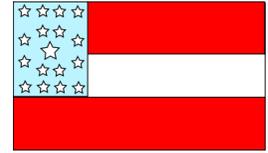




# The Vidette

## CALIFORNIA DIVISION

### Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag

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



March 2005 Issue 35 Published by Division Adjutant Vern Padgett [vp09@earthlink.net](mailto:vp09@earthlink.net)

## STATEWIDE MEETING IN PASADENA

# Best California Division Reunion Ever!

Our California Reunion for 2005 is now history. I think it was the best ever. Roy Nunn of Camp 1440 sums it up better than I can. His comments follow. – *Ed.*

Gentlemen,

It was an honor for me to be with you to celebrate our heritage, and to plan for the future.

What a wonderful feeling knowing that you have such great compatriots at your side. Everyone was so exceptional.

I finally got to know the faces behind the emails too-- bad enough to scare any Yankee dead!

We truly are family. Thanks, again, for the special time.

**Confederately yours, Col. Roy Nunn,  
Commander, Camp 1440, The Stainless Banner**

In this issue we have another of Tim Desmond's fine pieces on 1860s medicine, and, a moving poem, one that he read aloud at our Reunion.

More on the Reunion: We raised division dues from \$2 a year to \$5 a year, following a spirited debate, in which cogent points were made by both sides. We are now a member of the Civil War Preservation Trust, and can save battlefield land in the name of California SCV.

The next Vidette will feature more reunion news and photos.

And we have the latest on California SCV and UDC work on global positioning systems—an important new way to document part of our heritage. We have skilled people from SCV, UDC, and SUV all working together, using this technology. -- *Editor.*



**Commander Paul Williams, Camp 2007 Long Beach, displays his son's flag in Pasadena at our Division Reunion. His son, a Marine, carried this Battle Flag in Iraq. Photo by Floyd Farrar.**

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC AND CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST HIGHLIGHT PLIGHT OF HALLOWED BATTLEFIELDS

The latest edition of the world-renowned magazine dramatically reveals the plight of Americas Civil War battlefields.

(Washington, D.C., 3/15/2005) “ National Geographic magazine draws a bead on the urgency of preserving America's Civil War history in its April

2005 edition. In *Civil War Battlefields: Saving the Landscapes of Americas Deadliest War*, writer Adam Goodheart, and photographer Michael Melford, explain how urban sprawl and development are overtaking our nation's Civil War battlegrounds.

Jim Lighthizer, President of Civil War



**Our first Reunion with singing in tune, at least the piano is in tune: Camp 1208 Compatriots Kent Jones (at keyboard) and Vern Padgett lead 46 attendees in patriotic song. Camp 1631 (Santa Barbara) members Dr. Maner Thorpe, at left, and past commander Joe Alarid, at right. Photo by Floyd Farrar.**

Preservation Trust (CWPT), was impressed with the article, noting: "Nothing reveals the plight of our remaining Civil War battlefields better than images of those sites today. National Geographic's pictures, combined with Adam Goodheart's riveting tale of history and sprawl, make a powerful argument for battlefield preservation."

Of the 10,000 battles and skirmishes fought during the Civil War, 383 battlefields were deemed worthy of protection by the Congressionally appointed Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in 1993. Through the efforts of CWPT and other organizations, many of these battlefields have been saved in the past decade. CWPT fears that, without quick action, the 200,000 acres of hallowed ground that remain in private hands may be irretrievably lost to developers within the next twenty years.

The blockbuster story by *National Geographic* is

what we need to shed light on the severe problems facing our Civil War battlefields, Lighthizer remarked. More men and women lost their lives or were injured on these battlefields than in any other American war. We hope that all Americans who value our history will join us to save this blood-soaked land.

The magazine's parent organization, the National Geographic Society, will join CWPT to unveil the story at a Capitol Hill reception for Senators, Members of Congress and their staffs on Wednesday, March 16.

CWPT is a 70,000-member nonprofit battlefield preservation organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. Its mission is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War sites and promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds. CWPT's website is [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org).

