

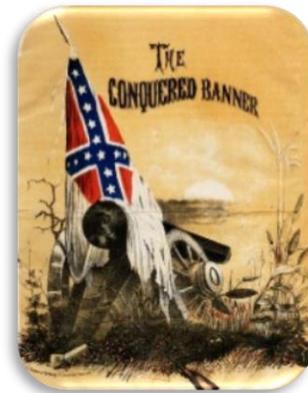


The Conquered Banner

Newsletter of the

Father A.J. Ryan San Diego Camp 302

Sons of Confederate Veterans



VOLUME 25 NUMBER 5

September 2017

Mark Twain - Confederate

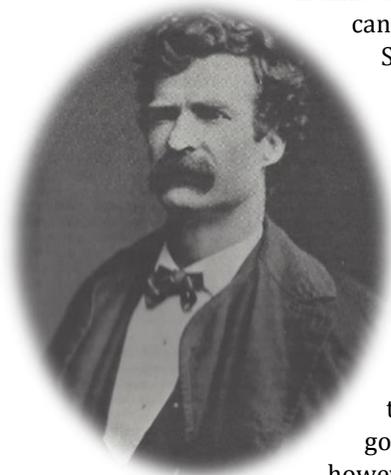
Jim Stephens

We are chameleons, and our partialities and prejudices change place with an easy and blessed facility, and we are soon wonted to the change and happy with it.

Mark Twain on "Change"

Is there anyone among us who has not read Mark Twain's immortal stories, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*? I know that I have and I've gladly reread them. With the passing of time, I have also read, with great interest, many more of Twain's works such as *Life on the Mississippi*, *Roughing It*, *The Innocents Abroad*, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* and many more.

I have always been fascinated by the life and background of this man also known as Samuel Langhorne Clemens from Hannibal, Missouri. Surprisingly, it was several years ago when I came across a Civil War magazine (I can't remember which one) with an article that told of Twain's brief foray in the Confederate Service. My interest was piqued. In my collection of Twain's works, I found a short story about his brief service as a Confederate: "The Private History of a Campaign that Failed," originally printed in *Century Magazine* in 1885, "was the basis of his speech 'An Authors Soldiering,' given in Baltimore in 1900..."¹



We need to look at the circumstances that brought Sam Clemens to this part of his early life. When the War Between the States broke out in 1861, commercial traffic on the Mississippi River came to a halt. Sam was aboard one of the last steamboats to make it from New Orleans to St. Louis when a shell, fired from a Union outpost, shattered the glass in her pilot house as she raced by.² Steamboat pilot Sam Clemens was out of a job. Some of his friends and associates went with the Union while Sam and another group of friends sided with the Confederacy. His mother, at the time, definitely expressed her hate for Yankees. I'm not going to go into details of a campaign that failed as the story is available for you to read. I do, however, present excerpts from a very interesting article from *The New York Times*, February 12,

1901 titled "**Blue and Gray Pay Tribute to Lincoln.**" Twain and many other dignitaries were present at Carnegie Hall at this time in aid of Memorial University. Only in Twain's humoresque way of storytelling can you smile your way through his speech on his misadventures as a Confederate soldier.

...Two self-confessed Confederates- Samuel L. Clemens and Henry Watterson paid a high tribute to Abraham Lincoln last evening. Incidentally the humorist told how both of them saved the Union when Col. Watterson failed to follow the advice of Second Lieut. Twain and drive Gen. Grant across the country into the Pacific Ocean.

It was the celebration of the ninety-second anniversary of the birthday of Lincoln, and was for the benefit of the Lincoln Memorial University at Cumberland Gap, Tenn. The boxes were crowded. High in the family circle were grouped over 500

(Continued on Page Three)

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 \$45.00 for members. Dues include the *Confederate Veteran* magazine and a newsletter. A red “X” in the following box indicates your dues have not been received. { }

Camp officers

<u>Commander</u>	<u>Jim Stephens</u>
<u>LCDR</u>	<u>Jim Millsap</u>
<u>2nd LCDR</u>	<u>George Faircloth</u>
<u>Adjutant/Treasurer</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</u>	<u>Jim Stephens</u>

