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The following photocopied manuscript of President Jefferson Davis was recently purchased from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for the Tishomingo County Archives and History Museum. Transcript has been typed by Cindy Whirley Nelson exactly as it was transposed.

Dated July 11, 1891

To the Veterans and people of the Southern States:--

After much anxious thoughts, I have finally decided to give to Virginia the care of my Husband's mortal body, and feel that my reasons should be made public, as he was in many senses the property of the whole County.

Immediately after the death of Ex President Jefferson Davis, Louisiana expressed her desire to keep his hallowed remains for all time, but she claimed only the right to guard him until some permanent place could be selected for his rest.

The military organizations of New Orleans bore him with filial grief and splendid pageant to the tomb of the Army of Northern Virginia where they have guarded him by night and day for eighteen months, and the gratitude of my children and myself is too great for words.

I asked a year for consideration and consultation with my family. Eighteen months have nearly expired and I feel that the matter should be decided and set are rest now.

Mississippi claimed preference because Mr. Davis belonged to her right of his seventy-nine years residence within her borders, and his sixty years of service to the State of his adoption, during which she conferred upon him unsolicited, every office in her gift, save one. As her citizen, comrade in arms, Congressional Representative, Senator, General in Chief and President, she felt her's to be the first claim.

Tennessee urged that in her State after the war, he had found occupation, home and troops of friends, and there his deed had been buried.

Alabama remembered that within her borders he was elected President of the Confederate States, there he had been inaugurated, that Montgomery had been the first Capitol and that from her lips had issued the first general invitation to break the silence which he had observed since our defeat, that she had received him with such enthusiasm as has been manifested to the conquerors, but was never before accorded to a disfranchised citizen, powerless to give aid, or confer favors.

Georgia claimed him and has constantly renewed the request because his Father had long been a citizen of the State. There the Ex President had received the same royal welcome which Alabama had extended, and lastly she pleaded her great love for him as a reason for granting the request.

Kentucky expressed her pride in being the State of his birth, and urged her claims.

Virginia asked for his honored remains, because the most strenuous efforts of his life had been made upon her soil, and in defence [defense] of Richmond as the Capitol of the Confederate States. At short intervals throughout the last eighteen months, she has renewed her tender insistence that he should rest among the heroic dead of all the States who fell in defence [defense] of the Confederacy. She urged the fact that he did not in the fullness of his fame belong exclusively to any part of the Country. Every hill side about Richmond would tell of the valorous resistance which he initiated and directed with tireless vigilance as Chief Magistrate, that there he received generous and unwavering support in the darkest hour of our unfortunate Country's defeat.

All these claims have touched my heart, and contended together for the mystery. It has been hard to give up the home of dwelling near my Husband's resting place in Mississippi where my home and interests are, but unfortunately, Beauvoir is on the coast of Mexican Gulf and on a peninsula very little over a mile wide, and the half mile of shallow water in front covered with submerged stumps of large trees, shows that the sea has been steadily encroaching on the shore for many years. I feel therefore that as the monument is for all the time, it would not be wise to place it there, and I submit to the personal sacrifice with the hope the States of the Confederacy will also relinquish their cherished plans for the sake of gratifying the majority of the Veterans who have written countless letters to me from each of the before mentioned States, to urge Richmond as the proper place for the grave of him who loved them all and labored for their glory with all his might, during the heat and burthen of the days granted to him here.

Your countrywoman,

Varina Jefferson Davis