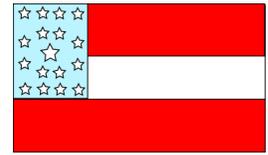




The Vidette

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag

www.SCVCalifornia.net



September 2004 Issue 32 Published by Division Adjutant Vernon R. Padgett vp09@earthlink.net

FOR ONCE, LIVE TV SUPPORTS SCV

SCV On Television: Compatriot Kline Plays Dixie on Trumpet

Fresno: PBS channel 18 ran a big promo for the upcoming Kearney Park Civil War Reenactment.

Our group was on live TV answering phones. Our reenactment group is Civil War Reenactment Society. SO ... we pledged \$60 from THE SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS CAMP 1804 and we challenged THE UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY on the air. The local announcer is a Yankee jackass & hates anything C.S.A. BUT, as he stood there ON CAMERA looking pretty in his spiffy Yank outfit, he was forced to announce Confederate pledges!

How to Get SCV on the Air

The UDC met the challenge.

Because this person had been such a jackass, at the end of the program, Camp 1804 member Richard Kline jumped out of his phone station seat and started playing "Dixie" on his trumpet!

The show was live so there was nothing the Yank could do to "edit" it out!! The Yank was clearly irritated and on air he commented: "Wrong Song!!!"

Of course that inspired Richard to play louder & harder!! It was absolutely hilarious. Altogether there were approximately three UDC pledges and two SCV pledges.....and NO SUV!!! You'll have to see it on film to appreciate what happened.

– Marcia Norred.

(Ed.: Let's urge Marcia to bring a tape to the Reunion.)



Southern artillerists wreaking vengeance on the Yankees in an image captured by Floyd Farrar at the Huntington Beach Reenactment, 4 September 2004.

Commander Norred: Let's Make the Next Division Reunion Awesome

Activity within the Division is tremendous right now. A week ago I was at the Ft. Tejon Reenactment and found 8 different Camps in attendance. They were either reenacting or running some of the best recruiting booths I have ever seen.

I want to also encourage you to read the latest *Vidette*. Vern Padgett does it again. This has to be one of the best I have read. Please read it. Vern has a great story on the National Convention as well as letters to the editor.

I set up a booth at the first Salinas Reenactment this past weekend thinking I was going to be all alone. To my surprise, I found a number of smiling faces walking towards me. Yes, it was the guys from San Jose. Allen & Jennifer Knechtman, Roy Nunn, Ed Allegretti, and Ed's parents. It was a great day. Attendance was small but we had a number of people interested in the SCV, UDC, and OCR. We had a blast!! Even had a number of guys there for a Charter meeting of the Salinas/Monterey Camp.

I want to congratulate Farrell Cooley, as he was selected to the National Heritage Defense Committee. Please help him out when he reaches out to you because he has taken on a big job. He is about to be the busiest he has ever been (he's going back to college).

I have asked Johnny Holland, at jnyreb@earthlink.net, to act as the Division "Chief Of Staff" because he has come onto some free time and he's willing to drive up my way sometimes. He will be logging Division Activities for me. Please send him your Camp activities. Anything and everything. Could be reenacting or giving a talk somewhere.

Division Historian Dr. Ro King RebelRo@qnet.com is working on a project that needs all our input. I know he has sent out a letter but I want to reach out to you also. Please send him names of your Confederate ancestors, and units, Regiments and a copy of a picture if possible. We would like to put a book together of the California Division and our ancestors. Ro has already attempted the impossible, and played an important role in putting together a handout on the role of California during the war.

Mike Schooling is working on the Division Convention. It will be on March 11th to 13th in Pasadena. Let's try something interesting at this coming Division Convention. Let's have a couple of competitions. Camp 1804 put together a "killer" scrapbook for the National Competition, and lost to a Camp in Texas. We are sore losers and will do it again next year.



Evergreen cemetery is in the Boyle Heights area of Los Angeles. The marker for Captain Thom is about 100 yards in from the entrance on the left side of the road. The bio of Thom is absolutely incredible. This is why we named our SCV camp after him. I have added these images to the Find A Grave site, plus, Peggy Hooper's LA Gravesite Transcription Project

-- Floyd Farrar, Camp 2007 Long Beach

<http://www.findagrave.com/>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/california/losangeles.html>

How about our Division having a scrapbook competition??? It would be nice for us to put on a newsletter competition also. I'm going to throw a couple of names out here and I hope they accept. To represent Southern California I would like to ask Steve Smith & Mike Schooling to co-head the Awards Committee. To represent Northern California I would like to ask Allen Knechtmann & Roy Nunn.

