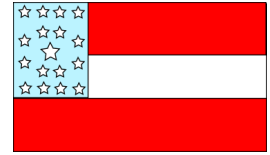




The Vidette

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag

www.SCVCalifornia.net



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COMMANDER NORRED REPORTS

California Division is Healthy!

By Chuck Norred



Many things have happened during the past nine months and I am proud to say it all has been good. After taking office in June of 2003 we went right to work and first was the development of the Division Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee consists of all the Camp Commanders, Division Adjutant, Division Lt. Commander and the Division Commander. The Past Commander was also in its makeup but Barron Smith is now the Commander of Camp 1631. We need to keep the Past Division Commander on the Executive Committee because his experience could lend valuable information to present Executive Committees.

We made some simple adjustments to the Division Constitution that John Lewis our former

Camp 302 Commander so graciously put together for us. The Executive Committee was developed because there had seemed to be a lack of communication within the Division. I have tried to stay in touch with all the Division Commanders and it has worked. Our Commanders have always answered and I have followed their Camps activities throughout the year. I would like to thank them all for not only what they have been doing for the SCV, their Camps, and this Division but for making life easy for me in my first year. You men are the best and above all you demonstrate "Character." What a great team you have been.

Almost immediately after being elected Division Lt. Commander, Farrell Cooley initiated a Division/National project for us to work on. The Jefferson Davis statue in New Orleans was damaged from heavy spray-paint tagging. It makes me proud to say that our Division Members come up with \$888 to help clean it. The money was needed and very much appreciated. The Jefferson Davis statue is repaired and once again stands tall and proud.

To Asheville, North Carolina

In July of 2003 I traveled to Asheville, North Carolina for my first National Convention/Reunion. I didn't know what to expect. Would this be like a football clinic where men get together and teach different strategies or would this be an event more of a Convention type where there is a lot of boasting and drinking? This Reunion left me with a feeling of awe and I learned what the SCV is really about. I am happy that a California member had a lot to do with the history presentations. Ro King did a great job in setting the presentations up. My favorite was about

slavery and the South. This leads me to say the SCV is about *History*.

History

A man gave a presentation on gravesites discovered near Bristoe Station in Virginia. He said a contractor had purchased the property and donated 123 acres so the graves could be moved onto a park.

It ended up that the gravesites were more than 500 and included a pit/grave of human limbs, as it was a hospital area. It was going to take quite a bit of money to find them all and to get all the sites moved by the time the developers moved in. We asked the California membership for help and we came up with over \$500 to send Red Barbour and the Fincastle Rifles for the Bristoe Station project.



This was our second Division/National project. I have found that the SCV is also about *Pride*. This project was a special one. The people working this gravesite area were working all night and day to find the graves of men lost to us during a terrible time.

It would be a disaster not to find all the gravesites. That one person left behind may have been a family member of yours or mine. My hat is off to all the men and women involved in this project and including all of you who donated money towards this project. My hat also is off to Red Barbour for having the endurance and the guts to remain in charge of this project even though losing his beloved wife during the same time.

History - Pride

At our last Division Convention I remember Paul Toland speaking at our meeting and asking for help for our only "Real Daughter" left in California. As he was speaking, Jim Cline of Camp 1804 and his grandson Bryan Cline, Camp 1804, passed their hats around and collected over \$250 for Alma Grigsby, our only "Real Daughter" in California. After the Convention many of our Camps donated money to help in the care of Alma.

Our Real Son Woody

Camp 1804 even approved a modest donation to be set aside for our only "Real Son" Woody Plaugher, if he should ever need it. Camp 1804 challenges all the California Division Camps to do the same. The

SCV is about *care*.

History—Pride—And Care

I like to not think of the National or even the Division Reunion as a Convention. I would like to see them called Division or National Reunions as it should be a time when men gather for camaraderie and a time for developing new friendships, and a time for sharing ideas to better the organization in the protection of our heritage. There is a lot to do in the saving of our heritage. As time moves on it will be harder to hang onto our Confederate heroes and the real reasons for the most terrible war ever fought.

