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Living history is a great way to educate the public about the War of Rebellion and the importance of patriotism for our country. Many Camps do this type of activity every year. The question is what do we cover and discuss? Here are a few things we can discuss with the public.

First are the common topics that the public are interested such as how did they live and fight during the war, what types of food they ate, types of weaponry, battles, and so forth. Second is why we fought the war and the reasons. When we educate on this topic; we need to have a good understanding of the U.S. Constitution and show how it related to the war. This side of history does not get enough attention when doing living history events. Third is the effect on the soldiers' families.

The emphasis should be on the second point. The South believe it was about States Rights under the 10th Amendment. This may be true as to what they believe is the right to do what they want with their property being the slaves. However the South violated the Constitution when they seceded from the Union, which then classified their action as rebellious. Many people of the public are surprised when learning this. This is based on "In the case of *Texas v. White* in 1869, Supreme Court Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase wrote that, "The union between Texas and the other states was as complete, as perpetual, and as indissoluble as the union between the original states. There was no place for reconsideration or revocation, except through revolution or through consent of the States." The majority opinion struck down the Texas Ordinance of Secession, calling it "null," and crafted a decision that rendered all acts of secession illegal according to the "perpetual union" of both the Articles of Confederation and subsequent Constitution for the United States. Chase did leave an opening, "revolution or the consent of the States," but without either, secession could never be considered a legal act."

President Lincoln used Article I Section 10 which stated: "No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation...." To proponents of this position, Article I, Section 10 unequivocally shows that the states that formed the Confederate States of America were in clear violation of the Constitution, thus invalidating their government and the individual acts of secession that led to it. Abraham Lincoln indirectly defended this position by declaring the seceding states were in "rebellion" and therefore still members of the Union. The Constitution, then, was still legally enforceable in those states, including Article I, Section 10." Source for this can be found at <http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/is-secession-legal/>

Let us in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Allied Order go forth and promote Patriotism through living history.

Yours In Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity.