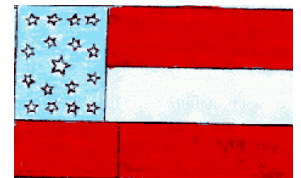




# The Vidette

## CALIFORNIA DIVISION

### Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag



29 March 2003

Issue 15

Published by Division Adjutant Vernon R. Padgett

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## DIVISION ELECTIONS

# Convention Excitement Builds

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**Compatriots:** We have contested elections for division offices-- both for Commander of the SCV California Division, and for Lieutenant Commander. At this time we have statements from two of the candidates for commander, and one of the candidates for lieutenant commander. -- **Editor.**  
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## Division Convention Activities Take Shape

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**By Chuck Norred, Convention Organizer**

The SCV California Division Convention will be held in Fresno on June 6, 7, and 8.

**The host Hotel** is the Piccadilly Inn Hotel on Shaw Avenue. The rooms are very nice, and we feel, very affordable. They have reduced their prices to \$89 a room for those attending the SCV Convention.

**Friday evening** we begin Convention registration. I will hold a short meeting with Camp 1804 from 7:00 to 7:30 pm.

Afterwards, the Fresno Camp will host a small social in our Suite. Stephen Holcomb has promised to bring his famous Mint Julep Juice. We have our own Eric Tidd who produces Raspberry Cordial.

**Saturday morning** after breakfast we begin our business meeting at 9:00. Lunch follows at 12 where Bob Bennett and his dad will display and speak on weapons used during the War Between the States-- beginning with 1855 weapons. They have one of the largest collections in the Valley.

A medical display will show what transpired from that period to now.



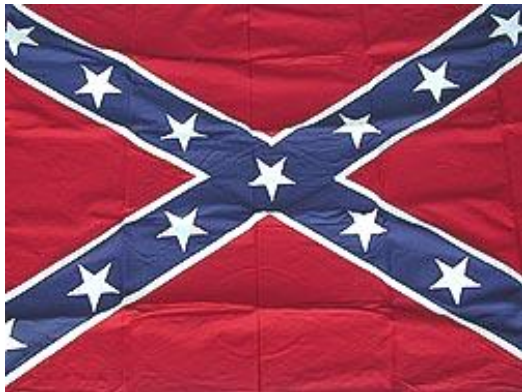
**Morgan Padgett at Downey Cemetery, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2003, during memorial service to George Butler, 3d Arkansas Infantry. Photo by Floyd Farrar.**

Connie Moretti, a descendent of General Tyree Harris Bell, will speak. Following her presentation, we will have a memorial at his gravesite. Adjutant meeting is scheduled then also.

**Social Hour begins at 6** at the Banquet Hall. We have a silent auction table with a number of

interesting items-- My favorite is an 1889 (Kurz & Allison) print of the "Battle Of Lookout Mountain." We will also be raffling off a large First National flag, and, we have many door prizes.

**Our speaker's focus** is on education. Kermit Albritton has a great story to tell. Neal Johnson, professor of history, will follow Kermit. After dinner, we hope to have a period dance, compliments of the Cynthia Merrill Dance Studio. Believe me, they are very patient, and will give lessons before the dance. I know, as I have two left feet.



**Sunday morning** will be a short church service, hosted by our chaplain, Tim Desmond. Ernie Powell will be a focal point on music assisted by our high school band teacher. Tim will also provide two before-battle prayers.

**Old Town Clovis** is only a few miles down the road. Their famous antique shopping center is great. During our business meeting, I believe the ladies have a tea party planned, a visit to the Meux home, and a few other little things.

I am happy that you are coming and look forward to meeting you. I think this is going to be a great convention.

Your Humble Servant  
Chuck Norred, Commander, Camp 1804

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**Commander Barron T. Smith,  
California Division  
Candidate for Division Commander**  
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Comrades!

It looks like, for the first time in our Division's history we have a contested election for our leadership positions of Commander and 1st Lt Commander. I plan to run for reelection as Division Commander and hope that this will be a cleanly run campaign.

