

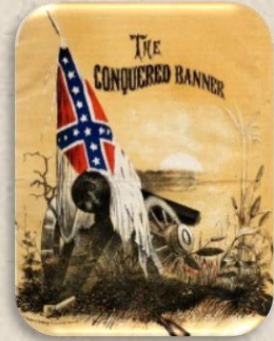


The Conquered Banner

Newsletter of the

Father A. J. Ryan San Diego Camp 302

Sons of Confederate Veterans



VOLUME 29 NUMBER 3

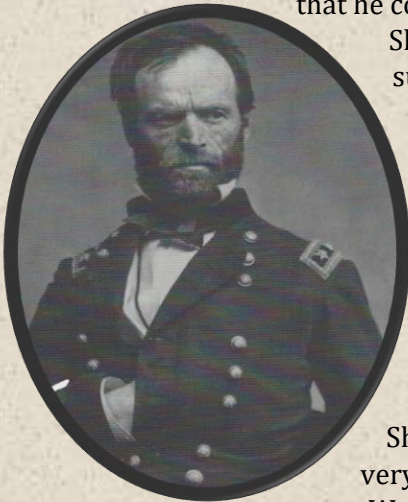
May/June 2021

The Battle of Brown's Mill

A little-known but significant battle took place near the city of Newnan, Georgia on July 30, 1864. While not affecting the ultimate outcome of the war in that state, it would drastically slow down the progress of General William Sherman's 100,000 federals in their sweep through Georgia. It would seriously impede the movement of his army to the extent that he was forced to begin a long siege of Atlanta instead of what he thought would be the immediate capitulation of that city so that he could continue his march to Savannah. What happened?

Sherman had set out from Tennessee to destroy rail lines in Georgia that supplied the beleaguered Confederacy as well as those supplies shipped into Atlanta—a major hub and supply depot. He had managed to neutralize two of the three main rail lines while advancing south, continually pushing back the stubborn Confederates until he was stopped north of Atlanta in early May. The fighting at Brown's Mill occurred after he dispatched 10,000 troops toward the city of Newnan, situated about 50 miles south of Atlanta. (*Newnan would serve as a hospital city for wounded Confederates during the Battle of Atlanta.*) The purpose, to wreck the tenuous ribbon of rail that was Atlanta's remaining link connecting it to what was left of the Confederacy. One man, however, would stand in Sherman's way, giving the Confederate Army a well-deserved victory in a very propitious cavalry engagement. That man was Joseph Wheeler.

We know of the exploits of Nathan Bedford Forrest and that daring Cavalier, J.E.B. Stuart but then, there was Brigadier General Joseph Wheeler, a thorn in the side of Union generals as he harassed them in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia.



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

Camp members gathered on the morning of March 6, 2021, a little after 11:00 AM via ZOOM for the scheduled business/pre-Reunion meeting. It got off to a bumpy start as Adjutant Stephens had inadvertently scheduled the meeting for 11:00 PM, but all was corrected quickly and everything went off smoothly. Apologies to those members who tried to get on.

Commander Millsap conducted the meeting with the following in attendance: **Lieutenant Commander George Faircloth, Adjutant Jim Stephens, Treasurer Roy Adair, Compatriots David Ham participating from New Mexico, Charles Hill, Mike Climo, Steve Smith, and Steve Perdue.** A good attendance, and hopefully, we'll start seeing more in the future. We were glad that George Faircloth installed a camera on his monitor, allowing us to view, instead of just hear, him.

Obviously, as this was partly a pre-reunion discussion, final details for those attending were talked over. Commander Millsap reported that besides himself, Roy Adair, Steve Smith and Mike Climo will represent Camp 302 at Bakersfield. Also, as Ira Lack has registered, it is assumed that he also will be in attendance. Mike Climo mentioned that as of this time, 75 folks are to be present at the banquet on Saturday night the 13th of March. At least 40 division members have registered for the Reunion to date. Climo also mentioned that Camp reports may be read by camp representatives, but only highlights and nothing in detail. The Sunday morning memorial at Union Cemetery is on track for the 14th. The Silent Auction, which Camp 302 conducts during the reunion, will have George Faircloth's boxed 1849 pocket pistol & holster that he has donated. He indicated that he will leave it up to the camp to determine the minimum asking price at the auction.

With the eventual opening of restaurants in the San Diego area for indoor dining in the near future, Commander Millsap will approach Mimi's Restaurant in Mira Mesa for a possible gathering there later on this year. Regardless of getting together again for in-person meetings, it was decided that ZOOM has proved quite advantageous in having folks in attendance that normally might not be able to come in person. A suggestion was made to possibly pay for an annual subscription to ZOOM that allows for very long meetings without the hassle of being cut off every 40 minutes and having to restart. A request will be made to the commander for a vote on this at the next scheduled meeting.

