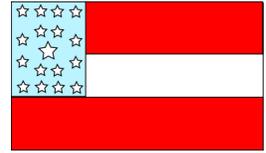




The Vidette

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag

www.SCVCalifornia.net



August 2004 Issue 31 Published by Division Adjutant Vernon R. Padgett vp09@earthlink.net

RECORD ATTENDANCE BY CALIFORNIA AT NATIONAL REUNION

California Division has 11 Men in Dalton

From Your Signals Officer

Our California Division had a record number of men in attendance at our National Reunion! I have attended 5 Reunions and I think that 5 or possibly 6 men from California was the highest number of attendees. This time we had 11! Things are looking up for California. More Reunion news in this issue.

See the link to the 65 volumes of *History and Literature of the South*—Gene Kizer has reworked this important series.

In our last issue I ran reviews of Speaker Gingrich's new book *Grant Comes East*. There are more in this issue, and also reviews of his first book in this series, *Gettysburg*.

Also, the last part of an essay on why so many Americans believe that the Civil War was fought to free the slaves. *Editor*.

State Park Agent Attacks SCV at Fort Tejon

From Marcia Norred: The evening before the big day, a ranger named Sean T. Malis told me the SCV had not requested a permit from him in writing, 30 days in advance. He began to argue past history and the court case. He mentioned Jeff Towery frequently saying ..."Jeff knows he has to have a permit," etc. etc. He stated that since he had no permit SCV would not be allowed to be there. He roped off a small area about 15' x 15' and designated it the "free speech area. Problem was, it had been occupied by a really nice Yankee fellow representing the SUV.



Real Son Woody Plaughter with friends Sandra, Diane, and Lori, in Dalton Georgia, at SCV National Reunion. I bet he wishes they would stop pestering him!

He blurted all this stuff out at me because I was asking permission to set up our medical display in the free speech area next to the SCV. I reminded him I was not SCV! I was asking about our MEDICAL set up!

Sunday morning brought a whole new day. Pete Yarbrough, Superintendent, was on scene with young Sean. Pete instructed Sean to take down the ropes and remove the "free speech area" signs he was obsessively hammering in the ground. Sean obeyed.

The SCV camps began rolling in with all their colors and our medical group set up next to them. Pete brought over a large proposed "hospital model" to our table and we collected donations for the park to help in the rebuilding of the old fort hospital. Pete said that next year he will have the entire area mowed and open

for SCV ... with NO ROPES! It was a Deo Vindice day! God DID vindicate! The outcome was better than anyone had hoped. We have great support from Superintendent Pete Yarbrough AND Marshall Neal, President of the Fort Tejon Historical Society.

[Ed.]: Fort Tejon was a resounding success for SCV recruiting and meeting the public. Commander Norred reports that compatriots from 8 camps came by our SCV recruiting tent.

More Reunion News

Confederate Mechanized Cavalry

The back cover of the official Program for the Reunion featured the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle logos of Mountain Creek in Dalton and Thunder Creek in Chattanooga. The inside front cover had a full page ad for the SCV Mechanized Cavalry, a special interest group in the SCV for members who ride motorcycles.

There were some awesome motorcycles at the Reunion. Most or all of them belonged to the Confederate Mechanized Cavalry, www.scvmc-csa.org/ Be sure to see their Diversity Project, posted at their site. Here is some information on them, from their site: "We of the Sons of Confederate Veterans who ride motorcycles have banded together into a special interest group within the organization. Members of the SCV are most welcome and encouraged to join even if they do not have a motorcycle (dismounted cavalry). Had the motorcycle been in existence during the War Between the States, our ancestors

would certainly have used them. We are then the present day mechanized cavalry, CSA."

This group has no dues or fees, and no constitution. They ask \$100 for a one-time payment to cover the cost of some large patches that they mail to the member. See www.scvmc-csa.org/SCV-INFO.htm



Confederate Mechanized Cavalry displaying the colors. Image from SCV MC website.

I spoke with a few of the members of this group, and spoke with Stephen Edmundson about the stunning Road King parked near our room at the Quality Inn. It had a crankpin cover with the Battle Flag embossed on it or etched into it. The fenders and tank were Confederate gray on top with black trim. It was truly a striking machine. As far as the great coat and tie debate, I am not sure how these members voted, as to whether coat and tie should be required during the business meetings, or just recommended, or even whether they were in the room at that point.

