



# The Republic



The newsletter for the  
California Division  
Sons of Confederate  
Veterans



“On one side of the conflict was the South, led by the descendants of the cavaliers, who with all their fault, had inherited from a long line of ancestors a manly contempt for moral littleness, a high sense of honor, a lofty regard for plighted faith, a strong tendency to conservatism, a profound respect for law and order, and an unfaltering loyalty to constitutional government. Against the South, was arrayed the power of the North, dominated by the spirit of the Puritanism, which, with all of its virtues, has ever been characterized by the pharisaism which worships itself, and is unable to perceive any goodness apart from itself, which has ever arrogantly held its ideas, its interests, and its will higher than fundamental law and covenanted obligations, which has always lived and moved and had its being in rebellion against constituted authority”.

Robert Catlett Cave 1842 - 1923

Volume 2 Number 5 February 2013

## The California Division Convention & Reunion April 12 – 14, 2013

### Ayres Hotel

1015 Colton, Ave, Redlands, CA (909) 335-9024

Mention Sons of Confederate Veterans for \$99 + Tax Rate

<http://www.ayreshotels.com/inland-empire/hotel-redlands.aspx>

Sorry, but no registrations can be accepted after March 10

Mail your registration check for \$99 payable to SCV Camp 1742 to:

Billy Williams Inland Empire Adjutant

1154 Don Alberto Lane

San Jacinto, CA 92582-5803

Indicate your preference of chicken or beef for the banquet, guests are welcome

**Questions:** Contact Billy Williams at [b81353@aol.com](mailto:b81353@aol.com) or Steve Madden at [tp9sam@msn.com](mailto:tp9sam@msn.com)

Registration Form: [www.californiascv.org](http://www.californiascv.org)

## Greetings

By Farrell D. Cooley  
Calf. Division Cmdr.

It is time again for our annual reunion and convention. If you haven't registered yet, please do so, we need all our members to join us for a weekend of fellowship and business. Camp 1742 has worked hard to organize and plan for our entertainment and pleasure. You won't be disappointed, I guarantee!

I want to welcome several men who have assumed the role of Commander. The first is Allen Davis who recently was elected to command the Sacramento camp. Chuck Norred, past ATM Cmdr., has returned to command the Fresno camp. John Roberts of Whittier volunteered to command the Los Angeles camp. And, Jim Stephens has assumed command of the San Diego camp. Thank You to these gentlemen for assuming this important role and providing leadership to our members. If I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me by phone, e.mail, or US Mail.

The California Division has some good camps that are productive and active, but we also have a few camps who struggle. I don't know a secret formula for success, except that to be successful it requires a lot of hard work. I've learned that we need to reach out to our members using every form of communication we have. It helps to have a newsletter and mail it to their homes, so they look at it several times before throwing it away. We need to offer meetings for our members and food and drink always works well to create a positive atmosphere. Speakers and programs are essential in retaining your members.

Even if the turn out is low, the fact that you as Commander, Lt. Commander or Adjutant worked to provide a forum is critical. We have to offer the opportunity before anyone will show up. Recruitment is difficult, especially in the land of liberals; however, opportunities do exist at reenactments and through headquarters with their post card referral program. Your camp should attend

local reenactments and set up informational booths, to recruit interested persons.

I've learned too that providing a focus event, such as a food drive or fund raiser helps your members rally around a project. My camp started collecting toys for the Orangewood Children's Home, and we collected canned food for the homeless. The Fresno camp started placing monument to honor our Confederate Veterans at cemeteries around the Fresno area. They intend to expand that project around the state too. The San Diego camp does several things to attract and keep their members busy, such as donating to historical entities and participating in Veterans affairs with color guards and men in Confederate uniform. Every year they provide a turkey shoot where they compete to win prizes. Though I haven't been to this event, I hear it is a blast and intend to participate one of these days.

I know we have potential to do more and we should find ways to improve. Unfortunately, it seems as though who are busy continue to find new projects, and those who are not continue to find not. As I've said before, it takes work and no one will do it for us. It is up to men like us to represent the SCV and make it grow.

