

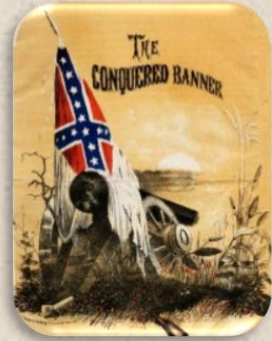


The Conquered Banner

Newsletter of the

Father A. J. Ryan San Diego Camp 302

Sons of Confederate Veterans



VOLUME 28 NUMBER 1

January 2020

Abraham Lincoln – An Observation

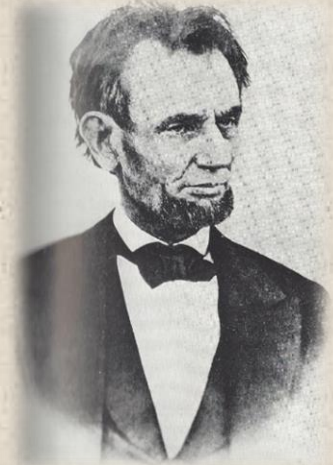
“They Are Our Countrymen”

A short time back, my wife and I returned from our Hawaiian vacation. After arriving home, I decided to reread letters that Humorist/Author Mark Twain wrote of the Hawaiian Islands while he was a reporter for the Sacramento Union during a four-month period in 1866. Among many topics, Twain commented extensively on the American whaling industry that had made Honolulu their major port. In one letter, he mentions that the whaling trade held its own in 1865 despite the Pirate ship *Shenandoah*.¹ Twain most likely based this statement on the post-Civil War complaints of whaling ship captains who had experienced run-ins with the famous Confederate warship during the war. This got me thinking of the *what ifs* of the reconstruction period. Thus inspired, I decided to write this observation.

I will not dwell on Hawaii, Whaling, or Mark Twain, but rather of Abraham Lincoln and the policies he made (and attempted to make) during his presidency that could have changed the outcome of the war and perhaps would have softened the reconstruction period the defeated South was to endure. Pursuing this line of thought, I settled on Carl Sandburg's four-volume biography of Lincoln pertaining to the war years.²

You might be asking, *Why is a descendent of Confederate veterans, reared in the “Deep South” and from an early age encouraged to disparage the man who oversaw the military defeat and subjugation of a Southern way of life, focusing his attention on that very man?* That, indeed, is a good question.

In my early years, Lincoln's birthday was not even recognized in my native state of Georgia (as was the case in most southern states at the time). I decided, therefore, to reflect on the positive aspects, with a few negatives, of Abraham Lincoln. While he may have been the Commander-in-Chief of the South's sworn enemy, we must also realize that he might have been the best possible friend the defeated Confederacy could have had during the post-war years.



(Continued on Page Four)

International Headquarters
Sons of Confederate Veterans
P.O. Box 59
Columbia, Tennessee 38402-0059
1-800-MY-DIXIE

Salute to the Confederate Flag

I salute the Confederate flag with affection, reverence and undying devotion to the cause for which it stands.

Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and the ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Lt. General Stephen D. Lee

Newsletter

The Conquered Banner is the official newsletter of Camp 302 and is published each odd-numbered month. Permission to reprint material contained in the newsletter is freely given to SCV, MOSB and UDC organizations. Commentary and articles are solicited and should be mailed or e-mailed to the Newsletter Editor. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the preceding month. Consideration of space may require editing.

Meetings

The camp meets the 2nd Saturday of each odd-numbered month at various locations which are announced in the newsletter.

Correspondence

Membership applications, dues renewals, changes of address and other business should be directed to the adjutant.

Dues

Annual dues are billed each August and are \$55.00 for members. Dues include the *Confederate Veteran* magazine and a newsletter.

