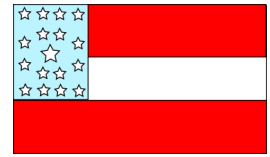




The Vidette

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag

www.SCVCalifornia.net



August 2005 Issue 39 Published by Division Adjutant Vern Padgett vp09@earthlink.net

NASHVILLE WELCOMES THE LEFT COAST

14 Californians at National Reunion

Back on Track

By Michael Robbe

I had the distinct pleasure of representing Camp 2007 Long Beach at the National Reunion this past week in Nashville.

This was my first convention. Hearing horror stories of long-winded speeches from the floor and the politics of the "Grannies," I wasn't too sure what to expect.

However, this year proved to be different. Many, including those on the GEC, kept commenting on how wonderful the convention was going, and they saw smiles on members' faces. By the time the Confederate Ball came around, it was proclaimed one of the greatest conventions in several years. For once, we had a successful convention and everyone seemed relaxed and in a great mood.

As a delegate attending his first National Convention I was duly impressed with the way in which everything seemed to be easy. There seemed to be no confusion.

Even getting credentialed was an easy task and with this year's 'one man-one vote' situation created by our Articles of Incorporation in Mississippi. This year showed some of the fastest voting I'd ever seen when compared to the confusion and large number of delegates at the Special Convention in Concord, NC, I figured it would be worst—but it wasn't.

Gentlemen, I believe that with the troubles back in February and March behind us, and the membership of the Confederation joining in harmony, this organization is back on track!



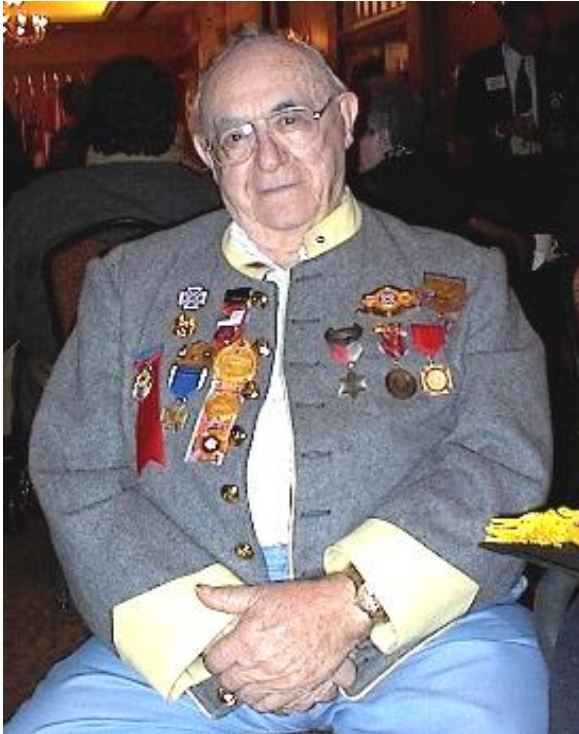
Californians at Nashville SCV Ball: Lori Parrott, Barron Smith, Kenneth Ramsey, Gary Parrott. Did Gary use the wrong fork? Lori looks on in horror. I hate it when I do that! Photo by Bryan W. Padgett, Camp 1458, Sumter, South Carolina.

It is my hope that the success of the convention will carry on through this next year and the GEC will finally get to some important issues facing us and get'r'done!

We now have the Sam Davis Youth Camp up and running, the S. D. Lee Institute which hosts weekend long seminars in the South on topics that are important to today's Compatriot. Heck, even our Division Commander, Chuck Norred, made history, by being the first Californian to be elected to a GEC

post.

I am so proud to be part of this Division. As I see it, we still have only a few months to get things done before the holidays. There is lots to do, however, after this week, I personally feel so motivated and ready to continue the fight, I can't sit still.



