

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table January 2020 Newsletter



To Inform and Educate Since 1993 Contents

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2019 Member Honor Roll

- PATRONS
 - **Beth Altenkirch**
 - **April Harris**
 - **Emil Posey**
- SUSTAINING MEMBERS
 - **Carol Codori**
 - **Jonathan Creekmore**
 - **Kevin Rodriguez**
- SUPPORTING MEMBERS
 - **Greg & Stephie Cousins**
 - **Alan Markell**
 - **John Scales**

Special Notes:



“Emma and the General - March 2, 1863” photo by Ron Simmons is actually pointing toward the membership table. Please support the Round Table.

Call to Action! – Join / Renew Now –

Basic Membership Categories

General member \$30; Student member \$0; Associate member \$0

Premium Membership Categories

Supporting member \$100; Sustaining member \$250; Patron \$500: See the membership table for benefits.

And for nonmembers

Friend of the Round Table (Any contribution you're comfortable with.)

Last Survivors of the Civil War; submitted by Bob Grasser, Newsletter Editor, Raleigh Round Table via Carol Codori

How did it get so late so soon?

It's night before it's afternoon.

December is here before it's June.

My goodness how the time has flown.

How did it get so late so soon?

– Dr. Seuss

Introduction

The following article identifies five individuals, each the last survivor of a specific group of people related to the American Civil War:

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



- the last living Union soldier
- the last living Confederate soldier
- the last living witness to Lincoln's assassination
- the last living former American slave
- the last living Civil War pension recipient

In Greek mythology, the Fates are a group of three weaving goddesses who assign individual destinies to mortals at birth. These are portrayed as three women spinners, each having a different task revealed by her name:

Clotho ("The Spinner") spun the thread of life,
 Lachesis ("The Allotter") measured its allotted length, and
 Atropos ("The Inflexible") cut it off with her shears.

Today, we understand one's lifespan to be governed by nature (one's biological/genetic predispositions) as well as by nurture (one's environment). Added to this is chance, i.e., luck, be it good or bad.

The following five people won the lifespan sweepstakes for each of their groups and are remembered, even to the present day. As a result of the luck of the draw, it seems a bit unfair, however, that few, if any, remember or memorialize, for example, the name of the next-to-last living person in a group.

The last living Union soldier; Albert Henry Woolson (Feb. 11, 1850 – Aug. 2, 1956) was the last known surviving member of the 2,675,000 men of the Union Army who served in the American Civil War. He was also the last surviving Civil War veteran on either side whose status is undisputed. Woolson was born in Antwerp, New York on February 11, 1850. He enlisted as a drummer boy in Company C, 1st Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment on October 4, 1864, becoming the company's drummer. However, he was discharged on September 7, 1865, his company having never seen combat. Woolson returned to Minnesota, where he lived the rest of his life. He was a carpenter and later a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), the powerful political organization made up of Civil War veterans. The G.A.R. once numbered 408,489 members. Although it held its final encampment in 1949, it continued to exist until Woolson's death in Duluth, Minnesota, on August 2, 1956. Woolson was buried with full military honors by the National Guard at Park Hill Cemetery in Duluth. Following his death, President Dwight D. Eisenhower said: "The American people have lost the last personal link with the Union Army ... His passing brings sorrow to the hearts of all of us who cherished the memory of the brave men on both sides of the War Between the States."

For those who prefer to define the last living surviving member of the Union army as having actually experienced combat, the honor would instead fall to James Albert Hard (July 15, 1843 – March 12, 1953). He is recorded as having joined the Union Army four days after the April 12, 1861 firing on Fort Sumter began the Civil War. Hard is reported to have fought as an infantryman in the 37th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment at the battles of First Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Fredericksburg. He is said to have met Abraham Lincoln at a White House reception as well as later seeing him twice reviewing troops in Virginia.

The last living Confederate soldier; The colorfully named Private Pleasant Riggs Crump (Dec. 23, 1847 – Dec. 31, 1951), of Talladega County, Alabama, was the last confirmed surviving veteran of the Confederate States Army. Historical research has subsequently debunked claims of others who died later during the 1950's. Thus, Crump officially remains the last surviving veteran of the Confederate Army.

In 1863, encouraged by one of his young neighbors who had been fighting in the 10th Alabama Regiment in The Knapsack 3 December 9, 2019 Last Survivors of the Civil War (Cont.) the Virginia



Campaign and was home on leave, the 16 year-old Crump decided to enlist. The two of them took off for Petersburg and joined the forces of Northern Virginia in November 1864.

Private Crump fought at the Battle of Hatcher's Run and at other Virginia battles before witnessing the end of the Confederacy at Appomattox Court House. In 1913, Crump recalled how he was just across the road from the McLean House that Sunday, and how, later, he took part in the Stacking of the Arms. He would live to become Alabama's last surviving soldier witness to the Appomattox surrender. While President, Harry Truman bestowed on Pleasant Crump the honorary title of "Colonel". An Old Testament Bible verse (Psalm 133:1) sums up Crump's life after the Civil War: "Behold how good and how PLEASANT it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

The last living witness to Lincoln's assassination; Samuel James Seymour (Mar. 28, 1860 – Apr. 12, 1956) was the last surviving person who had been in Ford's Theatre the night of the assassination of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865.

That night, five-year-old Samuel was taken by his godmother to see Our American Cousin at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. They sat in the balcony across the theater from the Presidential box. He saw Lincoln come into the box, waving and smiling. Later, "All of a sudden a shot rang out ... and someone in the President's box screamed. I saw Lincoln slumped forward in his seat." Seymour watched John Wilkes Booth jump from the box to the stage. He remembers that his strongest memory was not what had happened to Lincoln, but rather feeling very concerned for Booth, who had broken his leg in the jump.

[Aside: Cal J. Shoonover, in a guest post on the website Emerging Civil War, <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2014/02/26/in-jumping-broke-my-leg-another-look-at-the-lincoln-assassination-legend/>, makes a compelling argument that Booth did not break his leg jumping from the balcony. Instead, testimony from a number of witnesses suggests that Booth broke his leg only later, when his horse fell during his escape ride.]

The impetus for writing this article was my recent accidental stumbling across a YouTube video of the February 9, 1956, broadcast of the CBS TV panel show I've Got a Secret. On it, only two months before his death, Samuel Seymour appeared as one of the contestants. Here is a link to that video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RPoymt3Jx4>. While watching it, reflect on the fact that you are viewing a 63 year-old video of a person describing his personal involvement in a cataclysmic historical event which occurred 91 years before that, a total span of 154 years!

