

Virginia Defends American Liberty — James R. Kennedy

Virginia has a tradition of defending Liberty. Today, she faces one of the greatest challenges in her history.

Virginians have a long history of defending God-given, unalienable rights which are the foundation stones of Liberty. Even before the Thirteen Colonies issued their July, 1776 Joint Declaration of Independence, Virginia issued its Declaration of Independence. In May, 1776, she declared, “The Union [between England and Virginia is] dissolved.” Virginia led the way to Liberty because most Virginians understood and promoted the cause of Liberty, the opposite of tyranny.

A Journey to Tyranny

Nowadays, because they dominate the institutions that shape public opinion (print and electronic media, education, entertainment...), communists and socialists have gained a large following in Virginia and have used it to put themselves in power and embark on a legislative journey to tyranny. And, these leftists have other states in their sights, and with the capture of each, they close in on their ultimate objective: America—all of it—everything.

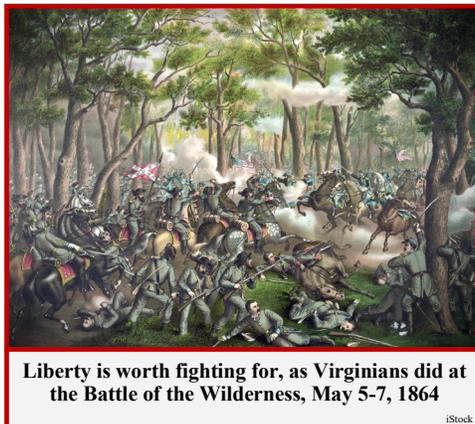
Virginia Stood Against Tyranny

In 1798 the Federal Congress passed, and the Supreme Court upheld, the Alien and Sedition Acts, making it a crime to criticize the President. Newspapers were closed, and elected officials critical of the law were arrested! One poor man was viciously attacked by federal body guards when he refused to take off his hat as the President rode by!

Virginia’s bold response should serve as an example of what a state can do when most of its people understand and support the principles of Liberty. Virginians, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, authored the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions of 1798, and the states of Kentucky and Virginia passed the Resolutions. It was an act

of nullification: the Sovereign State stood between its citizens and tyranny.

That governments can trample God-given rights was also demonstrated when Yankee troops invaded Virginia and occupied the undefended city of Alexandria. A private citizen, Mr. Jackson, was flying a Confederate flag on his house. The invaders broke in, tore down the flag, and when Jackson used his firearm to defend his property, the invaders shot and killed him.



Liberty is worth fighting for, as Virginians did at the Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-7, 1864

Tyrants Want Our Guns

Tyrants, once in control of government, whether it be federal, state or whatever, must eventually silence their critics. By outlawing and confiscating firearms, tyrants instill fear in their opponents, silencing many. Those who remain vocal can then be easily arrested or shot.

In *A View of the Constitution*, William Rawle noted that governments often create excuses to confiscate weapons, but their primary reason is “...the prevention of popular insurrections and resistance to government by disarming the people.” Rawle’s textbook was used at West Point to teach cadets about the U.S. Constitution and the right of secession. (Generals Lee, Jackson and others studied it.)

Where Do We Turn for Help?

Virginians who support Liberty today face a challenge as serious as that which our ancestors faced in 1798 when they passed the Resolutions, but we cannot look to our Sovereign State to protect us this time, because today’s tyrants have penetrated to the *inside* of our state government!

So, where do we turn for help? We turn to God and look to ourselves.

We can (and should) pile up ammo and guns and hold rallies, but *unless we effectively compete in the Culture War* we will continue to lose ground until our backs are against the wall and we have only God and cold steel.

Fortunately, for over a year the Sons of Confederate Veterans have been designing weapons and tactics you and I can use to advance the Cause of Liberty and protect our American and Confederate heritage. It is called the Southern Victory Campaign. You enlist by joining the Confederate Legion. Then, you think **BIG**.

Together, we raise money to insert thousands of *Southern Defenders™* in newspapers. We run radio ads, pass out *Defenders* and talk to every decent person we meet, regardless of race. We use direct mail, TV and social media. We *compete* in the Culture War as a disciplined and well led force. **Please see page 3 for details.**



James R. Kennedy (L) and Walter D. Kennedy (article on page 2) have defended Liberty in books, speeches, debates and interviews on radio and television for nearly 30 years. They lead the Southern Victory Campaign, sponsored by the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Visit them at KennedyTwins.com.