The question arose regarding Confederate Memorial Day that occurs on April 27th. Treasurer Adair reported that the UDC, like us, has formulated no basic plan. They will probably have a ZOOM meeting themselves.

Adjutant Stephens reported on the current standing with the H.L. Hunley program as it relates to the camp and, as Division Hunley Coordinator, its relationship to the division. Stephens reminded those present that Coronado High School has dropped out of the Hunley Award program. He also mentioned that a recent conversation with John Vorhies of the Marine Corps League verified that the VMC is still closed, and the league has made no plans to start up the monthly program of honoring deceased veterans and a color guard.

Jim Stephens started a discussion of Stone Mountain as presented in the latest issue of the newsletter. Mike Climo mentioned reading something recently that a Martin Luther King Memorial may be placed on the mountain as a compromise to not removing the carving on its side. More on this later.

Finally, with the departure time for the Bakersfield Reunion next weekend decided upon, Steve Smith and Jim Millsap stated they will come by Jim Stephens' home to pick up the camp flags, base, Camp-of-The-Year Sword, division ink pens for the silent auction along with the \$200.00 and cash box.

At present, there is no planned location for the May 8th scheduled camp meeting and, along with that, the celebration of Jefferson Davis' Birthday with a cake. Assuming the camp does meet in a restaurant, Adjutant Stephens stated that he can order the cake. If not, A ZOOM meeting is in the offing.

With no further business to conduct, Commander Millsap ended the meeting at 12:10 PM.

The Battle of Brown's Mill Continued from Page One



Joseph Wheeler was a feisty 5' 5" graduate of West Point in 1859. He resigned his commission in 1861 and became a 1st Lieutenant of Artillery in the Confederate Army. Later, he was appointed Colonel of the 19th Alabama. As a brigade commander during Shiloh, he covered the Confederate retreat during the second day of battle. He was later given command of cavalry in General Braxton Bragg's Army of the Mississippi.

Wheeler would remain in the field for the remainder of the war, during which time, he was wounded three times and had sixteen horses shot out from under him.

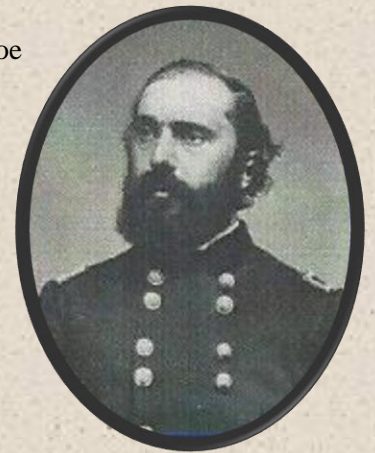
He rose to the rank of Major General in 1863 after delaying the advance of Union General William Rosecrans at Murfreesboro. Wheeler took a prominent part during the Confederate victory at Chickamauga in North Georgia. Later, when he had Rosecrans shut up in Chattanooga, his cavalry made numerous raids on the Union rear, inflicting millions of dollars in damage to federal depots in central Tennessee. Wheeler went on to support General James Longstreet during his siege of Knoxville and in rear guard actions at Ringgold, Georgia under General Patrick Cleburne.

Wheeler was active in opposing Sherman in his drive through Georgia to take Atlanta. His cavalry engaged the Union cavalry at every chance including that of General George Stoneman many times during the drive, inflicting serious damage. Stoneman was captured during this time and would become the highest-ranking Union Officer captured during the war. He would be later exchanged. It was during the Atlanta Campaign that "Fighting" Joe Wheeler would show his great acumen as a cavalry leader during The Battle of Brown's Mill. The mill was constructed in 1830 along Sandy Creek, but would be nearly destroyed by floods in 1880. While it played no part in the action, its proximity to the fighting gave the battle its name.

Of the Union troops on this daring raid, heading toward Newnan and points south, General Edward McCook's cavalry was tasked with severing communications and supply lines in south-central Georgia. Challenging him would be the indomitable Joe Wheeler, considered the Army of Tennessee's best cavalry commander and by some described as having "the heart of a lion."

McCook's raid was just one of many Sherman initiated in attempts to use cavalry to inflict as much damage as possible during the Atlanta campaign. After a successful raid at Fayetteville, Georgia where his cavalry captured a large Confederate wagon train and, at Lovejoy Station, tore up track along the Macon and Western Railroad, McCook turned his forces back toward Newnan and the main Union lines near Atlanta. He was ambushed by Wheeler's cavalry near Brown's Mill, 4 miles south of Newnan and the main Battle of Brown's Mill began (also called *The Battle of Newnan*.) Some of the fighting started with a skirmish in downtown Newnan earlier in the day. After that, with Wheeler hotly pursuing the retreating federals, it would be a race to victory for the Confederates.

