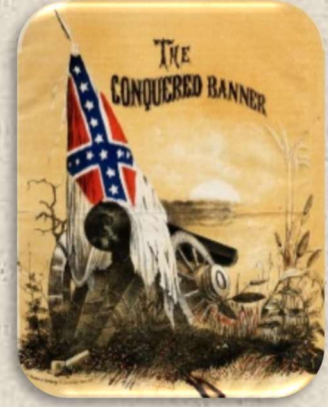




The Conquered Banner



*Newsletter of the
Father A. J. Ryan San Diego Camp 302
Sons of Confederate Veterans*



VOLUME 32 NUMBER 3

May/June 2024

Bakersfield 2024

California Division's 30th Anniversary

Resolute compatriots of the California Division, *Dixie West*, of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, motored up and down the state to the central California town of Bakersfield to meet and conduct important business for this year's annual Reconfederation/Reunion, March 8th thru 10th and to greet the SCV's Commander-in-Chief and the division's guest speaker, Jason Boshers.

The Four Points Sheraton—the division's go-to place for this event—once again hosted the division. It was, however, still in the midst of major remodeling, and this with the discovery that the Bistro Restaurant closed during the work on the hotel, disappointed many of the attendees, as this location served a great breakfast during our past events. Despite this reversal, all had a great time and a productive gathering. Division Commander Mike Climo was assured by the hotel management that the restaurant and everything associated with the Four Points will be open and ready to go for the 2025 Reconfederation.

Commander Climo and Jim Millsap drove to Bakersfield on Thursday, the 7th of March to set up the hospitality room that was generously offered to the division free gratis. Most of the division compatriots began arriving on Friday the 8th.



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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>

For the remainder of the day and throughout the evening, participants trickled in, the hospitality suite a beehive of activity as members checked-in with the commander. Seen here are a few compatriots as they mill about.



Later, as the day wore on, plenty of fried chicken, pizza and myriad snacks, including soft drinks and an ample number of adult beverages, satisfied the hunger and thirst of all as they arrived. For several years now, the Four Points on Fridays has been a time for folks all the way from San Diego to Sacramento and between to relax, unwind and just enjoy the socialization and comradery before next day's business. And we are not to overlook the ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and other guests who joined us this year. More on the UDC later.



The following morning at 8:30 AM, Saturday the 9th, it was time to begin the business portion of the reconfederation. Division Commander Climo called the meeting to order. Greg Frazier of Tehachapi Camp 2048 delivered the Invocation and Posted the Colors followed by Steve Smith of Camp 302 leading all in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States. Division Lieutenant Commander & Camp 302 Commander Jim Millsap led the Salute to the Confederate Flag with Steve Madden of the Inland Empire Camp 1442 reading of the Charge.



Division leaders at the command table, left to right: **Tad Smith** of Sacramento Camp 1627 and Upper South Brigade Commander, **Jim Millsap** San Diego Camp 302 and Division Lieutenant Commander, **Mike Climo**, Camp 302 and Division Commander, **Jason Boshers**, SCV Commander-in-Chief, **Vern Padgett**, Los Angeles Camp 1208, Division Adjutant, **Robert Crook**, Los Angeles Camp 1208, Division Judge Advocate and Lower South Brigade Commander.

Adjutant Padgett conducted the Division Roll Call to establish a quorum, which was attained. The camps present: **Camp 302 San Diego, Camp 1208 Los Angeles, Camp 1440 San Jose, Camp 1627 Sacramento, Camp 1442 Inland Empire, Camp 1771 Orange County, Camp 1804 Fresno, Camp 2048 Tehachapi, Camp 2061 Ventura.** The following camps absent: Camp 1631 Santa Barbara, Camp 2023 Modesto, Camp 2007 Long Beach.

As the business got underway, SCV Commander-in-Chief, Jason Boshers, was introduced to the attendees, most of whom had previously met the CIC in Bakersfield or at National. Commander Boshers later announced that he was amazed to see such a well-organized business meeting. All of us here in the California Division should be aware that this division has always made a great impression with national headquarters.

Here, I will mention some very brief highlights of the reports-*not necessarily in the order they were presented*-by the Division Executive Council members: **Tod Terry**, the **Division Quartermaster** talked of the division property and storage in Bakersfield, the 1776 known Confederate veterans buried in California and went over briefly the Grave Guardian Program. Tod, as the division's Graves Registration Officer, noted 16 graves are being cared for in California. **Division Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Color Sergeant Greg Frazier** (*Greg deserves praise for all the jobs he has taken on.*) talked of the event at Old West Days. **Division Adjutant Vern Padgett** in his Treasurer's report mentioned the \$357.00 profit for the division last year, the \$3000.00 contribution to national, the \$600.00 travel fund to both brigade commanders and said that the division now has \$8,226.70 in the bank. Adjutant Padgett then gave the current division membership total as 240 paid members. This would lead **Commander Mike Climo** to talk of low camp membership levels and that all members should attempt to get relatives and friends to join by paying their membership at least for a year if possible.

