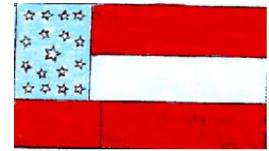




# The Vidette

## CALIFORNIA DIVISION

### Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag



8 July 2003 Issue 21 Published by Division Adjutant Vernon R. Padgett [vp09@earthlink.net](mailto:vp09@earthlink.net)

## MORE CONVENTION NEWS

# California Division Adopts New Constitution

On Saturday June 7, 2003 we met for our annual division business meeting, in the Director's Room at the Piccadilly Inn in Fresno, California.



Real Son Woody Plaughter and Commander Joe Alarid from Camp 1631 Santa Barbara, left and right, at Convention business meeting. Back: Vern Padgett and Ro King, Camp 1208 Los Angeles, try to find Section B, Paragraph 3, of Amendment 4, during constitution revision. Photo by Paul Williams.

There were 32 Members in attendance.

They were: Ira Lack; Ernie Powell; Steve Smith; John Lewis; Mike Schooling; Jim Cline; Bryan Cline; Barron Smith; Vern Padgett; Real Son Woody Plaughter; Joe Alarid; Mike Presswood; Ro King; John Hasha; Farrell Cooley; Chuck Norred; Greg Farley; Richard Wagner; Tim Desmond; Mike Montague; Paul Toland; Lou Olker; Kermit Albritton; Ken Koch; Michael Moore; Steve Madden; Paul Williams; Vance Marsh; Ken Ramsey; Clay Cowgill; Eric Tidd, and General Brooke.

At 8:47 a.m., Real Son Woody Plaughter, Camp 1631 Chaplain, led us with the Invocation. Barron Smith, Division Commander lead the U.S. flag pledge and then the Confederate flag salute. Next was the roll call of camps.

Ten of our 11 California SCV Camps were represented. One additional SCV camp was represented by Kenneth Ramsey of Tehachapi. He is a member of Camp 584, HQ.

Ten of our 11 California SCV Camps attended.

## Treasurer's Report by Vern Padgett:

Balance is \$1754. Balance a year ago was \$1764. For the year, we took in \$570 in division dues of \$2 per member (for 285 men). We spent, since our last reunion, \$90 to John Kindred for deficit last



Commander Chuck Norred and Chaplain Kermit Albritton at the convention dinner. Photo from Ro King.

convention (only 4% of overall cost); \$ 35 made to SCBA to Jeff Towery for a radio license; \$ 75 to Gary Waltrip for website 6 months; \$38 to Dr. Chip Pate for 35 copies of his Guide to Confederate Issues in North Carolina, which I handed out to every commander and adjutant in California; and \$345 for postage and recruiting materials. The division checking account is open for inspection to any SCV member in the state.



Camp 1208 member John Hasha is deep in thought as Commander Steven Madden, Camp 1742 Inland Empire, delivers news of his past year's service as commander of that camp. Photo by Paul Williams.

## Adjutant's Report by Vern Padgett

At the last reunion, you asked me to create a **speaker's list** for the division. I did so and forwarded it to all division officers.

You also asked me to make a **listing of all who attended the convention**, and distribute it to the division. I modified it over the months since then, and it has become our division roster. Copies are available for each man here, and for anyone else who wishes to contact me at [vp09@earthlink.net](mailto:vp09@earthlink.net).

## Membership

As of 1 July 2002, we had 267 men in our division, up 8 men for a 3 percent increase from 2001. (Handout: Excel sheet with 2002 Annual Reports consolidated.) We had 32 new members, and 26 who failed to renew. Eight transferred into the division; 9 transferred out.

The largest gain by any one camp was Camp 1742 Inland Empire, which gained 12 men. As of now, based on division dues payments, I estimate that we have 285 members. That is an increase of 6 percent from 2002.

## New Camps this year

**We have 4 New Camps:**

**Ventura County CSS Virginia 2062** formed with men from several area camps, and new members;

**Long Beach Capt Cameron E. Thom 2007**, formed with men from several camps;

**Sparks Nevada Lt. Dixon--CSS Hunley Camp 2016**, founded by Camp 1208 Life Member Lee Cross, and Camp 1208 compatriot Hampton Brady, and by some 30 other men from northern Nevada and surrounding areas, including 4 from Utah;

**Modesto Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton Camp 2023**, founded by men from Cosby Camp, HQ camp 584, and new members;

## New Camps Forming

**Bakersfield/Tehachapi.** Ten men who are now SCV members in Camp 1208 or 584, or have completed their applications for membership, live in Bakersfield, Tehachapi, or surrounding areas. They live closer to those cities than their distance to other SCV camps. Life Member Bill Reed of Tehachapi is organizing these men into our next camp.

