

april confederate history month

April Confederate History Month: Exploring Its Origins, Controversies, and Cultural Impact

april confederate history month is a designation observed in various states, particularly in the southern United States, to commemorate and reflect upon the history of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War era. This observance, set within the month of April, often sparks lively discussions about history, heritage, and the ongoing debates surrounding the legacy of the Confederacy. Understanding April Confederate History Month requires delving into its historical roots, the reasons for its establishment, and the complexities it presents in today's cultural and political landscape.

The Origins and Purpose of April Confederate History Month

April Confederate History Month traces back to efforts by certain southern states to officially recognize the Confederate States' role in American history. The month of April was chosen largely because it coincides with significant dates related to the Confederacy, including the birthdates of notable Confederate figures and key Civil War battles that occurred in the spring.

Why April?

April holds symbolic meaning in the commemoration of Confederate history. For example, Confederate Memorial Day is observed in some states during April, honoring soldiers who fought for the Confederacy. Additionally, the month includes anniversaries of important Civil War events, such as the surrender of Confederate forces in 1865, marking the end of the conflict. These historical markers provide a temporal anchor for remembrance and reflection.

The Goals Behind the Observance

Proponents of April Confederate History Month argue that the observance serves to educate people about southern heritage, the complexities of the Civil War, and the sacrifices made by Confederate soldiers. They see it as a way to preserve a particular interpretation of history that emphasizes states' rights, regional identity, and the cultural legacy of the South. For many supporters, it is also about honoring ancestors and maintaining family traditions.

Controversies and Debates Surrounding April Confederate History Month

While April Confederate History Month is intended to be a time of remembrance, it has not been

without its controversies. The observance often ignites passionate debates regarding the symbolism of the Confederacy and its association with slavery, segregation, and racial oppression.

Confederate Symbols and Their Meanings

One of the core points of contention lies in the use of Confederate symbols such as the battle flag, monuments, and statues. Critics argue that these symbols represent a painful legacy of racism and serve to glorify a rebellion fought, in large part, to uphold slavery. Supporters, however, contend that these symbols reflect heritage and history rather than hate.

Political and Social Implications

The designation of April as Confederate History Month has political ramifications, influencing discussions around race relations, public memory, and education. Some states have rescinded or declined to recognize the month, reflecting broader shifts in public opinion. Others maintain the observance but accompany it with efforts to provide a more balanced historical perspective that includes the experiences of enslaved people and the consequences of the Civil War.

Integrating April Confederate History Month into Education and Community Activities

Regardless of the differing viewpoints, April Confederate History Month presents opportunities for education and dialogue. Schools, museums, and cultural institutions can use this time to explore the Civil War era in depth, fostering a more nuanced understanding of the period.

Educational Approaches

To make the most of April Confederate History Month in educational settings, it's important to approach the subject with sensitivity and inclusiveness. Teachers might:

- Present multiple perspectives on the causes and effects of the Civil War, including the impact on enslaved people and indigenous communities.
- Discuss the complex motivations behind the Confederacy and the Union, highlighting economic, social, and political factors.
- Encourage critical thinking about how history is remembered and commemorated, including the role of monuments and holidays.

Community Engagement and Reflection

Communities observing April Confederate History Month can also benefit from hosting forums, panel discussions, and historical reenactments that engage diverse voices. These activities can help bridge divides by promoting understanding and empathy, rather than division.

The Future of April Confederate History Month

As the United States continues to grapple with its history and identity, the observance of April Confederate History Month will likely evolve. Some states and organizations are reimagining how to commemorate the past in ways that acknowledge all aspects of history, including the pain and injustice experienced by many.

Moving Toward Inclusive Remembrance

A growing trend is to frame April Confederate History Month within a broader context of Civil War remembrance that includes African American history, emancipation, and the long struggle for civil rights. This shift allows for a more comprehensive and honest engagement with history, fostering healing and education.

Balancing Heritage and Progress

Finding a balance between honoring heritage and promoting social progress remains a delicate task. Transparent conversations and thoughtful commemorations can help communities respect diverse experiences and build a more unified future.