At this point, Division Historian Russ Person talked of funding for radio spots on the local stations in the Fresno area which are friendly to the SCV. He has been directed to run with this.

During the treasury discussion, it was brought up that it would cost \$530.00 to place an ad in the UDC magazine on the back of the front page for the September issue. This was well received. Motions were made on the floor for a vote which passed unanimously. Division Lieutenant Commander Jim Millsap

presented a brief history of the division and said it was now 30 years old. He also noted that in the beginning in 1994, five camps comprised the division with Los Angeles being among the first.



Here, SCV CIC Boshers speaks to the business gathering during the *question & answer* session as Division Judge Advocate Robert Crook, behind him, looks on.

Upper South Brigade Commander Tad Smith talked briefly of his Camp 1627 with 48 members and then presented their check for \$1000.00 to CIC Boshers. **Division Judge Advocate Robert Crook** delivered his report emphasizing the need for camps to provide him with bank info, particularly for tax filing purposes and for emergency situations in which a camp may need financial assistance. Camp 302 members are advised that your camp leadership will be looking into this and everyone will be apprised of the outcome.

It was election time for brigade commanders. Only the Lower South Brigade Commander replacement for Robert Crook would be needed. Jim Stephens, Greg Frazier and Kevin Street were nominated. Greg Frazier, *seen here*, was elected with the majority votes and would assume this position to add to his other chores in the division. Congratulations Greg and thanks for taking on another job in the great work you do for the division.

The camp representatives then gave reports as to their accomplishments for the previous year and up to this reunion. After the data was collected by **Division Chief-of-Staff, Steve Smith**, the Camp-of-the-Year award for the best camp would be announced at the banquet that evening.



Here are some additional details of the business meeting that can be mentioned: the adjutant presented the minutes of the 2023 reconfederation to the attendees for approval, which was unanimously adopted. Jim Millsap went over the status of the division challenge coins (price for each is still \$10.00). Regarding the H.L. Hunley Awards that have not been issued, Jim Stephens, coordinator for this award, gave Division Adjutant Padgett the remaining four awards belonging to the division as he will be receiving the funds for them in the event a camp request one in the future. Camp 302 also has four remaining rewards on hand. A few Army JROTC schools in the Fresno area have been able to present this award in the recent past.

The 2025 National Reconfederation to be held in Charleston, SC this year was discussed, and Commander Climo advised all camps to submit their national award nominations soon.

A highlight of the business gathering was the Q&A session with CIC Boshers. As to be expected, the financial situation with the Confederate Museum was a key question with all present satisfied with his responses.

To officially close the business for the day, Chaplain Frazier gave the Benediction.

It was time to break for lunch or just rest up for the evening activities. After lunch, many proceeded to the ballroom to start setting it up. Camp 302's Jim Millsap, Jim Stephens, Ira Lack, and George Faircloth began the task of setting up the tables for the silent auction that would take place at the end of the evening. A large quantity of Civil War related books and periodicals, many donated by Camp 302's Jim Coulsby, plus numerous related artifacts were laid out upon the tables. The Fresno camp set up a section of their own. Several framed art works were made available. A key item donated by Compatriot Coulsby was his black powder pistol that would sell for \$200.00 later in the auction. More on this later.

At right, the traditional gathering in the hotel's courtyard, prior to marching the colors to the ballroom. Thanks to Jeanne Terry for a great group photo of division members and guests, and the proud display of the great battle flag.





It was now time for the massing of the colors and proudly marching with them to the hotel's ballroom where they will be posted in preparation for the evening's festivities.

Once the colors were posted in the ballroom and the silent auction tables prepared, compatriots and guests began arriving to seat at their tables. Prior to the buffet dinner being served, the traditional invocation and introduction of guests and officers of the California Division, the United Daughters of the Confederacy California Division and the Order of the Confederate Rose and guests went forward: SCV Commander-in-Chief Jason and Linda

Boshers followed by UDC California Division President Terri Madler and her Vice-President Ashley Cooper. Then came OCR California President Sandy Padgett and her VP Jeanne Terry and the greeting they all presented. The attendees enjoyed a well-prepared buffet dinner with excellent table service. Many of us took advantage of the well-stocked wet bar for the remainder of the evening festivities.



