

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table October 2019 Newsletter



To Inform and Educate Since 1993 Contents

2019 Member Honor Roll..... **page 2**

Special Notes..... **page 2**

Is the Civil War History Fading?

Announcements

Field Trip; “Establishing the Cracker Line” with John Scales
..... **page 9**

CSM (ret) David Lady’s Final Farewell
..... **page 4**

Huntsville History Month **page 5**

The Schedule for Wreaths for Veterans
..... **page 7**

- 2019 Speaker Schedule **page 7**
- Membership

TVCWRT Features

Book Reviews

The Most Desperate Acts of Gallantry:
George A. Custer in the Civil War
reviewed by Ed Kennedy
..... **page 11**

Let Us Die Like Men review by John
Scales **page 12**

Nooks and Crannies

Antebellum Politics, The Road to
Secession, 1776 to 1860
(Part 2: 1820 through 1850)
..... **page 11**

TVCWRT Little Round Table (LRT) Schedule
2019
..... **Page 31**



2019 Member Honor Roll

- PATRONS
 - **Beth Altenkirch**
 - **April Harris**
 - **Emil Posey**

- SUSTAINING MEMBERS
 - **Kevin Rodriguez**
 - **Carol Codori**

- SUPPORTING MEMBERS
 - **Greg & Stephie Cousins**
 - **John Scales**

Special Notes:

Is Civil War History Interest Fading?

Participants at the Civil War Round Table Congress made little mention of failing Round Tables or the current public debate but, rather, concentrated on opportunities. The Civil War Times magazine for December 2019 summarized the thoughts of 15 authors, historians, National Park Service guides, presidents of Associations and Trusts, and over all there is optimism. History is recorded but interpreted differently over time, and the American Civil War is no exception. Prognosticators lament the passing of large reenactments, a reduction in civil war titles on book store shelves, and the age of members and loss of Round Tables amid the public challenges to the display of the Confederate battle flag and statuary. However, perspectives change and interest ebbs with the passage of time, and for at least the last twenty years the methods of communicating history has migrated to social media with the explosion of technology. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, personal blogs and podcasts are plentiful. And, while journalists may make a living portraying a falling sky; Gettysburg, Stones River, and Chickamauga battlefields all report record attendance for their living history exhibits, and their following on social media platforms are growing too.

The Confederate battle flag controversy was alive during the 1960s and with the addition of statuary to the debate, a population, perhaps undervalued for their role in the 18th Century are adding their voice to the public debate. We needn't avoid the discussion but add their perspective to the discussion. My recent visit to Wilson's Creek was interesting because at the Visitor Center a

2



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huge map of the Confederacy and border states was annotated with the percentage of slaves in each county. Clearly, the display set the conditions to portray the Kansas/Missouri border fight, not as a state's rights or high tariff issue, but over slavery, and the theme was subtly illustrated throughout the very interesting exhibit.

Our Round Table over the years has not eliminated battles and weapons from our presentations but included issues that add depth to the discussion such how civilians bought bread, the money of the period, medical diagnosis, home front struggles, and Reconstruction. Every indicator suggests the key to attracting a younger generation to Civil War history is to use social media more productively. An old marketing truism, if you're not selling a good product; rethink the message and the vehicle used to reach the target audience.

If you have ideas to promote the future of the Round Table, join your board and help us fight for the future. *The Editor*

Announcements:



Thursday, October 10th John Scales describes the events surrounding General Grant's effort to establish the "Cracker Line" that relieved the Confederate siege of Chattanooga. Then we ride. **Signup and pay tonight.**

The Western Theater--- Northern moral was revived after the fall of Vicksburg and the loss at Gettysburg in 1863. But, by mid-September, the Union Army, commanded by Major General William Rosecrans abandoned the field at Chickamauga, Georgia, and retreated to Chattanooga, Tennessee. General Braxton Bragg, the Confederate General, cut off the supply routes, principally the Tennessee River, and set the stage to starve the Union Army. However, on or about 23 September, General U. S. Grant arrived in Chattanooga to relieve Rosecrans and revive the fighting capability of the Union Army. His actions became known as "establishing the cracker line", a line of supply that would eventually support Sherman's March through Georgia.

On 2 November at 0730 the RT will drive by bus (55 passenger) to Bridgeport to meet Jim Ogden, a frequent speaker at RT meetings and Chickamauga National Park Historian. We will tour Bridgeport, Lookout Valley, Brown's Ferry, and review the battle of Wauhatchie, a Union victory and night fight that essentially sustained the Union's use of the Tennessee River for resupply.

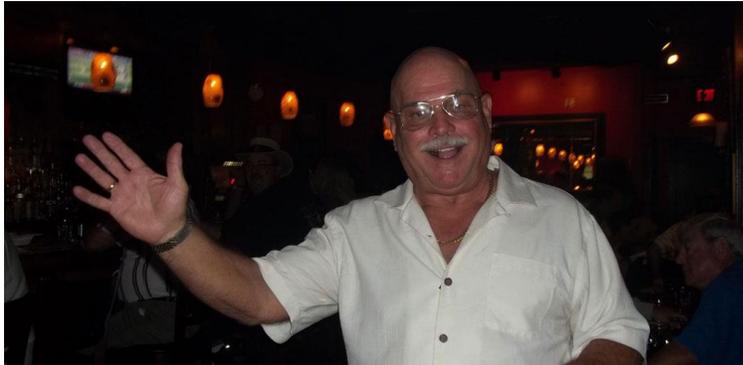
- Lunch will be at a local restaurant and individuals will pay for their lunch separately.
- Upon completion of the tour we will return to Huntsville between 1700 and 1800.



- Cost per person is \$70 based upon 20 participants. Remember neither Alabama nor Auburn plays that day and if you're a sustaining member there is a 50% discount on the fee.
- Sign up Thursday at the membership table by bringing a check.

Sign NOW!

LET'S VISIT NICK'S RISTORANTE



Say Hello to Nick of Nick's Resturante. It remains the #1 steakhouse in Northeast Alabama and now has the Best Chef in the Valley as voted in the Planet.

Nick's Ristorante remains the #1 steakhouse in North East Alabama and now has the Best Chef in the Valley as voted in The Planet.



Another happy member on his way to Nicks.

We thank,
Homewood Suites by Hilton, (714 Gallatin Street SW Huntsville)
for their support for the Round Table.

CSM (ret) David Lady's final Farwell



The Old Guard removes CSM (Ret) David Lady's remains from the caisson for internment at Arlington National Cemetery, 24 September 2019.



The American Flag and CSM (Ret) David Lady's ashes are being presented to the Officer of the Guard for presentation to his wife, Ellen Lady.

It was a windy day at Arlington National cemetery in Washington



D.C. on 24 September 2019 when the Lady family bid a final farewell to our former Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table president and friend David Lady. He and his family are in our prayers.

HUNTSVILLE HISTORY MONTH

October

Kick off with FREE download of Color Me, Huntsville coloring book sketches. By Historic Huntsville Foundation (HHF). Artists' donations of Harrison Brothers Hardware, Newman Building (Christina Green); Temple B'nai Sholom, I. Schiffman Building (Carole Foret); Weeden House Museum and Saturn V Rocket (Christina Wegman). Full books for sale at Harrison Brothers. See www.historichuntsville.org or HHF Facebook.

Wednesday, October 9 @10:00am

Depart from Harrison Brothers Hardware: "Finding Huntsville" –a walking tour of 30-45 minutes, to view civil war era architectural gems and the 1860's sunken sidewalk around the Downtown Square. Join HHF, H-MC Historical Society, and RT board member/guide Carol Codori and members Va. Clay Clopton Chapter of United Daughters of Confederacy. Shop after at Harrison Brothers for a potential 10% discount.

Thursday, October 10, @ 6:30pm

Hear RT's noted expert General John Scales give a preview of upcoming November 2 field trip to Chattanooga, and area civil war sites. Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. See www.tvcwrt.org for details and to book remaining seats on bus.

Saturday, October 12 @ 11:00am

Depart from Harrison Brothers Hardware: Finding Huntsville Walking Tours, Created and sponsored by HHF; led by City of Huntsville Preservation Planner Katie Stamps. Free booklet as a gift after tour

Monday, October 14, 21 & 28

Social Media HHF Book Giveaways! Favorite local authors' books: *Through the Garden Gate*, *Huntsville Entertains*, *Color Me, Huntsville*, *Huntsville Entertains*.

Saturday, October 19 @ 10:00am-12:00

View architectural warehouse treasures collected since the 1800s, in Harrison Brothers ancient basement. See original items you remember at grandmother's



house. Sponsored by HHF every first and third Saturday. For all ages, especially locals who didn't know this site existed!

