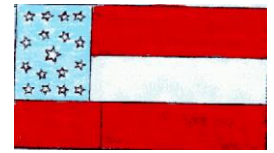




The Vidette

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

Sons of Confederate Veterans



The J. P. Gillis Flag



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Issue 9

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New California SCV Camp: Camp 2007, Captain Cameron E. Thom, Long Beach

CALIFORNIA NOW HAS TEN CAMPS

By Paul Williams, Commander

Captain Cameron Erskine Thom, Camp 2007, received its charter on 15 October 2002. Founding members came from Camp 1742 Inland Empire, Camp 1208 Los Angeles, Camp 584 Headquarters, and members new to SCV.

On Saturday August 31, 2002 the Long Beach, California, Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp Cameron Erskine Thom met for the first time at the home of Commander Paul Williams in Long Beach.

Commander Williams hosted a barbecue where everyone got their fill of hotdogs and hamburgers. Compatriots attending were Cmdr. Paul Williams; Adjutant Vance Marsh; 1st Lt. Comdr. Philip Lee Caines; members Ed. Spears; Hugh Richards; Al Webb, and Michael Herrin. Both Camp Chaplains could not attend but we will see them soon: Chaplains Woody Blalock and Floyd Farrar.

Members of the new camp, but not in attendance: Compatriots Stan Brown; Stan Easter; John C. Roberts, and Ray Sautter.

Our Namesake: Captain Thom, C.S.A.

Cameron Erskine Thom was a native of Culpeper Virginia. Along with many others, he came to California as a 49er. His group included 30 other Virginians. After a few years mining, not attaining the sought after fortune, he began to study law. Captain Thom started his law career in land claims.

C. E. Thom moved his practice to Los Angeles; after two years he was elected City and County



Attorney. Cameron Thom was an ardent Southron. Upon hearing the call, he returned to his beloved Virginia. He served the Confederacy well participating in 15 battles and being wounded twice.

After the war of Northern Aggression, Thom returned to California. He lost his property, fortune, and his wife. Susan Henrietta Hathwell returned to her family in Marysville where she later became ill and passed on.

An Old Friend loans \$300 in Gold

Shortly after arriving in San Pedro he was recognised by an old friend-- J.M. Griffith. Griffith loaned him \$300 in gold. Captain Thom began to move forward with his life. He pooled his money with others and became a co-founder of the City of Glendale California. He served the City of Los Angeles as Mayor from 1882-1884. He served again as City Attorney from 1869-1873, and 1877-1879.

Captain Thom served before the War in the State Senate, 1859-1860.

Cameron Erskine Thom was a true Southron Patriot. He passed on in 1915 at the age of 90 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in the 3300 block of E. 1st Street Los Angeles, California. A 20-foot obelisk prominently marks his burial site. Upon entering the cemetery, drive 100 yards straight, and you will find him on the left side of the road.



UDC Ladies Jerry Padley; Kathy Spit; Rhobie Reed-Curtis

UDC Chapter 2140, SCV Camp 1742, Joint Meeting

By Kathy Spit, UDC California Division Recorder of Military Service Awards

Steve Madden, Commander, Camp 1742 Inland Empire SCV, invited members of the UDC to their meeting on Sunday, Oct 13 at the historic Lincoln Shrine in Redlands.



Commander Steven Madden and President Jerry Padley

They were given a warm Southern welcome.

UDC ladies present were Ms. Rhobie Reed-Curtis, UDC California Division President, Ms. Kathy Spit, UDC California Division Recorder of Military Service Awards, Miss Desiree de Nantes, Member, Sidney Lanier 2141 UDC, Ms. Jerri Padley, President, Bonnie Blue Flag 2140 UDC, and Ms. Fredamay Smith, Member, Bonnie Blue Flag 2140 UDC.

Ms. Reed-Curtis informed the membership of the UDC's current projects and goals of the California Division. Kathy Spit presented information on the UDC Military Service Awards for veterans.



UDC Member Desiree Nantes on right. Photos by Jerry Dupree.

Ms. Padley gave Mr. Madden a list of Confederate Veterans buried in the Inland Empire. She then outlined plans for the Bonnie Blue Flag chapter and the SCV to co-host the next Confederate Memorial Day services at Hillside Cemetery, in Redlands.

UDC membership requirements were also presented so that SCV members could inform their ladies.