**Chico.** Commander Lou Olker is working to establish a new camp for the dozen or so compatriots who live more than an hour's travel time north of Sacramento.

**Monterey.** We have the dedicated leader—Compatriot Rob Bechtel-- we need only a few more men from the cities of Carmel, Monterey, Salinas, Watsonville, Hollister, Soledad, and Santa Cruz to establish a camp. Compatriot Rob Bechtel of Carmel flies our 3<sup>rd</sup> National Confederate Flag over his home on many holidays, and has served as a leader of men in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is recruiting for this new camp.



SCV Compatriots and guests enjoy the Saturday dinner banquet at the SCV Division Convention. From left: Sandra-Ashdown-Turner, OCR State Society President; Vern Padgett; Commander Ro King; Mrs. Marilyn King; Past Division Commander Barron Smith; Mrs. Kyle Smith. Photo from Ro King.

## Order of Confederate Rose

This organization is dedicated to supporting the SCV. There are no ancestry requirements. Membership is open to males and to females, 12 years and older. Membership is \$20 a year. We have two chapters in our state, and Ms. Sandra Ashdown-Turner is now chartering a State Society. Several SCV members have become charter members of California OCR. For more information, and the membership application, see our web site at [www.scvcalifornia.net](http://www.scvcalifornia.net).

## Recruiting

One of my main duties as division adjutant is recruiting. SCV Headquarters sends me every inquiry from any California man who contacts the SCV HQ web site. That is approximately 300 a year. The men leave their name, address, and sometimes e-mail address, and phone number. Jason Goodrich forwards that information to me. I send each man an application, a sample camp newsletter, a list of California Camps with contact men, guide to the NPS Confederate Soldier web site, and other materials. Postage is 83 cents per mailing. This postage cost is where most of your \$2 division dues per man goes.



OCR President and Adjutant Vern Padgett at the Convention dinner. Photo from Commander Ro King

## Division Web Site [www.scvcalifornia.net](http://www.scvcalifornia.net)

Gary Waltrip took over from John Kindred in fall of 2002. Gary redesigned our site and eliminated the advertising. I send the division newsletter to Webmaster Waltrip for posting. The division web site also maintains division news, like the reunion registration forms. Each camp has its own web site on the division site at [www.scvcalifornia.net](http://www.scvcalifornia.net).

## Division Newsletter

I also put out our division newsletter, the *Vidette*. I have sent out 19 issues in the past 12 months. The mailing list includes about 300 people, all over the country. The *Vidette* has only electronic distribution.

## Historian Report by Commander Ro King

In 1994, the California Division was founded at Ventura. Commander King related a few stories and urged us to find Confederate historical incidents in our areas. Regarding Confederates in California: "tell the incidents so that it reinforces the "truth."

## Constitution Adopted

Our division commended Commander John Lewis for his hard work on the new proposed division constitution. We accepted the constitution, pending a number of revisions that Compatriot Lewis will make shortly.

**Term Limits** for division officers: Defeated narrowly after lengthy discussion and enthusiastic arguments from both sides.

**Money Needed for Real Daughter** in Oakland, Ms. Alma Grigsby, age 107. Her caretaker spends more time than the State pays for to care for in home health care. We passed the hat for the Caretaker and collected \$274, which Compatriot Paul Toland will deliver.

## Next Year's Convention in Pasadena

Reunion will take place much earlier: the second week in March, and Compatriot Mike Schooling, San Diego, will organize.

## New Lieutenant Commander Elected

Commander Farrell Cooley ran unopposed, and was elected by acclamation for division Lieutenant Commander.

## New Commander Elected

Division Commander Barron Smith and Camp 1804 Commander Chuck Norred were candidates for the highest division SCV office. Each spoke for five minutes to the assembled members. Barron Smith spoke of his qualifications and experience; Chuck Norred spoke of improving SCV in California and promoting SCV and Southern heritage. Secret ballots were handed out to each Camp; one vote for each 10 members. Chuck Norred won and was installed as our new Division Commander.

