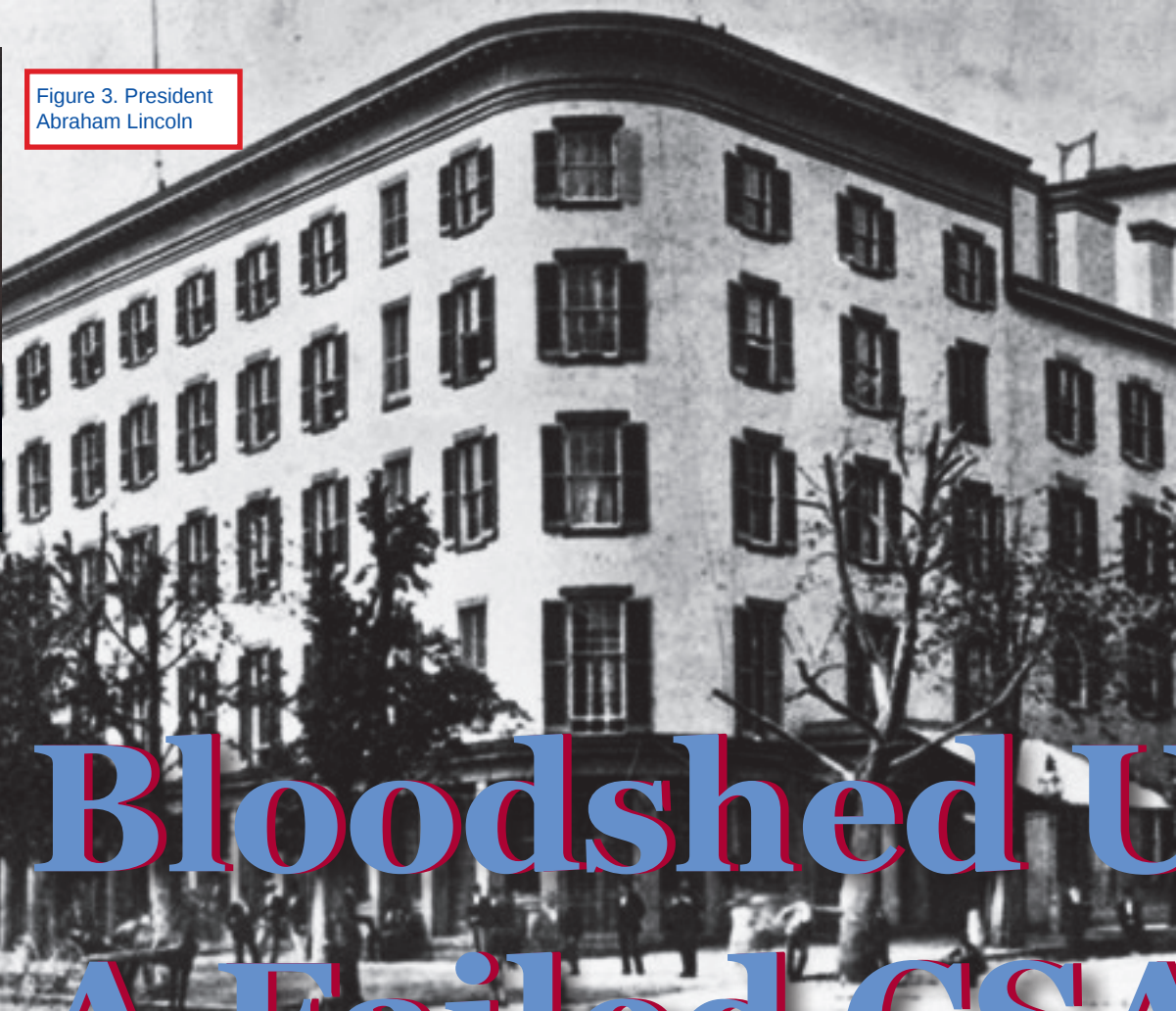


Figure 3. President Abraham Lincoln

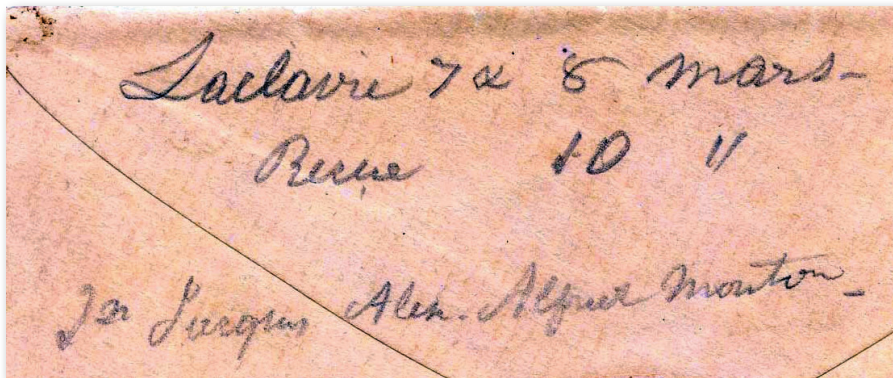


# Bloodshed U A Failed CSA



By Patricia A. Kaufmann

Figure 2. Docketing on the back of the in Figure 1 tells when the cover was written & sent: It was written March 7 and posted on March 8. Received (reçue) March 10 from Jn. Jacques Alex. Alfred Mouton.