Battle Flag Tattoos

Lee Cross, commander of the Sparks Nevada Camp, gave me a small stack of Battle Flag tattoos. They are easy to apply, and they last about 10 days. Lee was proudly sporting one by the second day of the meeting. If you want



Stephen Edmundson of the SCV Mechanized Cavalry, with his mount, a stunning Road King, at the Quality Inn in Dalton. It had a crankpin cover with the Battle Flag on it. The fenders and tank are Confederate gray on top with black trim. Photo by Bryan W. Padgett, PGT Beauregard Camp 1458, Sumter, South Carolina.



Gary and Lori Parrott of Camp 1804 General Tyree Harris Bell, Fresno, at the Reunion Banquet and Ball. Photo by Bryan W. Padgett, Camp 1458, Sumter, South Carolina.

One of these tattoos, let me know and I'll enclose it with the next newsletter. Lee said he would get info on the source so I could run it in the next issue.



Chuck Norred of Fresno, John Kindred and Stu Hoffmann of San Diego, and Lee Cross of Sparks, Nevada. Photo by Marcia Norred. Lee's camp has grown from 18 to 48 in less than two years. Lee received a Meritorious Service Medal at the SCV Luncheon in recognition of his work.

I meet Local Author Raymond Eban

After the last bus tour—the 60 minute *blitz* tour of Chickamauga, 45 minutes of which was inside the bus, and then the Gordon-Lee Mansion tour, I was in need of a cold alcoholic beverage. I had walked down the hill to get some folding chairs and thought I saw Johnny Holland, Lieutenant Commander of the Ventura Camp.



Sandra Ashdown-Turner and ladies of the Order of Confederate Rose. Photo by Marcia Norred.

Johnny wears a distinctive black cowboy style slouch hat, and in the dim light I thought it was him sitting there.

I walked over toward him, planning to enlist him as an audience to hear my complaints about how hot it, was and how there was no beer to be had anywhere. But turned out it wasn't him. I was walking towards this man with a black hat; we were the only two in the whole section where supper had been served. I struck up a conversation with him, and found that he was a local author, Raymond Eban. He is from Ireland. He gives tours of Chickamauga, and he had something to do with planning the bus tours of the battlefields for the Reunion. I think he should have worked more on it.



Finally, some Bluegrass music, at the Gordon-Lee Mansion in Chickamauga. The supper before the tour was incredible. Photo by Bryan W. Padgett, PGT Beauregard Camp 1458, Sumter, South Carolina

Mr. Eban is quite a character. One of his ancestors, named Devlin, was hanged by the U.S. Army in because he fought against the United States in the Mexican War. This Devlin ancestor was in the Saint Patrick's Brigade of the Mexican Army, the San Patricio. Raymond Eban was commissioned to write a book for Vice-President Cheney to give the account of Cheney's Union ancestor.

Eban's hero is Breckinridge. He recommended William C. Davis's book on that accomplished U. S. senator, youngest U.S. vice-president in history, U.S. presidential candidate in the 1860 election, who would have won if Steven Douglas had stayed out, Confederate division commander, and Confederate cabinet member. I ordered it already. It is out of print, but used copies are available for under \$8 from Amazon.com.

Kennesaw Mountain

We spent some time in the Visitor Center and we stood at the foot of Kennesaw Mountain. This is an awesome place to visit. You can drive up to the top on weekdays, but we were there on Sunday, driving from Dalton to Atlanta. You can also walk the one mile up to the top. I would have but we had a plane to catch. The Visitor's Center was very well done. I have read a lot of sound and fury about the National Park Service redoing National Parks to increase the role of slavery in the War, but what I saw in the Kennesaw displays looked fine to me. There was extensive

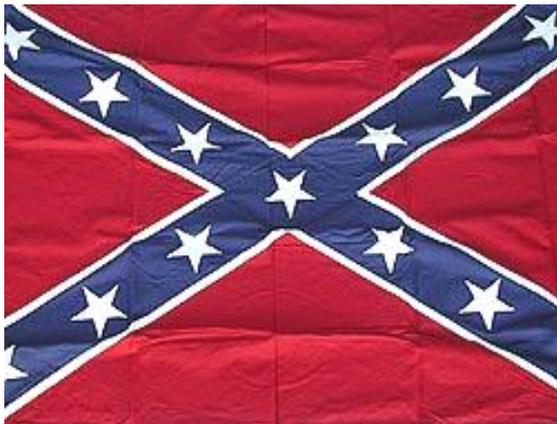
coverage of the service of Black Americans, both for the North and for the South. I didn't see much that I would have changed, had they asked me.