I hope that my opponent(s) understand they are responsible to attend many more S.C.V and related functions around the state and the National Convention, than they have shown an ability to do and to make their presence known to those around him in the future as they have not done in the past. The past year I have attended many functions throughout the state and country including last years National Convention in Memphis TN, California Division Convention in Los Alamos, NCWA Kearney Park reenactment in Fresno, Huntington Beach Civil War Reenactment, Hollywood Cemetery Confederate Memorial Service, Fort Tejon Invitational and UDC Awards Ceremony as well as UDC Robert E. Lee/Stonewall Jackson Birthday event at Fairfield-Suisun.

I believe that the responsibilities of Division Commander are to show High Profile visibility around the state and coordinate with other like minded organizations such as the UDC, HPA, and various Civil War Reenactment organizations and even including the Sons of Union Veterans with whom we had recruitment activities in Fresno and Huntington Beach as well as my attendance at their Department Convention in San Luis Obispo. I do not feel the Division Commanders job is to stick out his neck for target practice as some of our members might like to do with pursuing possibly risky activities such as the Flag situation in Los Angeles until we have decided that is a winnable situation when we then will go into the offensive vigorously!

I believe in delegating many other duties such as Heritage Violation monitoring and response, recruiting and training to other highly qualified and motivated individuals within our organization who are to communicate their findings and concerns to me as necessary for smooth operation and coordination in order to try to avoid burn out of any individuals who might take upon themselves too much responsibility which has happened all too often in the past. I understand that this is a VOLUNTEER organization and that I do not ORDER anyone to perform their duties as some may wish to do!

During my short tenure as Division Commander we have expanded by at least two more camps as well as several more forming and strengthening faltering camps due to my appointing a great dedicated Division Adjutant. I hope to continue to delegate to other fine men within our organization to perform other duties in a like manner.

My personal qualifications include service as Camp 1st Lt Commander for J.B.Hood Camp of Los

Angeles, co-founder and Commander of Deaderick-Doremus-Thurmond Camp of Santa Barbara as well as 1st Lt Commander and Commander of California Division. I have also been a Confederate Infantry reenactor for over 20 years and have performed in the ranks from Private to Colonel and have the uniforms and equipment for each duty. I am still active with the Fort Tejon Historical Association as a private with the First Texas Infantry.

My personal goal has been for many years to honor our Confederate Veterans and try to have at least one marked Confederate grave in every cemetery in the state that contains them. I have been involved in researching and/or marking throughout the state at least 50 Confederate Graves and plan to continue to do so infinitum!

I plan to stay active for the long run and to keep our Division running and growing smoothly as I have recently become a life member of S.C.V.

I hope to continue as your Division Commander and wish to ask for your vote in the coming election.

Deo Vindice!

Barron T. Smith

Commander California Division S.C.V.

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## Commander Chuck Norred, Camp 1804 General Tyree Harris Bell Candidate for Division Commander

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I write you this letter of my intent to run for the position of Division Commander.

I feel Division activity as a whole is less than what it should be. I hope that I might have your blessings and support in getting the message out.

There are many issues that concern me. I am amazed that so many people think the word Confederate is a bad word. The attitude and negative reaction of so many people towards one of the most honorable flags, the Confederate Flag. A flag that so many men willingly gave their lives defending.

Being a teacher and a coach I know only one way to battle Confederate incompetence. We must create an offense and control the ball. Teach it, teach it, teach it until the walls of divisive groups begin to crumble then teach it some more.

The "Sons of Confederate Veterans" is an outstanding organization and I am most proud to be part of it. We should never be afraid to tell ANYONE that we are of Southern and Confederate Heritage.

This Division is loaded with such intelligent and talented people. As Commander of this Division a priority would be to harness all that intelligence and all that talent throughout California as a whole. It should be the job of Division leaders to guide this state in the right direction always on the offensive.

Members should be awarded who are not afraid to step up and participate. The California Division should be a POWERHOUSE within the "Western Theater."