The last National Reunion left me with some good memories as I got to meet many men that play an integral role within the SCV. My meeting with Denne Sweeney, Michael Givens, and Ron Casteel, and conversations with them in the last nine months tell me of the men who really CARE-- and my support of them is in a heavy way. The shenanigans during the National meetings in 2003 should not have happened-- and I would hate to see it happen again. Just as our fathers did in the past in government and in the military we should elect our leaders and support our leaders as we all are in the same battle. All our efforts should be turned to the preservation of our *heritage*. The SCV is about heritage. We need to join hands with the UDC and the OCR and make great strides in the protection of our *heritage*.

History - Pride - Care - Heritage

The California Division was well represented at the National Reunion. Several California members were present: Jerry Dupree of Camp 1742, Michael Schooling of Camp 302, Ro King, Vern Padgett, and Farrell Cooley of Camp 1208, Barron Smith, Woody Plaugher, and Don Clotworthy of Camp 1631, myself and Russell Snow of Camp 1804. Ten in all.

I left Asheville with enjoyable memories. One is of my visits to the "Big Mushroom" Pizza joint with Vern and Farrell, and the immediate relationship they made with the manager. Another is walking through the mass of people and a man pulling me aside to tell me that we were related. My conversations with Ro and his wonderful wife Marilyn at the Bluegrass BBQ and finding out how lucky we are to have this couple in our Division and how lucky I am to call them my friends. Ro is a huge asset to this Division with the history lectures, the setting up of the history lectures at the National Reunions, and the role he is playing in the California History Handout.

A Jar With a Clear Substance

A moment I will not soon forget is that Saturday evening seeing Sandy and Vern. Sandy in a beautiful

ball gown and Vern in his uniform with a smile from ear to ear. Vern was a happy man that evening. The jar he was carrying around had a clear substance in it but I don't know what it was. And not to be forgotten is the toast in my room every evening with our Nevada friend Lee Cross and everyone else we could drag in.



Confederate regular issue postage.

I encourage you to attend the National Reunion, because it is full of everything we need "History, Pride, Care, and Heritage." Dalton is going to be a special one.

Through the year I have been trying to develop a new National "Real Sons" list, as the last one was done in 1991. It is sad to say that we have lost more than half of the Real Sons listed in 1991. This has been a tough job but well worth it. We are so lucky to have a "Real Son" here in California in Woody Plaugher. Talking with him is a unique experience and if you haven't done it, do it now.

I found out how important it is to make Camp meeting visits. They are a kick and I intend on making many more this coming year. Someday I will report on the funny things that have happened. At one meeting the Signals Officer who was leading the pledge got so choked up he lost his voice but I'll not mention any names. I promise nothing when it is my turn to step down as Division Commander.

I attended 1208's December 28th meeting and what a treat, even though I only won a can of peanuts. Ro took off with the Rebel Yell and I am a bad loser but that's OK, as Division Surgeon Tim Desmond and I had a good sandwich before that long drive back home. I had the great privilege of attending 2047's Charter meeting and it was a blast driving to Tehachapi. Kenny and Bill have that Camp a hoppin'. I especially liked that trip because I stopped at couple of places on the way home and checked out

some great looking horses. None to the likes of my BLM Appy I have at home though.

My visit to a 1770 meeting hosted by the Reverend Lou Calson brought to me a feeling of great satisfaction. This Camp, commanded by Gordon Bricken, is about to uncover one of the largest Confederate Monuments on the West Coast. Good job Camp 1770! Thank you Rev. and Mrs. Carlson for welcoming me into your home. You folks are indeed an asset to the Division and to all the Sons Of Confederate Veterans.

Recruiting booths are fun to visit. I liked Ft. Tejon, as there is some SCV history there now. Hats off to you all who were involved in the legal case that took place over a Heritage violation there. Three booths were there, flying all the colors. Camps participating were 1208, 2007 and 2062.

Camp 1804 had a great recruiting booth at the Kearney Park Reenactment near Fresno and also flew all the colors. We invited the SUV to have a tin picture taken with us and what a commotion that caused. When passer-bys found out that we were all true descendents of Veterans from the War Between the States they began to rush in snapping pictures. The photographer was a might upset and moved us somewhere where our fans could not squeeze in.



ON A LIGHTER NOTE: The Grizzlies of Inland Empire Camp 1742 have been declared the guardians of the rubber chicken mascot until the next convention. RC lectures members (left to right) Billy Williams, Mark Anderson, and Steve Madden on the Vicksburg Campaign. Commander Madden states "It seems RC shares the camp's fondness for beer and fried chicken."

