

The News

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Appomattox:

It Belongs To All Of Us

To the world beyond the borders of Appomattox County, the name "Appomattox" is synonymous with the ending of the War Between The States. It means the site a moment of unique courtesy and kindness ended one of history's most tragic conflicts.

The site where these men met and the war ended, therefore has become the property of the American people, North and South, and to a considerable extent, the property of people everywhere, as is the Parthenon and the Coliseum . . . and Yorktown. The destruction of such historical monuments would be felt by men everywhere and most especially those future generations, for once such monuments are lost they can never be replaced.

To protect the park and serve the countryside immediately around it, Fifth District Congressman W. C. (Dan) Daniel has introduced a bill in the Congress to authorize the voluntary purchase—not by condemnation—of a "buffer" strip around the park to prevent the encroachment of residential and commercial development.

The News called attention to this project two weeks ago and urged statewide and national support for it, since the park is a national shrine. The Amherst County Board of Supervisors and the School Board have endorsed the project, as has the Appomattox Town Council. Local attempts are being made to get the endorsement of all governing and educational bodies in the area.

The one group which should have taken the lead, however, the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors, sadly and incredibly refused to endorse the project at its meeting last week. This does not mean the Board will not eventually enforce it, but in postponing action it created the impression that the project is not urgent. But it is! The longer the delay, the more it will cost the taxpayers to acquire the land, and the more the land may be defaced by development.

"You know yourself," protested one spokesman for a group seeking endorsement of the resolution,

"it (the park) is the most important thing in the county."

Not as far as we are concerned," replied Supervisor John Cole. Cole claimed the county would lose \$1,500 a year in taxes if the government acquired the necessary adjacent property to protect the park site.

While Mr. Cole is entitled to whatever view he chooses and one must assume that he is acting in what he considers the best interests of the people who elected him, it is difficult to understand how he or anyone else can consider that the park is not the most important thing in the county. Without it, Appomattox would be just another place on the map.

The park may not be the biggest financial operation in the county—but anything that draws 900 visitors a day and some 25,000 school children in just two months as it did in April and May of this year is no small operation. Thousands of people come to Appomattox each year, solely because of the park. More and more people will come with each passing year. It may not be the county's biggest operation but it is by far its best known.

It is equally difficult to understand the attitude of Board Chairman Otho Martin that other counties have nothing to do with the matter. We all have a great deal to do with it! Not only Virginians, but Americans everywhere. Appomattox is a national shrine. It doesn't belong to the people who reside in that county today—or tomorrow. That was recognized, once and for all, when the land was acquired as a historical park and monument.

Will anyone conceive of the people of Appomattox County risking the depreciation of such a valuable legacy? They, more than anyone else, because it is the land of their forefathers, should be behind any project which would protect the park—and hence increase its value and the value of the surrounding property in the years to come.

Regardless of what they choose to do, however, they cannot change the fact that we all have a stake in that park because it belongs to all of us.

Daniel Says Bill Has No Opposition

By LARRY FLICK
News Staff Writer

APPOMATTOX — Fifth District Rep. W. C. (Dan) Daniel said Friday that he had received no opposition to a bill (H.R. 6499) to authorize expansion of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park boundaries.

Daniel made his remarks during an interview while conducting a workshop at the Court House in the Town of Appomattox. The purpose of the workshop was to make himself available to the citizens of the county and discuss their problems.

Referring to the bill, Daniel said there is certainly no opposition to it in Congress. "Unless something is brought forth that is not now evident, I think it will pass," he said.

The purpose for the bill is to preserve and protect an area unique in historic significance.

"It is a permissive sort of

bill," he said. He emphasized that there is no provision which provides condemnation authority.

"I don't think any property owner has anything to fear from this bill," Daniel said. "It is entirely up to them (landowners) as to whether they want to dispose of their property or not."

The bill, introduced in the House by Daniel on April 3, 1973 would permit the secretary of the interior to expand park boundaries not to exceed a total of 1,500 acres.

Park officials estimate there are 964 acres in the park at the present time. In effect, the bill would authorize the acquisition of an additional 536 acres.