Minutes from the July 8, 2017 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM at Mimi’s Restaurant in Mira Mesa by LCDR Jim Millsap. Camp 302 Chaplain Jim Coulsby gave the Invocation prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Confederate Flag was then recited. Camp members in attendance were as follows: LCDR Jim Millsap, George Faircloth, John Armstrong, Chris Lockhart, Mike Schooling, Will Tisch, Jim Coulsby, John Flood, and Ira Lack. Guests in attendance: Charmaine Malone and husband Jeff, Joedy Adams (Charmaine and Joedy are UDC members. Chris Lockhart’s dad, Miles also attended as a guest. LCDR Millsap then gave the Treasurer’s report listing outlays and inflows for the period beginning on 5/14/2017 and ending on 7/12/2017. Beginning amount: \$47,069.82 with an ending balance of \$46,079.92. This entailed total inflows of \$101.50 with total outflows of \$1,091.40 ending with a net total of -\$989.90.

Old Business: The successful completion of this year’s six H.L. Hunley awards was mentioned along with Camp 2048’s Jon Fowler and his contribution as coordinator for the Hunley Award within the California Division. Also, attending members were reminded of Compatriot Tony O’Morda moving to Florida and LCDR Millsap being awarded the “Rebel of the Year.”

New Business: Members were reminded of the Wreaths Across America event occurring on December 16, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. A future visit to visit Stu Hoffman was brought up. A \$100.00 annual donation out of camp funding to the Mt. Soledad Memorial was on the agenda to be voted upon and Mike Schooling made the motion for discussion; it was seconded with no discussion. The motion was passed. Mike Schooling also made a motion to vote on a separate issue of the camp waving all dues owed by members due to sufficient funds in the camp account. There was no second and no discussion. Mike stated that he would bring it up at the next meeting. The new Camp 302 shirts were distributed to the members present who had ordered them. Payment was taken and duly noted. The upcoming Blue/Gray Beach Party scheduled for August 26, 2017 was brought to the attendees’ attention and LCDR Millsap stated that Steve Smith was still working on the camp challenge coin and this will be addressed at a future camp meeting. LCDR Millsap reminded those present of the VMC Color Guard duty that takes place at Balboa Park on Saturday, July 22, 2017 and he invited all who could to attend to witness what it is that we do on that occasion. CDR Stephens, LCDR Millsap and Compatriot Lack are on tap to serve as color guard.

The next camp meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 9, 2017 at a location to be determined. Business was concluded with the Benediction and all enjoyed lunch and conversation.

(Mark Twain – Confederate, continued from Page One)

Singers, under the command of Frank Damrosch, and they sang the great war songs so that the audience at each burst of a new melody rose and faced the singers.

The tribute paid to the memory of Lincoln was more than eulogistic. Gathered on the stage were veterans – some wearers of the blue and other wearers of the gray of the civil war. Gen. Nelson A. Miles and Gen. Joseph Wheeler sat in the same row.

The first part of the programme was devoted to music. The grand march from Meyerbeer's "Le Prophete" was played by the Fifth United States Artillery Regiment Band. The next was the old Netherland "Hymn of Thanks," rendered by the People's Choral Union, conducted by Frank Damrosch. The Rev. Dwight Newell Hillis, pastor of Plymouth Church, delivered the prayer. One of the favorite hymns of Abraham Lincoln was then sung, the first line of which is "Father, whate'er of earthly bliss." Then Mark Twain, who acted as Chairman, said:

"We will now listen to what I conceive to be the most beautiful and the most sublime battle hymn the world has ever known. 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic.'"

The Speaking part of the programme was begun by Mark Twain making a speech introducing Henry Watterson as the orator of the evening. Mark Twain said:

"There remains of my duties as presiding officer on this occasion two things to do – only two – one easy, the other difficult. It is easy to introduce to you the orator of the evening, and then to keep still and give him a chance is the difficult task. (Laughter.)

"To tell an American audience who Henry Watterson is not at all necessary. Just to mention his name is enough. A name like his mentioned to an audience would be like one of those blazing sentiments on the Madison Square tower. Just the mention of his name touches the chords of your memory tenderly and lovingly. Distinguished soldier, journalist, orator, statesman, lecturer, politician, rebel. What is better, he is a reconstructed rebel. (Laughter and applause.) Always honest, always noble, always loyal to his confessions, right or wrong, he is not afraid to speak them out. And, last of all, whether on the wrong side or the right side, he has stood firm and brave, because his heart has always been true. (Applause.)

