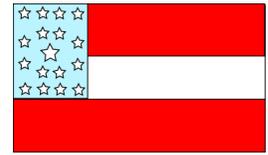




# The Vidette

## CALIFORNIA DIVISION

### Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag

[www.SCVCalifornia.net](http://www.SCVCalifornia.net)



20 October 2003 Issue 25 Published by Division Adjutant Vernon R. Padgett [vp09@earthlink.net](mailto:vp09@earthlink.net)

## REPORT FROM POLAND

# Birthplace of Heros von Borcke Discovered

By Eric A. Kaminski, Warsaw

I know Mr. Brock Townsend of North Carolina. I met him originally in San Clemente, California when he and I used to live there. Now, our ways have split up but recently we have re-established contact by e-mail.

Brock lives in North Carolina and I am staying in the country of Poland. I said, *staying* because I plan to come back to America-- for I am an American citizen, but born in Poland.

I got in the Confederate movement by a strange incident. I am sure that none of my Southern Friends ever heard my story. Here it is.

One day I bought a "Civil War" magazine and there I saw advertising of Confederate and Yankee replica uniforms.

Since I served in the U.S. Army, I thought it would be nice to order a Confederate and a Yankee uniform and just wear one or the other depending on the situation.

But what I wanted was really the reason why there were two kinds of uniforms during the same period of American history. I delved into books and started researching everything on that big war. To make the story short, I bought only the Confederate uniform. In that same magazine I saw the ad for *Confederate Veteran* and I ordered it. In that I saw an ad from Brock Townsend-- and to my amazement, Brock lived in San Clemente. We got in contact.

Even though I am proud of the past achievements of my countrymen, I cannot say that about the present state of my country of birth. Poland is in a big turmoil.



**Heros von Borcke, Major, Confederate States Cavalry, staff officer to General Jeb Stuart, ANV**

I will state no details because I am ashamed of some facts.

I fly the Confederate flag in Poland. I gave about 100 flags to the truck drivers I keep in contact with through CB radio. And they were not only Polish

truck drivers but also from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, and others.

I thank you for the invitation to the camp 1208. I am in the country of Poland now and at this moment I cannot come to California. But living in San Clemente I used to visit camp 1208 and meet with beautiful Confederates. But one day there, when I mentioned that I also belonged to the Confederate Society of America which actually promotes the new CSA, I was looked at with a little of an unwelcomed individual. That was 1990 or 1991, as best as I can remember.

And now, look what is happening; The League of the South is demanding a separate nation, The Confederate Society of America the same, Historical Society Preservation wants the same, Confederate Legion, and other Southern organizations all are calling: Secession. So what is good going to cemeteries and just discuss the past among each other without the plans for the future? I am not against giving respect for those already gone but at such meetings we could do much more than just bow our heads over a grave. Anyway, I was at that cemetery in California, and I was very pleased to have done so. I am a proud member of the League of the South.

I fly the Confederate flag here in Poland and am in contact by e-mail with many Confederates around the world.

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### 12 Aug 2003, Eric A. Kaminski CSA-E, Poland

I am reporting that there is a possibility of finding the grave of the Confederate colonel, Heros von Borcke. After a long time of looking for leads, Mr. Bertil Haggman of SCV camp in Sweden gave me a probable position in the country of Poland where von Borcke could be buried.



### Compatriot Eric A. Kaminski, Warsaw, Poland

After the CSA army surrendered, von Borcke came back to Europe. He died in Berlin and was buried in the small village of Geisenbrugge.

Now, since those lands belonged to Germany and now are in Poland, the possibility of finding von Borcke is becoming real. Bertil <mvk575btninet.se> and others gave me some names of villages and towns located in Poland with changed spelling as the names of German origin are still used, but with different spellings. And this was Bertil's and my biggest problem.

As soon as I was ready to go to an appointed village to check, I would receive another or conflicting info on my portable Internet link. I had to abort the trip and look for some other leads or browse through the map of Poland.

