

## Pulling Together

Fall, 2017



### From the Top

Don W. Davis

Feelings, emotions, conclusions, bias, conviction, certainty, certitude, presumption, gullible, geography, ignorance, and the Civil War.

The United States War Between the States was a major historical event. Yet, many people, even today, do not properly reckon the consequences of that event.

President Truman failed to reckon the consequences even as a distinguished artillery officer in World War I.

When President Truman came home from his military duty in Europe filled with the pride of a young officer who had contributed to the hard fought conclusion of WWI, he dressed in his uniform and went to his grandmother's house on the family farm in Missouri. Upon entering the house, he was promptly dressed down by his grandmother and told he could not come in her house wearing that uniform.

Truman was dumbfounded until his grandmother explained her cause for despise of that uniform. You see, she was a child during the Civil War. She lived on the family farm that was doing very well. The farm was in Missouri and owned and operated by family and

friends soundly steeped in Anti-Confederacy values. They wanted the Yankee Army to prevail. To the grandmother's chagrin, the Northern Army moved onto her family's farm. Uniformed soldiers moved into the house and forced her family to reside in the barns and outbuilding. They indiscriminately consumed the animals (chickens, hogs, rabbits, cattle) and vegetables and coerced her and the other family members to fetch, butcher, cook, wash, clean, press, mend, polish and anything else they wanted them to do.

The Northern Army literally destroyed the farm while abusing the family. President Truman did not know what the Yankee Army had done to his family – another Anti-Confederacy family! He did not know until his grandmother told him what she had lived through. President Truman knew that the War Between the States wounded and scarred many Americans and it would take a long time for all the wounds to heal. He understood that ending the war and healing the gash between the states would remain a monumental challenge. Brothers fought brothers. Fathers fought sons. Uncles fought nephews. Church brethren fought each other. Union brethren fought each other.



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