

Dixie down

by [Marda Messick](#) in the [April 21, 2021](#) issue

The gray generals topple  
while the confederate dead clap their bones.

Send them to the red clay smithies,  
beat them into pruning hooks  
or cart them to a monument mortuary,

but spare the blameless horses.

Traveller, Little Sorrel, Highfly, Blackjack—  
cut the masters off their backs.

Lead them to a parkland  
and give them freedom names.

Let the southern children climb atop them  
and the northern children play  
between their mighty hooves.