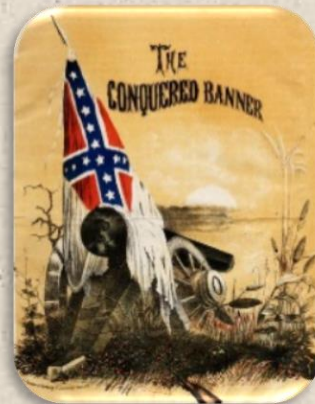




The Conquered Banner

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



VOLUME 32 NUMBER 4

July/August 2024

A Scotsman's Look at Southern Secession

*"Our service offers but little inducement to the soldiers of fortune, but a great deal to the man of principles."
Jefferson Davis*

Well over a thousand men of foreign birth, a great many from Europe, would offer their service in the fight on both sides during the Civil War. Some were professional soldiers in their native countries, some were soldiers-of-fortune seeking the thrill and adventure in the deadly game of war. Some were shop clerks, industrialists, lawyers and even doctors. Many of these men had become Americans while others would, if they survived, return to their homeland after the war. For those who offered their services to the Confederate Army, to cite a few, we have Major Heros Von Borke, a Prussian Cavalry officer, *At Right*, he was J.E.B. Stuart's *Prussian Compatriot*.

At left, Count Camille Armond Jules Marie, Prince de Polignac, veteran of the Crimean War. He was a Major General serving on the staffs of P.G.T. Beauregard and Braxton Bragg. His men affectionately referred to him as "Prince Polecat."



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 \$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>Adjutant</u> | <u>Jim Stephens</u> |
| <u>Treasurer</u> | <u>Roy Adair</u> |
| <u>Webmaster</u> | <u>Roy Adair</u> |
| <u>Chaplain</u> | <u>Steve Pollard</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> |



Henry W. Feilding, *At Left*, resigned from the British army, volunteering for Confederate service in 1862, becoming Assistant Adjutant General under General Joseph E. Johnston toward the end of the war. He was an arctic explorer and a Naturalist and would return to the British army after the war. *To the right*, the infamous Captain Henry Wirz, Commandant of Andersonville Prison. Born in Zurich, Switzerland, Wirz has much controversy surrounding him to this day regarding his conviction as a war criminal and execution by hanging after the war. Even in his day, many thought his trial was unfair and that he became a scapegoat for the 14,000 deaths at the camp due to limited support from the

Confederate Government and questionable charges that he personally killed a prisoner himself. While not a trained doctor, he did practice homeopathic medicine before the war. The SCV and UDC have been prominent in honoring his memory with plaques and statues.



At Left, is an image of another famous foreigner who had lived in the South for a few years prior to the Civil War and whom just about every student has heard about in their studies of African explorers. He is none other than Sir Henry Morton Stanley of "*Dr. Livingston, I presume.*" fame.

Stanley emigrated to America in 1859, disembarking in New Orleans where he lived and worked. It was here that he adopted his name, Henry Stanley, later resulting in considerable controversy regarding his choosing this name. He was born John Rowlands to unmarried parents. Stanley was, in descriptions coming from some of his contemporaries, referred to as *the reluctant Confederate*; to some, a *galvanized Yankee* and, by some of his fellow Brits, thinking him an actual American. Like many of his fellow foreigners living in the South, he had mixed feelings about the events of the time. However, when the war started, he joined the 6th Arkansas Infantry Regiment. During the fighting at the Battle of Shiloh he was captured and sent to Camp Douglas. It was there that he was recruited and convinced to join the Union Army. Discharged shortly thereafter due to sickness, he worked for awhile aboard supply ships and then joined the Union Navy as a recorder, participating in the battle at Fort Fisher. He and a shipmate later jumped ship in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in February of 1865, he to seek greater adventure and fame.

It is here that we will leave these few notes on the above men. At the end of this article, I will list two great books that shed light on Wirz and Stanley. We will discuss actual causes affecting people of both the North and South that brought about Southern secession. In any case, one cannot start our discussion without bringing up slavery, sectional politics and the economics tied in with all this.

We'll now look into the life a man who, like the men we just reviewed, served the Confederacy and, most importantly, would later record his time and observations in the South prior to the secession. Who was this man? What was his background?