April Confederate History Month, while complex and sometimes contentious, serves as a reminder of how deeply history shapes present-day identities and conversations. By embracing a multifaceted approach to this observance, individuals and communities have the chance to learn from the past and contribute to a more inclusive understanding of American history.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is April Confederate History Month?

April Confederate History Month is a period designated in some states to commemorate the history and heritage of the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War.

Which states have officially recognized April as Confederate

History Month?

Historically, states such as Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas have recognized April as Confederate History Month, although the designation and observance vary and have become increasingly controversial.

Why is April chosen as Confederate History Month?

April is chosen because it marks the beginning of the Civil War with the firing on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, and it also includes Confederate Memorial Day observances in some states.

What are the controversies surrounding April Confederate History Month?

The observance is controversial because many view it as a glorification of the Confederacy, which fought to maintain slavery, leading to debates about historical memory, racism, and public commemoration.

Are there any recent changes to the recognition of April Confederate History Month?

In recent years, several states have reconsidered or discontinued official recognition of April Confederate History Month due to concerns about promoting divisive or racist symbols and history.

Additional Resources

April Confederate History Month: An Analytical Review of Its Significance and Controversies

april confederate history month stands as a designated period for commemorating the history and legacy of the Confederate States of America. Observed primarily in certain Southern U.S. states, this month has sparked extensive debate regarding its cultural, historical, and political implications. This article investigates the origins, purposes, and controversies surrounding April Confederate History Month, aiming to provide a balanced and insightful perspective on a complex and often contentious observance.

Historical Context and Origins of April Confederate History Month

The tradition of dedicating a month to Confederate history typically centers on recognizing the events, figures, and symbolism associated with the Confederacy—a coalition of eleven Southern states that seceded from the United States from 1861 to 1865. April was chosen largely because it encompasses significant dates such as Confederate Memorial Day in some states and the anniversary of pivotal battles during the American Civil War.

The establishment of April Confederate History Month in various states began in the late 20th

century, often through state legislature proclamations or resolutions. Advocates framed the observance as a tribute to Southern heritage, honoring the valor and sacrifices of Confederate soldiers. However, the month also functions as a vehicle for discussions about regional identity, historical memory, and the complex legacy of the Civil War.

The Role of State Governments and Legislation

Several state governments, including Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas, have officially recognized April Confederate History Month at different points in recent decades. These proclamations vary in language and emphasis but generally aim to promote education about Confederate history and heritage.

For example, in Alabama, the governor's proclamation often highlights the contributions of Confederate soldiers while calling for respectful remembrance. In Mississippi, the month sometimes coincides with Confederate Heritage Month, which includes ceremonies, historical reenactments, and public lectures.

Despite these official endorsements, some states have rescinded or declined to issue such proclamations in response to public criticism and evolving social attitudes. This legislative inconsistency reflects the broader national debate surrounding Confederate symbols and their place in modern society.

Controversies and Critiques Surrounding April Confederate History Month

The observance of April Confederate History Month is not without significant controversy. Critics argue that celebrating Confederate history can perpetuate racial divisions and glorify a regime founded on the defense of slavery. These concerns are amplified amid ongoing national conversations about racial justice, systemic inequality, and the legacy of the Civil War.

Arguments Against the Observance

Opponents of April Confederate History Month often emphasize the following points:

- **Glorification of a Defunct Regime:** The Confederacy is widely recognized for its defense of slavery and rebellion against the United States government, making its celebration problematic for many.
- **Symbolism of Racial Oppression:** Confederate symbols and commemorations are perceived by many as emblematic of white supremacy and racial discrimination.
- **Exclusionary Historical Narrative:** The focus on Confederate heritage can marginalize the experiences and histories of African Americans and other groups affected by the Civil War and

its aftermath.

These critiques have led some states and municipalities to reconsider or abolish their observance of April Confederate History Month, reflecting a shift toward more inclusive approaches to history.

Defense and Support of the Month

Supporters of April Confederate History Month emphasize the following:

- **Preservation of Southern Heritage:** Proponents argue that the month honors the cultural and historical legacy of the American South beyond the issue of slavery.
- **Recognition of Military Sacrifice:** The valor of Confederate soldiers is often highlighted as a matter of respect for those who fought and died.
- **Educational Opportunity:** Some advocates see the month as a chance to engage the public in historical education and dialogue.