Here we see Inland Empire's Steve Madden with Camp 302's Ira Lack and George Faircloth enjoying the dinner.

Division Commander Climo addresses the gathering during the evening banquet.





Above, we see the men of the California Division with the exception of a few who were out of the room at the time. CIC Boshers third from left front row.



Boshers addresses the gathering during the banquet festivities. Among his comments was praise for the well-organized California Division, particularly the way the division conducts business. We certainly owe a lot to Division Commander Mike Climo for garnering this accolade.



What's a Reunion/Reconfederation without the ladies of the UDC and OCR joining the men of the SCV as we honor all of our Confederate Ancestors. California UDC President Terri Madler is center front row.

CIC Boshers was called upon to swear in a new member of Tehachapi Camp 2048 as we see here. You cannot ask to go any higher when becoming a new member.



Jay Gillette of Fresno Camp 1804 accepts the coveted Camp-of-the-Year Sword for their achievements the past year. Congratulations!!



After the speeches and awards presentations came the silent auction, which brings much needed funds to the division's treasury each year—2024 would be no exception. As noted earlier, numerous Civil War related books, periodicals and miscellaneous items such as bullets, clothing, artwork etc. were made available. The coveted reproduction .44 caliber pistol donated by Camp 302's Jim Coulsby added to the \$1061.00 earned this year. Thanks goes out to Aaron Moore of Tehachapi Camp 2048 for volunteering to take the left-over books and a few other items not sold at the auction. A successful ending to the day's festivity could not be complete without Benediction and a resounding rendition of *Dixie*. Some of us returned to our rooms while a few resolute, more tireless, compatriots made their way to the hospitality room for the evening's soiree and just to wind down with a night cap or two. Despite the loss of an hour due to *springing forward*, it was time to prepare for Sunday's celebration at Union Cemetery when many members, led by Kevin Street of Tehachapi Camp 2048, joined in a flagging caravan to the cemetery.



Bakersfield - Union Cemetery

The gracious ladies of Bakersfield's Mary Boykin Chesnut Chapter 2634, United Daughters of the Confederacy, provided us with *A Moment of Remembrance* once again at this cemetery's hallowed ground where several Confederate veterans lie at rest. They are among over a thousand Confederate Veterans that settled in California after the war.

Ms. Rhonda Pierce welcomed the attendees and Chaplain Mrs. Ashley Cooper gave the Invocation.

The colors were then posted, and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag with Mary Ann Claxton leading in the Salute to the Confederate Flag. Introduction of guests followed with memorials to all Confederate Veterans, Women of the Confederacy and Veterans of All Wars.

After the Last roll Call of California

SCV members, came the "Roll Call of States." When the state's name was called out, each person present with an ancestor from that state stepped forward and retrieved a rose that they then placed in the ceremonial vase. Many members there had more than one ancestor to honor. After this, came the presentation of the wreath that honored all.



The following verse, composed by the Reverend Doctor Randolph McKim, has been published in *The Conquered Banner* previously, but it so fits the honor that can be paid to all Confederate Veterans and, as the ladies placed it in their program, I'll place again this haunting verse here:

*Not for fame or fortune, not for place or rank,
Not lured by ambition, or goaded by necessity,
But in simple obedience to duty as they understood it,
These men suffered all, sacrificed all, dared all – and died*



Ms. Rhonda Pierce presented the closing prayer and then Compatriot Greg Frazier, as he always expertly does, led the pistol salute. Sacramento Camp 1627's Preston Smith, *fifth from left*, was a new member to the pistol squad. The colors were then retired with Ms. Pierce giving the closing prayer.

Thus ended the 2024 California Division Reconfederation in Bakersfield. We will be back in 2025.

Famous Confederate- Belle Boyd

Belle Boyd was born in 1844 in Martinsburg, Virginia (now West Virginia.) Her full name was Maria Isabela Boyd. When the town was occupied by Union forces in 1861, the 17-year-old Belle charmed and befriended the officers. Posing as an innocent, she carefully noted down unguarded comments about troop movements and plans and smuggled them out by messengers to Confederates in the field. Showing her Confederate heart and mettle, she shot dead a drunken Union soldier who barged into the family home and was attempting to raise the Stars and Stripes over the house. She was tried but acquitted, and the vivacious young Belle continued to be a favorite with the Union officers.

