



## Challenge Yourself

### Round 2

*Since 1993, a community resource dedicated to the non-partisan study, education, and discussion of the Civil War, and historical preservation*

During this down time occasioned by the fight against the spread of the Coronavirus, we want to keep our members in touch with the Civil War with a bi-weekly round of questions and ponderables. Some will be easy, some will not. This is not a formal quiz, but a way to keep your ACW expertise sharp. No response is needed; however, if you do want to comment, send them via email to Emil at [emilposey@ardmore.net](mailto:emilposey@ardmore.net), and he will post with the next "Staying in Touch," which will also contain the "school solution" to this set of questions.

1. The Union army got their 1st decisive victory west of the Mississippi where?
  - a. San Jacinto
  - b. Glorietta Pass
  - c. Pea Ridge
  - d. Honolulu Heights
  
2. Confederate forces called this battle by another name. What was it?
  - a. Elkhorn Tavern
  - b. Ouachita Hills
  - c. Sulpher Springs
  - d. Whitewater Creek
  
3. Who was the first sitting Congressman to be captured in battle in the Civil War?
  - a. Edward D. Baker
  - b. Wilbur Mills
  - c. Sydenham Moore
  - d. Alfred Ely
  
4. Who was the only Civil War General to be killed by a jealous husband?
  - a. William "Bull" Nelson
  - b. Earl Van Dorn
  - c. D.H. Petraeus
  - d. William Wirt Adams

5. On October 19, 1864, a Confederate raiding party entered the town of Saint Albans, Vermont intending to make some unauthorized withdrawals from the local bank. How many banks did they rob?
- a. 1
  - b. 2
  - c. 3
  - d. 4

Bonus #1: What was the name of the officer leading this raid?

Bonus #2: How much did the robbers get away with?

---

#### Answers to Round 1 Questions:

- 1. b
- 2. c
- 3. d
- 4. c
- 5. False
- 6. b (One can debate this. In that sense, any of these could be a correct answer provided you can support it. For answer b., I relied on Clark B. Hall's "The River's Role in the War" at <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/fords-rappahannock>.)
- 7. c

**The ponderable: Was Secession Constitutional?** Definitely a tough question. The first step in pondering this is to start with the word "was". The Constitution doesn't address the matter directly, then or now. Prior to the Civil War, many thought it was. Those advocating secession believed they were upholding the spirit and the letter of the Constitution. They pointed to the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. That belief was powerful. Others pointed to various parts of the Constitution to show an overarching prohibition against secession. Their belief was powerful as well. And then there was the outcome of the Civil War, which many think put the kibosh on the whole idea, interpretations of the Constitution notwithstanding. One can agree or disagree with the idea of secession, holding that arguments in favor were merely rationalizations, but many, in fact, did believe in it. And while to many the war decided this question, there are rumblings and threats of secession even today. How serious are those? Frivolous, in my opinion, but that idea still has some measure of currency.

If you want to read up on it, a simple Google search will provide plenty of material. Here a few that caught my eye:

- “Can a State Constitutionally Secede?”, Dubuque Herald, November 11, 1860, <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources-for-historians/sixteen-months-to-sumter/newspaper-index/dubuque-herald/can-a-state-constitutionally-secede>
- “Was Secession Legal?”, a book review by Eric Williamson, October 16, 2017, <https://www.law.virginia.edu/news/201710/was-secession-legal>
- “Is Secession Legal?”, by Brion McClanahan, The American Conservative, December 7, 2012, <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub><https://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/is-secession-legal/>

For those wanting to delve deeper into these and other ACW topics, you might go to our website ([www.tvcwrt.org](http://www.tvcwrt.org)) and roam through the various collections at our Education pull-down tab. Those collections are continually expanding.