I am fixing soon to go to a small village by the name of Gizyn (with a dot above the Z). This place looks as the most possible place of rest of von Borcke. Maybe Bertil will come to Poland from Sweden (if we both could correlate our trips) as the place is quite close to a big port of Szczecin out of where ferries travel to Sweden and back. Bertil let me know as I know the Polish language.

Therefore, I, and probably others, hope that von Borcke will be found and a Confederate flag will be placed on his grave.



Das Alte Rathaus, Stettin (Szczecin)



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**31 August 2003:** I have unbelievable problems with the Internet here in this country of Poland. Even when I find Internet cafes, something is always wrong with the computers; never work the same.

I still have my Nokia portable Internet mini computer and phone in service and as I was informed by the company I shall be on line in 24 hours. It is a device that allows me to write an e-mail from remote areas without sitting by a stationary computer, like I am doing it now and even this computer is screwed up.

This country of Poland is so messed up that I have no words for it.

I want to report that I have traveled to the place of von Borcke. I have pictures and wait for them. This is not the end of this search, for there is some more stuff I can find like old archives pictures of the castle of von Borcke.

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**2 September 2003:** For those who do not know the story, here is an abbreviated story on von Borcke. Colonel Heros von Borcke was a Confederate Prussian soldier who took part in the American secessionist war of 1861. After being wounded and a bullet stuck in his lungs he, quit active service and after the War returned to Europe. He settled in East Prussia, in a little place called Neumarkt.

Now, since the lands that used to be Prussia are now in the country of Poland, the names of towns and other objects had been changed to Polish names, sometimes not resembling anything that used to look or sound German. Such was the name of a supposed place of living and burial of von Borcke.

From all the available information, and there was little to go on, I traveled to the place of von Borcke. I had a map, furnished by Andy Fuqua, that showed the place of Neumarkt. The map was old and all I had to do was compare the contemporary map with the old one and I pinpointed Neumarkt and the vicinities on the map of Poland. And that's where I went. It was quite far from the place I usually stay in Poland, and one thing to keep in mind is that the roads in Poland are not as comfortable as in America.

The place is now called Gizyn with a dot above the Z. This place was called Giesenthal and it was next to Neumark.

But some info was very much misleading because some names of Gizyn were misspelled and I had to seep through names like Gizy, Gryzy, and others which also are in the old Prussia. But the map helped a lot.

The same map was displayed in a restaurant in Stettin as it was called in German, now Szczecin. I took a picture of this map.



**The Prussian Heros von Borcke, Major, Confederate States Cavalry, ANV**

Well, in Gizyn I immediately went around some places and began asking people about von Borcke. Nobody heard of him. Gizyn is very small and it was not hard to stop and ask people about the stuff. Von

Borcke had a castle from which he used to fly Confederate flags. I happened to speak to a



**Compatriot Eric A. Kaminski, Warsaw, Poland**

representative of that place called Soltys. The lady was about 70 years old and settled there in 1945; right after WWII. I asked her many questions which were answered negatively. But when I asked her about a castle, she right away told me that there used to be a big castle with a big library full of books in German.

She as a kid with other children used to run around that castle until it was dismantled in 1953 by the communists. In that place there had been built a drying plant for hay. She remembered that the castle was white and it had a ground floor with one story, which stairs led to. She played with those books. She told me about a graveyard with German people being buried there. But I asked if there were people there that were buried before WWII. She said that yes, that it was an old cemetery, and devastated.

And sure enough, the place was devastated and bushes and trees grow there now. Simply, no one is taking care of that. I took pictures and hoped to find the grave of von Borcke. I did not find it.

If von Borcke is there would be no grave marker as the stones and markers had been stolen.

I talked to another person I met on a dirt road and he told me that he had old pictures of the castle. But he was on the way to work and I could not stop the man. As I was taking more pictures of the place where the castle was, I stumbled over a man that was taking a walk. And how great that I did.