Saturday, October 19 @11:00am

Same tour as October 12, but led by RT past president Carol Codori and including a history and viewing of the 1860's era "sunken sidewalk" on East Side Square. Come early or just visit from 10am-12pm, an opening of Harrison Brothers' historic basement, with architectural features from the early 1800's and many items you remember from grandpa's barn or basement.

Mid-October or later this fall, date and time TBA

Watch FB of Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society and HHF, for the official transfer of the renewed viewing structure of the civil-war era "sunken sidewalk" back to the City, with signing of an agreement for its care in perpetuity. We hope to have a talk on the sidewalk's creation and future care, as part of the RT's 2020 program, in the context of Huntsville's wider architectural history.

Sunday, October 20, @ 2:00-4:30pm, rain date October 27

Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll, with graveside and strolling characters. Sponsored by Huntsville Pilgrimage Association

(Related to Huntsville history: Saturday, October 26, @ 10am-2:00pm

Madison's historic downtown "Volksmarch"—including local historic sites, homes, and civil war encampment and tea room, with period characters and music, arranged by RT members, with our favorite musicians from our former period events at The Ledges, Cooper House and Weeden House during the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Hosted by Rotary Club and Mad. City Hist. Society. Free to visit, stroll and browse. Wear your fun hat and enter for a prize! For flyer or to register for actual circuit/walk (fee to enter for medallion), email baileyerickson1414@gmail.com

Sunday, October 27 @ 2:00 pm (tentative)

Footsteps to Statehood. A Walking Tour of Huntsville's Bicentennial Houses. Led by Historic Huntsville Foundation (HHF) Executive Director Donna Castellano. Watch HHF's Facebook page for details. This will be an RT meeting topic and optional local visit in 2020, focusing on historic homes of the Civil War period.

Monday, October 28 @ 6:30 pm

Join Sonnie Hereford IV at the Huntsville Area Association of Realtors, 535 Monroe Street as he debuts a Civil Rights Driving Tour created by Rocket City



Civil Rights. The program will feature a virtual visit to places and buildings associated with Huntsville's Civil Rights movement. Dr. Caroline Swope, architectural historian, will give an update on the Edmonton Heights National Register nomination, including an overview of the Alabama A & M University neighborhood's history and architecture.

For additional details and listings for these and other History Month events, see the Historic Huntsville Foundation web site at historichuntsville.org or the Huntsville Convention and Visitors Bureau web site at Huntsville.org.

The Schedule for Wreaths for Veterans.

BOW MAKING WORKSHOPS

Veterans Museum, 2060 Airport Rd, SW
Monday, 30 September--9:30 am
Tuesday, 1 October -- 9:30 am

FLUFFING OF WREATHS

City Schools Warehouse, 714 Bob Wallace Ave (corner of L&N and Bob Wallace)
Monday, 7 October 9:30-4
Tuesday, 8 October 9:30 -4
Wednesday, 9 October 9:30-4

WREATH PLACEMENT

Tuesday, 19 November- 9:30- Valhalla Cemetery, 698 Winchester Rd, NE
Wednesday, 20 November- 9:30- Maple Hill Cemetery, 210 Maple Hill St.
(corner of California and McClung) enter from McClung.

CEREMONY-- 11 am - Saturday, 14 December- Valhalla Cemetery

WREATH PICKUP

Tuesday, 7 January 2020 - Valhalla-9:30
Wednesday, 8 January 2020 - Maple Hill- 9:30

The 2019 TVCWRT Schedule of Speakers

14-Nov, Peggy Towns, United States Colored Troops (USCT)

Membership: 31 September, the TVCWRT has 135 members and we are holding a place for one of your friends.

7

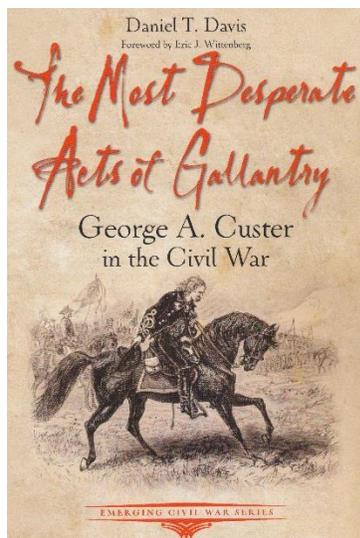


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TVCWRT Features

Book Reviews

The Most Desperate Acts of Gallantry: George A. Custer in the Civil War, Daniel T. Davis, Savas Beattie, El Dorado Hills, California, 2019, 163 pages. \$14.95. Reviewed by Ed Kennedy



Daniel Davis has produced a good, not great, account of LtCol George A. Custer. It focuses mainly on the War Between the States but very briefly covers the Indian Wars until Custer's demise. As part of fairness in reporting, I must give a disclaimer up-front. I am no fan of Custer's. I graduated from the same military academy 100 years to the month after he died but my class rank was somewhat better. The difference is that I tried harder which affects my view of those who don't try their best. It wasn't just the academics. Custer was a major disciplinary problem as well, accumulating enough demerits to almost be expelled. As a career Army officer, for three years I took a number of military units and officer students to the Indian Wars battle sites in Wyoming and Montana

as part of our graduate-level history course at the Army's Command and General Staff College. We finished our last day on the Little Bighorn. Having examined the action on 24-25 June 1876 in detail, I have come to the conclusion that Custer was not just a flawed person, he was a bad commander. George Custer was commissioned a lieutenant of cavalry in 1861 after graduating from West Point. By 1865 he was a brevet major general of volunteers. A meteoric rise in rank ---- in four years ---- was not due to mental acumen but to extreme physical bravery and politicking. There is no doubt that Custer was brave in the extreme. Until he was married, he was a major risk-taker as Davis points-out. He performed amazing feats of courage that gained him a reputation as a great tactical leader. He was not fain to personally lead men into deadly combat and was never seriously injured which led to the term, "Custer's luck".

Davis chronologically follows Custer throughout the war and the natural question arises, how Custer did so well when he took a number of extended leaves and absences from his unit? The fact is that Custer was a shameless self-promoter, something Davis glosses-over. Custer managed to have himself placed in positions either near, or with, major commanders. He took full advantage of these situations to help his own advancement. Custer first

8

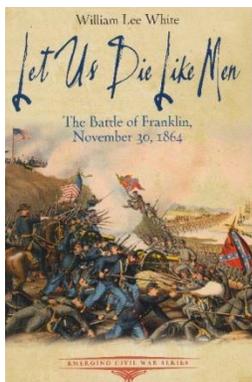


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grabbed the coattails of Major General George McClellan. He followed-up by becoming an aide to Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Pleasonton (later major general) who was responsible for Custer's promotion to brigadier general of volunteers. His assignment to Major General Phil Sheridan's cavalry corps as a division commander was a major coup due to Sheridan's position in the post-war army. Sheridan would "save" Custer years after the war.

Davis walks the reader through many of the situations and major actions that gained Custer his fame as a "direct-level" commander leading soldiers in combat. Custer's actions on the field of battle were admirable for their dash and courageousness. All the way until the end of the war at Appomattox, Custer himself led from the front, gaining the respect of his troops. Bravery is not the only trait that makes a leader great, however. Setting a moral and ethical climate is extremely important and Custer's threat to execute Confederate prisoners, his units' burning of private property of non-military value, his theft of a valuable horse from a citizen after the war, and his unexcused AWOL from his troops in the field resulting in courts martial are indicators of a lapse of values that mitigate against Custer being considered one of the Army's "great commanders." The Army's distinct lack of monuments and memorials to Custer might be linked to the substantial shortfalls in Custer's character.

Davis does a good job of tracing Custer's short, but highly publicized career. His focus is primarily on Custer's battlefield actions which gained him recognition and rank for his acts of bravery as the title suggests. "The Most Desperate Acts of Gallantry: George A. Custer in the Civil War" is a good précis of Custer's military career and is not intended to be a comprehensive biography. The maps are excellent and it is illustrated with numerous drawings, images, and photographs. A number of the black and white photos do not have enough "depth" to really illustrate what they purport to show and could be improved with a greater amount of panoramic view, or be shown in color. Overall, this book makes a good addition to others about Custer as a war-time reference rather than just being a stand-alone source.



Let Us Die Like Men. William Lee White. Savas Beatie. 2019. 177 pages, 12 maps, 198 images. A Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Review by John Scales

This book is one of the paperback series put out by Savas Beatie as guides to specific campaigns, in this case starting with the evacuation of Atlanta and ending with the battle of Franklin. It does an excellent job of setting up the campaign, starting with the reorganization of the Confederate forces and the decisions made by Sherman. Discussed in some detail are the movements by Hood to cross the Chattahoochee and



attempt to cut Sherman's supply lines, in particular Altoona Pass and Dalton. Afterwards, Hood moved into Alabama, first to Guntersville and then Decatur, where a futile attack persuaded Hood to move west all the way to Florence, where he could reconnect with supply lines.