Faced with an overwhelming number of Union troops, Wheeler's cavalry took on the odds with courage and valor as opposed to the confusion and the indecision of McCook that was affecting his men in the fast-moving fighting that moved back and forth through tangled thickets and wooded area around Brown's Mill.



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The Battle of Brown's Mill continued from Page Four

Men on both sides fought without rest or food for several days showing examples of heroism as witnesses would recall. The woods, as many of the locals remembered, echoed with the sound of bugles.

With his forces scattered and most of Wheeler's 3,800 men fast upon his heels, General McCook knew he was defeated. He had lost 1,200 horses, several ambulances and 2 pieces of spiked artillery; 1,285 of his men were captured as well as 100 killed or wounded. Wheeler was able to free 300 Confederates that McCook had previously captured. Wheeler lost 50 of his men in the fight.



With no chance of his remaining forces retreating to Union lines intact, McCook considered the possibility of surrendering, but instead directed his officers to lead their individual battalions out of the area separately toward the west and the Chattahoochee River where they were able to move north and hopefully rejoin Union lines near Atlanta.

With the course of the Atlanta campaign drastically altered for Sherman, he was forced to abandon the use of cavalry raids to inflict serious damage behind Confederate lines. Thus, with his infantry and artillery, he would begin the long, destructive siege of Atlanta that would last from May until September of 1864 before the city finally surrendered.

Today, any member of Camp 302 or others in the California Division who have the opportunity to visit the Atlanta area with some time on their hands, can drive south to the city of Newnan and visit the 105 acre Brown's Mill Battlefield Historic Site and walk a three-quarters of a mile scenic trail that has interpretative signage and benches and a large parade ground where reenactments are frequently performed. Monuments honoring Confederate and Union casualties can be observed.

In 1908, The United Daughters of the Confederacy erected a marker, as seen here, at the spot on the battlefield where General Wheeler ambushed General McCook's main force.



You can visit: <http://brownsmillbattlefield.org> for additional information on the battle and the historic site.

See: *Confederates at Arlington*, The Conquered Banner, July 2013

Jim Stephens

California Division Reunion



The Four Points Sheraton in Bakersfield, California was the place to be for the 27th Annual California Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans Reunion/ Reconfederation, with compatriots from around the state gathering the weekend of March 12-14, 2021.

Despite the pandemic health restrictions in some parts of the country, especially here in California, a good number of division members felt secure enough to venture to Bakersfield to attend this great annual gathering that brings compatriots and family members together for business and social comradery and to reacquaint with each other after a year's absence and to get to know those

new to the event. A few members, including your editor, elected to remain absent this year, just to be on the safe side, as a precaution due to COVID. With things looking up in this area, we can only hope this will soon be a bad memory. Division Commander Robert Williams and Lieutenant Commander Mike Climo and others of the Division Executive Committee excelled in organizing this 2021 Reunion. The Four Points Sheraton Hotel stepped up again to provide the venue. As with any of our conventions or reunions, it is imperative to gather great speakers and important personages related to the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Southern Cause.

This year was another banner year for the division. Commander Williams was able to retain SCV Commander-in-Chief, Larry A. McCluney Jr., *speaking at the podium*, to honor the division with his presence along with McCluney's Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief Jason Boshier. *Seated at his Right*. Unfortunately, Army of Trans Mississippi's Commander J.C. Hanna was scheduled to attend but had to cancel.



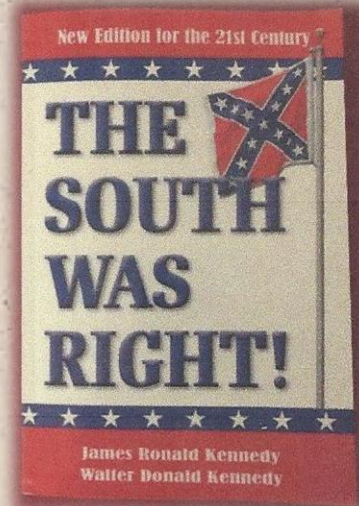
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California Division Reunion Continued from Page Six



The guest speaker for this year was the SCV's Chief of Heritage Operations, Walter "Donnie" Kennedy, *speaking at left*, co-author with his brother, James Ronald Kennedy, of *The South Was Right*. Mr. Kennedy would be there for a book signing later in the proceedings.

The start of the division's reunion always begins on Friday afternoon and evening as compatriots and their guests begin to arrive from different parts of the state and gather in the Four Points Hospitality Suite set aside for the division. There, they're able to meet up with fellow compatriots to socialize on an informal basis and to just wind down from their traveling, whether it be the drive down from Sacramento or up from San Diego and all points in-between.