Global Positioning System

## GPS: New System for recording Grave Sites

The SCV and UDC have been working for years trying to locate and record the graves of Confederate war veterans in California for historical purposes and in order to honor them. Please forgive me if you already know all this. Anyway, people sometimes spend hours locating a grave, and noting its location on a piece of paper ... just to have it "disappear" the next time they try to find it. Believe me, it's difficult enough finding someone's grave in the first place, so you don't want to have to "rediscover" it every time. So, I've been trying to introduce the use of the GPS.

As most people have never used a GPS unit, they need to be taught how it works.

As a "marker" it is extremely easy to use (as I'm sure you know). So, I'm hoping to teach as many SCV and UDC members how to use one. Maybe that's something you all would be interested in helping with.

**Margaret Alley, President, Sidney Lanier UDC Chapter, Monrovia**

*From Roy Nunn to Margaret Alley:*

Margaret,

I'll try to get up to Oakland this weekend, if the weather is good, to locate and photograph those graves. Also, I'll mark their latitude and longitude coordinates with a GPS as we discussed. I'd be happy to donate a quality Garmin GPS to the UDC if you want to start marking the coordinates of graves. As

they cost about \$300, this would save you some money. Perhaps the SCV may want to use it too.

You just push a button and the GPS instrument gives you the latitude and longitude coordinates of your location to within 10 meters.

It also tells you how to find a location, of course, so you can quickly relocate a grave. In fact, with a computer and mapping software, you can even precisely mark the grave on a map, and then print it out. As latitude and longitude coordinates have been used for centuries, you will have a reliable way to mark the location of graves that people will be able to understand for the next hundreds or thousands of years from now (assuming we're around that long).

**Roy Nunn, Commander Camp 1440, The Stainless Banner** [rnnun@webperception.com](mailto:rnnun@webperception.com)

---



**Commander Madden, Camp 1742 Inland Empire, bestows the Rubber Chicken Award on deserving recipient Steve Smith, Commander Camp 302 San Diego. Photo by Floyd Farrar.**

Saw the note in the 1208 Newsletter about GPS. Charles Beal of SUV has marked the location of all CW graves in Loma Vista, Magnolia, and Westminster cemeteries. In addition, he photos all the stones. It is for all CW Vets, not just Union vets. As time permits, he will do the rest of the cemeteries. While in general, such marking may seem redundant, the cemetery marking systems are usually quite poor-- and it is hard to find graves even with maps-- so this should help.

**Gordon Bricken, Commander, Camp 1770 Orange County**

---

**--- From Jerry Dupree, Past Commander Camp 1742 Inland Empire: GPS technology**

consists of 24 satellites orbiting the earth by which signals are calculated to give precise locations for ships at sea, aircraft, trucks, boxcars, or any hand held GPS receiver. They give positions in latitude and longitude coordinates.

A GPS receiver can be bought for less than \$100, and it will give location coordinates within two feet of accuracy.

There is a new sport that is growing in popularity called "geocaching" and was begun less than two years ago and is now so popular that at least one manufacturer of GPS receivers is releasing three models specifically designed for use in geocaching. Any one of them would be ideal for locating and recording grave sites.

How geocaching works or is "played", is someone hides a "cache" and enters it onto a web site (geocaching.com) and people select one or more caches and with the use of a GPS, go find where it has been hidden. There is a sheet to sign that it has been discovered, and the finder notifies the cacher by email. It involves a combination of skills and can involve hiking or four wheeling.

There are very sophisticated GPS receivers being used in surveying as accurate as within one centimeter. Cities are inventorying items such as storm drains, etc., by GPS coordinates. It is the easiest way to map and to find any item for feature reference and can be transmitted by radio or cell phone.

GPS receivers can show street information for an entire continent, or a memory card can be loaded with topo information, points of interest, waterways, trails, service roads, city streets and freeways. They also have such information as restaurants, banks, ATM, gas stations, hotels, national parks, **cemeteries**, etc.

