

Letter to the Editor

**A Song and a War**

If I mention John Newton, it's doubtful many recognize the name. However, if I told you he wrote "Amazing Grace," I doubt those, who claim to be offended by the Confederate flag, would stop singing this best known hymn of all, even if they knew John Newton was involved in the Atlantic slave trade.

The first slave mentioned in the Bible was Sarai's maid servant (slave) named Hagar, by whom Abram sired Ishmael. Name changes occurred and 13 years later Abraham sired a son by his wife, Sarah. He, is son of the promise. His name is Issac (Genesis 21).

Neither Jesus nor St. Paul nor any other biblical figure is recorded as saying anything in opposition to the institution of slavery. (Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 4: 1; I Cor. 12: 13; Gal. 3: 28; Col. 3: 11)

States were within their Constitutional rights to succeed from the Union and were not enemies of the U.S., until Lincoln made them so!

The bloodiest of all wars fought on American soil pitted father against son, brother against brother, cousin against cousin. The "Civil War" mixed their blood under two flags on numerous battlefields. For that reason, both flags should be enshrined forever. To me, that is unity. None of the 600,000 plus men killed in this unique war should be forgotten.

The Civil War is the most costly war that America has ever fought. Point is, you can't change history. Keep singing "Amazing Grace" and keep flying our State flag.

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