## **Adjutant's Meeting-** Chaired by Vern Padgett

I met with camp adjutants and other interested compatriots Saturday afternoon in our convention business meeting room. I discussed **Public Relations, or reaching out to the community** strategies, urging camp adjutants to make use of their local newspapers to give positive publicity to their camp activities. I showed the Camp 1208 meeting announcements that I published in the *Club Notes* section of the *Whittier Daily News*. I stated my opinion that the news media is not negative towards SCV—it is friendly, or at worst, it is neutral. We need to use it in a way that makes it positive for our cause—by publicizing our community service, our educational activities, and our support of history and American heritage.

**Black Confederates:** There are two videos on the topic of the Black Southerners who served the Confederacy. I told the members that nothing can work to the advantage of the SCV so much as the recruitment of black SCV members, and that recruiting this group should be our top priority. Towards that goal, educating ourselves on the contributions of black Southerners towards the Confederacy is a top priority. These two videotapes should be widely seen. I distributed order forms for each one. (Please contact me at [vp09@earthlink](mailto:vp09@earthlink) for more information.)

**Making Alliances: Sons of Union Veterans.** Members discussed the role of the SUV in our efforts.

**Making Alliances: Historical and genealogical associations:** I shared the letters I sent to 54 Los Angeles area historical and genealogical associations, and urged California adjutants to follow this example in reaching out to these sister organizations, in their own areas. Use [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) to search for such societies in your own areas. Names and mailing addresses will be listed.

**Reaching Out to the community:** We discussed the role of SCV members attending and presenting at CW Roundtables.

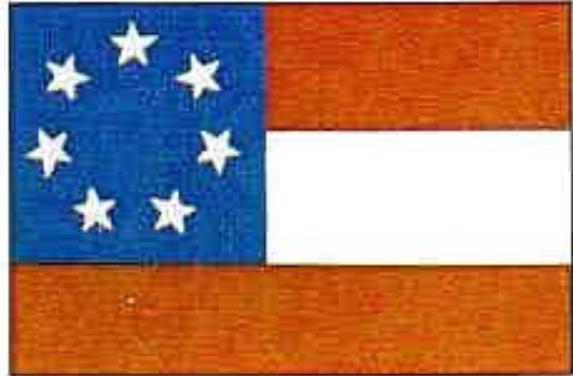
**Annual Camp Reports.** I shared copies of one of last year's Annual Reports and we discussed this document.

**Recruiting and Heritage as Every Day, Every Member Activities.** I gave out the one-page sheet: "Eleven Easy Recruiting Tips." We discussed these recruiting and heritage tactics.

**The NPS site:** We discussed the National Park Service's Soldier and Sailor site, and how it provides an avenue for proof of Confederate service, and how

this method can save months of time and many dollars for professional research for SCV applicants.

**This convention report based on notes taken by Tim Desmond, Camp 1804 Fresno, and Vern Padgett, Camp 1208 Los Angeles.**



## California Group to Attend Hunley Funeral in Charleston, South Carolina

Burial Procession starts at 1000 hours,  
Saturday 17th April 2004

Procession will march 4.5 miles to  
Magnolia Cemetery.

**By Philip Galanders** [ScotsReb@aol.com](mailto:ScotsReb@aol.com)

The Burial Procession starts at 1000 hours,  
Saturday 17th April 2004.

The procession begins at White Point Gardens, on South Battery in downtown Charleston, with a ceremony lasting one hour. The Burial Procession will march 4.5 miles to Magnolia Cemetery.

The individual crewmembers will have their remains transported by horse-drawn caissons.

I was advised by Reenactor Coordinator George Naumann that the caissons with the remains will be:

1. Proceeded by a United States Naval Color Guard with National Colors;
2. Followed by reenactor units, in columns of companies. The route of march varies in width, so the marching companies will have to be able to smoothly move from column of company, four abreast, in the narrow parts of road, to a company front in the wider parts;

Reenactors are asked to come out as befits an honor guard, with uniform usual for circa 1864. No knapsacks, no backpacks, no blanket rolls are needed; just a clean uniform with full cutters. Polished and blackened leathers are appropriate, are polished rifles and bayonets;

3. Federal reenactors, units, and their colors, are welcome, and expected;

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## The crew will lie in state in Charleston for 3 days.