I've Got a Secret host Garry Moore, after escorting Seymour on stage, explained that he and the show's producers had urged Seymour to skip his appearance on the show. It seems that, after arriving in New York City for the taping, Seymour had suffered a fall down the stairs at his hotel. This left him with a large swollen knot above his right eye. However, Seymour's doctor had left the decision of his appearance up to him. Perhaps sensing his impending mortality, and wanting to allow America's viewers to see a part of history, Seymour decided to go on anyway.

The show's panelists that night included Bill Cullen, Jayne Meadows, Henry Morgan, and Lucile Ball. During Seymour's appearance, he was first questioned by panelist Bill Cullen, who quickly gathered from Seymour's age that his secret was somehow connected with the American Civil War. Cullen then correctly guessed that it was related to politics and involved a political figure. The questioning proceeded to Jayne Meadows, who correctly guessed that the political figure was Lincoln, and, finally, that Seymour had witnessed Lincoln's assassination.

The program definitely showed its age: A prominent Winston cigarette sign appeared on the front of host Gary Moore's desk and Moore smoked a cigarette throughout the questioning. Finally, because Seymour smoked a pipe rather than cigarettes, the show's sponsor, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company gave him a can of Prince Albert pipe tobacco instead of the usual prize of a carton of Winston cigarettes. Apparently, TV game show prize budgets were tight in the 1950's.

As mentioned earlier, Samuel Seymour would live only two months after his appearance on the show. Whether the fall was a factor in his soon-to-be death or only a symptom of his frailty,



Seymour passed away on April 12, 1956. This was exactly 95 years after the firing on Fort Sumter, which began the Civil War, and only two days shy of the 91st anniversary of the assassination that he had witnessed as a child, which occurred only five days after Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House.

The last living former American slave; Sylvester Magee (May 29, 1841 – Oct. 15, 1971) was the last living former American slave. He was well known in later years, having received much publicity. Sylvester Magee was alleged to have been born in North Carolina in 1841 to Ephraim and Jeanette, slaves on the J.J. Shanks plantation. Magee indicated that he was purchased at the age of 19 just before the start of the American Civil War by Southern plantation owner Hugh Magee at a slave market in Enterprise, Mississippi. Hugh Magee owned the Lone Star Plantation in Covington County, Mississippi. Sylvester Magee claimed that in 1863 he ran away from the Steen plantation and enlisted in the Union Army, taking part in the assault on Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Although much documentation is lost or possibly never existed, some sources suggest that Magee may have served in both the Confederate and Union armies.

Accepting the evidence of his bona fides as legitimate, in his later years he was accepted for treatment by the Mississippi Veterans Hospital as a veteran of the American Civil War.

On Magee's 124th birthday in 1965, Mississippi Governor Paul B. Johnson, Jr. declared it "Sylvester Magee Day". On his 125th birthday in 1966, he was proclaimed as the oldest living United States citizen by a life insurance company and received a birthday card from President Lyndon B. Johnson. In an interview that same year, Magee stated that he had never drank alcohol, not uttered a swear word, although he had smoked cigarettes for 108 years! On his 130th birthday in 1971, he was recognized by President Richard Nixon.

Magee had four wives and outlived three of them. He fathered 7 children, the last at age 107. Supposedly, his father lived to 123, while his mother lived to 122. In his later years, he made a living digging graves.

On October 15, 1971, Sylvester Magee died in Columbia, Mississippi, age 130. After his funeral at John the Baptist Missionary Church, and, despite his celebrity, he was buried in an unmarked grave in the Pleasant Valley Church Cemetery in nearby Foxworth, Mississippi. In 2011, the Marion County Mississippi Historical Society provided a marker.

The last living Civil War pension recipient It is doubtful that Abraham Lincoln could have dreamed that 21st-century Americans would still be paying for pensions created under him.

Irene Triplett, a woman from North Carolina, is one such example. She's the last living recipient of a Civil War pension, which her father earned for his service to the Union cause. Irene was born in 1930 to Mose (aka Moses) Triplett and his second wife, Elida. Mose, whose first wife Mary died in the 1920s, fathered five children with Elida, who was 50 years younger than he was. Irene and her younger brother were the only ones to survive childhood.

Mose Triplett's army career started on the Confederate side, when he joined the 53rd North Carolina Infantry Regiment in 1862 at the young age of 16. In 1863, he transferred to the 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment. Later that year as part of Lee's second incursion into the north, Mose fell ill with fever and was admitted to a Confederate hospital. From there, he escaped just a week before the battle of Gettysburg, deserting his regiment entirely. It was lucky for him because the 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment is famous for being the regiment with the largest number of casualties on either side at Gettysburg as well as during the entire Civil War.

Local people in North Carolina, especially the western part, were sympathetic to the Union and frequently helped Confederate deserters. Mose made his way over the mountains and on to Knoxville, Tennessee, where he joined the 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry, a Union regiment, in the summer of 1864. He made it through the rest of the war virtually unscathed.

Irene Triplett was 8 years old when her father, Mose, died in 1938. Both Elida and Irene then each began receiving a small monthly pension as widow and child of a Civil War veteran. As victims



of the Great Depression, no wage-earning man in the house, and suffering from mental conditions, Irene and her mother, Elida, moved into a poorhouse in Wilkes County, North Carolina in 1943. When it shut down in 1960, they moved into a new private nursing home. There, Elida Triplett died of cancer in 1967. In 2013, after breaking her hip, Irene moved from the nursing home into a Wilkesboro skilled-nursing facility. As of November 5, 2019, Irene is still living at the age of 89. She is the sole remaining receiver of pension checks from the Civil War. Her monthly checks from the federal government's Department of Veterans Affairs total to \$73.13, about \$880 per year.

Conclusion

Even today, 154 years after its conclusion, echoes of the Civil War continue to reverberate as exemplified by Irene Triplett, still-living daughter of a Civil War veteran, and only remaining recipient of a Civil War pension.

A common denominator among these last survivors is that they were either relatively young at the onset of the Civil War or the offspring of a very old veteran and a relatively very young wife. That, plus favorable alignments of nature, nurture, and plain old good luck!

Announcements:



Richard Jozefiak

If Richard Jozefiak (joe see' fee ak) looks familiar it is because he was a member of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table and a former resident of Huntsville and on Thursday January 9th, Richard will present "*The Battle of the Different Paper Moneys Used in Madison County During 1861-1865*" at the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table on Thursday, January 9, 2020. The meeting is held at the Elks Lodge in Huntsville, and begins at 6:30 pm.

The types of money in use changed quickly over a short period of time during the Civil War and Richards' program will address the three different

currencies in circulation that the population in North Alabama had to deal with – Union, CSA, and State of Alabama. Richard will display authentic area Civil War paper money.