This year, due to COVID restrictions, plans were made to seat attendees out-of-doors next the hospitality suite to enjoy drinks, snacks

and various food items, but as it turned out, much of the social interaction and snacking took place inside the suite after all. The hotel did require face masks to be worn in public areas inside, but aside from that it was the only COVID restrictions observed. Compatriots and guests, *as seen at right*, gather for an informal photo during the reunion.



Commander Williams was pleased to have 10 out of the 13 camps attending that make up the division. The Santa Barbara, Long Beach and Modesto Camps were not able to be present this year. 2021 was the year that the California Division established a 13th camp that became the division's Headquarters Camp 2322, named after Lieutenant Colonel Dan Showalter.

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(Division Reunion Continued from Page Seven)

Two other folks who graced the division's guests list were George Gremillion, Louisiana Division Commander, who has frequented California Division reunions for the past several years, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy California President, Christine Loeffler. They both gave a brief address to the assemblage.

The business meeting portion of the reunion began on Saturday morning at 8:30 AM and ran until noon. As mentioned earlier, Camp Reports were presented by representatives from Camp 302, San Diego,

Camp 1208, Los Angeles, Camp 1440, San Jose, Camp 1627, Sacramento, Camp 1742, Inland Empire, Camp 1770, Orange County, Camp 1804, Fresno, Camp 2048, Bakersfield/Tehachapi and Camp 2062, Ventura.



At left, Camp 302 Commander Jim Millsap goes over his notes. (Note the Division Camp-of-the-Year Sword that Camp 302 won in 2020 lying on the table in front of him.)

Along with the Division reports presented, Robert Crook, California Division Judge Advocate, advised the members that the Division logo "Dixie West" had received copy right protection.

Division Color Sergeant & Sergeant-at-Arms, Greg Frazier, introduced the new Reconfederation Ribbon. See page ten for

description and purpose of the ribbon. Also, written reports were submitted by Ryan Williams, Division Quartermaster, dealing with division property and Jim Stephens, Hunley Awards Liaison, on the current status of Hunley Award presentations state and nationwide.

It was time for division elections and, with no nominations presented, Division Commander Robert Williams and Lieutenant Commander Mike Climo were reelected for another 2-year term. Division Adjutant Vern Padgett remains in his current position.

During his talk to the division attendees, Commander-in-Chief McCluney briefed everyone of the opening of the museum at Elm Springs and the current status regarding the reinterment of General Forrest. As he indicated, the removal of General Forrest and his wife from their tomb at Memphis and the relocation at Elm Springs will be a lengthy process. Approvals for the removal and excavation have been granted, and the interment at Elm springs will depend on the wishes of the Forrest family as this is being handled as a funeral and a private event. Also, weather and seasonal changes will determine a date when all this will happen. Presently, it is not known if SCV members will be invited to attend. Bringing the General and his wife home to Elm Springs is not going to be an easy affair as can be seen. Once this does occur and, as the Commander-in-Chief points out, SCV participation may be limited.

There was some discussion on the artifacts that are being considered for the museum at Elm Springs.

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Division Reunion Continued from Page Eight

Many items on display at the Museum of the Confederacy (now called The Civil War Museum) in Richmond belong to private parties; it has not been determined what will eventually be on display at Elm Springs. Both McCluney and Boshers emphasized that the museum belongs to the members of the Sons-of-Confederate Veterans and it is they who will determine what is displayed along with what the message/story line will be. There are, of course, numerous pieces of equipment that must be purchased to serve the needs of the museum. Display cabinets are just one of them. Fundraising to obtain them will be

needed. Eventually, they will house cloth/clothing (with a story) which is being sought and there are plenty of muskets that have been donated. Two original Confederate Flags are on loan that are among many that will be in the cabinets. Those in attendance were told also that there will be brick walkways similar to the memorial "Bricks of Beauvoir." SCV members will be able to obtain memorial bricks that will be installed on the walkway to honor their ancestors with donations.



Above, you can see division leadership and guest speakers during the business meeting. *L to R*: Donnie Kennedy, SCV Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief Boshers, SCV Commander-in-Chief McCluney, Division Commander Williams, Division Lieutenant Commander Climo and Division Adjutant Padgett. Division leadership then gave their respective reports. Commander Williams went over the fiscal year wrap-up, the Jacksonville National Reunion, Confederate Museum donation, best newsletter and awards, Division Executive Council meetings and establishing a headquarters Camp # 2322 among others. LCDR Climo discussed the weekend events, Brigade Commander status, website update and emphasis on member privacy (photos, contact info and social media.) Adjutant/Treasurer Padgett covered membership status (271 members,) and the division's financial report.

Here are brief bios of our two national leaders: Larry McCluney resides in Greenwood, Mississippi with his wife, Julia. They have been married for 27 years and have no children. CIC McCluney has been a high school history teacher (honors students) for over 27 years, receiving his BA and MA from Mississippi State University. Jason Boshers resides in Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee with his wife. Jason's professional background is in computer technology (IT.) LCDRIC Jason and his wife have no children. Jason mentioned that as Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief, part of his duties is in recruitment and retention of SCV members. He paid a compliment to our Division, mentioning that there are several camps and some divisions within the confederation requiring national officers to pay special attention due to internal politics, etc. He has never had to worry about our division here in California.