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4. A separate artillery contact, Mr. David Rentz, may be contacted through the 'net, at [david.rentz@tridenttech.edu](mailto:david.rentz@tridenttech.edu) ;

5. Reenactors will be followed by SCV Camps with their color guards.

These funeral proceedings are the last events in a weeklong series of activities that start the Monday following Easter Sunday.

The remains will lie in state for 6 days before the funeral.

Lieutenant Dixon will lie in state in Atlanta (he was a Georgian) for 3 days. The rest of the crew will lie in state in Columbia, South Carolina. Then all the assembled crew will lie in state in Charleston for 3 days.

There will be other lectures, lantern tours and other events during the days leading to the funeral.

I will bring more information to everyone's attention as soon as it is brought to my attention. I logged us in with the Re-enactor Coordinator, as the "WBSHA/Taylor's LA Brigade California Column." I hope that we may get enough folks back there to form our own stand-alone company.

I was given a phone number, with the Charleston Area convention & Visitors Bureau: 1.800.774.0006 and [www.charlestoncvb.com](http://www.charlestoncvb.com).

I hope that we are able to gather sufficient folks to make our presence, a visible, stand-alone statement. If not, that's also OK and those of us who do go, ought to go with an idea of falling in with one of the units from back yonder.

**Contact me directly if you have any questions at [ScotsReb@aol.com](mailto:ScotsReb@aol.com)**

Cheers,  
Philip Gallanders, WBSHA.  
Camp 2007 Long Beach

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## Honor Guard Scheduled 21 July 2003 for Real Son George W. Plaughter

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### By Division Chaplain Kermit Albritton

George Washington Plaughter was born 6/11 of 1916, the son of Jacob Harvey Plaughter of Virginia, who enlisted July 20, 1861 in the Confederate Army as a Private in the 7th Virginia Cavalry Regiment, also known as Ashby's Cavalry.

Trooper Plaughter was involved in the Seven Days Campaign, under General Lee, June 25<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1861; the battle of 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1861.

Trooper Plaughter was captured while on picket duty in Shenandoah County, Virginia on January 7, 1863 and was sent by Union forces to Camp Chase, Maryland, where he was eventually exchanged as a prisoner on March 28, 1863.

He returned to his company and marched with General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia into Gettysburg in July of 1863 and participated in the battle for Cemetery Ridge.



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The last documented record of Trooper Plaughter's service is in a muster roll dated March and April of 1864 showing him present and in possession of a horse now belonging to the Confederate States.

After the War, Jacob Plaughter worked as a cobbler, a blacksmith, and a carpenter. According to his family, he attended church every Sunday and although he could not read, he knew the bible word for word.

Jacob died in Ohio in 1936 at the age of 92 when George was 19 years old. Jacob is buried in Love's Grove Cemetery near Lima, Ohio. George's mother, Mattie Eye, who was born in West Virginia in 1875, passed away in 1963. Jacob Plaughter, who was born in 1843, had three wives over his lifetime, fathering a total of 29 children; 23 boys and 6 girls. One of those children is Woody Plaughter (Woodrow Wilson

Plaugher) who is alive today and an active member of the Camp 1631 SCV in Santa Barbara.

As a young man, George served his country in World War II as a member of the 101st Airborne and was presented with a Purple Heart after receiving shrapnel wound in the leg at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge.

After the War, George worked as a mechanic and retired after thirty-five years service in Ford Sales in San Jose. George was survived by his wife, Stella Mae, two sons, George Jr. Plaugher and Van Franklin Plaugher; as well as two daughters, Diana Lee Esler and Peggy Lee Korte. George passed from this earth in June 2002.

Honor Guard service scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003 at Pleasington Memorial Cemetery, 5780 Sonol Boulevard, Pleasington, California. The time of the service will be published later.

**Biographic data was supplied by Lou Olker, and was assembled and verified by Kermit Albritton.**

## Union and Confederate Medicine

**By Division Surgeon General Tim Desmond.**

Much of what has been much written about Union and Confederate medicine is now common knowledge. One example: **Most deaths were from disease**, not from wounds suffered in battles.

Another example: It was of the era prior to antiseptics.