"It is a curious circumstance, a peculiar circumstance – and it is odd that it should come about – that in the millions of inhabitants of this great city two Confederates, one-time rebels, should be chosen for the honorable privilege of coming here and bowing our heads in reverence and love to that honorable soul whom, forty years ago, we tried with all our hearts and all our strength to defeat and suppress – Abraham Lincoln. But are not the blue and the gray one today? By these signs we may answer here, 'Yes' There was a rebellion, and we understand it is now closed. (Laughter and applause.)

"I was born in a slave state. My father was a slave-owner before the Civil War, and I was a second lieutenant in the confederate service – for a while. (Laughter.)

"Oh, I could have stayed longer. There was plenty of time. The trouble was with the weather. I never saw such weather. I was there, and I have no apologies to offer. But I will say that if this second cousin of mine, Henry Watterson, the orator of the evening, who was born and reared in a slave state and was Colonel in the Confederate service, had rendered me such assistance as he could and had taken my advice the Union armies would never have been victorious. I laid out the whole plan with remarkable foresight, and if Colonel Watterson had carried out my orders I should have succeeded in my vast enterprise. (Laughter.)

"It was my intention to drive General Grant into the Pacific Ocean. If I could have had the proper assistance from Colonel Watterson it would have been accomplished. I told Watterson to surround the eastern armies and wait until I came up. (Laughter.) But he stood upon the punctilio of military etiquette and refused to take orders from a Second Lieutenant of the Confederate army, and so the Union was saved. Now, this is the first time that this secret has ever been revealed. No one outside of the family has known these facts, but they're the truth of how Watterson saved the Union, and to think that up to this very hour that man gets no pension! That's the way we treat people who save Unions for us. There ought to be some blush on the cheek of those present this evening, but to tell the truth, we are out of practice. (Laughter and applause.)

Mark Twain then began to talk in a serious vein. His tone and manner changed. The audience soon stopped laughing and took the speaker seriously. He said:

"The hearts of this whole nation, North and South, were in the war. We of the South were not ashamed of the part we took. We believed in those days we were fighting for the right – and it was a noble fight, for we were fighting for our sweethearts, our homes, and our lives. Today we no longer regret the result, today we are glad that it came out as it did, but we of the South are not ashamed that we made the endeavor. And you, too, are proud of the record we made.

(Continued on Page Five)

Blue/Gray Beach BBQ



Camp 302 once again hosted the annual Blue/Gray Beach BBQ at Gator Beach, Amphib Base, Coronado on Saturday, August 26, 2017. Many thanks go to all those who attended. I want to acknowledge Jeff Malone of the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21, SUVCW, for representing the boys in Blue this year. He attended with his wife, Charmaine, a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Camp 302 was represented by Commander Jim Stephens, Adjutant Roy Adair, his wife Robyn of the UDC and son Brian, Compatriots James Shepherd, Ira Lack and Steve Smith along with his wife Deanne of the Order of the Confederate Rose. For the ladies of the UDC, your guests, children and grandchildren, we couldn't have accomplished this event without you. Above, Adjutant Roy Adair who, as always, did a great job cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs, stands between the UDC's Julie Plemmons and Camp 302's James Shepherd. Below, guests chat and enjoy just some of the many great side dishes that were brought along to compliment the BBQ.



(Mark Twain – Confederate, continued from Page Three)

“We are here to honor the noblest and the best man after Washington that this land, or any other land, has yet produced. When the great conflict began the soldiers from the North and South swung into line to the tune of that same old melody, ‘We are coming. Father Abraham, three hundred thousand strong.’ The choicest of the young and brave went forth to fight and shed their blood under the flag and for what they thought was right. They endured hardships equivalent to circumnavigating the globe four or five times in the olden days. They suffered untold hardships and fought battles night and day.

“The old wounds are healed, and you of the North and we of the South are brothers yet. We consider it to be an honor to be the soldiers who fought for the Lost Cause, and now we consider it a high privilege to be here tonight and assist in laying our humble homage at the feet of Abraham Lincoln. And we do not forget that you of the North and we of the South, one-time enemies, can now unite in singing that great hymn, ‘America.’ “...

