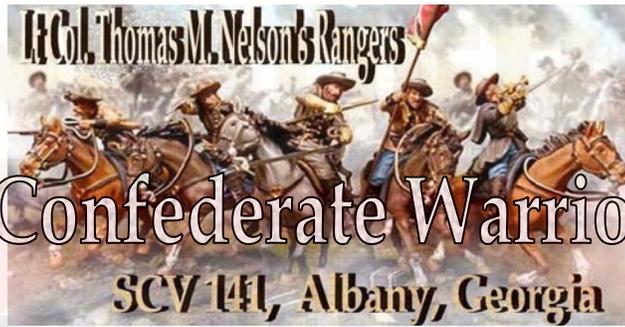


*"... to your strength will
of the Confederate
the guardianship of his
of his virtues, the
principles he loved and
glorious and which you
Remember, it is your*



*be given the defense
soldier's good name,
history, the emulation
perpetuation of those
which made him
also cherish.
duty to see that the*

true history of the South is presented to future generations."

*Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee Commander General
United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906*

The Private Confederate Soldiers were earnest and honest patriots in their convictions, who knew they were right to defend their own, their native land, its soil, its altars, its homes and firesides and its honor from a ruthless invader.

They were not rebels or traitors in obeying their State sovereignty. They knew it was lawful to take up arms under their mandates, authorized by the Federal Constitution, to repel invasion.

Most of these men had no stately mansions; no slaves to plow and plant their fields; no stocks or investments in interest bearing funds.

They were poor but proudly patriotic and indomitably brave. They faithfully followed leaders whom they trusted and honored. They fought with devout confidence and courage, which was unconquerable save by starvation, blockade, overwhelming numbers and death.

Of these men of the ranks their beloved leader, General Robert E. Lee, once said during their last winter on the lines: "The men of this war who will deserve the most honor and gratitude are not the men of rank, but the men of the ranks, the privates!"