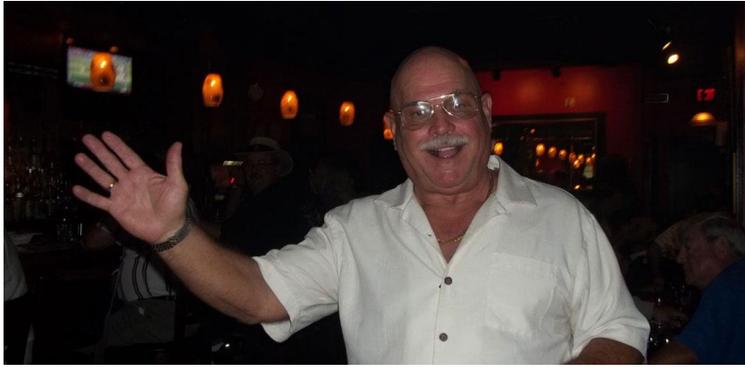
Richard is a member of the Madison County Coin club and a resident of Gainesville, GA, he is a member of numerous numismatic organizations nationally, and is a frequent speaker and exhibits coins at shows throughout the country. He has also authored numerous articles in national publications and has received numerous numismatic national awards.

Since 2015, he is the National Coordinator for the American Numismatic Association (ANA) (www.money.org) and is responsible for serving over 25,000 ANA members and over 460 ANA member organizations across the country. He is a life member of the ANA and served on the ANA Road Show team that gives evaluation of coins and paper money for the public at major coin shows across the county. He performs appraisals of collections, both large and small and he will give you a free appraisal after his presentation on Thursday.

The public is invited to the meeting and meet Richard Jozefiak as he shares his presentations and collections -- which he has designed for general interest. Also, people may bring in some coins, paper money, tokens or medals for an appraisal after the program.



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



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



**Zack Magnussen
final winner for 2019.**

The 2020 TVCWRT Schedule of Speakers

Date/Speaker	Title of Presentation
13-Feb: Dan Mallock	John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and the Catastrophic Era of Reassessment
12-Mar: Donna Castellano	Huntsville's Historic Homes: Statehood, Civil War, and Beyond
21-Mar: Saturday 11am TBD	Walking tour of architecture Spring Extra,
9-Apr: Michael Acosta	Fort Fisher, NC the Fall of "Southern Gibraltar"
14-May: Phillip Wirey	James Longstreet: Local Boy Meets Gettysburg, PA
11-Jun: Linda Moss-Mines	"Nurse Walker" Portrayal
9-Jul: Judge (Ret) David Breland ... And DeAngelo McDaniel	Stories of Civil War Decatur, AL: How African American. & White Citizens Coped
13-Aug: Curt Fields (US Grant)	Returns to Huntsville: From Early Years to Shiloh
11-Sept: Mauriel Joslyn	Battle of Chickamauga, Before and After
8-Oct: Dakota Cotton	Athens, AL: The Siege and Historic Beaty House
12-Nov: Eric Whittenberg	U.S. Cavalry at Brandy Station, VA

We ended 2019 with 146 members and 30% of our members have renewed.

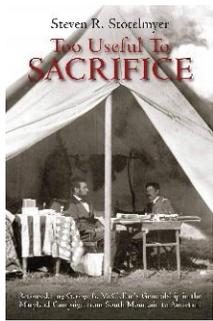
The membership target for 2020 is 175.

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TVCWRT Features

Book Review



Too Useful to Sacrifice, Reconsidering George B McClellan's Generalship in the Maryland Campaign from South Mountain to Antietam by Steven R. Stotelmyer, El Dorado Hills: Savas Beatie LLC, 2019, a Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table reviewed by Emil L. Posey

The summer of 1862 was a dynamic time for Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia and a sad time for George B. McClellan and his Army of the Potomac. Early July saw McClellan's first eclipse with the demise of his Peninsula Campaign. Some five weeks later, in mid-August, Lee and the AoNV had relocated north of Richmond and engaged and defeated John Pope's Army of Virginia (along with elements of the AoP) in the Battle of Second Bull Run. (This was Pope's eclipse.) From there, Lee led the AoNV on its first invasion of the North where he would again come up against McClellan and AoP near Sharpsburg, Maryland, west of Frederick, in what would become known as the Battle of Antietam.

McClellan's rise in the Union Army had been meteoric. His ability to organize, train, and ready the AoP for large scale operations in the field became legend. His field abilities, alas, were not up to the legend, a conclusion well borne out by studying his Peninsula Campaign. The Maryland Campaign was an opportunity to prove himself and regain the glory he had held just a few short months before. Instead, it saw his second and final eclipse. The Battle of Antietam ended in a Union victory – some characterize it as a stalemate – with Lee and the AoNV having pulled back across the Potomac after a day of the bloodiest fighting the war had seen up to that point. McClellan's reputation was dashed, and he faded from the military scene.

The disparaging view of McClellan is conventional wisdom not shared by all. Steven Stotelmyer's Too Useful to Sacrifice is the latest attempt to rehabilitate McClellan's image. He focuses on the Maryland Campaign, the Peninsula Campaign being more problematic.

The importance of the Maryland Campaign is difficult to overstate. A decisive Confederate victory may well have spun the war in an entirely different direction. In the event, history has cast McClellan as a slow and overly cautious general who allowed opportunities and Lee's battered army to slip through his grasp. Mr. Stotelmyer disagrees and argues that McClellan deserves significant credit for moving quickly, acting decisively, and defeating and turning back the South's most able general. Moreover, Mr. Stotelmyer argues that not only must the battle be viewed in the context of the whole campaign (particularly with the battles for the South Mountain gaps on September 14 and the subsequently movement of both armies back into Virginia after Antietam), Antietam should be seen as a coherent battle lasting four days (September 14-17) rather than as a separate one-day affair, massive as it was, on September 17.

Mr. Stotelmyer makes his case through five essays. The first, "Fallacies Regarding the Lost Orders of the Maryland Campaign of 1862" centers around McClellan's good fortune of landing a copy of Lee's Special Orders No. 191. Conventional wisdom has it that McClellan



squandered the opportunity. Mr. Stotemyer believes McClellan made the best of whatever opportunity the document provided, which probably was not as much as most people believe. The second, "Antietam: The Sequel to South Mountain" describes the operational importance of September 14 and the subsequent set-up for the engagement at Antietam, to the point that the battles for the South Mountain gaps are part and parcel of the action on September 17. The third, "All the Injury Possible: The True 'Prelude' to Antietam" addresses criticism that McClellan did not press the AoP's advantage after securing the South Mountain gaps. In the fourth essay, "General John Pope at Antietam and the Politics Behind the Myth of General Fitz-John Porter's Reserves", Mr. Stotemyer defends Porter's employment of his V Corps, and blames, at least in part, Porter's subsequent court-martial and conviction (after Antietam) for actions during the Second Battle of Bull Run as having resulted from his association with McClellan. The fifth and final essay, "Supplies and Demands", deals with perceptions that McClellan failed to pursue the AoNV after Antietam and President Lincoln's frustrations that led to McClellan's removal from command.

