



TEACHING

WITH PRIMARY SOURCES MISSISSIPPI

Devil with a blue dress on? Using primary sources and corroboration to determine the facts surrounding the capture of Jefferson Davis.

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ONE MODEL AND ONE PROCESS

- Model: Historical Thinking Heuristics
 - Sourcing
 - Contextualizing
 - Corroborating
 - Close reading
- Process: Primary Source Analysis (ORQ)
 - Observe
 - Reflect
 - Question



HISTORICAL THINKING HEURISTICS

1. Sourcing

What:

Examination of the “source or attribution” of a text (Wineburg, 1991a, p. 79).

Why:

Historical documents are interpretations of events (Nokes, 2010; Nokes, Dole, & Hacker, 2007).

Author’s **point of view and bias can influence a text**

2. Corroboration

What:

Compare information from one document with information from other documents

Why:

In order to **check the accuracy of the material** (Nokes, 2010; Nokes, Dole, & Hacker, 2007; Wineburg, 1991b)

3. Contextualization

What:

Consider when and where the historical events occurred

Placing it in a “chronological sequence” and by “determining the conditions of their occurrence...” (Wineburg, 1991a, p. 80).

Why:

Gives students a **framework for understanding a historical event**

Students are more able to make inferences about the information presented in the document, as well as construct a deeper understanding

4. Close Reading

What:

Doing the work – **analyzing the source closely**

Why:

To achieve those goals previously mentioned – to determine the source, **identify potential bias**, claims, **evidence** provided, examine **trustworthiness** of the document

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES

Primary Source Analysis

- Observe
- Reflect
- Question

Tool: Primary Source Analysis Worksheet

<https://padlet.com/knnthanthony/d3stw80dzkwqa37x>

<https://www.loc.gov/programs/teachers/getting-started-with-primary-sources/guides/>



JEFFERSON DAVIS CAPTURE

A “so called president” in
petticoats

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2008661797/>

OBSERVE
REFLECT
QUESTION

HOW IS DAVIS
PORTRAYED?

WHY WOULD THE ARTIST
PORTRAY HIM THIS WAY?
(Sourcing)



JEFFERSON DAVIS CAPTURE

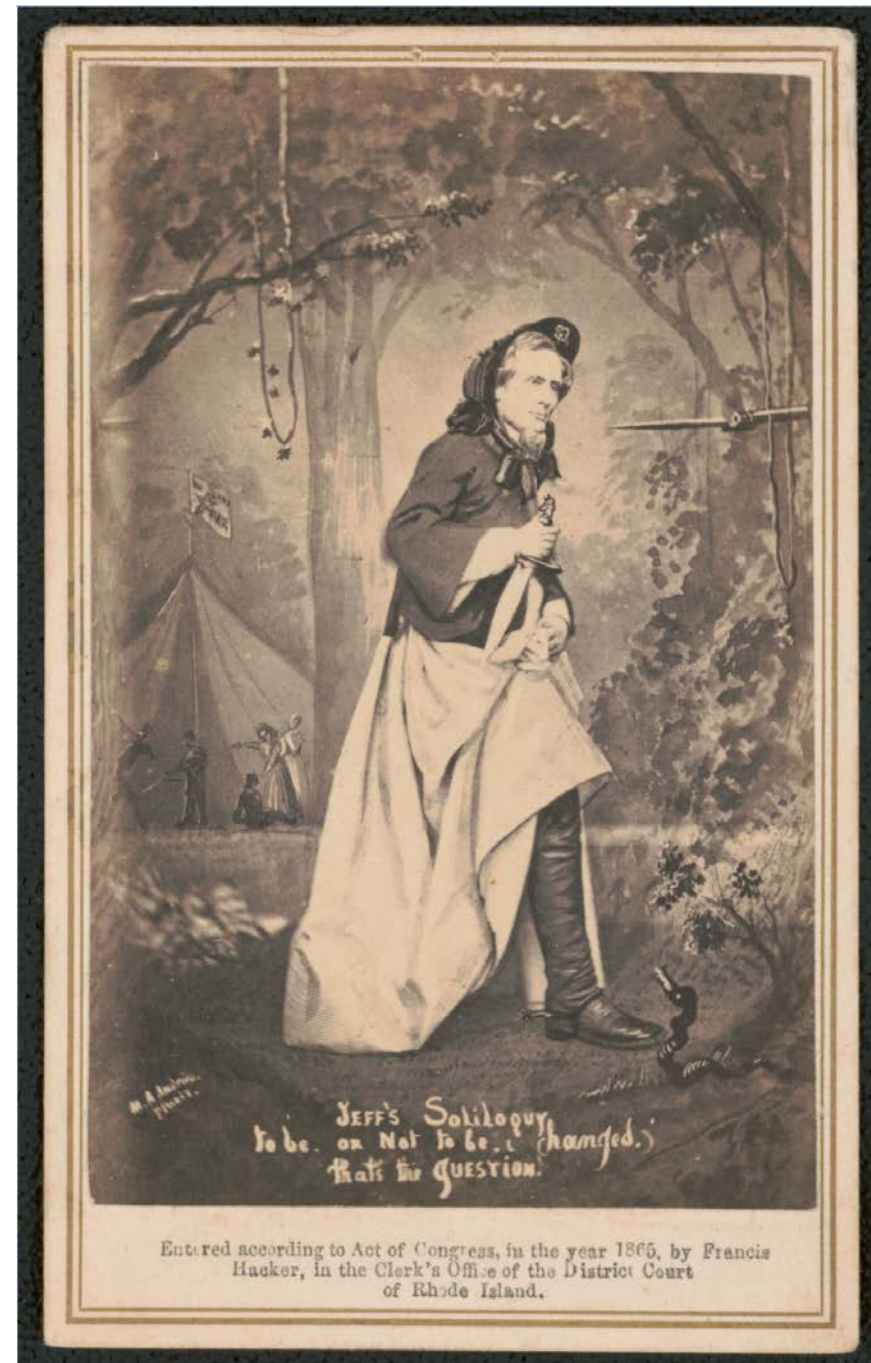
Jeff's Soliloquy to be or not to be (hanged) that's the question

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2019635451/>

OBSERVE
REFLECT
QUESTION

HOW IS DAVIS
PORTRAYED?