Vern Padgett at Kennesaw Mountain Visitor Center. The Mountain is up a one mile road. You can take a shuttle bus, or on weekdays, drive up yourself. Some walk up the mile. Photo by Bryan W. Padgett, PGT Beauregard Camp 1458, Sumter, South Carolina.

Say "Dead Yankee"

I learned a new slogan. Instead of saying "Say Cheese" you say "Say 'Dead Yankee'." I tried out this new camera technique in front of the Kennesaw Mountain Visitor Center. It made both subjects, Sandy and my sister-in-law Diane, smile. And the man walking by.



The California Division and our members need to recognize the outstanding commitment of 2 Camp Commanders who dedicated themselves to the needs of International HQ.

Thanks To:

COMMANDER PAUL WILLIAMS of Long Beach
COMMANDER STEVE MADDEN of Redlands

On Saturday April 10, 2004, Commander Paul Williams represented IHQ and awarded the SCV-ROTC award to USAF Cadet Sarah M. Etnire. The event was a

formal affair in Arcadia. Paul and his wife participated in the ceremony to award Cadet Etnire, a member of UCLA's ROTC program.

On Friday June 4, 2004, Commander Steve Madden represented IHQ and awarded the SCV-ROTC award to USAF Cadet John Jarzabek at a formal affair in Riverside. Steve participated in the ceremony to award Cadet Jarzabek, a member of the CSU San Bernardino ROTC program.

We thank Commanders Williams and Madden for their dedication and leadership in representing SCV at these important ceremonies. We are proud of their commitment and sincerity. It is this kind of opportunities where we show the public the material our men are made up of.

Thank you, Gentlemen!

Farrell D. Cooley, Lt. Cmdr. SCV-CA-Division, Cmdr.
Gen. J. B. Hood 1208

More Reviews of Newt Gingrich's *Grant Comes East* Reviews Posted at www.Amazon.com

I ran through it in less than two days, relishing every page. *Grant Comes East* is a masterful piece of the age-old *what might have been*. Gingrich marvelously writes his characters, Grant, Lincoln, and Lee most famously, but also those less known to history such as Union Generals Haupt and Sickles. Haupt is the Union general in charge of logistics and supply of the army, and is highlighted as a miracle worker, shifting men and supplies across the Union to confront the threat Lee poses to Washington.

While Sickles, the erratic Union general, and Tammany crony, maneuvers himself into command of the remnants of the Army of the Potomac and looks forward to capturing glory prior to the 1864 election. *Realpolitik* and maneuvering are still a fact of life in both the Union and Confederate governments-- neither has any foolish, idealistic realizations in the wake of the North's previous defeat. Jefferson Davis and Judah Benjamin are both in the fray, and work to increase the South's chances of foreign recognition.

Overall, *Grant Comes East* is a superbly done, well written "what if" that captures both the wonderful character portraits of a Jeff Shaara novel, and the historical possibilities of a Harry Turtledove novel, without the blemishes of either.

– Roy, Gainesville, Florida.



Bryan Padgett; Johnny Bailey, Color Sgt. of the Quattlebaum Rifle Camp 412, Leesville, South Carolina; Johnny Holland as C.S. Marine, Vern Padgett.

It was not until *Gettysburg* (Gingrich & Forstchen, 2003) reached the end of the first day at Gettysburg that I realized I was reading an alternative history.

Grant Comes East is accurate as a title in that Grant is ordered east by Lincoln to command all Union armies. Having all but destroyed the Army of the Potomac, Lee has to move on Washington. The military and political implications are enormous. Hood and Longstreet's divisions each have roughly 20,000 men, and Davis is sending Beauregard north to give Lee a third corps. Operating in Maryland puts the Army of Northern Virginia near Baltimore, the Union's third largest city. Meanwhile, Grant is moving most of his corps from the Army of the Tennessee to Harrisburg for his new Army. Sickles, the politician turned general, has showed up with his III Corps to stop the rioting in New York City and is angling for command of the Army of the Potomac, independent from Grant, not only to prove he can smash Lee but also as a stepping stone to the White House.

It was when Chamberlain ordered the 20th Maine's battle flags to be cut to pieces so that they could not be captured that I completely bought into what Gingrich and Forstchen were doing. The authors are charting new ground. Maps are provided so we can have some appreciation for the new battlefields.