One more commonly-known fact: The huge number of amputations, caused by the severe damage to bone and tissue resulting from the large, soft, and quick to mushroom .58 caliber Minie ball. This projectile removed large pieces of arms and legs, unlike the modern jacketed ammunition in use by the 1880s.



Then there are details about the above topics that may not be well known. For example:

Regarding **deaths due to disease, vs. deaths due to battle wounds**: The Civil War ratio of roughly 2 to 1 (2 deaths due to disease for 1 battle wound) was an improvement over previous wars. The ratio for the Mexican-American War was 7 to 1. For the allies in the Crimean War it was 3 to 1. For the British in the Napoleonic Wars it was 8 to 1.

Knowledge of antiseptics would only come into use after 1865. That was the last great war in the world fought without the knowledge of the germ theory of disease.



**Who got treatment first?** Confederate and Federal surgeons did a crude system of "triage": Soldiers wounded through the head, belly, or chest were set aside. They would most likely die. Even the best surgeons, called "operators," could not do abdominal surgery, or chest surgery, or brain surgery.

The great **number of amputations** performed by surgeons on both sides is always a point of focus. The wounded soldiers who could be helped had limb or muscle damage. These too would be fatal unless surgeons performed a quick amputation. The French learned this same lesson during the Napoleonic wars. Surgeons tried to do this rapidly, and do it near the battlefields.

**Battle wound mortality** compared to disease and other forms of mortality in the Civil War and other Wars: A few years ago I read an account of the mortality due to abdominal wounds. I remember being fascinated by this article, the source of which escapes me now, because of the medical history associated with the problem. The topic spanned the time during the Napoleonic wars up to World War II.

I have since tried to find the "abdominal wound" comparisons. With the statistics of war mortalities,

abdominal wounds are not normally given separately. But there are references and anecdotal sources. As mentioned above, "**belly**" **wounds were set aside**. Another reference mentions life threatening wounds, and includes abdominal wounded in the Civil War as being able to get off the battlefield and die slowly.



**Confederate regular issue postage.**

**100% of penetrating small bowel wounds were fatal**; and nearly 66% of colonic wounds were fatal. These high mortality rates continued even after the introduction of antiseptic surgeries.

While turn of the century 1900s antiseptics and hygiene and knowledge of disease carrying vectors improved of disease control, surgeons still had to wait for the inventions of sulfonamides and systemic antibiotics to fully control fatal infections. Sometimes it is difficult to imagine that penicillin was an experimental drug in 1940. Of course it changed the mortality of war wounds forever in WW II.

**(Author is Division Surgeon General Tim Desmond, of Camp 1804 Fresno.)**

## Letter to Editor

I'm reading through your SCV Division Newsletter ... again, I'm in awe ... I want to start doing the UDC newsletter in this format.

Alma Grigsby is NOT the only Real Daughter in California. We have another one! She is Stephenie Johnston Harrod (pronounced STEVEN-EE...as her father wanted a son, not a daughter). She has attended our annual Division Convention for the past two years and attends many local functions. She is of sound mind and body and enjoys meeting people.

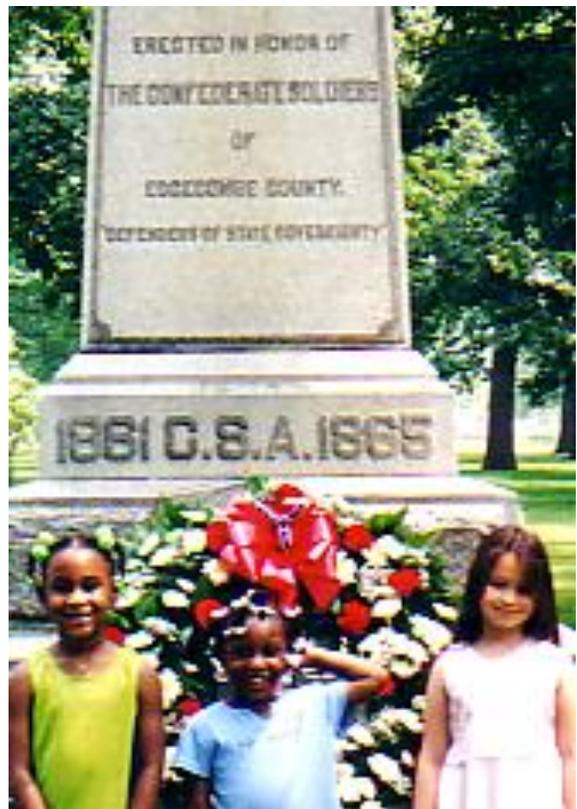
She lives in Escondido, California. Perhaps the gentlemen in that area would like to take a special interest on her behalf as the gentlemen in Northern

California have done with Alma. She was born on 29 November 1911. If you are interested in supporting Mrs. Harrod, please contact me at [jata@lightspeed.net](mailto:jata@lightspeed.net) for her address.