WHY WOULD THE ARTIST
PORTRAY HIM THIS WAY?
(Sourcing)



JEFFERSON DAVIS CAPTURE

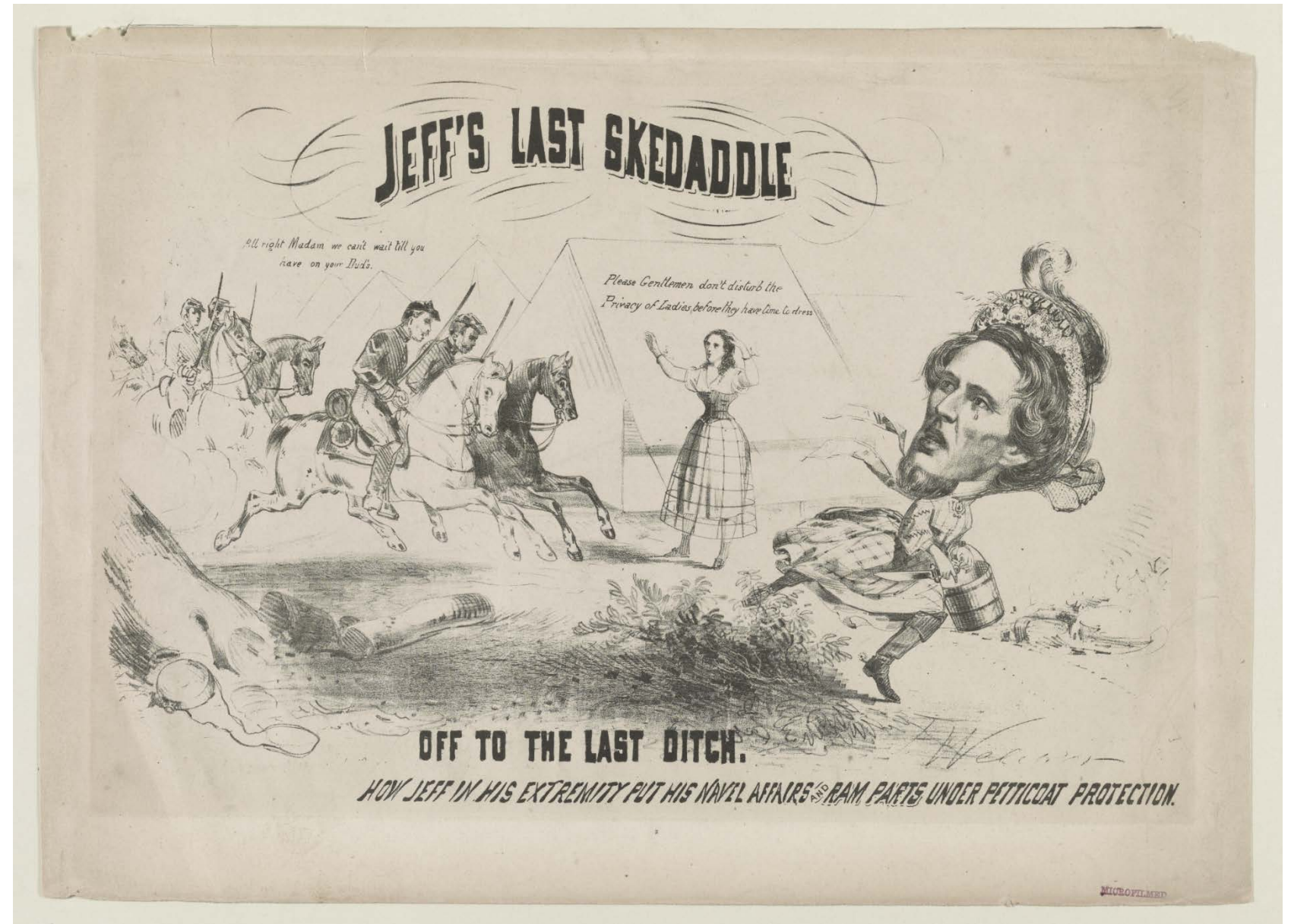
Jeff's last skedaddle off to
the last ditch

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2008661833/>

OBSERVE
REFLECT
QUESTION

HOW IS DAVIS
PORTRAYED?

WHY WOULD THE ARTIST
PORTRAY HIM THIS WAY?
(Sourcing)



THE FACTS: 5 WS AND H

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

How:

<https://padlet.com/knnthanthony/ocjyp0s5h86q3yuj>



HOW IS DAVIS PORTRAYED AND WHY?

Sourcing-

Who is the artist?

What is the artist's purpose?

Who is the audience?

Contextualizing-

When is this event?

What else is going on?

What has recently happened?

Corroborating-

Was he wearing a dress?

Check other primary and secondary sources

CONTEXUALIZING

APRIL 2, 1865- Jefferson Davis and most of Confederate government evacuate Richmond, VA.