One might conclude that Mark Twain, irrespective of his long time residence in the Northeast and in Europe, showed that he still had an attachment to the South. He would speak more than once during his later years of his service to the Confederacy. As in the above speech at Carnegie Hall in 1901, he delivered his talks in his inimitable, humorous, if not a somewhat semi-serious vein.

When young Sam Clemens returned to Hannibal, Missouri in 1861 after his last steamboat run to St. Louis, he and several friends formed a unit called the “Marion Rangers.” As a Second Lieutenant, he never described his military duties to any extent other than his dislike of camp life and the constant need to avoid Union patrols, the close calls he and his men encountered and the one death he mentions in “The Private History of a Campaign that Failed.” The Marion Rangers were never officially mustered into the Confederate Army. Some of his friends eventually enlisted in the regular army, but Sam and a few others drifted off to other pursuits. As Twain liked to put it, he “*Skedaddled.*” He would later write this:

When I retired from the rebel army in '61 I retired...in good order, at least in good enough order for a person who had not yet learned how to retreat according to the rules of war, and had to trust to native genius. It seemed to me that for a first attempt at a retreat it was not badly done. I had done no advancing in all that campaign that was at all equal to it...I knew more about retreating, than the man that invented retreating.³

Sam Clemens’ brother, Orion, a supporter of Lincoln during the election campaign, won as an award for his work, a political appointment as Secretary of the Territory of Nevada. He agreed to take Sam along as his assistant. They journeyed together from St. Louis to Carson City and, not too long after their arrival, Sam found his way to Virginia City and became a writer for the territorial newspaper there. The rest is history.

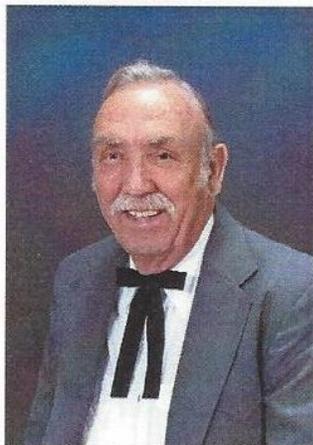
Sam Clemens/Mark Twain may not have been cut out for military life in any form. You might say that the Confederacy’s loss became a magnificent gain for all Americans of his, and future, generations, as one of our most beloved American humorists and writers of stories that we will never tire of reading.

Notes:

1. *The Unabridged Mark Twain*, Volume 1, pg. 1193-1207, Running Press, Philadelphia, Pa 1976.
2. *Mark Twain, an Illustrated Biography*, Geoffrey C. Ward, Dayton Duncan, Ken Burns. Alfred A. Knopf, New York 2001, Pg. 26
3. *Ibid*, Pg.27

TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND AND FOUNDING COMPATRIOT

In Loving Memory



Stuart I. Hoffman, Sr.

There are times, both joyful and sad, when we must bid adieu to good friends and associates with whom we share common goals and interests, linking us to a historical past...binding us together as descendants of men and women who gave their all to a cause that we honor and cherish. It is here then, we sadly say goodbye to our good friend and fellow compatriot Stuart Hoffman, one of Father A.J. Ryan Camp 302's founding members. Stuart's signature, along with ten other founding members, is embellished on the camp's permanent charter that will, for as long as Camp 302 remains in existence, display Stu's devotion to the cause and to the camp that meant so much to him. One need only to look at Stu's Confederate Memorabilia to realize this. Stu also had a unique military background. He served in both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force. In observing the large model of a Navy destroyer in his possession and other Navy artifacts, one can imagine which service he preferred.

Many of us in Camp 302 were acquainted with Stu, some more than others. We enjoyed his company at meetings and at luncheons. We empathized with his medical issues. Thanks must go to Steve and Deanne Smith who did much for Stu over the years. Steve, among other things, mowed Stu's lawn and brought him to meetings when he could no longer drive. While hospitalized in El Cajon in August of 2016, Stu learned of the death of his wife, Donna, who passed away on August 14, 2016 due to a stroke. We can only imagine the tremendous heartbreak this man went through and the sadness that stayed with him during his remaining time with us.

The camp's condolences go out to Stuart Hoffman Jr. and his sister, Sonya, and their families, for their graciousness and generosity in offering some of Stu's Confederate memorabilia to Camp 302.



