

History 225

Notes w/ Embattled Courage

Source: McP "What They Fought For"

Revival: Scenes of the reunions of middle-aged veterans from the Blue and Gray in their joint encampments.

They reached a joint consensus: Southern soldiers had not fought to defend slavery and the Union boys had not fought to end the institution. They reminisced about the glorious deeds of their youth. It was all a tragic war of brothers whose issues were best forgotten in the interests of reconciliation and unification of the nation.

Somehow the Civil War became a heroic contest, a sort of grand, if deadly, football game without ideological cause of purpose.

And the horrors of war were romanticized into stirring war stories about glorious deeds and the coming of age and all the hairy chested virtues of manhood.