



## Letters to the Editor

### Factual Error

In Keith Ashley's letter to the editor responding to Thomas Eddlem's article "America's Civil War and the Advent of Total War" (October 20, 2014 issue), wherein Eddlem claimed that the North was responsible for "total war" measures against the South, not vice versa, Ashley made a great error in his facts.

There was not a pit at Fort Pillow, caused by a Union explosion, where black troops were trapped and murdered by the South. He is somewhat describing what happened at the siege of Petersburg, where the Union troops built a tunnel under the Confederate breastwork and filled it with explosives. After the explosion took place, a regiment of colored troops, who were to receive glory for breaking through the Confederate defenses, ran into the crater and were shot by Confederate soldiers. They could have surrendered, but they kept pouring into the crater to be shot. Many Union officers were reprimanded for this mishap.

James Brown  
Morgantown, Indiana

### Live Their Beliefs

I have an absolute solution to gun control.

All people, elected and appointed, who have anything to do with gun control and cause laws to be passed and actions taken that would restrict law-abiding U.S. citizens from owning, possessing, or controlling any type of firearm should be barred from owning or possessing a gun or from having any armed bodyguards to "protect" them or their families!

This would make the anti-gun crowd more aware of the *facts* that show legally armed citizens deter crime and that increased restrictions on the possession of guns by trained legal citizens increases crime! Most crime is committed in "gun free" zones and is caused by the criminal element who don't pay any attention to the gun laws anyway!

John L. Galbreath  
Mt. Sterling, Ohio

### State, Not Federal, Power

Unequivocally, in July 1776, the new States possessed all sovereignty, power, and jurisdiction over all the soil and persons in their respective territorial limits.

This condition of supreme sovereignty of each State over all property and persons within the borders thereof continued notwithstanding the adoption of the Articles of Confederation. In Article II of that document, it was expressly stated: "Article II. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every Power, Jurisdiction and right, which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled."

As the history of the confederation government demonstrated, each State was indeed sovereign and independent to the degree that it made the central government created by the confederation fairly



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ineffectual. These defects of the confederation government strained the relations between and among the States, and the remedy became the calling of a constitutional convention.

The representatives who assembled in Philadelphia in May 1787 to attend the Constitutional Convention met for the primary purpose of improving the commercial relations among the States, although the product of the convention produced more than this. But, no intention was demonstrated for the States to surrender in any degree the jurisdiction so possessed by the States at that time, and indeed the Constitution as finally drafted continued the same territorial jurisdiction of the States as existed under the Articles of Confederation. The essence of this retention of state jurisdiction was embodied in Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 17 of the U.S. Constitution, which read as follows: "To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings."

Frank Azzurro

*sent via e-mail*



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