If a given set of coordinates are known, a GPS will precisely locate that position, such as a grave. It can be recorded as a "way point", identified on a web site, printed out, downloaded, and used to find a grave. It can be shared, or accumulated from various sources and transferred to a central file. It is a great way to record and inventory graves and store the information on a web site, CD, or other computer file. Different people can contribute to one specific site. It can be state wide, nation wide, by cemetery, alphabetical, etc.

A GPS is a simple device to use for this purpose. It can be used to find a cemetery and to locate a specific grave within that cemetery. It will give a heading for its location.

Fishing boats and divers use GPS technology to locate favorite fishing areas or dive spots. It will give a bearing to find it.

Anything needed for locating and finding grave sites can be done with a very simple GPS. The more sophisticated they are, the more features they have, such as altimeter, thermometer, barometer, several languages, metric, nautical or statute measurements, electronic compass, etc.

It is a project that can be created by a web site and contributed to by people all over the U.S.

I suggest the following sites:  
magellangps.com or thegpsstore.com for further information.

**Gerald W. Dupree, Inland Empire Camp 1742**

~~~~~  
CIVIL WAR MEDICINE

## DISEASES DURING THE WAR

~~~~~

**By Tim Desmond, Division Surgeon General**

With any discussion of 1860's War Between the States mortality and causes, it is impossible to *not* be repeatedly reminded, especially around the campfire, that 50% of deaths were from non-combat diseases. And of course the percentages vary.

With a note that Confederate War Department Records were incomplete, in which actual numbers were probably higher, Confederate battle deaths are given as 74,524. The number of Confederate deaths due to disease is given at 59,297. This totals to 133,821. With these figures alone that equals 44.3 % of Confederates died of diseases. This also does not count Confederate deaths from other causes, which I will mention below with the Union figures.

Union deaths from battles and wounds are given as 110,070. Union deaths from disease are given as 199,720, for a total death of these two figures of 309,790. This gives a death from disease percentage of 64.5 %. But, the figure of 309,790 is not all the Union deaths. Union records having been better-preserved, yet also considered incomplete, gives a good list of other deaths and causes. These other causes are: prisons, drowning, accidents, murdered, suicide, sunstroke, military executions, killed after capture, and executed by the enemy. Also listed were 2,034 "miscellaneous," deaths, and 24,866 deaths for "causes not known." There were probably similar reasons for other Confederate "underreported" deaths

as well. If these percentages are close to accuracy, the Confederates had a lower percentage of death by disease than the Union soldiers. Did the Confederates have better "medicine" than the North?



**Order of Confederate Rose California Officer Kathy Ralston, Guest Judy Bullock, OCR President Sandra Ashdown-Turner, and OCR Officer Bob Ralston. Photo by Floyd Farrar.**

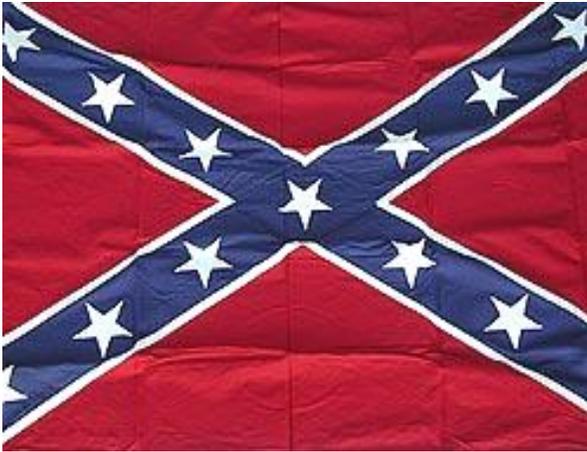
The point here is "deaths from disease," not deaths from wound infections, which will be another topic.

My wife's great-great grandfather was a member of a Union Regiment from the New Market area of what later became West Virginia. He never saw action and was chronically ill and in hospital after hospital. With what we have come to learn about the era, he was probably lucky to have survived the war, in his own way. After receiving a temporary medical furlough, he became ill and was hospitalized where he could not return to his regiment. He was reported as having disserted. It took him many years to clear his name.

His disease was either a pneumonia type of lung infection or "consumption" type of symptoms.