APRIL 9, 1865- Robert. E. Lee surrenders to U.S. Grant at Appomattox

APRIL 15, 1865- Lincoln Assassinated

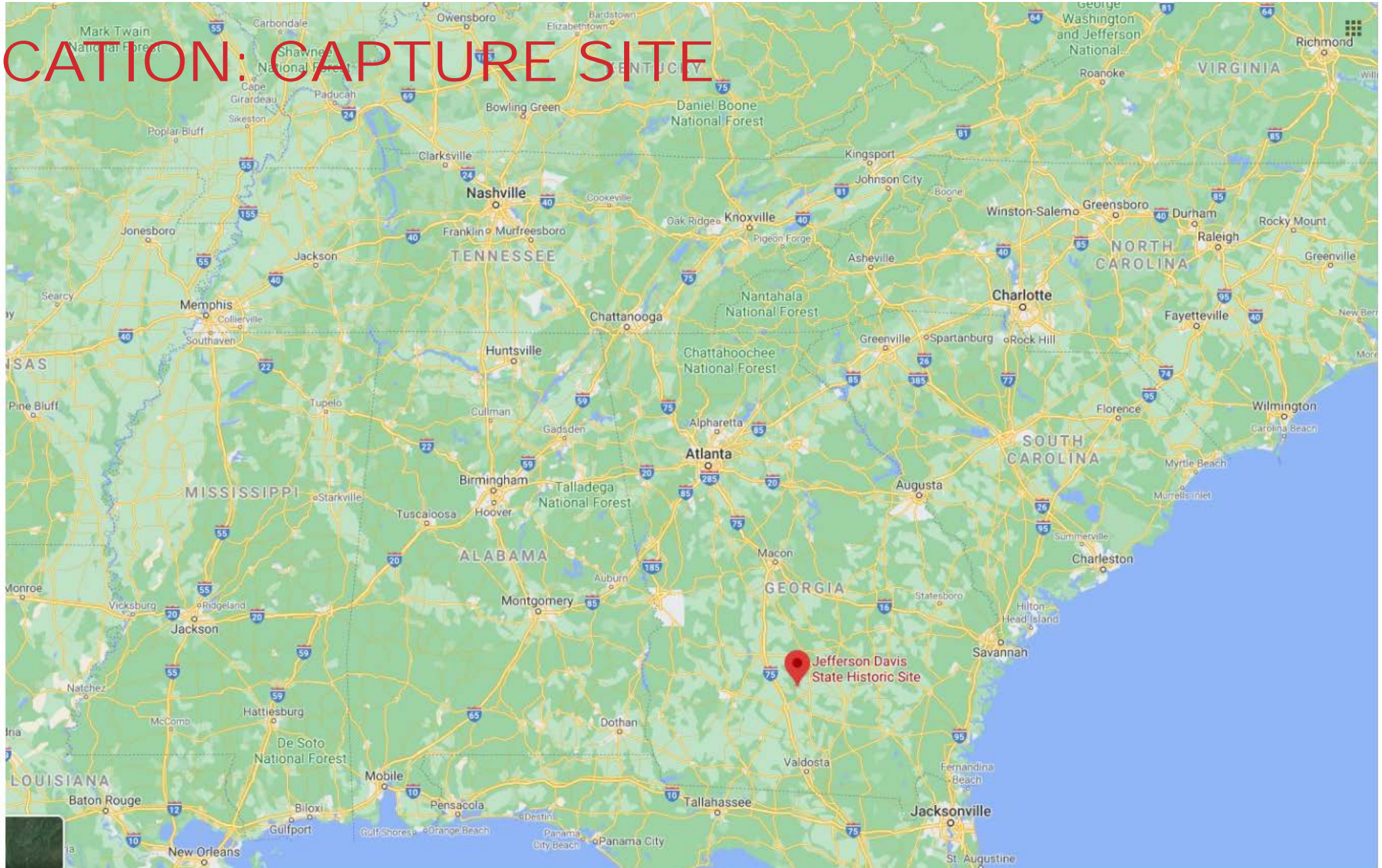
MAY 5, 1865- Davis dissolves the Confederate government at Washington, GA

MAY 10, 1865- Davis captured near Irwinville, GA

ON LOCATION: CAPTURE SITE

Jefferson Davis Capture Site
31.6633, -83.3860

338 Jeff Davis Park Road
Fitzgerald, Georgia, 31750
United States



ON LOCATION: CAPTURE SITE



Route of Jefferson Davis through South Carolina and Georgia



ON LOCATION

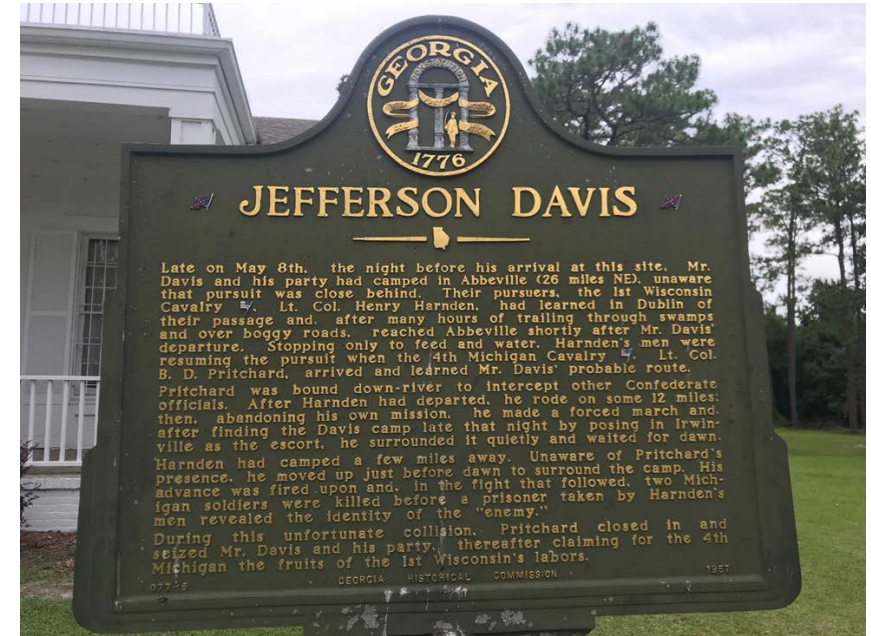
Monument text

On this spot, May 10, 1865, President Jefferson Davis was made a prisoner of war by Federal troops. Erected by the state of Georgia, Eugene Talmadge, Governor, in the year 1935. Sponsored by Mary V. Henderson Chapter and the Georgia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Mrs. Ralph H. Johnson Chairman Memorial Committee; Mrs. T.W. Reed President Georgia Division; Mrs. L.W. Greene State CHM. Marking Historic GA.



