

Certainly the South had more than its fair share of martial ardor. Confederate soldiers' letters attest to the inspiration given by the sight of General Robert E. Lee and his leadership: Nineteen year old 3d Lt. Wesley Lewis Battle of the 37th Regiment was a graduate of the University of North Carolina who came from one of North Carolina's most prominent families - his father, William Horne Battle, founded the University's School of Law and his brother, Kemp Plummer Battle, would become president of the University. On May 29, 1863, Lt. Battle, who only five weeks later was to be mortally wounded in the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble Charge at the battle of Gettysburg, wrote in a letter about his reaction to the sight of General Robert E. Lee raising his hat to acknowledge the cheers of the 37th Regiment at a review of the Light Division in May, 1863, shortly after the Battle of Chancellorsville:

It is impossible for me to describe the emotions of my heart as the old silver headed hero acknowledged the salute by taking off his hat thereby exposing the most noble countenance I ever beheld. I felt proud that the Southern Confederacy could boast of such a man. In fact, I was almost too proud for the occasion for I could not open my mouth to give vent to the emotions that were struggling within.