No, the type of disease we are discussing was more common to their ears in their days. Diseases like typhoid fever and cholera. My grandmother told me many times of her grandmother sitting on their farmhouse porch in Coweta County, Georgia. Union soldiers were foraging and she would holler at another on the porch, loudly so that the soldiers could hear her, "Look at them Yankees pickin' up them *cholera-ed*

hogs.” The Yankees heard that and dropped those hogs fast. Even the Yankees had a real fear of cholera.



Is this flag upside down?

---

## New Camp in Chico Underway Who Was Major John B. Moore?

---

Major John B. Moore started out as Captain of Co. L, 1st South Carolina Rifles. He finished the War as a major, I believe, with the same SC brigade along with his brother, James, who started out as a 2nd Lt. under his older brother in the same regiment.

Major Moore is buried in Colusa Cemetery and he was one of the first Confederate soldiers for whom Camp 1627 placed an upright marble headstone.

He is the first Confederate headstone on the left you see as you drive into that cemetery. A small cemetery, it has over 120 WBTS veterans there, around 50 of whom are Confederate, most MARKED graves. But we have put in at least 13 Confederate markers there so that it is the most "marked" cemetery for CSA soldiers in Northern California (north of SF and the Bay area).

We have a photo of J. B. Moore. According to Sifakis, the South Carolina 1st Infantry Regiment Rifles fought at 1st Bull Run; Sharpsburg; Fredericksburg; Chancellorsville; Gettysburg; The Wilderness; Cold Harbor; Petersburg; Five Forks; and Appomattox Court House. And many battles in between.

-- Lou Olker, past Commander, Camp 1627  
Sacramento

---

## Letter to the Editor

---

Vern: Current issue Vidette Battle flag is upside-down. My understanding this represents surrender. As for me I have not given up. The Battles are over, but the fight goes on. -- Ken Koch, Camp 2062  
Ventura County



**Picnic in the Park, California SCV Division Reunion, Pasadena, March 2005. Compatriots pictured include Paul Williams, Michael Robbe, Roy Nunn, Phillip Gallanders, and Steve Madden. Photo by Floyd Farrar.**

---

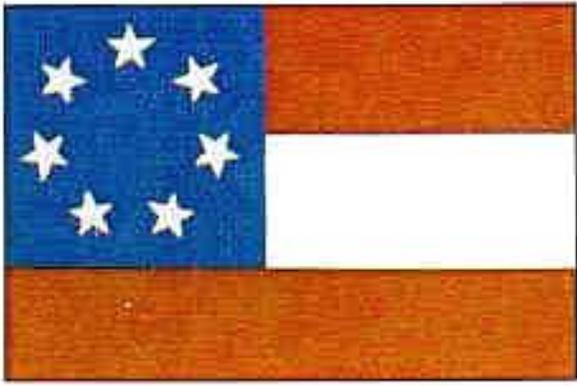
---

## Heritage: To the *San Francisco Chronicle*

---

Jefferson Davis' picture was placed just under the title "Slavery's Lingering Legacy" as if he was the person responsible for slavery. It was law of the land in the USA for 80 years before he was elected President of the CSA. But who knew?

The author, Mr. Gould, writes: "But the Confederates did in fact execute imprisoned black soldiers and their officers." This is pure hogwash. The Confederates MAY have put black soldiers to work on fortifications, but execute them? No. Most black units had white officers and to execute them would be to invite retaliation on captive Confederate officers. Never happened.



Mr. Gould also says: “that Davis has been carried to Washington to be tried by court-martial on the indictment of treason.” Another fallacy: Davis languished in a prison cell casemate at Fort Monroe for 2 years with a 24-hour watch and part of the time in leg irons, while Federal legal experts tried to draw up charges against him. Since Secession wasn’t Constitutionally prohibited, they could find nothing with which to charge him! Finally, a \$100,000 bail was put up by Horace Greeley and Davis was released.

Gould goes on: “Davis was not tried for treason, and today his memory is glorified ...”

Glorified? Revered maybe, but glorified? Jefferson Davis was, after all, a hero in the War with Mexico, a Secretary of War, a U.S. congressman, and a U.S. senator. In one capacity for the U.S. government, he began the National Highway system, precursor to today’s Interstates.

