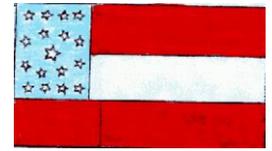




The Vidette

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag



8 October 2002

Issue 8

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vp09@earthlink.net

Modesto To Hold Confederate City Wide Event October 15th to 20th

--- By Event Organizer Kermit Albritton

During the week of October 15th through 20th, 2002, the American Civil War Association, {ACWA} in conjunction with the Stanislaus Civil War Association, will be providing the good people of Modesto with week long, Confederate era Cultural Event.



Chuck Norred with Event Organizer Kermit Albritton

City-wide activities will include: Civil War films at the State Theater; special guest speakers at the McHenry Museum, along with a live musical recital,

performed by the 5th California Regimental Band, beginning on Thursday evening. For two consecutive nights *Our American Cousin* will be presented by the Thomas Downey High School Drama Department, and will include a large number of Confederate and Federal reenactor celebrities.

Kermit Albritton is organizing an SCV Camp in Modesto— contact him at scsscsa@QuixNet.net

A special school event is scheduled on Friday, October 18th, for Modesto City Middle School students, who will visit and enjoy living history presentations on Friday, between 9:00 and 11:00, at the site of the reenactment.

On Saturday, an exciting battle reenactment will be held at the Tuolumne River Regional Park, located at 1200 Tioga Drive.

The event will run through Sunday afternoon, and will include a period Civilian encampment, featuring the daily lives of people during the War; along with the armies of the North and South, with artillery, infantry and cavalry. Military encampments will be open for daily visitation and living history presentation, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The public is encouraged to tour the camps.

The Reenactment is free to the public; parking will be abundant and a small donation of \$3 per vehicle is requested but not required.

If a member of your family 16 years of age or older is interested in participating in a simulated battle, uniforms and weapons will be made available through the brigade quartermaster, for either army, at a modest expense. Public vendors will to provide

refreshments, as will period Sutlers, who will be able to outfit everything from a complete uniform, to souvenirs. Come one, come all; this will be too fun to miss.

**Respectfully submitted,
Kermit Albritton**



SCV men at Kearny Park Confederate Reenactment, Fresno

A 'Thank you' to SCV from President Cline of UDC

Special thanks to all of the SCV gentlemen who came by the UDC booth at the Fresno Civil War Revisited event on Sept 28th and 29th.

It was a pleasure meeting all of you! Thank you for introducing yourselves.

Taya L. Cline, President
Centennial Chapter 2623, Fresno
www.fresno-udc.org

GUEST HERITAGE COLUMN-- 43rd Tennessee Volunteers CSA: Compiling a Roster

By **George Martin of Sparks, Nevada**, recently transferred from Camp 584 (HQ) to Camp 1627, Sacramento.

One of the features of the history I am writing of my great grandfather's Confederate regiment is a comprehensive bibliographical roster of every known man who served therein.

The basic source of information I have for the

roster are the Compiled Service Records of Confederate soldiers, maintained by the National Archives. The records for the 43rd Tennessee are contained in five microfilm rolls I have purchased.

These records show that my great grandfather, James Madison Martin, and three of his brothers served in Company K. It was recruited in Hamilton County, Tennessee, of which Chattanooga is the county seat.

One brother, Issac Martin, is shown to have died on March 26, 1863 while the regiment was stationed some six miles south of Vicksburg, Miss. where they were performing picket duties and working on constructing a water battery on the Mississippi at the city of Warrenton, some ten miles south of Vicksburg.

It was five years ago, while searching Civil War literature at the University of Washington in Seattle, that I came upon a bibliography indicating that a diary written by an Issac Stamper contained a record of his first two years of the war with the 43rd.

Issac was the Fife Major of the regiment. I found the following entry for Thursday, March 26, 1863: "All quiet. No duty for the 43rd Regiment. Issac Martin, Company K, died and was buried at 5 o'clock with military honors. Prayer meeting after roll call. Several went to mourner's bench."



Compatriots Richard Wagner, Greg Farley, Andy Hill, Jerry Ringo, Barron Smith, Chuck Norred, Kermit Albritton, and Chris Mondo at Kearny Park, Fresno, Confederate Reenactment. Photos by Barron Smith.