**S**ent while the first session of the Provisional Confederate States Congress was in session, the 3¢ star-die entire (Scott U27) in Figure 1 provides philatelic evidence of the attempted peace mission from the Confederate States to the United States in March 1861. The cover is postmarked New Orleans, La., 8 March [1861] and is addressed to Honbl. Alex. DeClouet, Montgomery, Alabama.

Up the left side is docketing in French “2 Mars 1862, G. L. T. / Gov. Roman part pour la Mission.” (translated from French as: “2 March 1862, G.L.T. / Gov[ernor] Roman left for the Mission”).

On the verso is contemporaneous pencil docketing, as shown in Figure 2, indicating the source of the letter as “Jn Jacques Alex. Alfred Mouton.”

### Peace Conference of 1861

New President Abraham Lincoln (Figure 3) did not willy-nilly launch into war with the South without first an attempt at peaceful compromise. A Peace Conference with 131 delegates was convened February 4, 1861, to try to avoid bloodshed. It was held at a building adjacent to the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., ordinarily used by the hotel as a dance hall. (Figure 4)

No delegates were sent from Deep South states nor by several U.S. States and territories. Fourteen free states and seven slave





Figure 1. Confederate use of U.S. postal entire to Alex. DeCloutier from Alfred Mouton which contained a letter concerning former governor Roman.

# Inevitable: A Peace Mission

states were represented by former cabinet members, former senators, representatives, and other aged senior statesmen. The key issue was slavery. After convening for three weeks, they failed to come to a compromise to limit the expansion of slavery to all new territories.

The Confederacy was brought into being simultaneously with the ill-omened peace conference. The Confederate Congress was first organized as the Montgomery Convention, which marked the formal beginning of the Confederate States of America. Convened in Montgomery, Alabama, the Convention organized a provisional government and created the Constitution of the Confederate States of America. It opened in the chambers of the Alabama Senate on February 4, 1861—the same day the Peace Conference opened in Washington—an ill omen if there ever was one. On February 8 in Montgomery, the Convention adopted the Provisional Confederate States Constitution, and so became the first session of the Provisional Confederate Congress.

## Confederate States Peace Commissioners Rejected

On February 15, 1861, the newly formed Congress of the Confederate States of America adopted a resolution to empower president-elect Jefferson Davis (Figure 5) to appoint a commission of

three men to negotiate amicable relations with the United States. One of the tasks given to the commission was to secure the peaceful transfer of Fort Sumter in the harbor off Charleston, South Carolina, from the United States to the Confederacy.

The three peace commissioners were Martin Jenkins Crawford of Georgia, John Forsyth, Jr. of Alabama, and Andre B. Roman of Louisiana. Crawford was a lawyer, judge and politician. Forsyth was a newspaperman and politician who took the Mobile Register to national prominence. Roman was a wealthy planter, a two-time governor, and former Louisiana Speaker of the House.

Newly appointed U.S. Secretary of State William Henry Seward (Figure 6), refused to see the commissioners because acceptance of the commission would be recognition of the Confederate States of America.

President Lincoln concurred with Seward's written memorandum from the U.S. Department of State, dated Washington, March 15, 1861, in which Seward stated in part:

Mr. John Forsyth, of the State of Alabama, and Mr. Martin J. Crawford, of the State of Georgia, on the 11th inst., through the kind offices of a distinguished Senator, submitted to the Secretary of State their desire for an unofficial interview. This request was,





Figure 5.  
Confederate  
President  
Jefferson Davis



Washington, D.C.'s Pennsylvania Avenue near dawn on a day in early spring 1861—around the time the peace conference was about to take place down the street at the Willard Hotel. The unfinished U.S. Capitol Building can be seen in the sunshine in the background.

on the 12th inst., upon exclusively public considerations, respectfully declined...