Headquarters is working on VISION 2016, which is a method to increase membership by 2016. Once this plan is put into place, it will boil down to who does the work and who is willing to do the work. They have built us an e.mail network where every camp can send and receive messages. More on that will be forthcoming; it is still in the works. Our National Convention is coming up in July, this time in Vicksburg, MS. If you've never attended a National event, give it a try, it makes for a great vacation. You can find the registration and hotel information on our web site: [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org).

Well, I hope to see each of you in Redlands!  
We need you!  
Deo Vindice!

# Sons of Confederate Veterans

## CALIFORNIA DIVISION REUNIONS

Submitted by: Vern Padgett Ph.D.

California Division Adjutant

- 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.

Ernie Powell  
California Division Chaplain  
Feb. 2013

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

"New" carries many meanings: A "new and improved" laundry detergent usually means "higher-priced in a smaller container"; the phrase "Novus Ordo Seclorum (a new order of the ages) appears on the Great Seal of the United States. About 600 years before Christ, the prophet Ezekiel spoke these words, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh."

Several weeks ago, I re-watched a very funny redemption movie, "Groundhog Day." For those who haven't seen it (if there are any left), this modern "Pilgrim's Progress", is the story of Phil Connors, a selfish, jaded, cynical TV weatherman, who refers to himself as "the talent" and to ordinary people as "morons" and "hicks". Sent to cover the annual appearance of Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog, he finds himself repeating February 2 over and over again. At first he is worried, but soon realizes that, since the clock resets every morning, nothing he does will have consequences, and that his foreknowledge gives him immense power, which he uses to indulge in every vice and to manipulate people. The only one who seems immune to his charms is his producer Rita, who sees through his plastic façade and rejects him at every turn. Eventually, the emptiness of his life catches up to him, and he repeatedly commits suicide, only to wake up each morning unchanged. He finally begins to realize that the world does not revolve around him, and that happiness comes from loving and serving others. Only after his stony heart has been replaced with one of flesh is he allowed to continue his life as a new man.

This holy season of Lent is our time to prepare ourselves to celebrate the atoning death and glorious resurrection of Jesus, our Savior. Like Phil Connors, each morning we are handed a wonderful present - the opportunity to accept God's grace and to be given a new heart. If we accept this gift, like "Groundhog Day," our lives will have a happy ending.

May the Lord Bless and Keep you all.

~\*~\*~

(In Honor of Black History Month)

### **Did Blacks Serve in the Confederate Army as Soldiers?**

by Vernon R. Padgett (CA Div. Adjutant)

Blacks served by the thousands in the Confederate States Army. Many dismiss their service as that of servants—attached to the Army, but not soldiers in the Army. But black Southerners served as soldiers in the Confederate Army, not simply with that Army.

Evidence of the service of black Southerners as regular soldiers includes proclamations by Southern State governors, and authorizations by Southern State legislatures, calling specifically for black soldiers. Near the close of the War the Confederate Government enlisted thousands of slaves as regular Confederate soldiers.

### **Non-combat Job Classifications are Part of Today's Army**

Black Southerners served as teamsters, cooks, musicians, nurses, hospital attendants, blacksmiths, hostlers, foragers, wheelwrights, and in other roles in the Army of the Confederate States of America. In the modern military, these same categories, or their modern equivalents, still exist. By today's standards these black Confederates were soldiers.

To the Confederate States Army, not the United States Army goes the distinction of having the first black to minister to white troops. A Tennessee regiment had sought diligently for a chaplain, but had been unsuccessful until "Uncle Lewis," who

accompanied the regiment, was asked to conduct a religious service. Soldiers were so pleased that they asked Lewis to serve as their chaplain, which he did from the time of Pittsburgh Landing to war's end. "He is heard with respectful attention and for earnestness, zeal, and sincerity, can be surpassed by none"-- Religious Herald, 10 Sept 1863. To the men of the regiment as well as to the editors of the Richmond newspaper, the service of the black chaplain was a matter of great pride (Barrow, 2001).

Black Southerners served as laborers on fortifications. The National Park Service, after a recent discovery, recognized that blacks were asked to help defend the city of Petersburg, Virginia, and were offered their freedom if they did so. Regardless of their official classification, black Americans performed support functions that in today's army would be classified as official military service. The successes of white Confederate troops in battle was achieved only with the support of these loyal black Southerners (Williams, "On Black Confederates" website).