I am told that I should come up with a Campaign statement. Well if that is so this would be it:

"Let us rise, say what we mean, shine over the West, and be proud of who we are."

Cordially,

Chuck Norred, Commander, Camp 1804

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## Commander Farrell Cooley, Camp 1208 General John Bell Hood, Candidate for Lieutenant Commander:

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Compatriots:

It is my feeling that we need change in the California Division Leadership. No matter who you are or what you do, there is always room for improvement.

We need to be more proactive. We need aggressive leadership. Communication should be a priority. Recognition should be given. We must use all the skills of our men in order to fully achieve our potential.

The Division and Camp's belong to the membership and when you have that understanding it makes everyone's job much easier to accomplish. I have a lot of experience in the SCV, and I'm willing to work for a better Division. Please vote for me as your next Division 1st Lt. Cmdr.

Yours in the bonds of the South!

Farrell Cooley

Cmdr. Gen. John Bell Hood 1208

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## Letter to the Editor

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Vern, Congratulations on your article on black Confederates (*Vidette*, March 2003, Issue 15). You've really come a long way on this and your citing of source materials is really terrific.

I for one appreciate you for allowing the material to stand on its own for what it is as documentary evidence without editorial conclusion.

I'm very impressed and intrigued by the material you present.

I think you are helping to re-write history in a positive way. Nothing is quite as black and white as it seems, is it?

Regards, John Quimby

## Florida Confederate Pension Application Files

<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/barm/pensionfiles.html>

## SCV Life Membership

Apply for Life Membership by completing application at [www.SCV.org](http://www.SCV.org). Fee is \$300 if you are 59 or younger; \$200 for those aged 60 to 69, and \$100 for those aged 70 and older.

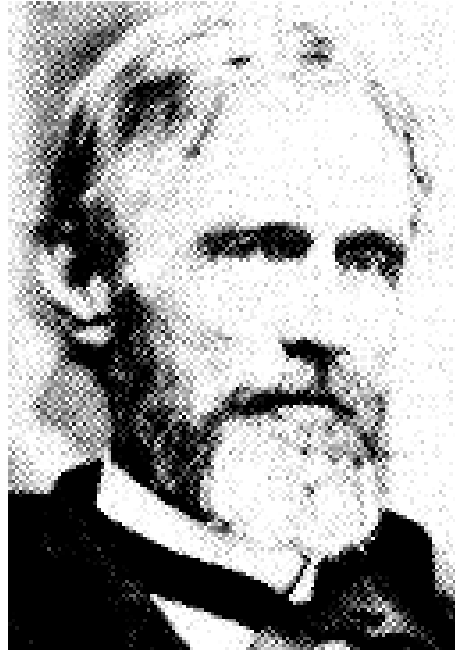
Mail check and form to HQ. Life Members are assigned to Camp 2 and are also listed on local Camp rosters with "LM" instead of an expiration date.

## California Division Staff

**Commander** Barron Smith [rebbaron55@cs.com](mailto:rebbaron55@cs.com)  
**Lt Cmdr** Jeffrey Towery 661.288.2156. No e-mail  
**Adjutant** Vern Padgett, 16302 Shady Valley Lane, Whittier 90603-2635 562.947.1554  
[vp09@earthlink.net](mailto:vp09@earthlink.net)  
**Webmaster** Gary Waltrip [Secesh@rebelgray.com](mailto:Secesh@rebelgray.com)  
**Historian** Dr. Ro King [RebelRo@qnet.com](mailto:RebelRo@qnet.com)



## WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



**"The contest is not over, the strife is not ended. It has only entered upon a new and enlarged arena."** President Jefferson Davis, address to the Mississippi legislature - 16 years after the wars ended.

## California SCV Web Site

Check [www.scvcalifornia.net](http://www.scvcalifornia.net) for the California SCV website. Gary Waltrip, Commander Camp 1440, The Stainless Banner, San Jose, continues to expand and add to the web site. See Gary's own site at [www.RebelGray.com](http://www.RebelGray.com).