The Secretary of State frankly confesses that he understands the events which have recently occurred, and the condition of political affairs which actually exists in the part of the Union to which his attention has thus been directed, very differently from the aspect in which they are presented by Messrs. Forsyth and Crawford. He sees in them, not a rightful and accomplished revolution and an independent nation, with an established government, but rather a perversion of a temporary and partisan excitement to the inconsiderate purposes of an unjustifiable and unconstitutional aggression upon the rights and the authority vested in the Federal Government, and hitherto benignly exercised, as from their very nature they always must so be exercised, for the maintenance of the Union, the preservation of liberty, and the security, peace, welfare, happiness, and aggrandizement of the American people. The Secretary of State, therefore, avows to Messrs. Forsyth and Crawford that he looks patiently, but confidently, for the cure of evils which have resulted from proceedings so unnecessary, so unwise, so unusual, and so unnatural, not to irregular negotiations, having

in view new and untried relations with agencies unknown to and acting in derogation of the Constitution and laws, but to regular and considerate action of the people of those States, in cooperation with their brethren in the other States, through the Congress of the United States, and such extraordinary conventions, if there shall be need thereof, as the Federal Constitution contemplates and authorizes to be assembled...

Finally, the Secretary of State would observe that, although he has supposed that he might safely and with propriety have adopted these conclusions, without making any reference of the subject to the Executive, yet, so strong has been his desire to practice entire directness, and to act in a spirit of perfect respect and candor toward Messrs. Forsyth and Crawford, and that portion of the people of the Union in whose name they present themselves before him, that he has cheerfully submitted this paper to the President, who coincides generally in the views it expresses, and sanctions the Secretary's decision declining official intercourse with Messrs. Forsyth and Crawford.

Seward was appointed the 24th Secretary of State the week before this memorandum was written. The first shots at Fort Sum-