Typical of revisionist attempts, Stotemyer has an uphill climb. Many competent historians over the years have weighed in on McClellan's command abilities and activities leading the AoP in the field. One of the prime resources is McClellan's own words captured in his extensive correspondence. Mr. Stotemyer makes a gallant effort but, by focusing on only one campaign, falls short. McClellan had many attributes that gained him the love and devotion of the soldiers of the AoP, but he clearly had shortcomings that compromised his exercise of field command.

That said, the book is well written, full of rich detail and visuals, and loaded with opinions, contemporary and current. It provides an excellent description of the campaign and is most useful for its insights and arguments. Enjoy!

A native of Hagerstown, Maryland and a navy veteran, Steven Stotemyer earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Frostburg State College (Allegany County, Maryland) and a Master of Arts from Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. He was a founding member of the Central Maryland Heritage League in 1989-2000, during which time he helped preserve some of the South Mountain Battlefield. From 1989 through 1994 Mr. Stotemyer volunteered at the Antietam National Battlefield. In 1992 he published The Bivouacs of the Dead: The Story of Those Who Died at Antietam and South Mountain (Toomey Press, Baltimore, Maryland). From 2000 through 2005, Mr. Stotemyer served as a part-time volunteer and historical consultant for the South Mountain State Battlefield. He currently enjoys being a National Park Service Certified Antietam and South Mountain Tour Guide.

Your reviewer is Emil L. Posey, former Vice President of the TVCWRT, now continuing to support by being part of the Stage Crew. His work history spans almost 45 years of military and civilian service to our country. He retired from NASA/George C. Marshall Space Flight Center on December 27, 2014. He has a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Hood College, Frederick, Maryland; is a former president of the Huntsville chapter of the National Contract Management Association, and is a life member of the Special Forces Association. He is also a member of Elks Lodge 1648 (Huntsville, AL) and the Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society. He is a dedicated bibliophile and a (very) armchair political analyst and military enthusiast.



The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Civil War Tutorial On Line.

Under the heading of Nooks and Crannies, Emil Posey addressed the political issues that stimulated sectional rivalries during the Antebellum period leading to the Civil War. In this issue, former Round Table President J.D. Mason addresses the economic conditions that accompanied the political debate during and after the country disintegrated into war. All the articles published to date will be placed on our website to encourage interest and study of the Civil War era.

An Analysis of Antebellum Economic Capabilities in the United States

By Former President of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table, J.D. Mason

The American Civil War was the first to be considered a “modern war” in that it would involve the total assets and debits of the competing sides. Economically, the north could win such a war while the south could not. Given that simple statement, this paper will take a look at some of the things that support it in order to give the reader an idea of the comparative economic strengths and weaknesses of the opposing sides, North and South.

I will accomplish this by doing the following:

1. Demonstrating the industrial advantage of the north, including shipbuilding and weapons,
2. Describing the “Anaconda Plan” and how it worked,
3. Discussing the economic and military advantages of the railroads,
4. Discussing Union and Confederate financial policies,
5. Classifying three ways in which the sides financed the war,
6. Identifying the process of “runaway inflation” in the south, and finally,
7. Discussing how revenues were accrued and the importance of “King Cotton”,

But let’s start by just taking a general look at where the two sides stood at the beginning of the war, comparing their economic realities and capabilities.

In his book *Wealth of Nations*, published on 9 March 1776, English economist Adam Smith said, “Scarce any nation has dealt equally and impartially with every sort of industry . . . [some are] more favorable to industry . . . than to agriculture . . . Yet they have given occasion to very different theories of political economy, . . . Some magnify the importance of that industry which is carried on in towns [read: cities], others of that which is carried on in the country.”

In essence, this was a perfect description of the antebellum American situation. And so, 75 years later, we would see his words played out in the basic economic differences between the North and the South.

Granted, both sides engaged in agriculture, and both sides also had industry, but the degree into which they were invested as well as the types of products they produced were vastly inequitable. Those inequities would show themselves in the decades culminating with the Civil War.



To emphasize that point, look at this map exemplifying the degree and types of industry and agriculture in the Northern and Southern states in 1860:

The concentration of industry is almost instantly obvious, but also pay close attention to the colors indicating the types of crops that were predominate in each section's agriculture. They illustrate another important point: Southern agriculture was almost entirely devoted to cotton and sugar except in Virginia and the border states where corn and tobacco predominated.

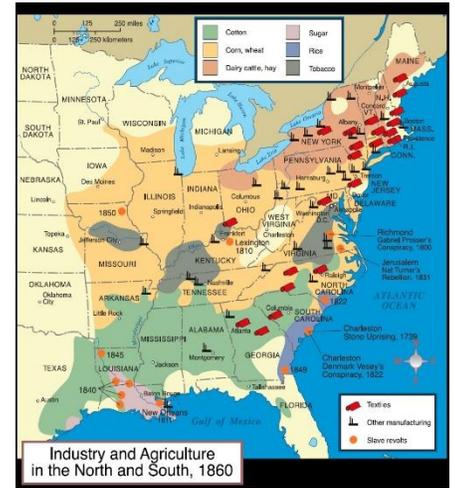
Why is this important? Because it points to a key deficiency in what would become the South's wartime economy: It couldn't produce the foodstuffs necessary to sustain itself and more importantly, its troops in the field. Most of its corn, grain, and meats were "imported" from either the North or from Texas, and once hostilities commenced, imports from neither of those areas nor the border states would be readily available for long.

In 1860, as shown in the illustration, the South was still predominantly agricultural, highly dependent upon the sale of staples to a world market. But while the southern states produced two-thirds of the world's supply of cotton, the South had little manufacturing capability, about 29 percent of the railroad tracks, and only 13 percent of the nation's banks. The South did experiment with using slave labor in manufacturing, but for the most part it was well satisfied with its agricultural economy.

The North, by contrast, was well on its way toward a commercial and manufacturing economy, which would have a direct impact on its war making ability. By 1860, 90 percent of the nation's manufacturing output came from northern states. They produced 17 times more cotton and woolen textiles than the South, 30 times more leather goods, 20 times more pig iron, and 32 times more firearms. And as far as war-making capability, the North produced 3,200 firearms to every 100 produced in the South.