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Division Reunion Continued from Page Nine

One important piece of business to take care of was the Question & Answer session directed at our national leaders. Here are a few examples:

- 1) *Any update from proposals to remove the battle flag from the SCV logo?* McCluney addressed this, stating that he would not personally be involved in favor or of endorsing this, but this would have to come as a formal proposal to the SCV members during the SCV business meetings.
- 2) *Will the SCV be providing workshops on dealing with the media?* Yes! This is ongoing and will be communicated to division leaders
- 3) *What specific steps are being taken to fight the removal of Confederate monuments?* The SCV is fully aware of the removal of monuments; however, when monuments are removed, they are being stored in warehouses and other locations by city and other municipalities with their whereabouts not advertised in order that various pro-Confederate entities do not obtain them to display on private property.



As pointed out on page eight, there was a presentation of a special, military regulation style ribbon, *seen at left* designed by California Division Color Sergeant & Sergeant-of-Arms, Greg Frazier, of the Bakersfield/Tehachapi, Camp 2048. The ribbon is called the ***SCV California Division Reconfederation Ribbon***.

This special commemorative ribbon is designed to honor

and recognize those members who have attended the 2020 and/or the 2021 annual reunion. It is to be properly worn above the heart. Special thanks goes out to Compatriot Frazier who devoted his time and resources in developing this award. The Grey color of the ribbon represents our Confederate heritage. The yellow denotes the arm of service color of the cavalry and represents the cavalier spirit of the California Division. The alternating stripes indicate the yearly nature of our Reconfederation. Affixed to the center of the ribbon is the letter "C"—our home, California.

With the close of business, members and guests adjourned for the Saturday evening Awards Banquet and buffet dinner. An always impressive display at the beginning is the massing of the colors where division members file in carrying the U.S., division and camp flags led by Color Sergeant Frazier, which are positioned along the outer walls of the banquet room.

After the well-attended buffet dinner, it was time for acknowledgements and introductions and talks by our guests: Christine Loeffler of the California United Daughters of the Confederacy, Sandy Padgett, California Order of the Confederate Rose, SCV CIC Larry McCluney Jr., SCV LCDRIC Jason Boshers, SCV Chief of Heritage Operations Walter Kennedy and our good friend, Louisiana Division Commander George Gremillion.

After a great dinner and speech making, came the awards and accolades part of the evening's festivities. There were many that went out to those in the division who were deserving; and, of course, one that must be pointed out is the great effort Greg Frazier did in creating the Reconfederation Ribbon. Two awards that pertained to Camp 302 were the 2021 Camp of the Year and the 2021 Chuck Norred Leadership Award.

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Division Reunion Continued from Page Ten



Camp 302 was once again honored to receive the coveted Camp-of-the-Year sword that we held during 2020. *At left*, Division Lieutenant Commander Mike Climo presents the sword and certificate to camp commander Jim Millsap. Camp 302 was further honored to receive the newly designated Chuck Norred Leadership Award, most appropriately named after The California Division's past commander who also oversaw his Fresno Camp 1804 and was for a time, Army of Trans Mississippi Commander. Chuck's leadership and dedication to his division and our Southern heritage makes

his name synonymous with the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Commander Millsap displays the Norred Award. Your Camp Adjutant/Publisher of this newsletter humbly and graciously accepts.

The final event for the evening festivities, the Silent Auction, was conducted which, of course, is held as a fund-raising event for the division. Camp 302 manages the auction, ably led by Commander Millsap and Treasurer Roy Adair. While not as many items were available this year, the division still managed to garner an \$815.00 profit from the donated items. Camp 302's Lieutenant Commander George Faircloth donated his Colt 1849 pocket pistol which sold for \$150.00. Mr. Mike Magee, an attendee and manufacturer of historic models, was gracious enough to donate a model of the Confederate submarine, H.L. Hunley, and a few busts of Confederate leaders as he did in 2020. Those items sold well. \$120.00 was raised from the sale of the California Division



Challenge coins.



At left, Camp 302 members, Steve Smith, Ira Lack, Jim Millsap, Mike Climo and Roy Adair stand on either side of Jason Boshers and Larry McCluney, Jr. our National leaders.

