

# Vicksburg's Old Warren County Courthouse Museum



Built in 1858, the courthouse is Vicksburg's most historic landmark. According to [oldcourthouse.org](http://oldcourthouse.org), it has seen such historical figures as Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, Booker T. Washington, Teddy Roosevelt and William McKinley.

Maintained by the Vicksburg and Warren County Historical Society, the museum has an extensive history of the Civil War and Confederate artifacts.



This photo program takes you through many of the rooms in the museum and another place in the city.











Black Confederate patriotism took many forms: slaves devoted to their masters, free blacks who donated money and labor, blacks who joined the Confederate Army, and slaves who loyally supervised plantations of absentee owners.

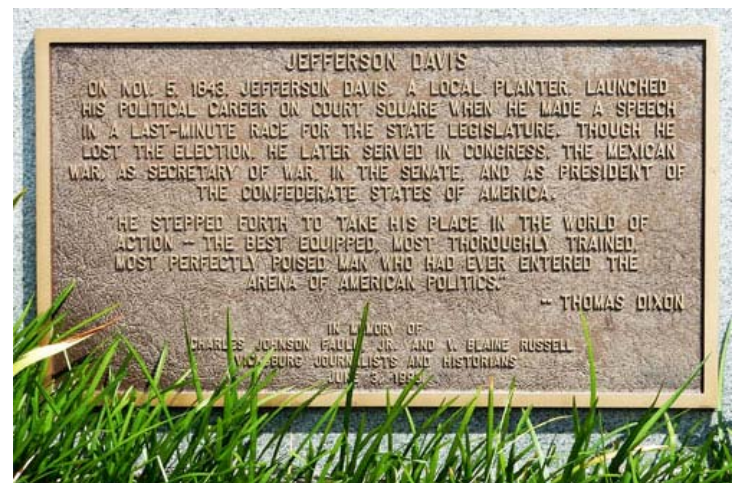
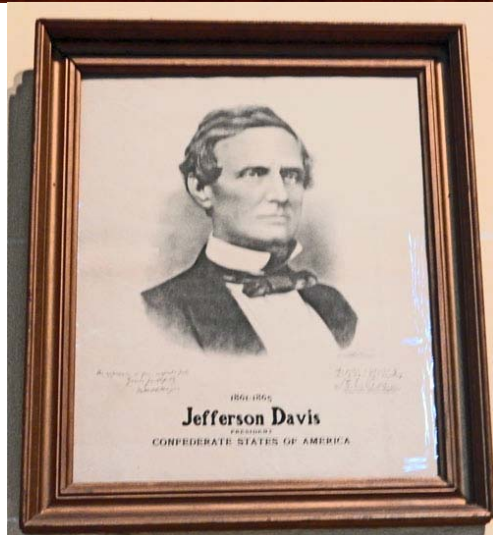
The controversy over slaves and black confederates during the Civil War has been argued and debated. Some call it a "myth" or "utter nonsense." Some say that there were loyal blacks. To not make this program a social issue--suggestion read the following sources and investigate others:

<https://www.civilwar.org/learn/articles/black-confederates>

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2011/09/black-confederates/>

<http://www.theroot.com/yes-there-were-black-confederates-here-s-why-1790858546>

<https://www.armstrong.edu/history-journal/history-journal-confederate-nationalism-and-the-authenticity-of-southern-id>






# THREE FAMOUS TRIALS HELD IN THE 1860S



**Minerva Cook**




*Minerva Hynes Cook*


In May, 1865, twelve Union soldiers were court-martialed for the wanton murder of Minerva Hynes Cook, wife of a local planter. Gen. Jasper A. Maltby presided over the trial. One defendant was acquitted, three were sent to military prison, and the remainder hanged for the murder of Mrs. Cook. Of several murders of citizens by Union soldiers during the military occupation, the killing of Mrs. Cook was the only one that resulted in judicial action.

**Frederick Speed**

On April 27, 1865, the steamboat Sultana left Vicksburg, greatly overloaded with Union soldiers just released from Southern prisons; near Memphis it burned and sank, and over 1,600 people perished. Capt. Frederick Speed, assistant adjutant general of the U.S. Army at Vicksburg, was accused of overloading the boat and was tried in 1866 for neglect of duty and found guilty. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton refused to approve the sentence, and Judge Advocate Gen. Joseph Holt in Washington reversed the decision and also cleared Speed of all charges. Holt, who had sanctioned the hanging of Mary Surratt in the Lincoln murder conspiracy, had once been a member of the Vicksburg Bar. Capt. Speed was honorably discharged and spent the rest of his life in Vicksburg.



In the spring of 1867 Holt Collier, a young black man, was charged with murdering a white Union officer in Greenville, Miss. Collier, who had been a slave who belonged to the Hinds family, had served four years in the Confederate Cavalry under Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest. After the war he learned that a Union officer had insulted his former master, so to avenge him Collier killed the officer. He was tried for murder and was acquitted; he was defended by a leading attorney. In later years Collier gained fame as the guide for Theodore Roosevelt during the President's bear hunt in Sharkey County.



**Holt Collier**



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