Real Son Woody Plaugher, Camp 1631, Santa Barbara. Woody has attended every Reunion since I started 6 years ago, and more. The medal in upper right in this image is the 1906 UCV medal worn by his father. He is also wearing the 2006 SCV Reunion medal. Photo by Bryan W. Padgett, Camp 1458, Sumter, South Carolina.

As a member of the newly created sub-committee of the Heritage Defense Committee, we'll be the watchdogs of the National Park Services. I look forward to continuing the heritage fight and focusing on the job ahead. We have a few heritage issues which could be cropping up in Southern California. And we have the planning of our 2006 Division Convention.

Gentlemen, I understand that attending the National Convention is taxing on most of us, whether it be time from work, or money, or both. However, I encourage all of you to attend next year's convention in New Orleans, which I might add, is part of the ATM.

It is time, that we Californians stand up and be counted. I've already registered and made my hotel

reservations. Will you do the same?

Let's join together and work to make California the Division to be in! With great leaders like Chuck, Farrell, and the master of recruiting Vern, and all the Camp Commanders, this Division can only get bigger and better.

Next year's theme for the convention is the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Gen. Stephen D. Lee's "Charge" to us.

Let us not forget to honor our ancestors, preserve his history and heritage, and to educate those around us of the 'truth' of his 'War for Independence.' God bless the SCV and God bless the South!!!

From Your Signals Officer

Compatriots, here are Californians at our National Reunion this year: Kenneth Ramsey; Mike Schooling; Michael Robbe; Ro and Marilyn King, Woodrow "Woody" Plaugher, our Real Son; Barron Smith, Gary and Lori Parrott, Chuck and Marcia Norred, Sandra Ashdown-Turner and Vern Padgett. Lee Cross of the Sparks Nevada Camp is a former Camp 1208 member. That comes to 14.

We had a pleasant surprise in the quality of the tours at this Reunion. After last year, I was planning to never sign up for any SCV Reunion Tours again. Who wants to sit in a 93 degree bus and not be able to hear anything the "tour guide" is saying, as he tries to read penciled notes on scraps of paper, using a broken microphone-- Or stand with the group after finally getting off the bus not hear the other tour guide, because the bus engine is running at very fast idle just behind, and aimed at, the back of the tour group?



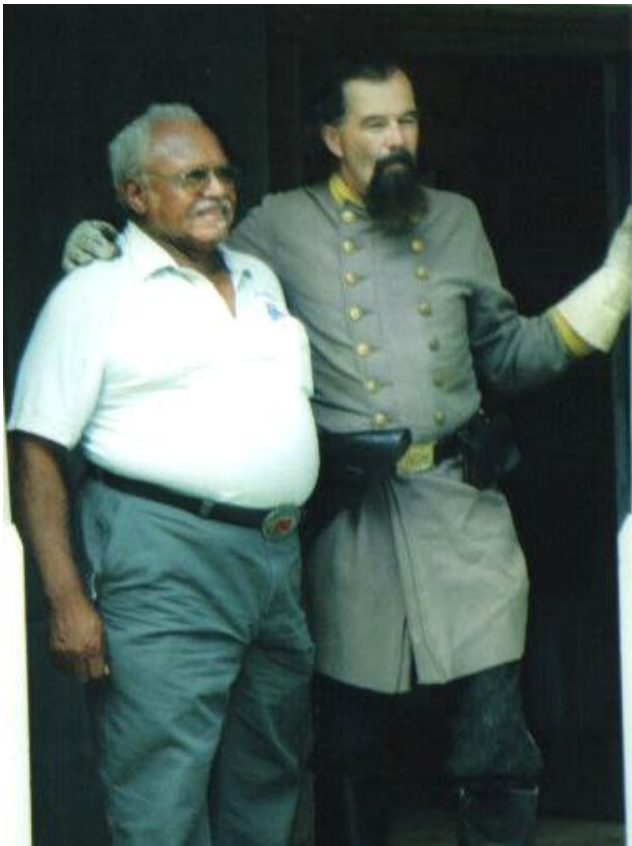
But enough about how much fun we had at the last few Reunions. This time we had four very good tours, one of which was so good that I am sending \$100 to tour guide Ross Massey's Confederate Graves Restoration project, not only because it is a worthy

project but also because it is a way to say "thank you" for a very well-done tour, which he conducted. I cannot think of a better tour during any of the six SCV National Reunions than this tour, conducted by Compatriot Ross Massey, of SCV Camp 33, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