General Joe Johnston wrote in early 1864 to Senator Wigfall: "I propose to substitute slaves for all soldiers ... as cooks, engineer laborers, pioneers, or on any kind of work. Such details for this little army amount to more than 10,000 men. Negroes would serve for such purposes better than soldiers" (Vandiver, 1970, p. 264). Again, in today's army, these job classifications are filled by soldiers.

Applying today's standards to the past, blacks served as soldiers in the Confederate Army. But no historian applies modern standards to history. Let us turn to the question "did blacks serve as soldiers by the standards of 1861?"

### **Equal Treatment of Black and White Army: "Employees" Ordered by General Johnston**

General Order Number 38, issued by Confederate General Braxton Bragg at Tullahoma, Tennessee,

in January 1863, stated, "All employees of this army, black as well as white, shall receive the same rations, quarters, and medical treatment." The Confederate

Army was providing equal treatment at a time when the U.S. Army discriminated against black men in the matter of pay (Barrow, et al. 2001). The Confederate government authorized equal pay for musicians, many of whom were black, in contrast to the Federal Army, in which musicians received lower pay. The Confederate Congress passed legislation requiring that black and white military bandmen receive the same pay. Free black musicians, cooks, soldiers and teamsters earned the same pay as white Confederate privates. This was not the case in the army of the United States (Barrow, et al., 2001).

### **Confederate Government Impressments**

"The War Department was authorized to impress up to 20,000 blacks." State governors also drew on "private property" so that whites could fight more and dig less. ... The military also rented or impressed black men slave and free, to cook and drive wagons and ambulances ... in several large hospitals more than one-half of the male nurses were black. Government and private manufacturers hired or rented black labor for skilled and unskilled work. In 1865, for example, 310 of 400 workers in the naval ordnance works at Selma, Alabama were black.

As the war wore on, the trend toward black labor became more pronounced. "Every black man employed meant one more available white soldier" (Thomas, 1971, pp. 119-132). Black Southerners served in roles now considered part of the modern army, as teamsters, etc.

Evidence of military service of blacks in the Confederacy appears in Southern states records:

The Tennessee Legislature Authorizes Male Persons of Color for Military Service

In June 1861, the Tennessee legislature authorized the governor to accept for military service all male persons of color between the ages of 15 and 50. By that time one Negro company from Nashville already had joined a white regiment in marching east to fight in Virginia (Wesley, 1927, p. 107; Barrow, 2001).

## **The 1st Louisiana Native Guards**

In May 1861, Governor Thomas O. Moore of Louisiana issued a proclamation providing for the enrollment of free blacks in an all-black regiment with some black officers. By early 1862, nearly 3000 men had joined this regiment and other nearby units around New Orleans. Their officers were skilled tradesmen, craftsmen, and even a few slave owners. There were several sets of fathers and sons and sets of brothers in this regiment, and “all the males in the large Duphart family were members” (Rollins, 1994, pages 22-23).

Black officers included: Captain Noel Bachus, 40, a carpenter and landowner; Captain Michael Duphart, a 62-year old wealthy shoemaker, and Lt. Andre Cailloux, a cigar maker and boxer.

The 1st Louisiana Native Guards was a 1307 man regiment with some black officers. It included many of the leading individuals in the New Orleans black community. Like most Southern militia regiments early in the war, they provided their own arms, and uniforms. They spent the greater part of their Confederate service as Provost Guards, although there is some indication that part of the regiment saw action at Fort Jackson during the New Orleans campaign (Official Records, I, 6, 858).

Black Louisianans played a significant part in Louisiana’s military history ever since the beginning of settlement. They fought for, and against, the French, the Spanish, the English, as well as with Andrew Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. By late 1861, about 3000 black Louisianans were enrolled in state troops and militia organizations, in the state, in service to the Confederate cause (Rollins, 1994, 22; 167-168).