Supporters often stress the importance of historical context and argue that the observance does not condone the Confederacy's political or moral stances but rather recognizes a complex chapter of American history.

April Confederate History Month in Contemporary Cultural and Political Discourse

In recent years, April Confederate History Month has increasingly become a focal point in broader debates about how history is remembered and commemorated. The rise of movements to remove Confederate statues and rename public spaces has intensified scrutiny of all forms of Confederate memorialization, including the month-long observance.

Impact on Education and Public Memory

Educational institutions in regions observing April Confederate History Month face unique challenges. Balancing the teaching of Civil War history with sensitivity to contemporary issues of race and identity requires nuanced curricula and open dialogue.

Some schools and universities have incorporated critical perspectives on the Confederacy, emphasizing the causes of the Civil War, including slavery, and the ongoing impact of racial injustice. Conversely, others maintain more traditional narratives that align with the themes of heritage celebrated during April.

Political Implications and Public Opinion

Public opinion on April Confederate History Month is deeply polarized. Polls indicate generational and regional divides, with younger Americans and urban populations generally opposing Confederate commemorations, while older demographics and residents of certain Southern states may be more supportive.

Politically, the observance intersects with debates on states' rights, cultural identity, and the role of government in shaping historical memory. Some political figures have leveraged April Confederate History Month to appeal to specific constituencies, while others have denounced it as outdated or divisive.

Comparative Perspectives: Confederate History versus Broader Civil War Commemoration

A relevant comparison can be drawn between April Confederate History Month and more inclusive Civil War commemorations that seek to honor the entire conflict's complexity. National observances such as Memorial Day or Juneteenth present alternative frameworks for remembering the past.

- **Civil War Heritage Month:** Some states recognize a broader Civil War Heritage Month that encompasses all perspectives, including Union soldiers, enslaved people, and the transformative outcomes of the war.
- **Juneteenth and African American History:** The growing recognition of Juneteenth as a federal holiday highlights emancipation and African American resilience, contrasting with Confederate-centered remembrances.

These comparative approaches illustrate the evolving landscape of historical commemoration in the United States, emphasizing inclusivity and reconciliation rather than regional or sectional pride alone.

April Confederate History Month remains a complex and multifaceted observance, embedded within ongoing discussions about history, memory, and identity in America. Its future will likely continue to be shaped by societal shifts, legislative actions, and the evolving ways in which communities choose to engage with their past.

[April Confederate History Month](#)

april confederate history month: Confederate Exceptionalism Nicole Maurantonio, 2022-09-30 Along with Confederate flags, the men and women who recently gathered before the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts carried signs proclaiming "Heritage Not Hate." Theirs, they said, was an "open and visible protest against those who attacked us, ours flags, our ancestors, or our

Heritage.” How, Nicole Maurantonio wondered, did “not hate” square with a “heritage” grounded in slavery? How do so-called neo-Confederates distance themselves from the actions and beliefs of white supremacists while clinging to the very symbols and narratives that tether the Confederacy to the history of racism and oppression in America? The answer, Maurantonio discovers, is bound up in the myth of Confederate exceptionalism—a myth whose components, proponents, and meaning this timely and provocative book explores. The narrative of Confederate exceptionalism, in this analysis, updates two uniquely American mythologies—the Lost Cause and American exceptionalism—blending their elements with discourses of racial neoliberalism to create a seeming separation between the Confederacy and racist systems. Incorporating several methods and drawing from a range of sources—including ethnographic observations, interviews, and archival documents—Maurantonio examines the various people, objects, and rituals that contribute to this cultural balancing act. Her investigation takes in “official” modes of remembering the Confederacy, such as the monuments and building names that drive the discussion today, but it also pays attention to the more mundane and often subtle ways in which the Confederacy is recalled. Linking the different modes of commemoration, her work bridges the distance that believers in Confederate exceptionalism maintain; while situated in history from the Civil War through the civil rights era, the book brings much-needed clarity to the constitution, persistence, and significance of this divisive myth in the context of our time.