These California Division SUV members are an honorable group. They have supported the SCV in many ways. Many of them have written letters for Confederate Heritage violations. I encourage all our

Camps to work with them. My hat is off to you the "Sons of Union Veterans" for your aid in our battles. I hope that the SCV and the SUV can join on many future projects.

I would like to say something about our Division Surgeon. My friend Tim Desmond has done a great job and I appreciate all the work he has done especially with the articles for the *Vidette*. He is also Camp 1804's Chaplain and Camp 1804's champion poet. Tim is a corporal of the 3rd Confederate; we have marched many a mile together and have drank out of the same canteen (contents unknown). His wife Bobbie and my wife Marcia (both RNs) founded the CWRS Medical Corps, 20th Tennessee. They have proven to be a great asset to the CWRS especially on the educational events. They are the fastest growing unit in the CWRS and have so many schools asking for them they have to turn some away. My hat is off to Tim Desmond. Our hats are off to our wives who keep us going in a straight line.

I know that I will not have much time to speak at this Reunion like the last one so I want to say how proud I am of some of the hardest working guys I have ever met. Vern Padgett, Division Adjutant who is responsible for the best newsletter ever, the *Vidette*. How he does the 1208 and the Division newsletter and still manages to teach I don't know. He is a phenomenal man. I very much want to see us compete in the Newsletter competition at the 2004 Reunion as I think the *Vidette* is second to none.

Farrell Cooley is one of the most relentless men ever that I have come across. He does not accept failure. He drives himself until job is done then drives himself some more, then almost drops!! I want to thank Farrell for all he has done because there is no better a Lt. Cmdr to be found. Farrell has done so much unseen work for our Division that I could write a book about him. His relationship with the UDC makes him top dog with the women and boy I'll tell ya we need someone like that. I'm too shy and a bumble mouth with women. Farrell holds course and sails right along with not a stutter step. He took on the Jefferson Davis project, finished it, and was ready to go again when I needed a second wind.

With great pleasure I want to congratulate Louis Olker, Michael Montague, their Camp 1627, Preston Gilliam and his Camp 2023 and Preston's unit for one of the best grave dedications ever. The newspaper said it all! "Gone But Not Forgotten."

I want to also express my appreciation to my own Camp 1804 for an outstanding year. You are about to begin a most worthwhile project and I am proud of

you. Eric Tidd, Russell Snow, Gary Parrott, the rest of that grave search Committee have their hands full in this surprise project and I know the men of 1804 will lend you their entire support. God Bless You!

After this Division Reunion I am going to send a letter of appreciation to the UDC's Division President Rhobie Reed Curtis and thank her and all the ladies of the California Division for making me feel so welcomed at UDC functions. Those ladies are special and have done so much in regards to our fathers and their father's fathers. The UDC's Holiday Meeting was very rewarding for the UDC, the SCV, and our Cause.

It was my first time to see Michael Presswood and his color guard. Good job Mike. Thank you Ro for this was the meeting where wheels began turning in the development of the California History handout.

At the last Division Convention in Fresno, Farrell Cooley came up with the idea of a Division Honor Roll. If the Camp Commander felt that a member should be recognized, he has earned an Honor Roll position. After much thought I have decided to give four Division awards: SCV Member of the Year, Camp of the Year, and two Patriots of the Year awards.

It has been a good year for the California Division and thank you Commanders for all you have done to make this a great year! You are all Number 1 in my book.

History - Pride - Care - Heritage
Chuck Norred, Commander
California Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans

Reenacting and the Southern Heritage Movement

Nick Warren, Division Commander,
Colorado Sons of Confederate Veterans

[New members often confuse reenacting with SCV. Cmdr Warren addresses this confusion, and he makes other thoughtful observations on the world of reenacting—Ed.]

Recently there has been discussion in Heritage Defense circles regarding reenactors and where they stack up in the mix. Let me say first that reenacting is

its own world. It has as many twists and turns as Heritage Defense.

Now: How does reenacting fit with the Southern Heritage Movement? This is hard to answer unless we take a look at the inner world of reenacting. As a general rule, Reenactors are in three categories: Hardcores, Moderates, and Farbs.

