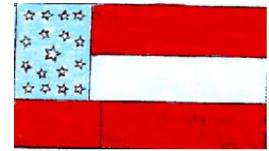




The Vidette

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag



27 June 2003

Issue 20

Published by Division Adjutant Vernon R. Padgett

vp09@earthlink.net

NEW DIVISION OFFICERS TAKE CHARGE

State Convention Held in Fresno

by Paul Williams, Commander Camp 2007, Long Beach

Our State Convention was held this past weekend of June 6th, 7th and 8th, in Fresno. State elections were held and a new constitution was voted in. A special Congratulation goes to Chuck Norred not only for hosting the event, but also on his election as the new Division Commander.

Another special congratulations to our new Division 1st Lt. Commander Farrell Cooley. Special recognition goes to our past Division Commander Barron Smith. He has done a knock-up job as Commander.



Steve Madden dancing with Vickie O'Brien. Photo by Carl Dotts.



Paul Williams, Commander Camp 2007 Long Beach, and Real Son Woody Plaughter, Chaplain, Camp 1631 Santa Barbara.

Several awards were given out at the dinner.
(Conventions news continued next page.)

Commander's Message

Dear Compatriots,

First I want to thank all of you who attended the Convention for helping to make it a success. It was a success because I had the opportunity to meet so many good people. I can tell that we all want to head in a very positive direction and we have been taking those steps in that direction.

We have collected funds for our only "Real Daughter," funds for our only "Real Son," and funds for the Jefferson Davis Memorial. I am trying to develop a calendar so that in August, Rhobie-Reed-Curtis and I can sit down and compare dates and events. Thank you for what you have been

submitting. Keep it coming please. I am very impressed with the great work some of you do.

Second, I want you all to know that I will strive to do the best job that I can do. I believe that we have an outstanding group of officers. It makes a very motivating situation when we are surrounded by a great Division of men like we have here in California.

I work for you. If there ever is anything I can do to help you, please let me know.

Chuck Norred



Commander Farrell Cooley, Camp 1208 Los Angeles, addresses the convention in Fresno. Photo by Paul Williams

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**(Convention News continued from page 1)**

Congratulations are due to our own Camp Adjutant, Vance Marsh, for his recruiting award.

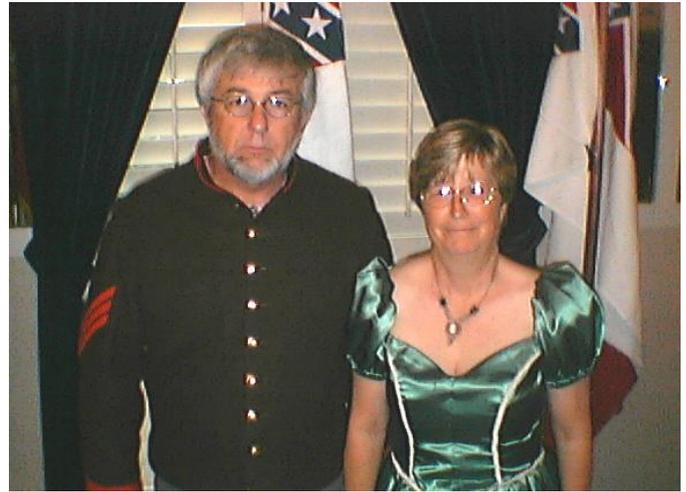
The dinner and ball were stupendous. The chow was excellent, the facilities beautiful and the ball decorum rivaled that of the best plantation ball of the 1800s.

The highest privilege was that of meeting and talking with Real-Son Woody Plaughner. He is the last real son in California.



**Cmdr. Farrell Cooley and convention co-chair Marcia Norred applaud at Convention dinner. Photo by Past Commander Ro King.**

\$274 was collected for Mrs. Alma Grigsby of Oakland. She is the last remaining daughter in California, and finds herself in need. The Division pledged to abide by our founding words to take care of the widows and orphans of the veterans. Each camp will collect each month to assist her.



**Past Camp 1804 Adjutant Richard and Linda Wagner**

Next year's convention will be in Pasadena. I urge each of you to make plans to attend; if not for the entire convention-- at least for the dinner and dance.

I took several photos at the convention and as a fund raiser for Camp 2007 will offer them for \$5.00 donation to SCV Camp 2007. Sample pictures on last page. Contact me at [guapac@prodigy.net](mailto:guapac@prodigy.net).

**(Next issue of the Vidette will feature more on the division convention—Ed.).**



**Carl Dotts & Vickie O'Brien**



Adjutant Vern Padgett accepts award from Commander Chuck Norred. Photo from Ro King.

## Chaplain's Message

Our Great and Mighty, Heavenly Father, look down upon your Southern children who bless and praise Your Holy Name; You are our one and only strength; our only Salvation and our only Hope; we bless Your Name and humbly ask that you hear our prayers; forgive our sins, though they are scarlet and full of evil, we ask and wait upon You for Your mercy and help in this our time of need.