## Another Real Daughter in California

Stephenie often associates with Mrs. Hazel Drane when attending UDC functions. I would be happy to put you in touch with the local UDC Chapter President if the gentlemen in that area would like to start interacting with them.

Sincerely, Taya L. Cline, President  
Centennial Chapter 2623, Fresno



**North Carolina children pay their respects to Confederate soldiers. Photo from Brock Townsend.**

## 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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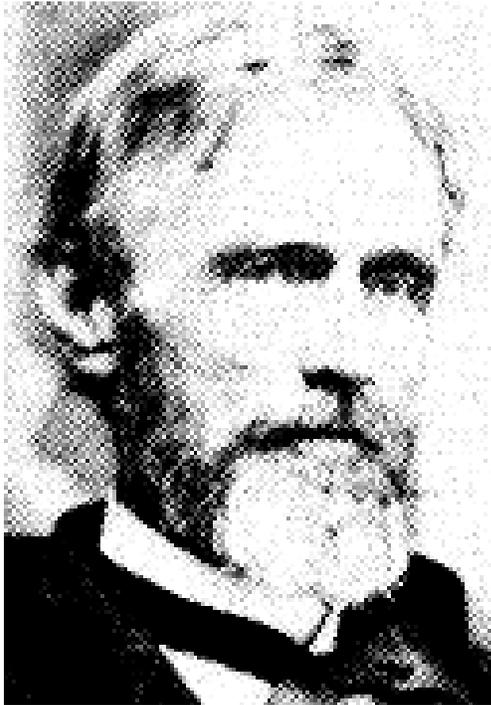
## California Division Staff

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**Lt. Commander** Farrell D. Cooley [RebWaylon@aol.com](mailto:RebWaylon@aol.com)  
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**Surgeon Gen.** Tim Desmond [BobbiTimDesmond@cs.com](mailto:BobbiTimDesmond@cs.com)

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## WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



“May God grant that sons ever greater than their fathers may rise whenever their country needs them to defend her cause.” —President Jefferson Davis

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## California SCV Web Site

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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)

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From the FTHA News List:

## Why Did the South Have More Higher-ranking Generals?

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From Don Worth: Here is a question for all the historians out there. Why did the South stray from the pre-war rank structure for generals?

**Question:** Don, It has gradually dawned on me that while the Union Army had many more privates, the Confederates had more lieutenant generals and full generals. Why? What does this say about the two Armies? I read one place that Grant was the first U.S. lieutenant general since George Washington. The South seems to have had dozens. The North could have used a few more-- it would have eliminated the need for backdating so many promotions. The South, on the other hand seems to have suffered from rank inflation. Does one of you expert associates have anything enlightening to say?-- Steve

**Answer:** Steve, I wouldn't call it inflation. I think the Southern rank system was more in line with reality, and of course it modeled what we saw later in the U.S. military, and with what we see today in militaries throughout the world.

Major generals (2 stars) command divisions, and corps commanders (more than one division) are commanded by a general of higher rank (lieutenant general; 3 stars). Armies (more than one corps) are commanded by a general of even higher rank (full general; 4 stars). The Confederates got that right from the beginning.

In fact, even at that time with respect to other countries, it might have been deflationary, not inflationary, as no American rank system has ever included the rank of field marshal, as many European systems have.

As you say, the C.S. had dozens of lieutenant generals, and also had 8 full generals, which is full rank higher than lieutenant general. They are all listed in the fine book Two Great Rebel Armies.

The reason for the issue you note is simply that the U.S. Army didn't want to promote anyone to a rank equal to that of General George Washington, who wore only 2 stars. Although the South claimed Washington as one of their own, as a Virginian, the Confederates didn't take that historical baggage along to interfere with a rational rank system for general officers.

Vern Padgett