LCDR Jim Millsap & Adjutant Roy Adair present The Hoffman's with the SCV's Resolution recognizing Stu's service to the nation and his contributions to The Sons of Confederate Veterans along with the Honored Confederate Flag during Stu's Memorial Service.



An Air Force Honor Guard carries Stu's remains to the ceremonial area for the funeral service.



Stuart Hoffman Jr. is presented the American Flag that covered Stu's casket which concluded the service.

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

August/September 1862

August sees Confederate forces attacking Baton Rouge, Louisiana in an attempt to take the city from the Federals holding there, but failing to do so. (The Confederacy would never dominate militarily in Louisiana for the remainder of the war.) Indian uprisings in Minnesota occupy Union troops in that region and, of course, in late August, the Confederate Army are victorious at Second Manassas. During September, there is a bloody fight at Sharpsburg, Maryland, that would later be called "The Battle of Antietam." The Indian Wars in Minnesota continue into late September, tying up much needed Union troops. The following was taken from *The Civil War Day by Day* by Philip Katcher, Chartwell Books, Inc. 2010, pp 60 - 72 (abridged):

August 5 – Louisiana, Land River War. **The Battle of Baton Rouge/Magnolia Cemetery.** A combined Confederate land/naval force attempts to recapture Baton Rouge. The attempt is repelled and the Confederates lose the ironclad ram *CSS Arkansas*.

August 11 – Missouri, Land War. **The Battle of Independence.** A Confederate force (which includes William Quantrill) raids and captures the Union base at Independence, securing for the time being Confederate control in the Kansas City area.

August 20 - 22 – Minnesota, Indian Wars. **The Battle of Fort Ridgely,** Rebellious Santee Sioux in Minnesota force Union soldiers and civilians into Fort Ridgely, where they repel many Indian attacks. Also, shown here is a sketch of Confederate Soldiers manning breastworks at **the Battle of Rappahannock Station/Waterloo Bridge.** A series of skirmishing actions along the Rappahannock River costs both sides a total of around 225 casualties.



August 28 – **The Battle of Thoroughfare Gap/Chapman's Mill.** The Confederates push through the Thoroughfare Gap. Although a minor action, it allows the two Confederate forces to unite for victory at **the Second Battle of Manassas.**

September 17 – **The Battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg.** At 0600 hours, McClellan begins the battle with an artillery bombardment. Hooker's Corps attacks again. Ten brigades hit the Confederate left and push their line back to the West Woods. Jackson counter-attacks at 0700 hours and throws the Union forces back, but Hooker receives reinforcements from Mansfield's XII Corps. The battle now centers on the struggle for possession of the Dunker Church, in the West Woods. Three divisions of Sumner's II Corps come forward from the Union right to help Mansfield....one of the divisions advances straight into a line of Confederates and suffers more than 2,500 casualties in 20 minutes, including General John Sedgwick, the division's commander....Meanwhile, another of Sumner's divisions loses its way and heads for the Confederate center. At 0930 hours it attacks brigades holding the sunken road....later called Bloody Lane. Fighting continues here for four hours. At about the same time on the Union right flank, IX Corps under Ambrose E. Burnside begins attacking across the creek at the Rohrbach Bridge, later renamed Burnside Bridge. Burnside sends in brigade after brigade but is held off by a Confederate force of just 400 Georgians. They hold the bridge until 13:00 hours when one of Burnside's division commanders has the good sense to use a nearby ford and flank the Confederate position. By early afternoon the Confederate line is on the verge of collapse....At 13:00 hours the sunken road falls, and the Confederates fall back toward Sharpsburg....McClellan still has two corps in reserve. If he sends them forward he will win the battle-but he hesitates. His timidity costs the Union victory....At nightfall, the battle ends in a standoff among the dead and dying. McClellan has lost a total of 12,400 dead, wounded, or missing while Lee has suffered more than 10,000 casualties. September 17, 1862, is the bloodiest day of the entire war...

CIVIL WAR FACTS AND TRIVIA: "California Joe," a famous marksman in the Union army unit known as Berdan's Sharpshooters, shown in a Harper's Weekly illustration of August 1862. A trained sharpshooter could fire as many as 6 – 8 rounds per minute.