ON LOCATION

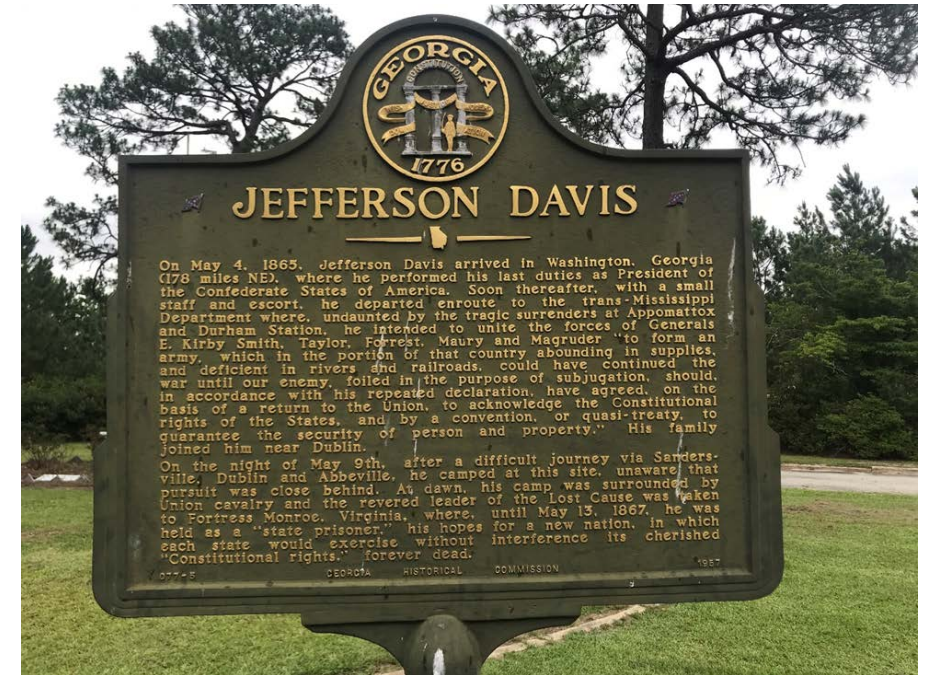
Late on May 8th, the night before his arrival at this site, Mr. Davis and his party had camped in Abbeville (26 miles NE), unaware that pursuit was close behind. Their pursuers, the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, Lt. Col. Henry Harnden, had learned in Dublin of their passage and, after many hours of trailing through swamps and over boggy roads, reached Abbeville shortly after Mr. Davis' departure. Stopping only to feed and water, Harnden's men were resuming the pursuit when the 4th Michigan Cavalry, Lt. Col. B. D. Pritchard, arrived and learned Mr. Davis' probable route. Pritchard was bound down-river to intercept other Confederate officials. After Harnden had departed, he rode on some 12 miles; then, abandoning his own mission, he made a forced march and, after finding the Davis camp late that night by posing in Irwinville as the escort, he surrounded it quietly and waited for dawn. Harnden had camped a few miles away. Unaware of Pritchard's presence, he moved up just before dawn to surround the camp. His advance was fired upon and, in the fight that followed, two Michigan soldiers were killed before a prisoner taken by Harnden's men revealed the identity of the "enemy." During this unfortunate collision, Pritchard closed in and seized Mr. Davis and his party, thereafter claiming for the 4th Michigan the fruits of the 1st Wisconsin's labors.



ON LOCATION

On May 4, 1865, Jefferson Davis arrived in Washington, Georgia (178 miles NE), where he performed his last duties as President of the Confederate States of America. Soon thereafter, with a small staff and escort, he departed enroute to the trans-Mississippi Department where, undaunted by the tragic surrenders at Appomattox and Durham Station, he intended to unite the forces of Generals E. Kirby Smith, Taylor, Forrest, Maury and Magruder “to form an army, which in the portion of that country abounding in supplies, and deficient in rivers and railroads, could have continued the war until our enemy, foiled in the purpose of subjugation, should, in accordance with his repeated declaration, have agreed, on the basis of a return to the Union, to acknowledge the constitutional rights of the States, and by a convention, or quasi-treaty, to guarantee the security of person and property.” His family joined him near Dublin.

On the night of May 9th, after a difficult journey via Sandersville, Dublin and Abbeville, he camped at this site, unaware that pursuit was close behind. At dawn, his camp was surrounded by Union cavalry and the revered leader of the Lost Cause was taken to fortress Monroe, Virginia, where, until May 13, 1867, he was held as a “state prisoner,” his hopes for a new nation, in which each state would exercise without interference its cherished “Constitutional rights,” forever dead.



CORROBORATING

How is the event described in other documents (primary and secondary)?

