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THE TRUTH OF THE  
WAR CONSPIRACY  
OF 1861

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“Everyone should do all in his power to  
collect and disseminate the truth.”

– Robert E. Lee  
December 3, 1865



## FOREWORD



During President Washington's administration, at a banquet of the notables at Richmond, a young man, John Randolph of Roanoke, was called on for sentiment. Randolph arose, raised his glass, and said:

“George Washington may be damned” —

Instantly there was a howl of protest, a threatening movement. Randolph calmly waited; then continued —

“— if he signs the Jay Treaty!”

There was a shout of approval.

I have somewhat to say. Hear me, though, then you may howl and shout as you feel.



## MEMORANDA



The crucial period in which the premeditated schemes of the fanatics were put into operations, so as to inaugurate actual war, was from March 4th, to July 4th, 1861; before Congress was allowed to meet to consider it.

From May 1861 to January 1862 I served in the “5th Georgia Volunteers,” C.S.A. at Pensacola, Florida.

About July 1st, 1861 an expedition under our Colonel, John K. Jackson, attacked “Billy Wilson’s Zouaves” (of Boston), on Santa Rosa Island, at night. We drove them, – pell mell – into Fort Pickens; captured, and burned, their camps and immense stores. As we were returning to our boats we were attacked by a force of “regulars” of the U. S. Army. We drove them back; and my Captain, S. W. Mangham, captured their commanding officer, Major Vogdes (who was mounted on a mule).

Twenty years later, at Fort Adams, Rhode Island, I met General Vogdes, who remembered the



incident and discussed it. In his remarks he stated that *he had reinforced Fort Pickens before Fort Sumter was attacked; but, that his act was overshadowed by the clamor and furor about Fort Sumter.*

That was the first intimation I ever had of that fact. It led me to search for some proof of it. I read Stephens, Davis, Semmes, Taylor, Maury, Shouler, – and hundreds of authentic magazine articles, – but none cleared the mystery enveloping that vital point. It was not until the Records were opened to research, – nearly twenty years later, – that I found confirmation of Vogdes' statement, which led me through devious ways to other facts as to M. C. Meigs, H. A. Adams, J. L. Worden, D. D. Porter, and many others.

The mystifying *dis*-arrangement of those records was a work of genius. It seems easy now, but I was years in getting the facts into chronological sequence.

In 1917 I succeeded in perfecting proofs fixing the responsibility for the "War Between the States," 1861-1865, on one man, – Abraham Lincoln.

My unconscious monitor, Vogdes, was one of the prisoners of war designated, – by the Confederate War Department, – to suffer the same fate as the Federal authorities threatened to execute on officers and men, – (part of Admiral Semmes' command,) – captured at the mouth of the Mississippi River in 1861. The "pirates" were not executed; so, Vogdes was saved.

One of the keenest observers I ever met was

in Washington at the time of this secret War Conspiracy, Admiral Raphael Semmes, C.S.N. In 1870 a friend at Mobile invited me to accompany him to the *Anchorage*, – the home of the Admiral, – and for an hour I enjoyed the Admiral’s reminiscences. As I left he said to me: “Captain, the secret treachery that caused the war will come to light, and justify the South. Truth is deathless!”

That was twenty-five years before the “secret” causes were unearthed; and then, were not comprehended, by the employees who handled them.

In the *Encyclopedia Britannica* Lincoln’s biographers (who sign S. F. and L. S.) say: “In early life Lincoln adopted these three maxims: 1st. Never to swear; 2nd. Never to touch liquor; 3rd. Never to lie. And, he never did!”

I know nothing of his “swears.”

I know Lamon and Herndon picture Lincoln waving a bottle in the midst of a drunken mob; and I remember, it was told, that he prescribed “liquor like General Grant drinks!”

As to his “3rd maxim – Never to lie,” I rest on the facts as will appear in this article.

From the same source I quote from Lincoln’s first inaugural address, March 4th, 1861:

“In your hands, my dissatisfied countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you; you can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors.”

That too, – with his “3rd maxim,” – I leave to be answered by the facts of record, as set forth in

this article. Bear in mind that there was no “Civil War,” (except in Missouri); I am treating of the “War between the (Sovereign) States.”

In this labor of many years, I have held frequent “imaginary conversations,” discussions, arguments, with my loyal, trusted friend, the Blade – my old service sword, which hangs on the wall, envired by books, records, and memories.