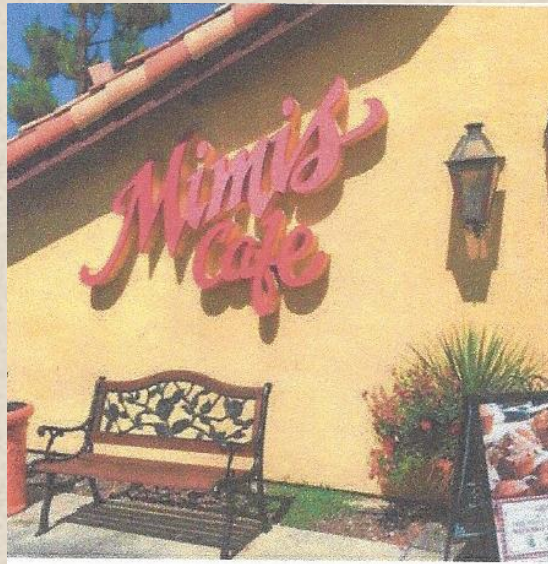
Camp officers

<u>Commander</u>	<u>Jim Millsap</u>
<u>Lieutenant Commander</u>	<u>George Faircloth</u>
<u>2nd Lieutenant Commander</u>	<u>Jim Coulsby</u>
<u>Adjutant</u>	<u>Jim Stephens</u>
<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Roy Adair</u>
<u>Webmaster</u>	<u>Roy Adair</u>
<u>Chaplain</u>	<u>Jim Coulsby</u>
<u>Sergeant-at-Arms</u>	<u>Steve Smith</u>
<u>Historian</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
<u>Newsletter Editor/Publisher</u>	<u>Jim Stephens</u>

November 9, 2019 Meeting

A short, informal gathering was held at Mimi's Café in Mira Mesa on Saturday morning with Commander Jim Millsap, Lieutenant Commander George Faircloth, Compatriots Mike Schooling, Ira lack and Mike Climo in attendance. The Musket Shoot held at the South Bay Rod and Gun Club was discussed along with a few general topics. No minutes were taken during the meeting that adjourned after lunch.

The camp will meet again at Mimi's on Saturday, January 11th 2020, starting at 10:00 AM for the first business session of the new year. Two new members will be sworn in at that time.



(Abraham Lincoln, Continued from Page One)

During my parochial school days, I learned a great deal about both sides of the conflict during the War Between the States (as we Southerners preferred to call it). Taught mostly by Irish/American nuns and priests, who leaned just a bit on the Confederate side, I acquired an appreciation of my Confederate heritage early on. We studied extensively the Siege of Atlanta and the battles in Georgia. We also learned about General Sherman's supposed threat to burn down Atlanta's churches—which, thanks to Father O'Malley, did not happen. (Father O'Malley was the pastor of *The Immaculate Conception* during the war, a church that I attended as a youth.)

Our Confederate ancestors were men among countless Southerners, who cast their fate against the Lincoln government. They placed their trust in the leadership of Jefferson Davis and the new government of The Confederate States of America.

History and fate would dictate otherwise.

It is April, 1865. General Lee has surrendered and is making his way back to his home in Richmond. His army, disbanded and given amnesty, are returning to their homes. Jefferson Davis and a small entourage are fleeing southward toward Georgia with what is left of the Confederate treasury with hopes of establishing a government in exile in Texas or possibly Mexico.

The defeated South is in disarray with Union troops in occupation. Many of the state governments are in a weakened condition politically with, in many cases, military governors overseeing day-to-day functions. Lincoln, now early on in his second term as president, has the monumental task of reuniting the country and deciding what to do with the defeated South. Politically, his desire to bring the seceded states back into the union as they were prior to the war is not even being considered by a victorious congress and is looked down upon by a reluctant cabinet. There is enough trouble in the congress' attempts to reinstate the long, occupied State of Louisiana that has been in Union hands since 1862. That 12,000 Louisiana citizens had voted to return the state to the Union, but not electively enfranchising the "freed colored man," displeases the Federal Government and creates controversy and holds up readmission.