We know that following the capture of Vicksburg, July 4, 1863, the Federal army reinterred all of the Confederate troops who had died in the area, and buried them in the city cemetery in a Confederate section called "Soldiers Rest."

All of the Confederate soldiers buried there were identified with head markers made of cypress. A Union colonel had a listing of the 3000

Confederates buried there and provided copies to the ladies of Vicksburg. Over the years these head markers were lost as were the copies of the list of soldiers buried there.

Later, a listing of some 2000 Confederate soldiers was recovered, however, Issac Martin was not so listed as were a number of other members of his regiment.



SCV members at Kearney Park debate who will write the Fresno SCV Story for the *Vidette*.

Four years ago, I inquired of the two Internet CW Newsgroups if anyone knew of a Confederate cemetery at Warrenton. I got one response, which indicated no such cemetery existed; however, I should contact the Old Court House Museum in Vicksburg to see what they might have.

This I did the next day and talked with Gordon Cotten, the curator at the Museum, and a Shelby Foote look alike as well as a cousin. He astounded me with the information that his assistant Jeff Giambrane had recently found, in an old Court House file, a listing of another 77 Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery. These were East Tennessee troops of which 41 were members of the 43rd. Issac was on the list.

One problem encountered in researching extant CW document is that over the years the ink has run, and folding of the paper distorts the printed word. It appeared that Issac had belonged to the 48th Tennessee. However, the 48th was never at Vicksburg, and furthermore the death date shown of March 26, 1863 verified this was my Issac.

Gordon advised me that the list had been turned over to the Daughters of the Confederacy, Tennessee Division, to authenticate the dead and prepare the necessary paper work to obtain Veterans Administration provided headstones.

I got in touch with the lady in charge of this

project and obtained the list of the 77. The errors I found were many. I was able to authenticate almost all of the 77 men with correct names, dates of death, and regimental affiliation. I was able to do this mainly with the Stamper diary and my service records.

Eventually, the tombstones were ordered and delivered. On the two days of July 10 and 11, 1998, I along with members of the SCV Camp of Vicksburg placed these stones. Then we had a fine memorial dedication service.

In mid June 1863, Captain Cawood, Co. B was severely wounded in a night raid on the Confederate trenches.

Later, on July 15, the captured and wounded soldiers were shipped out of Vicksburg back to East Tennessee via New Orleans and Mobile, Alabama. Captain Cawood's file shows that he died on August 4 that year at Point Clorr. Where in the world is Point Clorr? I could not identify such a place, and that locality remained a mystery for me for a couple years.



Graves in Oakwood Cemetery, April 1865. By James F. Gibson [Alexander Gardner Catalog No. 931]

It was about two years ago, accessing the Mississippi Civil War Web Page, I came upon an entry which indicated that Confederate burial trenches had been recently identified at the Confederate hospital located at the Point Clear Resort on Mobile Bay. Voila! -- I now realized that Capt. Cawood had died at the Point Clear Confederate Hospital. Later I contacted the SCV Camp working on the Point Clear project, provided them with the service record data for the Captain, which resulted in the setting of a Confederate tombstone for him there.

Being able to acknowledge our brave patriot ancestors has been a source of great pleasure to me.

Compatriot George Martin, Sparks, Nevada

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AN OAKLAND EVENT—

## Ms. Alma's 106<sup>th</sup> Birthday

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The Service at Evergreen went flawlessly; a small number, but the Confederates greatly outnumbered the Yanks; I was able to talk to Alma, I sure hope that I can be that lively when I'm 106.

It was grand and an adventure well worth the effort. I made contacts with numerous other camp commanders as well as members from other camps; it is a good thing when people have heritage as a common factor in their relationships. God bless the South and Alma on her birthday today.

Respectfully,
Compatriot Kermit Albritton

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## FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS! Battlefields Preservation Bill Clears House

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Congressman Gary G. Miller
41st District, California

October 2, 2002

Contact: Kevin McKee 202.225.3201
Washington, D.C.

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation authorizing up to \$50 million to aid in the purchase of Civil War battlefields to protect them from residential and commercial developments.



