

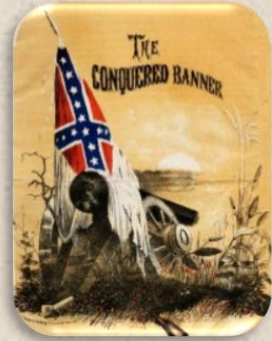


The Conquered Banner

Newsletter of the

Father A. J. Ryan San Diego Camp 302

Sons of Confederate Veterans



VOLUME 28 NUMBER 2

March 2020

The Fight at Picacho

Journeying East or West along Interstate 10 in the Southwestern Arizona desert, folks will see a unique and distinctive landmark that will catch their eyes as it has other travelers for well over a hundred years. That, of course, is Picacho Peak. Located approximately 40 miles west of Tucson, Arizona and standing quite alone, the mountain, as it silhouettes the sky, looks like a reclining lion or a camel—at least, that was my impression when first I saw it. I leave it to the readers to draw



their own conclusions. Many years later, I learned that the last significant engagement of the Civil War in the West occurred here at the base of the peak at Picacho Pass.

It was April 16, 1862, as Captain Sherod Hunter, formerly of Tennessee and a commander in the Arizona Rangers operating primarily out of Tucson, leading a small Confederate contingent, clashed with a small Union force commanded by William Calloway. Earlier, Calloway had been moving his infantry from Fort Yuma up the Gila River to Stanwix Station located halfway between present day Gila Bend and Yuma. Hunter, likewise, was moving down the Gila River destroying and interrupting anything that could help or be used by the Union. It would be during the last part of March of 1862 around the 29th or 30th in which shots were fired that saw about 40 Confederate troops discovering Union pickets at Stanwix Station. Refusing to surrender to the Confederates, the Union pickets tried to warn the main Union force of the Confederate presence. One man was wounded during the encounter and Calloway's troops searched in vain for Hunter's men without success. This very minor engagement would become the most westerly advance of Confederate troops in the Civil War.

Then came Picacho!

(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 \$50.00 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>

Camp 302 Meeting Minutes

Commander Jim Millsap conducted the initial Brunch/Business meeting of 2020 at Mimi's Café in Mira Mesa, Saturday morning, January 11, 2020 attended by the following: Adjutant Jim Stephens, Treasurer Roy Adair, 2nd LCDR/Chaplain Jim Coulsby, Compatriots Mike Schooling, Ira Lack and Mike Climo. After the meeting was called to order, Chaplain Coulsby gave the Invocation, after which all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Confederate Flag. No guests were present for the occasion and the scheduled swearing in of two new members was cancelled due to medical problems related to both these men.

Commander Millsap then presented Adjutant Stephens with an H.L. Hunley tie that was greatly appreciated and he promised to proudly wear it at future Hunley awards ceremonies. Treasurer Adair gave his treasurer's report, laying out expenditures and inputs to the camp treasury, showing a current balance of \$40,095.34. Roy indicated that the 2019 Tax report will be submitted by August 1st of 2020. Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, a motion was made and then the camp voted approval to lower the annual camp membership fee to \$10.00 vice \$20.00 as charged in years past. *(See Page Two for revised membership dues.)* Roy reminded those present that the camp website was up for renewal and a unanimous vote of approval to renew was conducted.

The 2019 Musket Shoot at South Bay Rod & Gun Club was recapped, showing fees charged the camp being at \$30.00 vice the \$12.00 in past years. The commander will revisit where the camp stands regarding costs for the upcoming year's planned shoot. Also, options for an alternate location to conduct black powder shoots at Little Creek Firing Line in San Bernadino National Forrest was discussed. Compatriot Mike Climo volunteered to take that for action.

The 2020 Camp Calendar was approved. Dates for the October 2020 Musket Shoot and the December 2020 Wreaths Across America will be added later upon event date confirmation.

Adjutant Stephens brought up the Oakwood Cemetery donation that the camp previously provided to the Confederate Cemetery in Virginia. A motion was made to carry a proposed additional donation as requested by the Oakwood Restoration Committee over to a future meeting.