NEXT CAMP MEETING

Date: September 9, 2017

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Steve and Deanne's home in Vista

Directions: From I-15 turn West on Miramar Road. Mimi's is on left. From I-805 drive East. Mimi's on the right.

UNITED VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE



Camp 302 Color Guard stands with Marine Corps League members and the UDC's Joedy Adams at the Veterans Museum Center at Balboa Park, on July 22, 2017. Fifty-two active duty and military veterans who answered the last roll call since last month's meeting were honored. L to R: Roger Seibert, Joedy Adams, LCDR Jim Millsap, Commander Jim Stephens, Ira Lack, Al Sandoval.

Camp 302 Meeting and Luncheon



Camp 302 held its bi-monthly luncheon meeting at Mimi's Restaurant in Mira Mesa on Saturday, July 8, 2017. Lieutenant Commander Jim Millsap conducted the meeting in Commander Jim Stephens' absence. LCDR Millsap presented the Treasurer's Report and reminded the camp attendees of the following upcoming activities: Wreaths Across America activity that will occur at Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemeteries on December 16, 2017; the Blue/Gray Gator Beach picnic on August 26th; and the Color Guard at the VMC in Balboa Park on July 22nd. A motion was made and voted on to approve an annual donation of \$100.00 to the Mt. Soledad Memorial that virtually overlooks much of San Diego. The motion and vote passed. Pictured above, L to R: John Armstrong, The UDC's Charmaine Malone, her husband Jeff Malone of the SUVCW, Will Tisch, Ira Lack, John Flood, Chaplain Jim Coulsby, the UDC's Joedy Adams and John Armstrong. Not pictured: Jim Millsap, Mike Schooling and the camp's newest member, Christopher Lockhart. Chris' dad Miles, was there as a guest.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



These are indeed trying times that we, the descendants of Confederate Veterans, are experiencing. This unrelenting onslaught on our Southern heritage is at a point where most of us must sense an overwhelming, if not a total, helplessness to stop the removal and destruction of our Confederate monuments throughout the country. Monuments that, by their very presence, not only honor our heroes and leaders of the Confederacy, but also represent a time when our ancestors lived, breathed, fought and even died during a critical juncture in American history—a time that should never leave the pages of our history books. Today, we see an unprecedented wave of radicalized teachers bent on filling the supple minds of their students with misinformation and falsehoods regarding Southern Culture and the Confederacy during the War Between the States. We who are associated with the South during the war are branded as racists and proponents of slavery. As we all know, nothing can be farther from the truth. Are we seeing “Revisionist History” designed to erase the past? Let us hope not!

I recently had the opportunity to interview with a local TV station to give my opinion on the removal of a Jefferson Davis plaque at a San Diego plaza in the downtown area as well as the removal of other Confederate monuments around the country. Despite my comments that their presence was a means of honoring our past, the interviewer insisted that their presence instead promoted racism and the Southerner’s support of slavery. Of course I vehemently denied this, calling it poppycock. The interviewer *did* show some respect for my views as well as those of our local camp and the SCV. In the end, the portion of my interview that was aired had me saying that the SCV and its members do not—in any way—support racism, the KKK, white supremacists or skinheads. I was pleasantly surprised when, shortly thereafter, a black gentleman approached me and thanked me for what I had said during the interview.

On a more somber note, as you saw on page six, we said goodbye to our long-time compatriot and friend Stuart Hoffman. Stu answered the Last Roll Call on August 7, 2017 and was laid to rest along with his dear wife, Donna, at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego.

As we approach the Fall Season, Camp 302 will have a few more annual activities to perform. This month, right after our camp meeting at Steve and Deanne’s home, we’ll start preparing for the October Musket Shoot. Your Color Guard will be on hand at the VMC on October 28. This is our last for the year. I’ll publish a new schedule for the VMC in the coming weeks. Of course, we meet on November 11th for our final camp meeting for 2017. The 2018 camp schedule will be forthcoming. Wreaths Across America in December wraps up our yearly activities. More on these upcoming events coming soon.

Thanks goes out to all our members for renewing your annual dues but, most importantly, thanks for the approving votes to allow your camp to contribute funds for the SCV Relief Fund that will go to our compatriots in the Texas Division

Jim Stephens