From there, of course, Hood's path led north. His movements are not documented in detail and the cavalry fights and maneuvers almost neglected (a significant fault overall in the book), but some mention is made of Columbia and the failures at Spring Hill. The bulk of the book is devoted to the battle of Franklin itself, and it provides an excellent overview of the fight with several maps and descriptions of the terrain, plus some description of specific incidents taken from participant's accounts.

The narrative ends on the battlefield of Franklin itself at the conclusion of the battle (I presume another volume is in preparation for the rest of the Nashville Campaign) and is followed by directions for a guided tour of the battlefield itself and some ancillary matter.

Overall, I think the volume is well-written and interesting, although of course not in any great depth given its length. It would be most useful for those who would like a background introduction to the campaign and the battle and those who want to visit the key points on the battlefield itself. Many of the illustrations are portraits of the various participants whose quotes the author includes. There are also photographs of various landmarks. Recommended for almost everyone except those who really want to dive into the nitty-gritty.

Nooks and Crannies

This is the second of three articles doing a deep dive into antebellum national politics. The series originated with Arley's initiative to establish a series of educational modules on our website to spark the interest of those early in their study of the war. He tagged me for a survey of politics.

National politics at the time were complicated and fiercely partisan with a raucous Congress usually the center of action. There were numerous attempts at compromises and policies to channel the furor towards eventual political resolution but to no avail. The nation drew inexorably to war. Even at a summary level, it is a long story full of political twists, turns, and colorful characters. It will stretch to a two-parter to cover the major points, possibly even three parts by the time it's finished. Here is the first part. I hope you enjoy it. –Emil (As always, comments and critique are most welcome.)

The Antebellum period in American history is generally considered to be the period before the civil war and after the War of 1812, for the purposes of our discussion we expand it to all the years from 1776 to 1860.



Antebellum Politics
The Road to Session, 1776 to 1860
(Part 2, 1820 through 1850)

By Emil Posey

*“This [1828 tariff] bill, if adopted as amended, will keep the South and West in debt to
New England [for] the next hundred years.”*

*Massachusetts businessman Abbott Lawrence to Senator Daniel Webster, May 7,
1828*³¹

As we entered the 1820s, the last of the Revolutionary War veterans, indeed many of those that had even been alive during the War, were nearing their end. The nation was growing, with a new generation of leaders coming into their own, and sectional animosity was deepening.

Missouri Compromise of 1820

The admission of states is governed by Congress per Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution. Between December 7, 1787 and May 29, 1790 each of the thirteen states under the Articles of Confederation were admitted as states in the new Union. The next nine states, from Vermont (14) on March 4, 1791, to Alabama (22) on December 14, 1819, were admitted without challenge or rancor. Not so with Maine (23, March 15, 1820) and Missouri (24, August 10, 1821).

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 had established the Ohio River and the Mississippi River north of the Ohio River as the boundary between slavery and freedom. Missouri lay outside of that.

The Mason-Dixon Line originally was the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania. In the antebellum period it was regarded, together with the Ohio River, as the dividing line between slave states south of it and free-soil states north of it. The term Mason and Dixon Line was first used in congressional debates leading to the Missouri Compromise. Today the Mason-Dixon Line still serves figuratively as the political and social dividing line between the North and the South, although it does not extend west of the Ohio River.

Many of the early settlers in Missouri migrated from the Upper South and brought slaves with them. They settled predominantly in 17 counties along the Missouri River in an area that enabled plantation agriculture and became known as *Little Dixie*. The presence of slavery discouraged settlement by non-slaveholding farmers, who had difficulty competing with production costs. Slaveholders dominated the politics of the territory.

When the territory applied for statehood (December 29, 1819), it would



be the second state admitted from the region acquired in 1803 with the Louisiana Purchase and anticipated being admitted as a slave state. (Louisiana had been the first state, but it was a deep South state with a history of slavery and, thus, it being admitted as a slave state without controversy.) Moreover, Missouri lay entirely below the latitude of the Mason-Dixon Line and, thus, seemed Southern to Southerners.

Admission would not be easy. It lay just across the Mississippi River from Illinois, a free state, and many Northerners looked at it as such. Many Southerners felt that restricting slave ownership in this way “was clearly violative of the rights of the South, for the Territories were common property, which had been acquired, by the blood, and treasure, of the North and the South alike, and no discrimination could justly be made between the sections, as to emigration to those Territories; but discrimination would be made, if the Northern man could emigrate to all of them, and the Southern man to those of them only that lay South of the given line.”³² The slave state-free state numbers game made Missouri’s admission as a slave state problematic because whichever group had the most states had the most political power.

Southerners objected to any bill that imposed restrictions on slavery, believing that slavery was a state issue settled by the Constitution. However, with the Senate evenly split at the opening of the debates, the admission of Missouri as a slave state would give the South an advantage. Northern critics objected to the expansion of slavery into the Louisiana Purchase territory on the Constitutional inequalities of the Three-Fifths Compromise rule. Jeffersonian Republicans in the North ardently maintained that a strict interpretation of the Constitution required that Congress act to limit the spread of slavery on egalitarian grounds.



Henry Clay

Library of
Congress

Various bills and amendments were offered and voted on in both the House and Senate but went nowhere. Finally, Speaker of the House Henry Clay of Kentucky worked a compromise that squeaked through.³³ Maine, which was also petitioning for statehood, would be admitted as a free state along with Missouri as a slave state, thus maintaining the balance of power between North and South in the Senate. Slavery would be prohibited north of the 36°30’ parallel (Missouri’s southern border) but excluding Missouri. Congress passed the legislation on March 3, 1820, and President James Monroe signed it into law. Never before had sectional antagonism been so overt and threatening as it was in the Missouri crisis. Thomas Jefferson described the fear it evoked as “like a fireball in the night.” Although the compromise measures appeared to settle the slavery-extension issue, Secretary of State (and future president) John Quincy Adams noted in his



diary, "Take it for granted that the present is a mere preamble—a title page to a great, tragic volume." ³⁴The bill would be effectively repealed in the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, and declared unconstitutional in *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857).

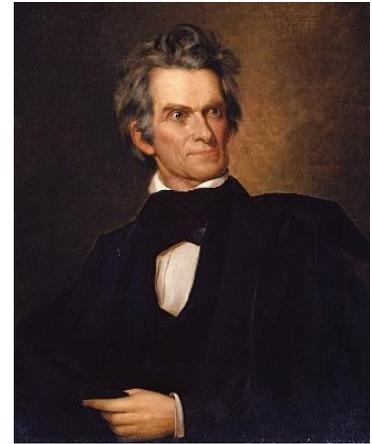
The Tariff of 1828

The Panic of 1819, the first major peacetime financial crisis in the US, persisted through 1821. It was largely caused by the worldwide drop in the commodity prices driven by a recovery in European agricultural production in 1817 and encouraged many in Congress to try to wall the US off, as much as possible, from the vagaries of worldwide markets. Congress undertook several initiatives in this regard, one of which was the imposition of additional protective tariffs. ³⁵

In 1820 a proposed tariff protective of US manufactured items from overseas competition passed the House but failed to pass the Senate due to Southern opposition. Southerners felt thus far they had been "plundered by tariffs." ³⁶ They were fighting a losing battle, though. The North continued to rapidly develop industry, while the South increasingly relied on imported foreign manufactured goods and foreign markets for its cotton. Moreover, not only was the population of the North expanding by the influx of European immigrants at a faster rate than the South, the western states that were being added to the Union tended to favor stronger tariffs. Then-Vice President John C. Calhoun (South Carolina) was a leading voice in government opposing tariffs, but on May 22, 1824, with Henry Clay (Kentucky) in the powerful position of Speaker of the House, the Tariff of 1824 was passed raising to 35 percent fees on imported iron, wool and cotton textiles, and various agricultural goods.

Unrest spread across the South, ³⁷ yet many supporters in the North thought that 35 percent was not high enough. They wanted tariffs raised even higher, and they won out.