## **Five Units of Confederate Blacks in Mobile, Alabama**

Black Southerners in Mobile, Alabama took part in the defense of that city. In early 1862, a citizen wrote to the Government that he could organize a regiment of Creoles – a term for people of mixed blood— writing

that “they are as true to the South as the pure white race. I can raise [a regiment] in a few days.” Black confederates were already organized and working on the city’s defenses by early 1862, and in November 1862, the state legislature of Alabama passed an act authorizing the raising of troops of “mixed blood ... commonly known as Creoles” for the defense of the city. Major General Dabney Maury had written to the Adjutant General of the Confederacy, asking to enlist Creoles in Confederate service as artillerymen in the defense of Mobile. In August of 1864, the Confederate commander of Mobile formed a unit of cavalry with some blacks in it, and in October he ordered the city to enlist Creoles and free blacks; five different units of black troops were active in Mobile (Rollins, 1994, pp. 25-26).

## **Confederate Government Enlists Black Soldiers, March 1865**

In March 1865, the Confederate government began actively recruiting and enlisting black soldiers. In early 1865 Robert E. Lee publicly advocated the enlistment of black troops, and in March the Confederate Congress authorized raising 300,000 new troops “irrespective of color.” General Ordinance No. 14 stated “no slave will be accepted unless with his own consent and with the approbation of his master by a written instrument conferring the rights of freedmen ...” (Official Record, IV, 3, 1161). Shortly after, one witness recorded that the streets of Richmond were filled with 10,000 Negroes who had been gathered at Camp Lee on the outskirts of Richmond. Negroes were armed and placed in trenches near Richmond” (Rollins, 1994, p. 26).

A book length treatment of this topic is the excellent *The Gray and the Black: Confederate Debate on Emancipation* by Robert F. Durden.

## **Conclusion**

The evidence is clear: Black Southerners served in the Confederate Army as soldiers.

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SCV Camp 1627: Sacramento | Back row – L - R Chaplain Steve Bogart; 2<sup>nd</sup> LTC David Campbell; 3<sup>rd</sup> LTC William Campbell; Cmdr. Allen Davis | Front Row – L – R LTC Michael Montague; Adjutant Tad Smith



### The Charge of Gen. Stephen D. Lee

To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldiers good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulations of his virtues, the perpetuation of the principles he loved; which made him glorious and which you also cherish.

Remember, it is you duty to see that the true history of the south is presented to future generations.

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### Salute to the Confederate Battleflag

I Salute the Confederate Flag with  
Affection  
Reverence  
&  
Undying Devotion

To the cause for which it stands!



Our SCV California Division Lt. Commander, Mr. John Smoley had the fortunate opportunity to travel to St. Petersburg, FL and attend one of the Stephen D. Lee Institute Seminars. I understand these seminars are a real treat for those who can attend. Commander Smoley brings back to us his analysis, and interpretation of lectures he witnessed while in conference. I'm sure you'll enjoy and relate to his words of wisdom on an important subject. Many thanks to him for sharing his work with us...Enjoy!!!

## **Emancipation Proclamation**

### **Path to freedom and equality for Blacks or Stupendous Fraud?**

President Lincoln is esteemed and in many cases worshiped by both liberals and conservatives alike. Lincoln's New Year's Day of 1863 "Emancipation Proclamation" has been hailed as one of the most heroic and compassionate acts ever. It is one of the most cited epic accomplishments of President Lincoln. It is one of the reasons that President Lincoln is on Mt Rushmore, and is seated within his own "Temple" at our nation's Capitol. Is this acclaim, esteem and worship accorded to President Lincoln and his Emancipation Proclamation based on its intent, actual accomplishments, or blind devotion to an ideology? Let us dig beneath the leaves of adulation that have piled up over the years since 1865.

Firstly, without much argument from the Lincolnites, the Proclamation on its face was a sham. Within the Proclamation, Lincoln offers freedom to slaves that are not under his control, but does not offer the same freedom to slaves that are under his control. As the London Spectator opined in 1863, "Lincoln's Proclamation says Slavery is just fine, as long as you are loyal to the Union". Lincoln himself on many occasions admitted that the whole purpose was a war measure designed to weaken the Confederacy and to keep Britain and France from acknowledging the CSA as an independent nation with no intent on the betterment of the slave's plight. Here is a quote from his Cabinet Secretary Seward reflecting the irony of the Proclamation.