# The unfinished Capitol—full of symbolism as a peace attempt began

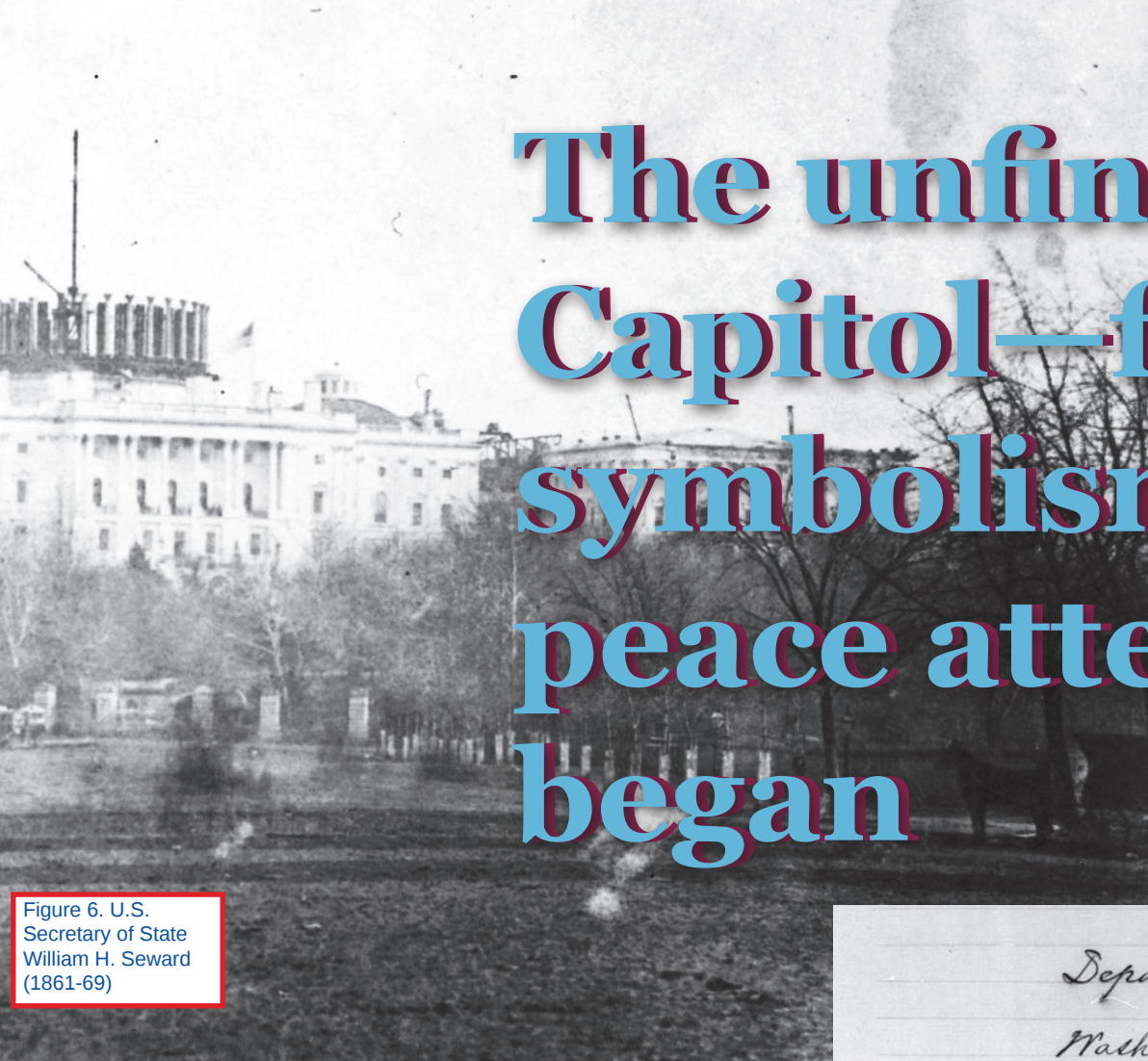


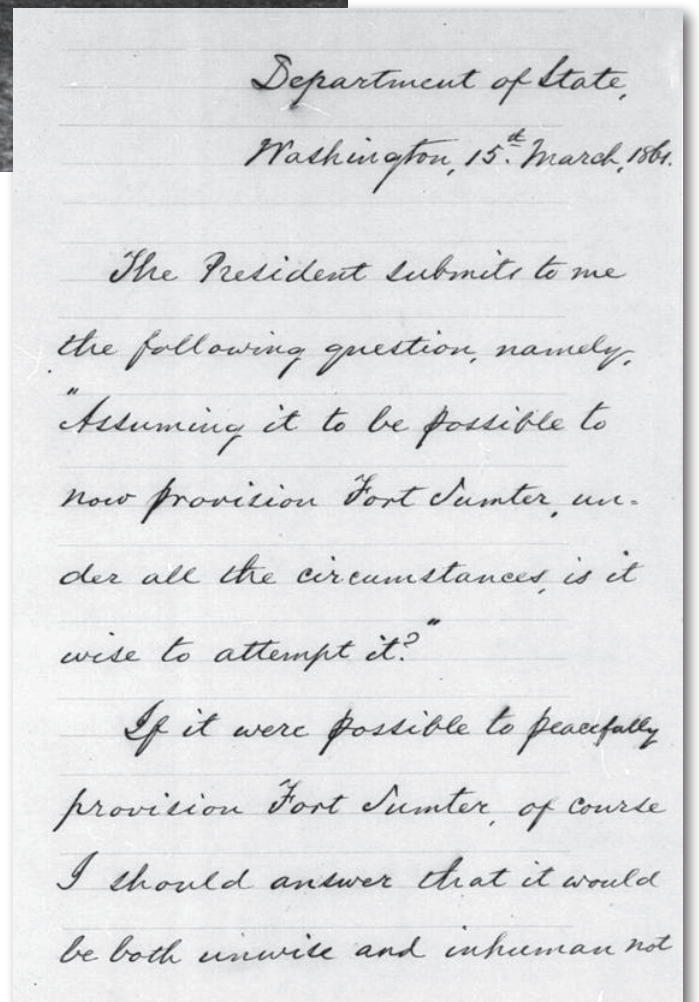
Figure 6. U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward (1861-69)

Figure 7. First page of a letter dated March 15, 1861, from Secretary of State Seward to President Abraham Lincoln concerning the obstacles of resupplying Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. Library of Congress

ter rang out to begin the war less than a month later on April 12, 1861.

Shown in Figure 7 is a letter from Seward to Lincoln is concerning the advisability of re-provisioning Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. It was written the same day as the memorandum declining to meet with the Confederate delegation, which included André Roman, despite no mention of his name on the Seward memorandum.

Seward remained in office through the presidency of Andrew Johnson (in office March 6, 1861 – March 4, 1869). He had been a political opponent of Lincoln's for the office of president but his provocative words against slavery engendered hatred of him in the South and thus lost him votes. He also supported immigrants and Catholics. Lincoln secured the presidential nomination and the presidency. Nonetheless, Seward was a loyal Lincoln supporter after he lost his bid of nomination, and Lincoln appointed him Secretary of State. He was also a target of the assassination attempt that took Lincoln's life.





**André Bienvenu Roman (1795-1866)**, pictured in Figure 8, was a sugar planter and politician who became governor of Louisiana from 1831-1835 by appointment after Jacques Dupre resigned before completing the term left open by Pierre Derbigney's death in office and Arnaud Beauvais' resignation. During Roman's first term, Louisiana experienced years of economic growth. The number of banks doubled and capital increased. At the end of his first term, Roman ran for a U.S. Senate seat but lost to Alexandre Mouton, the father of the subject letter writer.

Roman became governor again from 1839-1843 after an election amid increasing economic turmoil. Much of his second term was spent trying to stabilize the state's economy after the Panic of 1837, which at least in part was caused by an overexpansion of banks. Roman helped bring about more restrictive banking regulations, culminating in the passage of the Bank Act of 1842, which provided relief.

