

Brief Essay on My Usage of the Term *Old South*

By Dan Jensen (2023)

In this essay, I wanted to take a moment to clarify how I use the term *Old South* in my writings. This is because this term is often not used in a uniform way in our culture. I am basically using it to describe *the South*. The reason I don't just use that particular term is that many younger people are not as familiar with the title. Hence, many will read that as just referring to any States that are in the Southern United States. By using the term *Old South*, my hope is that it will cause them to see that I am talking about something more specific than that. By *Old South*, I am for the most part referring to the former slave States just prior to the Civil War. However, I include Oklahoma in my usage and I don't include Missouri, Maryland, or Delaware in my usage. So, my usage is not exact on that front. The reason I include Oklahoma is because I believe that culturally it is largely connected to the Southern States. And I believe that over time the other states can no longer be considered part of the general Southern culture. I understand that these decisions are somewhat debatable, but that is how I use the term *Old South*.