april confederate history month: *Apostles of Disunion* Charles B. Dew, 2017-02-03 Charles Dew’s *Apostles of Disunion* has established itself as a modern classic and an indispensable account of the Southern states’ secession from the Union. Addressing topics still hotly debated among historians and the public at large more than a century and a half after the Civil War, the book offers a compelling and clearly substantiated argument that slavery and race were at the heart of our great national crisis. The fifteen years since the original publication of *Apostles of Disunion* have seen an intensification of debates surrounding the Confederate flag and Civil War monuments. In a powerful new afterword to this anniversary edition, Dew situates the book in relation to these recent controversies and factors in the role of vast financial interests tied to the internal slave trade in pushing Virginia and other upper South states toward secession and war.

april confederate history month: *The Confederate and Neo-Confederate Reader* James W. Loewen, Edward H. Sebesta, 2011-01-05 Most Americans hold basic misconceptions about the Confederacy, the Civil War, and the actions of subsequent neo-Confederates. For example, two thirds of Americans—including most history teachers—think the Confederate States seceded for “states’ rights.” This error persists because most have never read the key documents about the Confederacy. These documents have always been there. When South Carolina seceded, it published “Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union.” The document actually opposes states’ rights. Its authors argue that Northern states were ignoring the rights of slave owners as identified by Congress and in the Constitution. Similarly, Mississippi’s “Declaration of the Immediate Causes. . .” says, “Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery—the greatest material interest of the world.” Later documents in this collection show how neo-Confederates obfuscated this truth, starting around 1890. The evidence also points to the centrality of race in neo-Confederate thought even today and to the continuing importance of neo-Confederate ideas in American political life. The 150th anniversary of secession and civil war provides a moment for all Americans to read these documents, properly set in context by award-winning sociologist and historian James W. Loewen and coeditor, Edward H. Sebesta, to put in perspective the mythology of the Old South.

april confederate history month: *Still Fighting the Civil War* David Goldfield, 2013-04-15 In the updated edition of his sweeping narrative on southern history, David Goldfield brings this extensive study into the present with a timely assessment of the unresolved issues surrounding the Civil War’s sesquicentennial commemoration. Traversing a hundred and fifty years of memory, Goldfield confronts the remnants of the American Civil War that survive in the hearts of many of the South’s residents and in the national news headlines of battle flags, racial injustice, and religious

conflicts. Goldfield candidly discusses how and why white southern men fashioned the myths of the Lost Cause and Redemption out of the Civil War and Reconstruction, and how they shaped a religion to canonize the heroes and deify the events of those fateful years. He also recounts how groups of blacks and white women eventually crafted a different, more inclusive version of southern history and how that new vision competed with more traditional perspectives. The battle for southern history, and for the South, continues—in museums, public spaces, books, state legislatures, and the minds of southerners. Given the region's growing economic power and political influence, understanding this war takes on national significance. Through an analysis of ideas of history and memory, religion, race, and gender, *Still Fighting the Civil War* provides us with a better understanding of the South and one another.

april confederate history month: *A History of the Civil War* Brooks D. Simpson, 2023-07-01 In this account of the bloodiest war fought on American soil, Brooks Simpson recounts the events of the war from the opening salvo at Fort Sumter through the battlefields of Gettysburg and Shiloh to the Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House. *A History of the Civil War* brings to life the realities of the war and the people who lived through it. It explains how the politics around slavery led to an unbridgeable divide between North and South and examines the strategies that led to the Union's eventual victory in 1865.

april confederate history month: *Plain Talk Volume 2* Corey Washington, 2010-05-24 Official Website for Plain Talk Volume 1 Official Website for Plain talk Volume 2 Amazon link to Plain Talk Link to interview with Voices on the net with host J. J. Plain Talk is an easy read offering a brief overview of race in America. The book, which should land on the bookshelves of all races, is appropriately subtitled, everything you ever and never wanted to know about racism and stereotypes. Rob Redding Redding News Review

april confederate history month: *Behind the Big House* Jodi Skipper, 2022-03-22 2022 Anthropology of Tourism Interest Group Nelson Graburn Prize, winner When residents and tourists visit sites of slavery, whose stories are told? All too often the lives of slaveowners are centered, obscuring the lives of enslaved people. *Behind the Big House* gives readers a candid, behind-the-scenes look at what it really takes to interpret the difficult history of slavery in the U.S. South. The book explores Jodi Skipper's eight-year collaboration with the *Behind the Big House* program, a community-based model used at local historic sites to address slavery in the collective narrative of U.S. history and culture. In laying out her experiences through an autoethnographic approach, Skipper seeks to help other activist scholars of color negotiate the nuances of place, the academic public sphere, and its ambiguous systems of reward, recognition, and evaluation.