Figure 8. André Bienvenu Roman, twice governor of Louisiana and member of the Confederate Peace Commission to the United States



Figure 9. Alexandre Mouton, Governor of Louisiana 1843-46. Courtesy of Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette



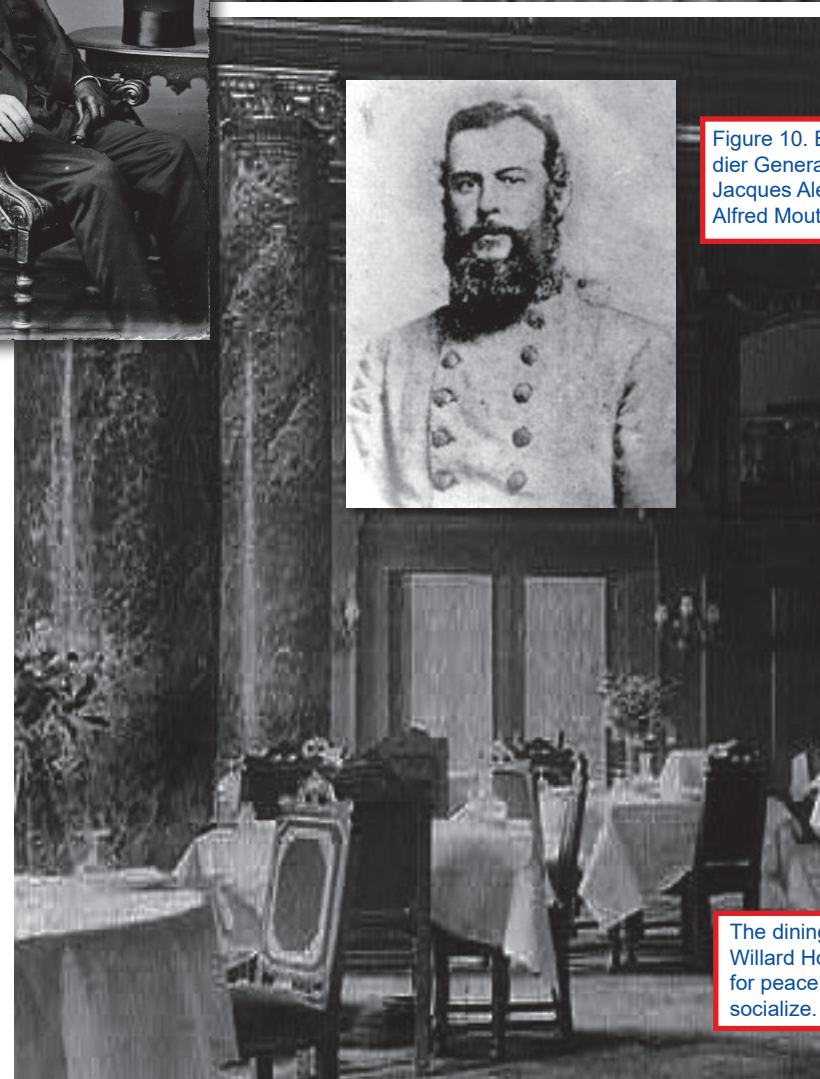
After leaving the governor's office, Roman served as a delegate to the state constitutional conventions of 1845 and 1852, as well as to Louisiana's secession convention in 1861, where he opposed secession. Despite his initial opposition, Roman eventually joined the Confederacy and was sent, along with John Forsyth and Martin J. Crawford, to seek a peaceful compromise with the United States. It was not to be.

Roman was married to Aimée Françoise Parent in 1816, with whom he had eight children. As with many moneyed Southerners, the war ruined Roman financially. He was appointed recorder of deeds in New Orleans after the war but died before taking office on January 26, 1866.<sup>1</sup>

**Alexandre Mouton (1804-1885)**, shown in Figure 9, was born into a wealthy Acadian family of planters. He pursued classical



Figure 10. Confederate General Jacques Alexandre Mouton



The dining room at Willard Hotel for peace socialize.





# The Manassas (Bull Run) Battle Only Weeks Away

Briga-  
al [Jean  
alexandre]  
on.