He told me that he used to work in the hay drying plant during communism and there had been many conversations in that plant on the fact that there used to be a castle where now the plant stands. I asked if von Borcke rang a bell. He said that the name does not sound familiar but if that was the owner of the castle, he is buried by a big tree next to the place where the castle stood. That was the owner's wish to be buried there as the story says.

We walked to the tree and it was a very big oak tree about 150 years old. I did not walk to that tree as that day it rained a lot and the ground was like quicksand. I took a picture of that tree. After that I left Gizyn.

I also found out where I could go to get some more information and get pictures of the area of 19th century. I was told about a man who is a historian interested in that part of the land and I plan to contact him.

For now you should be satisfied until I make more contacts and will try to retrieve archives on von Borcke, and that will take more time.

Sincerely, Eric A. Kaminski



**Photo: Hakenterassen 1 by Werner Salter**

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# John Lewis Reports from Missouri

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## Starting His own Camp in Palmyra.

[ We all miss Compatriot and former Camp 302 San Diego Commander John Lewis. Here is word from him on his current activities—Ed. ]

Today is the day that I have gone "public" (beyond the SCV chain of command) with my efforts to start a SCV camp here in Palmyra.

I visited with the local newspaper editor today, sent off emails to two other local papers, emailed the Missouri Division SCV Chain of Command, spoke with Elm Springs about sending the materials to charter a camp, and attended a committee meeting tonight for the 141<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Palmyra Massacre observance.

I gave my pitch for the SCV (while wearing a Camp 1743 shirt and a battle flag pin), letting the folks in attendance know that my primary focus was on the creation of a camp that is dedicated to the restoration efforts at the old jail and to ensure that the SCV was represented each year at the Massacre anniversary events. Camp 1743 is over 60+ miles away, so I think that with a camp in this area, plenty of the 1743 folks will transfer over in order to have a camp closer to home ...

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### I gave my pitch for the SCV, letting the folks know that my focus was creating a camp ...

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I gave my pitch for the SCV (while wearing a Camp 1743 shirt and a battle flag pin), letting the folks in attendance know that my primary focus was on the creation of a camp

The committee was enthusiastic! Not only has the Captain W. T. Anderson Camp been invited to set up a display at the old jail, but I have received permission to set up a SCV recruiting table as well ... all at no charge! The SCV has also been invited to participate in the parade that morning (parades are a BIG deal around here) with our Confederate flags



**Confederate regular issue postage.**

prominently displayed ... the John Deere dealer is my next-door neighbor, so he is going to donate a tractor & wagon (he just doesn't know it yet) I am going to send out emails to the entire Missouri Division inviting them to attend .... The damned yankees had better stand by!!! (as an aside, I wonder if Gephardt would want to ride our float? hee hee)

I made the comment today to the newspaper editor about my intentions and how I was ready to rationally take on anyone who was upset at the "C" word. He grinned and said he thinks the folks around here can tell the difference who is a "white supremacist" and someone who is interested in preserving history.

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## My 20-foot flag pole will be installed Tuesday

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All the old clichés come to mind ... 'yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus'.... It is a great feeling to be able to talk about the Confederacy and not have people give you the political correct stuff...

Once I establish the Captain Thomas Sidenor Camp (named after the ranking soldier executed at the Massacre), I will be sending transfer forms to all my buddies in the California Division .... This is truly God's Country!

Miss you all, Squid

[ **A few days later—Ed.** ] Can't begin to tell you how thrilled I am with the progress here in Palmyra.

I've obtained a tractor and trailer (donated) for the parade on 18 October (Massacre anniversary), and will be inviting all Missouri Division compatriots to

attend ... battle flags, national flags, etc., are welcomed and encouraged.

The folks here in town who are heading up the events are actually asking for our participation! Many is the time that I've said to the men in 302 that our big problem is that we didn't have anything to 'wrap our hands around' so to speak in order to motivate an involved the membership.

With the restoration of the jail (granted, it was a Yankee prison, but our ancestors spent their last days on earth there and I think we owe it to them to ensure that their memory is preserved), we have such a jewel in our own back yard.