Still from *Gods and Generals*

Congressman Gary Miller (R-California), the sponsor of the bill, is concerned that these historical locations will be permanently lost if they are not protected now. "I realized how necessary this bill is while attending a wedding in Memphis, Tennessee last year. I had read a lot about the Battle of

Memphis, and I wanted to go see the battlefield. But when I got there, all I saw was a historic plaque and condominiums," explained Miller.

HR 5125, the "American Battlefields Protection Program Act of 2002," creates the first authorization for funds to preserve battlefields in the United States.

Funds would be available to nonprofit organizations, local governments, and states that seek to preserve battlefields and can provide a minimum dollar for dollar match.

"This bill is a tremendous step forward for battlefield preservation," remarked Jim Lighthizer, President of the Civil War Preservation Trust. "[It] will allow nonprofit groups to save thousands of acres of battlefield land that would have otherwise succumbed to the bulldozer's blade."

H.R. 5125 now awaits action in the U.S. Senate where a companion bill, S. 2968, has been introduced. Miller anticipates the bill will be signed into law by the end of the year.

"This bill is a responsible measure that will help preserve our living classrooms," concluded Congressman Miller.

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**Write to Congressman Gary Miller** to thank him at [publicca41@mail.house.gov](mailto:publicca41@mail.house.gov) According to his web site, we should use e-mail because of the security problems receiving U.S. Mail in Washington D.C.

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California HPA President Supports H. K. Edgerton Walk

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**Folks, I will be in Ireland for two weeks.** I leave for the airport in the morning. If anyone has any question on the jackets, they won't be answered until I return after the 19th. Our chapter sent one of dem cool embroidered jackets to H. K. Edgerton and two cool printed HPA T-shirts as a travel-in gift of thanks. We sent T-shirts to Terry Lee and Rashad, who will be traveling with him.

I personally sent \$200 to assist in his travels. I know he will need much more and we must lend them all the support we can. They are taking on one hell of a challenge and will stand out as leaders among men. I will be praying long and hard from Ireland on Oct. 14 when they take first step. May GOD protect them for they are a piece of us all.

**Landis Potter, President, Heritage  
Preservation Association, California**



Still from *Gods and Generals*

## Black Slave Owner filed for Damages with Federal Government: Claims can provide fascinating details

By DONNA MURRAY ALLEN  
© St. Petersburg Times  
3 October 2002

WASHINGTON -- Confederate sympathizer and Southern claims records rank among the more intriguing documents in the National Archives and Records Administration's vast collection, according to Judith Horne, senior archivist.

"We have a substantial amount of Confederate records pertaining to military service and supporters. Anyone who assisted the South, like selling horses to the Confederates, would be included," she said. "People in the South filed claims after the war, claiming they were loyal to the Union. They wanted to be reimbursed for damages done by Union soldiers."

One of those claims, filed in Louisiana, is especially fascinating. "A black slave owner filed for damages," Thorne said. "He said he had supported the Union. In his testimony, he said there was little hope for a black slave owner after the war, that he probably would be driven out of the South. To make matters worse, he had a daughter who ran off with a Confederate soldier. It would make a great miniseries."

## LETTER TO EDITOR

Regarding the Confederate Coin Corner images in the last Vidette: "I found out later on from the fella

that the coins were used by the merchants who followed the troops mostly from the Union side."

—Floyd Farrar.

## How Will They Commemorate the Grand Arsonist?

By Al Benson, Jr.

Published 08. 18. 02 at 20:20 Sierra Time

Anyone who has studied the history of the War of Northern Aggression knows what William Tecumseh Sherman, the "grand arsonist" of Georgia, did to that state, and to South Carolina as well. Those horrible memories lingered for more than a century, and are still not completely forgotten.



A recent article in the *Macon Telegraph* noted that the memory of that horror may yet be resurrected and kept alive.

According to the article by Skippy Davis, "Now tourism officials plan to turn the torch-bearing general's route into a trail of economic development. Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails, a 4-year old nonprofit organization, plans six trail in Georgia, three of them with sites in Bibb County."

The article noted that Civil War trails have been big tourist attractions in other Southern states. Burke Davis wrote: "Plans so far are to mark at least 25 sites on the twin paths of Sherman's march. There seems to be quite a bit of anticipation as to how much tourist traffic this will all bring in.