Lord, we ask that you grant wisdom and dear insight to our leaders at this time, in our efforts to establish Your will for our Confederate heritage; we ask that You would grant us victory in the battles we have yet to fight with those who would have us quietly walk away from our birth rights and give up those ideas and cherished observances of some of the greatest Americans who have ever lived, all in the name of political correctness.

Heavenly Father, we pray that you give us strength to endure; mercy to be compassionate to those who have been taught to believe untruths, so that we might teach them the truth and the wisdom for us so that we will know what to do; what to say and to whom we should speak.

Lord we thank You that you hear the prayers of your children, you seek to right the wrongs and we are most grateful. We ask expecting to receive as You have commanded us to do; we praise You and look forward to the deliverance our Your will in our lives.

We ask this in the name of Your precious Son, Jesus; and it is in His name that we pray. Amen.

**From Kermit Albritton, Division Chaplain**

## Alma Grigsby, Real Daughter

From Paul Toland: Latest checks received-----  
 \$25 from Joanne Albritton-----\$100 from Camp 1804  
 General Tyree Harris Bell-- Hurrah Hurrah! Your  
 "Southron" dedication is appreciated! Received the  
 check from Father A J Ryan Camp 302 for \$50 today-  
 - May the Good Lord Bless all!---  
 Deo Vindice! Paul Toland

(Ed.): Commander Farrell Cooley, Camp 1208  
 Los Angeles has donated \$200, and the California  
 Division has donated \$100 towards Alma Grigsby's  
 care.

To donate to Alma Grigsby, make check payable  
 to Paul Toland. Mail to

Paul Toland  
 484 Lake Park Avenue 145  
 Oakland, California 94610

## Jefferson Davis Statue Renewal

Gentlemen, at the camp meeting of the Cameron  
 Erskine Thom Camp 2007 we raised \$30 towards the  
 effort to restore the Jefferson Davis statue in New  
 Orleans.

I do not know if Paul & Vance plan on combining  
 their funds with you efforts, or to send them back to  
 Louisiana directly, but, I am sure that we will continue  
 to pass the hat at each meeting.

We have to keep our fire hot on those people and  
 not give them victory through lack of effort, or by  
 giving up the struggle to support our heritage  
 infrastructure.

Philip Gallanders, Camp 2007, Long Beach

I jotted this --- I can't call it poetry; thoughts might be  
 better (E. B. Bates):

## The Flight of the Doves

**They broke the eerie silence with a sudden burst of  
 flight**

**As if they knew that far off cannon's roar would  
 soon signal**

**the beginning of the fight**

**Did they know that bursting iron shot and lead  
 would soon leave upon the field . .**

**Soldiers of Confederate Gray and Union Blue  
Uniforms  
All stained a bright blood red?**

**One soldier's eyes were gray. He wore a coat of blue  
The other's eyes were blue. He wore a coat of gray  
Both were escorted upwards to heaven by the flight  
of doves  
As the eerie silence descended once more  
On the field that day**

**Both died for God and Country, honoring the flags  
they knew. . .  
Both colored just the same:  
The Red, the White, the Blue**

By Ed Bryant Bates, great-grandson of William Wayne Taulbee, Sergeant, 5th Regiment, Kentucky Mounted Infantry, C.S.A., Captured and executed on April 12, 1863 near his home at Hazeltown, Kentucky.



**Commander Barron Smith and Mrs. Kyle Smith.  
Photo from Ro King**

## **Honoring the South, Stirring Up Old Battles**

Robert E. Lee Statue Rises Near Antietam

*By David Snyder*

Washington Post Staff Writer

Sunday, June 22, 2003; Page C03

SHARPSBURG -- William F. Chaney took a look at the numbers and didn't like what he saw: Ninety-nine of the 104 monuments at the Antietam National Battlefield commemorated Union forces. The Confederacy had just four, and one monument was for

both sides.

So he commissioned a 24-foot-tall statue of Robert E. Lee, at a cost "in the six figures," and last week erected it on private land, within spitting distance of the Antietam National Battlefield.

Union 99, Confederacy 5.

"I thought it was important that the Southern side be more represented," said Chaney, who lives in Lothian, in southern Anne Arundel County, and is a distant relative of the general. "And I couldn't think of anyone better to represent the South than Robert E. Lee."

For some, Chaney's statue, dedicated last night in a ceremony at the base of the monument, is an affront to efforts to preserve the Antietam National Battlefield as it was during the Civil War.

The bronze-and-granite statue, depicting a stern-visaged Lee astride his horse Traveler, is also a powerful evocation of the Confederacy at a time when the Old South's symbols are under fire from those who say they glorify a dark chapter in American history.

Georgia adopted its third state flag in 27 months after a high-profile controversy about using the Confederate Battleflag on the state banner; the Univ. of Mississippi in 1983 officially disassociated itself with the Confederate battle flag; and in 1997, the students passed a resolution discouraging fans from waving the Battleflag at events. In 1999, a depiction of Lee in a mural in Richmond stirred protest among African American leaders.