His name was William Watson. He was born in 1826 in the Scottish village of Skelmorlie, not far from Glasgow. He trained as a shipbuilding engineer, immigrating to the Caribbean Islands in 1845, working as a civil engineer and occasionally a captain of a sailing vessel. As a side note, this experience will play an important part in his blockade running late in the Civil War. Sometime around 1850, he moved to Louisiana and, by 1860, was part owner of a sawmill and a coal and steamboat business in Baton Rouge. *(Unfortunately, there is no known image of Watson.)* Watson's sojourn in the British West Indies and particularly what he observed on the island of Trinidad in the years following the emancipation of slaves, there would allow him to observe and compare the relationship between the American plantation owner – both North and South and how they treated their slaves and that of the British plantation owner's treatment of his freed blacks. Slavery had been abolished in the British West Indies for fifteen years prior to the American Civil War. It would be a long and difficult period. Watson, as well as many Southern planters, knew when first freed in the West Indies, rioting blacks turned against their former masters, and at times, a violent and tragic transition period occurred throughout the region. There was the violent uprising in Haiti in 1791 and Southern planters well knew of the disastrous slave uprisings in Virginia by Nat Turner in 1822 and the Stono rebellion in South Carolina in 1739 and a few others in the early 1800's. It would take time, as most plantation owners and farmers knew, to convince idol men with no training or the necessity to earn a living for the first time in their lives to come to work on time and put in a hard day's work for wages and the ability to purchase a home and property and gain prosperity that would be to their benefit.

Fortunately, a wise colonial legislature in the islands created the "*Master and Servants Act*" which created a binding contract between worker and employer giving each a fourteen-day window to announce, as for the worker, his plan for absence or leaving his job and for the employer to notify his worker that his employment would be ending for whatever reason. There were stiff penalties such as fines and imprisonment for both parties if the conditions were not met. Watson cited an example to his Southern friends of wage-earning blacks in Trinidad who were making \$.40 cents a day with an 8-hour day where in the slave holding states it was taking at least 10 hours to accomplish the same results. Watson would get a positive reaction from the Southern planters when he explained this system to them as it existed in the Caribbean at the time and how this worked for England. But was this going to work in America?

Watson managed to meet both Southern and Northern plantation owners and many citizens of various classes and trades prior to secession and made very astute comparisons between the two. This, he concluded, while tied into the abolition movement in the North, that sentiment for abolition of slavery, or as it was often referred to at the time "*That Peculiar Institution*," arose out of two modes: one was of the true sympathy for the enslaved human but not in keeping with their professed sentiments. The other came strictly from political motives that would later serve this purpose, but at a dreadful cost. Watson felt that the former was most probable but both were of limited numbers.

His view of Southern slaveholders and planters was far different. Southern plantation owners, compared to their harsher Northern counterparts, were kinder and more considerate, in most cases literally growing up alongside their slaves and making all attempts to keep slave families together as they treated their holding in a more cohesive manner. Also, he observed, only a small minority of people derived any benefit directly from the institution of slavery. Watson found that many plantation owners in the South were actually northern businessmen in big cities like New York and Chicago, running their plantations from afar with no consideration to the welfare of their slaves.

The Splitting up of families and physical punishment to “slackers,” and with nothing but profit in mind along with the greater portion of profit gained from the cotton trade going to the banks of the north, irked the southern planter a great deal. This would be an issue when linked to the political causes of secession.

In the leadup to secession, Watson observed very closely the political process of electing men to local and national offices. He would see firsthand the rough and tumble method of nominating and electing men into positions such as sheriff, mayor, councilman and even governor, which tended to arise out of what Watson termed “*a standing army of professional politicians*,” sometimes comprised of professional gamblers, café loafers and the like, often supported by street rowdies and fire-eating agitators in some cases. Caucuses were held, nominations made and elections closely controlled. And as he noted, this went on in many states. But, as Watson would see, the average southerner of the time seemed to be contented and loved this way of life. Baton Rouge, where he lived and worked, was a well-run, peaceful, and prosperous capital city of Louisiana and would be, until the war changed everything. Watson would watch during state fair occasions well-dressed slaves given the day off, milling about greeting friends with great courtesy from surrounding plantations. This belies the accusations of harsh treatment of slaves from the abolition movement and now brings us to Watson’s view of national elections with the differences of opinion by the leading candidates and a key factor that would accelerate the secession movement.