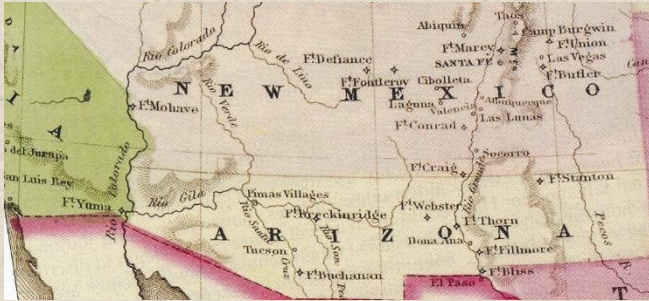
A discussion was had on the reward recognition and the SCV National Awards as Camp 302 has, for the two previous years, had candidates overlooked (it was also discussed who, if any, was at fault for the omission). This will be a major topic for debate at the next Division Executive Council meeting on January 19th.

Camp and division challenge coins were on the agenda and the attending members were advised that an additional 100 camp coins will be ordered soon as approved by a previous vote. Commander Millsap stated that there are 41 camp coins remaining in the current inventory. Members were also reminded of the camp's \$150.00 initial payment for the new Division Challenge Coins that will be ordered once the division has obtained sufficient funds. Planned cost will be \$10.00 each.

Commander Millsap mentioned Mr. Micah Tate, a Civil War enthusiast and curator of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum at MCAS Miramar, as a possible future guest speaker. More on this later. All present were told of the next VMC Color Guard to be conducted Saturday, Jan 25th and the Division Re-Confederation at Bakersfield on March 13-15th. With no further business, Chaplain Coulsby wrapped up the meeting with the Benediction.

(The Fight at Picacho, Continued from Page One)

Before we get into the battle at Picacho Pass, let's take a look at the political and geographical make-up of this corner of the Southwest just before the Civil War.



The map at left shows the extent of the New Mexico Territory and what would eventually be considered Confederate Arizona as they looked at the beginning of the war. Note how both territories stretch from Texas to California with parts of the New Mexico Territory bordering Nevada Territory. It would be later in the Lincoln Administration that the maps were redrawn and the shape of both New Mexico and Arizona Territories would run North and South instead of East and West.

The ultimate boundary of New Mexico Territory was massive. The territory created was a result of the treaty between the United States and Mexico that ended the war between the two countries in 1848. I would recommend to our compatriots who have not done so to read Lt. Commander Dr. Robert Massey's article in the November/December 2019 issue of *Confederate Veteran*, from which the above map is taken, with his excellent article titled: *Arizona: the Territory Which Seceded Twice*. In it, one learns how these two territories were created and the political ramifications that lead to Arizona seceding from New Mexico. The New Mexico Territory was sparsely populated with the southern portion even more so. The people in the south felt that they were not being properly represented in the territory's capitol of Santa Fe. Not satisfied over excessive spending of money on vast tracts of desert land and just being overshadowed by the larger cities in the north made the political environment ripe for secession. The U.S. Congress was petitioned numerous times in the 1850's for a new territory that would be called *Arizona*, only to be turned down. Then President Buchanan, Mississippi Senator Jefferson Davis, Georgia Representative Alexander H. Stephens (*Note the misspelling of Stephens' name in the article*) all supported the establishment of an Arizona territory. *An interesting side note to this is that during the initial discussions on creating a trans-continental railroad, Senator Davis was pushing for the route to pass through the Arizona Territory.* The Tucson Convention met from April 2nd thru the 5th of 1860 to create the "Provisional Government of Arizona" with the town of Mesilla becoming the first Capital. While adopting the laws of New Mexico, this would be Arizona's secession from the mother territory. Generally accepted by the citizens of the new territory, it was ignored by both the U.S. Government and New Mexico. Do read the complete article by Dr. Massey to get a full understanding of this history of California's neighbors to the east.

Why the name, *Confederate Arizona*? The folks living in the New Mexico Territory, generally speaking, were pro-U.S. Government while their neighbors to the south, dissatisfied with the federal government, aligned themselves with the Texans when the Civil War finally broke out and after Texas' secession from the Union.

The importance of Confederate Arizona is tied in part to the numerous Southern sympathizers living in the region. Also, President Jefferson Davis was very familiar with this part of the Southwest when he was Secretary-of-War and experimenting with the Camel Corps and the route of the Butterfield Stage Line.