Furthermore, only about 40 percent of the Northern population was still engaged in agriculture by 1860, as compared to 84 percent of the South. Rather, by 1860, 26 percent of the Northern population lived in urban areas as compared to their Southern counterparts of whom only about a tenth of the southern population similarly lived in urban areas.

In the 1860's South, from a total of ninety-six foundries and eighty-two rolling mills, only eleven were of sufficient size to meet production needs. Tennessee founding father James Robertson and his partners established the first iron furnace in the Western Highland Rim region in 1797. By the 1830s Tennessee iron had earned a reputation, according to 19th century ironmaster George Lewis, as being "superior to all other makes in America" and equal to iron from Sweden and Scotland. As a result, by the 1850s, Lewis reported, 20 furnaces, 10 forges and two rolling mills operated along the Cumberland River, producing annually 30,000 tons of pig metal, 10,000 tons of blooms (cross sections of ingots measuring at least 36 Square inches), and 5,000 tons of bar and boiler plate iron, valued at \$1.7 million and employing 3,500 men. Montgomery County alone boasted seven blast furnaces, tuning out 8,000 tons of pig iron a year. But, as another indicator of southern



industrial insufficiency, most of this iron was shipped to other states to be cast into usable items; the area had few foundries to mold the pig into cast iron products.

By comparison, in the Union the industrial output of Pennsylvania alone swamped the entire output of the South.

The production of military ordnance was another limiting factor in the success of the South, as in 1860 only Tredegar Ironworks in Richmond, could cast guns. (In the sixteen years prior to that date Tredegar had cast nearly 900 guns). Later, other foundries and ordnance centers, such as the one at Selma, were established, but these had to compete for the limited supply of iron and manpower.

One of the Union's main goals from the outset of the war was the implementation of a blockade against the Confederacy, as set out by General-in-Chief Winfield Scott in a letter to MG George McClellan on 6 May 1861. He would follow that up by planning to brief the cabinet on 29 June, but by then, the blockade had already been proclaimed. To accomplish this, shipbuilding would be critical! The North, in fact, having long had a maritime tradition, had plenty of facilities.

One of the North's greatest achievements was to develop a navy almost from zero. Three days after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, on April 15, 1861, Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to enlist for three months, including 18,000 sailors. When President Lincoln declared the blockade to be in effect, there were only 51 serviceable warships available in the fleet, only 27 of which being in active service, and many of these were representing the flag in ports around the world. Of those, only 8 were in home waters where they were expected to blockade 3500 miles of coastline and about 180 ports of entry.

To achieve its goal, the North began by purchasing or chartering all suitable vessels, quickly arming them, and rushing them into service with crews who, in many cases, were as fresh to naval service as the ships, themselves. Within a year a vast construction program was under way. Shortly, about 300 new vessels were added to the navy and these started to make the blockade effective. By the end of the war, 418 vessels had been purchased, of which 313 were steamers, and an extra 208 warships were built under contract, over sixty of which were ironclads.

It had long been anticipated that Southern shipbuilding facilities would not be able to cope with demand, so by August 1861 Secretary of the Navy Stephen Mallory had already contracted for several powerful ironclads in the west. Few Southern shipyards were of sufficient size, and plants for the manufacture of machinery and armor were also inadequate.

To compensate, many small concerns sprang up throughout the South, but these were often sited on a riverbank in a hastily prepared clearing and frequently lacked adequate facilities. To put a number on it, in 1860 there were only thirty-six regular shipbuilding yards in the soon-to-be Confederate states. Between 1849 and 1858 the volume of ship construction throughout the United States was enormous. More than 8000 vessels were built, 1600 of them in the South.

Of the ten yards belonging to the US Navy in 1860, only two were in the South - one at Norfolk, and a smaller one at Pensacola, which was better suited to refitting vessels, although it had built several large warships. Norfolk was a far superior facility, having constructed thirteen major warships prior to 1861. But even this potential source of large output would not be enough when compared with the enormous shipbuilding resources of

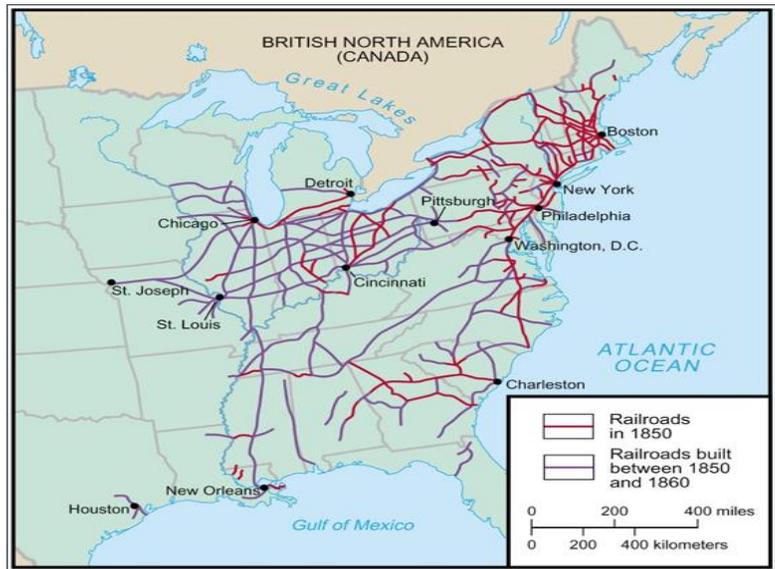


the Union which had many well-equipped navy yards and an abundant supply of private companies.

The American Civil War was the first in which large armies depended heavily on railroads to bring supplies. Railways were a liability in the South where the system was fragile and was designed for short hauls of cotton to the nearest river or ocean port. To make matters worse, during the war, new parts were hard to obtain, and the system deteriorated from overuse, lack of maintenance, and systematic destruction by Union raiders

In addition, the Confederacy suffered from two key deficiencies in its rail network. First was the route structure: most rail lines connected ports and river terminals to points inland. This lack of inter-railway connections made many railroads useless once the Union blockade was in place. Second was break of gauge; much of the Confederate rail network was in the broad gauge format, but much of North Carolina and Virginia had standard gauge lines. As troop movement began in earnest in May and June 1861, another crippling problem was discovered; many rail lines terminated in towns without connecting to continuing lines. Instead, cargo would have to be unloaded, driven across town, and then reloaded.

By 1861, two-thirds of all railroads in America were located in northern states. The Union had many industrial centers, and therefore could produce more railroads. And it also had more manpower to maintain those trains. Then, the Pacific Railway Act was established in 1862. Lincoln signed this law because it allowed help in construction of railroad and telegraph lines from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. It also secured the ability for the government to use these same lines for postal, military, and other purposes, and placed all employees and officers under military authority.