Being used to the English parliamentary system of governing, Watson witnessed the American system of national elections of placing men in office, making note of his puzzlement of the “Electoral College” which to this day, causes consternation with some Americans. Watson used the election of Lincoln as an example. Lincoln won the majority of electoral votes but was in the minority of popular voting. In the South, virtually no votes came to him and many southern states did not have him on the ballot. Looking back, the Republican Party—hostile to slavery and strongly suppressed in the South—was growing in strength and popularity. In 1856, the recently formed Republican Party had as its candidate John C. Fremont who at this time, had as an object, the freeing of blacks and settling them in a Negro republic somewhere in Africa which, eventually, would be in the new country of Liberia. Lincoln later would espouse the movement to relocate free blacks to Liberia but this failed to excite a good many freedmen and slaves in the South as this region was their home as it had been for generations. Some in the South would refer to Fremont’s party as the “Black Republicans.” As we know, Fremont would lose out to James Buchanan in that election.

As President Buchanan’s term was coming to an end in 1860, he being a Democrat, the party being long in power was complicated, in a state of confusion and regarded by many in the North as well as the South as corrupt. The Northern Democrats were represented by Stephen Douglass during the campaign. The Republicans, with Abraham Lincoln of Illinois its candidate, won, as we just saw, beating out John C. Breckenridge of the Democratic Party. Moderate Southern politicians and the general masses of the South accepted Lincoln’s views, not considering him a true abolitionist. Watson felt that Lincoln’s homespun honesty (he became known as “Honest Abe”) and that of his moderate policies, was not the direct cause of the eventual rebellion, but it was the Republican Party that he represented and his alliance with it.

The seeds of national discord had been sown by this time. The intrusion and gross misinterpretations of false literature of Northern agitators, demigods and radicals on both sides—The abolitionist of the Republican Party and the fire-eating Democrats of the South—were too far apart and not talking.

This is where we see, as William Watson saw it in 1860, that slavery could not have been the key factor driving the secession movement. Remember, Lincoln, being a “free stater,” like many of his contemporaries at the time, despised slavery in any form, but he clearly stated while running for office and after he was elected that he would accept slavery only in the states where it currently existed if it would keep the union intact. Of course, the expansion of slavery in the territories was one of the sticking points in which some southern politicians were pushing and not willing to take no for an answer.

With the Southern secession eminent, President Buchanan in his message to congress in 1860 put forth that there was no provision in the U.S. Constitution allowing states to legally secede from the Union. But, as he said, there was also no provision in the constitution preventing them from doing so. It would, because of the inaction of the executive branch and the congress, lead many to assume that secession was to be recognized by the federal government.

We will now see what Watson says as secession begins. With South Carolina seceding on January 20, 1860, followed by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and then Louisiana, his state, on January 26, 1861. Even before South Carolina left the Union, talk of secession was creating economic problems in his town of Baton Rouge and other business sectors of the state. It obviously was occurring elsewhere. His own lumber and coal business and other services were slowing down drastically. Money was becoming scarce.

I will state here that Watson, while he admired greatly his town of Baton Rouge, the State of Louisiana, the people of the South and, many times in his writing, bringing out the pros and cons of culture and politics in the North and South, he tended to be pro-union like many other moderates in his state and saw the disastrous results that would follow. Watson had been a volunteer member of the Baton Rouge Rifle Company for some time. He was present with them when other units such as the Washington Artillery from New Orleans ordered the Federal unit at Baton Rouge to vacate the federal arsenal. He figured that a couple of Federal gunboats on the Mississippi River and a few hundred soldiers could have retaken this vulnerable area of the state capitol, putting a halt to Louisiana’s secession but, of course, this was not to be.

In the early days of secession, Louisiana declared themselves a republic as the other seceded states considered themselves as an independent entity. At least three months had passed without any action or word from the U.S. Government. Most folks in the six seceded states were growing comfortable with this new status and even considered the United States a foreign power. Events were moving fast in Louisiana and the other seceded states where creating government offices and the recruitment of men in the state military units was building in strength. The Ordinance department was moving weapons and equipment and manning forts all along the Gulf coast with the increasing numbers of men in the newly formed army.