THAT DEVIL FORREST

©2002 Dixie Norsky

From Eastern Tennessee he rides
and a skilled horseman undenied
rides that devil Forrest.

The scourge to the blue invader
cursed and cussed as a gray traitor
rides that devil Forrest.

They know not how he does it well,
charging the blue fires of hell
rides that devil Forrest.

A man unmatched in grit or fight

he leads from the front day and night
rides that devil Forrest.

When encircled, victory fades,
says, "split in two and charge both ways,"
rides that devil Forrest.

A struggled fight with knife he gives,
says, "No damn man kills me and lives,"
rides that devil Forrest.

In the saddle ten days later
fighting off Yankee invaders
rides that devil Forrest.

Brice's Crossroads tears asunder
a force three times his own number
rides that devil Forrest.

"He must be killed before a peace,"
blue leaders sign his death lease, but
rides that devil Forrest.

H.K. Edgerton: Day 4 - Greenville, South Carolina

Report from the Field

Published 10. 18. 02 at 23:31 Sierra Time

DAY 4 - GREENEVILLE, SC MARCHED DOWN HIGHWAY 123
THROUGH EASLEY STOPPING IN LIBERTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AT
JOHN C CALHOUN MONUMENT 21.9 MILES

Had Breakfast in Traveler's Rest. Started March
at 6:30 AM marching west on Highway 123 towards
Easley. SCV members Dennis Crocker and Robert
Schwat of the Spartanburg Camp (I think) marched



More Blacks Supporting Flag: Hervey Brothers

every step of the way with us. They nearly had to
give it up, but stuck it out and we are tremendously
proud of them. Reached Easley about 2 PM.
Commander of the Easley Camp #7 will march
21miles with us tomorrow. Hundreds of people turned
out to welcome us along the way. It reminded me of
newsreels I saw of US troops marching through
liberated French towns in WWII. We ended our
march at the John C. Calhoun monument in Liberty,
South Carolina where a black deputy sheriff shared
with HK his family ties to the Confederacy. We have
been shown an ocean of love by black & white South
Carolinians alike.

**Edgerton, wearing a Confederate uniform and
carrying a Confederate flag, will make the 3
month, 1350 mile sojourn across Dixie to raise
awareness for the importance of preserving
Southern heritage and to raise money for the
Heritage Defense funds of the Sons of Confederate
Veterans and the Southern Legal Resource Center.**

I can hardly describe it; it is mind blowing.
Hospitality tonight is courtesy of the Jefferson Davis
Camp, No 7 of Easley, SC. HK and Terry Lee are
attending their meeting while I post this report.

HK has marched over 80 miles since Monday.
Send in your pledge today. South Carolinians, there is
still time to pledge before HK leaves your state! SCV
Commander-in-Chief Ron G. Wilson has pledged \$1
per mile for the whole march of 1385 miles. God
Bless you Commander in Chief Wilson!

Tomorrow we continue on Highway 123 through
Clemson, SC, and end in Seneca, SC. On Saturday
HK will march 7 miles to Westminster, and use the
rest of Saturday to rest. We haven't found a Church to
attend for Sunday yet. For more information about
HK's March Across Dixie contact:

www.southerncaucus.org/hkedgerton.htm

The Sierra Times is pleased to support this effort,
and looking forward to covering reports of this
historic event from the Grassroots of Dixie. You'll
always find the latest news of what's happening with
the March Across Dixie by visiting:

<http://www.sierratimes.com/02/10/12/dixiemarch.htm>

Of course, we'll keep you up to date here at:

<http://www.sierratimes.com/dixiemarch.htm>

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Robert E. Lee Biography by Douglas Freeman, 1934, now On Line

Robert E. Lee is one of the larger-than-life figures in American history, yet the Web had very little serious material on his life. This site repairs that: Douglas Freeman's biography, in its 4 volumes and 2600 pages, is not only comprehensive, but remains to this day the best life of Lee ever published; in this equally defining period of our history, I felt that bringing it online was both useful and appropriate. http://www.ukans.edu/history/index/europe/ancient_rome/E/Gazetteer/People/Robert_E_Lee/FREREL/home.html

Could the Civil War Have Been Avoided?

By Jennifer Viegas, *Discovery News*

Oct. 15 — The Civil War could, and probably should, have been avoided, according to a new book authored by four Southern historians.