The Blade speaks for the Truth; and points to the record in this paper. I bespeak for my trusty friend your patience.

A word as to the spirit in which this paper is prepared.

If this article expresses my belief, it is because it sustains it. Abraham Lincoln is, to me, exactly what his own record makes him. It would be the same were the Prince of Peace the actor.

I served four years in the “War between the States.” I know what it is to meet men armed with a torch in one hand, the sword of diabolism in the other. (All were not so, else all would have died.) I know somewhat of the inferno of “Reconstruction.” I saw my people suffer, my father’s house vandalized, my mother’s tomb desecrated, I saw the South desolate!

Then, I saw my people rise; and, with a courage unequalled, restore our waste places and force a re-entrance to “Our Father’s house, to stay, thank God!”

My intent is to discover the facts, establish the Truth, as to the responsibility for the horrors of

that war.

To attempt to describe such a tragic drama in cold, philosophic terms, would be to fail. If the acts be not set forth in words which portray their infamy it might be false, instead of an historical Truth.

Truth is not slander; nor partisan.

So, if a just indignation finds vent in good old English, occasionally, remember the South's sixty years of foul wrongs; and, if your view is worth notice, you will at least smile, – as I do, – my task accomplished.



## CHAPTER ONE



When Washington was made President there was no party line. John Adams succeeded him, in 1797, without any definite party cleavage; but the laws passed under Adams' administration, – by Hamilton's influence, – aroused Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, who wrote into the Resolutions of 1798-9 "the first clear definite platform of Republican-Democratic principles;" which, supplemented by "Madison's Report," and epitomized in Jefferson's first inaugural address, set forth the basic principles of true Democracy.

The people rallied to them. Hamilton's Federalism was condemned and Jeffersonian Democracy voted into power.

It is interesting to recall that the first political struggle in Virginia, after these Resolutions were promulgated, was led by Jefferson's young kinsman, John Randolph, of Roanoke, then 26 years old, and his first contest for office. He was opposed by the influence of Washington, Marshall, and even Patrick

Henry was somehow against him; but Randolph was elected, 1799, and became a powerful Democratic leader.

May I ask a pertinent question?

How long since you read those “Resolutions,” or “Madison’s Report,” or Jefferson’s first “Inaugural,” or Calhoun’s “Resolutions of 1833 and 1837,” or Jefferson Davis’ “Resolutions” in the U.S. Senate in 1860?

If you are ignorant of them, how do you know what you believe; or that you are a Democrat?

There was never a truer patriot in America than John Adams; yet his administration caused his personal friend, Jefferson, to write the following in the noted Kentucky Resolutions.

Hark ye, the father of Democracy speaks:

This Commonwealth is determined to submit to no undelegated and consequently unlimited power, in no man, or body of men on earth, – even the President, whose suspicions may be the evidence, his orders the sentence, his officers the executioner and his breast the sole record of the transaction.

When powers are assumed which have not been delegated, a nullification of the act is the rightful remedy; and every State has a natural right in cases not within the compact, *casus non fœderis*, – to nullify of their own authority all assumptions of power by others within their limits.

It would be a dangerous delusion were a confidence in the men of our choice to silence our

fears for the safety of our rights. Confidence is everywhere the parent of despotism. Jealousy, and not confidence, prescribes limited constitutions to bind down those whom we are obliged to trust with power.

In questions of power then, let there be no more heard of confidence in man; but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.

Had Abraham Lincoln heeded these great truths, there would have been no "War between the States."

Partisan books, labeled "History," have taught false theories until their practice has obtained, in press and pulpit, to a dangerous extent. The truth is not always comfortable; but, it is always safe.

A few days ago some of my old veteran comrades cheered the sentiment that "Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, *et al*, established and defended Democratic principles."

My veneration for Washington isolates him from all other men; yet, I love to think he was just human; and at times so near anti-republican centralism, that the cleavage between razed his plume, – lofty as it was. Wisely he trusted Jefferson. The heritage he left to John Adams brought on the political revolution of 1798-1800, led by Jefferson and Madison, as noted.

Antagonizing those principles is dangerous.  
If the constitutional principles then estab-



lished, and practiced, by Jefferson, were ever practiced or defended by Abraham Lincoln, will not some one cite us to the time, the occasion, and the proof?

I have not found either.