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03/13/2009 18:50 86454523020	NORA LEWIS			PAGE 01/02

Nora B. Lewis
198 Lewis Drive
Jonesville, SC 29353
864 545 2184
FAX 864 545 2302

FAX COVER SHEET

To: Governor Haley FAX # 803 734 51⁶⁷~~75~~ Date:09/02/2015

From: Nora B. Lewis

Re: Confederate Flag

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

Message: You either do not know the history of the War of Northern Agression or you chose to ignore the primary reason for the war. Before I had time to draft and send you an explanation of your misunderstanding of the Confederate Flag, this letter appeared in the local county newspaper. It says it all. Those of us whose ancestors fought for states rights guaranteed by the Constitution believe that we are entitled to honor the flag and those who fought under its banner. I cannot understand why you politicians are so easily swayed by a loud minority and ignore the opinions of the well behaved majority. Do we have to get to marching, shouting and carrying ugly signs in order to have our opinions count?

Nora B. Lewis

Union County News Aug. 3, 2015

A Symbol of Southern Independence

In their misguided efforts to show respect for the nine people recently murdered in Charleston by calling for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the statehouse grounds, Governor Nikki Haley and many of our state legislators are deliberately---and unconscionably---disrespecting the many thousands of Confederate veterans who selflessly fought beneath that banner as they dutifully defended our state and the rest of the South from Yankee invaders---the same Yankee invaders who vindictively burned Atlanta, and then Columbia.

The Confederate battle flag did not kill those nine people, any more than the brand of footwear that Dylann Roof was wearing at the time he killed them. To denigrate the Confederate battle flag as a symbol of slavery is to show one's ignorance, and there are a lot of people---blacks and whites---who are conspicuously broadcasting their ignorance of history these days. It would be far more accurate to consider the Confederate battle flag a symbol of Southern independence, rather than a symbol of Negro slavery.

When the War Between the States began, the Confederacy was fighting for the states' rights (granted, one of those rights was the right to be a slave state). We had joined the Union of our own accord and by our right as a sovereign state, should have been able to peaceably secede from that same Union. But President Lincoln did not want that to happen. Apparently, he felt that the Southern states had no right to secede, even though quite contradictorily, he had no problem whatsoever with western Virginia seceding from the state of Virginia to become the new state of West Virginia.

Lincoln's purpose in fighting the War Between the States (at least in the War's early years) was solely "to preserve the Union." This is well-documented. It is also well-documented that early in the War, Lincoln ordered all Yankee commanders return any runaway slaves who sought refuge behind Union lines to their legal owners. It was not until the Emancipation Proclamation in January, 1863, that Lincoln brought the slavery issue into play as another reason for the War. A little-publicized fact is that the Emancipation Proclamation only sought to free slaves in the Confederate states; slaves in the border states of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware, as well as in the North, were not freed until after the War ended and the 13th Amendment was passed. Lincoln was afraid of alienating slave owners in those border states and consequently having them support the South.

The Confederate battle flag is properly termed the Battle Flag of the Army of Northern Virginia---General Robert E. Lee's army. General Lee, a devout Christian, fought, not to preserve slavery, but to defend his native state, Virginia, and the rest of the Confederacy from Yankee invaders. So to associate the battle flag of General Lee's army with the defense of slavery is absurd. General Lee and his army simply fought to defend their homeland, as any honorable men would have done.

By supporting the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the statehouse grounds, Governor Haley and many of our state legislators are not only displaying an ignorance of history, but a complete and inexcusable disregard for our Confederate veterans. They are succumbing to the recent inflammatory rhetoric of mob rule with a drastic knee-jerk reaction, and showing their fellow South Carolinians and the rest of the world that they are incapable of responsible leadership.

Charles "Hawkeye" Hawkins