Hardcores (Campaigners) are the guys that are like sports extremists. For them, reenacting is more a lifestyle than a hobby. They will spend a week or more researching an article of clothing or equipment to assure its authenticity. Some will intentionally drop weight to get their impression right. They will fret over hand stitching of their tunics and britches and generally come complete with dried mud and grease from head to toe. Hardcores will try to live the part as best they can. They as a rule are dedicated living historians, and they offer us a good look at Confederate Soldiers' appearance-- and a snapshot of soldier's life. They are well versed in the language and the customs, as well as the history of the WbtS.

The Moderates tend to be a little less religious about things. Don't get me wrong-- they research their gear-- yet they don't worry much about the stitching. They shy away from campaigning full time and tend more towards tentage. A few extra pounds here and there aren't a concern. You usually don't see these guys gnawing on hardtack and salt pork unless the public is around. Like the hardcores, they tend to be knowledgeable of equipment, and the history of the War.

Farbs occasionally come across as a hybrid of modern biker & mountain man

Farbs are the low end of the reenactor food chain. These are the guys that show up at event wearing a mishmash of gear and clothing. Usually it's hard to pin down their impression or what part of the War they are portraying.

Occasionally, they come across as a hybrid of modern biker, mountain man and a sprinkling of Civil War. They are the ones you see standing in camp smoking a Marlboro, wearing Ray Ban sunglasses and swilling cheap beer out of a can. As the best case scenario, they are there to drink beer, burn powder, and get away from the wife and the kids. A reenactment for them is a cross between Halloween and a Fourth of July party. As a rule they know less about the WbtS than the public that comes to watch

them. Again, reenacting is viewed as a lark-- a way to get away from the pressures of modern life.

Now there are other genres mixed in, and there's never any real definer for some of the rascals you see at reenactments. You will run into the occasional lunatic that hasn't quite concluded the War is over, and takes things to the ridiculous. Then you get the others that seem to be rewriting history as they go along. One really never knows. Reputation is quickly established, and as a rule the reenactor finds himself in one of the three categories.

Then you get the others that seem to be rewriting history as they go along.

Now how does reenacting fit into the Southern Heritage movement? Reenacting can be your best friend-- or your worse enemy. The hardcores and the moderates help, as they offer the general public a look at "living history." They bring the Confederate Soldier to life, and give some interpretation as to his mindset, lifestyle, and ideology. This can be a great hook at dispelling the Yankee History that so many have learned. It shows the uninformed there are two sides to the story, and that Confederates weren't the slave-mongering bad guys that many historians would have the public believe. These reenactors demonstrate a human side to one of history's most complex periods.

The Farbs do us no service. They generally are masters of misinformation. After a couple of beers they become masters of their own reality and disseminate humbug by the pound. The war usually ends up being fought by a bunch of gypsy free spirits for a number of wild reasons-- some in history books, and some are 80 proof theories with little basis other than one too many snootfulls from the jug.

I recently had an encounter with one of these types. Between gulps of cheap beer and KFC he informed me that the War was a war of White Supremacy. He threw in a couple of racial slurs. This is an example of what we don't need in reenacting or Southern Heritage. I can only imagine what impression this guy made on the general public.

The vast majority of reenactors aren't into the Southern Heritage movement

There are crossovers from the various Heritage Defense factions. I do quite a bit of reenacting, as do

folks like Don Kennedy. Reenacting can be a great avenue for educating the public and promoting Southern Heritage. As a rule, I'm real careful as to what hat I wear. Most of the reenacting I do is in first person impression. This means your speech and topics are strictly wartime. You don't discuss modern topics. You try to take on the persona of a Confederate Soldier.

Now on occasion I have snuck in recruiting for the SCV or like organizations but that has been more a rarity than the rule.

Now for the big kicker: **The vast majority of reenactors aren't into the Southern Heritage movement** in a direct sense. Yes, many times they are more than happy to help out with ceremonies, do living history and assist in any way possible. The majority of serious reenactors are sympathetic to issues such as heritage defense, yet they really aren't stakeholders in it. The majority does not have heritage directly tied to the people they portray. On the same hand we have a lot of folks with the heritage that don't reenact. So this latest bugaboo about reenactors as part of the Southern Heritage movement is a far stretch. I think the confusion comes in over some of the informal traditions one sees in the SCV.

SCV members tend to invest in uniforms and equipment. This seems to be a spin-off of the SCV parent organization: The UCV. Keep in mind, a guy in uniform a reenactor does not make.