JEFFERSON DAVIS CAPTURE

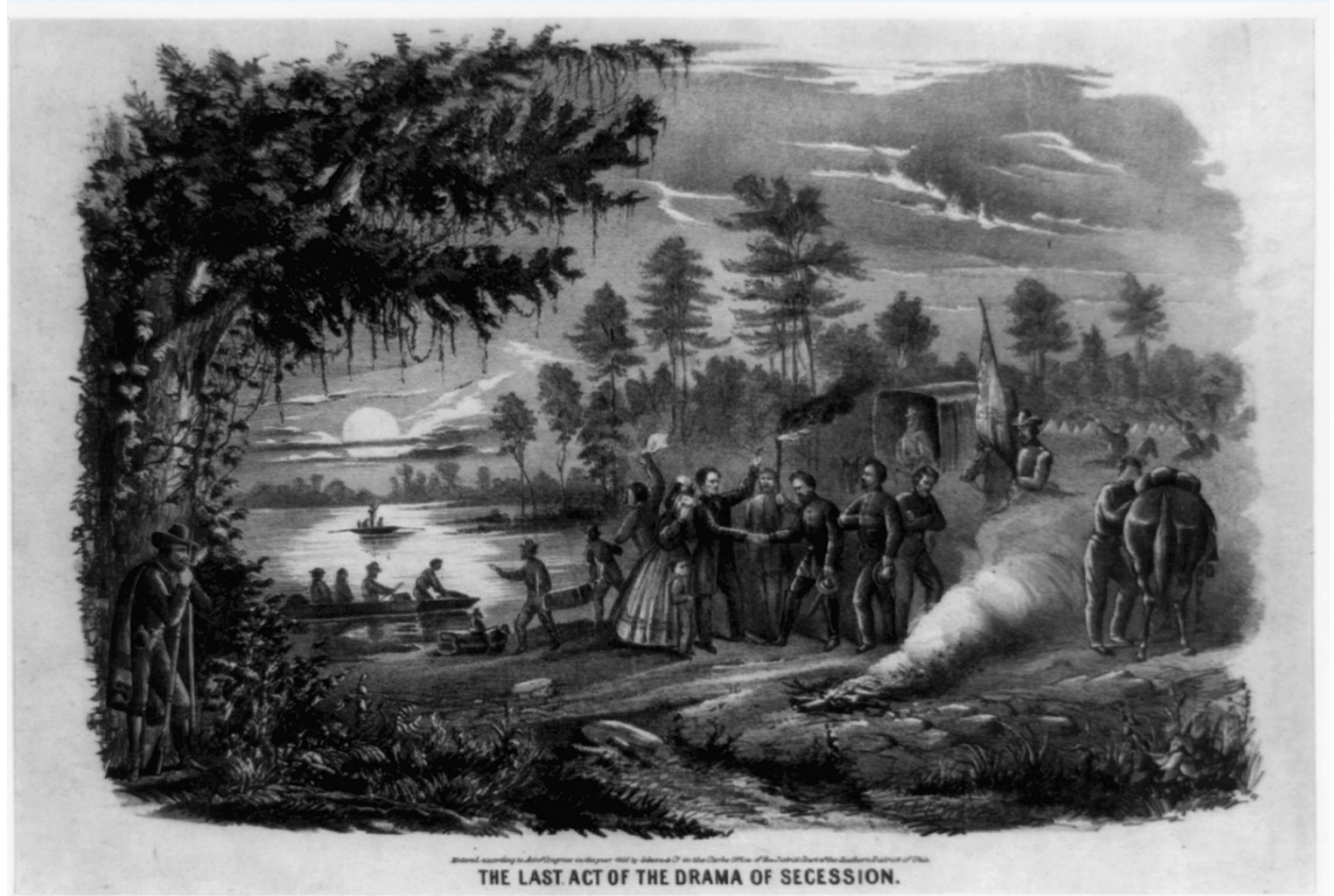
The last act of the drama
of secession

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2008661829/>

OBSERVE
REFLECT
QUESTION

HOW IS DAVIS
PORTRAYED?

WHY WOULD THE ARTIST
PORTRAY HIM THIS WAY?
(Sourcing)



JEFFERSON DAVIS' ACCOUNT IN A *SHORT HISTORY OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES* CHAPTER LXXXVI CAPTURE OF PRESIDENT DAVIS

As it was quite dark in the tent, I picked up what was supposed to be my “ **raglan** ” — a water-proof light overcoat without sleeves ; it was subsequently found to be my wife's, so very like my own as to be mistaken for it ; as I started , **my wife thoughtfully threw over my head and shoulders a shawl**. I had gone perhaps fifteen or twenty yards when a trooper galloped up and ordered me to halt and surrender, to which I gave a defiant answer, and , **dropping the shawl and raglan from my shoulders**, advanced toward him ; he levelled his carbine at me, but I expected , if he fired , he would miss me, and my intention was in that event to put my hand under his foot, tumble him off on the other side, spring into his saddle , and attempt to escape.

Sourcing-

Corroborating-

Contextualizing- published in 1889

THE FIRST WISCONSIN CAVALRY AT THE CAPTURE OF
JEFFERSON DAVIS /
[HTTP://WWW.LOC.GOV/RESOURCE/LHBUM.7689C_0562_0
578](http://www.loc.gov/resource/lhbum.7689c_0562_0578)

1 When I saw him, he wore a common slouched hat, fine boots, **no spurs**, coat and trousers of light-blue English broadcloth; **taking all circumstances into consideration, he was neatly dressed.**

When we got back to Macon, General Wilson sent for me and made me tell him all about my pursuit, and the incidents of the capture of Davis. **The general insisted upon every particular—as to how he appeared, what he said, how he was dressed**, etc. After narrating all, I told him I heard the soldier who halted him say that, when Davis came out of his tent, **he had his wife's shawl on**. This remark of mine was telegraphed north, and **when it came back it had blossomed out into hoop-skirts, petticoats, hoods, and other articles of female apparel**. I verily believe that this was all there was to the female apparel story.—H.H.

THE FIRST WISCONSIN CAVALRY AT THE CAPTURE OF
JEFFERSON DAVIS /
[HTTP://WWW.LOC.GOV/RESOURCE/LHBUM.7689C_0562_0
578](http://www.loc.gov/resource/lhbum.7689c_0562_0578)

After making all allowances for the humiliating position in which Davis found himself at that time, **I came to the conclusion that he was a greatly overrated man.** His man her, and all that he said, **his blaming his wife**, and other circumstances, all went to show that he had no real nobility about him. As to the story which became widely prevalent at the time, that Davis had on a hoop-skirt, and was disguised as a woman, I know but very little of it; but think it grew out of the remark of the soldier, that, when he stopped him, **he had his wife's shawl** on.

