



According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. (Philippians 1:20)



Easy, but willing to die if God and my country think I have fulfilled my destiny and done my duty. – General J.E.B. Stuart

The Southern Knight

Confederate cavalry icon J.E.B. Stuart's first engagement with the Union Army took place on July 1, 1861, at the First Battle of Manassas (also known as the Battle of First Bull Run). Operating as a reconnaissance party, Stuart's men were successful in identifying the position of Major General R. Patterson, whose troops had crossed the Potomac River and advanced into Virginia. The early discovery of the invaders enabled Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston to deploy the future "Stonewall Brigade" to assist the cavalry north of Martinsburg. The result was a *mêlée* at Falling Waters, in which one Southern regiment, consisting of three hundred men and a single artillery piece, was able to suppress the attacking Federals.

During the skirmish, Stuart found himself in a dangerous situation that could have cost him his life. Fortunately, by the grace of God, he survived to tell the tale. While riding alone in advance of his troops, Stuart exited a densely-wooded area and unexpectedly found himself in the presence of a large body of Federal infantrymen. Riding toward them without hesitation, he directed some of the men, who probably mistook him for one of their own officers, to throw down their weapons. Apparently confused by the boldness of the charging officer, the men surprisingly obeyed. Stuart was able to secure their capture, aided by his arriving troopers, much to their shock and dismay. Consequently, the commander was credited with single-handedly capturing forty-nine members of the 15th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Thus the legend of J.E.B. Stuart, the "Southern Knight," was born. And this would not be the last time he would manage to remain unscathed in the midst of such potential danger. Throughout the conflict, the cavalier would repeatedly put himself directly in harm's way while narrowly escaping death. Like his commander, "Stonewall" Jackson, Stuart firmly believed that God had already determined the time of his death. And, like Jackson, his religious convictions enabled him to rise to any challenge and inspire his troopers to hold fast, even in the face of total carnage. Often Stuart would acknowledge the protection of his Savior and consign his destiny to God's will.



*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
(1 Corinthians 16:13)*



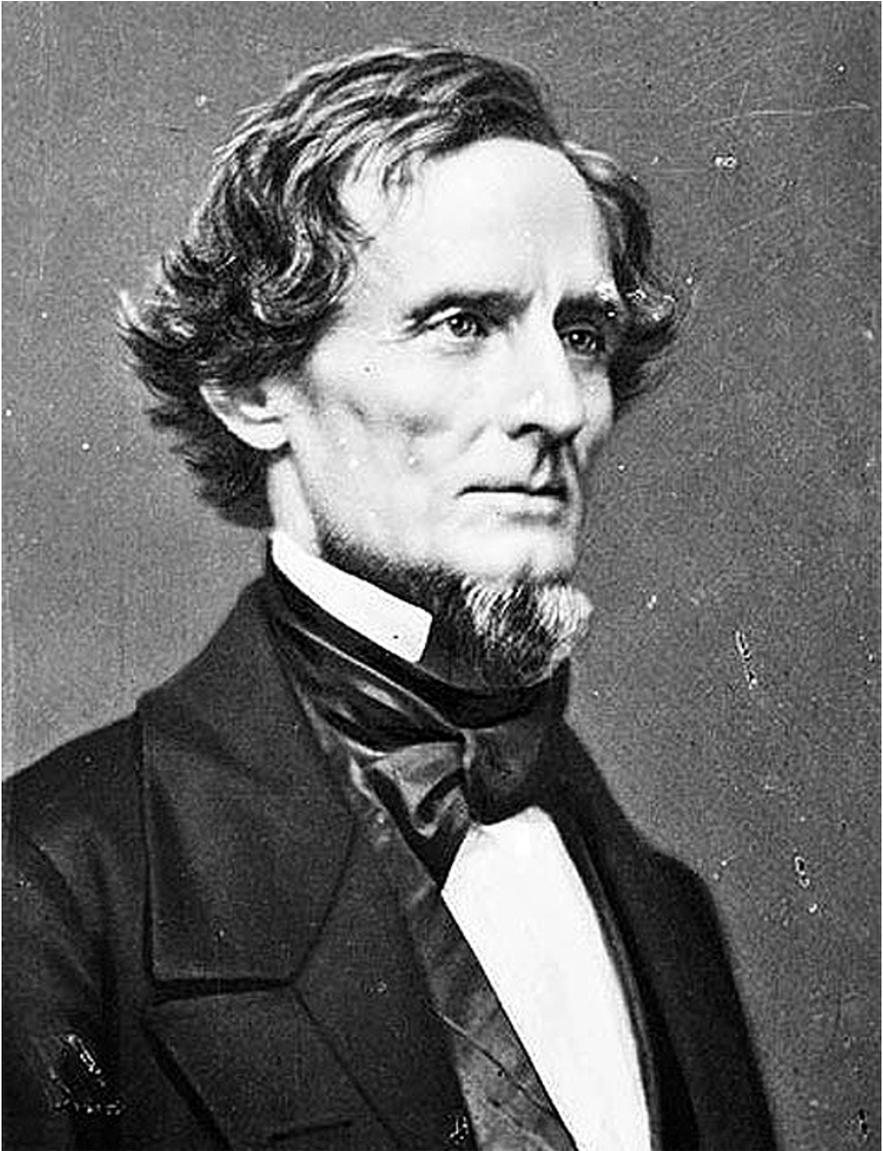
Oh, you of a younger generation, think of what it cost our forefathers to save our glorious inheritance of union and liberty! If you let it slip from your hands you will deserve to be branded as ungrateful cowards and undutiful sons. But, no! You will not fail to cherish the prize—it is too sacred a trust—too dearly purchased. – Father William Corby from a book of his recollections entitled “Memoirs of Chaplain Life”