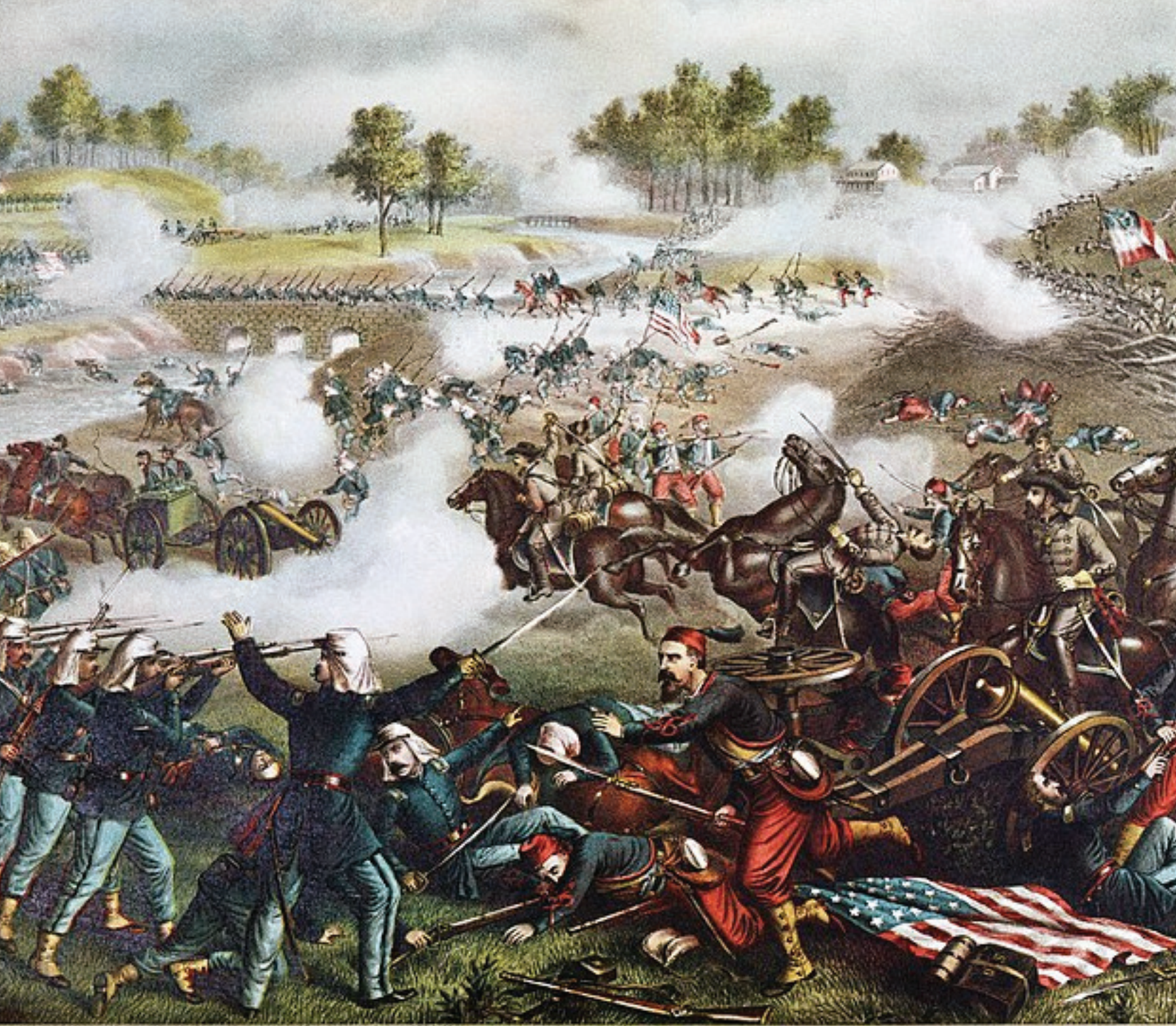
g room of the  
otel, a logical site  
negotiators to

studies and graduated from Georgetown College in Washington, DC. He studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1825, and commenced practice in Lafayette Parish. He had a strong political career and served in the Louisiana House of Representatives and U.S. Senate off and on from 1827-1842. From 1843-1846, Mouton served as the first Democratic governor of Louisiana, having defeated André Roman.

Mouton was president of the Louisiana State Secession Convention in 1861 and an unsuccessful candidate to the Confederate Senate. During the war, Union troops seized and used his plantation for use as their headquarters. They burned the sugar mill, arrested him and released his slaves.

He married Zelia Rousseau, the granddaughter of Governor Jacques Dupré, and they had 13 children before her death. In 1829, he married Emma Kitchell Gardner; this marriage had 6 children. The Alexandre Mouton House in Lafayette, Louisiana, also called the Lafayette Museum, was added to the National Reg-





BATTLE OF BULL RUN.

ister of Historic Places in 1975.

One of Alexandre's sons, Alfred Mouton, was the sender of the subject cover as evidenced by the docketing on the back.

**Jean Jacques Alexandre Alfred Mouton (1829-1864)**, a son of Alexandre Mouton, was known as Alfred (Figure 10). Although he graduated from West Point in 1850, he was hesitant to go because he had only ever been around French-speaking people. He knew little English. But his father was insistent that he enroll in 1846. After graduation, he soon resigned his commission to become a civil engineer and work on the family plantation. He also served as a brigadier general in the Louisiana State Militia. When

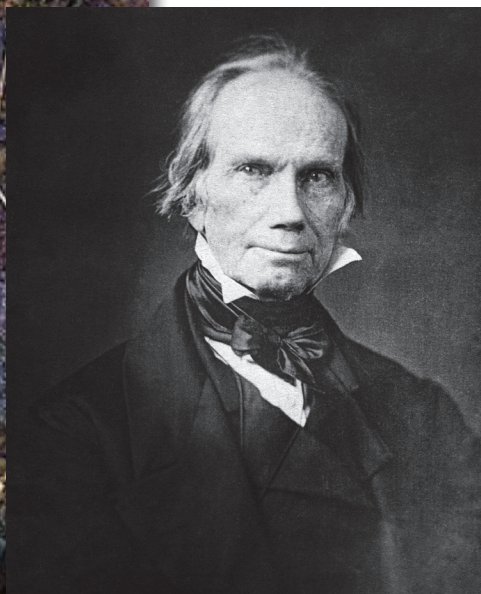
the 18th Louisiana Infantry Regiment was organized, he was elected colonel and commissioned on October 5, 1861.