*"We show our sympathy with Slavery by emancipating Slaves where we cannot reach them and holding them in bondage wherever we can set them free." One of Lincoln's aides William Stoddard had this to say about it, "How many editors and how many other penmen within these past few days rose in anger to remind Lincoln that this is a war to save the Union only, and they never gave him any authority to run it as an Abolition war. They never, never told him that he might set the Negroes free, and, now that he has done so, or futilely pretended to do so, he is a more unconstitutional tyrant and a more odious dictator than ever he was before".*

What were Lincoln's own thoughts on emancipation and what to do about Slavery? Lincoln clearly did not approve of the institution of Slavery morally, but what to do about it is what he wrestled with. He was aware of how Britain and other nations eliminated slavery via gradual emancipation, and incorporation of wage slaves who could be hired and fired at will, with no regard for their well being. As they got sick or infirmed they could be tossed on the street and replaced by fresh immigrants willing to work for far less than the cost of caring for a slave. The slave owners were compensated for their slaves and eventually all slavery was eliminated without much ado. There was also some preparation for the assimilation of the freed slaves into society at large so as to allow for a smooth transition.

However, Lincoln had some issues with the Negro race in general, and that complicated any solution to eliminating slavery. For example here is one quote of Lincoln, while he debated Stephen Douglas.

*“I am not, nor ever been in favor of bringing about the social and political equality of the White and Black races; that I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters of the free Negroes, or jurors, or qualifying them to hold office, or having them marry with White people. I will say in addition that there is a physical difference between the White and Black races which, I suppose will forever forbid the two races from living together upon the terms of social and political equality; and inasmuch as they cannot so live, that while they do remain together, there must be the position of the superiors, and of the inferiors; and I as much as any other man, am in favor of the superior position being assigned to the White man”.*

It is very clear that Lincoln believes that the Black race is inferior and cannot live as the equals of the White race. This basic belief then creates the conflict with how Lincoln reasons with himself with this quote.

*”If all earthly power were given me, I should not know what to do, as to the existing institution. My first impulse would be to free all the slaves, and send them to Liberia, -- to their own native land. But a moment's reflection would convince me, that whatever of high hope, (as I think there is) there may be in this, in the long run, its sudden execution is impossible. If they were all landed there in a day, they would all perish in the next ten days; and there are not surplus shipping and surplus money enough in the world to carry them there in many times ten days. What then? Free them all, and keep them among us as underlings? Is it quite certain that this betters their condition? I think I would not hold one in slavery, at any rate; yet the point is not clear enough for me to denounce people upon. What next? Free them, and make them politically and socially, our equals? My own feelings will not admit of this; and if mine would, we well know that those of the great mass of white people will not.”*

So here we are given a glimpse of the contortions and pretzel logic Lincoln was saddled with.

Since Lincoln believed the Negroes to be inferiors he could not allow them to be equal with Whites upon emancipation, so that option is closed, he also realized that by freeing them without any preparation or compensation that they would most probably be worse off than as slaves, he also toyed with the idea of freeing them and then deporting them out from America, to rid us once and for all of the “Negro Problem”. This deportation scheme was one Lincoln would gravitate toward to more and more as time went on, and it was a plank of a major abolitionist group as well. Bottom line, free the slaves so we can deport them.

Let us move over to the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment that supposedly was Lincoln’s vision that finally passed and freed the slaves. The first version of the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment was also known as the Corwin Amendment. This amendment was created to offer inducement to the recently seceded 7 States to return to the Union. This amendment was primarily an irrevocable guarantee of slavery (where it existed). The Republican controlled congress passed the bill overwhelmingly, Lincoln referred to it in his First Inaugural address, and several Northern States, including Illinois ratified it. Lincoln hoped to use the irrevocable guarantee of slavery to get the wayward States to return to the Union. So much for the “War on Slavery” here... The next version was the pre Emancipation Proclamation version, where he offered the Slave States till 1900 to begin to dismantle the Slaveocracy, (gradual emancipation which most Southern

Abolitionists agreed with) also to raise funds to compensate slave owners for their property, and to raise funds for the costs of deportation of the newly freed slaves.