By the fall of 1864, most southern railways were taken over by Union armies, and by the spring of 1864 those Union soldiers had demolished most of them. Advantage Union.

To sum up, let's take a look at a graph showing how the two sides compared resource-wise:

Notice that the only data set where there is any sense of parity is in "Exports", and that "advantage" began to disappear as early as 1862 in direct proportion to the effectiveness of the Union blockade coupled with the disastrous effects of "King Cotton"

Despite the disparity, the South came closer to winning than perhaps they should have. Let's take a look at HOW Economic and Fiscal policies were employed during the way, and what steps were taken, especially by the Confederacy, to maximize their opportunities.

Classical economic theory says that the labor shortage caused by a wartime decline in immigration and by the enlistment of workers in the army should normally enable wages to keep up with the cost of living if not exceed it. In other words, war should also combat



inflation. This didn't happen at the start of the Civil War. Inflation soared in the North, and, while far less serious than in the south, price increases caused a 20% decline in real wages by 1864. James McPherson cites three reasons for this:

1. Slack in the economy left by the panic of 1857 and recession in 1861, causing a labor-shortages in the following years,
2. A speedup in the mechanization of key industries like harvesters, reapers, and mowers eased the demand for agricultural labor, and
3. A great increase in the employment of women.

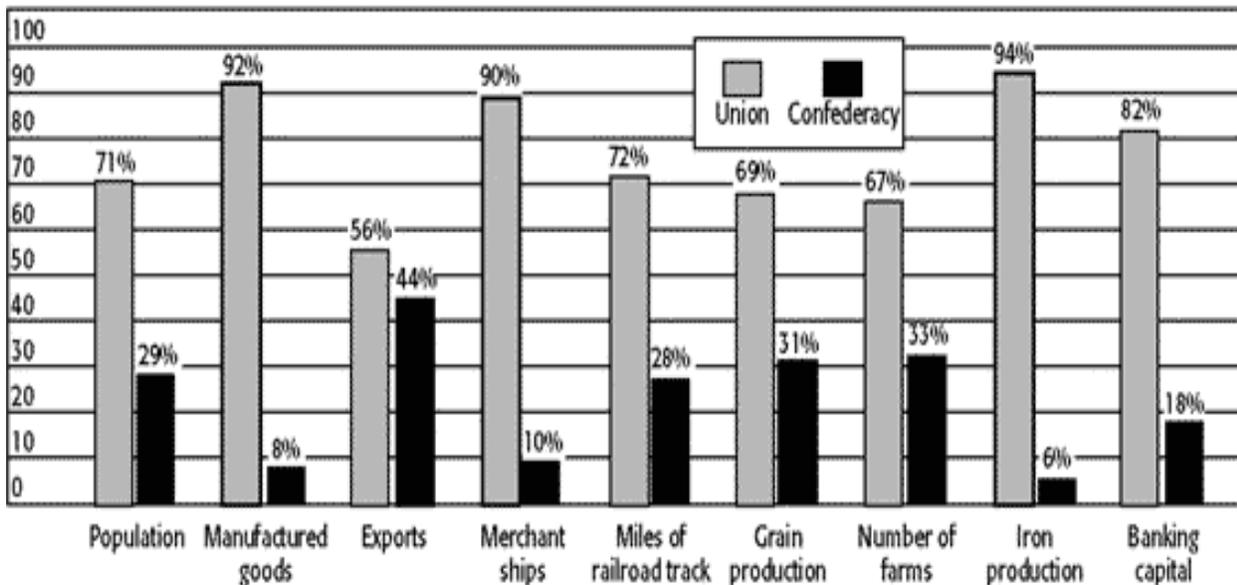
Let's look at how both sides handled their wartime economies and why one was more successful than the other.

Succinctly put, the Union financed the Civil War through war bonds, selling federal lands and instituting an income tax. The Union's greater tax and industrial base was obviously a major financial advantage. But they also get credit for recognizing that the war was going to be costly, and drastic measures might be necessary if the revenues necessary to support it were to be obtained.

The primary source of war revenue for the Union was war bonds. These were notes sold to individuals that promised repayment after a set period and interest paid in the interim. As much as 65 percent of the Union's war expenditures were funded by these bonds, although their value and the ease with which they could be sold varied along with the tide of the war. When Confederates attacked Union shipping and found success in the field, bond sales dropped, while Union victories helped increase revenue.

Another source of revenue came from direct taxes: first, excise and property taxes (from the 18th Century), then later, income taxes. These revenue laws were initially passed in order to reassure the financial community that the Union could repay its bonds. The excise and property tax laws were then repealed in 1807 as tariffs rose to prominence. But in 1861, Union Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase recognized the coming revenue

Resources of the Union and of the Confederacy



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States



shortfall and proposed doubling the war tax and reinstated the excise tax on whiskey plus a new income tax. He expected a yield of some \$50 million annually.

Treasury had to cover a \$20 million shortfall for the first fiscal year of the war, and the solution was the first income tax in American history. Passed August 5, 1861, the legislation levied a 3 percent tax against incomes over \$800 and was increased twice during the war. By 1864, the rates were 5 percent on incomes between \$600 and \$5,000, 7.5 percent for incomes between \$5,000 and \$10,000, and 10 percent for incomes above \$10,000.

The Confederacy also instituted an income tax, but not until much later in the war. In fact, it didn't authorize its first national income tax measure until 1863.

The Confederate bill that finally passed after great debate was a graduated income tax. It exempted wages up to \$1,000, levied a 1% tax on the first \$1,500 over the exemption, and 2% on all additional income. The share of direct taxes in total for the South was only about 8%.

A major part of the reason why tax revenue did not play as large a role for the Confederacy was the individual states' opposition to a strong central government and the belief in states' rights, which precluded giving too much taxing power to the government in Richmond. But finally, the realities of the prolonged war, the necessity of paying interest on existing debt, and the drop-in revenues from other sources, forced both the central Confederate government and the individual states to reach an agreement – of sorts.

President Lincoln wasn't sure as to whether or not the president had the Constitutional authority to "collect [such] duties." And he was particularly concerned about maintaining federal authority over collecting revenue from ports along the southeastern seaboard, which he worried, might fall under the control of the Confederacy. Those worries would prove to be correct.

From 1861 to 1864, there were two great changes in American financial policy: the establishment of a national banking system and the issue of paper currency.

Lincoln appointed William P. Fessenden United States Secretary of the Treasury upon Salmon P. Chase's resignation. Chase had just withdrawn a loan from the market for want of acceptable bids, and the capacity of the country to lend seemed exhausted. Currency had been enormously inflated: the paper dollar was worth only 34 cents; gold was at \$280/ounce.