As important as the battles fought in the *Grant Comes East* are political questions of foreign intervention (Napoleon III of France is being courted by Davis) and of arming colored troops. Not only do

Lincoln and Grant see the pragmatics of allowing Negroes a stake in securing freedom, but Lee has to consider the issue as well. The portraits of the principle players are compelling, even if not up to the level of what Harry Turnbull did with Lee in *Guns of the South*. – Lawrance Bernabo, Duluth.



The Georgia Monument at Chickamauga. It is 87 feet high and is the highest monument in the park. It shows Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery Confederate soldiers. Note the man at right on the statue with rammer in his hands. Photo by Bryan W. Padgett, PGT Beauregard Camp 1458, Sumter, South Carolina.

If *Gettysburg* was phenomenal, I am at a loss for adjectives after just completing *Grant Comes East*! I've read a lot of Civil War novels, and this was the best since *The Killer Angels*. Even though this was a novel, and alternate history at that, the realism was astounding! The portrayals of Lee, Grant, Longstreet, Lincoln, and Sickles were especially true to character. I found the entire premise to be plausible, the politics so insightful that I almost felt this was the way it *really* happened. There was no wild speculation, or far-fetched theories. *Gettysburg* began the story, with the slight detour that made all the difference--Lee listened to Longstreet, formulated a better plan, and avoided the fateful defeat at Gettysburg. This sequel took the war down a different path, and every aspect was

handled masterfully. Gingrich and Fortschen make a great team. – **Jackie Tortorella, Olive Branch, Mississippi.**

Gingrich and Forstchen have done outstanding research to the smallest detail, accurately describing the personalities of the primary individuals and their battlefield tactics. *Grant Comes East* takes a fascinating turn as the Union Army tries to recover after the defeat at Union Mills. Grant takes the reins as the Army's new commander and he seeks to re-organize in hopes of seeking Lee in one large scale battle.

Grant Comes East tackles the difficult political issues that face the Union, and the obstacles that lie in the way of the solution both sides seek: An end to war. Like no other book, it answers the question "What if Lee had been victorious at Gettysburg?" -- **Civilian99, McKinney, Texas.**

Pastor Warren Campbell of the Church at Kaweah is handling contact information. A. 559-561-0802 or church 559-561-4860. Address is 44069 north Fork Drive or P.O. Box 75, Kaweah, California 93237

Hope to see you there. Pastor Weaver

Conclusion of “Why Americans Want to Believe the Civil War Was Fought To Free The Slaves” by Vernon R. Padgett, Ph.D.

Why Did Northerners Fight?

We all understand why 280,000 Southerners died. They died defending their homes and families from an enemy who affected a scorched earth policy rivaled in warfare only by Napoleon in Spain in 1808, or the Nazis and Soviets in WWII.



1st North Carolina Cavalry reenactors and Camp 1208 John Bell Hood officers hold colors at Los Angeles National Memorial Day service, May 2004. From left: Chuck Ellingson, Marv Williams, the “Black Confederate”; Jim Ellingson; Mike Presswood, and Dr. Roland King.

Pastor Weaver, SCV Chaplain-in-Chief to visit California in October

Lord willing, I will be in Three Rivers Oct. 2 and 3. Also, I have been asked to bring a message on Southern history on Sunday afternoon. I do not know what I will speak upon yet, but it certainly will be on one of our Southern leaders or deal with an aspect of the War of Northern Aggression.

But why did *Northerners* fight?

No one really knows why men go away to war to fight. They don't fight for their flag, or their country, or God-- they fight for their comrades (e.g., Remarque; Kirst, Böll; McPherson; Ambrose). Southerners fought because the North invaded the South. Why did Northerners fight? We do not want to ask that question, and discussing why blacks fought for the South

leads us ultimately to the question: Why did anyone fight for the North? We know why 1 of 5 of them fought-- they were not Americans-- but were literally off the boat from Germany or Ireland. Step off the boat at Ellis Island, and step into a New York Infantry Regiment. Fight in order to get your citizenship. But what about the other 4 of 5?

Slavery had died out everywhere else in the world except Brazil, and was on its way out in the Southern states. Was the death of 640,000 Americans worth the ending of slavery some 10 or 20 years sooner?

Can Modern Psychology Help?

Can modern psychology help? Psychology is the study of human behavior and cognitive processes. Heider's Balance Theory and Festinger's Cognitive Dissonance Theory help explain why we believe what we believe,

when the evidence fails to objectively support those beliefs.



