

## **Inconvenient Facts**

At the time of writing the United States Constitution slavery was considered distasteful but our Forefathers knew if it was abolished it would bankrupt the nation. As immigrants flooded into the Northern states during the 1800's bringing with them cheap labor the South as an agricultural society could not attract the same cheap labor forcing it to depend upon slavery for its economy. Peter S. Carmichael Phd., Professor of History at Gettysburg College observed, "People [were] making a ton of money off of slavery both in the North and in the South. Everybody and I mean everybody is complicit in the sins of this institution." With all the recent attention being given to removing Confederate memorials by misguided individuals and organizations devoid of a basic knowledge of history it will be well to point out some inconvenient facts. Those calling for the removal of Southern memorials state that it was the South that instituted and perpetuated slavery and for this reason alone we should put the reminders of this ugly past behind us. The Act Prohibiting the Importation of Slaves of 1807 stated that no new slaves were permitting to be imported into the United States, but in 1859 over 200 slave ships unloaded their illegal blackmarket cargo in the Northern city of New York. The South owned no slave ships.

There should also be a consideration for removing monuments to any Black individuals since Blacks were the initial instigators and promoters of racial hatred. It was Black tribesmen that sold their fellow Black countrymen into slavery to white slaver ship captains from Europe. The leading slave market in America prior to the Civil War was the Northern city of New York followed closely by Boston, Philadelphia and Rhode Island. During the Civil War it was notoriously Black regiments that committed the most heinous crimes against humanity yet recorded, with the example of the beautiful unprotected and undefended town of Darien, Georgia completely destroyed and plundered besides the countless homes numbering in the thousands along the Missouri-Kansas border that came to be known as the Burnt District. But instead of detailing these war crimes Hollywood panders to the politically correct crowd by making a movie extolling the virtues and heroics of these Black regiments and promotes their bias view of history by giving the movie the innocuous name "Glory." In truth the evil of slavery was foisted upon the South by Black African tribesmen, European slave dealers and Northern slave markets.

All it takes is for a single individual devoid of any historical perspective to complain or for a cunning politician willing to capitulate his principles for votes to get Confederate monuments removed anywhere in this country. Modern day abolitionists want to strike all things Southern from our present society. The song "Dixie" was written by a Northern writer for the North's entertainment but modern liberals want any semblance of Southern society abolished. The recent epidemic of anarchy has taken place in New Orleans. The New Orleans City Council voted to remove four Confederate monuments in its attempt to break from its Confederate past. The most prominent is a towering statue of General Robert E. Lee that has been standing for 131 years. These nascent liberals are tongue tied when presented with the fact that Lee freed all his slaves prior to the Civil War but that Union General Ulysses S. Grant owned slaves before and after the war excusing his actions by saying that "good help is hard to find." New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said his decision was made in order that "we must reckon with our past." It must be remembered that Landrieu's immediate past is the corruption in New Orleans that saw the former mayor Ray Nagin convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison. All the years of Confederate leadership never equaled the graft and corruption as from these modern day politicians.

Another monument that these misguided politicians and Black activists want removed is that of President Jefferson Davis. If they only knew the truth maybe their unwarranted animosity might be

directed to a more nobler cause. Jefferson Davis was emphatically against secession but unhesitatingly stood with his State and their honor when they did secede. Jefferson Davis was known for his paternalistic treatment of his slaves. Davis had 113 slaves. They dwelt in twenty-eight cabins, averaging four to a cabin. Neighboring plantations had at least seven to a cabin and Davis quarters were more spacious. The cottages were well-built, with plaster walls and large fireplaces and they contained two large rooms with two shed rooms behind them. Most slave cabins had only one room. The Davis cottages had front and back galleries, often shaded by fruit trees, and were near a large cistern house from which pure water was readily available. Each cabin had a henhouse in back, from which eggs and chickens were plentiful, and cornmeal was provided for feed.

Varina Davis, wife of Jefferson Davis wrote in her diary that she provided many feasts for their slaves. There were feasts for wakes, at Christmas, and other holidays and they provided gifts of “astonishing variety,” for weddings and births. Besides giving them candy they provided their slaves shoes, clothes, field implements, new saddles and bridles, fancy plaid linsey or calico dresses for their families, guns and ammunition for hunting, pocket knives, nails and screws. They even provided wedding dresses for those Negro women getting married. Not only were the slaves on the Davis plantation physically better off than other slaves, but Jefferson Davis also set up a form of self-government where every Sunday slave juries heard testimony about misconduct in trials where the extraordinary procedure permitting a slave to testify in his own defense. Corporal punishment was not permitted and Davis himself often reduced the severity of sentences. Davis instructed his overseer to provide his slaves with coffee, sugar, molasses, and salt and no flogging of slaves would be permitted.

Davis cared for the old and sick by providing a dentist to come from Vicksburg periodically and once sent a field-hand to a celebrated doctor in New Orleans. Davis also set up a slave hospital with steam powered machinery for hydrotherapy. Varina made clothes for the slaves with her own hands. The plantation was “exceptional in respect to having literate slaves.” Davis encouraged self-advancement and initiative in his slaves and allowed them to keep all profits beyond their value as field-hands. Slaves sold chickens, eggs, home-grown vegetables, and wood to steamboats plying the river and traded with each other. One slave, Ben Montgomery, managed a profitable store, trading with slaves, whites and the steamboat captains bringing goods to the plantation. Montgomery studied engineering, surveying, mechanics and architecture in Davis's personal library. Montgomery even invented a more efficient steamboat propeller and went so far as to design buildings for the plantation. I dare anyone looking at Civil War era photographs depicting slaves that will not show slaves looking well fed and well clothed. President Davis stated that the Negroes were better off as slaves in America than they were as simple tribesmen in Africa. In America they were given a religious education, given better clothes than they had ever known and were given a proper diet that they had not realized in Africa. Slaves were given medical care and attention and by law were cared for after their retirement by their owners. Pregnant slave women were given time off for childbirth and lighter duties. Elderly slaves no longer able to work were often granted their freedom for a reward for faithful service and protected by law in their declining years. As an example at Rosedown Plantation in St. Francisville, Louisiana, plantation owner Daniel Turnbull kept a full time doctor on the grounds to take care of any medical needs for his family of slaves.