Fessenden at first refused the office, but at last accepted in obedience to the universal public pressure. When his acceptance became known, gold fell to \$225/ounce. He declared that no more currency should be issued, and, making an appeal to the people, he prepared and put upon the market the seven-thirty loan, which proved a triumphant success.

The seven-thirty loan was established in the form of bonds bearing interest at the rate of 7.30%, which were issued in denominations as low as \$50 so that people of moderate means could take them. He also framed and recommended the measures, adopted by congress, which permitted the subsequent consolidation and funding of the government loans into the 4% and 4.5% bonds. It not only secured an immediate market for government bonds, but also provided a permanent, uniform, and stable national currency. The financial situation now becoming favorable, he resigned on March 3, 1865, in accordance with his expressed intention, to return to the Senate to which he had now for the third time been elected.



The Confederacy, on the other hand, relied mostly on tariffs on imports and taxes on exports to raise revenues. These customs dues were preferred because they could be easily collected at the ports of entry into the country. However, with the imposition of a voluntary self-embargo in 1861 (intended to "starve" Europe of cotton and force diplomatic recognition of the Confederacy), as well as the blockade of Southern ports enforced by the Union Navy, the revenue from taxes on international trade declined.

Likewise, the financing obtained through early voluntary donations of coins and bullion from private individuals in support of the Confederate cause, which early on were quite substantial, dried up by the end of 1861. As a result, the Confederate government was forced to resort to other means of financing its military operations.

One of these, a "war-tax" was enacted but proved difficult to collect. Other direct taxes were available, but the Confederacy shunned them on principle. One legislator reportedly said, "Do you think, gentlemen, that I will consent to load my constituents with taxes when we can send to our printer and get a wagon load of money, one quire of which will pay for the whole?" A "Quire" is a sheet of paper folded to produce 8 leaves.

The Confederacy thusly had trouble raising revenue with taxes; nor could they borrow effectively in the international bond market. So CSA Treasury Secretary Christopher Memminger turned to an old stand-by — the printing press.

The Treasury bills issued during the war had a peculiar feature: They were redeemable for gold two years after the war ended, which meant that the value of the bills was partially tied to expectations of victory for the Confederacy. But so rapid was the expansion of the Confederate money supply that at one point during the war, the orders for new currency exceeded the printing capacity of the Treasury's presses. To fill the order, the Treasury began to accept counterfeit currency as valid to further expand the supply of money. This promptly precipitated an era of hyperinflation resulting in the price level in the South rising by roughly 10 percent per month during the conflict and by the end of the war, the price level had increased in the Confederacy by a factor of 92.

In contrast with the South, the Union successfully raised the \$2.3 billion necessary to fund its war effort without causing hyperinflation. Though inflation was high in the North during the war — prices doubled in most Northern cities

Most of the available capital in the Confederate states was invested in slaves or in land dedicated to the production of cotton. There was no way to monetize these to support the war effort, and with a weak banking system unable to handle the financial demands, it largely collapsed. Richmond turned to smaller houses and speculators, who bought \$15,000,000 in Confederate bonds with gold. That gold was then used to buy warships and supplies to be brought in by blockade runners.

While, unsurprisingly, military spending constituted the largest part of the national government's budget over the course of the war, over time the payment of interest and principal on acquired debt grew as a share of the Confederate government's expenditure. Initially, in early 1861, war expenditure was 95% of the budget, but by October 1864 that share fell to 40%, with the majority of the rest (56% overall) being accounted for by debt service. Civilian expenditures and spending on the Navy (recorded separately from general war expenditures in Confederate records) never exceeded 10% of the budget.

Effective monetary policy was a key factor in the Civil War as it is in any government; unfortunately however, it was a concept the Confederacy never mastered. In the early years of the American experiment, most of her revenues were derived from tariffs. All

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governments loved tariffs and import duties - they were extremely easy to collect when ships came to port, and that's why they comprised a major portion of American revenues prior to the Civil War. But with the onset of secession, things became a little less rosy.

The Southerners' main dislike of tariffs was that they really didn't get anything out of them. Why? Because tariffs were primarily designed to benefit manufacturing, which was mostly located in the North. Southerners believed they only served to drive up import costs for the South, causing them to spend more for needed products. So in essence, the South was perceived to be paying a penalty to increase the profits of the North.

This difference was exacerbated by the South's dependence on cotton. It had to be exported to find the looms needed to make it into cloth. So first, the South paid a duty to send it north for milling, and then they had to pay another tariff on importing the cloth for their necessities. Since they refused to invest in infrastructure, the process became a vicious circle.

Now let's talk about another economic factor: Money

On February 25, 1862, the Federal Congress passed the Legal Tender Act authorizing the issue of \$150 million in treasury notes, commonly called "Greenbacks". This law began the issue of fiat money and changed the history of the nation's monetary policy.

Fiat money is inconvertible paper money made legal tender by a government decree. It only has value because the government maintains that value, or because two parties agree on said value. Fiat money was first introduced as an alternative to commodity-backed money - particularly that of gold and silver. Then in 1863 and 1864, Congress followed up on that by passing National Banking Acts to established a system of national banks, and create the United States National Banking System.

They encouraged development of a national currency backed by bank holdings of U.S. Treasury securities and established the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency as part of the United States Department of the Treasury and a system of nationally chartered banks. The Act shaped today's national banking system and a uniform U.S. banking policy.

The National Banking era was ushered in by the passage of the National Currency (later renamed the National Banking) Acts of 1863 and 1864. These Acts marked a decisive change in the monetary system, confirmed a quarter-century-old trend in bank chartering arrangements, and played a crucial role in financing the Civil War. One of the main objectives of the legislation was to provide a uniform national currency.

Prior to the establishment of the national banking system, the national currency supply consisted of a confusing patchwork of bank notes issued under a variety of rules by banks chartered under different state laws. Notes of sound banks circulated side-by-side with notes of banks in financial trouble, as well as those of banks that had failed (not to mention forgeries). In fact, bank notes frequently traded at a discount, so that a one dollar note of a smaller, less well-known bank (or, for that matter, of a bank at some distance) would likely have been valued at less than one dollar by someone receiving it in a transaction.

The confusion was such as to lead to the publication of magazines that specialized in printing pictures, descriptions, and prices of various bank notes, along with information on whether or not the issuing bank was still in existence. The legislation also placed a tax on notes issued by state banks, effectively driving them out of circulation.