Mike, please find time also at the convention for some Confederate poetry and music. There are some Camps in this Division that have great talent with music, poetry, and story telling. I'll bet if I asked Kenny Ramsey to put together an evening of Confederate poetry and music he would do it. Kenny could you contact all the Camps and gather together an evening of this. If we can come up with a date and there is a place I will ask 1804's music people for some period dancing if there is interest. Let me know if you want any dancing.

Memorial service and a class on monuments (how about Barron Smith); Sunday morning service would all be nice. Always know that I will have a suite and a Sunday service could always take place there. Division Chaplin Kermit Albritton---can you arrange for a small service? Last service was put together by 1804's Chaplin and Division Surgeon Tim Desmond. It was excellent. Last year Reverend Lou Carlson did an excellent job.

Folks, I just threw out a lot of things, and I welcome suggestions, concerns and support. I am asking you to please read the *Vidette*, get your ancestors info (picture or not) to Ro King, get your activities to Johnny Holland, and put together a scrapbook to share at the Division Convention.

Kenny Ramsey- Talent night is on you brother Steve, Mike, Allen, Roy- Awards Committee
Johnny Holland- Get activities to him
Mike Schooling- Convention man and coordinator
Ro King- Ancestor information
Kermit Albritton- Sunday morning service

God Bless You,
Chuck Norred

Heritage News

Dear Vern,

Thank you for sharing this piece of information on the Gettysburg Art Controversy. You have done your duty as division adjutant and you have done it well. I appreciate your good work and know you will always keep the division posted on important events.

With my appreciation and admiration for your great work acknowledged, please allow me to gently and respectfully express another viewpoint.

First, I give the glory to God that I live in a free country where free men can freely express their opinions. My Confederate ancestors fought for a world where government of the people, by the people and for

the people, shall not perish from the earth. Freedom for free men is the watchword of Confederate principles.

Second, I have been to Gettysburg many times.

I have seen every part of the battlefield. However, I have never been to Gettysburg College or its art museum. When I return to Gettysburg, I will visit the scenes of Confederate valor, not some college art museum.



Another image by Floyd Farrar, showing Captain Thom's marker at Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles. Captain Thom of the C.S.A. later served as Mayor of Los Angeles in the 1880s. Camp 2007 Long Beach is the Captain Thom Camp.

Third, there are many unaccounted Confederate dead buried at Gettysburg. Therefore, I regard the whole battlefield as a sacred Confederate cemetery. I honor the brave men who fought on both sides and enjoy walking and studying the fields where they gave the last full measure of devotion.

Fourth, the pathetic artist who seeks to use propaganda and passion as a substitute for talent

is not worthy of our critical notice. All we can do is give him the free publicity his talent alone can never attain.

Fifth, I will do what I have always done: I will go to the Gettysburg battlefield to study an important part of my American heritage. I will study a battlefield made holy by Confederate dead, and not see an art museum full of the latest and most pathetic attempts at modern art. My tax dollars support the battlefield and I will see those dollars at work.

Vern, please pass this notice to all you please. I will not forsake my heritage for some Yankee's heresy.