I have been given permission to set up a recruiting table on the jail grounds during the re-enactment of Porter's Raid (no charge). I plan on having some of my brothers from Camp 1743 there (after the parade), along with a genuine model of a Western & Atlantic steam locomotive, the documents belonging to my great grandfather and (hopefully) a pistol that belong to one of the ten men that was executed by the Yankees. Life indeed is good.

Miss you all, Respectfully, John

P.S. My 20 foot flag pole will be installed in the front yard on Tuesday ... the 1st National will be the first one raised to the top ... howzabout sending the 10th Georgia boys out this way for the flag raising?

2 Oct: I attended another committee meeting this evening for the Palmyra Massacre Observance/ Porter's Raid Re-Enactment. I called Steve Smith while standing in front of the monument to the 10 Confederate Soldiers executed at the Massacre (how is that for atmosphere) and gave him this update:

- Happiness is a northbound yankee.
- I raised the question why \$20 was being spent on somebody dressing up like Lincoln...
- When the question was posed as to where 'Lincoln' was going to be, I replied "in my cross hairs!"



- When I heard that the "Lincoln look-alike" receives upwards of \$200 per appearance, my reply was that my family owns a funeral home ... I'll arrange for a pine box and we can call it even!

- As I was passing out Missouri Confederate one-dollar bills (with SCV recruiting info on the back), an individual (obviously a yankee) said, "You guys can pick up your second place medals at the door." I told him that we would, but on my way out, I would like to stop by his house and see if he has any of my great-grandmother's silver! Shut him up real quick!

Regards from chilly Missourah!

**John Lewis, (proposed) Captain Thomas Sidenor Camp**



**SCV Compatriot STAN ARMSTRONG--Director/ Producer/Writer-- is a graduate of UNLV where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. A Las Vegas local, he has lectured throughout the U.S. on minorities who served during the Civil War. His films include The Forgotten Battle of Fort Pillow and Black Confederates: The Forgotten Men in Gray.**

## Asheville SCV National Reunion Documentary from Desert Rose Productions.

The Asheville National SCV Reunion Documentary video is for sale for \$15 on their website at: [www.desertrosefilms.7p.com](http://www.desertrosefilms.7p.com)

This presentation features a look inside The Sons of Confederate Veterans Reunion held in Asheville, North Carolina, July 2003. Includes interviews with Nelson Winbush, H.K. Edgerton, and clips of guest speaker Director Ron Maxwell, of *Gods and Generals*. *Black Confederates: The Forgotten Men in Gray* in VHS is now only \$20. Pre-orders for the DVD of this film are being accepted on their web site.

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# We Are Not a Military Force, But We Do Fight a War

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By **Kermit Lee Albritton, Commander Camp 2023; Chaplain, California Division SCV**

To the honorable gentlemen, ladies, fellow Compatriots and supporters of the California Division of Sons of Confederate Veterans: It has occurred to me that there is a groundswell of revitalization in our midst and it would appear to be genuine.

More and more, numbers are being added to camps; associate memberships, through Order of Confederate Rose and more visitors are showing their support for our organization; it makes my heart glad to see this.

We are a heritage organization that is true enough. We are also the last of our kind. Our organization is only one generation away from extinction and for some of our American brethren that is actually too far. There are some among us who view our role as compatriots as purely symbolic, meant for posterity only. There are some among us who believe that we should emancipate our Southern Nation and free it from the bonds of the Republic; and sadly, there are some of our numbers who could care less.

