



# Rebel Underground

Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Major John C. Hutto Camp # 443  
Jasper, Alabama

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The May meeting of the Major John C. Hutto Camp  
in Jasper, Alabama will be

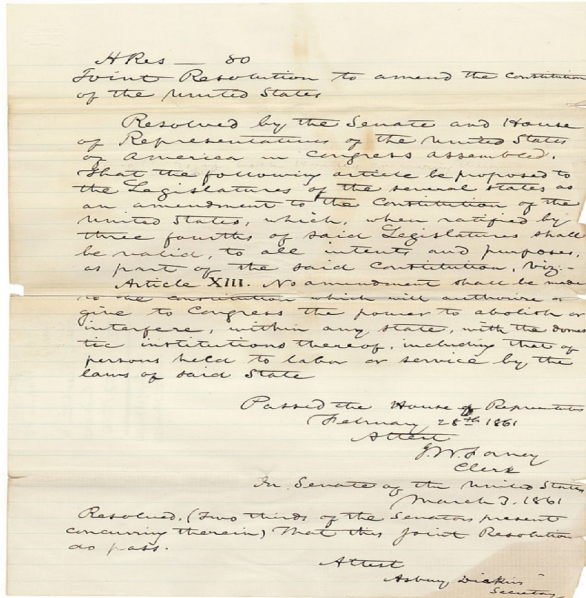
**Sunday, 21 May 2023 at 2:00PM**

Meeting will be at the  
First United Methodist Church's Adult Center

Be prepared to tell the camp about your Confederate Ancestors

Family, friends & guest are welcome

**The Original Thirteenth Amendment**  
**John M. Taylor, April 10, 2023**



An image of House (Joint) Resolution No. 80, adopted by the United States House of Representatives on February 28, 1861, and by the United States Senate on March 2, 1861. | public domain

Some claim the Confederate States of America became involved in a war against the United States of America in 1861 to protect slavery, an allegation denied by both Southerners, including Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Richard Taylor, E. P. Alexander, and Raphael Semmes; and Northerners, including George Lunt, Simon Cameron, Edward Channing, and, for a large portion of the war, U. S. Grant and Abraham Lincoln. Slavery had never been more secure than on the eve of the war.

The Corwin Amendment was written and proposed by Northerners ostensibly to encourage Southern and Border Slave States to remain in the Union.

**The Corwin Amendment:  
[No. 13]  
Joint Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the United States.**

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following article be proposed to the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, vis.:

**Article Thirteen**

No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State.”



Thomas Corwin | LOC

The amendment was passed on March 2, 1861, by a two-thirds vote of the U.S. House and Senate. Several Southern States had left the Union; thus, majority approval was by non-Southern States. The Corwin Amendment was sent to the States for ratification.

Although Ohio Representative Thomas Corwin’s name appears on the amendment, he was not the originator. He was chairman of the Republican ad hoc Committee of Thirty-Three from whence it was

introduced. The original sponsor, Charles Francis Adams (son of President John Quincy Adams), received the text from William Seward. After meeting with Republican politician and newspaper publisher Thurlow Weed, Seward introduced it to the Senate. Weed had met with Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, on December 20, 1860, to discuss the fugitive slave law and other compromise options. Also, on December 21, Lincoln “notified Illinois Senator Lyman Trumbull to expect ‘three short resolutions which I drew up, and which, on the substance of which, I think would do much good.’” Note: Author Doris Kearns Goodwin expressed the belief that Abraham Lincoln actually originated this amendment.

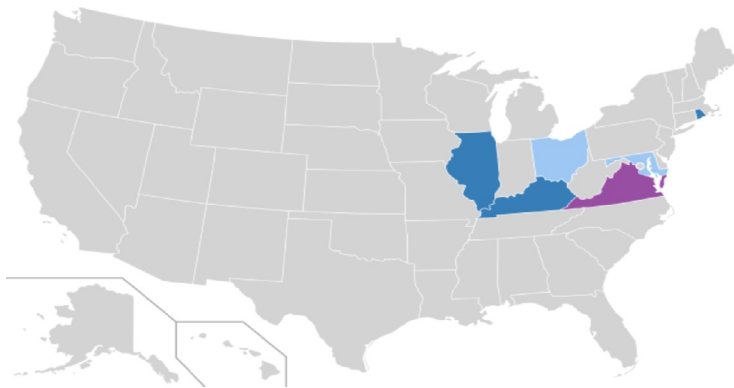
Seward wrote to Lincoln on December 26, 1860, referencing “Weed’s verbal conveyance as a resolution stating, ‘That the constitution should never be altered so as to authorize Congress to abolish or interfere with slavery in the states’—a clear description of the Corwin Amendment, which he presented the same day to the Republican members of the Senate’s compromise ‘Committee of Thirteen.’”

The proposed amendment re-stated existing constitutional rights; Lincoln admitted he had no legal authority to interfere with slavery in the States. The South could have construed it as confirmation of Lincoln’s position regarding slavery where it existed or as an attempt to bribe the seceded States back into the Union. Lincoln’s acknowledgment that he had no legal jurisdiction to interfere with slavery where it existed indicates the destruction of slavery was not the *casus belli*.

Peace advocate, Stephen Douglas, an Illinois Democrat and architect of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, strongly supported Corwin. Democratic President

Buchanan signed the Corwin Amendment on March 3, 1861, his last day in office.

Although the opening of hostilities minimized debate, at least two States ratified Corwin—“Ohio on May 13, 1861, and Maryland on January 10, 1862.” In Lincoln’s home state, the Illinois Constitutional Convention endorsed the Corwin Amendment in 1862. Ratification by three-quarters of the States would have made the Corwin the law of the land, i.e., the original thirteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution, yet the Southern States that were still part of the United States in the spring of 1861 were not interested.



Map of states that ratified the Corwin Amendment (dark blue), ratified and then rescinded (light blue), and states with ratification of questionable validity or unusual circumstances (purple). | Created from File:Blank US Map (states only).svg

## HUTTO CAMP OFFICERS

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Commander . . . . .	James R. Blackston
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmd . . . . .	Trent Harris
2nd Lt. Cmd .. . . .	Jeremy Jackson
Adjutant. . . . .	John McGraw
Chaplain . . . . .	Barry Cook
Judge Advocate . . . . .	Cherokee Brasher
Communications . . . . .	Gene Herren
Facebook . . . . .	Brandon Prescott - Jeremy Jackson
Quartermaster . . . . .	Barry Cook
Newsletter Editor . . . . .	James Blackston

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Website: [www.huttocamp.com](http://www.huttocamp.com)

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The Rebel Underground is dedicated to bringing our readers the very best of important news concerning Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We are not ashamed of our Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We dare to defend our rights.