



Rebel Underground

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

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

Sunday, 17 September 2023 at 2:00PM

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

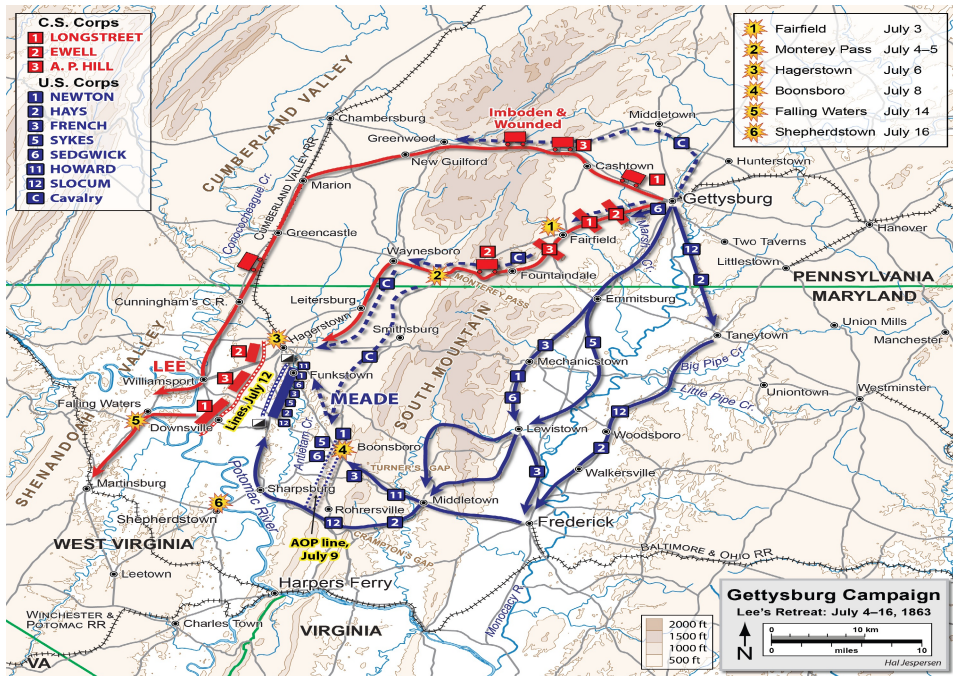
Program - Sam Davis, the Boy Hero of the Confederacy
Awarded the first Confederate Metal of Honor

Results of the Public Comments submitted to Arlington National Cemetery's
[Confederate Memorial Removal](#) Environmental Impact Statement.

Rethinking Gettysburg

By Clyde Wilson
 Abbeville Institute Press
 August 17, 2023

It is near universally assumed that the battle of Gettysburg determined the failure of the Southern War for Independence. But is that too facile and summary a judgment? (Editor's note: [The Battle of Monterey Pass](#) puts that silly notion to rest. See the original road Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army took back to Virginia on the *fourth* day of battle.)



The Battle of Gettysburg may be considered something of a turning point, especially coming at the same time that Vicksburg was starved into surrender after an eight-month attack by superior numbers aided by heavily armed gunboats.

Lee's army was damaged by the famous charge on the third day at Gettysburg. It had been hampered by the absence of Stuart's usual perfect intelligence and Ewell's failure to occupy high ground on the first day. But the Confederate army had things mostly its own way in the first two days, most of the time winning on contact and capturing many prisoners and much materiel.

Remember this was an outnumbered army on enemy soil, far from home. As Lee admitted, the Pickett/Pettigrew attack was a mistake. But for Confederates it was so common as to have become customary to drive superior Union forces from their positions, and Lee's hope overruled his usual superb judgment. Lee hoped that a decisive stroke could bring peace. For him peace would be a boon to all Americans. The other side considered only completion of their conquest.

A great Union victory? Most Union generals prevaricated about battle odds in self-justification of frequent defeats. The honest Northern general Don Carlos Buell said of Gettysburg that it was a battle in which 90,000 "barely withstood" an attack by 60,000.

Lee's army withdrew back to Virginia with a 30-mile long wagon train—with its artillery, wounded, prisoners, a thousand African-American helpers, and herds of meat on the hoof. The usual military rule is that a

victorious army follows up a defeated foe and finishes them off. The “victorious” Union army was not able to do this. It was badly damaged. Also hampered by Lincoln keeping large bodies of troops tied up to defend his capital from “defeated” inferior forces.

The only interference with Lee’s withdrawal were sporadic cavalry attacks, not of troops but of lightly defended wagons. The Confederates maintained their morale and did not act like a defeated army. The Army of Northern Virginia remained a magnificent fighting force for another 20 months.

In September the Confederates won the battle of Chickamauga. After Gettysburg a Southern scratch force kept Florida free of invasion. In 1864 Confederates continued to supply themselves liberally from Northern materiel and capture thousands of prisoners nearly to the end while destroying Union supply lines. Forrest conducted several very successful blocking raids and small Southern cavalry forces generally drove out Union raids against civilians. Early reached the outskirts of Washington. In 1864. Small Southern forces kept many thousands of U.S. troops tied down protecting Washington and holding down Kentucky and Missouri. Raphael Semmes literally destroyed the Yankee mercantile fleet across the globe. Lee inflicted staggering casualties on Grant’s invasion of Virginia. To near the end Mosby prevented Union control of Northern Virginia and Adam Johnson did the same in western Kentucky.

What foretold Confederate defeat was Sherman’s successful expedition against civilians, even though that did not destroy Southern morale. Lincoln had doubts that he would be re-elected. He won with the Army conducting the elections in the Border States, New York, and other places;

great use of the patronage for high offices and lucrative contracts; the seizure of the telegraph; interfering with the mail of those merely suspected of “disloyalty,” and the ruthless crushing of dissenting speakers and newspapers. Some 45% of Northerners voted against him and for a candidate who wanted to return to “the Union as it was.” It was the Republican electoral victory, guaranteeing the continuance of total war, that decided the South’s fate, not the battle in Pennsylvania.

It is far too simplistic to assume that the Confederacy was doomed by a glorious Union “victory” at Gettysburg.

Clyde Wilson is a distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at the University of South Carolina where he was the editor of the multi-volume The Papers of John C. Calhoun. He is the M.E. Bradford Distinguished Chair at the Abbeville Institute. He is the author or editor of over thirty books and published over 600 articles, essays and reviews and is co-publisher of www.shotwellpublishing.com, a source for unreconstructed Southern books.

HUTTO CAMP OFFICERS

Commander	James R. Blackston
1 st 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

Website: www.huttocamp.com

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