In February 1861, the seceded states joined together and held a convention in Montgomery, Alabama. Watson looked at this proceeding as a recreation of 1776. The Constitution of the United States was adopted and the official name “The Confederate States of America” was chosen. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, a man, he observed, of supposedly great talent and strength was chosen as president. In Watson’s words, Davis was a representative of the rabid secessionists giving, what he thought, an inflammatory and a pro-slavery inauguration speech. As a compromise to the moderate Constitutional/Union Party of the South, the soft-spoken and politically talented Alexander Stephens was chosen to be his vice president.

Watson made note of the new Confederate States Flag proudly flying from buildings, windows, and flag poles everywhere as citizens accepted their new status. He described the three bars of red, white, red with the six stars on a blue background in the upper left corner of the flag that would become known as the First National. Watson added a bit of humor in his writing when he talked of the numerous steamboats traveling up and down the Mississippi River flying the First National Flag and hearing played loudly from them the popular song, "Dixie's Land." Most probably, he figured, once the boats from the northern states got farther up-river and out of site and sound, would lower the flag and start playing "Yankee Doodle."

As more Southern states seceded from the Union, much was happening in the peaceful days early in the secession movement, too extensive to go into here. William Watson and his two partners, one an Englishman and the other a Scotsman like himself, were doing well in their business and contented with their livelihood in the South as foreigners. Lincoln would take office in March 1861. Delegations sent to Washington during the waning days of Buchanan's administration and the beginning of Lincoln's, meeting with administration officials gained nothing in negotiations for recognition of the Confederacy and particularly with requests to turn over all federal property such as forts and weapons. The requested evacuation of Ft. Sumter was falling on deaf ears. Watson did say that, having the opportunity, secessionists failed to occupy Ft. Sumter early on before Major Anderson had a chance to move his troops there after evacuating Ft. Moultrie. Even General Scott was leaning toward evacuating Sumter, but with Lincoln's appointing William Seward, an avowed hater of the South, as Secretary of State, a decision was made to hold on to the fort. It was this delay in evacuation that appeared to be goading the South into war.

Watson states here that he was aware that Major Anderson and General Beauregard were men of high honor and integrity—they knew each other and were on friendly terms. It's Watson's belief that Beauregard, pressed by the impetuosity of Jefferson Davis, and Anderson, frustrated by the deceitful shuffling of the government in Washington, that there must have been a mutual understanding between the two men that the bombardment of Ft. Sumter was to gratify the vanity of Davis and allow Major Anderson the honorable pretext of surrendering the fort.

Let it be understood, as previously iterated, Watson did not sympathize with secession and, as a successful businessman he was disgusted with the inaction of the Buchanan administration and the deceit of the Lincoln cabinet. He describes the bombardment of Ft. Sumter that started on April 12, 1861 that went on for two days. No one was known to have been injured during this event and even Major Anderson was an honored guest of General Beauregard after the surrender of the fort. It was Watson's viewpoint that had this not happened and cooler heads prevailed, William Seward would not have had an excuse to declare war and had Jefferson Davis and his cabinet exercised patience and held off the bombardment, the bloody war might have been averted.

Watson puts forth a few key reasons here for his remaining in the South and providing his services to the Confederacy. He admired the people of the South and his fellow citizens of Baton Rouge and they, likewise, him.

He and his partners were content to have continued their lumber and coal business in the area. Lincoln's call for 75,000 men to put down the secession and the obvious illegal blockading of southern ports, which could have resulted in a major international incident, among others, were enough causes to put him over the edge. He liked being a volunteer in the Baton Rouge Rifle

Company and was with them, along with other Louisiana units that were mustered into the Confederate Army. He also emphasized his desire for adventure.

We will stop here! Much more can be said about William Watson's life in the Confederate Army, but that will have to be for another time. He went on to become a 1st Sergeant in the 3rd Louisiana Infantry, Pelican Rifles and later, a blockade runner.