I remain, as always, most respectfully,

**Yours For Dixie, Steve Madden,
Commander/Adjutant, Inland Empire Camp 1742**

~~~~~  
Here is a letter I wrote to *Irish Online* regarding an article about GAA sports fans waving the Confederate Flag in Cork County events.

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There was a reaction of wanting to ban the flag as "racist and oppression and hate symbols" as we have heard before.

Sir: Regarding: GAA Headlines "REBEL FANS REBEL AGAINST FLAG BAN CALLS" 05/08/2004

There were several references to the Confederate Flag as a racist symbol and promotion of slavery. As the Irish people have known their own struggle with dealing with the "spin" and "lies" of the victor over the vanquished-- English oppression for over 800 years-- the American public has suffered from a similar "victor bias" for the past 140 years.

However, it wasn't until around 1950 that American education systems began teaching that "slavery was a cause of the war between the states." We are still fighting for the truth in that mistaken assumption. The North invaded the South over Secession, and not to preserve slavery. The South did not secede to preserve slavery-- which was legal in most states and in the North. However, in that era, the state was sovereign, and there was no Constitutional restriction on a state seceding from the Union.

The Confederate Flag has been misused in the past by certain hate groups. Those groups also flew the American Flag and still use the American flag more than the confederate flag. Several groups in the USA are fond of using "hate" as modus operandi for legal and political gain to further their agendas. Many are social liberal groups who believe that certain symbols should be banned. This is not American. It is



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. Compatriot Vern Padgett, standing on ground, admires this awesome monument. Photo by Bryan W. Padgett, PGT Beauregard Camp 1458, Sumter, South Carolina.

unfortunate that an honorable banner has been misused in the past and has acquired this "hate" connotation.

What is this particular Confederate Flag? It is the regimental flag that an infantry unit fought with. It was also the Naval Jack which flew on the Confederate ships. As such, this flag was a symbol and the colors for which these men fought and died for. In that sense it is a symbol of "love"-- not hate.

There were other flags also for various Union and Confederate regiments. There were three different patterns of Confederate National flags. All of these flags and the "Confederate Flag" are symbols of freedom, freedom for all states and individuals.

I am sure that even though I have visited Ireland twice, and will return, that I am unaware of much of Ireland's history. The views of the SWP [Socialist Worker's Party] are consistent with what many groups believe is a symbol of racism. These groups look for that. They pick their hate symbols.

As a descendant of Cork, I am proud that the Cork County Board is standing for freedom and not giving in to wrongful views. Many thousands of Irish died under the Confederate banner. County Cork born General Patrick R. Cleburne, the only Irish born Confederate General, fought and died for the Confederacy. If the Cork County Board is to take on the responsibility of educating fans about the flag, as Joe Moore SWP Cork spokesman has suggested, then let them educate with the correct history, NOT the HATE LIES.

For those people who think they know the history of the Confederate Flag and the Confederacy, and are disgusted along with Donncha O'Leary, owner of Cashman's pub in Cork City, should maybe be pleased with GAA fans being linked to Confederate America. If there ever was an oppressed America it was the "unreconstructed South" of the once fighting Confederacy. The Irish people would surely have identified with that. The GAA fans may be correct and don't realize it.

If possible, could you forward this to the GAA and also to the Cork County Board. I do not have those links or addresses available to me. Please know that I think this is a great website, and I enjoy the link to Ireland, eight time zones away.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE IRISH, SINCERE REGARDS TO YOU,

Timothy J. Desmond,
California Division Surgeon General

From Our Division Heritage Officer on Our Flag

In reply to Terence Washington's comments about the Confederate Flag at a USC game, broadcasted over the national media: Mr. Washington's comments are both correct and incorrect.

First of all, he is correct in stating that slaves were stolen by the United States and brought here by the ships that flew the United States flag. And not one single slave was brought here by the ships of the Confederate States of America. So he should have stated "When you fly the United States flag, you support a state's right to exploit an innocent race of people."

He is incorrect in stating that the Civil War was fought over the issue of slavery. Fewer than 10% of Southern people owned slaves; slavery was legal though out the entire United States, and was only