If you are looking for a worthy Confederate Heritage Cause to support, join with me in contributing to his Confederate Circle, the final resting place of 2000 Confederate soldiers, at Evergreen Cemetery in Murfreesboro. Send donations to

**Murfreesboro SCV Camp 33
Post Office Box 1915
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37133-1915**

E-mail mboroscv33@aol.com for more information, or, ask me to mail you a copy of the handout. -- *Editor.*



On left, Compatriot Nelson Winbush, of Kissimmee, Florida. He has attended every SCV Reunion that I have, and his grandfather, Louis Napoleon Nelson, who rode with General Forrest in the 7th Tennessee Cavalry, attended 39 reunions of the United Confederate Veterans. He was buried with his medals, at his request. Photo by Sandra Ashdown-Turner.

News from SCV Capt C. E. Thom Camp 2007, Long Beach

-- Reported by Paul Williams and Floyd Farrar

We discussed mass recruiting on the national level. We would like to see a banner ad on sites like Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble, i.e. you click on Civil War books and a banner ad appears with 1.800.My-Dixie, or similar ad.

We will hold our next meeting at Ft. Tejon on Sunday, August 21st. We will be setting up a recruiting table-- and could use all the help we can get. I am planning on being there on Sat the 20th as well. There are several nice hotels in the Grapevine, Lebec area, and lodging and dining facilities at the bottom of the hill.

Headquarters Company Army of Northern Virginia is now forming. Our Camp will form this company, with Gray the official uniform colour. We will also fall out with the infantry to shoot yankees. So muskets, bayonets, canteens etc will be necessary. If you intend to join us as a HQ unit, pistol and belt should be your first accoutrements purchased.

All Compatriots wishing to join are welcomed. There are several sutlers available to make your uniform. Most will be at Tejon next month. Bring your friends, family, and especially the kids.

If you've never been to a re-enactment, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

We are also planning, subject to approval of proper officials, to place two flag poles at Sunnyside Cemetery alongside the Civil War monument placed there by Long Beach Post 181 GAR in December 1934.

This is so we can have one 35 star U.S. Flag and one Confederate flag such as the First National, or, if possible, the Third National. We will see how the management goes for a battle flag flying atop a pole in the heart of Southern California.

California SCV Web Site

Check www.sevcalifornia.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



Photo by Bryan W. Padgett, Camp 1458, Sumter, South Carolina.

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# California Society Order of Confederate Rose ANNUAL REPORT July 2005

**[ OCR has one mission: Supporting the SCV. If your camp does not have an affiliate OCR chapter, why not start one? Contact me or Sandy – Ed.]**

The California Society has had an eventful year. We have three chapters; Fresno is on its way-- Thanks to Marcia Norred of Fresno. We are locating Northern California members to replace those in the chapter who moved to Mississippi during this past year.

### **Status of the Society**

Our California Society has 39 members: Three are life members, and four more are members-at-large, residing in South Carolina, Nevada, and Utah. We now have a newsletter with the help of the very capable Kathy Ralston. She holds four officer positions, and is my right hand.

### **Member Activities in Support of Southern Heritage**

Our members are active in the California Civil War community. We continue to be part of Civil War Round Tables, the Civil War Book Club started by the late Richard Rollins, Ph.D., author and historian, and we serve as officers on the board of directors of the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum in Wilmington, where we represent the Confederacy in a former Union troop barracks. Finally, many of us are associate members or members of the UDC, the SCV, and other heritage and community organizations.