A second element of the Act was the introduction bank charters issued by the federal government. From the earliest days of the Republic, banking had been considered primarily the province of state governments. By regularizing and removing legislative

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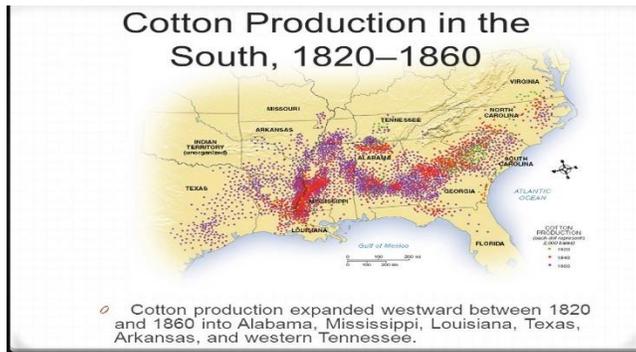


discretion from chartering decisions, the National Banking Acts spread free banking on a national level.

A third important element of the National Banking Acts was that they helped the Union government pay for the war. Adopted in the midst of the Civil War, the requirement for banks to deposit US bonds with the Comptroller maintained the demand for Union securities and helped finance the war effort. Surely, this element was an unintended consequence.

So, given all we have discussed, how did the Southern Confederacy ever think they could finance and maintain a successful secession?

This is a chart showing southern cotton production between 1820 and 1860. Each dot represents 2000 Bales. The GREEN dots, mostly in South Carolina, show production in 1820, the ORANGE, 1840, and the PURPLE, 1860. It's apparent that production soared in the two decades before the Civil War.



Here's another stat to back the picture up: Cotton production expanded from 750,000 bales in 1830 to 2.85 million bales in 1850. The standard size for a bale is 470 pounds. It sold for about 13.5 cents/pound, or \$3.45 in today's dollars. In 1850, those cotton sales amounted to around \$181 million in 1850 dollars (\$4.6 billion today).

One more stat: The Report of the Treasury, Dec. 4, 1860 lists total exports as \$400,122,296. The export of cotton alone for 1860 was \$191,806,555. That equates to a hefty 47.9%; not too shabby.

On March 4, 1858, Southern planter James Henry Hammond delivered a speech to the United States Senate on the topic of the admission of Kansas to the Union under the Lecompton Constitution. His speech, best known as "Cotton is King," exemplified the powerful role of cotton in the American economy and the blurred lines between Southern slave labor and Northern industrial work. The ideas he expressed became a key ingredient of the nascent Confederacy's financial plan.

King Cotton Diplomacy became the Confederate strategy employed during the Civil War to withhold cotton from Europe so as to draw them into war. The South thought it had an ace in its sleeve with that policy, reasoning that winning international diplomatic recognition was essential for achieving independence. The hope was that if England or France got involved, it would include breaking up the Union blockade. So to add more leverage, the South began intentionally withholding cotton exports. The general assumption about cotton diplomacy was that cotton was such a valuable commodity it could be leveraged for diplomatic recognition.

At the outbreak of the war, though, Europe had a surplus of cotton, and by the time it started running out, it had successfully replaced the American cotton by cotton from India and Egypt. Besides, both France and Britain had strong economic interests in the North as well, and poor harvests there in 1861 and 1862 made King Corn far more important than King Cotton.

At the same time any eventual European intervention in the war was successfully prevented by Lincoln and Secretary of State William H. Seward by creating an impression



that any support to the South would be regarded as a declaration of war on the Union. Neither Britain nor France wanted to get involved in the war in America. Even more, both preferred the status quo as advocated by the Union. The strategy was a failure.

Having looked at all these factors, what outcome, then, could one expect?

The first and most important point to make in this summary is that the Civil War was very expensive. In 1860 the U.S. national debt was \$65 million. To put that in perspective, the national debt in 1789, the year George Washington took office, was \$77 million. In other words, from 1789 to 1860, the United States spanned the entire continent, fought two major wars, and began its industrial growth—all the while reducing its national debt by nearly 16% in unadjusted dollars.

In 1865 the national debt stood at \$2.7 billion. Just the annual interest on that debt was more than twice our entire national budget in 1860. In fact, that Civil War debt was almost twice what the federal government spent before 1860. Before the war, we had limited government, few federal expenses, and low taxes. In 1860, on the eve of war, almost all federal revenue derived from the tariff. We had no income tax, no estate tax, and no excise taxes. Even the hated whiskey tax was gone. We had seemingly fulfilled Thomas Jefferson's vision: "What farmer, what mechanic, what laborer ever sees a tax-gatherer of the United States?" But four years of civil war changed all that forever.

All things considered, the war's most immediate legacy was growth: the federal government, the population, and the country itself all got bigger.

The size and role of the federal government began a dramatic expansion, starting a trend that has never reversed. Aggressive federal action spurred economic development from the war's outset. In 1862 alone, Congress passed the Homestead Act, the Morrill Land Grant Colleges Act, and the Pacific Railway Act, all of which helped pave the way for postwar industrialization, urbanization, and westward expansion. Legal scholars posit that this political victory of the Republicans was paralleled by a judicial revolution, a veritable "Second American Republic," with a strong nation-state governing a populace of national--not state--citizens, whose rights would be guaranteed by the federal authorities. Population growth kept pace with that of the central government. In the thirty years after the war's end, ten new states were admitted into the Union, and the country's population grew 142 percent between 1860 and 1900; 31 percent of that growth was due to immigration.

In effect, the Civil War completely altered the social, political, and economic landscape of the United States.

TVCWRT Little Round Table (LRT) Discussion and Schedule- 2019 & 2020

January 23, - John Pope, part 3 – Second Manassas; Led by John Scales

February 27, – Nat Turner; Led by Jeff Ewing

March 26, - Trading with The Enemy; Led by Jeff Ewing

April 23, - Vicksburg Campaign 1- Holly Springs to Chickasaw Bayou to Arkansas Post; Led by Arley McCormick

May 28, – Vicksburg Campaign 2 - Bayou and Canal Operations; Led by Fred Forst

June 25, - Vicksburg Campaign 3 - Porter Moves South – Grand Gulf - Snyder's Bluff; Led by Kent Wright



July 23, – Vicksburg Campaign 4 - Grierson's Raid; Led by Arley McCormick
August 27, – Vicksburg Campaign 5 - Port Gibson to Jackson; Led by Jeff Ewing
September 24, - Vicksburg Campaign 6 - Champion Hill and Big Black; Led by John Allen
October 22, - Vicksburg Campaign 7 - Siege Operations; Led by Emil Posey
December 10, - Armistead and Garnet - Parallel Lives; Led by Emil Posey



We thank TVCWRT Member Michael Acosta for bringing to life the (first) Battle of New Bern and look forward to his presentation in April on Fort Fisher.

April Harris
President of the
TVCWRT presenting
Michael Acosta a
Bicentennial Coin in
appreciation for his
excellent
presentation.

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