

# Sons of Confederate Veterans

## CALIFORNIA DIVISION REUNIONS

- 2013 Redlands, 13 April, at the Ayers Hotel. Our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion. Tour of the Smiley Library and Museum by Docent Steve Madden. Banquet at Redlands Heritage Hall.
- 2012 Santa Maria, 24 March at the Santa Maria Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites; lunch at T. J. Plaughter's house and "Show and Tell" with antiques and WbtS weapons. In the afternoon, a tour of the Santa Maria Air Museum, then Memorial Service at Santa Maria Cemetery. Banquet at the Los Alamos Union Hotel, Steve Madden speaker.
- 2011 Marine Corps Air Station Officer's Club, San Diego, 12 March. Friday evening reception, Camp 1208 member Fred Olen Ray serves a clear refreshment. Lunch at MiraMar Inn, Mt. Soledad ceremony (the famous peak with the war memorial cross in San Diego). Banquet speaker retired Chief Petty Officer Stuart Hedley, who was on board the USS West Virginia during the attack at Pearl Harbor. Sunday morning, tour of the MCAS Miramar Aviation Museum, conducted by museum curator Steve Smith. Farrell Cooley elected Division Commander.
- 2010 Lebec (Fort Tejon) at the BestRest Inn, 24 April. Friday evening reception, Vern serves beer that he made himself. Authentic 1860's food at Ft. Tejon, cooked over an open fire, courtesy of Les Gilbert, Ft. Tejon Dragoon Program Cook, followed by tour of Fort Tejon. After banquet, period music and dancing. Steve Smith becomes Division Commander. Mike Climo is now our Webmaster.
- 2009 Lebec (Fort Tejon), at the BestRest Inn, 9 May. Our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion. Open fire pit cooked lunch by Lester Gilbert. Tour of Fort Tejon. Period music and dancing at banquet, lead by Ginger Alberti of Brodiaea's Fashions & Period Designs.
- 2008 Sacramento at the Double Tree Hotel, 8 March. Memorial service at General Cosby's gravesite. 46<sup>th</sup> Virginia Band at banquet. Guest speaker Tom Cartwright, "The Battle of Franklin."
- 2007 Bakersfield, 10 March. "The second Bakersfield we got lost and half of us ended up at Buck Owens' gravesite at a cemetery that had the same name as the one north of town (that we finally found in time for a ceremony). I think the second one was where, at supper, the band started playing The Battle Hymn of the Republic and Marcia stood up and said "I 'm out of here!" And people started to file out the side door! What a hoot." -- Lou Olker. Camp 302 receives "Camp of the Year." Kenny Ramsey elected Division Commander. Birthday celebration for Real Son Woody Plaughter.
- 2006 Bakersfield, at the Best Western 11 March. Friday night social at the Crystal Palace Restaurant, where we had the pleasure of seeing Buck Owens perform, including his version of Dixie, only 8 days before his death. Saturday afternoon: Memorial at Union Cemetery. Banquet Speaker Walter D. Kennedy (*The South Was Right*). Music and dance with "Geezers on the Loose."