The new Tariff of 1828 included higher duties on raw materials. The Mid-Atlantic states were its biggest supporters. Southerners, who imported most of their industrial products, strongly opposed this tariff. The South was harmed directly by having to pay higher prices on goods the region did not produce, as well as a 45 percent tax on the raw goods it did produce and then exported to the North. The South was also harmed because reducing the exportation of British goods to the US made it difficult for the British to pay for the cotton they imported from the South. Southerners named it "The Black Tariff" and



John C. Calhoun

Library of Congress



"Tariff of Abominations", blaming it for their worsening economic conditions. The reaction in the South, particularly in South Carolina, led to the Nullification Crisis. ³⁸

The Nullification Crisis

South Carolina refused to enforce the Tariff of 1828. There was much debate and wrangling between Nullifiers (a political party based in South Carolina, started by Senator Calhoun in the latter half of 1828) and Unionists throughout the state during the period 1829-1832. The Nullifiers eventually prevailed, winning the governorship and majorities in both chambers of the State legislature in 1832. The new governor, Robert Young Hayne, immediately convened a Nullification Convention. On its recommendation, South Carolina enacted a Nullification Ordinance in November 1832, which posited that a state could ignore (nullify) federal law if the state found the law to be damaging to its interests or deemed it unconstitutional. This effectively meant the state could override any federal law. South Carolina also initiated military preparations to resist anticipated federal enforcement. ³⁹

President Andrew Jackson took office in March 1829, well aware of this controversy (among others). He was determined to enforce federal law. On December 28, 1832, immediately following enactment of South Carolina's Nullification Ordinance, Calhoun resigned his position as vice president. He returned to South Carolina and was elected to the Senate, where he promoted his idea of nullification. Jackson was ready for armed conflict, getting Congress to authorize him to use federal troops to enforce federal laws if necessary (i.e., the *Force Bill*, "An Act further to provide for the collection of duties on imports", enacted March 2, 1833.)

As conceived by Calhoun, the Union was a compact between sovereign states, and the people of each state had the right - through special conventions - to nullify any federal law that exceeded the powers which the Constitution had given to Congress. If a popular convention declared a law unconstitutional, it would become null and void in that state. Congress could either yield to the state and repeal the law or propose a constitutional amendment expressly giving the federal government the power in question. ⁴⁰

On December 10, 1832, President Jackson issued a *Proclamation of Nullification* as a response to South Carolina. In it he maintained that the Union was not a compact of sovereign states, the federal government had sovereign powers in areas where it had been delegated responsibility, and the Supreme Court, not the states, had the final authority to determine the meaning of the Constitution. He warned South Carolina that the tariff laws would be rigidly enforced, and that the army and navy would be used to quell any insurrection.

⁴¹



Ultimately the crisis was resolved without the use of force. A compromise was signed by Jackson on March 1, 1833, which called for gradual lowering of duties over next decade. South Carolina revoked its Nullification Ordinance on March 15, 1833.⁴² Three days later, though, South Carolina nullified the Force Bill as a symbolic gesture to maintain its principles.

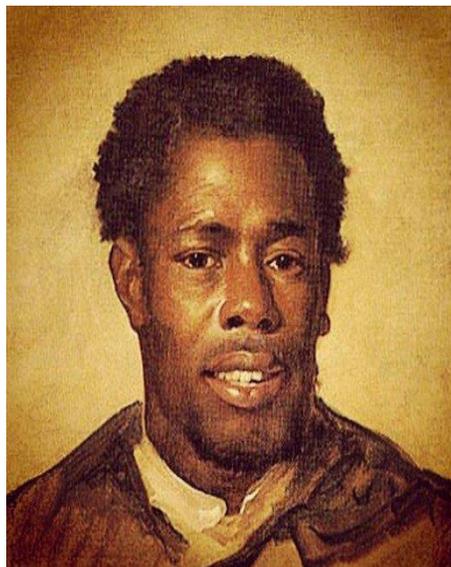
Slave rebellions were a continuous source of fear in the South, especially in areas where black slaves outnumbered whites. Laws dictating when, where and how slaves could congregate were enacted to prevent insurrection and quell white paranoia. It's estimated there were at least 250 slave rebellions in America before slavery was abolished in 1865. Additionally, slavery in America was rigorously policed to a degree that made rebellion a near-impossibility. Most slave revolts occurred outside the plantation system, in larger cities or areas of small farms. In these locales, slave controls were more lax and rebellious slaves could move about more freely.⁴³

The largest slave rebellion outside the US was the successful (and violent) insurrection of black slaves that overthrew French rule and abolished slavery in Saint Domingue, thereby establishing the independent nation of Haiti. Inside the US, the largest slave rebellion was led by one Nat Turner.⁴⁴

Nat Turner's slave rebellion

An event happened in August 1831 that stoked a central fear among slaveowners – and probably among most whites in the South: a real slave rebellion. While not huge in numbers, it was huge in impact. A Virginia slave named Nat Turner led a band of several dozen slaves and free blacks on a murderous spree in Southampton County that claimed the lives of some 60 white men, women, and children.

A charismatic figure possessed by a mystical vision, Turner, claiming to have been sent by God to eradicate slavery, hoped to inspire other slaves to rise up against their masters. The local militia responded more quickly, though, and in a bloody reprisal captured or killed hundreds of slaves and free blacks, including many who had nothing to do with Turner or his rebellion. Turner escaped capture for two months but was finally found, tried, convicted, and hanged.



Depiction of Nat Turner

<https://medium.com/@Mwatuangi/birth-of-a-messiah-nat-turners-spiritual-triumph-through-violent-sacrifice-eef4f4fdc92d>



The uprising exacerbated anger and fear throughout the nation. Something had to be done about slavery, but different groups proposed competing solutions. ⁴⁵ Quakers called for abolition, and many people less prompted by religion concluded that slavery was an institution without which the nation would be better off. ⁴⁶ Calls for emancipation were often accompanied by plans for colonizing freed slaves in Africa. Most slaveholders contended that emancipation was a terrible idea; holding that the answer was not less slavery but more stringent restrictions on what slaves could do.

Turner was well educated for a slave. Many viewed his education and religious characteristics as root causes of his decision to rebel and, therefore, felt that education and religion needed to be restricted to all blacks. Education would henceforth be denied slaves; learning to read and write would become a thing of the past for the black community. By the time of the Civil War many blacks (both freed and slaves) were completely illiterate as a result. Slaves had often been allowed together outside the view of whites, and it was outside whites' view that Turner's conspiracy had been hatched ⁴⁷; slaves, therefore, must be more carefully monitored. The inclusion of white ministers in black religious services in the South hopefully would put an end to the type of plotting that occurred under Turner and his religious services. Other groups asserted that the presence of free blacks encouraged slaves to aspire to a freedom they didn't deserve and shouldn't have. Free blacks should be driven out, and manumission made more difficult. ⁴⁸

Abolitionist writings contributed to the furor. The abolitionist movement (which encompassed only a small minority of Northerners) had come into being only shortly before Turner's revolt but soon came to be seen as a thorn in the flesh for southern slaveholders. Southerners largely ignored abolitionist views throughout the south, however, and it was not until Turner's rebellion that slaveholders began directing their attention to the increasingly alarming abolitionist attacks upon slavery. Many southerners believed that these screeds, read and repeated by the likes of Turner, made killers out of contented slaves, threatened the property rights of slaveholders in the stability of Southern society, and promoted race war and possibly, when the South took measures to defend itself, civil war.⁴⁹ "Not least of all, they fostered a moral smugness in the North about the South, a demonization of the God-fearing white men and women to whose care the black slaves of the region had been entrusted. The nineteenth century South had not invented slavery, its defenders repeated



*Joseph Drink, a.k.a. Sengbe
Pieh and Cinqué*

By Nathaniel Jocelyn,



again and again in the years after the Turner rebellion. The institution was an inheritance. Like other inheritances it came with responsibilities, and the responsibility of the current generation was not to deny the inheritance but to administer it as humanely as possible.”⁵⁰

Because slavery provided substantial revenue for farmers and plantation owners in the South, the threat of violence could not stop it. With abolitionist viewpoints emerging, however, a general sense of tension began to heighten. The more aggressively the Northern abolitionists pressed their anti-slavery agenda the more defensive the pro-slavery South became. Thus, Turner’s rebellion served as a “spark” that exacerbated the tensions that eventually culminated into the Civil War. Had it not been for Turner’s rebellion, the Civil War may not have developed as quickly as it did, further extending the slaves detrimental condition. ⁵¹

United States v. Schooner Amistad 1841

Another event occurred some ten years later that resulted in a case historian Samuel Eliot Morison described as the most important court case involving slavery before being eclipsed by that of Dred Scott in 1857. ⁵²

On June 27, 1839, the Spanish coastal schooner *La Amistad* left Havana, Cuba, with Captain Ransom Ferrer; two passengers, Jose Ruiz, a Cuban plantation owner and slave trader, and his associate, Pedro Montez; and 53 African slaves on board. The Africans were of the Mende tribe, kidnapped in the spring of 1839 and put on the Portuguese slave ship *Teçora* bound for Havana in violation of the Anglo-Spanish treaties of 1817 and 1835 that made the African slave trade a capital crime. Slavery itself was legal in Cuba, meaning that once smuggled ashore, the captives became “slaves” suitable for auction at the Havana barracoons (a barracks-like enclosure used for temporarily confining slaves or convicts awaiting transportation).