Marcia and Division Commander Chuck Norred.

In the classic 1957 experiment, students at the University of Minnesota were paid \$1 or \$20 to lie to the next student in line to do their part of the test procedure. In 1957, \$1 and \$20 were like \$5 and \$100 in today's dollars. The lie they had to tell to the next student was that the boring procedure was "really very interesting." Later they were surveyed on just how interesting they thought it was. The students paid the \$100 for lying rated the boring task as-- boring. However, the students paid only \$5 to lie rated the task as very interesting. They had come to believe in their own lie.

Festinger explained these discrepant findings by a new concept: Cognitive Dissonance. His reasoning was that the students paid \$100 had sufficient justification for their lie-- they had the \$100. In their minds, they might have thought about it this way: "I was paid very nicely to tell a small lie, and for another \$100 I'd do it again!" But what about those students who were paid only \$5? They were not paid well for lying-- so how did they justify the lie? They could not-- who would lie for what barely amounts to lunch money? The lying did not balance with their belief that they were basically honest people, and the reward for lying did not justify the lie.

So these lying students rearranged their beliefs-- and remembered the boring procedure as actually very interesting. If the procedure really was interesting, then they had *not* told a lie. This brought their behavior (lying) into balance with their beliefs about themselves (they were not liars). This research has been replicated thousands of times, and is among the most widely-accepted findings of 20th century psychology.



Bryan Sharp of HQ provides some cheer at the Banquet and Ball to our table of California (and South Carolina) compatriots. From left: Farrell Cooley, Bryan, Vern Padgett, Kenny Ramsey; Chuck Norred; Bryan Padgett.

Applying Psychology To Understanding Why We Believe

What does this have to do with believing the North fought to "Free the Slaves" or that the Civil War was fought to free the slaves? First: Consider World War II. Imagine for a moment a huge scale of justice. On the one hand place the Nazis-- and on the other hand, the Holocaust of 10 million Jews and others-- Soviet POWs, Polish civilians, gypsies, homosexuals, German mentally retarded and mentally ill. On the one hand, the greatest criminals of the 20th century, and on the other hand: The greatest crime. There is a rough balance-- the two fit together in this imaginary scale of justice.



Dr. Ro and Marilyn look on as Barron Smith, Santa Barbara, receives a National Heritage Defense award at the SCV Awards Luncheon. Other recipients of this award include Past CiC Patrick Griffith of Maryland, Ed Caitteau of Louisiana, and Randy Burbage of South Carolina.

Move to 1963, and the assassination of President Kennedy. The suspect was an unemployed, nondescript bum, Lee Oswald. The evidence was that he acted alone. There was no balance there-- a strong, young, vibrant U.S. president on the one hand, and on the other, a nameless bum with a \$14 mail order Italian army surplus rifle.

What happens when there is this discrepancy between beliefs? We revise our beliefs to bring them into balance-- like the students did in the 1957 lying study— like many of us did with the JFK assassination.



H.K. Edgerton walked across Dixie carrying the Battle flag, to educate the public about its meaning. He is shown here with Sandra Ashdown-Turner of California Order of Confederate Rose.

In the assassination of JFK, many of us in fact simply rejected the evidence. We believed instead that a vast conspiracy caused the death of JFK-- the Mafia did it. Or, the CIA did it. Or the KGB, or FBI, or LBJ, or the Martians There are 5,000 books on the Kennedy assassination, with nearly as many theories on who killed Kennedy. In each of these cases, a cognitive balance is achieved. A young president on the one hand, and forces on the other hand of such magnitude-- the FBI, CIA, U.S. Army, Soviet KGB-- those provide a rough balance on that huge imaginary scale of justice. If you have any doubts that Oswald acted alone, read Gerald Posner's 1993 *Case Closed*. It answers every problem with the evidence in the JFK assassination. Oswald did act alone-- case closed.

Back to the Civil War, and the death of 640,000 Americans: What balances the unprecedented loss of American life-- a loss greater than that of all other wars combined? Let's look at reasons typically given for why the North fought against the South.