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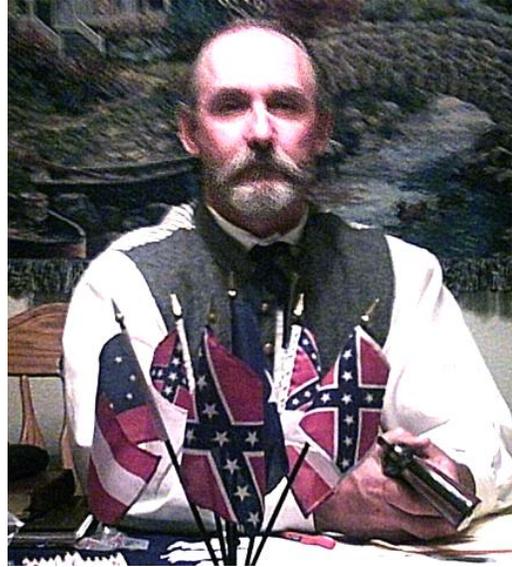
We are also the last of our kind.

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My dear compatriots-- and I speak to all, Sons, Daughters and Order of Confederate Rose; we are not a military force to be reckoned with, but we do fight a war. Our enemy comes to us from without and within. On the outside, he is called Political Correctness; on the inside, his name is Apathy.

His effectiveness on the outside of our organization is compounded by affect on the inside of our organization; he wins more battles when we as compatriots fail to do anything to slow his advance. We are an honorary organization and we are all intending to honor the memory of those who fought in the first war for Southern Independence; but dear ladies and gentlemen, we are embroiled in our second

war for Southern Independence and though we add numbers daily, we are still losing.



**Kermit Lee Albritton, Commander, Camp 2023; Chaplain, California Division SCV. “The weapon in my hand in the picture is a 1860 Army Colt that I took off a Yankee who didn’t need it any longer.” Photograph by Tommy Joe Albritton, soon to be a Texas resident. Tommy graduated from the school of South Viet Nam in 1968, just two days before his air base was overrun by NVA.**

We lose when we capitulate and abdicate our rights to Southern Heritage. We give up without a fight when we call a meeting and leaders to not show up. We surrender our rights to be Confederates when we don’t answer the call to stand up and be counted. We need to be as Southern as we can be. We live in a nation that compromises on every issue; we live in a state that has been run by folks who believe that we should preserve the right to kill unborn babies and commute death row inmates to life sentences with the same breath. If we do not stand for something, then we fall for anything.

Our country, the one we fight and die for today, needs us to pray for it. Our communities need to know that we care; our public schools need to know that as parents, educators and professionals, we want the best for our children who will ultimately become leaders in their own time.

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If we do not stand for something, then we fall for anything.

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As Chaplin of our California Division of Sons of Confederate Veterans, I admonish all who read this

letter to pray for our organization. We fight a war for the right to exist as Southerners and descendants; we fight a war against the degradation being taught our children in school about Southern Heritage. We have been loyal patriots for this country and we have earned the right to exist as a people. I have suggested and will again suggest it, let us begin a movement to have a Confederate History Month, let it be April, and let us refer to it as "The beginning and the new beginning." Let us teach our fellow Americans the truth and have them accept us for honorable people that we are.

God bless the South and God bless you all  
**Chaplain and Commander Kermit Lee**  
**Albritton, Camp 2023, Lieutenant General Wade**  
**Hampton, Modesto, California**

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# Saving the SCV

No one individual is responsible for this quagmire.

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**From Dave Easterling, Adjutant, ATM: This is a very good letter about the state of the SCV. It is written by a Camp Commander in Alabama.**

**By Tim Steadman, Commander - Fighting Joe Wheeler 1372.**

Nero fiddled while Rome burned ... that is the picture that comes to mind for me when I think of what is going on at Elm Springs and with the ENTIRE leadership of the SCV.

No one individual is responsible for this quagmire. No one CIC, no one executive council member. No one SCV political hack. No one bunch of disgruntled idiots. All are responsible.

This situation has been building up for over a decade. No, it has been building up longer than that. What began years ago as petty political activity has morphed into an out of control monster. Accusations and counter accusations, egos and even bigger egos, public statements and counter public statements. An ever-escalating game of one-upmanship. A sad and pitiful situation indeed. A situation that has cost us as an organization more than we can ever recover. Those outside our organization, who oppose us and our cause, must be rejoicing mightily. They don't need to divide and conquer us. We are doing it to ourselves.