Ruiz and Montes had chartered *La Amistad* (Spanish for “The Friendship”) to deliver them to various plantations along the Cuban coast. Ruiz and Montes had secured documents signed by Spanish officials falsely affirming that the Mende people, having lived on Spanish territory for years, were legally owned as slaves. The documents also falsely anointed the individual slaves with Spanish names. ⁵³

During the voyage, there was an uprising led by one Joseph Drink, 26 years old, popularly known as Cinqué, in which the Mende killed the captain and took possession of the ship. On August 26, Lieutenant Thomas Gedney, of the brig *USRC Peter G. Washington*, a cutter assigned to the *Revenue-Marine*, ⁵⁴ discovered *La Amistad* off the Long Island shore and brought all persons involved to New London, Connecticut where they were eventually tried in federal district court for mutiny and killing officers on the ship.



The trial was complicated. Spain demanded that the Africans be given up to Spain to be tried for piracy, and President Martin Van Buren tried to do so. Failure to return the Africans to their owners would be a violation of Pinckney's Treaty with Spain. In addition, revealing Spain's infringement of treaties against the African slave trade could provide the British, who were pioneers in the crusade against slavery, with a pretext for intervening in Cuba, which was a long-time American interest. ⁵⁵ Southern senators insisted that, if not surrendered to Spain, the Mende should be tried for murder and piracy by a US federal court. Ruiz and Montez claimed the Mende were their property and requested the relief of having their property released to them. Lewis Tappan, a prominent New York businessman, and Roger Sherman Baldwin, a Connecticut abolitionist, undertook to free them by legal process. Cinqué and his fellow Mende argued that they were native-born, free Africans who had been unlawfully and forcibly kidnapped to be sold as slaves. The district court agreed and held that the alleged slaves should be delivered to the President of the United States to be transported back to Africa. The Circuit Court affirmed, and the United States appealed to the US Supreme Court. Former-President John Quincy Adams, now a member of Congress, was persuaded to act as their attorney. He argued for their liberty on the grounds that the African slave trade was illegal by Spanish law and by the natural right of mankind to freedom. The Court, with a majority of Southerners, was so impressed by his eloquence that in a 7-1 decision it ordered Cinqué and the others set free (35 remaining alive out of the original 53 that set out on *La Amistad*). They, along with small group of American missionaries, sailed for Africa in November 1841 by way of money raised by abolitionists. ⁵⁶They reached Sierra Leone in January 1842, three years after they had been captured and carried into slavery. In one of the great ironic epilogues, once back home, Cinqué reportedly set himself up as a slave trader. ⁵⁷

For the first and only time in history, African blacks seized by slave dealers and brought to the New World won their freedom in American courts. ⁵⁸ The case galvanized the growing abolitionist movement, which pronounced the decision a milestone in their long and bitter fight against the "peculiar institution" and widened the political and societal division between the antislavery North and the slave-holding South. For the next quarter-century, the case fueled ill-will between the US and Spain. Congressmen from slave states, fearful of the precedent of freeing Africans who had killed a white man with cane knives, consistently supported Madrid's claims, but abolitionists mustered sufficient votes to block legislation. Often called the first civil rights case in the US, it has reverberated down through history, including acting as inspiration during the Civil Rights movement. ⁵⁸ *Jones, ibid.*



Prigg v. Pennsylvania, 1842

There was another important Supreme Court decision around this time that had broad impact on state's rights versus federal authority: *Prigg v. Pennsylvania*, 41 U.S. (16 Pet.) 539 (1842), which upheld the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution in which federal laws take precedence over state laws when regulating the same activity.

The case began with one Margaret Morgan, born in the Dublin district of Harford County, Maryland sometime between 1800 and 1805. Her parents had been manumitted by their owner, John Ashmore, in their mid-40s. Ashmore, however, never signed a formal document freeing them. It was not a formal change to her slave status per se; more of a promise that she could do as she pleased – a distinction that would play a central role in the plight that would envelop their daughter.

Margaret married a local free black man named Jerry Morgan in 1828. They had two children together before moving north in 1832 into neighboring York County, Pennsylvania where they had four more children. The Morgans went freely back and forth across the Mason-Dixon line separating Pennsylvania, a free state, from Maryland, still a slave state.

After John Ashmore died, one of his heirs wanted to reclaim Morgan and her offspring on the grounds they were still slave property. In 1837, the Ashmore heir hired Edward Bemis, who hired another Dublin resident, Edward Prigg, for the hunt. Two other men, Jacob Forwood and Stephen Lewis, joined them. The four went into York County and, in accordance with the law at the time, they sought and were granted permission by warrant issued from a local justice of the peace named Thomas Henderson "to seize and arrest the said negro woman."

They found the Morgan family asleep in their home and packed all six, still in their night clothes, into a wagon and drove them to Henderson's house. A constable for the county promptly apprehended them, but because of conflicting stories told by the Morgans and Prigg, the magistrate was not ready to authorize anyone's removal to Maryland.

Acting on his own, Prigg then took Margaret and all of her children back across the border to Ashmore in Maryland. Prigg brought Morgan and the children back in Maryland. As a result, Prigg was arrested and charged with "having forcibly taken and carried away from that county to the State of Maryland a negro woman named Margaret Morgan with the design and intention of her being held, sold, and disposed of as a slave for life" under Pennsylvania's 1826 personal liberty law that prohibited precisely that.⁵⁹

Prigg and his group were charged with kidnapping in Pennsylvania and convicted in 1839. They appealed, and the case eventually found its way to the Supreme Court, which in 1842 voided the conviction by ruling Pennsylvania's law violated both Article IV, Section 2 of the US Constitution, which allowed the



return of escaped persons escaping from one state to another, and the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793. The court ruled that federal law superseded the state's and overturned the convictions.

The court's ruling, which produced six majority opinions, including one by Associate Justice Roger B. Taney, eventually to become Chief Justice and lead the court in the Dred Scott decision, led to confusion. On one hand, the court ruled the action of taking Morgan and her family back to Maryland as fugitive slaves was legal, but the court also ruled, according to the majority opinion by Justice Joseph Story: "As to the authority so conferred upon state magistrates [to deal with runaway slaves], while a difference of opinion has existed, and may exist still on the point, in different states, whether state magistrates are bound to act under it; none is entertained by this Court that state magistrates may, if they choose, exercise that authority, unless prohibited by state legislation."⁶⁰

This, in turn, opened the door for states to pass laws instructing their magistrates, sheriffs and other court officers to take no part in enforcing fugitive slave laws, leaving that strictly up to federal law officers. Pro-slavery elements were distressed by that aspect of the decision. Pennsylvania passed several such laws, as did other Northern states, and Congress eventually retaliated with passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Thus, the case led, at least indirectly, to the dismantling of the 1793 Fugitive Slave Act and a passage of a more stringent such law in 1850. The Prigg decision also foreshadowed the court's decision in the 1850 Dred Scott case, where it ruled slaves or their descendants were not citizens (and, by extension, that federal laws, such as the 1820 Missouri Compromise, could not grant their freedom).⁶¹ Also, by refusing to take judicial notice of the problem of free blacks being kidnapped in free states and sold into slavery, the Prigg decision established an implicit precedent that blacks were entitled to fewer procedural protections than were whites.

Two more events in the 1840's were caught up in the North-South sectional conflict: the annexation of Texas in 1845 and the proposed Wilmot Proviso of 1846.



Texas Annexation 1845

The Republic of Texas, having effectively won its independence from Mexico, came into being on May 14, 1836 via the Treaties of Velasco. ⁶² Texas was subsequently annexed into the US and was admitted to the Union as the 28th state on December 29, 1845, lighting the fuse that led to the Mexican-American War of 1846.