In his April 11th reunification speech, Lincoln, likewise disappointed, questions whether it is wiser to bring Louisiana back into the fold as it was and improve on the state government later. Louisiana is just the start; Legal arguments in congress deem that the seceded states had committed political suicide and therefore are no longer states. Thoughts like this and the desire to severely punish the former Confederacy drives the most radical of congressmen, such as Charles Sumner, Benjamin Wade, Zach Chandler and Thaddeus Stevens, to stand in the way of a smoother transition to reconstruction. Lincoln agrees with some of the more moderates in his government that it would be much easier to regard the former Confederate States as they were before secession and consider them as never leaving the Union.

Let us look now at a proposal he made before the war that could have prevented, or at least temporarily staved off, the threat of secession. During the Washington Peace Convention on February 4, 1861, President-Elect Lincoln met with delegates to the convention and promised to uphold the constitution as written. Despite his objections to some parts of it, he was willing to give a constitutional guarantee that slavery would not be molested in the existing slave-holding states but would, under no circumstances, allow its extension into the territories. This, of course, was rejected by all parties attending the convention.

Throughout the war, Lincoln did many things that demonstrated his compassion to people caught up in the conflict, including granting passes to southern men and women to cross lines to visit family members. He also, at times, agreed to release Confederate prisoners after receiving requests to do so.

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(Abraham Lincoln, Continued from Page Four)

Lincoln's aversion to slavery was in no doubt. As he was working on the early drafts of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862, he was reminded by his close advisors that he was the largest slave holder (not slave owner) in the country since there were three thousand slaves in the District of Columbia. He had been prepared to veto a bill that would give back to slave owners in the district their slave property; however, he signed a bill giving each slave owner \$200.00 for each slave, giving each man and woman their freedom, thus ending slavery in the District of Columbia.

Later, during the Hampton Roads Conference on February 4, 1865, a three-man delegation sent by President Davis, headed by Vice-President Alexander H. Stephens and including John A. Campbell and Robert M.T. Hunter, met on a Union vessel on the James River to participate in informal talks of which no notes were known to have been taken. Secretary of State William Seward and Lincoln himself represented the United States. Davis had initiated the talks to quieten critics in his government who were tired of war and faulted him for not seeking peace. While President Davis insisted on referring to the conference as "between two countries," Lincoln would have nothing to do with it and insisted that all hostilities must cease and all slaves be freed. According to Stephens, President Lincoln intimated to the delegation that certain prominent Northerners had proposed paying out \$400,000,000 (this, he compared to three million per day the war was costing) to all slave owners @ \$200.00 per head based on the 1860 census and returning any property that had been seized by the Federals to the property owners. Basically, free all slaves and cease all hostilities and the war would be over. Needless to say, the Stephens delegations rejected the provisions laid out by Lincoln. In his Biography, *Jefferson Davis, American*, William Cooper Jr. stated that many historians disagree as to whether Lincoln even made this compensation proposal. In Volume IV of *Abraham Lincoln - the war years*, Carl Sandburg wrote that Lincoln drafted the compensation proposal and laid it out before his cabinet which, after a short debate, they promptly rejected. That was as far as the proposal went. Then Lincoln purportedly said, "How then, are we to end this war?"³

At the end of the informal conference, Lincoln and Stephens, acquaintances from their congressional days, bade farewell. Before leaving, Lincoln asked Stephens if there was anything he could do for him. Stephens asked Lincoln if he would free his nephew, Lieutenant John A. Stephens, who was being held at Johnson's Island. Lincoln agreed and this was done.

In early April, 1865, after General Lee had surrendered to General Grant, Lincoln agreed with Grant on his terms of surrender for Lee. This would later apply to Sherman's terms with General Johnston. Lincoln, Grant and Sherman forcefully withstood the objections of the radicals in congress who were literally calling for the jailing and hanging of Confederate political and military leaders.

