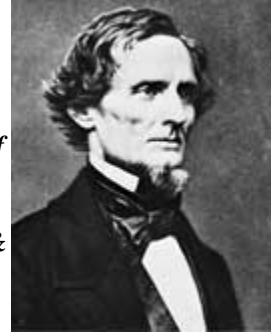


Cause for Gratitude

NANCY EMERSON of Augusta County, Virginia, wrote detailed accounts in her diaries of the Civil War years. Her entries reveal how many Southern Christians believed in the power of prayer and God's providential care during the War between the States.

Jan 1, 1863. When has a year departed so crowded with events, & such events as the last. How many battles have we fought, & how has God blessed our armies with victory. Blessed be the Lord who has not given us up a prey to their battle. As a nation, we have in a measure acknowledged God, & he has appeased for us most wonderfully... Our President, [Jefferson Davis] a Christian, as appears, a member of the Episcopal church, has appointed days of special prayer on those occasions, when our cause seems dark, our prospect rather, & in every case, the answer was manifest. After the two victories in one day, a day of thanksgiving was appointed & generally & joyfully observed...Robert E. Lee who is said to be a Christian of the same stamp as Davis, Stonewall Jackson, who is an elder in the Presb. Church in Lexington, his brother-in-law, Gen D.H. Hill, & others. Gen. Jackson sent a special request to the churches some time since for their prayers...



Nancy Emerson wrote of two great victories won by the South, which, in her words, were cause for great thanksgiving. In the Civil War, many people glorified the Lord and gave him credit for victories and providential care. Southern leaders, such as Lee and Jackson, were noted men of prayer and faith. How long has it been since you have thanked God for His care of your family? By acknowledging His blessings through prayer and thanksgiving, we open the door for Him to continue to bless us.

Ephesians 1:16

"Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers."

PRAYER

"O, Lord, thank you for the blessing you shower down on us in the good times and the bad. Help us Heavenly Father to be able to see these blessing and to acknowledge them and thank you for them."

Taken from *"Battlefields and Blessing of the Civil War"* by Tony Tumley