Lee, the Ten Commandments & Betsy Ross

Walter D. Kennedy

Although the effort to remove Confederate General Robert E. Lee from his place of honor has been in the news lately, it might not be obvious, but the same leftists that are attacking General Lee are trying to destroy the reputations of other American heroes and their monuments, along with traditional American values.

Long before the current attack upon General Lee, the Ten Commandments were removed from Alabama courthouses at the insistence of left-wing radicals.

Now that the Left has made "progress" in destroying Confederate heroes and heritage, they have begun to attack the flags and monuments that nearly every American has respected for ages. Even the Betsy Ross flag is in their sights because of its alleged association with slavery! The list could go on to include the attack upon traditional religious symbols and values that do not comport with left-wing ideology on issues such as sin, hell, the cross of Christ, same-sex marriage, transgender athletes, boys calling themselves "girls" and demanding access to female dressing rooms, etcetera, ad nauseum.

The Left has nullified the 9th and 10th Amendments, which are among America's chief cornerstones of Liberty. Naturally, they attack the 1st and 2nd Amendments, because tyrants fear vocal, armed opponents, especially those whose hearts beat with love for freedom and God, who, according to Benjamin Franklin, was the author of American Liberty.

The point is this: The attacks upon Confederate heroes and symbols are not being conducted in a vacuum. All of these attacks by left-wing radicals are part of their evil plan to destroy American values and the civilization America's Founding Fathers built upon those values.

The Left's ultimate goal is the destruction of the American republic and our United States Constitution, replacing it with a "new and improved" Marxist style document that would pave the way for the tyranny once the Left is sufficiently in control of state and federal government.

If God has given you "eyes to see" that the Left is waging war on the things that made America great, act now to defend our values and civilization. Join the Confederate Legion at MakeDixieGreatAgain.com. Take action as an individual or form a Confederate Legion group. If you belong to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which sponsors the Confederate Legion, insist that your camp join and become an active participant in the Southern Victory Campaign. The weapons and leadership we need for victory can be found at MakeDixieGreatAgain.com.



Sept. 2017— Vandals defaced this Baltimore monument to Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner", soon after the city removed 3 Confederate monuments. Spray painted on one side were the words "Racist Anthem". Alamy



Jackson, Miss. — *Clarion Ledger*
Jan. 14, 2019: A coalition of "civil rights groups" are kicking off a renewed war on the Confederacy in a fight to remove all Confederate monuments. Read the entire front page article at ClarionLedger.com.

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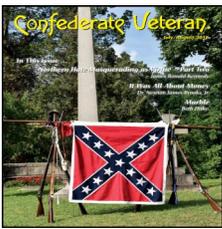
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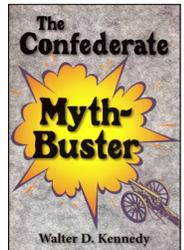
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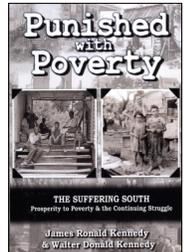


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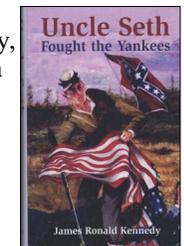


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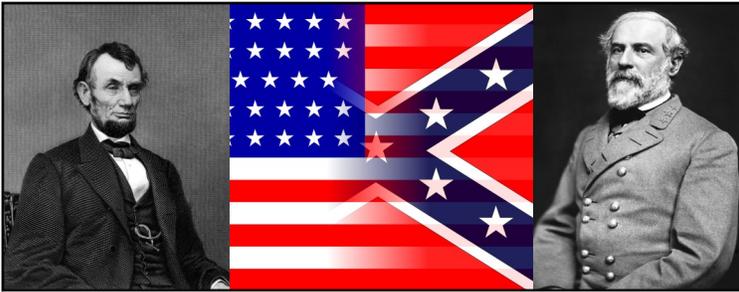
Robert E. Lee and the American Union

Condensed from a *Confederate Veteran* article by Dr. Clyde Wilson¹

Let's dispose of the charge that Confederate General Robert E. Lee was guilty of treason. It is amazing there are still at this date, a century and a half after the fact, and long after Lee was accepted as a premier American hero, people who accuse the man of treason. Such ignorance of the founding principles of the United States is truly pitiable.