THE FIRST WISCONSIN CAVALRY AT THE CAPTURE OF
JEFFERSON DAVIS /
[HTTP://WWW.LOC.GOV/RESOURCE/LHBUM.7689C_0562_0
578](http://www.loc.gov/resource/lhbum.7689c_0562_0578)

Colonel Pritchard and I rode together into the Davis camp, which was just across a little swale, only a few rods from where our skirmish took place. The first person we saw there was John H. Reagan, the postmaster-general of the Confederacy, lately United States senator from Texas, who said to me, "Well, you have taken the old gentlemen at last!"

"Who do you mean?"

"I mean President Davis."

"Please point him out."

"There he stands," said Reagan, pointing to a tall, elderly, **and rather dignified-looking gentleman**, standing a short distance away.

We rode up, dismounted, and saluted, and I asked if this was Mr. Davis? "Yes," he replied, "I am President Davis." At this the soldiers set up a shout that "Jeff" Davis was captured. Up to this time none of the men who actually arrested him, knew that he was Davis. One soldier said, "What! that man Jeff Davis? That's the old fellow who, **when I stopped him, had his wife's shawl on.**"

We—that is, Mr. Davis and I—were the center of a 527 circle composed of Union **soldiers and members of the Davis party. In the background, some of our men set up the familiar army song, "We'll hang Jeff Davis on a sour apple tree!" to the tune of "John Brown's Body,"** which did not add in the least to Davis's comfort.

GRANT ON DAVIS' CAPTURE

“Much was said at the time about the garb Mr. Davis was wearing when he was captured. I cannot settle this question from personal knowledge of the facts; but I have been under the belief, from information given to me by General Wilson shortly after the event, that when Mr. Davis learned that he was surrounded by our cavalry he was in his tent **dressed in a gentleman’s dressing gown. Naturally enough, **Mr. Davis wanted to escape, and would not reflect much how this should be accomplished provided it might be done successfully**. If capture, he would be no ordinary prisoner.”**

Personal Memoirs, Grant, P. 623

SECONDARY SOURCE

[HTTPS://WWW.HISTORY.COM/THIS-DAY-IN-HISTORY/JEFFERSON-DAVIS-CAPTURED](https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/jefferson-davis-captured)

A certain amount of controversy surrounds his capture, **as Davis was wearing his wife's black shawl** when the Union troops cornered him. The Northern press ridiculed him as a coward, **alleging that he had disguised himself as a woman in an ill-fated attempt to escape**. However, Davis, and especially his wife, Varina, maintained that he was ill and **that Varina had lent him her shawl** to keep his health up during their difficult journey

Imprisoned for two years at Fort Monroe, Virginia, Davis was indicted for treason, but was never tried—the federal government feared that Davis would be able to prove to a jury that the Southern secession of 1860 to 1861 was legal. Varina worked determinedly to secure his freedom, and in May 1867 Jefferson Davis was released on bail, **with several wealthy Northerners helping him pay for his freedom**.

SECONDARY SOURCE

AMERICA'S LIBRARY

[HTTP://WWW.AMERICASLIBRARY.GOV/JB/CIVIL/JB_CIVIL_JEFFDAV_1.HTML](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/civil/jb_civil_jeffdav_1.html)

Jefferson Davis Was Captured

May 10, 1865

Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, had been captured! Jefferson Davis (1808-1889), president of the Confederate states (the South) during the Civil War, was captured when the Union Army caught up to him on May 10, 1865, in Irwinville, Georgia. His best general, Robert E. Lee, had surrendered on April 9 at Appomattox in Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant, which effectively ended the Civil War. When Lee surrendered to the North, Davis and his Cabinet moved south, hoping to continue the struggle until better terms could be secured from the North

Davis recounted his capture in his book, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*. He was accused of treason and of planning the assassination of President Lincoln. Davis was taken to Fort Monroe, Virginia, where he was treated harshly. Although he was accused of high crimes, he was never brought to trial. After two years in prison, he was released and lived out the rest of his life in relative peace

When Davis was inaugurated president of the Confederate States of America in 1861, he believed in the right of Southern states to secede and defended his belief until his death in 1889. He spent his remaining years in Biloxi, Mississippi, at the Beauvoir plantation. Davis never asked for, nor was he granted, a pardon for his actions. However, in a speech at Mississippi City, Mississippi, he said: "**The past is dead; let it bury its dead, its hopes and its aspirations. Before you lies the future, a future full of golden promise, a future of expanding national glory, before which all the world shall stand amazed.**"

WAS JEFFERSON DAVIS CAPTURED IN A DRESS?

JAMES L. SWANSON

AMERICAN HERITAGE

FALL 2010 VOLUME 60 ISSUE 3

[HTTPS://WWW.AMERICANHERITAGE.COM/WAS-JEFFERSON-DAVIS-CAPTURED-DRESS#4](https://www.americanheritage.com/was-jefferson-davis-captured-dress#4)

News spread of Davis's capture—and with it the story of his apprehension in women's clothes. **The great showman P. T. Barnum** knew at once that the garment would make a sensational exhibit for his fabled American Museum of spectacular treasures and curiosities in downtown New York City. He wanted the hoop skirt Davis had supposedly worn and was prepared to pay handsomely. Barnum wrote to Secretary of War Stanton, offering to **make a \$500 donation to one of two worthy wartime causes**, the welfare of wounded soldiers or the care of freed slaves.

It was a hefty sum—a Union army private's pay was only \$13 a month—and that \$500 could have fed and clothed a lot of soldiers and slaves. Still, Stanton declined the offer. The secretary had other plans for these treasures. He earmarked the captured garments for his own collection and ordered that they be brought to his office, where he planned to keep them in his personal safe along with other historical curiosities from Lincoln's autopsy, John Wilkes Booth's death, and Davis's capture.

