

A General's Advice

Whether we may be from the North or the South -- or anywhere else in this great country -- all of us would surely agree that one of the heroic military figures in our nation's history is General Robert E. Lee, who commanded the Confederate forces in the Civil War.

In his book, "Lee: The Last Years," Charles Bracelen Flood reports that after the Civil War, Lee visited a Kentucky lady who took him to the remains of a grand old tree in front of her house. There, she bitterly cried that its limbs and trunk had been destroyed by federal artillery fire. She looked to Lee for a word condemning the North, or at least sympathizing with her loss.

After a brief silence, Lee said, "Cut it down, my dear Madam, and forget it."

The wisdom is just as important to us today in 2004 as it was in Lee's day. It is better to forgive the injustices of the past than to allow them to remain, let bitterness take root and poison the rest of our lives.

If someone has wronged you, yesterday or years ago, and the anger keeps growing within, it's time to "cut it down, forget it" and move on.

--Beecher Hunter