As stated in the bill, the secretary may acquire lands and interest in lands by donation, purchase, exchange or transfer. Any lands or interests in lands owned by the State of Virginia or its political subdivision may be acquired only by donation.

Appomattox Council Supports Park Bill

APPOMATTOX — Members of the Town Council of Appomattox Monday night voted to go on record in support of the proposed H.R. Bill 6499 which conceivably would permit the acquisition of adjoining National Park Service property to include the birthplace of Joe Walker Sweeney, inventor of the five-string banjo. The bill was introduced in the House of Representatives by W. C. (Dan) Daniel in April.

The action came about as the result of the desire of the Board of Supervisors of this county to get opinions from the Town Council, the Appomattox County Planning Commission and from taxpayers before making their decision regarding their support of the bill.

Members of council felt that preserving the historical value of the Appomattox Court House National Historic Park was most important.

The Appomattox County Planning Commission has been working for approximately four years in the preparation of a proposed county zoning ordinance with special interest and emphasis on preserving and protecting the historical park and its environs.

Toward this end, two historical districts are being proposed which would encourage low density development compatible with this national shrine.

Details of this proposed zoning ordinance will be made available in the very near future.

The Appomattox County Planning Commission is a joint representative of the Town of Appomattox, the Town of Pamplin and the County of Appomattox. In the Monday night meeting,

council passed a resolution electing to participate in the Virginia retirement program and after being considered by the board of trustees will become effective Oct. 1.

In other business before council, Bill Slagle, town manager, reported that the Town of Appomattox is presently using approximately 155,000 gallons of water per day.

The Law Enforcement Management Pool Agreement was signed by Mrs. Calvin H. Robinson as vice mayor on Aug. 8 in the conference room of Central Virginia Planning District Commission in Lynchburg. Signing the agreement for the County of Appomattox was Otho W. Martin, chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Others from here attending the official signing ceremonies were W.S. Slagle, town manager; Sheriff J. E. Richardson; E. W. Carson and John Cole.

Cloverhill Manufacturing Company had asked to be allowed to take options on all the lots in Promise Land Subdivision. After consideration, council voted to let them negotiate for lots as needed rather than get an option on all lots. Cloverhill has already constructed three houses in the subdivision and has option on one other lot at this time.

Ranson Electric Company advised the Town of Appomattox that the fire alarm needed to be replaced. Slagle had previously gotten approval from the Board of Supervisors to pay one-half of the cost for the new alarm and council members voted to have a new fire alarm installed and the town would pay the remaining one-half cost.

History offered in first person

Appomattox story given real touch

By DONNA HUBBARD
The time is 1865, a few months after Lee's surrender to Grant. A farmer explains how he fought in the Civil War and the work he's doing now.

History? Yes, but it's happening now at the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

According to Robert Madden, superintendent of the park, living history can be found in many other historical parks, but Appomattox has a unique program.

"Other parks give the story in third person, such as a cannon firing at Petersburg National Battlefield, or at Hopewell Village National Historical Site in Pennsylvania where they make coal," Madden said.

In these instances, a modern person is giving the story as it happened in the past.

Several years ago, the Appomattox park began a program where people told the story in third person, but they felt something else was needed.

"Harold Howard of Lynchburg and I came up with the idea of having people pretend like it is 1865, and they know nothing past that time," he said.

Thus, Howard portrayed Sgt. John Howard in the summers of 1971 and 1972, a soldier in the 11th Virginia Infantry of Campbell County, commanded by Gen. Munford.

Sgt. Howard fought through the entire war, and his unit was in Appomattox at the time of the surrender.

He decided to stay in Appomattox Court House and farm so Harold portrays a farmer.

"My character is based on Sgt. John Howard, but as tourists visit the park, he can be from Alabama, Georgia, or just anywhere, depending on where the visitor is from," remarked Harold Howard.

Howard feels seriously toward his role, saying he believes "it is our duty to preserve and perpetuate our heritage."

"The key to playing these roles is spontaneity. You give the tourist the information he wants, and then you add variety so that he may better relate to the feelings of that period," Howard said.

"Harold really put a lot into playing John Howard," Madden

remarked. "You could actually tell a complete change in personality when he would be Harold Howard, or Sgt. John Howard."

The program was so successful that three more characters were added this summer.