The lies surrounding the treatment of slaves was the cause of most of the misunderstanding in the North. An example is Harriet Beecher Stowe's fictional work, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, extolling the evils of slavery and the separation of black families, when in fact Southern law provided that masters could not divide slave families or their children under 12 years old. Stowe's fictional account gave license to the stereotypical idea held in the North by a writer who had never set foot upon Southern soil and whose novel was proven to be highly biased and never based on fact. Ironically the book, *Uncle*

Tom's Cabin caused a great agitation inflaming the North into Civil War. Northern writers would have the world believe that the South treated their slaves unkindly and looked upon them as cattle and treated them like animals. Nothing could be further from the truth. At the Hermitage in Nashville, Tennessee, home of President Andrew Jackson, himself a slaveowner, visitors will find a small cemetery behind the main house where Andy Jackson and his wife are buried side by side but with their honored personal slave buried between them.

It must be remembered before Lincoln made a political decision to free the slaves that his first answer to the slave question was to ship them all back to Africa. It still stands as an undisputed fact that Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation did not free a single slave. For all the lamentations presented in the North over the treatment of slaves it was the North that provided a historic record of discrimination. In June 1861, the South began enlisting Black soldiers between the ages of fifteen and fifty, to be paid \$18 a month and issued the same rations and clothing as white soldiers. Black soldiers enlisting in the Federal army were promised the same pay as white soldiers of \$13 a month until orders were given to reduce their pay to \$10 a month and then to \$7.00. In the Third South Carolina Negro Regiment, Sergeant William Walker was shot for leading his company to stack arms before their captain's tent, on the avowed ground that they were released from duty by the refusal of the Government to fulfill its share of the enlistment contract. Apparently, a freedman or former slave had no rights which a Northern white man was bound to respect. In the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederacy General Nathan Bedford Forrest took 42 of his own slaves into the military service with him assigning them as his personal bodyguards in his escort company. He told them that if the North won they would be freed and if the South won he would free them anyway. They became his "Special Forces." These men were known as the best soldiers in his command. The company varied in size from 40 to 90 men, and was the elite unit in his cavalry brigade. In Missouri, General John Sappington Marmaduke also used his slaves as his personal bodyguard during his many raids throughout Missouri fighting against the Yankee invaders and occupiers.

General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson had two brigades consisting of 3,000 free Black men as soldiers. They were all armed with rifles, muskets, sabers, bowie-knives and dirks, proving them to be an integral part of the Southern army. This caused the great Northern Black Abolitionist orator Frederick Douglass to admit, "There are at the present moment many Colored men in the Confederate Army doing duty not only as cooks, servants and laborers, but real soldiers, having musket on their shoulders, and bullets in their pockets, ready to shoot down any loyal troops and do all that soldiers may do to destroy the Federal government and build up that of the rebels." Permission to erect monuments to the bravery and service of Black Confederate soldiers has always been rejected based on the denial of wanting to acknowledge that Blacks indeed served the Confederacy. To allow this recognition would fly in the face of present day political correctness and is in fact a form of discrimination itself.

When General Philip Sherman was making his infamous march to the sea, he was followed by huge trains of Negroes. Not wanting to be encumbered by their presence Sherman ordered the bridges burned in his wake leaving the poor Blacks abandoned and destitute many starving to death without Sherman's assistance. During the war an outcry was proclaimed against the treatment of Federal prisoners-of-war held in Southern prisons. Needless to say the Northern press never exposed the fact that a larger percentage of prisoners died in Northern prisons than those held in the South. The way modern day abolitionists have rewritten history is exemplified by the fact that no history textbooks or entertainment mediums admit to the fact that Missouri was a Southern state shown by the fact that Missouri was represented as the 12th star on the Confederate flag. Lincoln assigned an unelected provisional government for Missouri after the duly elected government was run out of the capitol by

Federal troops which in turn forced the governor and all duly elected state officials to convene a quorum at Neosho, Missouri on October 31, 1861 voting unanimously to secede from the Union. After the Civil War the Radicals in Congress refused to bring President Jefferson Davis to trial for treason because to do so would prove that it was not treasonous to secede which was a guarantee protected by the United States Constitution. Therefore secession was not an act of rebellion but an act by the people removing themselves from a section of the country that was not fulfilling the dictates of Federal law and honoring the precepts of the Constitution.

When the South did decide to secede Lincoln knew for economical reasons alone that he could not allow the South to depart in peace. The South provided 80% of the Federal budget in exports of its valuable cotton. During the episode at Fort Sumter an armistice was in place between the opposing forces. Lincoln engineered a plan to violate the armistice by sending in reinforcements forcing the South to fire the first shot. Legally in war, the aggressor is not the first to use force, but the first to render force necessary.

Article by Paul R. Petersen

Ref: Army Life in a Black Regiment by Thomas Wentworth Higginson  
The Pursuit of the Dram by Janet S. Hermann  
The Un-Civil War by Mike Scruggs