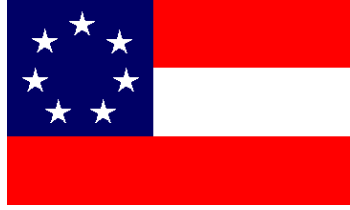
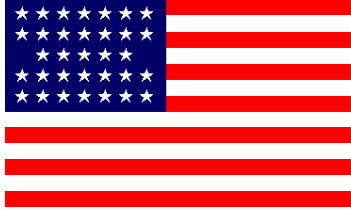


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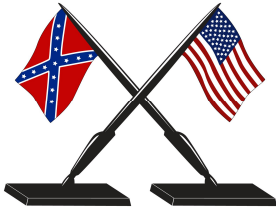


Volume 6

June 2009

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FROM THE AUTHOR



Greetings from the writing cave here in Houston! I'm moving along with my new novel (*The Confederate Trust*) but the going has been a bit tougher than I thought. I have the outline down but putting the story

into actual words is a big challenge! I'm hoping that this book will surpass everything I've done before, and that has put pressure on me to do my best. Although I had planned to finish the book this year, it may not be ready until early 2010. I don't mind the delay as long as it's done right; I can only hope that my readers feel the same.

Among the books I've read this past month are *The 5,000 Year Leap* and *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Civil*

War (which I've highlighted in the review portion of this newsletter). *The 5,000 Year Leap* by W. Cleon Skousen highlights 28 principles that our country's founders believed must be understood and utilized to achieve freedom and prosperity. The premise of the book is that since the United States was founded, the world has advanced more than it had in the previous 5,000 years, and that is no coincidence. I highly recommend this book to anybody who wants to better understand our Constitution and the intentions of our founders, which have been pretty much lost in party politics and could be one of the major reasons why we are facing such difficult times today.

Stay tuned for more updates on my work in the coming months, including possibly a sample chapter or two from *The Confederate Trust* in the next newsletter. Until next time...

JUNE 1861: WAR FEVER SPREADS

As June opened, in both North and South troops gathered, organized, armed and paraded as politicians delivered passionate speeches and everybody prepared for battle. Intense patriotism seemed to make up for the military deficiencies both sides faced. State governments could not organize regiments fast enough as volunteers flooded the rolls. State regiments were haphazardly organized and commanded, then sent off to join the national forces gathering in Washington and Richmond.

The South faced the greater challenge because it had to not only raise an army but a navy as well. They also needed supplies, shells, small arms, big guns, food and uniforms,

which all had to be delivered through the Northern blockade of their ports. The task was daunting in the face of a more powerful foe, but most Southerners were eager for the challenge. Secession seemed to be working and the armies prepared to defend the right to the death.

In Richmond, Confederate President Jefferson Davis denounced the North as an "ignorant usurper," declaring that "Upon us is devolved the high and holy responsibility of preserving the constitutional liberty of a free government." As the Southern army massed, General P.G.T. Beauregard, hero of Fort Sumter, was given command of the troops in northern Virginia. They were

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the first line of defense against the inevitable Federal invasion.

In the North there were still many who resisted war and hoped for a peaceful settlement, but these numbers were dwindling as people were swept up in the patriotic fervor of the moment. Federal troops poured into Washington and President Abraham Lincoln regularly visited the camps. Days were spent enlisting, organizing, drilling, equipping and transporting troops where they were needed. There was a spirit of exhilaration and excitement, and for many the war seemed like a great holiday.

Federal forces began their invasion of Virginia by occupying Alexandria and moving into western Virginia where there was strong U.S. sentiment. The Federals surprised a Confederate camp at Philippi and sent the rebels fleeing in what reporters called the "Philippi Races." Although this was a minor skirmish, it contributed to eventual secession of western Virginia from the rest of the state two years later.

On the seas, Federal ships regularly captured Confederate blockade-runners, but the blockade was not yet completely in place. As a result, many ships were able to run the gauntlet and deliver supplies to the Confederacy.

In Missouri, tensions ran high as Federal and Confederate sympathizers clashed in various locations. U.S. General Nathaniel Lyon was determined to suppress the Confederates but Missouri Governor Claiborne Jackson was pro-South and tried to raise a state militia to oppose the Federals. On June 15, General Lyon's Federal troops captured the state capital of Jefferson City and chased Governor Jackson out of town. Then they defeated a pro-Confederate force defending Jackson at Boonville which not only dispersed the force but also gave the U.S. control of the Missouri River. For now Missouri was in Federal hands.



U.S. General Irvin McDowell, commander of forces in northern Virginia. The Lincoln administration approved his plan of invading the South by attacking Manassas Junction, Virginia.

The South received a boost when Tennessee voters approved secession by more than a two-to-one margin, despite the fact that eastern Tennessee voters opposed secession by nearly two-to-one. As a result, Tennessee soon became an active Confederate state. Another boost came when Confederate forces defeated a Federal attack at Big Bethel on the Virginia peninsula between the York and James Rivers. This was one of the first general battles of the war and it bolstered Southern confidence that they could repel the Northern invaders.