In 1861, he was approached by Henry Hopkins Sibley with the idea of invading New Mexico Territory with soldiers he could recruit in Texas. His plans were grandiose: his men would live off the land with the support of the locals and be self-sustaining. What made the plan appear more feasible was that many of the U.S. Troops in the area were being transferred east to support the war effort there.

Davis was also looking ahead at the eventuality of reaping the financial rewards in obtaining the vast rich natural resources to aid the Confederacy and the access thru Southern California to the seaports that lay ahead. With all this to consider, Davis readily approved Sibley's plan.

(Continued on Page Five)

(The Fight at Picacho, Continued from Page Four)

The fighting in New Mexico Territory during the Southwestern Campaign is too extensive to be covered here, but we'll go over some of the action that would lead us to Picacho. A vast area stretching from Santa Fe in the Northeast to Stanwix Station far to the Southwest near Yuma would be witness to mostly minor engagements.

To understand why so few engagements and low casualty rates is to be aware of the low manning level and material condition of both Confederate and Union forces during that time. Confederate soldiers were poorly equipped with clothing, a mix of weapons and few artillery pieces. Even Union troops were inadequately equipped with a mix of uniforms and even having to supply their own horses and accouterments. In fact, the largest battle in the Southwest took place along the Rio Grande River near Fort Craig on February 21, 1862, where approximately 6,400 troops met in battle. The Confederates had around 2,590, losing about 230 men. Union forces numbered about 3,800 with a loss of 475. Called the "Bloody Valverde," the Confederates were victorious after the fighting; but, as a result of losing key officers and a large number of horses and not being able to take Fort Craig where the Union soldiers retreated, they were not able to take advantage of the much-needed supplies held within the fort.

Another Confederate victory that lead to naught was the fight at Glorieta Pass. After capturing Albuquerque, Sibley's Confederates were moving toward Santa Fe when they clashed with "Pikes Peakers" (Colorado troops in Glorieta Canyon). Hours of heavy fighting saw a Confederate victory with Union troops in retreat. Colonel William Scurry, commander of the Confederates during the battle, requested a truce so that the Texans, after the fight, could bury their dead. Another example of lack of equipment resulted in the Confederates borrowing shovels from the Union forces to accomplish this. To negate the Confederate victory, a union detachment led by Major John Chivington of the Colorado troops had secreted behind Confederate lines, captured the small detail left to guard the supply train, blowing up the ammunition and burning all the wagons and supplies. An act of wanton cruelty occurred when Chivington's men killed five to six hundred mules and horses attached to the supply train.

Sibley's remaining troops were forced to retreat back to Texas and, after this, Southern forces would never again attempt to invade the Southwest for the remainder of the war.
On to Picacho!

Compared to the engagements described above occurring in New Mexico Territory, Picacho can be considered far more insignificant as numbers and casualties go. However, as mentioned earlier in this article, the brief battle at Picacho Pass would become the largest action to take place in Arizona during the Civil War. The peak, as seen by the few Civil War soldiers in 1862, would be a landmark remaining in their memories for years to come.

Operating out of Tucson, a city of flat-roofed adobe structures, the established outpost of Confederate activity in Arizona, Captain Hunter and his Arizona Rangers would be the force to confront the Union contingent marching up the Gila River. Hunter stationed a sergeant and nine privates in the pass just below the Picacho Peak to advise him of approaching Union troops.

Captain Calloway, the commander of the Union force, was warned that the Confederates were camped in the pass. Advancing his main force from the Pima Villages, he planned to capture the small Confederate force and not engage in battle, to extract from them troop strength at Tucson, which was estimated to be around 1000.

The ensuing battle at Picacho Pass occurred when Lieutenant Barrett and 13 troopers from Calloway's main force found themselves moving through thickets that required single file movement while dismounted in order to surprise the Confederates. However, Barrett left his men mounted, which raised the alarm and firing began. Some men were thrown from their horses as the fierce hour and a half battle began. The Confederates were able to move back through the dense mesquite thicket and regroup.

(Continued on Page Six)

(The Fight at Picacho, Continued from Page Five)

Lieutenant Barrett was killed along with one of his men. Four others were wounded. One of them died a short time later. Three Confederates were captured during the fight with no one killed or wounded as Captain Hunter later filed in his report, whose account is considered more accurate than existing Federal reports. The number of men engaged from both sides totaled just 24. 14 Union and 10 Confederates.