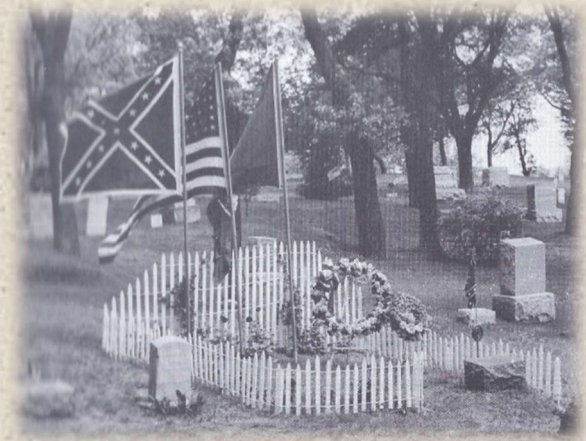


Belle's most famous contribution to the Confederate cause came in May 1862, when she was staying at her father's hotel at Front Royal in Warren County. She discovered that a knothole in her bedroom floor allowed her to eavesdrop on Union officers in the room below. One night she overheard them discussing a plan to blow up key bridges around Front Royal to thwart an imminent attack by Confederates led by General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. Belle jumped on a horse and rode 15 miles through Union positions to inform Jackson, who responded by beginning his attack early. Front Royal fell to Jackson and the general wrote to Belle: *I thank you, for*

myself and the army, for the immense service that you have rendered your country today. He also made her an honorary member of his staff, with the rank of captain.

In 1862 she was arrested but released a month later as part of a prisoner exchange. In 1863 she was imprisoned once again and, this time, released suffering from typhoid. In 1864 she took refuge in England. When the ship was captured by the Union, Belle charmed a Union naval officer, Sam Hardinge, into helping her. He was court-martialed and discharged, and the two later married in England where she became an actress, making her American debut in 1868. She continued her life as an actress and lecturer on her experiences.

Belle passed away in 1900 of a heart attack and is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. Note the misplacement of the American and Confederate flags decorated on Memorial Day 1953. Confederate Veteran Willis A. Everman of the 3rd Missouri Regiment honored Belle in 1919 by purchasing a headstone with the following inscription: *Belle Boyd-Confederate Spy-Born in Virginia-Died in Wisconsin- Erected by a Comrade.*



Camp 302 Meeting

Several camp members and friends gathered in front of their computers on March 2nd for a short pre-convention ZOOM meeting in preparation for the upcoming division reconfederation to be held at Bakersfield March 8th thru the 10th. *See Page One.*

The meeting started at 10:45 and we were pleased to have present the following: Commander Jim Millsap, Lieutenant Commander George Faircloth, Adjutant Jim Stephens, Treasurer Roy Adair, compatriots Gary Faulk, John Brown joining us from Arizona, Mike Climo, Steve Smith, Ira Lack and Jane Zoch of the UDC with husband Robert occasionally looking in.

Commander Millsap gave the opening Invocation, and we all recited the Salute to the Confederate Flag to start things off. A brief discussion on some reenactment events that was happening soon that John Brown was participating in – Hunington Beach was discussed – and John indicated that he would send in some photos and info for future publication in this newsletter.

Mike Climo mentioned that 61 folks were signed up for the reconfederation at this time. Treasurer Adair followed with his Treasurer's report indicating that the camp at present has \$31,160.59 in the bank. Also, the uncashed check that was donated to VUMMF back in October of last year has still not cleared the bank. Treasurer Adair to keep checking this with the possibility of drafting a new one.

We talked about the ailing Jim Coulsby and the fact that his son and daughter-in-law have yet to let us know his situation. Jane Zoch said that she would look into this matter. Adjutant Stephens indicated that he would be calling the WAA headquarters to ask what the donation amount would be to be mentioned on the WAA website.

A few other items discussed that will require additional details in the future are the two camps in the California Division that are below minimum membership requirements and what to do with them; and, Senate Bill 517 that may change the status camps and organizations operating under 501 exemption rules. More on these later.

With no further discussion on pending items, the meeting was brought to a close shortly before 1:00 PM. The camp will gather at Marie Callender's Restaurant on May 11th for our next in-person gathering.

A Word from the Commander

Our 30th annual SCV California Division “Dixie West” Convention and ReConfederation at Bakersfield was another great success. SCV Commander-in-Chief, Jason Boshers and his wife, Linda attended and were warmly greeted with Jason presenting a “*Proclamation for California Division “Dixie West.”*”

Once again, the attendance at the banquet dinner was well attended with many of the UDC ladies from California chapters.

Our next camp meeting will be coming up on May 11th at Marie Callender’s Restaurant in La Mesa from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Look for an E-mail reminder coming out soon.

Your Vigilant Commander... Deo Vindice

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

