by the State of Hollywood Cemetery, where hereafter they may raise a monumental shaft commemorative alike of their sincere and lasting affection for the man and their profound appreciation of his greatness and goodness."*

After the reading of Gov. Walker's message, a joint resolution was unanimously passed expressive of the deep sorrow of both Houses at the sad event, and requesting that the body be turned over to the State for interment at Hollywood Cemetery, near this city. A joint committee, consisting of five members of the House and two of the Senate, and their presiding officers, was appointed to go to Lexington and escort the remains here, if the request be granted.

The Tobacco Association met today, and suspended its session for the day as a mark of respect to the memory of Gen. Lee. The City Council also met, and adopted a series of appropriate resolutions, and appointed a committee to act in concert with the Legislative Committee to ask that, in deference to the wishes of our people, that the remains be brought to Richmond for interment. The Committee will leave for Lexington tomorrow morning. The flags of the shipping and all public buildings, except the Custom-house, were at half-mast. All places of amusement were closed tonight, and general quiet and gloom pervades the city. He will be buried on Saturday, Oct. 15, at 12 o'clock. The place selected for his interment is a vault beneath the College chapel, which stands in the midst of the College grounds. This was the first building he had erected after his removal to Lexington, having declared that it was proper that the first thing the College did should be to dedicate a house to the services of religion. Here he will rest, surrounded by the monuments of his latter years. The corpse was removed today from his residence to the chapel, where it will lie in state until midday on Saturday next. Today the Faculty of Washington College, the Faculty of Virginia Military Institute and the students of Washington College held meetings, and passed appropriate resolutions of condolence and respect to the illustrious deceased, who asserted at the surrender of Appomattox Court-house that "human virtue should be equal to human calamity."

## *From the Chaplain General*

Dr. John H. Killian, Sr.

Great Presbyterian Confederate  
Rev. Dr. Beverly Tucker Lacy

General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson was as dutiful in his spiritual obligations as he was in his obligations as a Confederate soldier. So determined that he would follow God's path as a military leader, Jackson appointed Presbyterian Theologian and scholar Robert Lewis Dabney as Chief of Staff.

In *Life and Campaigns of Stonewall Jackson*, Dabney recounted that Jackson had great desire for spiritual fervor among his soldiers. In his challenge, Jackson had requested that the various Christian denominations of the South send among their finest pastors to minister among the soldiers. Jackson's reasons were three-fold: "to supply regiments destitute of chaplains with a partial substitute in the shape of the itinerant labors of efficient ministers; to supply a channel of intercourse between the army and the bodies of clergy of different denominations, through which the latter might learn the wants of the former, and to give to the labors of the chaplains and other ministers in the army, the unity and impulse of an ecclesiastical organization within their own peculiar field."

Among the leading Presbyterian ministers sent to the Confederate was Rev. Dr Beverly Tucker Lacy. Lacy was so loved as a Presbyterian minister that Jackson named him Chaplain-at-large of the II Corps. Immediately, Lacy founded the Chaplain's Association to assist in evangelism and pastoral care.

The mighty spiritual revivals in the Army of Northern Virginia are thoroughly documented in J. William Jones' *Christ in the Camp*. Lacy's bold preaching was a key element in that revival as literally scores of thousands of soldiers in the ANV came to Christ during the War. Jones reported that Lacy's preaching fed the flames of revival.

Lacy has served as Pastor in Chancellorsville, VA. Lacy's intense knowledge of the roads in the area was a tool by which Generals Lee and Stuart were able to make plans for the mighty battle which ensued in Chancellorsville.

After the War, Lacy ended up in Missouri where he served as Pastor of Pine Street Presbyterian Church in St. Louis. In 1871 Dr. Lacy accepted the position of Superintendent of Missions for the Synod of Missouri. Lacy remained a faithful and respected Pastor in Missouri and ministered until his health failed.

This month's emphasis on Lacy points out that Lacy was a man of God, but also supported the War effort of the Confederate States of America. Yet, as the War ended, Dr. Lacy was a respected minister among Presbyterians. My hope is that we remember the mighty revival that swept the Confederate armies and the men of God who were used of the Lord to proclaim His message. At the same time, may our Twenty-First Century denominations realize their Confederate roots.



## Book Reviews

### Calvary of the Heartland: The Mounted Forces of the Army of Tennessee

Edward G. Longacre

Westholme Publishing, 2009

Hardcover, \$35.00, 431 Pages, Photographs, Maps, Notes, Biography

The Army of Tennessee was the Confederacy's military mainstay in the Southern heartland. That it ultimately failed to withstand an ever-increasing and resilient Union opponent reflected the flaws of the army's leadership more than it revealed any absence of resolution of valor on the part of its soldiers. Created in late November, 1862 by combining the Army of Kentucky and the Army of Mississippi, it would fight major engagements at Stones River & Chickamauga, unsuccessfully lay siege to occupied Chattanooga, and then execute a skillful retrograde through the mountains of North Georgia to fight a series of battles in defense of Atlanta. After that city's fall, the army moved north into Tennessee to fight in Franklin and Nashville. By then, it was a badly mauled shadow of its former self, stumbling as much as marching toward its surrender near Durham, North Carolina, an event that occurred two weeks after Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