Captain Hunter made his way back to Tucson and, after making his battle report, sent a detachment of 10 men back to Picacho Pass to monitor Union activity to ascertain the direction of Union troop movements. The outcome of the Picacho Pass engagement, despite very limited gains for either side, is considered a Confederate win since Captain Calloway was unable to determine the Confederate numbers at Tucson, thus delaying by several weeks the eventual Union taking of the city. Confederate attempts to gain a foothold in the Southwest was short lived even with the heroic efforts of a few determined men.



Some in the Confederate Government still talked of invading the Southwest throughout the remainder of the war.

The Bucolic scene above of Picacho Peak and the surrounding desert in full bloom is most probably not much different from what our Confederate heroes witnessed and marveled over in their brief military presence there in 1862.

Up until a few years ago, reenactments of the Battle Picacho Pass took place in Picacho Peak State Park during March of each year. Fellow compatriot Curt Tipton of the Fort Huachuca/Sierra Vista, Arizona Camp 1710 advised me that the Arizona Department of Parks discontinued the reenactment. The event was moved to Pioneer Village Living History Museum in Phoenix, which is held around the November timeframe.

I encourage our readers to make an effort to stop at Picacho Peak State Park the next time you find yourselves driving East or West along I-10, and if you have the time, make the hike up the scenic nature trail to the peak where you will not only be rewarded with a fantastic panoramic view of the Southern Arizona Desert, but perhaps a visceral feeling of what our early pioneers and Civil War soldiers must have experienced so long ago.

Jim Stephens

References:

Confederate Veteran, November/December 2019, "Arizona: The Territory which Seceded Twice."
Dr. Robert Massey

Arizona State Parks, "Engagement at Picacho Pass," Craig Ringer

Camp Meeting



Camp 302 members sit around the table at the camp's favorite eatery in Mira Mesa, Mimi's Café, where the management has always graciously offered up a great meeting room. Seated from left to right during their 1st business gathering for 2020 on January 11th: Commander Jim Millsap, Adjutant Jim Stephens, Treasurer Roy Adair, Mike Climo, Chaplain Jim Coulsby, Ira Lack as seen over the left shoulder of Mike Schooling. It was hoped that the camp's two newest members, Shawn Turner and Charles Hill, would be present for their official swearing-in, but both members could not be present due to medical reasons. We will be looking forward to seeing them at our March 7th gathering. *For details of business conducted, see page three for meeting minutes.*

California Division Executive Committee Meeting

January 19, 2020



Division Commander Robert Williams, once again graciously hosted the first Division Executive Committee meeting for the new year. In attendance were Hal Cardwell, Inland Empire Camp 1742, Ryan Williams, Division Quartermaster and Orange County Camp 1770, Jim Stephens, Adjutant, Camp 302, San Diego, Jim Millsap, Commander, Camp 302, San Diego, Greg Frazier, Camp 2048, Bakersfield/Tehachapi, Mike Climo, Division Lieutenant Commander, Camp 302, San Diego, and Robert Crook, Division Judge Advocate. Seen at left, Commander Williams shows off a

photograph of General Lee.

Social media and its proper use is always a key topic that is discussed over and over at these meetings because, as it has been found, we must be ever vigilant on how we use media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter accounts among others to promote and further a positive understanding of the SCV. In the past, some members, while they may have meant well, have said or shown something that created a firestorm of negative and hateful feedback. Commander Williams has cautioned all camps to be aware of what is said and to do nothing that goes against division policy.

Speaking of social media, all present were encouraged to go to *Abbeville Institute.org* to obtain excellent articles on Southern Culture and History. Many of us are familiar with that site and can vouch for the great writers and articles they produce.

Participating in venues such as gun shows or recruiting events was discussed in light of the fact that if a camp goes into another camp's geographical area to promote their own camp or recruit for the SCV, while seemingly innocuous, should, out of courtesy, coordinate with the camp nearby. At worst, it could create hard feelings between the two; at best, it can be an opportunity to work together for the common good.

For some time now, many members of the division have been using the e-mail medium of Proton to send important information in a more secure environment. Also, many of us still prefer to use commercial forms of e-mail, feeling that Proton is not user friendly. While the majority tend to lean toward the commercial aspect, it was decided at the meeting to continue using Proton for those who wish to do so.