Alfred served in the West during the war. At the Battle of Shiloh, he was severely wounded while leading his men in the thickest of the fight. He was commissioned brigadier-general on April 16, 1862, and made a brigade commander. Leading a cavalry charge at the front with other officers and men, the 35-year-old Mouton was killed in action on April 8, 1864, at the opening of the Battle of Mansfield, part of the Red River Campaign. (Figure 11)

Mouton was a favorite of Major General Richard "Dick" Taylor (1826-1879), who greatly mourned him. Dick Taylor was a son of



# ...so the Great Opening Battle Ensued on Sunday, July 21, 1861



Henry Clay



Figure 12. Alfred Mouton's tombstone

Zachary Taylor, as well as a brother-in-law of President Jefferson Davis. Taylor was later promoted to Lieutenant General and given command of the Army of Tennessee.

On Mouton's tombstone (Figures 12 and 13) are the words of General Taylor, who said, "Above all, the death of the gallant Mouton affected me ... modest, unselfish, and patriotic. He showed best in action, always leading his men." Mouton was first buried on the battlefield, but in 1874 was reinterred at St. John's Cemetery in Lafayette, Louisiana.<sup>2</sup>

Alexandre Étienne DeClouet, Sr. (1812-1890), to whom the subject cover was addressed, was a prominent Confederate con-

gressman who also served in both houses of the Louisiana legislature. He ran for governor in 1840 and represented Louisiana in the Provisional Confederate Congress in Montgomery, Alabama, from 1861-62. (Figure 14)

DeClouet was one of the two representatives on the Confederate Constitution Committee, as well as a signer thereof. The



***On July 21, 1861, Washingtonians trekked to the countryside near Manassas, Virginia, to watch Union and Confederate forces clash in the first major battle of the American Civil War. Known in the North as the First Battle of Bull Run and in the South as the Battle of First Manassas, the military engagement also earned the nickname the “picnic battle” because spectators showed up with sandwiches and opera glasses. These onlookers, who included a number of U.S. congressmen, expected a victory for the Union and a swift end to the war.***



Figure 14.  
Alexandre Étienne DeClouet, Sr.,  
addressee on the subject cover  
shown on page 45.

final acceptance of the constitution, by unanimous vote, came on March 11, 1861, a few days after the subject cover was posted.

Alexandre's parents both died when he was yet an infant, leaving him and his sister Marie Lesima (1810-1820), who died as a child, to be raised by their aunts. Following his formal education at Georgetown College (Washington, D.C.), as well as St. Joseph's College (Bardstown, Kentucky), Alexandre made a tour of Europe to continue his education through travel. Upon his return to St. Martinville, Louisiana, he briefly studied law, but gave it up to manage the family sugar plantations. He named his favorite plantation “Lizima,” perhaps (my speculation) to honor his little sister but with a different spelling. One source indicated it was a nickname for one of his daughters. Either way, I'm betting it is a nod to his sister, who died at such a tender age.

In 1860, DeClouet was 48 years old and owned 1,400 improved acres, 10,300 unimproved acres and 226 slaves living in sixty cabins. He was called “General,” but I could not determine from where that rank derived.<sup>3</sup>

Alexandre married his first cousin, Marie Louise Benoit St. Clair (1818-1891). Paul Louis DeClouet was the eldest son of the thirteen children born of their marriage. Paul married Jane Marie Roman (1841-1878) on 10 October 1865. Clearly, the Roman and DeClouet families were intertwined.

As a colonel, Alexandre E. DeClouet was the first commander of the Louisiana 26th Regiment Volunteer Infantry (Coastal Defenses), organized at Camp Lovell, Berwick City, on April 3, 1862, with eight companies and 805 men. Ill health forced his retirement and he resigned November 10, 1862<sup>4</sup>



# The Worst Picnic in History was Interrupted by a Civil War



Picnicers getting ready to enjoy the Battle of Bull Run (Manassas)

Stories would often be told about how spectators from Washington, riding in carriages and bringing along picnic baskets, had raced down to the area so they could watch the battle as if it was a sporting event...And by late afternoon the Union Army was in retreat. The road back to Washington became a scene of panic, as the frightened civilians who had come out to watch the battle tried to race homeward alongside thousands of demoralized Union troops.” (*Battle of Bull Run in Summer of 1861 Was a Disaster for the Union Army, Robert McNamara*)

The DeClouet family papers (1811-1917) are housed at Louisiana State University at Lafayette, as well as other papers from 1854-58 at Tulane. These and other letters of the era from Acadian families are, not surprisingly, written in French.