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Division Reunion Continued from Page Eleven

No California Division Reunion can be complete without the Sunday morning memorial that ends the weekend event. One cannot help but be in a respectful mood when paying honor to those Confederate veterans that have been laid to rest at Bakersfield's Union Cemetery as well as those in the division who answered the last roll call this past year. Those present bid farewell to these compatriots of "Dixie West" who recently passed away: Paul Ames, Ronald Booth, James Chance, Camp 1804, Fresno; Dr. Rowland "Ro" Rutherford King, Camp 1208, Los Angeles; Ernest Lawrence Powell Jr., Destin Gabriel Rayes, Camp 302, San Diego, Michael Barry Hearne, Camp 1627, Sacramento; and James W. Monroe, Camp 1742, Inland Empire.

The good ladies of the Mary Boykin Chesnut Chapter 2634, United Daughters of the Confederacy, graciously host this ceremony each year. California UDC President Chris-Hurst Loeffler is *second from right*.

Color Sergeant Frazier, *below, third from right*, led his uniformed color guard in the traditional gun salute to honor the dead that closes out this solemn ceremony that ends the reunion. It was time now for the attendees to retire and start thinking about next year.



Acknowledgement and appreciation are extended to several in the division who provided inputs for this article: Commander Millsap of Camp 302 for his great notes. Thanks to those who put together the excellent program booklet and of course, the photos provided by Camp 302's Jim Millsap and Roy Adair, and Steve Smith. Apologies to anyone I may overlooked.



Jim Stephens

Widows, Daughters and Sons

Recently, a Smithsonianmag.com article in January of this year, written by Meilan Solly, speaks of Helen Viola Jackson, the last living Civil War widow, who married Union Army veteran James Bolin in 1936. Helen died on December 16, 2020 at the age of 101. While her age, not necessarily unusual or,



the fact that she married a Civil War veteran at a young age and to a man who was very old, was quite common in the late part of the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth centuries. She was 17 and he 93. Many women of those times, particularly during the depression era, did so out of financial necessity. With Helen, it was different. James Bolin was receiving a pension of \$73.13 monthly. A substantial amount at that time. Also, veterans, North and South saw the opportunity to pass on their pensions to a surviving widow.

Helen lived on her family's farm in Missouri and was a neighbor to the much older Bolin. When they married and, as she later pointed out, it was agreed that she keep her maiden name and that she would continue to live with her family. It was a marriage of convenience. Bolin was

a widower at the time and Helen had been volunteered by her father to help the aging neighbor with his household chores.

Bolin had served in the U.S. 14th Missouri Cavalry. He proposed marriage to Helen and told her that he wanted her to have his Union pension. When he died in 1939, Helen was able to hold on to his farm. She would tell interviewers many years later that she had great respect for her husband who really cared for her and wanted her to have a future. Following his death, Helen Jackson would keep their marriage a secret for decades.

She never remarried or had any children. And, as strange as it may sound, she never applied for Bolin's pension. One of Bolin's daughters by his first marriage threatened to ruin Helen's reputation if she did so. As Helen explained, all a woman had in 1939 was her reputation. She did not want anyone to ever think that she married an old man to take advantage of him. Helen only revealed her marriage publically to James Bolin in 2017 which has since been verified by the DUVCW.

Maude White Hopkins, who wed Confederate veteran William M. Cantrell in 1934 when she was 19 and he 86, passed away in 2008 at the age of 93 and is thought to be the last Confederate widow. There may have been others alive at the time, but it has not been confirmed. Peggy White of the Associated Press reported that some widows were reluctant to publicly admit they were married to a Confederate veteran. This writer questions her assumption. On a negative note, Irene Triplett who died in 2020, is reported to be the last person to receive a Civil War Pension. Her father, Mose, was serving as a private in the Confederate Army when he deserted and went over to the Union, shifting his allegiance.

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Widows, Daughters and Sons continued from Page Thirteen

Reflecting on times-past, where one had an actual opportunity of meeting a widow of a veteran or, more realistically for us in our time, a “real daughter or son” of a Civil War veteran, it is certainly a special moment in time.

It was along about 1959 or so that I had the opportunity to meet a very nice lady who was the daughter of a Georgia Confederate veteran. This was long before the term *Real Daughter or Son* became a part of my vocabulary. My cousin and I were on a hunting trip and stopped off to visit with a distant family acquaintance at her home in Central Georgia. We were both very interested in Civil War history, particularly as it related to our home state. As some members of our family talked frequently of relations who fought in the war, it did not take long before our conversation led to this subject. She told us of her father’s service and showed us many of his accoutrements: his musket, canteen, a haversack and a few other items. We even asked her if she were willing to sell some of them. She emphatically said no! Looking back now, I do not blame her. To this day, I still recall the awe of sitting in the presence of a daughter of a Confederate soldier.