Mrs. Ava Almond plays the part of Mrs. Kelly, a widow who lived in a house adjacent to the surrender triangle," Madden said.

Mrs. Kelly watched the soldiers lay down their weapons and flags from her front porch.

Another character in the living history is Thomas Mattocks of Lynchburg, who plays the part of a former slave. He is free now and owns a farm over the hill from Appomattox Court

House.

He has problems, however, because he is confused about the future of himself and his family.

George Morris, a Lynchburg law student at the University of Virginia, portrays a fictitious law clerk, George Morris, who was reading law with John W. Woodson, the lawyer from Appomattox who had an office beside the Appomattox Post Office in the park village.

Woodson died in 1863, and Morris took over his practice.

Morris believes the living history is a fantastic idea. He gets a much better visitor response from the people than he has seen in other parks.

"Once they realize they're in 1865, it really leaves a lasting impression. They ask questions such as 'What did you think of Mr. Lincoln?' or 'What do you think about Mr. Johnson?'" Morris said.

The tourists seem to get more involved in the village as they talk to the living 1865 characters, Morris commented.

Madden added, "The reason why we have these particular people is to give different points of view about the war and surrender."

He noted that there was a former soldier, a woman, a man and a former slave.

"Sometime in the future we hope to add a former Union soldier so people will be able to get a more rounded view of the war," Madden said.

The park also hopes to add Joe Sweeney's brother. Joe Sweeney was born near the park, and invented the five-string banjo.

According to the story, Sweeney's brother began serving in the unit Sgt. John Howard was in.

Job Stuart heard him playing the banjo and apparently liked it, so he added Sweeney to his unit.

Sweeney surrendered at Appomattox with Stuart's cavalry.

When asked what tourists thought of the program, Madden said, "It's amazing to watch their reactions. It is such a unique thing to be actually talking to someone who is dead now."

He noted that the children immediately accept them as characters living in 1865.

"They seem to understand the significance the surrender had to the country. I've actually seen some parents having to pull their children away from the characters," Madden said.

Some of the tourists do not easily accept the fact that it is still 1865 for the characters.

Madden recalled a funny incident. "A tourist asked one of the characters how to get to Richmond, and he said to go to the Clover Hill Tavern and wait for a coach."

Grant gave the south in terms of the radical reconstruction of which caused the south to face many evils and hard feeling.

The legacy of the radical reconstruction that occurred under Johnson's administration.

"With this program," he emphasized the killings that went on, but Appomattox is important because it was the end of the killing," Madden remarked.

The park has two purposes, to give information about the actual surrender, the laying down of arms, and to give the tourist a deeper understanding of the gentleman's peace which occurred in the surrender terms.

"Grant could have had the men put in war camps and many other things but he paroled them and let them keep their horses, thus helping them so the country could come together in a more harmonious manner," Madden said.

He also believed that had it not been for the assassination of Lincoln, there would not have



STEPPING INTO THE PAST—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Korte of Cincinnati, Ohio, and their daughters, Colleen, left, and Laura inspect the law office of George Morris, seated, in the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. At left is Andrew Madden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Madden of Appomattox. Morris is one of the living history characters this summer at the park. (Donna Hubbard Photo)



The Way It Was

Farming During the War Between the States

Southern farmers struggled heroically against tremendous handicaps to produce food and fiber during the War Between the States—a war that brought forth one happy discovery for the South: cornbread.

If Southern farmers think they have problems now, they should take time to read what their farming forebears had to contend with during the War Between the States.

The war necessitated drastic and far-reaching changes in Southern farming practices. In peacetime, many planters of the area had purchased corn, flour, pork, and beef from farmers of the Northwest, so that most of their cultivated land could be devoted to commercial crops of cotton, tobacco, rice, and sugarcane. The war cut off this food supply, and the Northern blockade of Southern ports soon limited supplies from other sources.