The history of slavery in Texas was problematic. The government of Mexico originally had incentivized



immigration to fill out the population of its province of Texas. Most immigrants were from the lower South; slave-owners brought their slaves with them. Stephen F. Austin, the first American settler, worked with officials in Mexico City to create a policy (in 1825) regarding slavery that initially offered settlers 50 acres (later increased to 80 acres) for each enslaved person brought to the region. ⁶³

Slavery was outlawed in Mexico in 1829, but Austin and his fellow Texans found ways to work around the restriction. Slaveowners argued that their success was dependent on slavery. Without slaves, they would lack the labor necessary to cultivate the land and would stall the pace of immigration needed to develop and increase the value of the land, which would deflate the economy and motivate them to leave. In May 1835, Mexico's tolerance for slavery in the province was wearing thin. Proposed abolition legislation in Mexico City was not the only Mexican government policy that prompted the Texas War for Independence, but it clearly played a central role. ⁶⁴

Immigration continued after statehood with tens of thousands of settlers flooding into the state. ⁶⁵ While the eastern part of the state contained slave-owning plantations (particularly in the fertile cotton lands of eastern Texas, between Nacogdoches and the Louisiana state line), the central area was developed more by yeoman farmers who seldom owned slaves. Texas had about 5,000 slaves at the time of its revolution in 1836, but by 1845, when the state was annexed to the United States, this had grown to 30,000 and some 58,000 by 1850. (By 1860, it would grow to some 180,000, which was 30% of the state's population.) ⁶⁶ When it joined the Union as a slave state, it added another point of tension in the growing sectional debate concerning the expansion of slavery in the US. ⁶⁷

Wilmot Proviso 1846

Nearly all modern historians agree with Professor James McPherson's conclusion that the Civil War was caused by Southern objections to the 1860 Republican Party's resolve to prohibit slavery's extension into any of the federal territories that had not yet been organized as states. The resolution originated with the Wilmot Proviso fourteen years earlier before the infant GOP had even been formed. ⁶⁸

The Democrats had divided over slavery and expansion during the 1844 election, but after his victory, President Polk had pushed for the acquisition of the Oregon country and for a larger share of Texas from Mexico. Northern Democrats such as Wilmot, who feared the addition of slave territory, had resented President Polk's willingness to compromise the Oregon dispute with Great Britain at the forty-ninth parallel – less territory than expected. More interested in northern free labor than in the plight of southern slaves, Wilmot had been an administration loyalist until he presented his proviso. ⁶⁹



On Saturday, August 8, 1846, amidst the Mexican-American War, President Polk proposed an appropriation bill that would allocate \$2 million to purchase any potential territory from Mexico as war reparations. Prior to Polk's introduction of this bill, Congress voted to adjourn their session on Monday, August 10. Polk introduced the bill at the eleventh hour in an attempt to get it quickly passed without any riders. However, Representative David Wilmot (Democrat-Pennsylvania) foiled the plan. During his ten minutes allotted time to speak on the bill, Wilmot proposed an amendment to Polk's appropriation "that, as an express and fundamental condition to the acquisition of any territory from the Republic of Mexico...neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory, except for crime, whereof the party shall first be duly convicted." This became known as the Wilmot Proviso. Wilmot's intentions for his proviso aligned perfectly with the intentions of the free-soil movement. Wilmot did not act alone in his proviso. Many northern Democrats were upset over the perceived subjugation of northern interests to southern ones and as such wanted to lash out against President Polk and the slave states. Additionally, they wanted the potential territory gained from Mexico to be exclusively reserved for free-soilers for political and economic reasons.⁷⁰

The Wilmot's amendment passed by a vote of 84-64 in the House. Every negative vote except three came from a slave state. Polk's appropriation bill was amended, and a second vote was held with an 85-80 outcome. Similar to the previous vote, this one was also along sectional lines.

This represents a shift in antebellum politics as previously bills were voted almost exclusively along party lines; this was the first bill since the Missouri Compromise that was voted on along sectional lines. It illustrates that Southerners would rather prevent territorial expansion all together than have expansion without the extension of slavery. Southern opposition combined with the Wilmot's Proviso highlights that Americans directly linked territorial expansion with the prevention or the expansion of slavery.

After the House vote, the bill moved along to the Senate on August 10; however, the Senate voted neither on this bill or on President Polk's amended appropriations bill. When Congress began its next session, Wilmot re-proposed his proviso, but Polk's new appropriation bill passed without Wilmot's rider. Despite the drama over the Wilmot Proviso only lasting three days, this event signified a shift in American politics to one based on sectional lines over party lines and exemplified an important position among anti-slavery northerners. While the Wilmot Proviso occurred so suddenly and swiftly it had a lasting impact on American politics. It provides insight into the anti-slavery movement in antebellum America. Not only did it begin to realign the structure of American politics, with votes in the House and Senate, votes and political



leanings became increasingly based on sectional lines as opposed to party lines.⁷¹

In this period — the 1820s through the 1840's — the division of North and South became more pronounced; their respective societies, cultures, and economies continuing to diverge. The Civil War generation was coming into its own and each sides' future political and military leadership was being shaped. Slavery was deepening in the South and pushing westward. Sectional differences were becoming more distinctive and antagonisms sharpening. Political parties were forming, splintering, and reforming. Secessionism was maturing, and states sovereignty advocates and abolitionists alike were growing in influence. Like a moth to a flame, the nation was moving towards calamity.

The 1850s world bring it all to a head. That's where we will pick it up next time.

“The public good requires the negro preachers to be silenced, who, full of ignorance, are incapable of inculcating anything but notions of the wildest superstition, thus preparing fit instruments in the bands of the crafty agitators to destroy the public tranquility.”

*Governor John Floyd, in his Message to the Virginia General Assembly
(December 6, 1831)*



Many thanks to Marjorie Reeves, John Mason, and Arley McCormick for their valuable guidance and editorial support. --Emil

Notes –

³¹ Brands, 141.

³² Semmes, 63.

³³ *Senator John F. Kennedy identified Calhoun, Webster, and Clay as “the most outstanding triumvirate the Senate has ever known.” Profiles in Courage, John F. Kennedy; New York: Harper and Brothers, 1956; 77. This is praise well earned. The three were icons in Congress throughout this period, their views defining and steering many important legislative actions.*

Daniel Webster was both a US senator from Massachusetts and a US representative from Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Born in Salisbury, New Hampshire, he gained national prominence as an attorney while serving five terms in the US House of Representatives. He successfully argued several notable cases before the Supreme Court of the United States that helped define the constitutional power of the federal government. In *Trustees of Dartmouth*

23

The TVCWRT is a 501c3 organization that provides a forum for non-partisan study, education, and discussion regarding the American Civil War. It supports the preservation of Civil War battlefields and landmarks. It meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, the Elks lodge on Franklin Street Huntsville, AL. TVCWRT will **never** sell your email address. Address: P.O. Box 2872 Huntsville, Alabama 35804. Questions/Comments: Newsletter Editor; arleymccormick@comcast.net



College v. Woodward, the Court declared in favor of Webster's alma mater, finding private corporation charters to be contracts and therefore protected from interference by state legislative action. In *McCulloch v. Maryland*, the Court upheld the implied power of Congress to charter a federal bank and rejected the right of states to tax federal agencies. Webster also argued the controversial *Gibbons v. Ogden* case, in which the Court decided that federal commerce regulations take precedence over the interstate commerce laws of individual states.

After his election to the US Senate in 1827, Webster established his oratorical reputation in the famous 1830 debate with Robert Young Hayne of South Carolina over the issue of states' rights and nullification. Defending the concept of a strong national government, Webster delivered on January 26 and 27 his famous reply to Hayne. "We do not impose geographical limits to our patriotic feeling," arguing that every state had an interest in the development of the nation and that senators must rise above local and regional narrow-mindedness. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land, and any doctrine that allowed states to override the Constitution would surely lead to civil war and a land drenched with "fraternal blood." The motto should not be "Liberty first, and Union afterwards," Webster concluded, but "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!"

Webster then served a distinguished term as secretary of state from 1841 to 1843, negotiating the Webster-Ashburton Treaty that settled a dispute over the boundary between the US and Canada. He later returned to the Senate, where he championed American industry and opposed free trade.

Increasingly concerned with the sectional controversy threatening the Union, Webster supported Henry Clay's Compromise of 1850. On March 7, 1850, he delivered one of his most important and controversial Senate addresses. Crowds flocked to the Senate Chamber to hear Webster plead the Union's cause, asking for conciliation and understanding: "I wish to speak today not as a Massachusetts man, nor as a Northern man, but as an American ... I speak today for the preservation of the Union. Hear me for my cause." Webster's endorsement of the compromise—including its fugitive slave provisions—helped win its eventual enactment but doomed the senator's cherished presidential aspirations. Webster became secretary of state again in 1850. He died two years later at his home in Marshfield, Massachusetts.

https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/art/artifact/Painting_32_00006.htm

John Caldwell Calhoun was born in Abbeville District, South Carolina on March 18, 1792. He served as both a US representative and senator from South Carolina, and as the seventh vice president of the United States. After practicing law and serving in the South Carolina house of representatives, Calhoun was elected to the US House of Representatives in 1810. There he worked alongside

24

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Henry Clay, advocating war with Great Britain and introducing the declaration of war against Britain in 1812. He served as secretary of war under President James Monroe, was elected vice president with John Quincy Adams in 1824, and was reelected vice president on a ticket with Andrew Jackson in 1828. Calhoun broke with Jackson, opposing the high protective tariffs, and resigned as vice president in December 1832 to fill a vacancy in the US Senate. Calhoun led the pro-slavery faction in the Senate, opposing both total abolitionism and attempts such as the Wilmot Proviso to limit the expansion of slavery into the western territories. He resigned from the Senate in 1843 planning to run for president, but instead he served briefly as secretary of state for President John Tyler. Calhoun returned to the Senate in 1845 and remained there until his death in 1850 in the Old Brick Capitol boarding house in Washington, DC. The last words attributed to him were, "The South, the Poor South."