"When you raise monuments, they are to glorify and to put into a place of prominence," Henry Hailstock, president of the Montgomery County branch of the NAACP, said yesterday. The Confederacy "should be remembered for historical purposes and understanding, but not glorified."

The Save Historic Antietam Foundation, which has worked to preserve the 3,199-acre Antietam National Battlefield, has objected to the statue on the grounds that it is historically inaccurate, showing Lee in a place he might not have been, they say.

Others worry that more monuments and development will turn the relatively remote and untrammled battlefield into a more commercial area, like those in Fredericksburg and Gettysburg.

The National Park Service has not allowed new monuments on parkland since 1991, said park superintendent John Howard. A monument to the Union Army's famed Irish Brigade was erected in 1997, but it had been in the planning stages before the moratorium.

Chaney, 57, bought 100 acres of land adjacent to Antietam National Battlefield in 1999. He sold about 60 acres to the National Park Service, keeping 40 acres with a circa 1790 farmhouse. He turned the house into a museum, which gives roughly equal space and attention to the Confederate and Union sides. Cheney would not say exactly how much he paid for the statue, created by Arkansas sculptor Ron Moore. A portion of the six-figure price tag came from groups including the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which made donations to Southern Heritage at Antietam, a nonprofit group formed by Cheney, he said.



Howard said he viewed the statue as "appropriate," given Lee's presence in the battle.

"I think it is a very well-done monument; the quality of the work is outstanding," Howard said. "There are certain things that can't be denied in history, and one is that Lee was here."

For some in Sharpsburg, population 691, arguments over whether Lee should be depicted on the battlefield are "a little strange," said Sallie Cornell, owner of the American Deli, at Main and Mechanic. Portraits of Lee and George Washington hang on the walls.

"I can understand wanting no new buildup," said Cornell, 42. "But a statue, for goodness sake? We've already got his name everywhere -- it's okay to show his name but not his figure?"

The battle, on Sept. 17, 1862, claimed more than 3,650 lives and remains the bloodiest single day on American soil. Historians view the fight as a draw -- though important to the Union because it stopped Lee's advance.

For Chaney, protests about Confederate iconography are "political correctness that's gone berserk. You have to have balance in history," Chaney said. "You can't tell history accurately if it's

not balanced."

*Staff researcher Bobby Pratt contributed to this report*



**Confederate regular issue postage.**

## Telephone Changes at Headquarters

The 1-800-MY-SOUTH phone number has now been converted to a dedicated recruiting hotline. It will be answered 24 hours a day by a live operator, who will ask for basic information from the caller, such as name, address, where did you hear of the SCV, etc. During business hours it will be by the IHQ staff, but members are requested to discontinue using this number. The preferred number for IHQ contact is 1-800-380-1896. For merchandise orders, call 1-800-MY-DIXIE.

## More Questions to Reenactors

Here are more questions that a few of our less informed spectators have asked us.

"What does it feel like to be hit by the bullets?"

**"Are those horses real?"**

"Did they shoot the drummers first?"

"How much is this wooden lantern, there's no price on it ... Oh! I thought this was a yard sale."

"Is that real water in your canteen?"

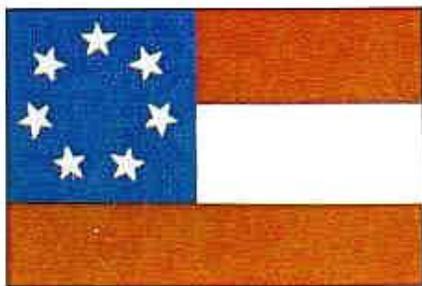
## "How many Port-a-Potties did the Union buy during the Civil War?"

"How come the soldiers didn't sleep in a hotel?" (The cashier at Burger King on the way home) "So did you see General Washington today?"

From Mike F.: While working at Fort Snelling here in Minnesota, I, along with the other musicians, had to paint or whitewash the walls of the officers' quarters. While doing this, a lady came up, put her hands into the bucket of paint, and was shocked as she pulled her hands out and said, "Ah, that's real paint."

My favorites from last issue (Ed.): "Why aren't there any bullet holes in the monuments?" and "Did the Americans win the war?"

[www.geocities.com/cwfifedrum/duh.html](http://www.geocities.com/cwfifedrum/duh.html)



## Word from Camp 1994

Hello Gentlemen. I hope this finds all of you doing well. I wanted to let you know that The Unknown Soldier Camp 1994 website has been updated. Please feel free to contact me with any comments or changes you would like to see at the site. Until I have the pleasure to seeing you all again, take care.

Marc Seawell, Commander Camp 1994

[www.unknownsoldier.org](http://www.unknownsoldier.org)

## 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.

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## WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



"When time shall have softened passion and prejudice, when reason shall have stripped the mask from representation, then justice, holding evenly her scales, will require much of the past censure and praise to change places."

--President Jefferson Davis



## 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)