Since the last issue of the *Vidette*, Webmaster Waltrip has posted new Home Pages for Camp 2007 Long Beach and the Tehachapi/Bakersfield Camp, in formation.

Commander Waltrip has also put past newsletters of the Inland Empire Camp 1742 up for viewing, and past newsletters of Camp 1208 Los Angeles as well. Take a look at our fine work!



*SCV State Convention 2003  
June 6, 7, & 8  
Fresno, California*

*The Piccadilly Inn has discounted our rooms to \$89.00 from their regular rate of \$95.00 to \$125.00. Ask for the Sons of Confederate Veterans rooms to receive the discount. Rooms are filling quickly.*

*We will have a sale table, an auction, and a raffle, plus more! At Auction: An original 1889 "Kurz & Allison" print depicting "The Battle of Lookout Mountain". Donated by Sheriff Ed Bates (Ret), Madera County, elected for 3 terms! Also, An authentic CSA ammo pouch, & CSA wallet! Thank you Sheriff Bates! What devotion!*

*The raffle item is an exquisite handcrafted "First National" flag, made by one of our very special ladies!! Thank you Mrs. Richard Wagner!*

*The Saturday evening dance will be period music conducted by the owners of "Cynthia Merrill Dance Studio." Last year they taught us to dance properly. We hope they will help us out again!*

*Saturday evening attire will be "Dress." Ladies are encouraged to wear their Ball Gowns, but this is not a requirement. Gentlemen: CSA Dress uniform or equivalent.*

*Our business meeting will be conducted in the Executive Board Room. It is private and separate from the banquet facility.*

*Y'all Come!!!  
Chuck Norred, Cmdr Camp 1804*

*Piccadilly Inn Hotel  
2305 West Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93711  
Phone: 559.226.3850*

*e-mail: [www.piccadilly-inn.com](http://www.piccadilly-inn.com)*

*\*\* Remember to request a SCV Room \*\**

**Sons Of Confederate Veterans & Military Order  
of Stars & Bars**  
**2003 California Division Convention Registration Form**  
**June 6, 7, 8 Piccadilly Inn Hotel, Fresno, California**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ SCV Camp \_\_\_\_\_

MOS&B Member? \_\_\_\_\_

Convention fee is \$80.00 per SCV member attendees, and \$45 per spouse or guest

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$80 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$45 = \$\_\_\_\_\_      **Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please circle your Dinner choice:

#1 10 ounce New York Steak, served with mushroom & bordelaise sauce. Salad, vegetables, house potatoes or rice pilaf, rolls & butter. Ice cream or sherbet. Coffee or tea. Wine at each table, compliments of Camp 1804.

OR:

#2 Classic Breast of Chicken Cordon Bleu: Breast of chicken stuffed with thinly sliced ham & Swiss cheese. Egg dipped & breaded in special crumbs and seasonings, deep-fried, topped with mushroom Chablis mornay sauce. Salad, vegetables, house potatoes or rice pilaf, rolls & butter. Ice cream or sherbet. Coffee or tea. Wine at each table compliments of Camp 1804.

\*\*\* Vegetarian Meals will be prepared upon request.

**\*\*Checks must be received NO LATER than May 2, 2003**

**Payable to: Camp 1804, Tyree H. Bell \*\***

**Mail to: 16526 Karen Road, Madera, CA 93638**

It is the *UTMOST* sincere desire of Camp 1804 that you attend this convention. We all need to Come Together as proud Sons and Daughters of our Confederate Forefathers. "United We Stand, Divided We Fall". There are more than a few "politically correct" organizations desiring to take away our heritage! If personal circumstances deem the Convention "Cost Prohibitive," **Please** contact Chuck at [CHUCKNORRED@prodigy.net](mailto:CHUCKNORRED@prodigy.net). Your smiling face is very important to us! We will try to work something out in the strictest of confidence. We have room for a few campers/RV's no hook-ups IF you can ignore the neighbor's chickens!

Your Humble Servant,  
Chuck Norred, Commander, Camp 1804