<https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/art/special/Bassett/tdetail.cfm?id=2>
and Wiki.

Henry Clay was born April 12, 1777 in Hanover County, Virginia. He moved to Kentucky where he practiced law with great success. He entered the Kentucky legislature, eventually serving as Speaker, before moving to the US Senate in 1806, and to the US House of Representatives in 1811. He was elected Speaker on his first day in the House and quickly made a name for himself by fueling anti-British sentiment and helping bring about the War of 1812. In 1814 he served as one of the commissioners negotiating the Treaty of Ghent that ended the war. In 1825 Clay was appointed secretary of state under John Quincy Adams, a position he held until 1829. He was elected to the US Senate from 1831 to 1842 and again from 1849 to 1852. He distinguished himself as one of the Senate's most effective and influential members. He earned the title "Great Compromiser" by crafting three major legislative compromises over the course of 30 years.

Throughout most of his political life, Clay promoted his American System as both an economic program and a means for unifying the country. He favored an activist government that would help ensure a fairer and more efficient distribution of economic gains via high tariffs, a stable financial system, federal investment in internal improvements, and a public land sale policy designed to raise revenue and provide for carefully managed expansion westward.

Clay inherited slaves as a young child and continued to own slaves throughout his life. However, in the 1790s, he adopted antislavery views. He was not a racial egalitarian and he never called for immediate abolition of slavery, but he viewed slavery as a "grievous wrong to the slave" and spoke in favor of equal treatment for free blacks. He supported gradual emancipation throughout his career.



In 1829, Clay's slave, Charlotte Dupuy, sued for her freedom while visiting relatives in Maryland. Dupuy's attorney gained an order from the court for her to remain in Washington until the case was settled, and she worked for wages for 18 months for Martin Van Buren, Clay's successor as secretary of state. The case embarrassed Clay politically and personally, but he ultimately prevailed in court. After winning the case, Clay sent Dupuy to New Orleans, causing her to be away from her own family, but he later freed Dupuy and two of her children. Clay's will freed all the slaves he held at the time of his death.

Abraham Lincoln was a great admirer of Clay, saying he was "my ideal of a great man." Lincoln wholeheartedly supported Clay's economic programs and, prior to the Civil War, held similar views about slavery and the Union.

Clay died of tuberculosis on June 29, 1852, and was laid in state in the Capitol rotunda, the first person ever to receive that honor. He was buried in Lexington, Kentucky.

<https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/art/special/Bassett/tdetail.cfm?id=3> and Wiki.

³⁴ *"Missouri Compromise", Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Missouri-Compromise>. 35*

³⁵ *Under the Articles of Confederation, the federal government could not collect taxes directly; rather, it had to "request" money from each state (Articles VIII and IX). This weakness was corrected in the Constitution of 1787 (Article 1, Section 8). The first tariff law was passed in 1789. Its purpose was to generate revenue for the new government to operate and to pay the interest on the national debt. It had a secondary purpose of protecting domestic industries. From 1790 onwards there were constant alterations in the tariff between 1792 and 1816 there were some twenty-five Tariff Acts passed, all modifying the customs duties in one way or another. (Percy Ashley, *Modern Tariff History* (1920), 138.) As industrialization increased, the demand for higher and higher tariffs came from manufacturers and factory workers, believing they should be protected from the lower wages and more efficient factories of Britain and the rest of Europe. Nearly every northern Congressman was eager to logroll a higher tariff rate for his local industry. This led to the tariffs of 1824 and 1828.*

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tariff_in_United_States_history.)

³⁶ *https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tariff_of_1824.*

³⁷ *It is important to understand this Southern concern. "Under Federal legislation, the exports of the South have been the basis of the Federal revenue. Virginia, the two Carolinas, and Georgia, may be said to defray three-fourths, of the annual expense of supporting the Federal Government; and of this great sum, annually furnished by them, nothing, or next to nothing is returned to them, in the shape of Government expenditures. That expenditure flows in an opposite*



direction—it flows northwardly, in one uniform, uninterrupted, and perennial stream. This is the reason why wealth disappears from the South and rises up in the North. Federal legislation does all this. It does it by the simple process of eternally taking from the South and returning nothing to it. If it returned to the South the whole, or even a good part, of what it exacted, the four States south of the Potomac might stand the action of the system, but the South must be exhausted of its money, and its property, by a course of legislation, which is forever taking away, and never returning anything. Every new tariff increases the force of this action. No tariff has ever yet included Virginia, the two Carolinas, and Georgia, except to increase the burdens imposed upon them.

“This picture is not overdrawn; it is the literal truth. Before the war the Northern States, and especially the New England States, exported next to nothing, and yet they “blossomed as the rose.” The picturesque hills of New England were dotted with costly mansions, erected with money, of which the Southern planters had been despoiled, by means of the tariffs of which Mr. Benton spoke. Her harbors frowned with fortifications, constructed by the same means. Every cove and inlet had its lighthouse, for the benefit of New England shipping, three fourths of the expense of erecting which had been paid by the South, and even the cod, and mackerel fisheries of New England were bountied, on the bald pretext, that they were nurseries for manning the navy.” Semmes; 58-59.

³⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tariff_of_Abominations.

³⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nullification_Crisis.

⁴⁰ “Discussion Goal #5, To understand the controversies over tariffs that arose during Jackson’s presidency and how this moved us closer to war”, Dr. Gayle Olson-Raymer, <http://gorhistory.com/hist110/unit3/political.html>.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² “Nullification Crisis of 1832: Precursor to Civil War”, Robert McNamara, January 31, 2019, <https://www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-nullification-crisis-1773387>.

⁴³ “Slave Rebellions, <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery-iv-slave-rebellions>.

⁴⁴ *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*, Daniel Walker Howe; New York: Oxford University Press, 2007; 323.

⁴⁵ For the governor of Virginia’s reaction, see “Excerpts from Governor John Floyd’s Message to the General Assembly (December 6, 1831)”, *Encyclopedia Virginia*, https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Excerpts_from_Governor_John_Floyd_s_Message_to_the_General_Assembly_December_6_1831.



⁴⁶ Southern perception differed substantially. “I have said that this controversy, on the subject of slavery, did not rest, in the North, on any question of morals or religion. The end aimed at, in restricting slavery to the States, was purely political; but this end was to be accomplished by means, and the Northern leaders had the sagacity to see, that it was all-important to mix up the controversy, as a means, with moral, and religious questions. Hence they enlisted the clergy in their crusade against the South; the pulpit becoming a rostrum, from which to inflame the Northern mind against the un-Godly slaveholder; religious papers were established, which fulminated their weekly diatribes against the institution; magazine literature, fiction, lectures, by paid itinerants, were all employed, with powerful effect, in a community where every man sets himself up as a teacher, and considers himself responsible for the morals of his neighbor. The contumely and insult thus heaped upon the South were, of themselves, almost past endurance, to say nothing of the wrongs, under which she suffered.” Semmes, 64.

⁴⁷ “By day a field hand, at night and on weekends Turner prophesied, baptized, and healed. Turner learned to read from his parents and had absorbed the Bible’s imagery and power. None of his owners tried to discourage his religious activities. As an exhorter revered by blacks and respect among whites, Turner moved about Southampton County in southeastern Virginia, a region of modest landholdings, diversified agriculture, and masters who worked in the fields alongside their bondsmen. The 1830 census of the county showed whites to be a minority and free blacks a significant element. The population of 16,074 was 41 percent white, 48 percent enslaved, and 11 percent free colored.” Ibid.

⁴⁸ Brands, 239-240.

⁴⁹ Brands, 241. See, also, Howe, 325-327.

⁵⁰ For example, prominent Southerners at once asserted that William Lloyd Garrison was responsible (although only four copies of “The Liberator”, a weekly newspaper published by Garrison in Boston, Massachusetts, had reached the South), and demanded that the Northern states suppress such incendiary agitation. (“Anti-Slavery and Abolition” at colfa.utsa.edu/users/jreynolds/Textbooks/Abolition/Abolitionists%20Morison.htm.)

⁵¹ Larry Slawson, “The Impact of Nat Turner’s Rebellion”, <https://owlcation.com/humanities/The-Impact-of-Nat-Turners-Rebellion>.

⁵² Oxford History of the American People, Samuel Eliot Morison; New York: Oxford University Press, 1965, 520.

⁵³ “Events and Legacy of the Amistad Case of 1840”, <https://www.thoughtco.com/amistad-case-4135407>.