Reenacting of the non-farb variety requires a crash course in the history of the WbtS, weapons, clothing and equipment, drill as well as persona. It is not only an investment of the obvious outlay of cash but also and investment of time. One of the things that don't appeal to the egocentric is the concept of promotion by merit. In other words, the likelihood of a long career as a private is very real.

Those with ambitions of fancy officer uniforms, gold braid, and the rest, soon become discouraged. I think the best advice I heard came from an UDC member when she stated: "We need to keep reenacting in reenacting-- and Southern Heritage in Southern Heritage." Her feelings were that the two didn't mix well. I would agree with her. They can compliment each other, but in the end, they are two separate beasts.

The Waltons

While watching an episode of *The Waltons*, Jason made a comment about the civil war. Grandpa Walton quickly corrected him and said, it was the War

Between the States. --D.Hunter, Mohave Valley, Az.
dfhunter@frontiernet.net

The Henry Rifle

B. Tyler Henry invented the rifle before 1861. The copper case of the cartridge sealed the breech of the gun, containing the hot propellant gases.

The priming element was inside a folded rim. The firing pin struck the rim without piercing it. The 22 Short rimfire dates from a few years earlier, but lacked power for practical self defense. Henry was able to make a mass-produced cartridge with a significant powder charge.

The 44 Henry cartridge was comparable in power and competitive with military pistols, but was still understrength for military shoulder arms and buffalo hunting. The majority of 1860s military shoulder arms fired a bullet of 350 to 500 grains, propelled by 40 to 60 grains of powder.

Using modern reloading components, the 44 Henry load of a 200 grain bullet and 26 to 28 grains of black powder can be duplicated with the 44 Magnum cartridge. The 44 Special can be used if the bullet is seated out to the same cartridge length as the 44 Magnum.

The 44 Henry rifle was carried in the War but was not widely accepted nor popular with the Federal Army.



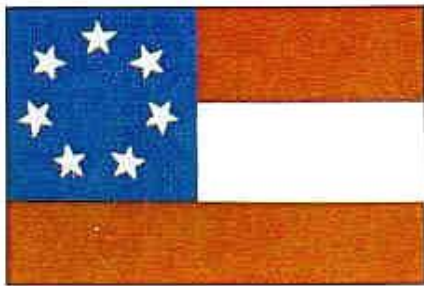
Ruins of Columbia, S.C. after its destruction in Feb. 1865. The most serious single act of destruction-- and highly controversial, since it is unclear exactly who began the blaze--was the burning of Columbia. But the scale of the overall devastation was enormous. "The army burned everything it came near in the State

of South Carolina," wrote an Indiana major, "not under orders, but in spite of orders. The men `had it in' for the State, and they took it out in their own way. Our track through the State is a desert waste. "Responsibility for the burning of the city remains controversial, but Union soldiers certainly played a role. -- Lecture at the U.S. Military Academy 15 November 1995, Mark Grimsley.



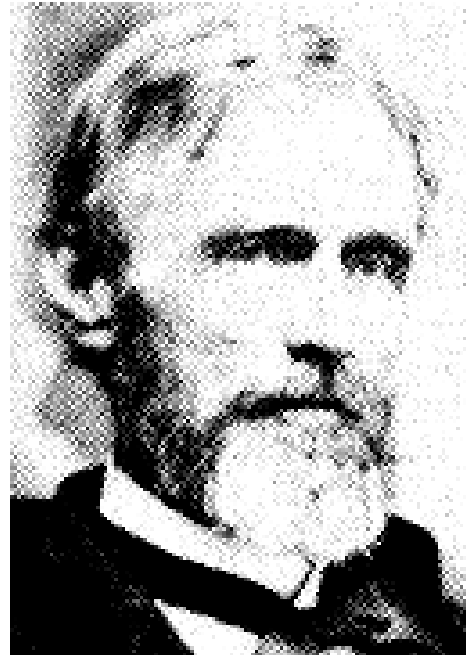
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WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Letters to the Editor

Vern: Bravo! Another masterful newsletter! Enjoyed the articles on the Confederate California and Ro King's piece on El Monte, Dan Showalter, and co. – Anna Howland, Orange County Civil War Roundtable.



SCV Life Membership

Apply for Life Membership by completing application at 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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"The contest is not over, the strife is not ended. It has only entered upon a new and enlarged arena." --Jefferson Davis, address to the Mississippi legislature-- 16 years after the war ended.

California SCV Web Site

Check 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