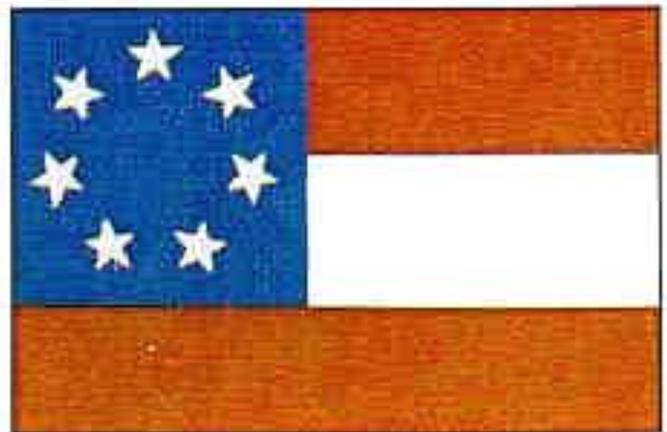
made illegal by Abraham Lincoln as a last resort to destroy the Southern economy, and only in the South were the slaves freed by the Emancipation Proclamation.

Slavery was still legal in the United States until the 13th Amendment was ratified on Dec.6th 1865. Slavery was practiced and lasted for over 200 years by the United States, and was made illegal in the Confederacy before it was in the United States. The Confederate States lasted only four years.

It is my opinion that the Confederate flag is flown at football games as a symbol of courage, undying devotion, and determination-- Much like the soldiers and citizens of the Confederate South.

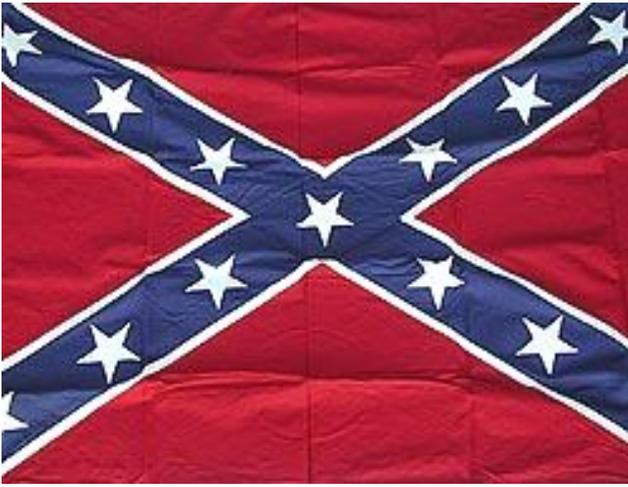
The Confederate flag has every right to be flown. The rights of the person who flew the flag at that game are protected by the United States Constitution. The Confederate flag has just as much right to fly anywhere in the country as the United States flag does.

It is true, that hate groups misuse the Confederate flag, for their own purposes. However, they also fly the United States flag. It is a shame that the Confederate flag and Confederate heritage has to take the fall for all slavery that was conducted in the United States. -- **Steve White**



SLRC releases Eisenhower letter praising Robert E. Lee

BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC -- In connection with the opening of an anti-Confederate art exhibit at Gettysburg College, the Southern Legal Resource Center has released an exchange of letters in which former President Dwight D. Eisenhower defended the character and motives of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.



"We thought it was particularly appropriate to share the contents of these two letters at this time," said Roger McCredie, Executive Director of the SLRC. "Eisenhower, of course, had strong ties to Gettysburg; in fact he retired there and had an office at Gettysburg College which I understand is now the admissions office.

We think his opinions as expressed in this letter provide an interesting perspective on the events the college has planned." The letters released by the SLRC are certified copies of originals housed in the Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas. The first is from a dentist in New Rochelle, NY, was written August 1, 1960. It reads:

"Dear Mr. President:

"At the Republican Convention I heard you mention that you have the pictures of four (4) great Americans in your office, and that included in these is a picture of Robert E. Lee.

"I do not understand how any American can include Robert E. Lee as a person to be emulated, and why the President of the United States of America should do so is certainly beyond me.

"The most outstanding thing that Robert E. Lee did, was to devote his best efforts to the destruction of the United States Government, and I am sure that you do not say that a person who tries to destroy our Government is worthy of being hailed as one of our heroes.

"Will you please tell me just why you hold him in such high esteem?

Sincerely yours,
Leon W. Scott"

Eisenhower's response, written from the White House on August 9, 1960, reads as follows:

"Dear Dr. Scott:

"Respecting your August 1 inquiry calling attention to my often expressed admiration for General Robert E. Lee, I would say, first, that we need to understand that at the time of the War Between the States the issue of Secession had remained unresolved for more than 70 years.

Men of probity, character, public standing and unquestioned loyalty, both North and South, had disagreed over this issue as a matter of principle from the day our Constitution was adopted.

"General Robert E. Lee was, in my estimation, one of the supremely gifted men produced by our Nation. He believed unswervingly in the Constitutional validity of his cause which until 1865 was still an arguable question in America; he was thoughtful yet demanding of his officers and men, forbearing with captured enemies but ingenious, unrelenting and personally courageous in battle, and never disheartened by a reverse or obstacle.

Through all his many trials, he remained selfless almost to a fault and unflinching in his belief in God. Taken altogether, he was noble as a leader and as a man, and unsullied as I read the pages of our history.

"From deep conviction I simply say this: a nation of men of Lee's calibre would be unconquerable in spirit and soul. Indeed, to the degree that present-day American youth will strive to emulate his rare qualities, including his devotion to this land as revealed in his painstaking efforts to help heal the nation's wounds once the bitter struggle was over, we, in our own time of danger in a divided world, will be strengthened and our love of freedom sustained.

"Such are the reasons that I proudly display the picture of this great American on my office wall.

"Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower"