Our San Diego president Deane Shearn and I were invited to represent the Order of Confederate Rose at the UDC State Convention in San Diego, last month. I was honored and pleased to explain our purpose. The President General of the UDC was in attendance and heard our report. Kathy Ralston and I developed a Civil War Era Mourning Presentation, and we have been invited to present it at the UDC National Convention, which will be held in California later this year. Kathy and I have done our Mourning Presentation at the UDC Jefferson Davis Luncheon, at two Civil War Round Tables, and two times at Drum Barracks Civil War Museum events.

Kathy Ralston presented her PowerPoint shows on "The Hunley," and on "The Women of Roswell, Georgia," and her first person portrayal of Mrs. Albert Sidney Johnston. Another OCR member, Vernon Padgett, has portrayed a South Carolina Senator for the last four years at the Moorpark Civil War Days. Many of our members are reenactors at Fort Tejon, Fort MacArthur, Prado Park, Moorpark, and Huntington Beach Civil War Days, where they portray the Confederate Heroes that our organization honors.

We attended a picnic with Camp 1208 Los Angeles SCV at Pioneer Park in El Monte, California, the site of Confederate cavalry training in fall 1861. And I did three presentations at Whittier Christian School. I could not believe I was able to tell the truth about the War Between the States-- And the teacher had our Battle Flag on the bulletin board alongside the U.S. Stars and Stripes. I am invited back next year.

In accord with our organization's mission to support the SCV, our OCR attended The SCV State and National Conventions each of the last several



**Sandra Ashdown-Turner and Vern Padgett at Fort Donelson, Tennessee. Photo by Bryan W. Padgett, Camp 1458.**

years, and helped plan the SCV State Convention by attending and participating in a special November 2004 statewide meeting in Hollywood. I was awarded the SCV Ladies Appreciation Medal by SCV Division Commander Chuck Norred at the OCR National Convention at Dalton, Georgia, in July 2004.

We participated in Confederate Memorial Day at Hollywood Forever Cemetery, and we were present at other Memorial Day Services. We attended a dedication service to a Confederate soldier, and later in the year, organized a Confederate Grave Dedication to Emanuel Basore at AltaDena Cemetery. Basore was in the Stonewall Brigade, and was great-great-grandfather to OCR member Kathy Ralston.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Our bank balance is \$1273. It includes 3 lifetime members at \$100 each and 13 renewals at \$20 each. Since the inception of our California OCR, only \$7 has been deducted. The bank for the original order of

checks automatically debited our account. I personally paid for all other expenses with the help from Deanne Shearn, president of the San Diego chapter and Kathy Ralston, vice president of the California Society.

#### **Supporting the SCV**

We have prepared and served meals for local SCV meetings, and hosted SCV meetings in our homes. Our San Diego Chapter honored one of our Real Daughters, Miss Stephenie Harrod, with a certificate and medal as an expression of gratitude of her unstinting sacrifice to further the Cause. We send cards to Real Daughters and Real Sons on their birthdays, Valentine's Day, Easter, and Christmas. We send sympathy cards and letters honoring the lives of Richard Rollins, Brian Pohanka, and Shelby Foote, historians of the War Between the States. What a great loss! We sent a wreath and participated in person in the funeral of Real Daughter Alma Grigsby. With sadness in our hearts, we sent wreaths for the death of HK Edgerton's mother, and also to Real Daughter Alberta Martin.



**The Murfreesboro Tour, led by Ross Massey, Murfreesboro SCV Camp 33, was the best tour I have attended in the last six Reunions. See my Signals Officer column on how to contribute to his effort to maintain the Confederate Circle at Evergreen Cemetery in Murfreesboro. Above, the Park Service has created a display to show Union guns after transport to the banks of the aptly named Stones River. The Yankees lost many guns. Photo by Bryan W. Padgett Camp 1458.**



## Financial Support to Southern Heritage Organizations

Our Society has donated to various heritage causes. Listed are a few: \$230 to battlefield preservation, \$100 to Friends of the Hunley, \$150 to H.K. Edgerton, \$70 to the Forrest Home, \$50 to the Museum of the Confederacy, \$50 to the South Carolina Historical Society, and \$150 to patriotic activities, including the Wounded Warrior Project and over \$1,000 to last year's victims of the hurricanes.