In Washington, the loss at Big Bethel caused consternation. On June 29, a special Cabinet meeting was held that featured the top U.S. military command. General Irvin McDowell, commander of Federal forces in northern Virginia, unveiled his plan to capture Richmond by first attacking Manassas Junction. General Winfield Scott, commander of all U.S. armed forces, proposed an expedition down the Mississippi River. The consensus was that Virginia should be dealt with first, and McDowell's plan was adopted.

By the end of June, Federal troops were continuing to pour into Washington. The Lincoln administration had approved plans of a general Union invasion of northern Virginia as soon as possible, before Northern enthusiasm for the war waned. Both sides continued massing arms and men, preparing for the great battle that would supposedly decide the conflict.

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U.S. HISTORY:

TWELFTH AMENDMENT AIMS TO END ELECTION CONFUSION



-- *The White House,
Washington, DC*

On June 15, 1804, the Twelfth Amendment was added to the Constitution. This changed the way in which presidents and vice presidents were elected, and it was added because of the confusion and bitterness caused by the presidential elections of 1796 and 1800.

In the original text of the Constitution, presidential electors were to vote for two candidates on their ballots. The candidate receiving the majority of electoral votes would become president, while the candidate receiving the second-highest number would become vice president. In 1796, John Adams received a majority and became president, while his bitter rival, Thomas Jefferson, received the second-highest number. Thus Jefferson was forced to be Adams's vice president even though the men belonged to opposing factions. This caused fear of a potential coup d'état since the vice president succeeded to the presidency in the event of the president's death.

In 1800, Jefferson ran against Adams again. But this time, to ensure that Adams would be defeated, the Jeffersonians ran a second candidate, Aaron Burr, with the idea being that Jefferson would win the majority of votes and Burr would win the second-highest and become Jefferson's vice president.

This plan backfired when Jefferson and Burr tied, forcing the House of Representatives to decide the winner. Anti-Jeffersonians tried to disrupt the plan by voting for Burr, but Jefferson still narrowly won. While the desired result was attained, the confusion of this election along with the bitter 1796 election prompted passage of an amendment to clarify the process.

Under the Twelfth Amendment, presidential electors specifically vote for a presidential and a vice presidential candidate as a ticket, thus removing the possibility of a president serving with a vice president from an opposing faction like in 1796. It also requires that candidates declare whether they are presidential or vice presidential candidates, thus preventing the confusion of 1800.

Another stipulation is that electors cannot vote for a presidential and vice presidential candidate if both candidates reside in the elector's state. This caused controversy in the 2000 election because George W. Bush and running mate Dick Cheney were both residents of Texas, which meant that Texas electors could not vote for them. However Cheney changed his residency to his home state of Wyoming before the election, and the Bush-Cheney ticket won Texas's electoral votes.

If no presidential candidate receives a majority of electoral votes, the House of Representatives must decide among the three candidates with the most electoral votes who will be president. If no vice presidential candidate receives a majority of electoral votes, the Senate must decide among the two candidates with the most electoral votes who will be vice president. These guidelines under the Twelfth Amendment have been used since the presidential election of 1804.

Primary source: www.wikipedia.org

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BOOK REVIEW:

***THE POLITICALLY INCORRECT GUIDE TO THE CIVIL WAR* by H.W. Crocker III**

In *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Civil War*, H.W. Crocker III busts myths and shatters stereotypes as he profiles eminent military generals including the noble Robert E. Lee, the controversial William T. Sherman, the tenacious Ulysses S. Grant, the legendary Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and the notorious Nathan Bedford Forrest. Crocker also includes thought-provoking chapters such as “The Civil War in Sixteen Battles You Should Know” and the most intriguing chapter, “What if the South Had Won.”

Along the way, Crocker reveals several little-known (or long forgotten) truths, such as Robert E. Lee having a higher regard for blacks than Abraham Lincoln; the plausible theory that had there been no war, slavery would have been peacefully abolished; and how Union armies committed potential war crimes against Southern civilians, property and the economy. Among other notions that Crocker explores:

- Leading Northern generals like George McClellan and William Sherman hated abolitionists
- The secession of the Southern states in 1860-1861 was better founded in law than the secession of the American colonies from Great Britain in 1776

- The Emancipation Proclamation did not free a single slave
- The phrase “bombing people back to the Stone Age” came from the devastating Union siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi
- General Sherman professed not to know which was the “greater evil” – slavery or democracy
- Stonewall Jackson founded a Sunday school for slaves where he taught them how to read

For any Civil War buff who is looking for a fresh perspective of the conflict from the standpoint of what our founders intended when they drafted our Constitution, this book will prove highly educational.

Review courtesy of Amazon.com.