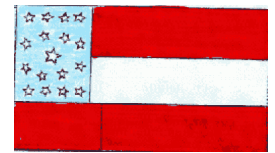




The Vidette

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

Sons of Confederate Veterans



Issue Number 1. Published by Division Adjutant Vern Padgett, 20 August 2002 vp09@earthlink.net

California Democratic Party Platform Equates Confederate Flags with Swastikas, Cross Burning

From the California Democratic Party Platform:
"We are proud of our Platform, which was adopted by the full body of the California Democratic Party at the annual state convention on February 13, 2000 at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center."

"California Democrats commit to the following:
Minority Groups. Ensure that minority groups ... have the right to the full and aggressive protection of the law in voting, education, employment, housing, access to government services ... **Symbols that promote hate and are demeaning towards any minority group (i.e. swastikas, Confederate flags, burning crosses) have no place in our society.**"

This is the official position of the largest U.S. political party in the largest state in the United States. View at <http://www.ca-dem.org/platform.html> and <http://www.ca-dem.org/Platform.pdf>

Division Commander Barron Smith has reported this flagrant heritage violation to Roger McCredie, Chief Heritage Officer of SCV National HQ.

Within a day Mr. McCredie had shared the violation with the other members of the SCV HQ Heritage Defense Committee and with Ron Wilson, our new Commander in Chief.

There will be an appropriate response.

Seven California SCV Camps Present at Fort Tejon Meeting of John Bell Hood Camp

18 August 2002-- Members from 7 camps visited the SCV Recruitment Booth at Fort Tejon today.

John Bell Hood Camp 1208 meets there each August for a regular business meeting, and today had its meeting there, along with a day of recruiting and



Compatriot Chilton at SCV Recruiting Tent. Note Display Case provided by Camp 1208 Heritage Officer Farrell Cooley.

showing the colors. What distinguished this meeting was the number of camps present.

Camp 1208 was joined by Ed Simms of Sacramento Camp 1627; Barron Smith, Division Commander and member of Camp 1631 Santa Barbara; Commander Ken Koch and Lt Cmdr Mike Chilton, Camp 2062 Ventura County; Commander Steven Madden and Floyd Farrar, Camp 1742 Inland Empire; Commander Paul Williams, Cameron E. Thom (Provisional) Camp Long Beach, and John Quesenbery, Camp 1770 Orange County. All visited our Recruiting Tent or attended the meeting.

The "Biderman" Flag of California

Major J. P. Gillis proudly displayed the 17-star First National Flag in San Francisco on 4 July 1861. J.W. Biderman tore the flag from him and took it. Perhaps this flag should be better known as the "Gillis Flag."

-- Laurence Talbott, *California in the War for Southern Independence*, xi-xii, Past Member Camp 1631, Santa Barbara.



Camp 1208 Honor Guard Captain Ellingson Directs Confederate Fire

Return Stars and Bars to Los Angeles Flag Display

By Larry Fafarman, Camp 1208

A flag display officially called the "Court of Historical American Flags" and informally known as the "Walk of Flags" was built c. 1970 in the heart of the Los Angeles Civic Center. It consists of 18 flags,

each important in American history. One of the 18 flags was the Confederate Stars and Bars-- the 1st National.

Recently, the Stars and Bars was mistakenly replaced by the Naval Jack (battle flag). Someone complained, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to replace this flag with the black POW/MIA flag.

After the error was pointed out, the 10-member Board-appointed Los Angeles County Veterans Advisory Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the Board that the correct Confederate flag, the Stars and Bars, be returned. This commission is involved because the Walk of Flags was erected by funds raised by veterans' groups.

The Board of Supervisors then violated the state's open-meetings laws by refusing to hold a rehearing and revote on the flag. Because of the County's error of flying the wrong flag, the Board is obligated to hold a rehearing and revote, regardless of the recommendation from the Veterans Advisory Commission.

What You Can Do

Write and e-mail letters of protest. Keep your letter short, and be polite. State that the Confederate Stars and Bars is a historic flag, and should be flown with the others. Tell them that the omission of one flag destroys the validity of the entire display. Send your letter to:

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
213.974.1424

Los Angeles County Veterans Advisory
Commission, Patriotic Hall
1816 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California 90015
213.744.4827

If the individual County Supervisor or veterans commissioner is not named and the letter is addressed to the entire Board, or the entire Commission, copies will be distributed to all Supervisors or Commissioners.

Also, e-mail signatures are needed at <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/3flag/>

There is no single e-mail address for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Addresses for individual Supervisors are:

Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke
Seconddistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Gloria Molina molina@bos.co.la.ca.us

Don Knabe don@bos.co.la.ca.us
Michael D. Antonovich fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Zev Yaroslavsky 213.974.3333 Fax: 213.625.7360
(No known public e-mail address)

The *Los Angeles Daily News* ran an article in March of 2000. Comments may be sent to --

Daily News Public Forum
Post Office Box 4200
Woodland Hills, California 91365-4200
E-mail: dnforum@dailynews.com
Fax: 818.713.3723

Comments to the Los Angeles Times may be sent to

Letters to the Editor
Los Angeles Times
202 West 1st Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
E-mail: letters@latimes.com
Fax: 213.237.7679

“Cold Mountain” Actors cast eyes on role in Civil War film

By Teresa Annas, *The Virginian-Pilot*

© August 15, 2002

LIGHTFOOT -- Just before noon on Wednesday, Thomas Baker stepped out of his white van, straightened his gray Confederate cap and checked his stash of photos. Confederate flags were on his van, his cap and his vest pins. He wore his hair in a waist-length brown braid. His beard reached the fourth button on his cotton shirt.