The arrival in Washington of the so-called petticoats proved to be a big letdown. When Stanton saw the clothes, he knew instantly that Davis had not disguised himself in a woman's hoop skirt and bonnet. The "dress" was nothing more than a loose-fitting, waterproof raglan or overcoat, a garment as suited for a man as a woman. **The "bonnet" was a rectangular shawl**, a type of wrap President Lincoln himself had worn on chilly evenings. Stanton dared not allow Barnum to exhibit these relics in his museum. **Public viewing would expose the lie that Davis had worn one of his wife's dresses.** Instead Stanton sequestered the disappointing textiles to perpetuate the myth that the cowardly "rebel chief" had tried to run away in his wife's clothes.

The image of the Confederate president masquerading as a woman titillated Northerners but outraged Southerners. Eliza Andrews, a young woman who had witnessed Davis pass through her town of Washington, Georgia, during his escape, condemned the pictures in her diary: "I hate the Yankees more and more, every time I look at one of their horrid newspapers . . . the pictures in Harper's Weekly and Frank Leslie's tell more lies than Satan himself was ever the father of. I get in such a rage . . . that I sometimes take off my slipper and beat the senseless paper with it. No words can express the wrath of a Southerner on beholding pictures of President Davis in woman's dress."

ON LOCATION

Jefferson Davis Presidential
Library

Biloxi, MS

There is a key artifact to help
answer our question.

Sourcing:

<https://www.visitbeauvoir.org/>

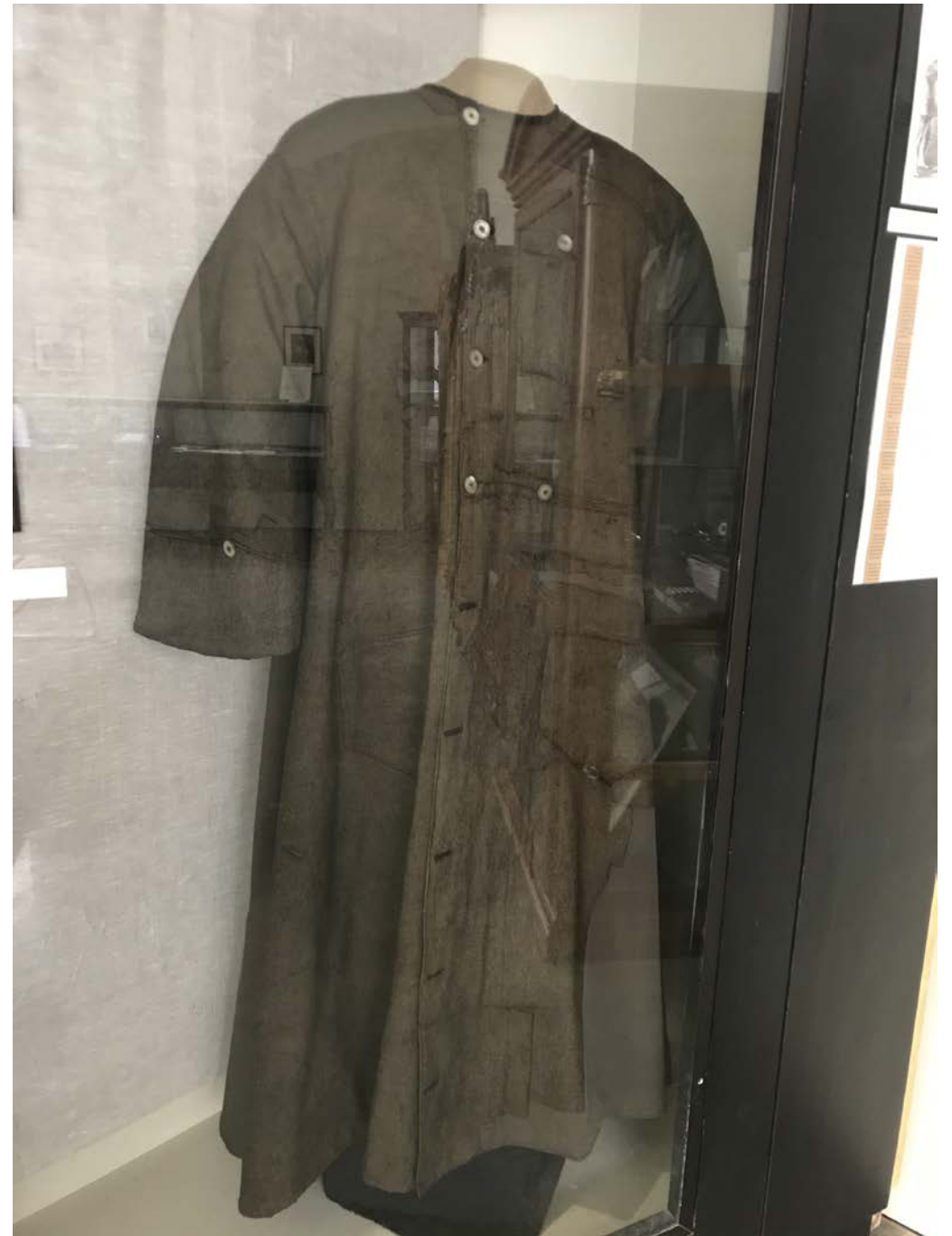
From website:

Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home and
Presidential Library is an Educational
501(c)3 Non-Profit Charity and is
a Mississippi Historic Landmark
registered with the United States
Register of Historic Places.

Beauvoir is owned and operated by the
**Mississippi Division, Sons of
Confederate Veterans, Inc.**



ON LOCATION:
"RAGLAN OVERCOAT"



THE FACTS (REVISITED): 5 WS AND H

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

How:

Compare your first list of facts to this list.....