april confederate history month: *Obama's America* Ian Reifowitz, 2012-07-01 Our national identity is defined by what it means to be an American and whom we include and why when we talk about "the American people." A country's national identity is fluid, and Ian Reifowitz argues that President Barack Obama, by emphasizing the ideals Americans hold dear, hopes to redefine ours in a fundamental way. Obama's conception of America emphasizes two principles of national unity: First, all Americans, regardless of their heritage and cultural traditions, should identify with America as their country, based upon shared democratic values, a shared history, and a shared fate. Second, America should embrace all its citizens as active participants in one "family." Reifowitz explores Obama's belief that strengthening our common bonds will encourage Americans to rectify the injustices and heal the racial divisions that still plague our country. We have the opportunity to demonstrate to the world that a society of many races and cultures can truly become one people. In facing terrorism, violent fundamentalism, and other security issues, Obama's response centers on a powerful, inspiring, and truly inclusive American narrative. By bolstering America's identity as diverse yet unified, he aims both to counter the anxieties and fears that radicalism stokes and give proponents of religious and political freedom a model they can defend. The stakes couldn't be any higher in determining America's future.

april confederate history month: *The Enduring Civil War* Gary W. Gallagher, 2020-09-02 In the seventy-three succinct essays gathered in *The Enduring Civil War*, celebrated historian Gary W.

Gallagher highlights the complexity and richness of the war, from its origins to its memory, as topics for study, contemplation, and dispute. He places contemporary understanding of the Civil War, both academic and general, in conversation with testimony from those in the Union and the Confederacy who experienced and described it, investigating how mid-nineteenth-century perceptions align with, or deviate from, current ideas regarding the origins, conduct, and aftermath of the war. The tension between history and memory forms a theme throughout the essays, underscoring how later perceptions about the war often took precedence over historical reality in the minds of many Americans. The array of topics Gallagher addresses is striking. He examines notable books and authors, both Union and Confederate, military and civilian, famous and lesser known. He discusses historians who, though their names have receded with time, produced works that remain pertinent in terms of analysis or information. He comments on conventional interpretations of events and personalities, challenging, among other things, commonly held notions about Gettysburg and Vicksburg as decisive turning points, Ulysses S. Grant as a general who profligately wasted Union manpower, the Gettysburg Address as a watershed that turned the war from a fight for Union into one for Union and emancipation, and Robert E. Lee as an old-fashioned general ill-suited to waging a modern mid-nineteenth-century war. Gallagher interrogates recent scholarly trends on the evolving nature of Civil War studies, addressing crucial questions about chronology, history, memory, and the new revisionist literature. The format of this provocative and timely collection lends itself to sampling, and readers might start in any of the subject groupings and go where their interests take them.

april confederate history month: Our Fragile Freedoms Eric Foner, 2025-09-02 From one of the most acclaimed and influential historians of the United States, an insightful guide to our history and why it matters. Eric Foner has done more to shape the public and professional understanding of American history than any other scholar. The preeminent historian of the Civil War era, Foner's keynote has been American freedom and the recurring battles over its meanings and boundaries. His award-winning works show that freedom has been a birthright for some and a struggle for others, that rights gained can also be lost, and that they must always be tended with knowledge and vigilance. The present political moment makes the importance of these themes abundantly clear. This collection of Foner's recent reviews and commentaries demonstrates the range of his interests and expertise, running from slavery and antislavery, through the disunion and remaking of the United States in the nineteenth century, Jim Crow and the civil rights movement, and into our current politics. Each piece shows a master at work, melding historical knowledge and balanced judgment with crystalline prose. Foner takes up towering figures from Washington to Lincoln, Douglass, and Rosa Parks, pivotal events such as the Fugitive Slave Act and the Tulsa Race Massacre, and the fragility of constitutional guarantees to civil liberties, due process, and birthright citizenship, whether in times of war or peace. He also explores recent controversies over how to commemorate, and how to teach, our history.

