



Historians Corner, Paul R Petersen

Paul is the Author of *Quantrill of Missouri*, *Quantrill in Texas*, *Quantrill at Lawrence and Lost Souls of the Lost Township*. Petersen is a retired U.S. Marine Corps master sergeant and a highly decorated infantry combat veteran of the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a member of the William Clarke Quantrill Society, the James-Younger Gang Association, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Jackson County and Missouri State Historical Societies.

The Biggest Yankee Lie of All

On October 28, 1861, six months and fourteen days after the first shots were fired in the War of Northern Aggression, Missouri's duly elected representatives voted on an article of secession. For six months Missouri strived to remain neutral in the conflict much like her sister states of Kentucky and Maryland but the chief despot in Washington D. C. could not allow this in his fight against State's Rights. The Yankees can well reply with an explanation as to what the 50 stars in the national banner stand for but ever since the proud banner of the Confederate battle flag waved over a free and independent nation their explanations fall silent as they are asked what the 13 stars in the Stars and Bars stand for. Even the strongest explanation is explained away as saying that the 13 stars only reflect the Confederacy's claims of having admitted Kentucky and Missouri into the Confederacy. Modern textbooks show images of the Confederate battle flag but state that Missouri remained a Northern state while ignoring that Missouri is reflected as the 12th star on the Confederate flag.

While the 13th star on the Confederate banner represented the sovereign state of Kentucky, Maryland was not as fortunate. Maryland was a slave state and one of the border states, straddling the South and the North. Because of its proximity to Washington D. C. Lincoln ordered Federal troops into Maryland to seize the State and arrest the State's legislatures, suspending Habeas Corpus and dismissing the Supreme Court Justice's ruling that it was unconstitutional.

For over six months Missouri sought to exert her sovereignty by remaining neutral in the conflict. Missouri refused to furnish troops for Lincoln's unconstitutional and diabolical request to keep her sister states from seceding. Union agitators in her largest city organized illegal gangs to fight against Missouri's own State militia. To quell the disturbances and force the State into the Northern fold

Lincoln brought Nathaniel Lyon, a radical abolitionist and a Federal captain of artillery from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, made him a brigadier general of volunteers, and had him negotiate terms with Missouri's governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson in St. Louis. On June 11, 1861, as the negotiations were progressing Lyon stood up, pointed his finger at the governor and General Sterling Price, the head of the State militia, declaring to see each of them dead and shouting at the top of his lungs, "THIS MEANS WAR!"

After Lyon had declared war on a sovereign state that was still in the Union and had not seceded Fox and Price both realized what Lyon's insane action meant. Fox and Price immediately left by train for the capital. On their way to Jefferson City they burned the bridges behind them hoping to slow the intended pursuit of Lyon's forces. Lyon was slow in coming. His assembled forces made their advance by riverboat on Jefferson City. Missouri's legally elected leaders met in special session before Lyon's arrival and voted to defend the state against this unwarranted Federal coercion and outright attempt at subjugation. The Missouri government pulled out of the defenseless capital moving south setting up temporary governmental headquarters in Neosho in southwest Missouri. Here Price gathered all loyal state forces and organized the scattered militia units into one army. His small army of native Missourians was gathered to save the sovereignty of their state. With only a fledgling army at his disposal Price knew he would need more experienced men. Pressed on all sides by huge numbers of foreign troops invading his state Price fought on as best he could. Many new recruits showed up without arms with only a patriotism and a devotion to protect their homes and fight against forced Federal coercion. Price appealed to the Confederate government to help him drive off the Federal invasion. In the following months after

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winning noted military successes all across Missouri, the exiled state government, meeting in Neosho, voted on October 28, to leave the Union and join the Confederacy. One month later, on November 28, the Confederate Congress in Richmond sent an official acknowledgment to Gov. Claiborne Jackson accepting Missouri as the twelfth state of the Confederacy.

