

# The Blood of My Kindred

I do not wish to sit side by side with men whose clothes smell of the blood of my kindred. Thaddeus Stephens, 1866

## Pennsylvania and the 150th!

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by Corey Meyer

The image shows a screenshot of a website celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Pennsylvania. The page has a green and blue color scheme. On the left, a blue banner reads "150 PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL WAR" and lists navigation options: "UNDERSTAND THE WAR THROUGH PEOPLE THEN & NOW". Below this are links for "JOIN: THE DISCUSSION", "SHARE: YOUR STORY", "PLAN: YOUR TRIP", "SHOP: OUR STORE", "LEARN: ABOUT US", and "SUPPORT: PACW 150". A red banner promotes the "Civil War Road Show". The main content area features a portrait of a man in a military uniform, with the title "Blue, Gray and Black: African Americans in the Civil War" and a quote: "African Americans fought for their place in society – and their place on the battlefield." Below the portrait, it lists a "Featured Pennsylvanian: Currier Le Count" and "Related Stories: Thomas Morris Chester, Nicholas Biddle". A "VISIT PENNSYLVANIA" button is at the bottom.

As we creep ever closer to 2011 and the 150th Anniversary of the War of the Rebellion several states have begun websites for celebrating and presenting the history of the War on the Internet. Unlike the [Sons of Confederate Veterans](#) 150th Website, [Pennsylvania](#) has a very nice website with some varying informative links and content.

One of the first things to catch my eye under the heading of UNDERSTAND was the part on the causes of the war. For once it was nice not to see a large listing of “lost cause” mythology and I was also pleasantly surprised to see a nice list of books and authors who are highly respected in the field of Civil War history...

- David Brion Davis, *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World* (Oxford University Press, 2006).
- Charles Dew, *Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War* (University of Virginia Press, 2002).
- Eric Foner, *Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: Ideology of the Republican Party before the Civil War* (Oxford University Press, 1995).
- William Freehling, *The Road to Disunion: Volume 1: Secessionists at Bay, 1776-1854* (Oxford University Press, 1991); *The Road to Disunion: Volume II: Secessionists Triumphant, 1854-1876* (Oxford University Press, 2008).
- James McPherson, *Battle Cry Freedom: The Civil War Era* (Oxford University Press, 1988).

Each major page on the site provides an impressive list of secondary sources for the reader to expand his/her knowledge far beyond the Pa. 150th site. Even as I write this post I am surfing through the site and I am very impressed with the amount of information that has been provided. It is my hope that as many states that can afford it (I live in Illinois and we can't afford anything...but I am sure we will have a site) can provide the public with a site similar to this one in scope and appearance.

Here are links to other Sesquicentennial sites...

- **Virginia**



- **North Carolina**



**- Arkansas**



**- South Carolina**



**- West Virginia**



More to come in the future...

<http://kindredblood.wordpress.com/2009/10/08/pennsylvania-and-the-150th/>