april confederate history month: *The Black History of the White House* Clarence Lusane, 2013-01-23 The Black History of the White House presents the untold history, racial politics, and shifting significance of the White House as experienced by African Americans, from the generations of enslaved people who helped to build it or were forced to work there to its first black First Family, the Obamas. Clarence Lusane juxtaposes significant events in White House history with the ongoing struggle for democratic, civil, and human rights by black Americans and demonstrates that only during crises have presidents used their authority to advance racial justice. He describes how in 1901 the building was officially named the "White House" amidst a furious backlash against President Roosevelt for inviting Booker T. Washington to dinner, and how that same year that saw the consolidation of white power with the departure of the last black Congressman elected after the Civil War. Lusane explores how, from its construction in 1792 to its becoming the home of the first black president, the White House has been a prism through which to view the progress and struggles of black Americans seeking full citizenship and justice. "Clarence Lusane is one of America's most thoughtful and critical thinkers on issues of race, class and power."—Manning

Marable Barack Obama may be the first black president in the White House, but he's far from the first black person to work in it. In this fascinating history of all the enslaved people, workers and entertainers who spent time in the president's official residence over the years, Clarence Lusane restores the White House to its true colors.—Barbara Ehrenreich Reading The Black History of the White House shows us how much we DON'T know about our history, politics, and culture. In a very accessible and polished style, Clarence Lusane takes us inside the key national events of the American past and present. He reveals new dimensions of the black presence in the US from revolutionary days to the Obama campaign. Yes, 'black hands built the White House'—enslaved black hands—but they also built this country's economy, political system, and culture, in ways Lusane shows us in great detail. A particularly important feature of this book its personal storytelling: we see black political history through the experiences and insights of little-known participants in great American events. The detailed lives of Washington's slaves seeking freedom, or the complexities of Duke Ellington's relationships with the Truman and Eisenhower White House, show us American racism, and also black America's fierce hunger for freedom, in brand new and very exciting ways. This book would be a great addition to many courses in history, sociology, or ethnic studies courses. Highly recommended!—Howard Winant The White House was built with slave labor and at least six US presidents owned slaves during their time in office. With these facts, Clarence Lusane, a political science professor at American University, opens The Black History of the White House(City Lights), a fascinating story of race relations that plays out both on the domestic front and the international stage. As Lusane writes, 'The Lincoln White House resolved the issue of slavery, but not that of racism.' Along with the political calculations surrounding who gets invited to the White House are matters of musical tastes and opinionated first ladies, ingredients that make for good storytelling.—Boston Globe Dr. Clarence Lusane has published in The Washington Post, The Miami Herald, The Baltimore Sun, Oakland Tribune, Black Scholar, and Race and Class. He often appears on PBS, BET, C-SPAN, and other national media.

april confederate history month: *Conversations with Natasha Trethewey* Joan Wylie Hall, 2013-08-28 United States Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey (b. 1966) describes her mode as elegiac. Although the loss of her murdered mother informs each book, Trethewey's range of forms and subjects is wide. In compact sonnets, elegant villanelles, ballad stanzas, and free verse, she creates monuments to mixed-race children of colonial Mexico, African American soldiers from the Civil War, a beautiful prostitute in 1910 New Orleans, and domestic workers from the twentieth-century North and South. Because her white father and her black mother could not marry legally in Mississippi, Trethewey says she was given her subject matter as the daughter of miscegenation. A sense of psychological exile is evident from her first collection, *Domestic Work* (2000), to the recent *Thrall* (2012). Biracial people of the Americas are a major focus of her poetry and her prose book *Beyond Katrina*, a meditation on family, community, and the natural environment of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The interviews featured within *Conversations with Natasha Trethewey* provide intriguing artistic and biographical insights into her work. The Pulitzer Prize-winning poet cites diverse influences, from Anne Frank to Seamus Heaney. She emotionally acknowledges Rita Dove's large impact, and she boldly positions herself in the southern literary tradition of Faulkner and Robert Penn Warren. Commenting on *Pastoral*, *South*, and other poems, Trethewey guides readers to deeper perception and empathy.