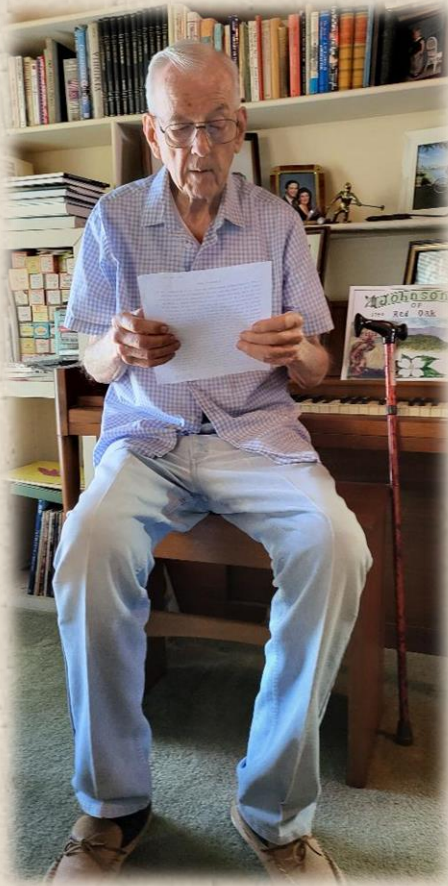


At left is the grave marker of William Watson over his final resting place in Beechgrove, Skelmorlie, Ayrshire Scotland. He died in April of 1906 at the age of 79 after a successful business and writing career. Participating in the Battle of Pea Ridge near Fayetteville, Arkansas in 1862 led him to name his estate in Scotland "Pea Ridge."

On Page Three, I mentioned a couple of books that will be of interest in the lives of Sir Henry Morton Stanley and Captain Henry Wirtz. 1) *Twain & Stanley Enter Paradise*, a novel by Oscar Hijuelos, 2015, is an excellent story of Henry Stanley and his life in the South and his later African adventures. 2) *Andersonville* by Mackinlay Kantor, 1955, is a great novel- one of the best – on the infamous Confederate prison camp and good insight into the ill-fated commandant Henry Wirtz.

The above article, *A Scotsman's look at Southern Secession* is taken from William Watson's book, *Life in the Confederate Army*, first published in 1888 and www.skelmorlievillas.co.uk

A Dedication



It is, with a solemn thought in mind, that we dedicate this issue of *The Conquered Banner* to our recently deceased compatriot and Camp Chaplain, James W. Coulsby Jr. or, as we all knew him by, “Jim.” A retired businessman and member of the Optimists and other clubs and a longtime member of Camp 302 since 2013, Jim was seriously injured after a bad fall in his assisted living apartment in El Cajon a few days before Christmas of last year. He was eventually placed in a rehab center following treatment but was bed-ridden and not able to stand. He was 90 years of age. Jim never fully recovered and sadly, he passed away on March 30, 2024. He is survived by his son, Jan Coulsby of El Cajon. Jan and his wife, Kathy, are handling arrangements and it is the camp’s understanding that Jim’s body will be transported back to Virginia to be interred alongside his late wife.

Jim loved his native Virginia and is seen here reading his favorite poem about Virginia that was provided to us by the UDC’s Jane Zoch: Jim’s son has been presented the SCV’s Resolution in his honor.

*Virginia oh Virginia land of my birth
Virginia oh Virginia most beautiful on earth*

*Lofty mountains with purple haze
That’s where I’ll spend my last days*

*Land of Valleys, Pilgrims Quest
Beneath her soil, Patriots rest*

*Common folk and titled too
For their Freedom, they did persue*

*Crystal rivers, bays and streams
A place to live in all our dreams*

*Take me down by the Shenandoah, among the trees and ferns
By willows and past meadows, it turns and turns and turns*

*In the silence of her forests, let me hear the cawing crows
A place of shady quiet, A place that my Lord knows*

*And if there is another life and if God takes my hand,
Carry me back to Old Virginny, my heart is in that land.*

A fond farewell Jim, Rest in Peace.

Honoring Confederate Veterans

Thanks is extended to Tehachapi Camp 2048's Greg Frazier for forwarding the following information on two Confederate veterans. One, buried in Bakersfield's Union Cemetery, the other in the cemetery at Porterville. Most of us in the California Division are very familiar with Union Cemetery as we annually participate in the ceremony honoring Confederate veterans buried there.



Seen here to *the left* is the grave marker for Pvt John Stewart. Recently, Camp 2048, in a ceremony honoring him, placed this marker at Private Stewart's grave at Porterville's Vandalia Cemetery that had remained unmarked for 112 years.