How embarrassing, how demoralizing, how utterly depressing. I have never seen a more blatant example of self-destruction in any organization --- period.

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**We have met the real enemy.  
We know him intimately.**

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The biggest enemy we have is not the NAACP, it is not Morris Dees, and it is the demon that SCV politics has become. We have met the real enemy. We know him intimately. The real enemy is us.

In a disgusting display of self-mutilation we are tearing this honorable organization apart. Our ancestors must be rolling over in their graves. I am ashamed of what we as members have allowed to take place.

How am I to explain all this to the members of my Camp? Why should they become actively involved in the defense and preservation of our heritage through their membership in the SCV or become leaders in this organization when all they ever see from the top is turmoil and confusion?

What of the new recruit that innocently walks into this hellish situation? Who in their right mind would want to expose themselves to such organizational chaos?

Compatriot Walker is right, the head of the snake that is the "SSCV" should have been cut off the minute it first crawled out of its hole. But, the despicable bunch that is the "SSCV" is not where this problem began. It began innocently many years ago through what has become a malignant and potentially fatal organizational flaw.

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**How am I to explain all this to the members of my Camp?**

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Think of this. Who is it that has put us in this situation? How long has there been an escalating level of turmoil at the top? What is the makeup of our executive council? Who holds the permanent positions on the executive council? Who are the ones who fight like demons every time some effort is made to take away their permanent positions? Why do we as members continue to allow these permanent members of our board of directors to tell us they deserve a lifetime position simply because they were once

elected to office? Year after year it is the same people, the same names and the same load of crap.

We have the only permanently serving board of directors I have ever heard of.

The only other permanent lifetime positions that I know of are federal judges and we see what a mess the federal judiciary is. Until this organization wises up and starts rotating the members of its board of directors off the board every so many years, and I mean every member, we are going to continue to have the same old people playing the same old games, harboring ever increasing grudges and from year to year escalating this foolishness until it destroys the organization.

If we do not change the makeup of our board of directors, get some level headed new faces in there ON A REGULAR BASIS with new ideas and no old grudges or SCV political baggage, this organization is going to implode.

I will do what I can to protect my Camp from this embarrassing quagmire.

We will do our duty to our ancestors even if the organization falls apart around us.

God save us because we do not seem to have the knowledge or the will to keep from destroying ourselves.

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## FILM COMMENT

# Gods and Generals

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**By Rick Tunell, Redlands, California**

I would like to urge everyone who can to purchase a copy of this movie.

I did not get a chance to see it in the theater, although I would have liked to. I know the media pretty well pasted it. After seeing it I can understand why. Also after seeing it, I find it hard to believe that Ted Turner actually produced it, with all its political "Incorrectness."

Playing the devil's advocate, on the one hand, I can see those who know nothing at all about the War of Northern Aggression being a bit at sea over the majority of the characters and their importance to the film.

And on the other, it was like a history lesson. Probably not enough 'entertainment' value between the action sequences, and hard for the average student of the government school system to put together what is really happening.

I'd urge you to buy the movie for two reasons: One is to support the trilogy it is a part of, and the other is to support the very truthfulness portrayed.

It states very clearly early on, that "Mr. Lincoln's War" is in fact an act of aggression toward the several seceded states. Further, the thought of slavery was very far from his mind when he asked for the initial 75,000 volunteers for 3 months service. Not that the wrongness of slavery didn't play a part, but it was not until much later that the slavery issue became a "cause celeb."

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## I would urge everyone to purchase this movie.

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The other fact made, which may have been a bit dazzling to the average person taught from a state approved text book, is that the states which seceded didn't primarily do so over slavery. It was an issue, but the crux of the entire fracas was states rights. The movie makes this clear. Most people today believe the federal government to be ultimate entity, and that they just happen to live in a piece of real estate handily lined off on a map and called a state. Although the fed is usurping more and more power continually, it is doing so is only because it is being allowed to happen.