april confederate history month: *The Civil War in Popular Culture* Lawrence A. Kreiser Jr., Randal W. Allred, 2014-01-14 Dividing the nation for four years, the American Civil War resulted in 750,000 casualties and forever changed the country's destiny. The conflict continues to resonate in our collective memory, and U.S. economic, cultural, and social structures still suffer the aftershocks of the nation's largest and most devastating war. Nearly 150 years later, portrayals of the war in books, songs, cinema, and other cultural media continue to draw widespread attention and controversy. In *The Civil War in Popular Culture: Memory and Meaning*, editors Lawrence A. Kreiser Jr. and Randal Allred analyze American depictions of the war across a variety of mediums, from books and film, to monuments and battlefield reunions, to reenactments and board games. This

collection examines how battle strategies, famous generals, and the nuances of Civil War politics translate into contemporary popular culture. This unique analysis assesses the intersection of the Civil War and popular culture by recognizing how memories and commemorations of the war have changed since it ended in 1865.

april confederate history month: *Slavery and Public History* James Oliver Horton, Lois E. Horton, 2014-03-25 “A fascinating collection of essays” by eminent historians exploring how we teach, remember, and confront the history and legacy of American slavery (Booklist Online). In recent years, the culture wars have called into question the way America’s history of slavery is depicted in books, films, television programs, historical sites, and museums. In the first attempt to examine the historiography of slavery, this unique collection of essays looks at recent controversies that have played out in the public arena, with contributions by such noted historians as Ira Berlin, David W. Blight, and Gary B. Nash. From the cancellation of the Library of Congress’s “Back of the Big House” slavery exhibit at the request of the institution’s African American employees, who found the visual images of slavery too distressing, to the public reaction to DNA findings confirming Thomas Jefferson’s relationship with his slave Sally Hemings, *Slavery and Public History* takes on contemporary reactions to the fundamental contradiction of American history—the existence of slavery in a country dedicated to freedom—and offers a bracing analysis of how Americans choose to remember the past, and how those choices influence our politics and culture. “Americans seem perpetually surprised by slavery—its extent (North as well as South), its span (over half of our four centuries of Anglo settlement), and its continuing influence. The wide-ranging yet connected essays in [this book] will help us all to remember and understand.” —James W. Loewen, author of *Sundown Towns*

april confederate history month: *Connecticut in the American Civil War* Matthew Warshauer, 2014-08-01 “Serves as a model of what a state-level survey of the Civil War can achieve . . . a potent combination of description and analysis.” —The Civil War Monitor *Connecticut in the American Civil War* offers a remarkable window into the state’s involvement in a conflict that challenged and defined the unity of a nation. The arc of the war is traced through the many facets and stories of battlefield, home front, and factory. Matthew Warshauer masterfully reveals the varied attitudes toward slavery and race before, during, and after the war; Connecticut’s reaction to the firing on Fort Sumter; the dissent in the state over whether or not the sword and musket should be raised against the South; the raising of troops; the sacrifice of those who served on the front and at home; and the need for closure after the war. This book is a concise, amazing account of a complex and troubling war. No one interested in this period of American history can afford to miss reading this important contribution to our national and local stories.

april confederate history month: *Government Responsiveness in Race-Related Crisis Events* Vickie T. Carnegie, 2022-11-28 *Government Responsiveness in Race-Related Crisis Events* argues that decision-making in crisis events related to race and ethnicity (RRCEs) is distinctive based upon the historical treatment of people of color and current narratives surrounding race in the United States. The author presents racially sensitive crisis events, not as independent problems, but as symptoms of an underlying condition which began upon the country's founding. She contends public officials will need to recognize and draw upon the interrelated nature of these crises for effective solutions and introduces a decision-making model for race-related crisis events. The author uses grounded theory and a critical race lens to explore the decision-making of public officials in Alabama, South Carolina, and Mississippi concerning the removal of the Confederate Flag from state grounds in the aftermath of the 2015 Charleston Church Shooting.