Their worship of the government, right or wrong, is scary and suggestive of fascism.

Although a few indictments for treason were passed down, not a single Confederate leader was ever brought to trial for treason. To call Lee a *traitor* is a dishonest attempt to preempt the very question that was at issue: the nature of the Union. Was George Washington a traitor for fighting the invaders and would-be conquerors of his country—Virginia? Was he obligated to fight for the King against the American States? For Lee, the original Union was a gentleman's agreement, not a group of buildings in Washington from which sacred commandments were issued. The Union was a solemn act of the sovereign people which trumped a mere federal election—that of Abraham Lincoln.



Abraham Lincoln

versus

Robert E. Lee

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We sometimes forget Lee was an educated man who knew Latin, Greek, French, and Spanish, and unlike Lincoln, had read much history. Unlike Lincoln, Lee did not have a political agenda to fulfill, only a hope for peace. Unlike Lincoln, Lee knew the reality of war. In the period before Lee's resignation from the Army, William Seward had been boasting that the South could be conquered in 90 days. "They do not know what they say" wrote Lee at the time. "If it comes to a conflict of arms, the war will last at least four years."

There was never any question of which side Lee would choose, if forced to choose. It is clear beyond doubt from his letters home from Texas and his conversations with friends there in January and February 1861, that he would never participate in invasion and conquest of the South. He anticipated he would be offered field command of the new army. He had already made his decision, though desiring to postpone it till the last hope of peace was gone.

He wrote to his family from the Texas frontier: "If the bond of the Union can only be maintained by the sword and the bayonet instead of brotherly love and friendship, and if strife and civil war are to take the place of mutual aid and commerce, its [Union] existence will lose all interest to me."

After arriving at Arlington in the spring, it is said he pointed across the Potomac to the Capitol and said, "That beautiful feature of our landscape has ceased to charm me as much as formerly. I fear the mischief that is brewing there."

There was no reluctance in Lee's refusal to serve the Lincolnians. It was never a possibility. The political wheeling and dealing in a national crisis doubtless confirmed Lee's distaste for the administration. The Virginia convention was meeting, and, though Lee did not know it at the time, had enacted secession the day before his interview with Federal officials. The governors of Virginia and six other states had already adamantly rejected Lincoln's call for troops.

Let's dispose of the charge that Lee cast his lot in defense of slavery. Lee shared in Virginia's opinion on that subject. He understood that many wanted to get rid of the institution if some practical means could be found, and that the institution was evolving and being ameliorated. At Arlington there were black people who were both slave and free—not an uncommon situation. Not a single slave had joined John Brown. Lee understood the Northern attack on slavery was not benevolent or responsible but rather self-interested, irresponsible, and malicious. And he had no reason to think the peaceful and prosperous Virginia society he saw around him was somehow evil and blighted when it was common knowledge that in New York City there were at that moment women and children working 16-hour days for starvation wages, 150,000 unemployed, 40,000 homeless, 600 brothels, and 9,000 grog shops where the poor could temporarily drown their misery.

It might be said that in the post-war role that Lee chose for himself, he made a larger contribution to the future welfare of the United States than most of those who considered themselves saviors of the Union. His goal was to make a genuine peace and to preserve as much Constitutional continuity as possible.

If some Americans today do not wish to share in the glory and honor of Lee and his men, it is a judgement on those Americans and not on Lee and his men.

Lee's letter of December 15, 1866, in reply to a friendly query from the British historian Lord Acton, contains his most explicit and considered reflection on the great events of which he had been a part. Though there was much to be said for the Southern position regarding the U.S. Constitution, such a discussion was "unprofitable because the judgment of reason has been displaced by the arbitration of war..." But since the war had been "waged for the purpose as avowed of maintaining the Union of the states", it had not legitimately overturned the rights of the states within the Union. Later however, overturning the rights of the states became the intent of Reconstruction. This presented a grave danger to liberty, civilization and constitutional government which, Lee believed, made it important to the world because, Lee prophesied, "the consolidation of the states into one vast republic, sure to be aggressive abroad and despotic at home, will be the certain precursor of that ruin which has overwhelmed all those [free governments] that have preceded it."

¹ In September-October, 2012 *Confederate Veteran* published the full version of this fine article. Our version was edited and condensed by James R. Kennedy. Dr. Wilson is Emeritus Distinguished Professor of History at the University of South Carolina. Follow him at AbbevilleInstitute.org or type his name in any search engine.

