

## **JEFFERSON DAVIS**

**1808-1899**

### **President of the Confederate States of America**

Jefferson Davis was born in Kentucky on June 3, 1808. At 16, he entered the U.S. Military Academy, graduating in 1828. Davis served in the army for seven years. He fought in campaigns against Indians, and took charge of the Indian removal after the Black Hawk War. In 1835, Davis married Sarah Taylor. They moved to Mississippi to manage his cotton plantation. When his wife died, Davis traveled for a year and studied the U.S. Constitution. He continued to manage his plantation and become wealthy.

Davis became a U.S. Congressman in 1845. That same year, he married Varina Howell. He resigned from Congress in 1846 to become a colonel in a regiment of Mississippi volunteers in the Mexican War. In 1847, the governor of Mississippi appointed Davis to fill out the term of a U.S. senator who had died. In 1850, Davis resigned from the senate to run for governor. He lost the election and retired to his plantation. In 1853, President Pierce appointed him Secretary of War. After his term expired, Davis was reelected to the Senate and served as a spokesman for the South. He believed strongly in states' rights and demanded that Congress protect slavery.

After Abraham Lincoln was elected president, the state of Mississippi seceded from the Union. Davis resigned from the Senate again, and was named President of the Confederate States of America. He ran the government from its capital in Richmond, Virginia. He was a good administrator, but a poor planner. He had difficulties with his Congress and was considered inflexible. As president, he insisted on a strategy of defending all Southern territory equally, which was too expensive. This strategy also allowed Union forces to hit hard invulnerable areas such as New Orleans and Atlanta. When the South lost the war, Davis was taken prisoner. A grand jury indicted him for treason, and he was held in prison for two years, awaiting trial. A Northerner paid his bail, and Davis was released. He was never tried. Davis spent his last years writing about his war experiences.

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16<sup>th</sup> May 1865

Mrs JS Marble

Dear Madam

Your favor of the 1<sup>st</sup> [?] came duly to hand and found us all Enjoying our usual Share of good Health and very glad to have that you and your family were all Enjoying a full Share of the Same Great Blessings hope it will long continue.

You may well say we have had exciting times the Murder of Mr Lincoln cast a gloom over our town more so that I ever seen before even the Rebbels among us felt it very much many spoke out and said it was the worst thing that could have happened for the South.

Did you ever see any thing cave in as fast as the Rebellion has since the taking of Richmond I have always thought that Gen Lee was an honorable man but that state pride had led him astray. the way of Transgressess is hard

Jeff Davis has been captured and will arive in Washington in about a week there is no Honour in him he must have been very much Scared when he tried to disguise himself in his wife's cloack he forgot the Boots well he did. how true that the way of Transgresors is hard. he is a bad man dear knows what they will do with him they must have had Some Strong Proof against him to offer So large a Reward

There will be Some hanging about Washington before they are done with those they are trying now. You See in the papers all about them nearly as Soon as we do.....

.....Give my Best Respects to M Marble and all Enquiring friends

With much respect and

maney good wishes for your future

health & happiness I Remain Yours

Sam Elder

Samuel Elder  
Baltimore, Md.

10<sup>th</sup> May 1865

Mrs J. D. Marble

Dear Madam

Your favour of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst came duly to hand and found us all enjoying our usual share of good health and very glad to hear that you and your family were all enjoying a full share of the same Great Blessing hope it will long continue you may well say we have had exciting times the Murder of Mr Lincoln cast a gloom over our town more so than I ever seen before even the Rebels among us felt it very much many spoke out and said it was the worst thing that could have happened for the South.

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Proof against him to offer Si. Large a Reward

There will be some hanging about Washington  
before they are done with those they are trying  
now. You see in the papers all about them nearly as  
soon as we do

I am glad to hear that Master Sam has  
made up his last time and is employed  
in a store part of his time nothing like trying  
to help Oresseef they will always have friends  
when they need them I am glad to hear that  
he always finds time to Read his Bible that  
is the Book of all others to study any one  
who does so will be sure to attend Church.

Give my Love to him and tell him that  
his Yankee Cousin that is in the Navy called  
to see us last week on his way from home  
to join is versell after a short leave of absence  
they say they will write to him some of those  
times. Their home is in Marion Mass.

Margaret White Sister & Little May Buck  
who is now with us all send much Love  
to yourself Master Sam and the little fellow  
Ellen sends her best respects to you all.

Give my Best respects to Mr Marble  
and all enquiring Friends

With much respect and  
many good wishes for your future  
health & happiness I remain  
Yours  
Elders

## REVIEW OF CIVIL WAR LETTER

Who wrote this letter and what was the occupation?

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What side of the Civil War did the writer support? Provide evidence.

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What was the purpose of the letter?

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What important details are provided in this letter?

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What is the mental state of the writer? (ex: anger, despair, empathy, joy, sympathy)

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