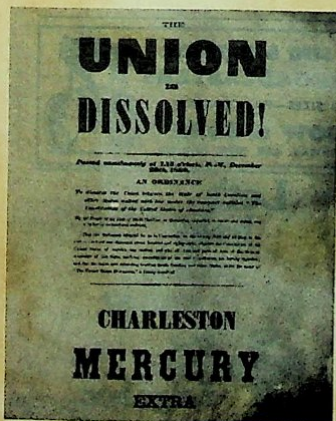
However, the idea that the South devoted its farming energies entirely to a one-sided program of cotton, tobacco, rice, and sugar is false. While areas studded with large plantations imported a considerable portion of their food and livestock, and even hay, the South as a whole supplied its own food with some surplus. Many cotton planters raised bountiful crops of corn, and corn and hogs were

found on almost every small Southern farm. Wheat was raised in the Upper South, and in far-off Texas, an abundance of cattle ranged hill and prairie.

Census figures for 1859 showed the South with 52% of the nation's corn. Moreover, 15 Southern states, with three-eighths of the national population, owned 90% of the mules of the country, 60% of the hogs, nearly 40% of the horses, 52% of the oxen, and more than half the poultry. In ratio of hogs and cattle to number of inhabitants, the South was considerably ahead of the North; but in livestock quality, far behind.

From the beginning, the Confederate Government realized that food would play a big part in winning the war, and set about to reorganize its agriculture in an effort to put it on a war footing. In the spring of 1861, crops of cotton and other staples were already in the ground before the eminence of war was realized. That fall, there was an abundant harvest of 4½ million bales of cotton, as well as heavy crops of other staples.

(Continued on page 51)



Farming During the War Between the States

(Continued from page 50)

However, by the winter of 1861-62, Southern newspapers were calling for a reduction in the acreage of staple crops, and a corresponding increase in corn and other subsistence crops.

That winter, farmers and plantation owners held meetings in schools and courthouses, and resolved to plant from a third to a half as much cotton come spring. Not having complete confidence that voluntary reduction would do the job, most states limited cotton planting by law. Only Texas and Louisiana failed to act. The legally permissible planting of cotton varied by state from 1 to 3 acres per hand. In Alabama, a tax of 10 cents a pound was imposed on cotton production exceeding 2,500 pounds per hand. And, in Virginia, a comparable limit was placed on the planting of tobacco. For many

months, the Confederate Congress pondered a uniform planting restriction for the South as a whole, but finally abandoned the idea as an unconstitutional violation of state rights.

In the spring of 1862, Southern landowners practiced cotton acreage reduction with remarkable fidelity. From then on to 1865, travelers throughout the South remarked on the absence of cottonfields and the abundance of corn. Only in Texas, where it could be sold in Mexico at high prices, was a substantial acreage of cotton planted. Southern cotton production dropped from 4½ million bales in 1861 to 1½ million bales in 1862, and continued to decline to only 300,000 bales the last full year of the war. Public sentiment strongly supported the measure, and most producers complied as a patriotic duty.

One of the serious misjudgments of the war had to do with the South's handling of its cotton crop. Instead of rushing the large 4,500,000-bale crop of 1861 to European markets in an effort to establish a sound basis for financing the war, the Confed-

erate Government held this cotton off the market. It believed that cotton was King, and that the dire need for it would force European nations to recognize the Confederacy as an independent nation. By the time the withholding plan was recognized as a serious mistake, Union ships had blockaded Southern ports. From then on, it was a matter of 1) running cotton through the blockade at great risk, 2) burning it when it was in danger of being captured by the Yankees (2½ million bales destroyed during the war), or 3) trading it to the enemy across battlelines for scarce goods. Only in Texas, where a brisk trade developed across the Mexican border, was there a significant market outlet.

Farming during the war was usually a case of improvising or doing without. Due to shortages of labor, management, and equipment, few farm families were able to continue production beyond the first year or so at their prewar rates. Labor was a problem, particularly on small farms.

