

Civil War Quotes 1863

“My plans are perfect. May God have mercy on General Lee for I will have none.” Gen. Joseph Hooker

“Numbers have now no terror for the Southern people. They are willing to wage war against quadruple their number.” – John Jones Clerk of the CSA War Department

“Jackson died but his memory lived in the hearts of the soldiers, and on many a subsequent hard-fought field, I heard them exclaim, ‘Oh, for another Jackson!’ –Conf. Gen. James H. Lane

“The problem resolved itself into a choice of one of two things: either to retire to Richmond and stand a siege, which must ultimately have ended in surrender; or to invade Pennsylvania.” –General Lee

“The question of food gives me more trouble and uneasiness combined.” – Gen. Lee in talking with President Davis

“The enemy is here, and if we do not whip him, he will whip us.” –Gen. Lee at Gettysburg

“White-winged peace didn’t roost at Little Round Top that night! There was not a man there that cared a snap for the golden rule, or that could have remembered one line of the Lord’s Prayer. Both sides were whipped, and all were furious about it.” –Sgt. Valerius C. Giles, 4th Texas Infantry

“I have been a soldier all my life. I have commanded companies. I have commanded regiments. I have commanded divisions. And I have commanded even more. But there are no fifteen-thousand men in the world that can go across that ground.” –Gen. James Longstreet arguing with Gen. Lee concerning Pickett’s Charge.

“It’s all my fault. It is I who have lost this fight, and you must help me out of it the best way you can. All good men must rally.... Never let them see you run.” –Gen. Lee after the defeat of Pickett’s Charge

“Tell my father that I died with my face to the enemy.” –Col. Isaac E. Avery, North Carolina at Gettysburg

“See what a lot of land these fellows hold, of which Vicksburg is the key.... Let us get Vicksburg and all that country is ours. The war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket.”

–Pres. Lincoln

“The fate of the Confederacy was sealed when Vicksburg fell. Much hard fighting was to be done afterwards and many precious lives were to be sacrificed, but the morale was with the supporters of the Union ever after.” – Gen. Ulysses S. Grant

“This year has brought about many changes that at the beginning were or would have been thought impossible. The close of the year finds me a soldier for the cause of my race. May God bless the cause, and enable me in the coming year to forward it on.” –Christopher Fleetwood, Free Black from Baltimore

“You have played the part of a damn scoundrel, and are a coward, and if you were any part of a man I would slap your jaws and force you to resent it... I say to you that if you ever again try to interfere with me or cross my path it will be at the peril of your life.” Nathan B. Forrest to Braxton Bragg after Chickamauga

“Bragg is not the general that Lee is and the western army can’t fight like the Virginia army. If Gen. Lee was here he would have had the Yankees drove out of Tennessee.” - Capt. Milton Barkett

“Weuns thought youns was coming out for a review. We didn’t think youns was coming out to fight weuns.” –Confederate prisoner at Orchard Knob

“I felt sorry for General Bragg... The soldiers would raise the yell, ... “Bully for Bragg, he’s hell on retreat.” – Pvt. Sam Watkins, 1st Tennessee Infantry recalling the retreat from Chattanooga