Luck Of The Irish

According to Catholic doctrine, one of the most important duties a priest performs is administering the sacrament of Last Rites, which is a form of absolution given to a dying person. During wartime, men will obviously fall on the battlefield, mortally wounded and without the benefit of having a priest nearby. In order to compensate for this absence, Catholic chaplains would perform a universal form of this sacrament prior to the battle. This service was extremely important to brigades that were made up of immigrants such as the Irish and German contingencies. Perhaps the most courageous of these was the Union Army’s “Irish Brigade,” who deployed with the Reverend Father William Corby.

The Father extended general absolution to all soldiers, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. He was also known to administer Last Rites to those dying on the field, even while under fire. Prior to the conflict in the Wheatfield, on the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg, he offered general absolution to the “Irish Brigade.” Despite the loss of 506 of their men during that day’s battle, one soldier stated that, because of Father Corby, he felt as strong as a lion and had no fear, although his comrade was shot down beside him.

After the war, in 1865, Father Corby returned to Notre Dame where he was made vice president. Within a year, he was named president, and at the end of his term at Notre Dame in 1872, Father Corby was sent to Sacred Heart College. He returned to Notre Dame as president in 1877, where he became known as the “Second Founder of Notre Dame” for his successful efforts in rebuilding the school’s campus following a devastating fire.



But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. (Hebrews 3:6)



Never be haughty to the humble; never be humble to the haughty.

– C.S.A. President Jefferson Davis

Protestant President

Jefferson Davis was an American statesman who was appointed as the President of the Confederate States of America for its entire history (1861 to 1865) during the American Civil War. A man of humble origins, he began his formal education at a small, one-room, log cabin school in the back woods of Mississippi. Two years later, his family moved and he entered the Catholic school of Saint Thomas at St. Rose Priory, which was operated by the Dominican Order of Kentucky. At the time, Davis was the only Protestant student in the entire institution. His acceptance, as well as an introduction to a different denomination, made a lasting impression on the young man, who had been baptized as an Episcopalian.

Later, as a West Point graduate, Davis prided himself on the military skills he had gained in the Mexican-American War as a colonel in a volunteer regiment, and as U.S. Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce. After rising to the highest chair in the newly established Confederate government, Davis made a concerted effort to bridge the social gaps between citizens of different faiths. During the nineteenth century, Catholics and Jews were often held in contempt and discriminated against by the country's Protestant majority. The Confederacy's pious President did not share this sentiment. Following his appointment to power, Davis set a major precedent by assembling the first administration in U.S. history that included Protestants, Catholics and Jews.

This courageous decision went against all previous political practices and ultimately sent shockwaves through the country's governing bodies, as not even his contemporary, Abraham Lincoln, had appointed anyone other than Protestants to a high office. In his article *Jefferson Davis, Religion and the Politics of Recognition*, D. Jason Berggren stated that, "Davis practiced the politics of recognition by appointing individuals identified with persecuted religious minorities. In this regard, contrary to conventional wisdom, Jefferson Davis was a remarkable president, a president ahead of his time."