History and Literature of the South

Compatriots— Gene Kizer of South Carolina has remastered and transferred to DVD most of the parts of this powerful series on Southern history and literature. It is *65 fascinating volumes*, and features some of the most renowned scholars alive today.

For complete list with speaker biographies:
www.HistoryandLiteratureoftheSouth.com



Chaplain Floyd Farrar administers the Oath of Allegiance to Compatriot Robbe, Camp 2007 Long Beach.

News from Long Beach Camp 2007 Captain Cameron Thom

Our September meeting was very productive. Chaplain Floyd Farrar has taken the lead in our local cemetery project. We have at least three Confederate Veterans buried here in Long Beach and another one in San Pedro. These brave men do not have any type of marker to indicate their military service. We are working on getting SCV markers for the men. We would like to have a ceremony in January or February. Right now, Floyd and Mike Robbe are doing all of the leg work. Mike is a full time student and is time limited. If there are any of y'all that can help out please contact me at guapacnrebplw@att.net or Floyd at farrfl@attbi.com.

We also tossed out the possibility of having a Division convention aboard a three day cruise from Long Beach to Ensenada. Any opinion on this?

We also viewed the Hunley Funeral DVD. I can watch it 100 times and pick out something new each time. Wow! How ingenious those folks were. No wonder Southrons are the smartest folks in the world.

We swore in Compatriot Robbe. Compatriot Robbe is our signals and communications officer. He is changing our Camp website in November. The old website was located at longbeachscv.org.

Our two main goals for this year are: Marker Dedication ceremony in early 2005, and, double the camps membership. (bring in those brothers, fathers, cousins, sons, grandsons). -- **Paul Williams, Commander**

News from Camp 1742 Inland Empire



Inland Empire Camp 1742 in front of Commander Madden's home, with Stainless Banner that flew over Fort Sumter. Commander Madden is holding RC, division mascot, staggering from sandwiches and beer. From left: Jerry Dupree and his Division Award for Service to Dixie; Billy Williams, host of the last meeting; Steve Madden; Mark Anderson, photographer; and Lowell Cross, signals officer and author of the best darn newsletter in Dixie. They are the backbone of the Inland Empire Camp. We represent an area larger than Denmark. We will do better. We will control the world. ---Yours For Dixie, Steve Madden

Declaration from Sons of Union Veterans in Support of SCV on Gettysburg Boycott

The SUV has joined with the SCV in the Gettysburg Boycott. This resolution is good and expresses great feeling. This is another big step in the relationship between the SCV & SUV. – Chuck Norred.

Here is the stance of the National Organization,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on the
Confederate flag. This comes directly from
Danny L. Wheeler, Commander-in-Chief
501 Willow Ave
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-272-7314
suvewdw@clarityconnect.com

This resolution represents the position by the
National Organization of the Sons of the Union
Veterans of the Civil War as adopted on August 19,
2000 at the 119th National Encampment held in
Lansing, Michigan.

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
DISPLAY OF BATTLE FLAGS OF THE
CONFEDERACY
119TH NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
LANSING, MICHIGAN AUGUST 19, 2000**

A resolution in support of the display of the
Confederate Battle Flag.

WHEREAS, we the members of the Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War, condemn the use of the
Confederate battle flag, as well as the flag of the
United States, by any and all hate groups, and

WHEREAS, we the members of the Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War support the flying of the

Confederate battle flag as a historical piece of this
nation's history, and

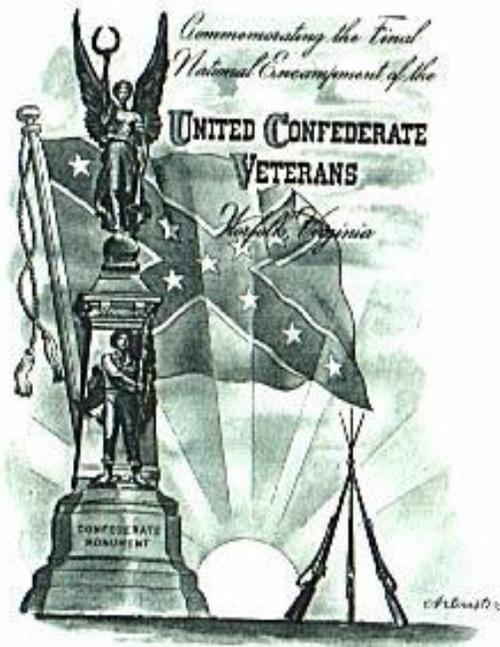
WHEREAS, we the members of the Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War oppose the removal of any
Confederate monuments or markers to those gallant
soldiers in the former Confederate States, and strongly
oppose the removal of ANY reminders of this nation's
bloodiest war on the grounds of it being "politically
correct," and

WHEREAS, we, as the descendants of Union soldiers
and sailors who, as members of the Grand Army of the
Republic, met in joint reunions with the Confederate
veterans under both flags in those bonds of Fraternal
Friendship, pledge our support and admiration for
those gallant soldiers and of their respective flags;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the
members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil
War in 119th Annual National Encampment hereby
adopt this resolution. Dated in Lansing, Michigan, on
this nineteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord
Two thousand.

**By Order of: Danny L. Wheeler, Commander-in-
Chief**