Baker isn't a Civil War re-enactor, but he hoped to become one. Accompanied by his wife, Kelly, the Newport News painting contractor was about to line up for a chance to appear in a feature film set in that era.

“Cold Mountain” will be based on Charles Frazier's best-selling novel, with Jude Law and Nicole Kidman in starring roles. Auditions for “extras” took place Wednesday and continue today from noon to 6 p.m. at the Williamsburg Outlet Mall. The 200 or so

people chosen will appear in the background of scenes that will be shot in Colonial Williamsburg, possibly in early September.



Southern Boys of the 1st North Carolina Cavalry defend their homes and families against Yankee aggression.

“I had all kinds of people in the Confederacy on both my mom's and my dad's side,” said Baker, 40, who has sincere blue eyes and a proud posture.

“Some made it home. Some were P.O.W.'s.” He's a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and a loyalist who hangs his flag in hotel rooms.

He's also got acting experience. For three years, he ran a drama ministry in his North Carolina church. Every Easter, he portrayed Jesus. In the mall, the Bakers found the end of the line, in front of the Bass Shoe Outlet. As many as 500 people had arrived ahead of him, and were snaked around by Dress Barn Woman and on to Farberware, past the Levi's Outlet and into an empty shop.

Baker scanned the competition. He saw mostly conservatively dressed people with a contemporary look. He noted only a few in period garb. The pay won't be fantastic. Probably not much more than minimum wage. “It's just an extra,” he mused.

“But just an extra is a great deal, when you're able to look back to those times and represent your people.” That meant more to him than brushing elbows with Law or Kidman or Donald Sutherland, or any of the other stars.

During the long, slow stroll, Baker imagined how he would get in character, should he land a job on the film. “I will think that I am in that time period. I will take all of that knowledge I've got, and give it the anger feeling: “that we have lawfully seceded from the union, and then were unlawfully invaded.”

Excited as he was, he wouldn't take just any role. “I'll not portray a Yankee,” he said. “And I'll not

portray my people in a wrong fashion." He hates it when Southerners are seen as racist or ignorant. He watched his wife flip through a book of sewing patterns for costumes, some of hooped skirts suggesting the Civil War era.

Baker noticed a man near him wearing an old Southern hat called a Frank, named for the man who once wore it. Don Harrelson of Virginia Beach, a roofing contractor, had someone copy it from a hat he saw in a North Carolina museum. Harrelson held up his credits for Baker to marvel at. His latest was acting in a History Channel film on the Battle of Fredericksburg that's airing this month.

Vanessa McCall of Virginia Beach stood next to Harrelson, listening. She was holding a place in line for her 23-year-old daughter and her daughter's friend. The two are taking acting classes, she said. McCall said she was planning to audition, too. As a black woman and descendant of slaves, she felt she could learn much from being in a 1860s setting. "I would probably feel what was felt at that time," she said. After an hour and 45 minutes, Baker finally made his way into the empty store. Five officials stood behind a table, collecting snapshots and information. "It's been like Busch Gardens," he told his wife, "without the fun ride at the end."

Baker was next. Craig Fincannon, head of the Wilmington, N.C., casting agency, took one look at him and sent him to the head-casting agent for extras. "See Jason, at far left." "I'm an actual Confederate descendant," Baker said -- "we've got a brigadier general in my family who wore his beard the same way. It's like looking in a mirror."

"Wonderful," said Jason Heslep, scrutinizing Baker's photos. The agent picked out one of Baker with his hair down, and shirtless, from his Jesus days. "What is your availability?" Heslep said. "My availability to portray my people is 100 percent," Baker replied.

The agent said he'd be calling Baker within a few weeks, and he would be asked to come get fitted for a costume. Then he'd be expected to show up with two days' notice. "Awesome," Baker said. "Thank you so much! And y'all don't have to have grits on the set. "We'll bring our own."

Reach Teresa Annas at tannas@pilotonline.com
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www.pilotonline.com/news/nw0815col.html

[Note. Jude Law, set to star in Cold Mountain, starred as the Russian sniper Vassili Zaitsev in Enemy at the Gates (2001).—Ed.]

Heritage Alert: The New Orleans Museum

As you know the Confederate Museum in New Orleans is in danger of being evicted. It is now going to be taken on appeal to the court to see if the museum can hold onto its property by proving that the property belongs to the museum. Donations can be sent to help in this cause:

Memorial Hall
929 Camp Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Contacts: Becky Noone, Beckynoone1@aol.com and John Grout GROUTHOUSE@aol.com

Make check to Memorial Hall, Inc. This will ensure it is tax deductible.



Fashionable ladies Barbara Bannister and Sandra Ashdown-Turner enjoy the sun at Fort Tejon.