- 2005 Pasadena, at Marriott Hotel, 12 March. Friday night reception at McMurphy's Tavern, hosted by the Reunion. Picnic in park across from hotel, by the soldier's statue, hosted by Reunion. We raised division dues from \$2 to \$5. Banquet address by Prof. Jim Stanbery. Vern and Kent Jones lead 46 compatriots in patriotic song. Richard Kline dazzles all of us with his music. Steve Madden awards the Rubber Chicken to Steve Smith.
- 2004 Pasadena, Marriott Hotel, 20 March. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual. Friday night reception at McMurphy's Tavern, hosted by convention. Saturday afternoon, free time, see list of tours. Sat eve, banquet in hotel, with banquet speaker "author of *A Heart Divided*, who told of singing Dixie in Russia while there for an adoption" – Tim Desmond.
- 2003 Fresno, Piccadilly Inn, 7 June. Friday eve BBQ on the patio. At the business meeting, John Lewis leads us in adopting our new one. Chuck Norred elected Division Commander. Memorial to Noel Estes, Division Adjutant 18 years. Banquet speakers: Kermit Albritton and Neal Johnson. Sat eve dance period music conducted by Cynthia Merrill Dance Studio.
- 2002 Los Alamos Union Hotel: "Eighth Annual California Division Convention" 8 June, with our flag flying from the balcony. Friday night BBQ and juleps on the patio. Memorial service dedicating Peter Coyner's CSA marker. Lantern Light Tour of the Maze, after banquet.
- 2001 Los Alamos Union Hotel: 2 June. Friday evening Mint juleps on the lawn, courtesy Camp 1770. Saturday afternoon memorial service and headstone dedication. Banquet guest speaker Don Locke as R. E. Lee.
- 2000 Los Alamos Union Hotel, 4 June. Barron Smith elected Division Commander. Outstanding SCV Award to Neil Estes, who is now division signals officer and will begin publishing a division newsletter, the Vidette. Memorial service at Los Alamos Cemetery for Peter Coyner.
- 1999 Long Beach, Sea Port Marina Hotel, 26 June, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual California Division Convention; in attendance SCV CiC Rick Griffin, and SCV Exec Dir Maitland Westbrook (former commander of Redlands Camp 1742). Memorial service at Long Beach Municipal Cemetery with CiC Griffin, 1<sup>st</sup> NC Cav Honor Guard. Saturday afternoon tour of the Banning Museum and the Drum Barracks, both in Wilmington.
- 1998 Fresno 13 June at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual. Convention Chair Barron Smith; Vice chair Lou Olker; Treasurer Ken Gilliam. Div Cmdr Jeff Towery presented the Camp Charter to the new San Joaquin Valley Camp. Ceremony at grave of General Bell and tour of Meux Home. Randy Burroughs, Div Webmaster, received Outstanding Member Award.
- 1997 San Diego, 14 June, Handlery Hotel, Hotel Circle in Mission Valley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual. CiC Pete Orlebeck awards Ro King for exceptional service. Div Commander Jeff Towery awards Steve Holcomb "Division Outstanding Person" award, and presented him with the Orange County

Camp charter, one of 2 new camps this year. Memorial service at Mount Hope Cemetery, with CiC Orlebeck laying a wreath and RS Woody Plaughter giving the eulogy. Ken Gilliam served as convention organizer.

1996 Concord 18 May at the Sheraton Hotel with “our colors proudly flying from the flagpole” —(Ro King). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Reunion. Paul Toland, organizer. Two Real Sons attended: Woody Plaughter and George Washington Plaughter. Wilfred W. Knight Award to Noel Estes.

1995 Berkeley 6 May. Planned as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual California Division Convention at the Marina Marriott Hotel, with the Memorial Service for Confederate soldiers buried in Mt. View Cemetery in Oakland. Convention chairs Chuck Bess of Pleasanton and Randy Burroughs of Suisun City. -- from Ro King’s copy of the April 1995 Camp 1208 Aide-de-Camp, with the registration form cut out. Cancelled.

1994 Ventura 25 June, at the Doubletree Hotel. 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion. Santa Barbara Camp 1631 hosted. Commander Maner Thorpe presented ATM Cmdr Orlebecke, who addressed the convention. Next, the division constitution was unanimously adopted. A \$2 annual division dues was adopted. Jeff Towery was elected Division Commander, and Barron Smith Lt. Cmdr. After lunch in the hotel garden, Randy Burroughs of Camp 1440 presented on historic Confederate unit flags. Then, delegates attended a Confederate Memorial Service in Carpenteria, led by Barron Smith. At the evening banquet, Cmdr Orlebecke gave the oath of office to the division officers. The evening’s speaker was Gen. Bailey McCune, on California Confederates. – From Gene Armistead in the Camp 1208 *Aide-de-Camp*, October 1994.