⁵⁴ *The US Revenue Cutter Service was established August 1790 as the Revenue-Marine upon the recommendation of Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton to serve as an armed customs enforcement service. It gradually gained missions either voluntarily or by legislation, including those of a military nature. (For example, the USRC Harriet Lane was in action in Charleston Harbor during the bombardment of Fort Sumter.) It was generally referred to as the Revenue-Marine until July 1894, when it was officially renamed the Revenue Cutter Service. It operated under the authority of the Treasury Department. On January 28, 1915, the service was merged with the United States Life-Saving Service to form the United States Coast Guard (operating today under the authority of the Department of Homeland Security).*

⁵⁵ Dr. Howard Jones, "Mutiny on the Amistad: 'All we want is make us free'", <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/08/25/mutiny-on-the-amistad-all-we-want-is-make-us-free/>.

⁵⁶ "Anti-Slavery and Abolition", *ibid.* Also see "United States v. The Amistad, 40 U.S. 518 (1841)", <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/40/518/>. The majority decision was written by Associate Justice Joseph Story, joined by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney and Associate Justices Smith Thompson, John McLean, James M. Wayne John Catron, and John McKinley. Associate Justice Henry Baldwin dissented; Associate Justice Philip P. Barbour took no part in the consideration or decision of the case.

⁵⁷ "Anti-Slavery and Abolition", *ibid.*

⁵⁸ Jones, *ibid.*

⁵⁹ *Prigg v. Pennsylvania*, 41 U.S. (16 Pet.) 539 (1842), <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/41/539/>. Pennsylvania's Personal Liberty Law of 1826 decreed that no one, including escaped slaves, could not be brought into Pennsylvania and kept as a slave, and no person could be taken out of the state of Pennsylvania to be held as a slave.

⁶⁰ *Prigg v. Pennsylvania*, 41 U.S. (16 Pet.) 539 (1842), *ibid.*

⁶¹ 'Sacrificing Margaret Morgan,' Harford's little known role in the origins of the Civil War, Allan Vought, *The Baltimore Sun*, Feb 21, 2018 <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/harford/aegis/ph-ag-black-history-lecture-20180219-story.html>.

⁶² *These were two treaties, one public, the other secret, signed by Interim President David G Burnet for Texas and Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna of Mexico. Neither were ratified by the Mexican government since Santa Anna had signed them while a prisoner of the Texans (and, thus, under coercion). Mexico still claimed Texas as a breakaway province but was too weak to take further military action. Although a fait accompli since mid-1836, neither the*



independence of Texas nor its later annexation by the US was formally recognized by Mexico until the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War that resulted from the annexation and recognized the Rio Grande (Río Bravo del Norte) as the Mexico-US border.

⁶³ *Diana Ramey Berry, "In Texas, history of slavery unique – but not 'brief'", San Antonio Express News, November 8, 2004.*

⁶⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_F._Austin#Moving_to_Texas.

⁶⁵ *"A Brief Overview of Slavery in Texas", University of North Texas, <https://exhibits.library.unt.edu/httpsexhibitslibraryunteduslaverytexas/brief-overview-slavery-texas>.*

⁶⁶ *Berry, ibid.*

⁶⁷ *Per the Missouri Compromise of 1820, slavery could exist in the territory gained in the Louisiana Purchase. Specifically, slavery could exist south of the 36°30'N line of latitude, but no further west than Missouri. The territory claimed by Texas extended further north and west than the Missouri Compromise lines (well into present-day New Mexico and Colorado). In another compromise designed to overcome objections to annexation, the 1845 joint resolution that admitted Texas to the Union provided that Texas could be divided into as many as five states. Any states north or west of the Missouri Compromise lines would be free; in the others, a popular vote would determine whether slavery could exist. In 1850, Southerners wanted to exercise the provision to create another slave state from Texas to balance the admission of California as a free state. In one of the provisions of the Compromise of 1850, Texas was instead given a payout of \$10 million to give up its northern and western claims. A few years later, the Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed the Missouri Compromise and made the issue of the boundaries a moot point. ("Can Texas divide itself into multiple states?", *Hard Road to Texas: Texas Annexation 1836-1845*, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/exhibits/annexation/part5/question7.html>.)*

⁶⁸ *"Overview: The Wilmot Proviso", American Battlefield Trust, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/wilmot-proviso>.*

⁶⁹ <https://www.history.com/topics/mexican-american-war/wilmot-proviso>.

⁷⁰ *There was another purpose, though: to keep slaves out of the new territories so that the lands might be reserved for free whites. As Wilmot put it, "The negro race already occupy [sic] enough of this fair continent . . . I would preserve for free white labor a fair country ... where the sons of toil, of my own race and color, can live without the disgrace which association with negro slavery brings upon free labor." (Reconsidering Slavery & the Civil War,*



[https://civilwarchat.wordpress.com/2019/09/05/reconsidering-slavery-and-the-civilwar/.](https://civilwarchat.wordpress.com/2019/09/05/reconsidering-slavery-and-the-civilwar/))

⁷¹ “Overview: The Wilmot Proviso”, American Battlefield Trust, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/wilmot-proviso>.

TVCWRT Little Round Table (LRT) Discussion and Schedule, 2019 by JR Ewing, LRT lead.

John Mason led a spirited discussion that illustrated the personalities and grievances harbored by the senior leadership of the North and South during and after the Peninsula Campaign. The October session will address the Battle of Seven Pines and go through Malvern Hill from the perspectives the commander’s actions and wrap up with an assessment of what the leaders on each side learned from their mistakes.

John’s perspective is the 7-Days Campaign was NOT a Confederate victory. It was a strategic loss for the South and a tactical debacle for George B. McClellan. There are more details on this website. You can weigh-in on the perspective on October 24, 2019 at the Elks.

Questions / Study Guide: The 7-Days Campaign, June 25 to July 1, 1862 A Study in Command

Questions:

1. What were the similarities and differences between the writings of Clausewitz and Jomini?
2. What is the difference between Concentration in Space and Concentration in Time? How was that difference important to the two sides respective strategies?
3. Compare and contrast the strategic visions and capabilities of the respective Presidents.
 - a. Given the situation of the time, was it truly necessary for the respective combatants to put so much emphasis on defending their capitols?
 - b. Was there another factor that weighed in in that regard?
4. What were the relationships between the major commanders and their chief executives?
 - a. Johnston and Davis?
 - b. Johnston and Secretary of War Judah Benjamin?
 - 4.b.i. What three things in particular hampered these relationships?



- c. McClellan and Lincoln?
- d. McClellan and Secretary of War Stanton?
- e. Lee and Davis?
- f. How did these relationships affect the respective army's plans?
5. Describe the characteristics of the 3 major Commanders: Lee, Johnston, and McClellan
 - a. How did they interact with their respective executives?
 - b. How did they interact with their subordinates?
 - c. What was their style of leadership?
6. Was Johnston's plan at Seven Pines realistic?
 - a. Were his orders clear?
 - b. What about McClellan's response?
 - c. In fact, was McClellan wise to spilt his forces across the Chickahominy?
 - d. What was the result?
7. What was the effect of Johnston's wound on the campaign?
8. Was Lee's aggressive response the right move?
 - a. If so, what did it actually gain?
 - b. If not, what might have been a better alternative, or did he even have one?
9. Was there an opportunity for McClellan to actually capture Richmond? More than one? What kept him from doing so?
10. Was McClellan's change of supply base necessary?
11. Given Little Mac's proclivity for not visiting the front lines an issue? Why didn't he?
12. Did a failure of reconnaissance cause undue losses for the Union in their retreat back to Malvern Hill?
13. Should the Union have abandoned Malvern Hill, or stayed and fought? Why did they?
14. Finally, Lee's frontal assaults first displayed here suffered horrible casualties, and were a harbinger of his tactics up until the Overland Campaign in 1864. How did they influence the war's outcome?

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December 12, 2019- The Most Important New Weapon of the American Civil War; Led by Mark Hubb

**Looking for ideas and leads for our 2020 LRT lineup!
Communicate your ideas to Jeffrey Ewing at your earliest.**



The TVCWRT is a 501c3 organization that provides a forum for non-partisan study, education, and discussion regarding the American Civil War. It supports the preservation of Civil War battlefields and landmarks. It meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, the Elks lodge on Franklin Street Huntsville, Al. TVCWRT will **never** sell your email address. Address: P.O. Box 2872 Huntsville, Alabama 35804. Questions/Comments: Newsletter Editor; arleymccormick@comcast.net



Carol Codori, former President of the Round Table is describing the Alabama Bicentennial Coin keepsake given to Rebekah Davis for being our guest speaker.



Rebekah Davis is making a colorful point that endeared her to the Round Table members.

Thank You Rebekah Davis for bringing the “Civil War in Limestone County” to the Round Table.

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