~~~~~  
**Confederate at UCV Reunion on U.S. postage. First  
Day Cover image from Commander Joe Alarid, Santa  
Barbara.**  
~~~~~



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



*B. W. Woodfin
11666 Riad
Detroit 24, Mich.*

Letter to the Editor

Vern, Thanks for your good work with the newsletter. It is a wonderful work of information and history. You are to be commended for your good work for Dixie.

Respectfully, I must disagree with your characterization of our friend, Park Interpreter Sean Malis. Sean is a long-time reenactor at the Fort who supports both sides. He is a member of the Army Reserves who has done duty in Iraq. I know Sean as a good man who supports all reenactors of all sides. Sean is our friend and cannot be our enemy unless there is a breakdown in communications. The fact that he mentioned Jeff Towery shows how much we have failed to keep the State Park system informed of our internal workings. We must do better so the Park System can do better.

Again, I have known Sean for 20 years and I know he is no enemy of Dixie. We need to increase communication between the SCV and Fort personnel. We don't need to criticize honest men who honestly desire to do the best for an honest study of history. Ultimately, that is all we ask.

Again, thank you for your good work. Please extend a correction in the next edition to show that Sean is the friend of our history and the victim of a lack of timely communication. We must support our friends and Sean is our friend. Honor demands no other course.

**Yours For Dixie, Steve Madden,
Commander/Adjutant, Inland Empire Camp SCV**

SCV Life Membership

Apply for Life Membership by completing application at www.SCV.org. Ask me at vp09@earthlink.net about the new fee structure. 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 Division Staff