1. Getting even for Fort Sumter? No-- Some still harp "You started it," but mature adults who can think past their last fist fight tend to look for deeper reasons for the unprecedented slaughter of 1861-1865. But did the war really start "because" of Fort Sumter? True, Fort Sumter was fired on, and the history books record that the war started, but why didn't the war start earlier, when South Carolina fired on a federal ship—Captain M'Gowan's report, in the *Official Records*, New York, Saturday, Jan 12, 1861: "When we arrived about two miles from Fort Moultrie, Fort Sumter being about the same distance . . . where there was a red Palmetto flag flying, opened fire upon us-- about five-eighths of a mile. We continued on under the fire of the battery for over ten minutes, several of the shots going clear over us. One shot passed clear of the pilot-house, another passed between the smoke-stack and walking beams to the engine, another struck the ship just abaft the fore-rigging and stove in the planking, while another came within an ace of carrying away the rudder." Why didn't the war start "because" of that incident? True, no one was killed. But no one was killed in the attack on Fort Sumter either. Some state that the war started at Fort Sumter because the new president wanted war, and Sumter provided the right excuse, and it would have started at Fort Pickens the following week if it hadn't started at Sumter (Current, 1963; Adams, 2000).

2. Settling States Rights issues? No, that doesn't have the deep appeal to match the deaths of more than half a million Americans. Who can talk about 640,000 dead Americans, and then argue that all that was for "States Rights"? Few people want to couple legalistic argument with the absence of a father, son, and brother from every home in the South-- and every 5th or 6th home in the North.



3. Settling Tariff issues? No. Same problem-- only scholars on the tariff see a deep role in that war for tax issues, and few others want to acknowledge that 640,000 Americans died to settle any tax problems. In our minds, tax issues on the one hand, and on the other, the death of a family member from every home-- they just don't provide the balance we need.

4. Preserve our Great Experiment in Democracy! This was the "Great Northern Cause" until nearly halfway through the war. Union soldiers died to ... preserve the Union. To force South Carolina back into the Union. Imagine today that North Dakota leaves the country. Who would give their life to force North Dakota back? Does anyone today believe that Union boys died because they wanted to force South Carolina back into a country she didn't want to be in? Even abolitionist Horace Greeley said "let our erring sisters go in peace." Why should I care if North Dakota, or South Carolina, or 11 other states, leave the Union? Why should I give my life, or the lives of my family members, to force them to stay with the rest of the country? Did a single Northerner buy this line? Imagine that your ex-wife or husband suddenly discovered that "there is no constitutional right to secede" from your legal marriage, and now they had to be forced back into Union with you. Would you want them back?

Did the South want to destroy the "Great Experiment in Democracy"? If the South won, would the United States have disappeared? No, they still would have been there, still with the same government, same constitution (written by Southerners), same president, same congress, same everything, except 11 states.

If you believe that the South wanted to take over the Northern states, then you might believe that the Civil War was fought to preserve the "great experiment in democracy." President Davis is not remembered for quotable lines, but "All we ask is to be left alone" shows the falsehood of this claim for why the North fought. And finally, we get to reason number 5.

5. To End Slavery.

Conclusion: Americans believe the War was about Ending Slavery because that is the only cause that provides the cognitive balance we need to justify the death of 640,000 Americans. Many of us will never believe that Lee Oswald acted alone in killing John Kennedy, because there is no sense of balance between the stature of the president and the stature of the assassin. In the same way we believe that the KGB and the Martians, or whoever, killed JFK, so we believe the Civil War was fought to end slavery.

In spite of pages of facts that show that the North had slave states, that the North was at least as racist as anywhere else; in spite of evidence that tens of thousands of Southern blacks fought in defense of the Confederacy, in spite of the evidence that slavery would have died on its own within a generation, many of us

still believe that the Civil War was fought to end slavery, because those other reasons just don't provide the cognitive balance that justifies wasting the lives of 640,000 American men.



Commander Ro King, Mrs. Marilyn King, from Santa Barbara: Real Son Woodrow Plaughter; Adjutant Don Clotworthy.

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**Was Sherman a Good General?**

Thoughts from your Signals Officer

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 Was Sherman a good general? Here is the assessment from Castel's *Decision in the West: The Atlanta Campaign*: Again and again, from Dalton to Lovejoy's Station, he overlooked, ignored, and even rejected opportunities to crush or fatally cripple the Confederate forces in Georgia or at the very least drive them from the state.

Never once did he engage or even try to engage the enemy with his full available strength; frequently he assumed the Rebels were retreating when they were not, or he wishfully thought they would do other than what they did; and too often he wasted time in operations that either were obviously futile or patently unnecessary. ... He was a general who did not like to fight.