Congress at once knew that the cost of this idea was prohibitive and tabled Lincoln's proposal. In retrospect had congress acted on this idea of Lincoln's not only would we have avoided the devastation and even greater cost of the War Between the States, but race relations would not have suffered they did. The final version of the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment was a confirmation of the Emancipation Proclamation as it finally was drafted, which did not allow for any preparation for the 4 million newly freed slaves, and thus created a second class citizenship state for those 4 million negroes.

The Northern States all had laws designed to keep the Negroes from residing, working, or even traveling in their States, and the Destruction wrought by the corruption of the Reconstruction regimes devastated race relations in the South. The result of the Emancipation Proclamation and the final 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was exactly what Lincoln previously knew would happen when he said that he did not think that freeing them only to make them second class citizens would improve things.

With Reconstruction, the Freedman's Bureau was given absolute power to handle the Negro Problem. It's agents could arrest any freed slave, and transport him to areas anywhere else for compulsory labor, it had it's own military style courts of for freedmen, superseding civil courts in every city and county in eleven Southern States. Reverend and Author Robert Dabney pointed out its obligation "to do good to your charge upon a great scale" and with as much zeal as it had showed "waging a gigantic war for four years". Dabney pointed out that as flawed and immoral as the slavery system might have been, if the South with all its disadvantages, was able to provide health care, housing, stable environments, provide food, reduce infant mortality, care for the elderly, teach literacy, trades and skills, introduce Christianity, etc, then the Freedmen's Bureau as an agent of the Federal Government was bound to improve the plight of the Negro in return for the devastation, and cost of blood and treasure.

The sad truth was that the Freeman's Bureau was a colossal failure, and could not even clothe or feed the millions under their charge. Thousands of newly freed slaves just starved to death. Most the rest barely survived as a despised underclass both in the North and the South. The result of the Emancipation Proclamation was devastation on the Black race that lives on until this day. Once just has to look at what the condition of the Black Race is today 6with the welfare dependency, high levels of incarceration, unemployment, crime, despondency, despair, broken families, etc. All these terrible tragedies were the result of recklessly freeing millions of unprepared people after waging a total war on their homeland. Lincoln foresaw this result and did it anyway, as a short term war measure. Frederick Douglas on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Proclamation stated:

*"I admit that the Negro... has made little progress from barbarism to civilization, and that he is in deplorable condition since his emancipation. That he is worse off, in many respects ,than when he was a slave, I am compelled to admit it, but I contend that the fault is not his, but that of his heartless accusers... Though he is nominally free, he is actually a slave. I here and now denounce the Emancipation Proclamation as a stupendous fraud, a fraud upon him, and a fraud upon the world."*

Then on the centennial anniversary of the Proclamation, Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963 standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial had this to say:

*“Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation, This momentous decree came as a great beacon of light of hope to millions of Negro slave who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity. But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free.”*

So here again the tragedy of Lincoln’s desperate move to save the Union without regard to the cost not only to those who only wished to do as the Declaration of Independence declared, to alter or abolish the government as they saw fit, as well as without any regard to the welfare and well being of four million slaves. Saving the Union, even at the point of a bayonet, (what part of our voluntary union did he miss?) was the paramount issue, as we can see with this famous quote to Horace Greeley:

*“I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored; the nearer the Union will be "the Union as it was." If there be those who would not save the Union, unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union.”*

Other than his “final solution” of mass deportation of all Negroes, Lincoln did not propose any other rational solutions. As he struggled with the earlier quote, “*if he had all the power in the world,*” he did not know how to deal with the slavery issue.

In conclusion, with all that has transpired from New Years Day in 1863 to the present, each one of you can answer the question about the Emancipation Proclamation, was it a path to freedom and equality for blacks, or was it as Frederick Douglas said, a stupendous fraud? Maybe a little of both, the answer is for each and every one of you to decide.

Your Obedient Servant  
John Smoley  
Lt. Commander California Division SCV

~~~ *End* ~~~