Today, many of us in Camp 302 can say for sure that we’ve been able to sit and talk with a real daughter or son of a Confederate veteran. I never had the opportunity to meet Real Daughter Stephenie Harrod who passed away in 2007 (*Stephenie is spelled correctly. Her dad, she said, desired the spelling this way to emphasize the sounding of Stephen.*) I was not able to join those who did attend that camp gathering at a steak house in San Marcos on the day she was a guest. Several of us in the camp, on more than one occasion, did have the chance to meet and talk with Real Son Woodrow “Woody” Plougher at California Division reunions. The reunion in Sacramento was the first time I recall meeting him. Woody died several years ago and was a member of the Santa Barbara camp.

Stephenie and Woody are among the widows, daughters and sons of Confederate and Union veterans who are gone from us now, the last living links we had to the past.

California Division Executive Council Meeting

Commander Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, March 28, 2021 at his home in Mission Viejo. Preliminary ceremonies were conducted: The Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag, Salute to the Confederate Flag, and reading of the Charge.

Attending members aside from Commander Williams were Lieutenant Commander Mike Climo, Hunley Awards Liaison officer Jim Stephens, Camp 1742 Adjutant Jon Hussey and Commander Steve Madden, Camp 302 Commander Jim Millsap and Division Adjutant/Treasurer Vern Padgett.

The first order of business was the approval of the February 14, 2021 meeting minutes. Adjutant Padgett provided the membership status of five of the division’s camps and the payments of their division dues. He reported expenditures of \$8794.00 from July 1, 2020 to present and an income of \$10,607.00 during the same time. Adjutant Padgett acknowledged the receipt of a letter from Headquarters Executive Director Adam Southern, thanking the California Division’s Camp 1208 for their donation of \$500.00 to the new museum in Elm Springs. Apparently there have been some negative comments coming some SUV elements. Vern indicated that he would reach out to his contacts for clarification.

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Division Council Meeting Continued from Page Fourteen

Commander Williams summarized the 2021 Reconfederation and confirmed his providing National with the division's annual report and emphasizing to council members that May 1st of this year is the deadline for camps to submit nominations for individual National Merit Awards to him with May 15th the deadline for his submission of the awards nominations to national headquarters. The individual awards should be fully vetted by division commanders to have earned the award.

Lieutenant Commander Climo forwarded compliments from CIC McCluney and Lieutenant Commander Boshers on the division's Reconfederation.

Attending council members were told that the 2022 Reconfederation will be held once again from March 11 thru the 13th in Bakersfield. This centrally located city in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley continues to be a favorite location for division members because of the minimal distance and time required to drive or fly there. The Four Points Hotel that has been the long-standing location for the annual gathering has changed ownership and the division will be keeping in touch with them regarding availability next year. The possibility of choosing an alternate location has been discussed amongst the council and will be kept under consideration.

While it has been pointed out that the Commander and Lieutenant Commander were re-elected for new two-year terms, appointed officers Judge Advocate Robert Crook, Adjutant Vern Padgett and Historian Russ Person have agreed to remain in their current positions. Division Chaplain, Signals Officer and Brigade Commanders remain, at this time, unfilled.

Among other business matters discussed was that of an annual musket shoot. Camp 302 Commander Jim Millsap talked of Camp 302's Annual Musket Shoot at the South Bay Rod & Gun Club in San Diego County and also it was alluded to that a centrally located musket shoot in the state has been considered, but the financial and logistical part of this effort still needs much work.

Hunley Awards Liaison Stephens went over briefly the current situation of this award which has not changed much since high schools in the state continue to be shut down or limited in attendance. He mentioned that he's had limited feedback from the division camp Hunley Coordinators regarding their school's JROTC activities. Stephens stated that one of his schools in the San Diego area may have an Awards Ceremony in May and possibly a Hunley Award to present. He told the council attendees that he was in continuous contact with Hoyle Vinson, the National Hunley Coordinator, and that he will be receiving some newly signed awards certificates that he can distribute to the camps if they are needed.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned after Benediction a short time after noon. The next DEC is tentatively scheduled for the mid-May time frame.

This report was prepared with additional notes from the Division Lieutenant Commander and Division Adjutant.

From the Editor: Since writing the above article, news statewide is filtering down that more high schools in California are starting to open up with in-person learning and JROTC programs taking an active role again and awards ceremonies being planned at some locations. More on this next issue.

Commander-in-Chief McCluney's Message

April 6, 2021

Announcement # 5

160th Anniversary of the War for Southern Independence

The month of April of each year is designated as Confederate History and Heritage Month throughout the South and shall be set aside to honor, remember, and revere the history of those who served in the military forces and all those millions of its citizens of various races and ethnic groups and religions who contributed in sundry and myriad ways to the cause which the Confederate soldier fought for and held so dear.