“Davis’ position on slavery and race went unmentioned.” Well, let me mention it for you!

Davis and his wife, Varina, adopted a young black boy into their family. When the party was captured in Georgia, the boy was taken away by Federal soldiers and never heard from again. Varina was heartbroken. How’s that for a “position on race and slavery”?-- And finally: “... about which philosophy they support-- that of Jefferson Davis (who viewed Lincoln’s Executive Order as execrable) or the flag of ”Right and Equality.”



This is almost laughable! Grant owned slaves; Lee did not. Davis adopted a black boy; Lincoln was a self avowed racist and is on record many times in that respect. The Confederate Army had multi-racial units

including free blacks, Hispanics, a plethora of Europeans, Jews, even Chinese .... but U.S. Grant issued an order expelling all Jews from the Federal Army, put black soldiers under white officers, and initially paid them less than white private soldiers. There were more Free blacks in the South than in the North (U. S. Census, 1860) where they were forbidden to work, own property, or even stay in some states, like Lincoln’s own Illinois, for more than 10 days while passing through.

The Underground Railroad ended in CANADA because of the laws in the Northern states.

So which philosophy would you have our legislators support? A religious based Constitutional government like Jeff’n Davis with more power to the states and a weak central government? Or a massive Federal government that operates on the principle that “might makes right” when dealing with the States that get in its way?

The War never ended. Not if the author and his friends are so afraid of the Confederate flag and now of Jefferson Davis’ form of government that they have to make up lies about it to make themselves feel secure. When people are educated as to the truth about the causes of the War and not fed lies and misinformation, “then we can truly begin to bind up the wounds” of this country.

**Donald S. Davis, SgtMaj, 1st Louisiana Zouaves, Co.D, CSA, Eureka, California.**



**January 2005 at Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, South Carolina: Vern Padgett kneels among Unknown Confederate Navy Dead. Photo by Bryan Padgett.**

---

# The Forage

---

After Atlanta's black clouds  
Those of us left, and the whole corps  
Were roused to march back  
West, into the Alabama route.

There weren't no railroad  
In that direction; for three days  
And three nights we carried  
Our roll and tramped our own.

"Take water, take water,"  
The First Corporal he yelled.  
"No vittles for you.  
'Til we get where we're due."

On the third night  
The thoughts filled my head  
Momma's fried chicken, salty  
Green beans, and corn bread.

We drove cattle with us now  
The sergeants said soon,  
We would set up a camp  
And have steaks and stew.

The river was high, as we crossed  
Back into Tennessee  
The cattle lost footing, and  
Floated by, all were lost.

On the fifth night  
The thoughts filled my head  
Momma's fried chicken, salty  
Green beans, and corn bread.

We halted and set up camp after  
First sergeant sent us foraging  
With Thomas, Henry, and Jacob  
And me they called Jasper.

We found a farm  
And a barn had been torched  
The house stood quiet

The widow smoked on the porch.

On that sixth day  
The smells filled my head  
The widow's fried chicken, salty  
Green beans, and corn bread.

She told us and pointed,  
"The Yankees got the hogs,  
My cold cellar is yonder,  
By the creek and the logs."

Near the bank a door we found  
Then a buzz and a crack  
Sharpshooter smoked drifted down  
While Thomas fell on his back.

At a time like this  
I had no thoughts in my head  
Of Momma's fried chicken, salty  
Green beans, and corn bread.

We loaded and rammed  
And for a cap I fumbled,  
I drew down on a head  
The stilled Yankee tumbled.

In the cellar we found cold  
Stacks of melons, apples,  
Peaches and ham, we filled sacks  
For the boys, back in the camp.

As we ate onions  
It will always be in my head;  
Momma's fried chicken, salty  
Green beans, and corn bread.

Tim Desmond, October 15, 2004

---

*Editor's Note:* Poet Tim Desmond notes that *The Forage* was written as a sequel to his previous poem *Atlanta Campaign*. "That one was based on Sam Watkins's story and the "July 22 thing" he wrote about, of one of the battle of Atlanta engagements of 1864. This *FORAGE* began as showing these soldiers in the Army of Tennessee on their march back to Tennessee after the loss of Atlanta.