On April 12, 1865, with the cessation of the war, Lincoln met with W.C. Bibb of Montgomery, Alabama. Regarding a proclamation of Amnesty that he would propose to congress, Lincoln had this to say regarding his feeling toward the South: "I love the Southern people more than they love me. My desire is to restore the Union. I do not intend to hurt the hair of the head of a single man in the South if it can possibly be avoided."² When asked by Bibb what he would do about slavery, Lincoln talked about gradual emancipation running through twenty years or a compensated emancipation at the option of the Southern people. He mentioned that he would have no power to do it at present.

On the negative side of things, Abraham Lincoln, in his desire to hold the country together at any cost, can truly be said to have violated the U.S. Constitution and overstepping congress on several points. This includes the invasion of Virginia and the occupation of border states with the clear intention of suppressing any possible uprising of Southern sympathizers, particularly Baltimore, Maryland where Union guns were trained on the city throughout the war. There was also the suspension of Habeas Corpus where persons were arrested simply on suspicion without direct charges; as an example, three Baltimore police commissioners were jailed at Fort McHenry, not knowing what they were charged with.

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(Abraham Lincoln, Continued from Page Five)

In the immediate aftermath of Lee's surrender, during his conversation with General Grant, Lincoln, well aware of the vehement opposition the radicals in Congress had expressed toward the easy terms Grant and Sherman had given the defeated Confederates, envisioned the hard road ahead for the country to heal itself. In his way of thinking, Southerners were Americans again. To Grant he said, "*They are our Countrymen.*" Later while meeting with General Weitzel, military governor of Virginia, Lincoln emphasized the need to go easy in bringing the populace and the local political leaders back into the order of things and smooth out an easy transition of Virginia, as well as other Southern states, back into the union. "*Let 'em up easy; Let 'em up easy,*" Lincoln said.

The blast from the Derringer, in the hands of the madman Booth, would cut short forever, the ideas and policies Abraham Lincoln could have put in place to bring back the seceded states into the Union in a more just and honorable fashion, despite the obstacles that would have been put in place by the opponents he would have to deal with during the post-war years.

Today, as we Sons of Confederate Veterans relive the past glories of our Confederate ancestors who were caught up in a time in which events were far beyond their control, we can be proud of what they did and struggled for despite the odds.

References:

1. *Mark Twain's Letters from Hawaii*, Edited by A. Gross Day, Pg. 90, Appleton-Century, New York, 1966.
2. *Abraham Lincoln, The War Years*, Carl Sandburg, Volumes I thru IV, Harcourt, Brace & World Inc. 1936/37
3. *Jefferson Davis, American*, William J. Cooper Jr. Alfred A. Knopf, 2002

Jim Stephens

Camp Meeting



Commander Jim Millsap, Lieutenant Commander George Faircloth, Compatriots Mike Schooling, Ira Lack and Mike Climo met on Saturday, November 9th at Camp 302's favorite location, Mimi's in Mira Mesa. The gathering was kept short due to an inactive camp calendar during the previous period. The annual Musket shoot conducted at the South Bay & Rod Club in Dulzura on November 2nd was discussed during the mid-morning brunch. The camp will gather for it's first business meeting for 2020 at Mimi's on January 11th. This will be an important gathering as we plan to swear in two new members: Shawn Turner and Charles Hill. Let's all plan to be there to welcome these new compatriots into our camp and most importantly, The Sons of Confederate Veterans. Also, the camp will do it's first Color Guard for the year at the VMC on January 25th. Camp members and guests are cordially invited to attend this quarterly event to view the honors paid to the county's deceased veterans.

On the following page, check the news of what your Division Executive Council is doing.