**Sandy sporting her SCV Ladies Appreciation Award at the SCV Dinner and Ball in Nashville. Photo by Bryan W. Padgett Camp 1458.**

## Travel to Confederate Heritage Sites

Several of us have traveled to battlefields of the War Between the States in Virginia, Georgia, Florida, and in South Carolina. One that sticks out in my

mind was outside the South: Camp Chase, in Columbus, Ohio. Thousands of graves of Confederate Soldiers are there. I was choked up as I walked along row after row of these fallen heroes.

## National Convention of OCR in Nashville

I attended the OCR National Convention in Tennessee and delivered this report to some 70 OCR members and guests on 23 July 2005. In addition to what I have written here, I stressed that there are many Californians who teach the truth about the War Between the States to the public through our living history and presentations to schoolchildren. We are not geographically close to the South but it does not stop our support for Southern heritage.

In closing, I am looking forward to another trip to Virginia, in October 2005, with Kathy and Bob Ralston, and I am looking forward to my trip with Vern Padgett to South Carolina. I truly never get tired of promoting Southern rights and heritage.

**Devoted to the Southern Cause,  
Sandra Ashdown-Turner  
California OCR Society President**

## Letter from the Editor

To: Mr. Greg O'Neal  
SCV Awards Committee Newsletter Judge  
1651 Sunburst Way  
Kissimmee, Florida 34744

**Dear Compatriot O'Neal,**

I have some thoughts I wish to share with you regarding why you only received four submissions for the Division SCV newsletter award.

I publish a Division Newsletter, posted at [www.scvcalifornia.net](http://www.scvcalifornia.net). I have never printed a page of it, even for myself. I published 18 issues of it last year, each 12 or 14 pages. If I would have printed or color-copied five copies of each issue for the SCV Awards Competition, that would have been 18 times 12 or 14 times 5, or one thousand one hundred seventy pages. That is more than TWO REAMS of paper. And it would have cost me about \$600.00. It would have also required about a half day to copy these thousand-plus pages, time that could have been better used in recruiting new members, or, to

complete another newsletter.

Michael Robbe of Camp 2007 Long Beach planned to enter the Newsletter Award competition for 2005, and took his newsletters to Kinko's for copying. When he went to pick them up they said "that will be three hundred dollars." He did not have the money then, and he did not have it when I spoke with him at the Reunion last week. The newsletters are still at Kinko's. He has since informed me that it would cost him a thousand dollars to color copy all his newsletters for the competition.

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Stonewall Jackson leaned on a fence and said "that's the most beautiful sound in the world." – Rebel Yell [www.rebelyellwhiskey.com/home.html](http://www.rebelyellwhiskey.com/home.html)

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I design, write, and lay out my newsletters to be viewed on the screen. What sense does it make to take a newsletter that was designed and laid out with font that looks right on the computer screen, with color images that are sized and contrasted to be viewed on the computer screen, and then put them on sheets of paper? Should an SCV Compatriot be spending \$500 to \$1000, not to mention hours of his time-- to perform this retro task?

Why can't the newsletter judges just look at the newsletters on the web site-- where they already are?

Frankly I am surprised that four division newsletter editors bothered to submit stacks of paper for this award. I predict that next year no one will enter the competition. Why can't the SCV move boldly into the 1990s, and instruct newsletter competition judges to look at newsletters on the web sites of camps, where they are already posted?

Sincerely, Vernon R. Padgett, Ph.D.,  
Signals Officer California SCV

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**Surgeon Gen.** Tim Desmond [BobbiTimDesmond@cs.com](mailto:BobbiTimDesmond@cs.com)

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Test your knowledge of famous Southerners on their site.

Gents: as you read this--- are you slurping Bud Lite or Miller, or some sissy California Merlot, when you could be enjoying real Southern bourbon?