Greg Frazier brought it to everyone's attention that the Smithsonian Institute will be recognizing the SCV for its sponsorship of the War Service Medal that was discussed in the previous edition of this newsletter.

Mike Climo presented the attendees with the newly revised Camp Worksheet that camps are to use for the upcoming convention.

Commander Williams discussed the new Division Challenge Coins and where we currently stand on existing orders. Inputs and orders for the camps are still ongoing. Finally, the May 23rd dedication at Elm Springs, Tennessee for the relocation of the remains of General Forrest was brought before the committee and Commander Williams stated that he will be attending.



Southern Luncheon

January 18, 2020

Our sisters in the cause, The United Daughters of the Confederacy, host a fantastic annual luncheon. This year as part of the luncheon program, they featured none other than General Robert E. Lee. The event took place at the Pala Mesa Resort, Fallbrook and an excellent Bill-of-Fare was had by all. Emma Sansom 449 and Rose O'Neal Greenhow 2722 hosted the affair. *At left: UDC California Division President, Christina Hurst-Loeffler addresses the gathering.*



Below: As part of the historical program, Mr. Paul Lewanski, well uniformed as the General, delivered his talk on part of General Lee's life.



A great selection of decorative baskets were made available during the Distribution of Opportunity Drawing available to all attendees. Members of Camp 302 learned that our own Destin Rayes is a descendent of Pvt. John Duggan, Co. B. 24th Alabama Infantry.

John Duggan was born about 1836 in Ireland and was mustered into service 15 October 1861 at Mobile, Alabama. He married Mary McGuire, who was also from Ireland. He proudly served the Confederacy until 2 April 1862 when he suffered some sort of disability and was discharged. He is the great grandfather of Destin's mother, Mary Rayes of the Stonewall Jackson Chapter.

Several members of the SCV were in attendance, which included Robert Williams, California Division Commander, Ryan Williams Camp 1770, Camp 302 Commander Jim Millsap, Adjutant Jim Stephens, Treasurer Roy Adair, and Mike Climo also the division's Lieutenant Commander.

These gatherings, of course, are not complete without the Roll Call of the States and everyone joining in for the rousing rendition of "Dixie's Land."



Camp 302 Color Guard was present and accounted for on Saturday, January 25, 2020 for the camp's first Color Guard duty of the year. The Marine Corps League, month after month, makes an all-out effort to honor those military veterans residing in the area who have made the final roll call to the Supreme Commander. This month, 33 folks answered the call. Among them, Bruce Atwater & Joe Walsh, Pearl Harbor Survivors and, Don Howison, survivor of the tragic sinking of the USS Indianapolis, the battleship that delivered one of the Atom Bombs that ended World War II.



Pictured Left to Right: Commander Jim Millsap, Lieutenant Commander George Faircloth, Adjutant Jim Stephens, Compatriot Ira Lack, Robyn Adair, Treasurer Roy Adair, Donna Derrick, Sandy Bill, and Joedy Adams. It is always a pleasure to have the ladies of the UDC join us. Your camp will return on May 23rd for the next Color Guard. Please join us.

March 7, 2020 Camp Meeting



Camp 302 will meet at the Coyote Café in Vista for the camp's pre-convention gathering on Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The address is 1450 N Santa Fe Avenue, Vista, 92083 at the corner of Bobier and N Santa Fe Ave. We plan to discuss any details that need be brought before the convention that would be of the camp's interest, particularly the Camp Worksheet that will tabulate the points earned by

Camp 302 the previous year. Also, we'll talk about the silent auction in which we are responsible for and any details of the auction that need be ironed out prior to the March 13-15 Convention. We encourage all who can to attend as we plan to officially induct into Camp 302 our two new members, Shawn Turner and Charles Hill.

Greetings from the Commander



I hope everyone is having a great 2020... The year is moving by fast and we're already into March, which means it is time for the annual SCV California Division Convention/Re-Confederation at Bakersfield March 13-15, 2020. If you haven't attended a division convention, this is a great opportunity to meet up with members from across 12 camps in the California "Dixie West" Division and share our Southern Heritage! It is a lot of fun, so I hope to see some new faces there this year.

-Deo Vindice,

Jim Millsap, Commander, Father A.J. Ryan, San Diego, Camp 302