My question is; what tact will be taken with the historical markers and signs that are put up for these trails? If they depict the history correctly and factually, and note what Sherman really did at different places along in infamous "march" then I would have no problem. Usually, though, such does not occur. What usually happens with these projects is kind of a Yankee-style whitewash of the participants in question so that they come off looking better than they really were.

What sort of portrait will we get of Sherman from all of this? Many have already labeled him one of the greatest of the "Civil War" generals. I would disagree. Sherman seemed to be much more interested in destroying private property and making war on civilians, especially women and children, than in fighting Confederate soldiers, whom his army vastly outnumbered. The record of what his "bummers" did in both Georgia and South Carolina should

qualify him to be tried posthumously as a war criminal.

Author Burke Davis, in his book "Sherman's March" noted Sherman's attitude toward the South and toward Georgia and South Carolina in particular.



Sherman stated: "...and when I go through South Carolina it will be one of the most horrible things in the history of the world. The devil himself couldn't restrain my men in that state." Whether the devil could have or not, Sherman himself made no appreciable effort to restrain them and I'm sure the devil was quite pleased with all that Sherman accomplished.

Sherman described in glowing terms his "victory tour" through Georgia when he said: "I could look for forty miles in each direction and see smoke rolling up like one great bonfire."

Burke Davis observed that after such carnage in Georgia, Sherman would make almost no effort to restrain his men in South Carolina. Sherman's men in some places burned whole towns and even tore down church buildings just for the fun of it. Sherman's attitude toward Southern folks was if they "cannot be made to love us, they can be made to fear us."

In his book "Citizen Sherman" Michael Fellman noted that one Yankee soldier from Michigan said: "In South Carolina there was no restraint whatever in pillaging and foraging. Men were allowed to do as they liked, burn and destroy." If Lee had done that in Pennsylvania the "history" books would be full of it and the media, even today, would never let us forget it, but because Sherman did it to the South it has mostly slipped down the "memory hole."

Fellman noted in his work, the attitude of Sherman's men toward Southern women, in a rather backhanded way. He stated that: "Sherman and all the soldiers who discussed this issue agreed that almost no white women were raped." The operative word there is "almost." This would indicate that some were. And, if almost no white women were raped, who was then? Obviously many of the rape victims were black women, those Sherman had supposedly come to "liberate." Those modern barbarians took whatever and whoever they wanted, but of course, it was all excusable because, as Sherman himself noted: "War is hell." A surgeon from an Illinois regiment, according to Fellman, noted that Sherman's men at one point, while on a big drunk "...not only fired houses, but robbed and pillaged both houses and citizens indiscriminately."

In his book "America's Caesar" Greg Loren Durand gave an account of the mercy and compassion of Sherman's troops toward blacks. He quoted Dr. Daniel Trezevant, a respected citizen of Columbia, South Carolina, who

testified that one "old negro woman, who, after being subjected to the brutal indecency from seven of the Yankees, was, at the proposition of one of them to 'finish the old Bitch' put into a ditch and held under water until life was extinct." And they hypocrites in the North, after such actions, have the gall to tell Southerners how to treat blacks! Such documentation for atrocities in both South Carolina and Georgia is well beyond plentiful, but space forbids.

One can only wonder at this point if these new War trails through Georgia, expected to draw so many tourists when they are completed, will deal with this-- or will the tourists be subjected to the same kind of politically correct whitewash of Sherman that we have come to expect for Lincoln and other infamous Yankee murderers?

**Al Benson publishes *The Copperhead Chronicle***, out 4 times a year for \$8. Each issue is 8 pages in length. He deals with historical issues concerning the War Between the States, but also with some contemporary issues. Address *The Copperhead Chronicle*, P O Box 1883, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60006.

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See Al Benson's columns at [www.rebelgray.com](http://www.rebelgray.com)

## California SCV Web Site

Check [www.scvcalifornia.net](http://www.scvcalifornia.net) for the California SCV website. Gary Waltrip, Commander Camp 1440, The Stainless Banner, San Jose, continues to expand and add to the web site.

See Gary's own site at [www.RebelGray.com](http://www.RebelGray.com).

## SCV Life Membership

Apply for Life Membership by completing the application, available on the SCV.org national website. Fee is \$300 if you are 59 or younger; \$200 for those aged 60 to 69, and \$100 for those aged 70 and older. Mail the 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.