From its founding on February 4, 1861, in Montgomery, Alabama, until the Confederate ship CSS Shenandoah sailed into Liverpool Harbor and surrendered to British authorities on November 6, 1865, a four-year struggle was fought to secure the independence of the Confederate States of America. This April 12, 2021, marks the 160th Anniversary of the War for Southern Independence with the firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. As Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, I encourage you to observe this noble time in our history, when men and women of the South stood courageously for liberty even in the face of insurmountable odds. Not a Civil War fought to take over the United States as it is called in history books today, this was war in which Southerners fought to defend their homes and families against an aggressive invasion by federal troops. The South peacefully seceded, just like our founding fathers did in 1776 with England, and all we wanted was to be left alone to govern ourselves. But the North and Abraham Lincoln would not allow the South to peacefully leave because of the taxes and tariffs the South paid. So, the South fought for her liberty, and fought valiantly. It was a war to which we remain connected by the unbreakable bond of our heritage to our Confederate Veteran forefathers, let us never forget them.

Over the next four years, various 160th Anniversary reenactments, memorial services, and a host of living history presentations in schools, parks, and cemeteries will be held all across the Confederation. I also encourage officials and departments of state, county, and municipal governments, boards of education, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, businesses, and all citizens to participate in programs, displays, and activities that commemorate and honor our shared history and cultural inheritance during this time of observance over the next four years. This is a tremendous opportunity for teachers, students, and families to get out and learn more about our Southern culture and its rich heritage. So much is portrayed by Hollywood and the "Cancel Culture" movement today presenting the South as evil; when, in reality, the South was the most peaceful, rural, and Christian part of America before the war and Reconstruction destroyed the pastoral way of life here. We see various municipalities across the Confederation give in and remove our memorials, change school names, and streets because of "wokeness". Therefore, I ask every Camp, Brigade, and Division, starting this month of April to take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate the positive things about our Southern heritage and culture, as well as to learn from the political dangers that once led to a deep division in America over the role of the federal government in people's individual lives."

Starting at 4:30 AM on April 12, let us remember when General P.G.T. Beauregard was forced to give the order to open fire on Fort Sumter to prevent a "Yankee" invasion after he received a report that the federal garrison would be resupplied and reinforced by orders of Abraham Lincoln on that day, a blatant act of aggression upon the sovereignty of the southern people. Let us remember those actions of the federal government that led to a four-year struggle for the South to defend hearth and home from Northern aggression and the loss of life on both sides that numbered over 750,000 men and how it affected those after that conflict that resonates still today throughout the South.

Therefore, I ask all of our Compatriots, both sons and daughters of the South, to proudly display our flag on April 12th thru the 13th in remembrance of those two days of bombardment at Fort Sumter and the struggle that led our ancestors to fight to preserve their culture and heritage for future generations. I also ask that you participate in observances this month and over the next four years that would remember, respect, and revere the sacrifices as well as educating the general population about the truth that our ancestors fought and died for during those four years of conflict.

Thank you for all you do to perpetuate the memory of our Confederate ancestors and the true cause they fought for during that time.

**Deo Vindice,
Larry McCluney, Jr.
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Confederate Veterans**

Camp 302 Members

Periodically, it's great to refamiliarize ourselves with our fellow compatriots that comprise our camp. Since we are spread out far and wide, with several living across country, this brings us closer together as a viable unit.

Roy Adair (Treasurer/Web Master,) Mike Climo, Jim Coulsby (Chaplain,) George Faircloth (Lieutenant Commander,) John Flood, David Ham, Gary Henson, Charles Hill, Steve Hughes, Robert Johnson, John Klinedinst, Ira Lack, Christopher Lockhart, Daniel Martin, Ernie McCullough, Chuck Meadows, Shannon Miller, Jim Millsap (Commander,) Steve Musgrave, Steve Perdue, Jim Pollard, Othello Rowland, Mike Schooling, Robert Skaggs, Steve Smith (Sergeant-at-Arms,) Travis Smith, Jim Stephens (Adjutant,) Will Tisch, Michael Turner, Boyd Walsh, Steve Winn, Peter Yancey.

Thanks to all for your continued membership and support of Father A.J. Ryan Camp 302 and your dedication to the SCV and our Southern and Confederate heritage.

Commander's Message

Greetings Compatriots: I hope everyone is staying well and that everyone has been vaccinated with the COVID shot or has made plans to do so. Even though we are seeing a little light down the tunnel with the pandemic, some of our go-to restaurants for camp meetings (e.g. Mimi's Café in Mira Mesa) have not been able to weather the storm of business restrictions and have permanently closed. We have also been forced to keep a low profile with the "cancel culture" that has taken over the media and will continue to do so. But, we need to keep our message positive with our heritage and "who we are not."

So, we will continue with Zoom meetings and combine this with in-person meetings at our favorite Confederate outpost in Vista (Steve and Deanne's backyard patio with the goats).

I am looking forward to new member Peter Yancey joining our camp and hopefully we will be able to grow our membership further as we get out from the pandemic.

All the Best,

Your vigilant Commander,

Jim Millsap