Had Thomas's personal relationship with Grant permitted him to command in Georgia in 1864, almost surely the Union victory would have been easier, quicker, and more complete.

Specific issues in the Campaign: With the exceptions of the bypassing of Allatoona and the crossing of the Chattahoochee, Sherman ordered every one of his flanking moves with reluctance and out of sheer necessity, and he executed them without sufficient speed and force to attain maximum results. ... "Sherman has not made a single successful move

but what common sense would have dictated under the circumstances.”

Sherman avoided the tactical offensive: Just six times during the entire campaign did _portions_ of his army deliver major attacks. The first three—those of May 14 and 15 at Resaca and Hooker’s at New Hope Church on 25th May—took place because Sherman mistakenly assumed that the Confederates were retreating; the fourth, Howard’s at Pickett’s Mill, was the unintentional outcome of a flanking attempt that failed and that Sherman, too late, cancelled; and the last, that of XIV Corps at Jonesboro on Sept 1, likewise derived from an erroneous belief on Sherman’s part that the enemy’s flank was exposed, whereas it merely was vulnerable. Only the fifth and by far the largest attack, that of June 27th at Kennesaw, represented a deliberate effort to break the Confederate line by frontal assault...

Letters To The Editor

Vern, Another great issue of the *Vidette* and the *JB Hood Camp Newsletter*, too. Attached are two envelopes with U.S. postage stamps from the last reunion of the United Confederate Veterans in 1951. As the one envelope says, "Honoring the gallant fighters of the South." My, how times have changed. Political correctness and hatred of all things Southern have become official policy of the United States government, the National Park Service, and many state governments and agencies, universities, and colleges. The Confederate Veterans were honored in books, songs, in newspapers, and on United States Postage. How far we have fallen as a people. May God have mercy on us. But He is being outlawed too.

--- **Joe Alarid, Past Commander and Signals Officer, Camp 1631 Santa Barbara**

Mother's Day was an outgrowth of the Civil War, where Virginia was split with the divided loyalties of the State. Other Holidays arising from the Civil War were Memorial Day and Thanksgiving. Father's Day followed. And when you go to a grocery store and look around, remember the canned food was also a consequence of the War, because it was developed to feed the large number of troops.

And when you go in Target, remember it wasn't till the War that standard size boots and clothes were developed again for the War effort. The post office was established to deliver mail to homes, because so many people were going there and getting the dreaded

news of a son killed in battle, that the Postmaster General said that people should the opportunity to grieve in the privacy of their homes.

And our currency system, all standardized during the war, as local banks had printed and coined before the war. And the Federal government expanded and Civil Service established to protect it, and income tax administered by the IRS to finance it. Learn your Civil War history children, because it was a defining moment in world history, the issues of which, States Rights vs. centralized Federal authority continue to be central force in American politics, government and economics.

Andrew Hinkle, Ph.D., Worthington, Ohio

Brigadier General Tyree H. Bell, C.S.A: Forrest's Fighting Lieutenant

By [Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes](#), [Connie Walton Moretti](#), [James Michael Browne](#)

listed on www.Amazon.com, where it can be pre-ordered for \$37.41; ships by early fall. It is a full biography of one of Forrest's most trusted Generals, one to whom one of his famous quotes "Tell Bell to hurry up fast and give it all he's got" was directed. Also: Bell's early war years in the infantry, where he was seriously wounded at Shiloh, and his post war years coming to California.

--- Connie Moretti, Past President, UDC California

Supplemental Memberships for your Ancestors

Compatriots!

The Sons of Confederate Veterans keeps detailed records on the Confederate ancestries of members. Many of you have more than one Confederate ancestor. If so you ca file a supplemental application to record the names and units of all of your additional ancestors.

To do so is easy. Fill out a standard Application for Membership, and write "Supplemental" at the top.

Submit it and the supporting documents to your camp adjutant, along with a check in the amount of \$10.00 to cover the recording fee. He will handle the rest. By doing this, you will help the Sons of Confederate Veterans keep its records as detailed as possible. Moreover, after your supplemental

applications have been recorded, it will be possible for you to visit the SCV headquarters in Columbia, Tennessee, and find out if you are related to other members who are descendants of your ancestors. Talk about making genealogical research easy! It doesn't get any easier than that!