In this Western Theater, Confederate cavalry commanders like Forrest, John Hunt Morgan, Earl Van Dorn, and Joseph Wheeler launched cavalry raids that were often as destructive of Union supply lines as they were daring. They could be strategically effective as well. In December 1862, Forrest and Van Dorn so thoroughly destroyed the rail lines in Western Tennessee and the forward Union depot at Holly Springs in northeastern Mississippi that their actions halted Grant's initial overland advance against Vicksburg. Confederate mounted forces functioned effectively in the Trans-Mississippi because they weren't strapped by the shortage of horses. Nevertheless, while the cavalry forces that surrendered at the end of the war, they were mere shadows of themselves. The fact and the fiction of the exploits of the Army of Mississippi's mounted forces (like their other Confederate mounted units) were just beginning to grow.

This book covers a subject that hasn't been written about for a number of years. The level of research is fine; as well as, the coverage by the author on the Army of Tennessee's mounted forces. While not a model campaign study, students of cavalry operations should find it worthwhile. (This review was submitted by Robert A. Lynn).

The Baltimore Plot: The First Conspiracy to Assassinate Abraham Lincoln

Michael J. Kline

Westholme Publishing, 2008

Hardcover, \$29.95, 520 Pages, Photographs, Maps, Illustrations, Bibliography, Charts, Notes

Baltimore's identification with secession was well known. Just 2,294 of the city's voters – 2.5% of the total votes cast their votes for Abraham Lincoln in November, 1860 presidential election. Instead, 46% of Baltimore's voters had supported John Breckinridge, the South's Democratic Party candidate while John Bell, of the Constitutional Union Party (hastily formed in May, 1860 at Baltimore's First Presbyterian Church) had claimed 45% of the vote, and the Union Democratic candidate, Stephen Douglas, claimed 6.5% of the vote.

Baltimore's proximity to Washington DC established the city's importance to the Union. Almost all railroad and telegraph traffic between Washington DC and north passed through Baltimore. The city was a transportation and communication hub, but had no thru traffic because of where the many railroad depots were physically located.

As Southern states cascaded into secession and formed the Confederate States of America during the winter of 1860 and early spring of 1861, Baltimore's primary market was disrupted and the city's economy fell into bankruptcy and mass unemployment. Pro-Union and larger pro-secession rallies vied with the Workingmen's Aid Association for the attention of the unemployed before Lincoln had even departed Illinois to assume the presidency.

It was in this background that Lincoln received a letter threatening him with assassination in Baltimore while on his trip to Washington DC. Samuel Felton, president of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad, on which Lincoln was to ride to Baltimore, had heard of the plot and hired Alan Pinkerton, detective already working for him, to investigate. Due to the railroads terminating in depots scattered around the city, two of these, the Calvert Street Station and the Bolton Street Station, were in the northern part of the city. The President Street Station, the terminal for Felton's railroad, lay on the eastern side of the harbor, while the Camden Street Station, depot for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company and the only link to Washington DC, lay on the western side of the harbor. Everyone traveling from Pennsylvania through Baltimore to Washington DC had to get off the train at one of the three depots and then travel by foot or streetcar to the Camden Street Station, Lincoln himself did so on the night of February 22, 1861. In disguise in the middle of the night, President-elect Lincoln traveled in a closed horse-drawn streetcar from the President Street Station to the Camden Street Station, doing so against the advice of his military advisors.

This book is a lively, gutsy, and provocative book. It crackles with drama and its characters are fresh and human. Written with an attention to detail, author Michael J. Kline has penned an absolute masterpiece of detection and reconstruction. This is historical sleuthing at its finest. (This review was submitted by Robert A. Lynn).

## *Surgeon of the Month:*

### **Samuel Houston Caldwell**

Surgeon CSA

Compiled by Peter J. D'Onofrio, Ph.D.

President, Society of Civil War Surgeons, Inc.

[www.socwsurgeons.org](http://www.socwsurgeons.org)



Samuel Houston Caldwell was born in Henry County, Tennessee on December 10, 1836, the son of Colonel Robert D. Caldwell, a wealthy tobacco farmer who had settled in Henry County. In 1855, Samuel graduated from Cumberland University and in 1858, from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He was a medical doctor at Paris, Tennessee when the Civil War broke out. While at first enlisting with the 46th

Tennessee Infantry, after his capture at Island Number 10, he served the remainder of the war as battlefield surgeon to the famed Confederate cavalryman General Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Residence: Paris TN;

Enlisted on February 11, 1864 at Paris, TN as a Surgeon.

He was commissioned into Field & Staff TN 21st Cavalry (date and method of discharge not given).

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The Order was re-established in 1979 and, since that time, the Order has allocated more than \$250,000 to the preservation of Confederate heritage.

Any organization seeking financial support to help fund local Confederate heritage projects is encouraged to contact the Order by visiting our website at [www.orderofsoutherncross.com](http://www.orderofsoutherncross.com) or contacting Grants Chairman James E. Alderman at [alde711@aol.com](mailto:alde711@aol.com).

*Deo Vindice!*