

What My Confederate Heritage Means to Me

By: Cody M. Ake

My Confederate Heritage means I am truly a Southern gentleman. I have three Confederate ancestors in my family. Two on my mom's side and one from my dad's side. The two ancestors from my mom's side are: Retus M. Huffman with the 7th North Carolina Company C. and Edmund M. Waddell of the 19th North Carolina Company E. My ancestor I am most proud of is Samuel Strickland of the brave 5th North Carolina Company C. The reason I am so proud of my three ancestors is because they fought and died for their home, their families, and their state of North Carolina.

If it had not been for my Confederate ancestors willingness to fight for our heritage, then I would have never known who my Confederate ancestors were, then they would never ever be remembered. Today, the Confederacy and all that served under her are not recognized by the Federal Government because they only want you to believe the Confederate soldiers were only fighting for slavery. But, in my heart Dixie will always be one of the best groups of states that ever existed. The government was based on the foundation of God and what our founding fathers had set as the Constitution for the United States of America.

When Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to invade my ancestors' homes, they all came to Cumberland County to enlist in the Confederate army. From the First Battle of Manassas right on up until General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Grant, Retus Huffman and Edmund M. Waddell fought until the very end. Samuel Strickland was captured at Gettysburg and was taken to Point Lookout POW camp, then was transferred to Fort Delaware POW camp in New York. Since Samuel did not fight until the very end, he is an ancestor that I respect for his courage to survive two Yankee POW camps. Also, I respect each and every Confederate soldier that fought and died for the cause of the Confederacy. If it had not been for them fighting and dying for the cause of freedom and independence the South would have been taken away from us a lot easier than if Confederate soldiers had not answered Dixie's call for men to stand and defend her from intruding Yankees.

Our Confederate soldiers were outnumbered, outgunned, with little resources and did not have as much reinforcements as the Yankees had. But there is one thing that every Confederate soldier had, and that was the Lord Almighty by their side to guide them through every battle and help every commander with hard decisions and difficult choices. Because God helped the Confederate soldiers, it lasted four years. Because of the loss of thousands of lives it is considered the bloodiest war that two armies have ever fought. With all the other wars combined, they do not match the cost of so many lives during the war of northern aggression.

Next year when I go off to college and continue my education, I will always think of my three ancestors and what they did for the state of North Carolina, for Dixie, and the Confederate Cause which still lives in the hearts of all Southerners. Men, women, and children alike all fought for a cause and many died while doing it. History does not tell us the real reason the War of Northern Aggression was fought. The Yankees want each and every one of us to believe that it was fought for slavery. This is not the truth. Let us not forget why the Confederacy existed. It was because of God's wonderful and Holy hands that the Confederate States of America lived for four years like it did. From first Manassas all the way to Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House the Confederate still had the ways that a southern gentleman will always carry out even when he is in Heaven.