In the recently published "This Terrible War: the Civil War and its Aftermath," the authors weighed the war's brutality against its benefits. They came to the conclusion that the bloodshed was not "inevitable" and that slavery was not the key issue of the war.

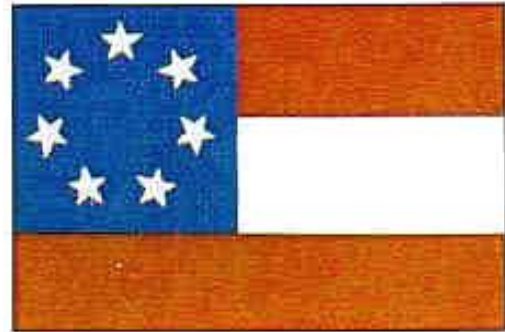
In fact, the book says, **slavery was in its waning days** and was used as a propaganda tool by both North and South to stir up the public's emotions. The American Civil War, also called the War of Secession, was fought from 1861 to 1865. Eleven seceding states in the south waged battle with the Federal government, represented by the North.

At issue were opposing socioeconomic and political interests. The North was mostly industrial, and individual families operated the majority of its farms. The agrarian South, by contrast, relied upon large plantations that used slave labor.

While the death toll of the war is presumed to be much greater, military casualties were reported

at a minimum of 623,000 dead, and a minimum of 472,000 wounded. Civilian deaths from sickness, exposure or imprisonment are estimated in the tens of thousands.

"The war was caused by political miscalculation, exaggerated rhetoric, public paranoia, and distorted popular fears in both North and South of the intentions of the either section, what one historian long ago called 'hyperemotionalism,'" said Daniel Sutherland, professor of history at the University of Arkansas and one of the book's authors.



"Even after secession, many Americans — not just Lincoln — did not think war inevitable, and they were genuinely surprised — not to say shocked and dismayed — when hostilities did come."

Sutherland told Discovery News that the real issue of the war was not slavery, but rather **"the expansion of political power and maintaining the political balance** of Congress through the addition of new representatives and senators."

He explained that both the northern and southern states wished to extend control over territories in the newly opened West. Slavery became a tool for either side attempting to gain control, as territory then was marked as either "slave" or "free." Only abolitionists, who were in the minority both before and during the war, viewed the issue in terms of racial injustice.

"Could (the) territorial issue have been settled without resorting to war? Of course," said Sutherland. "Could compromise have led to the end of slavery? Probably not, but remember that this was not the issue."

Southerners feared it might become the issue — part of the exaggerated fears and unreasonable assessment of the other side — but it was not part of the public political debate."

Sutherland and his colleagues claimed that even if the South had been allowed to extend slave labor into the unorganized territories to the West

and Southwest, slavery would have failed because these regions could not support staple plantation crops, such as cotton. According to the book, with or without war, economics, land and weather considerations would have limited slavery.

If not for the inflammatory rhetoric from both sides surrounding the issue of slavery — still an emotional topic today — the original secession dispute could have been resolved in a political forum by, for example, dividing up the land evenly, redistributing congressional seats or other legal measures, according to the book.



Paul Anderson, assistant professor of history at Clemson University, agrees with many of the book's theories and commented, "This book's greatest strength is that it deals with the terrifying messiness of the war, and the war's failure to answer some of the most important questions that it raised. Many of the supposed certainties in the war's legacy were more hollow than we like to think.

The book is a welcome if disturbing and sometimes bitter commentary on that."

Anderson believes that slavery may have reached its natural limits in this country, but not necessarily abroad.

"Plenty of slaveholders had their eyes on other places — Cuba, South America — where there was no doubt slavery would and could flourish," said Anderson. "If they maintained parity in the Union, they might (have) eventually (been) able to secure these places through future expansion."

California SCV Web Site

Check 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.

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.



Still from Gods and Generals

On Booker T. Washington

Also, the man who did more to elevate the black race than anyone past or present, Booker T. Washington, spoke a truth that has endured and mushroomed to this date:

"There is a class of colored people who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs, and the hardships of the Negro race before the public.

Some of these people do not want the Negro to lose his grievances, because they do not want to lose their jobs. There is a certain class of race-problem solvers who do not want the patient to get well."

Booker T. Washington - 1911