Until George Dickel comes up with their Southern heritage program, the official bourbon of the SCV California Division is Rebel Yell.

Look at the following words, posted for the world to see, at [www.rebelyellwhiskey.com/home.html](http://www.rebelyellwhiskey.com/home.html)

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**P**assion, commitment, and honor were all infused into the "rebel yell"-- Making it one of the most endearing legends in our country's history. The "rebel yell" instilled fear in the hearts of many a

Federal soldier. Some accounts say it was more intimidating than the sound of gun fire and cannons pounding in the distance.

The practice of a yell, or war cry, certainly predates the Civil War. Civilizations since the beginning of time have contrived similar tactics to intimidate their opponents and make their ranks seem larger than life. Sounds like this are so effective they even work to defend against attacking animals.

Confederate soldiers would scream the war cry as they engaged in battle, or whoop and holler in joyous victory. Other times it was used as a chant along the trail to boost moral and unify the ranks. Troops would hear it lofting in the breeze as other militiamen marched across the fields in the distance. One account states General "Stonewall" Jackson came out of his tent, leaned on a fence and said "that's the most beautiful sound in the world."

*Gents-- How many of you can name a mainstream American product that associates itself with Confederate Heritage? Let's support the one product that does: Rebel Yell Bourbon.*

## **Fire and Be Damned! The Artillery Corporal at Fort Gregg, Virginia**

Then following miles of works along the roads of Petersburg, we came upon one of the finest tributes to the defenders of American Liberty that I have ever seen.

Standing alone in a large field, without fancy paths, parking lots or signs to "Keep Off" was Fort Gregg. On this ground, a small contingent of Confederates held thousands of the invading enemy at bay for two hours allowing Lee to evacuate the army from Petersburg.

Imagine being assigned to Fort Gregg, knowing that Lee was retreating and thousands of the invading horde was descending upon you.

But those Confederates ignored the terrible odds and stood their ground, very firmly and stubbornly they held their ground.

As large numbers of Yankees swarmed over the wall, a young artillery corporal manning a piece stood

with lanyard taut and ready. The Yankees yelled, "*Drop the lanyard or we will fire!*"

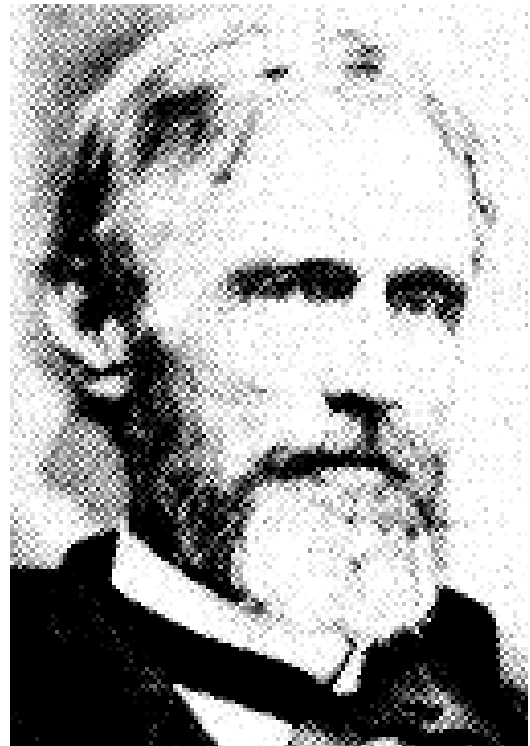
Instantly came the reply, "*Fire and be damned!*" as he pulled the lanyard.

-- Mike Crane, Southern Party of Georgia, "*Lest Darkness Fall*"

## **SCV Life Membership**

Apply for Life Membership by completing the application at [www.SCV.org](http://www.SCV.org). Ask me about the new fee structure. Mail check and form to HQ.

# **WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT**



"[Our situation] illustrates the American idea that governments rest on the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish them whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established."