**United States postage featuring General Robert E. Lee**

Some other items extremely unusual are the sympathetic portrayal of deeply religious people. Usually people like this are shown as fools and idiots who don't have a clue. Another is that even though the situation of the war causes deep personal grievance,

their code of duty, honor and integrity will not allow them to take the easy way out.

I may be harsh and somewhat bitter in my thinking, but I believe that what is essentially portrayed in the movie and the points made, will be mostly lost to the average computer-gaming, mall hanging young person today. Probably a lot of adults too. They'll be too busy wishing for car chases, explosions and sexual innuendo to grasp what's being shown.

As was true of several of the actors. Their comments said they had their eyes opened to what the Civil War was really all about.

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## NEW BOOK

# Chronological Tracking of the American Civil War

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### Freddie C. Sligh

Commander, Camp 246, 3d Arkansas Infantry Regiment, El Dorado, Arkansas

*The Chronological Tracking of the American Civil War per the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*, by Ronald A. Mosocco. It is a day by day of everything that happened in the U.S. during the War Against the Confederacy. I categorized it into states and areas. It is a good book to have in a library.

Contact me at:

**Freddie C. Sligh, Camp 246**  
**P. O. Box 10062**  
**El Dorado, Arkansas 71730**  
**870.862.3198**

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## SCV Life Membership

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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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**Commander** Chuck Norred [chucknorred@prodigy.net](mailto:chucknorred@prodigy.net)  
**Lt. Commander** Farrell D. Cooley [RebWaylon@aol.com](mailto:RebWaylon@aol.com)  
**Adjutant and Treasurer** Vern Padgett 562.947.1554

[vp09@earthlink.net](mailto:vp09@earthlink.net)

**Judge Advocate** Michael Wright

**Heritage Officer** Mike Schooling

[scvmike2000@yahoo.com](mailto:scvmike2000@yahoo.com)

**Webmaster** Gary Waltrip [Secesh@rebelgray.com](mailto:Secesh@rebelgray.com)

**Historian** Dr. Ro King [RebelRo@qnet.com](mailto:RebelRo@qnet.com)

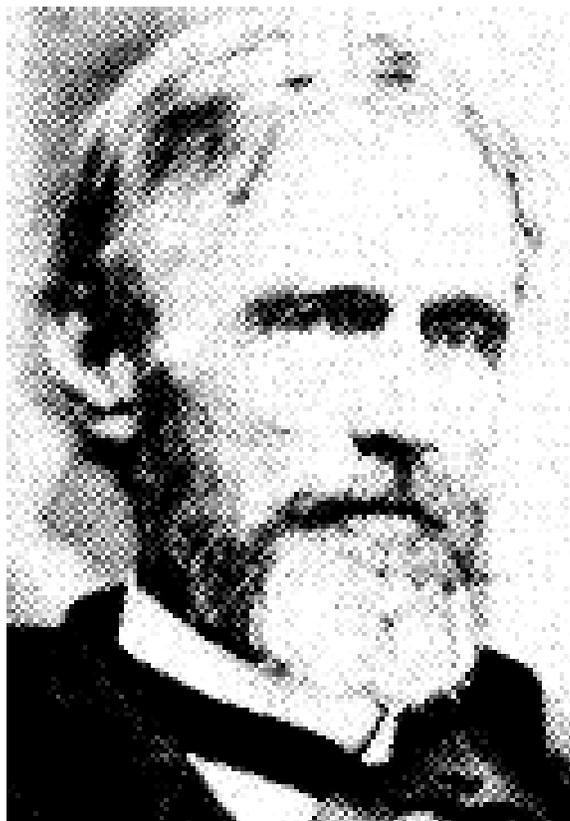
**Chaplain** Kermit Albritton [scsscsa@quixnet.net](mailto:scsscsa@quixnet.net)

**Genealogist** JR Watson [elw442000@yahoo.com](mailto:elw442000@yahoo.com)

**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 when ever 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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