This view of the Kern County Abbey Mausoleum *At Right*, will be familiar to the Camp 302 members and our division compatriots who attended the California Division Reunion in 2023. (See *May/June Issue*,

2023.) It is the final resting place of Benjamin C. Williams who was killed in an

automobile accident at Morro Bay in 1920. Williams was in the real estate and insurance business in Bakersfield at the time. During the Civil War, he served as a consul for the Confederacy. The San Fernando earthquake in the 1970's

damaged the mausoleum to the extent that it was eventually condemned and permanently closed. A few of the remains were removed and reinterred but Mr. Williams remains had to be left in the structure. Camp 2048 placed the above marker just outside wall near his resting place. Thanks to Greg, many attendees during the ceremony at Union Cemetery, were able to view this marker. However, Compatriot Frazier announced that the marker was stolen a few months back but is being replaced as of now. I will provide a photo of the new stone in the next issue of this newsletter.



Benjamin C. Williams

*3rd Arkansas Consolidated Infantry Co. C
C.S.A.
1848-1920*

Camp 302 at Marie Callender's

On Saturday morning, May 11, 2024, a small contingent of Camp 302 met at Marie Callender's for our bi-monthly meeting. It was a somber time of remembrance as Commander Millsap led off the gathering with a moment of silence in honor of our late compatriot and camp chaplain, Jim Coulsby, who had passed away on March 30, 2024 (*See Page Nine.*)

Members in attendance: Commander Jim Millsap, Adjutant Jim Stephens, Compatriots Ira Lack, Steve Perdue, Gary Faulk and Mike Climo. As always, it was great to have Jane Zoch of the Stonewall Jackson Chapter 476 of the UDC and husband Robert with us.

We took this opportunity to officially accept Robert as a friend of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and especially a friend of the camp as he has been a longtime supporter of both. *At left he is presented the SCV Certificate by Commander Millsap.*

Adjutant Stephens presented the Treasurer's report: The camp's account as of March 03, 2024 was \$31,160.71. Transactions during this timeframe: Adjutant Stephens withdrew \$200.00 and redeposited the same as it was used for seed money during the March Division Reunion's silent auction. Another necessary expense was the replacement of the hard drive on the camp's computer which Treasurer Adair paid \$357.74 for the repair. Adjutant Stephens paid \$159.90 for the camp's renewal of the ZOOM annual subscription. Division Treasurer Vern Padgett wrote the

camp a check for \$50.00 for the division's share in the use of ZOOM. Additional payments included purchase of postage stamps and the payment of \$59.00 to San Diego County and \$22.00 to the Daily Transcript News for the acquisition of a "DBA" (Doing Business Anonymously) with U.S. Bank. What this means simply: Checks made out to the camp will officially be: "*SCV Camp 302*" The ending balance in the camp's account as of May 10, 2024 was \$30,591.12.

Jim Stephens then went over briefly the current camp roster. Sadly, the membership in the camp now stands at 34 due to the loss of Compatriot Coulsby.

Commander Millsap discussed what remains of the 2024 camp calendar citing events that have had changes. The Annual Beach BBQ will now be held on Saturday, August 17, 2024. The planned tour of the USS Midway is scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2024 - No costs to camp members and guests.



The camp will proceed with a special visit to Julian Pioneer Cemetery and the grave of Confederate veteran and Julian founder Drury Bailly with lunch in town afterwards. Date for this to be determined.

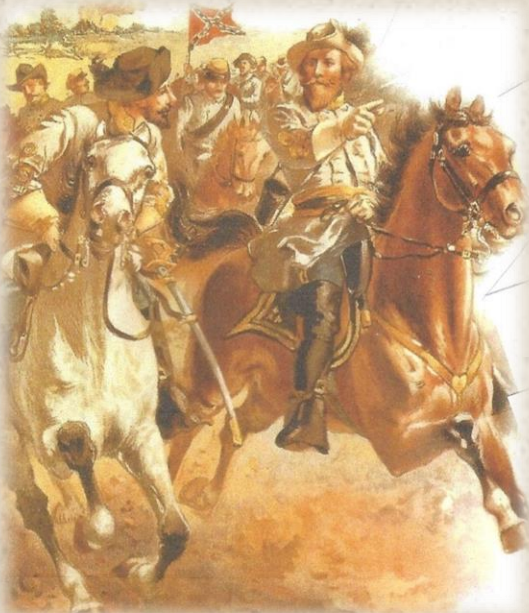
For the discussion on planned annual donations for the camp to worthy community service projects, the attending members – constituting a quorum – voted unanimously to make our annual \$100.00 donations to three organizations for 2024. They are as follows: St. Jude's Childrens Research Hospital, Rady's Childrens Hospital and once again, in honor of member Gary Faulks's late wife Alice, Chula Vista Animal Care. As a reminder, for 2023, Camp 302 donated \$100.00 each to San Diego Food Bank, North County San Diego Food Bank and Lions, Tigers and Bears Sanctuary and Rescue. The camp will continue to donate annually also to Wreaths Across America, Friends of the Hunley and the VUMMF – museum to the Brown Water Navy. Speaking of VUMMF, Adjutant Stephens announced that he will issue a replacement check for \$150.00 to VUMMF for the one that was lost in 2023. Stephens also took this time to remind attendees that the first notice for 2024 camp dues will be going out soon.