California Division Executive Committee Meeting

November 17, 2019

Division Commander Robert Williams, Division Lieutenant Commander & Web Master Mike Climo of Camp 302, Division Adjutant Vern Padgett, Division Quartermaster Ryan Williams of Camp 1770, Division Color Sergeant Greg Frazier of Camp 2048, Camp 302 Commander Jim Millsap, Camp 302 Adjutant Jim Stephens and Commander Hal Cardwell, Camp 1742 met in Mission Viejo at the home of Commander Williams for its periodic business meeting to discuss and formulate important issues both current and ongoing confronting the division, particularly the up-coming Re-Confederation Convention scheduled for March 13th, 14th & 15th of 2020. Policies and practices regarding social media that all members within the division deal with publicly and privately came under close scrutiny. This would deal more accurately in accounting for each camp's actions as they relate to the camp and the division's functions via Facebook, Twitter or other media sources.

Financing the newly approved division challenge coins took center stage as Commander Williams has tasked all camps to help submit sufficient funds in order that the division may make the initial order soon. Readers of this newsletter have seen the new division coin in the previous edition. Camp 302 was pleased to contribute \$150.00 for its first order of 15 coins.

This smartly designed coin will sell for \$10.00 each and all camp members will eventually have the opportunity to obtain their own.

As previously reported, a major revision to the Camp-of-the-Year worksheet is being undertaken by Mike Climo to do away with unnecessary blogs, placing more emphasis on photos and letters to national magazines such as our own Confederate Veteran Magazine. Camps would receive 2 points for each photo and additional points for published letters and articles. Steve Musgrave's recently published letter in the Fall issue of the Confederate Veteran was favorably commented on and that will give Camp 302 a head-start on points accumulation. Congratulations, Steve!

Color Sergeant Greg Frazier announced that the *Revised* eligibility requirements for the War Service Medal, designed to honor individuals of Confederate descent who served in or with the U.S. Military during wartime, has been approved by the SCV *as seen here at left*. The major change to this award, as stated in the purpose, is that the War Service Medal can now be awarded to SCV members who served in combat zones with approved service periods and dates while in a civilian capacity.

War Service Medal

Purpose: The War Service Medal is to honor individuals of Confederate descent who have served in, or with, our country's military service during wartime.
Number of awards: There is no annual limit.
Eligibility: *Military:* Men and women of Confederate descent who served honorably for at least 90 days during the war-service periods defined in US Department of Defense directives and American Legion guidelines. *Civilian:* Men and women of Confederate descent who served honorably in a combat theater of operations for a minimum of 30 days during one or more of the war service periods defined below.

The eligible dates and war-service periods are subject to change, so individuals requesting these medals should check with GHQ for the latest approved dates. At the time of publication of this booklet, the approved service periods and dates were:

World War I.....	4/16/1917 - 11/11/1918
World War II.....	12/7/1941 - 12/31/1946
Korean War.....	6/25/1950 - 1/31/1955
Vietnam War.....	12/22/1961 - 5/7/1975
Lebanon and Grenada.....	8/24/1982 - 7/31/1984
Panama.....	12/20/1989 - 1/31/1990
Persian Gulf, Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield.....	8/2/1990 - 5/1/2003
Global War on Terrorism.....	9/11/2001 - CND*
Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan.....	10/7/2001 - CND*
Operation Iraqi Freedom.....	3/19/2003 - 12/15/2011
Operation Inherent Resolve.....	6/15/2014 - CND*

All dates are inclusive. *CND = Cessation Not Defined.

Selection Process: Applications for the SCV War Service Medal must be made on official forms available from SCV General Headquarters. A copy of the individual's DD214 must accompany applications; for active duty members, appropriate documentation must be presented to show service. For eligible civilian service, deployment orders placing the applicant in-theater during one or more of the service periods listed above issued by a cabinet level U.S. agency or department.

Form of Award: This award consists of two items: (1) a large medal with one conflict bar; (2) certificate. A miniature medal, lapel pin, and additional conflict bars for which the member is authorized are also available; the large medal must be purchased before a miniature or lapel pin can be purchased.