With the duly elected government chased out of the capitol by Federal bayonets Lincoln illegally had a provisional government established in Missouri that was favorable to his Federal coercion. On July 30, Lincoln's provisional government in Missouri declared all existing state offices vacant. It then appointed a governor and all remaining officials, declared all the seats of the legislators vacant and set a date for new elections which never occurred during the course of the war. Any duly elected official that did not vacate his position was arrested.

Yankee historians try to beleaguer the fact that when the governor held a state convention in Neosho they did not have a quorum present. But this fact is not followed up with the truth in acknowledging that the state convention was delayed until the end of October in order to obtain a quorum, which was lacking earlier in the fall. Provenance of the quorum is attested to by the following research: Journals of the legislature that contained information disappeared sometime during the war. The Senate journal was rediscovered in recent years among artifacts at the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, and the House journal has only recently been found. In addition to the Senate journal, evidence of a House quorum has also been found. Records of the secession bill show that Speaker of the House, John McAfee presided over the session that adopted the bill and Clerk of the House, Thomas H. Murry's signature also attests to the verification. The bill was also sponsored in the House by legislator George Graham Vest. Reports of a quorum and even vote totals for both bodies also appeared quickly in some newspapers. The [Columbia] Missouri Statesman on November 15, 1861, claimed a quorum was reached by October 22. The Charleston Mercury of November 25, 1861, reported the session as follows: The meeting of the Missouri State Legislature, which passed the ordinance of secession at Neosho on the 2d inst. Was well attended, a full quorum being present, including 23 members of the Upper and 77 of the Lower House; 19 of the former and 68 of the latter constitute a quorum. The ordinance of secession was passed unanimously, and without a dissenting voice. It was dispatched to Richmond by a special messenger to the President, leaving Memphis yesterday morning en route.

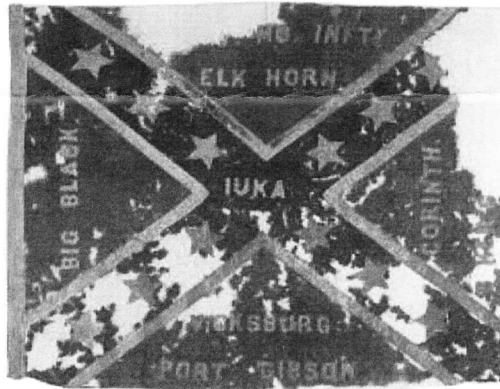
. One of the earliest historical accounts of Missouri's role in the Civil War written by former Confederate Col. John C. Moore, who also states that a quorum was present at the session:

In every particular it complied with the forms of law. It was called together in extraordinary session by the proclamation of the governor. There was a quorum of each house present. The governor sent to the two houses his message recommending, among other things, the passage of an act "dissolving all political connection between the State of Missouri and the United States of America." The ordinance was passed strictly in accordance with law and parliamentary usage, was signed by the presiding officers of the two houses, attested by John T. Crisp, secretary of the senate, and Thomas M. Murray, clerk of the house, and approved by Claiborne F. Jackson, governor of the State.

Acting on the ordinance passed by the Jackson government, the Confederate Congress admitted Missouri as the 12th Confederate state on November 28, 1861. The Jackson government subsequently named Senators to the Confederate Congress. During the course of the war in the Union controlled provisional government of Missouri elections were never held. Martial Law was declared. Civil rights were violated. Private property was confiscated. Private homes were burned and citizens were murdered simply for expressing their opinions. As with most historical facts concerning the war the controversy surrounding Missouri's legal ordinance of secession, Yankees have simply twisted the truth and added this to their long list of lies. And for Missourians this was the biggest lie of all.

Article by Paul R. Petersen – Author of *Quantrill of Missouri*, *Quantrill in Texas*, *Quantrill at Lawrence* and *Lost Souls of the Lost Township*.

Battle Flag of the 2nd/6th Missouri Infantry. Quite the resume is sewn on this flag.



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