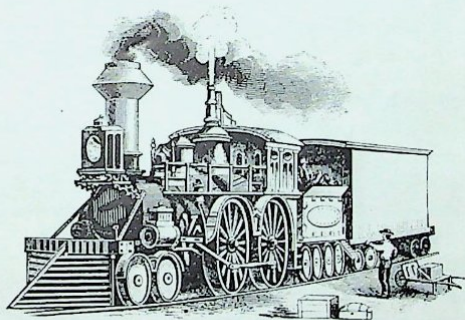


OTHER ARTICLES

PERTAINING TO

THE CONFEDERACY

The
Norfolk and Western
and
The Confederacy



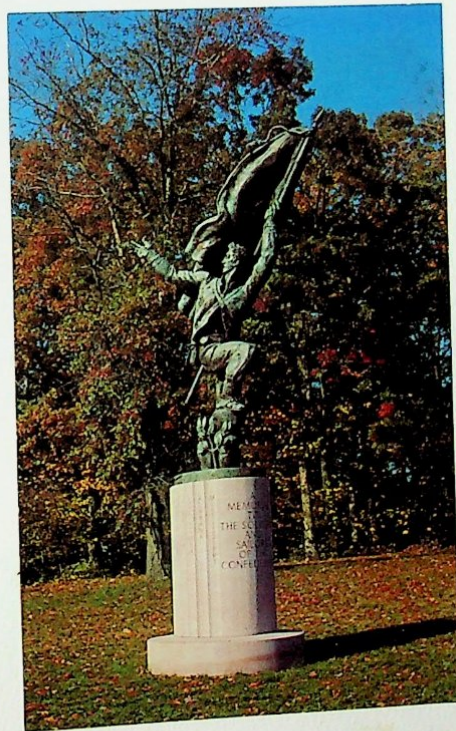
PREDECESSORS OF N&W RAILS
IN THE CIVIL WAR



Lee and His Generals

LEE AND HIS GENERALS

General Robert E. Lee surrounded by the Confederate high command: "Stonewall" Jackson, Joseph E. Johnston, J. E. B. Stuart, Fitzhugh Lee and others, all Confederate Army.



A MONUMENT TO THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS
OF THE CONFEDERACY

(Heroic defenders of their country)

Located in the National Park at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, this monument -- the work of the eminent sculptor, Donald DeLue, symbolizes the brave Confederate Soldier holding aloft the flag grasped from the dying color bearer and beckoning his comrades follow it into the fury of the battle.



State Flags of the 11 States of
The Confederate States of America

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
CONFEDERATE
STATES

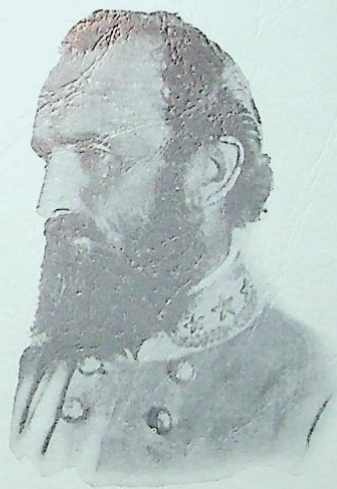
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STONEWALL JACKSON'S
BIBLE



By
PASTOR ELWOOD McQUAID

Daughters of the Old Dominion Chapter
are quite proud of this booklet
"Stonewall" Jackson's Bible. Paster
Elwood McQuaid has this year republished
it, and has thus enabled us to send
additional copies to those requesting it

Catechism
on the History of the
Confederate States
of America

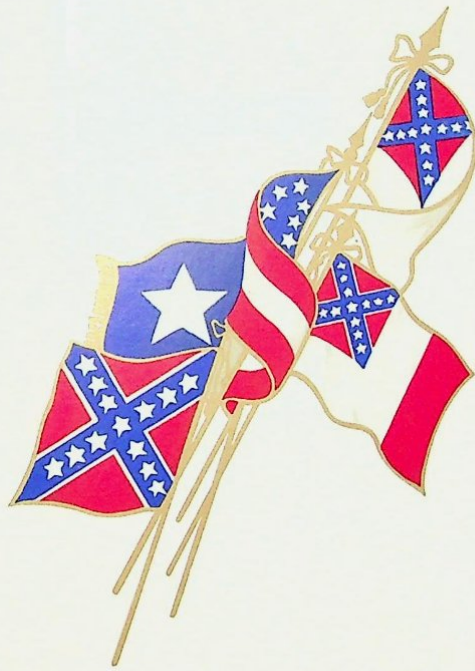
1861-1865

*Our
Confederate
Flag*



Traditions and Code for the
Correct Use of the
Confederate Flags





Confederate Flags

CONFEDERATE MUSEUM • RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