"I am still learning of this history. As a reenactor in a unit which portrays the real 3rd Confederate

Infantry Regiment in the Army of Tennessee and the Atlanta Campaign, I have been fascinated with all that I have learned and have tried to use it. There are other weavings also; the men's names in the poem are all some of my ancestors' given names from that area of west Georgia and northern Alabama.

"One SCV member came back and wrote about the "real cornbread" in North Carolina-- the kind of cornbread my grandmother must have been taught by her mother. There's more, of course, but it would be a whole essay in the end." -- **Tim**

## California SCV Web Site

Check [www.scvcalifornia.net](http://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](http://www.RebelGray.com)

## SCV Life Membership

Apply for Life Membership by completing application at [www.SCV.org](http://www.SCV.org). Ask me 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.

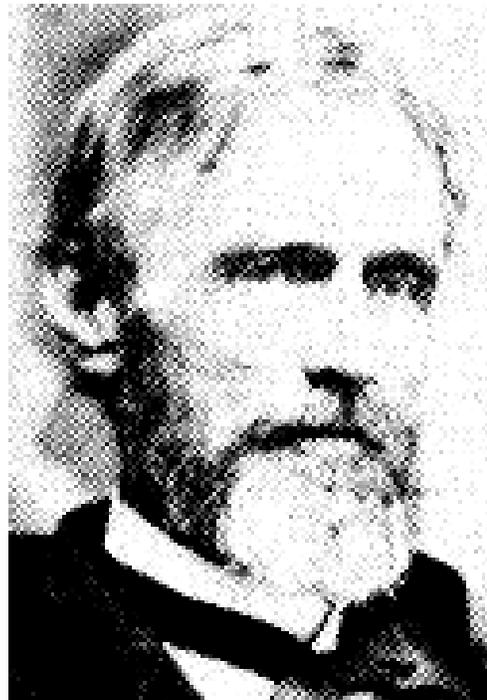
## Reenacting Book by Camp 1208 Compatriot Mike Chilton

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](http://www.1861Reenactors.com)

## California Division Staff

**Commander** Chuck Norred [chucknorred@prodigy.net](mailto:chucknorred@prodigy.net)  
**Lt. Commander** Farrell D. Cooley [RebWaylon@aol.com](mailto:RebWaylon@aol.com)  
**Adjutant and Treasurer** Vern Padgett 562.947.1554  
[vp09@earthlink.net](mailto:vp09@earthlink.net)  
**Judge Advocate** Michael Wright  
**Heritage Officer** Mike Schooling [scvmike2000@yahoo.com](mailto:scvmike2000@yahoo.com)  
**Webmaster** Gary Waltrip [Secesh@rebelgray.com](mailto:Secesh@rebelgray.com)  
**Historian** Dr. Ro King [RebelRo@qnet.com](mailto:RebelRo@qnet.com)  
**Chaplain** Kermit Albritton [scssca@quixnet.net](mailto:scssca@quixnet.net)  
**Genealogist** JR Watson [elw442000@yahoo.com](mailto:elw442000@yahoo.com)  
**Surgeon Gen.** Tim Desmond [BobbiTimDesmond@cs.com](mailto:BobbiTimDesmond@cs.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.

## A Sailor's Diet!

Hardtack was cooked on shore and loaded on board by the barrel. This was the basic food of the sailor.

2 ½ cups old-fashioned or quick oats; 3 cups unbleached flour;  
1 ½ teaspoons salt; 1 teaspoon baking soda

In a separate container, mix:

1 ½ cups buttermilk; 3 tablespoons honey; ½ cup melted bacon drippings or shortening

Combine the two sets of ingredients.

When the dough is thoroughly mixed, roll it out on a floured board to a thickness of about a quarter inch.

Cut out circles of dough with a large drinking glass dipped in flour and put them on a lightly greased cookie sheet.

Bake for about 5 ½ minutes at 450 degrees.

Let the hardtack cool on a wire rack before serving with jam or jelly.