## Influential Louisiana Acadians

The people behind the subject cover are a study in the Acadian landed gentry of Louisiana during the nineteenth century. Addresses and docketings on the subject cover relate to three influential families in the United States, not just those of Acadian families.

If you are unfamiliar with the term or derivation of Acadia, it had its origins with the Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano, who explored the Atlantic coast of North America in 1524-25 and gave the name “Arcadia” (in Italian) to a region near what is today

the state of Delaware. In 1566, cartographer Bolongnini Zaltieri gave a similar name, “Larcadia,” much farther north in present day Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Many other European explorers followed and similar names took root, mostly in the North-Eastern United States and Eastern Canada’s maritime provinces.

The strong French presence, with which Acadia is associated, took hold in Canada from 1534-1713.<sup>5</sup> It is not to be confused with the French colony of Canada, which is modern day Quebec. They have distinctly different histories and cultures.

During the French and Indian War, British colonial officers suspected that some Acadians were loyal to France, after finding a number of Acadians fighting alongside French troops at Fort Beauséjour. Though most Acadians remained neutral during the French and Indian War, the British, together with New England





Above, painting depicting British officials announcing the impending deportation of the Acadian people from Canada in 1755. Eventually, thousands of the French ethnic group migrated to Louisiana where their culture continues to flourish to this day. Attached at bottom: the official flag of the Acadiana people. See below for story.



legislators and militia, carried out the “Great Expulsion” (Le Grand Dérangement) of Acadians during the decade beginning 1755.

Approximately 11,500 Acadians were deported, of which approximately one-third perished from disease and drowning.<sup>6</sup> It is considered by some to be an inhumane ethnic cleansing of Acadians from Maritime Canada.

Most Acadians were deported to various British American colonies, where many were forced to become indentured servants or laborers or endure other marginal lifestyles. Some Acadians were deported to England, to the Caribbean, and others were deported to France.

After being expelled to France, many Acadians were eventually recruited by the Spanish government to migrate to present-day Louisiana, which had been under Spanish rule since the British victory in the Seven Years War, a global war fought between 1756 and 1763 which involved the great European powers of the time

and spanned five continents affecting Europe, the Americas, West Africa, India and the Philippines<sup>7</sup>

The Acadian descendants gradually developed what became known as the Cajun culture, whose vibrant culture of music, dialect, and cuisine define the regions. Of the 64 parishes that comprise Louisiana, 22 parishes are recognized for their strong Acadian cultural aspects.

Since the early 1960s, the public has referred to the one-word place name Acadiana to refer to the entire region. Unlike Creoles, Cajuns do not trace their roots from the early French settlers of Louisiana who settled in New Orleans.

In 1965, Thomas J. Arceneaux designed a flag for Acadiana, shown in Figure 15. He was a professor at University of Southwestern Louisiana, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He derived the flag from the university seal. The three silver fleurs-de-lis on the blue field represent the French heritage of Acadiana. Since Louisiana was still under Spanish rule when the Acadians





A modern day photograph of re-enactors presenting a reenactment on the original (and beautiful) Bull Run/Manassas Battlefield in Virginia.

were sent there, and they thrived in Louisiana, a portion of the flag pays tribute to Spain with the gold castle on a red field, which is the coat of arms of Castile. The gold star on the white field symbolizes Our Lady of the Assumption, the patron saint of Acadiana.

Arceneaux was an early leader of the Louisiana French Renaissance Movement, a movement intended to renew interest and pride in the French-Acadian heritage, language, and culture of Louisiana. In 1974, the Louisiana legislature officially adopted the design as the Acadiana flag.

#### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup>Joseph G. Tregle, adapted from the *Dictionary of Louisiana Biography*, Louisiana Historical Association in cooperation with the Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana. <http://www.lahistory.org>. Accessed January 9, 2020.

<sup>2</sup>John D. Winters, *The Civil War in Louisiana*, Baton Rouge:

Louisiana State University Press, 1963.

<sup>3</sup>H. Parrott Bacot et al, *Marie Adrien Persac: Louisiana Artist*; Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 2000, p. 74.

<sup>4</sup>Stewart Sifakis, *Compendium of the Confederate Armies: Louisiana*, Reed Business Information, January 1, 1995.

<sup>5</sup>Nicholas Landry, Père Anselme Chiasson, "History of Acadia," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/history-of-acadia/> Accessed January 10, 2020.

<sup>6</sup>John Mack Faragher, *A Great and Noble Scheme: The Tragic Story of the Expulsion of the French Acadians from Their American Homeland*, W. W. Norton & Company, New York / London, 2005.

<sup>7</sup>Geoffrey Plank, *An Unsettled Conquest: The British Campaign Against the Peoples of Acadia*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2001.