

# ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

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## On a Personal Note

When I was asked to put together this piece dealing with Confederate Veteran Organizations I saw it as an opportunity to at last learn more about my family member in a Tennessee Confederate regiment and my Tyler relatives in Virginia and how the war effected them. My family had many members in Wisconsin and New York regiments whose history we knew about, so this was a wonderful way to learn about people that for a long time had just been a historic long gray line to me.

Just to illustrate how long it takes for people to forget conflicts, Moe Holt, a late friend and neighbor (a relative of his was an aide to General Longstreet) told me about the UCV convention held in his home town Richmond Virginia in 1932. As a teenager he observed a visiting band in the parade played "*Marching thru Georgia*" to the dismay of the crowd who tossed empty bottles at the band and whatever else came to hand. We had stopped to see him in a Hospice he was very ill. We had just come from a reenactment and were in costume. He awoke and sat up with a start and said he thought he had died and had gone to Hell when he saw all our 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin, Yankee uniforms.

Everyone should deal with historical reality of American history, the good and the bad. We should strive to remember the people and value their stories, to read the original material and see the world as they did. This is why I have included so much material in their own words in the essay. Exploring our ancestors' words dissolves any differences between us and them and allows us to see the humanity of these people and the world they found themselves in.

If you forget the Civil War you will also forget slavery and all those that fought to remove it.

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