<https://padlet.com/knnthanthony/ocjyp0s5h86q3yuj>



HOW DID WE USE THE HISTORICAL THINKING HEURISTICS

- **Sourcing**
 - What:
 - Examination of the “source or attribution” of a text (Wineburg, 1991a, p. 79).
 - Why:
 - Historical documents are interpretations of events (Nokes, 2010; Nokes, Dole, & Hacker, 2007).
 - Author’s point of view and bias can influence a text
- **Corroboration**
 - What:
 - Compare information from one document with information from other documents
 - Why:
 - In order to check the accuracy of the material (Nokes, 2010; Nokes, Dole, & Hacker, 2007; Wineburg, 1991b)
- **Contextualization**
 - What:
 - Consider when and where the historical events occurred
 - Placing it in a “chronological sequence” and by “determining the conditions of their occurrence...” (Wineburg, 1991a, p. 80).
 - Why:
 - Gives students a framework for understanding a historical event
 - Students are more able to make inferences about the information presented in the document, as well as construct a deeper understanding
- **Close Reading**

DON'T FEEL TOO BAD FOR MR.
DAVIS- BECAUSE HE WAS ABOUT
AS POPULAR AS



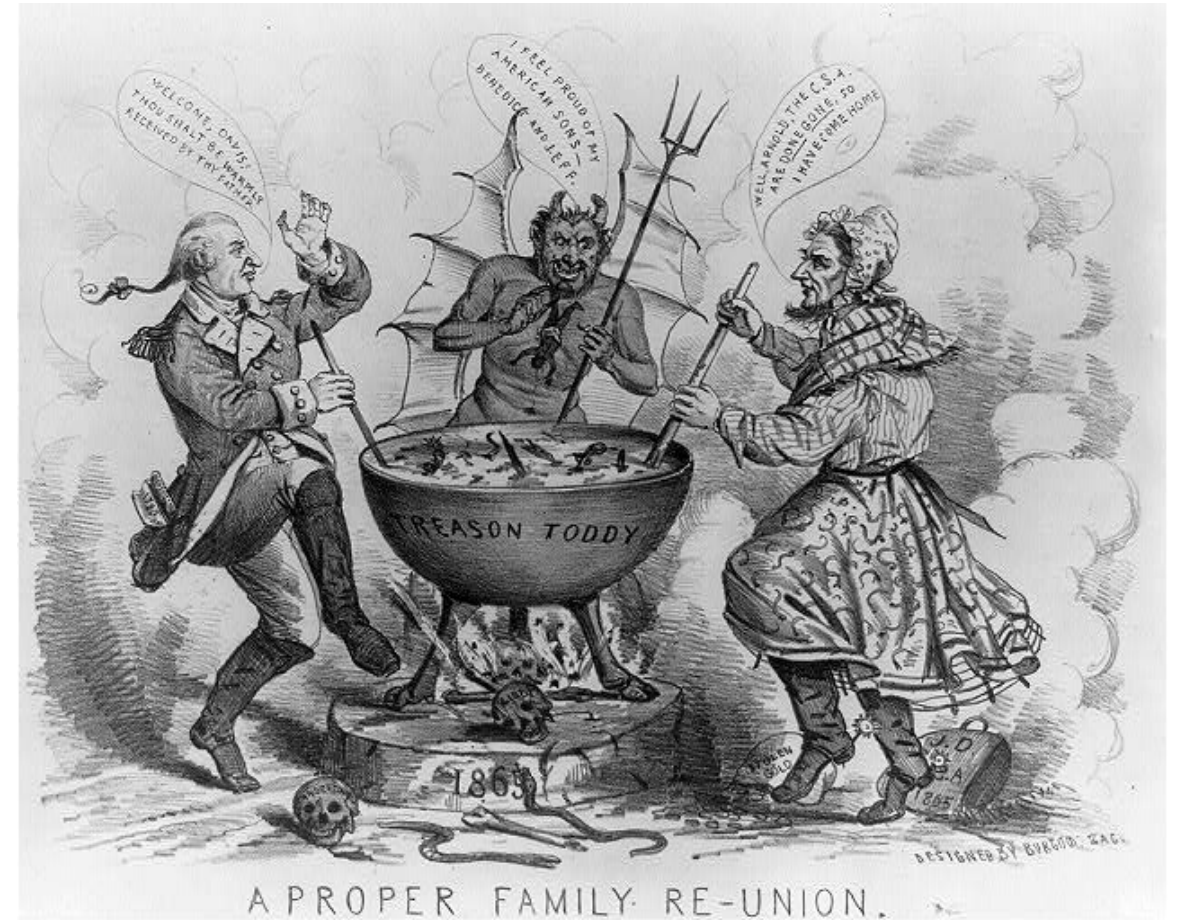
DEVIL WITH A BLUE DRESS ON

What are the facts we know about the capture of Jefferson Davis?

What have we learned about how history is written or presented?

How can we use multiple sources (including primary and secondary sources) to corroborate the details about historical events?

How can you use this with your students?



<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3a40842/>

A proper family re-union

TPSM: SPRING 2021 EVENT SURVEY

We value your feedback in improving our professional development programming!

Please take the next five minutes (or so) to complete the Spring Event survey at this link:

[TPSM: Spring Event Survey](#)

CEUS

1. Complete the CEU Form (.6) you will receive in an email no later than Tuesday (3/30/21).
2. Send the completed form (no payment necessary) to pdlljac@olemiss.edu by **no later than Thursday (4/15/21)**.
3. **If you submit the form on time, TPSM will pay for the CEUs** (i.e., no later than 4/15/21).



THE UNIVERSITY of
MISSISSIPPI
Professional Development and Lifelong Learning

**Teaching with Primary Sources:
Mississippi Spring Event**

DATE(S): March 27, 2021

SPONSOR: Mississippi State University

LOCATION: Online/ Distance Course

REQUEST FOR 0.6 CEU CREDITS

Please print

Last Name

First Name

Permanent Home Address

City/State/Zip Code

Contact Phone Number

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

Email Address

FOR UNIVERSITY USE:

Program Number:

Certificate Mailed: _____

Payment Received: _____

Return form to:

The University of Mississippi
Attn: Griffin Stroupe
P.O. Box 1848
University, MS 38677

pdlljac@olemiss.edu