april confederate history month: *The Wars of Reconstruction* Douglas R. Egerton, 2014-01-21 A groundbreaking new history, telling the stories of hundreds of African-American activists and officeholders who risked their lives for equality—in the face of murderous violence—in the years after the Civil War.

april confederate history month: *Bloodlust* Russell Jacoby, 2011-04-05 THROUGHOUT HISTORY AND ACROSS CULTURES, the most common form of violence is that between family

members and neighbors or kindred communities—in civil wars writ large and small. From assault to genocide, from assassination to massacre, violence usually emerges from inside the fold. You have more to fear from a spouse, an ex-spouse, or a coworker than you do from someone you don't know. In this brilliant polemic, Russell Jacoby argues that violence erupts most often, and most savagely, between those of us most closely related. An Indian nationalist assassinated Mohandas Gandhi, "the father" of India. An Egyptian Muslim assassinated Anwar Sadat, the president of Egypt and a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. An Israeli Jew assassinated Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister and similarly a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Genocide most often involves kindred groups. The German Christians of the 1930s were so closely intertwined with German Jews that a yellow star was required to tell the groups apart. Serbs and Muslims in Bosnia, like the Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda, are often indistinguishable even to one another. This idea contradicts both common sense and the collective wisdom of teachers and preachers, who declaim that we fear—and sometimes should fear—the "other," the dangerous stranger. Citizens and scholars alike believe that enemies lurk in the street and beyond, where we confront a "clash of civilizations" with foreigners who challenge our way of life. Jacoby offers a more unsettling truth: it is not so much the unknown that threatens us, but the known. We attack our brothers—our kin, our acquaintances, our neighbors—with far greater regularity and venom than we attack outsiders. Weaving together the biblical story of Cain and Abel, Freud's "narcissism of minor differences," insights on anti-Semitism and misogyny, as well as fresh analyses of "civil" bloodbaths from the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre in the sixteenth century to genocide and terrorism in our own time, Jacoby turns history inside out to offer a provocative new understanding of violent confrontation over the centuries. "In thinking about the bad, we reach for the good," he says in his Introduction. This passionate, counterintuitive account affords us an unprecedented insight into the roots of violence.

april confederate history month: Yuletide in Dixie Robert E. May, 2019-10-15 How did enslaved African Americans in the Old South really experience Christmas? Did Christmastime provide slaves with a lengthy and jubilant respite from labor and the whip, as is generally assumed, or is the story far more complex and troubling? In this provocative, revisionist, and sometimes chilling account, Robert E. May chides the conventional wisdom for simplifying black perspectives, uncritically accepting southern white literary tropes about the holiday, and overlooking evidence not only that countless southern whites passed Christmases fearful that their slaves would revolt but also that slavery's most punitive features persisted at holiday time. In *Yuletide in Dixie*, May uncovers a dark reality that not only alters our understanding of that history but also sheds new light on the breakdown of slavery in the Civil War and how false assumptions about slave Christmases afterward became harnessed to myths undergirding white supremacy in the United States. By exposing the underside of slave Christmases, May helps us better understand the problematic stereotypes of modern southern historical tourism and why disputes over Confederate memory retain such staying power today. A major reinterpretation of human bondage, *Yuletide in Dixie* challenges disturbing myths embedded deeply in our culture.

april confederate history month: Searching for George Gordon Meade Tom Huntington, 2013-02 A historian's investigation of the life and times of Gen. George Gordon Meade to discover why the hero of Gettysburg has failed to achieve the status accorded to other generals of the conflict. Covers Meade's career from his part in the Mexican-American War through his participation in the great Civil War engagements, including Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Richmond, and Petersburg. Available for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Explores Meade's legacy today at reenactments, battlefields, museums, and institutions that preserve history. AUTHOR: Tom Huntington lives in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, and is an editor for Stackpole Magazines. He is the former editor of *Historic Traveler* and *American History* magazines. His articles on historical topics have appeared in *Civil War Times*, *American Heritage*, *Smithsonian*, *Yankee*, *America in WWII*, *Air & Space*, and *British Heritage*. 20 b/w photographs

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