Commander Millsap mentioned briefly the California Graves Guardian Program and that the division is taking applications from its members to participate. Visit <http://californiascv.org> for details.

With no further business to go over, dessert was ordered, at camp expense, by the attendees in celebration of President Jefferson Davis' birthday which falls on June 3rd. We wish to offer the camp's appreciation and congratulate compatriot **Steve Perdue** for stepping up to take the position of Camp Chaplain.

The meeting adjourned around 1:30 PM. The next meeting will be via ZOOM on July 13th.

Confederate Personality



Seen to the left is a depiction of J.E.B. Stuart leading his cavalry on a 3-day ride around Union General McClellan's 100,000-man army outside Richmond, Virginia in June 1862 during his famous 100-mile reconnaissance mission. A little about "JEB."

He was born in 1833 in Virginia. James E.B. Stuart served with the 1st U.S. Cavalry in Texas before the war. He was a colonel in the 1st Virginia Cavalry in 1861 leading a charge that helped gain a Confederate victory in the 1st Battle of Bull Run also known as Manassas. He was promoted to Brigadier General and conducted scouting duties for General Robert E. Lee during the Peninsular Campaign. He would be advanced to Major General at age 28 in charge of all cavalry in the Army of Northern Virginia.

Later that year, Stuart and his troop raided the headquarters of Union General John Pope

This occurred during the 2nd Battle of Bull Run (2nd Manassas.) Stuart made off with one of Pope's uniforms and some important documents during that raid.

J.E.B. Stuart would successfully ride around McClelland's army again in 1862 near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Later, harsh criticism would come his way as a result of his June 1863 raid in Pennsylvania. During which time, he lost touch with Lee's main army, depriving General Lee of valuable intelligence that would have been crucial during the Battle of

Gettysburg. He did not arrive until the second day of the battle. Lee was reported as giving Stuart a rebuke, saying in his fashion, "You are here at Last." After that, Stuart kept in close contact with Lee throughout the Fall while he continued to harass Union troops.

The full, brigand-like whiskers adorning the face of Stuart, as seen here, and why he wore it, was a well-kept secret that his close friend, Major Henry McClellan would later relate, stating that Stuart's fellow cadets at West Point, with the frankness of youthful comradeship, gave him the nickname "*Beauty*." This, due to Stuart having a definite short and retiring chin that somewhat disfigured his otherwise handsome appearance. Thus, most likely, the reason behind the full beard.

On May 11, 1864, Stuart's men encountered Union cavalry at Yellow Tavern near Richmond. During the clash he was severely wounded after being shot by a lone, dismounted Union cavalryman. Stuart died the following day but not before he was visited briefly by President Davis. He was soon eulogized by not only Confederate but Union officers. Union Brigadier General James Wilson, in a report shortly before the end of the

war, felt that after Yellow Tavern, Union cavalry would gain predominance on the field of battle. Union General John Sedgwick was of the opinion that Major General James Earl Brown Stuart was the greatest cavalry officer ever foaled in America.



Sources: 1) The Civil War Day by Day, Chartwell books, 2011, Philip Katcher

2) Lee's Lieutenants, Volume 3, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1944, Douglas Southall Freeman

Greetings from the Commander

Hope everyone is doing well as we enter the summer months. We have a couple of camp events coming up; so, look for email notices. In June we will have a USS Midway tour like we did last year. In August we will have our annual Gator Beach BBQ at Coronado Amphibious Base.

The SCV National Convention will be coming up July 16-21 in Charleston, SC and is expected to have a big turnout with many event tours. This is also an election year for National SCV officers.

Our next camp meeting will be July 13th via Zoom call so be on the lookout for email notification.

Your Vigilant Commander... Deo Vindice

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