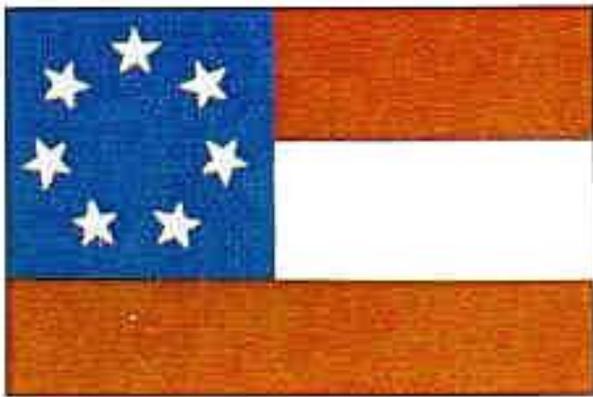
James Allen Knechtmann, Commander, Camp 1440 San Jose

A Thank You from the Editor: Thanks Again to Compatriot Floyd Farrar of Camp 2007, Long Beach, who worked with many of the images here, reducing their file sizes from 800 or 1000 KB to 60 or 70 KB each, with no apparent loss of clarity.

New Book on Reenacting by Camp 1208 Compatriot Mike Chilton

Compatriot Mike Chilton has a book on Reenacting.

It would be especially helpful to new reenactors, and I recommend it. He is selling it for \$9.95. See www.1861Reenactors.com



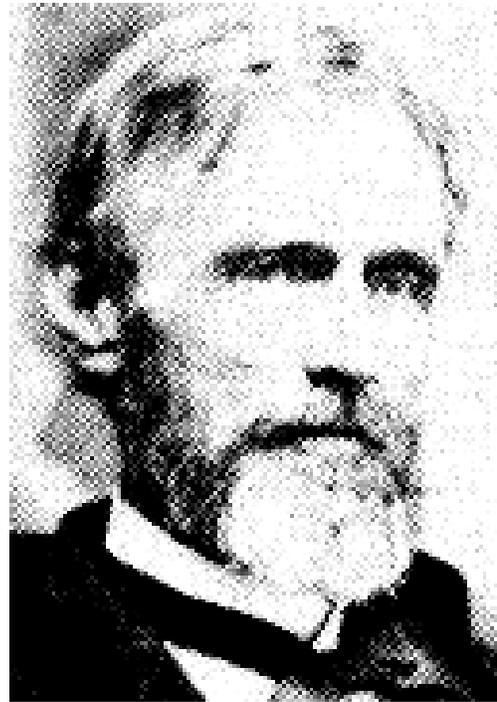
SCV Life Membership

Apply for Life Membership by completing application at www.SCV.org. New fee structure is \$250 for those over 65 and \$500 if younger. Mail check and form to HQ. Life Members are assigned to Camp 2 and are also listed on local Camp rosters with "LM" instead of an expiration date.

California SCV Web Site

Check www.scvcalifornia.net for the California SCV website. Gary Waltrip, Division Webmaster, continues to expand and add to the web site. See Gary's own site at www.RebelGray.com

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



"... We desire peace at any sacrifice save that of honor and independence. All we ask is to be let alone." — Jefferson Davis, 29 April 1861.

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**(Division Officers, Continued)**  
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John Cabell Breckinridge
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John Cabell Breckinridge (1821-1875), was vice president of the United States and, later, a Confederate general.

Breckinridge served as vice president from 1857 to 1861, under President James Buchanan. He took office at the age of 36 and is the youngest person ever to serve as vice president.

In 1860, the Southern wing of the divided Democratic Party nominated him for president. Breckinridge came in second in the four-candidate presidential election, losing to Republican Abraham Lincoln. The Civil War began in 1861, soon after Lincoln took office.

As a Confederate general, Breckinridge fought in many battles, including Shiloh, Stones River (Murfreesboro), Vicksburg, Jackson, and Chickamauga. He was Confederate secretary of war in 1865.

Breckinridge was born near Lexington, Kentucky. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1851 to 1855. In 1861, Breckinridge became a U.S. senator. But he was soon expelled from the Senate because of his membership in the Confederate Army. [www2.worldbook.com/wc/popup?path=features/presidents&page=html/breckinridge.htm&direct=yes](http://www2.worldbook.com/wc/popup?path=features/presidents&page=html/breckinridge.htm&direct=yes)

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History and Literature of the South
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Gene Kizer of South Carolina has remastered and transferred to DVD most of the parts of this powerful series on Southern history and literature.

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For complete list with speaker biographies: [www.HistoryandLiteratureoftheSouth.com](http://www.HistoryandLiteratureoftheSouth.com)

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