Commander Chuck Norred chucknorred@prodigy.net
Lt. Commander Farrell D. Cooley RebWaylon@aol.com
Adjutant and Treasurer Vern Padgett 562.947.1554
vp09@earthlink.net

Judge Advocate Michael Wright

Heritage Officer Steve White

walters.white@netzero.net

Webmaster Gary Waltrip Secesh@rebelgray.com

Historian Dr. Ro King RebelRo@qnet.com

Chaplain Kermit Albritton scscsa@quixnet.net

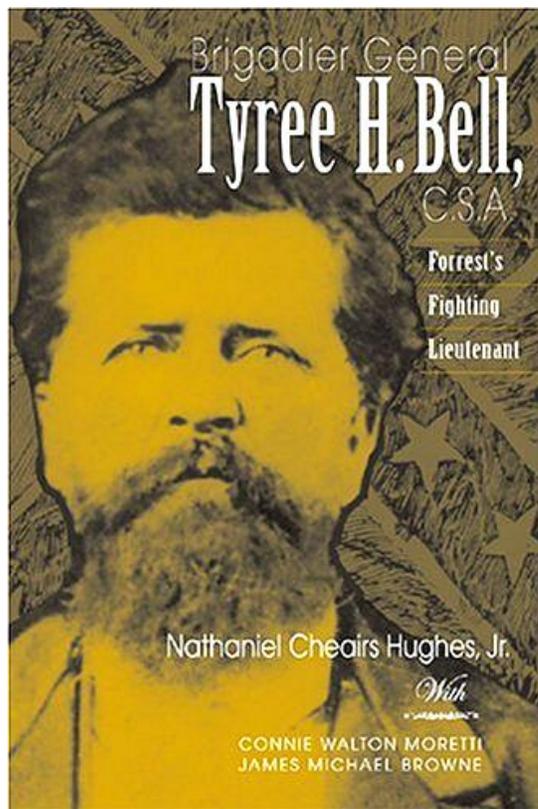
Genealogist JR Watson elw442000@yahoo.com

Surgeon Gen. Tim Desmond BobbiTimDesmond@cs.com

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

by [Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes](#), [Connie Walton Moretti](#), [James Michael Browne](#), University of Tennessee Press, published August 2004, 346 pages, hardcover, is listed at www.Amazon.com, for \$30.60, no tax, and free shipping.

--- Connie Moretti, Past President, UDC California



John Cabell Breckinridge

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.

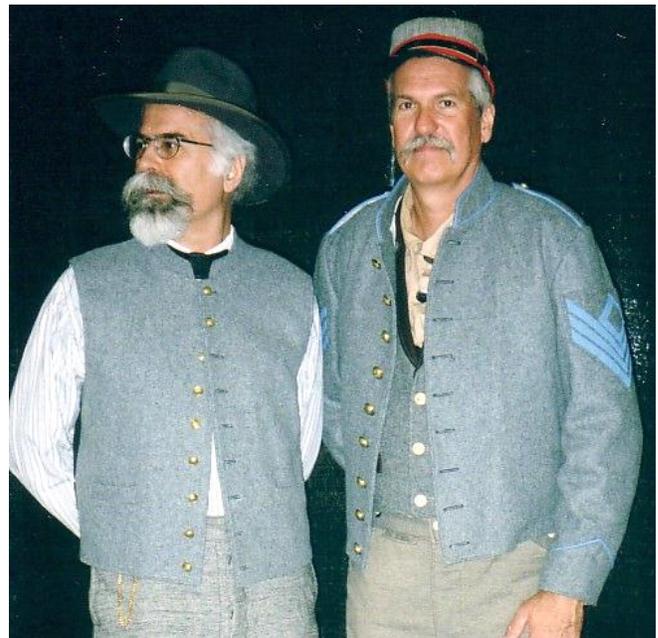
Breckinridge was born near Lexington, Kentucky. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1851 to 1855. In 1861, Breckinridge became a U.S. senator. But he was soon expelled from the Senate because of his membership in the Confederate Army. www2.worldbook.com/wc/popup?path=features/presidents&page=html/breckinridge.htm&direct=yes

New Book is Out 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

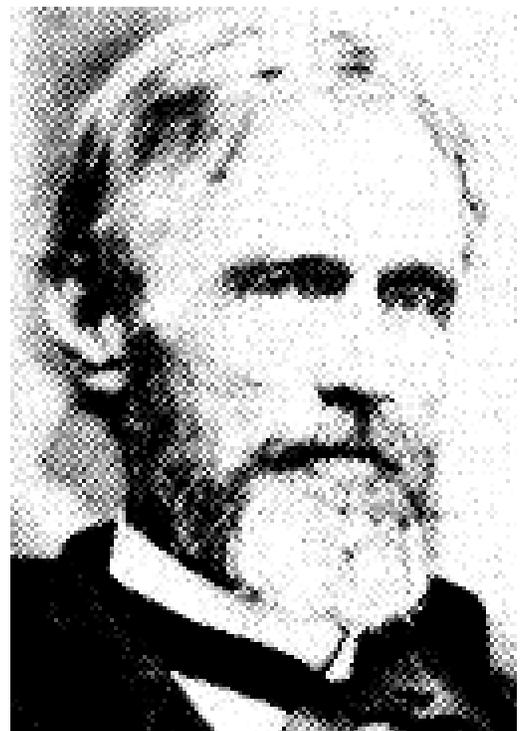
California SCV Web Site

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



Vern and Bryan Padgett at Banquet, National Reunion in Dalton August 2004. Photo by Sandra Ashdown-Turner.

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.