Brunch at Domingo's

Several California Division members with family and friends gathered at Domingo's Mexican Restaurant in Boron on Sunday December 1st to enjoy good food and enjoy a friendly get-together for what may be an annual gathering for this time of year. As reported in the March 2019 issue of *The Conquered Banner*, Domingo's is the well-known watering-hole for Space Shuttle crews and astronauts from Edwards Air Force Base. Famed Air Force Test Pilot Chuck Yeager is among the many notables who have frequented here. An ample supply of mementos and photos presented to Domingo dot the walls of this restaurant.



At left: Commander Millsap presents Domingo with a Camp 302 Challenge Coin to be added to his collection. *Above:* The California Division flag is proudly displayed on the back wall during the division's brunch visit. We must not forget that Boron, California was the home of the infamous aviator Pancho Barnes. She ran the Happy Bottom Riding Club, a dude ranch, restaurant and hotel—a big gathering spot for military test pilots and members of the early space program. The club, located on Edwards Air Force Base, mysteriously burned down years ago.

UNITED VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE



Color Guard duty for Camp 302 was not required in December. However, your camp color guard detail will be on duty, Saturday January 25, 2020. As always, camp members are encouraged to attend the memorial service to view the procedures which begins at 12:00 PM and ends no later than 1:00 PM. This worthy event honors San Diego area veterans who have passed away the previous month.

**Farewell to a Friend**

It is always disheartening to say goodbye to a friend or associate who has recently passed away, particularly during the holiday period. Sadly, we must bid farewell and pay our condolences to a very good friend of Camp 302, Dave Allyn. Dave, a long-time member and chaplain of the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21, SUVCW succumbed early on the 14th of December, 2019 while hospitalized. Dave eagerly participated in joint events with his camp and Camp 302, especially our annual musket shoot in Dulzura, and previously at the joint Memorial Day Ceremony at Mt. Hope Cemetery in San Diego. It was always a pleasure to talk with and be in Dave's presence.

2019 Annual Musket Shoot

Camp members, friends and guests gathered at the South Bay Rod & Gun Club in Dulzura, CA, Saturday, November 2, 2019 for the annual Musket Shoot, which has become a great venue for those who enjoy shooting their Civil War era reproduction muskets. Your editor had to miss the festivities this year as my wife and I were sailing back from Hawaii at the time. There were some misfires and jammed guns, which can be expected when dealing with black powder and firing caps, but everyone present still had a

great time as will be attested to with the following photos. Camp 302 extends its thanks to Joanne Frazier and David Boyle, always our reliable range masters who ensure range safety and good order, as well as help out with weapons problems. The management at the gun club are always welcoming to us for this event.

The Minnie Balls and powder are ready to go *as seen at left*.

Let the firing begin! As the men *at right* fire



At left, Travis and Deanne Smith fire their shots as Range Master David Boyle looks on.



It's a family affair: Steve and Deanne Smith and son Travis prep their weapons *at left*.



Thanks is extended to California Division Commander Robert Williams and Division Quartermaster Ryan Williams for participating in the shoot this year. Much appreciation is owed to Camp 302 Commander Jim Millsap for organizing this year's event.

Wreaths Across America

As we have done annually for the past several years, Camp 302 participated in the 2019 WAA at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego. As can be seen in the accompanying photos, hundreds of fresh wreaths were placed on the graves of veterans and wives buried in this beautiful cemetery located on Point Loma overlooking the wide expanse of the Pacific Ocean. Camp 302 is pleased to donate \$50.00 annually to help support wreath laying both at Fort Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemeteries.

Thanks is extended to Camp 302 Lieutenant Commander George Faircloth, Camp Treasurer Roy Adair and the UDC's Robyn Adair for being at Fort Rosecrans for the wreath laying.



At left, George and Roy kneel next to a headstone with the fresh wreath in place.

Roy and Robyn at right placing a wreath.

