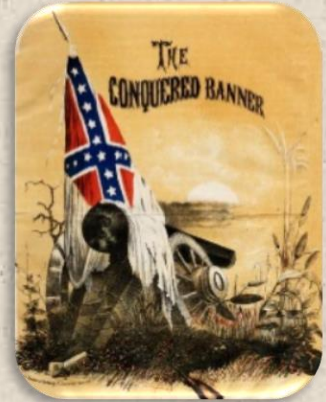




The Conquered Banner

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



VOLUME 31 NUMBER 3

May/June 2023

Fortress Alcatraz

"I have heard foolish talk about an attempt to seize the strongholds of government under my charge. Knowing this, I have prepared for emergencies, and will defend the property of the United States with every resource at my command, and with the last drop of blood in my body. Tell that to our Southern Friends!"

Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston,
Commander of the Department of the Pacific,
U.S. Army, 1861

A bold declaration, coming from the man who would soon cast his lot with his *Southern Friends*. Johnston, like many of his Southern colleagues serving in the U.S. military were, no doubt, loyal Americans, but with the ever-changing political climate at that time, loyalties to their region and home states took precedence. Albert Sidney Johnston served three different countries during his military career: as a general with the Republic of Texas, the United States Army and the Confederate States Army. He would become the ill-fated Confederate general who led the Southern forces during the Battle of Shiloh in 1862; he was mortally wounded during the battle. A close and personal friend of President Jefferson Davis, he was chosen by him to lead the Confederate Army, and who knows what the outcome would have been for the Confederacy had he survived.



(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>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>

We are not here to discuss Johnston at length; instead, we'll look at a short history of that infamous island lying in San Francisco Bay—*"Isla de Los Alcatraces* (Island of the Pelicans), named for the numerous amphibious birds that reside there, as those of you who have visited this cold, damp, wind-swept island will attest.



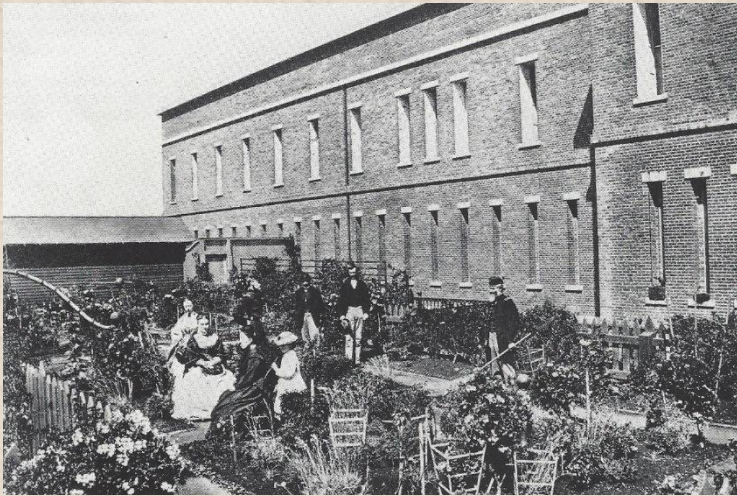
We've all read the articles written by our compatriot Ted Boyias dealing with Confederate activities in California during the Civil War, published recently in this newsletter. Alcatraz played a role during the war, albeit nothing significant. The photo at left shows a museum model of what the *fortress* would have looked like late in the war and in the early 1870's. The island's fortifications and buildings would go through many changes during the long military presence there.

Spanish explorer Juan Manuel de Ayala mapped the island and other landmarks when he sailed into the bay in 1775, naming the island after the pelicans he saw there. The name *Isla de Los Alcatraces* remained throughout Mexico's California possession until it became part of the United States in the mid-1840's, when the name would be shortened to the English spelling of Alcatraz as we know it today.



What piqued this writer's interest in Alcatraz was that as a youth, my dad related to us that, as a Federal Corrections Officer at Atlanta, he was tasked, along with others, to escort high-level prisoners from the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary to the recently opened Federal prison on Alcatraz in the 1930's. We were fascinated to hear of "*Old Scarface*," being meek and mild during the long train journey from Atlanta to San Francisco and riding the train barge to the island for off-loading *as seen at left*. A couple of visits to Alcatraz over the years has only added to the mystique and fascination of this fortress/prison. Now, without further delay, let's get on to the story of Fortress Alcatraz.

Among the first edifices constructed in the mid-nineteenth century were military facilities and a lighthouse. After the discovery of Gold in 1848 and word spread around the world that vast riches were to be had in California, the U.S. government realized that the wealth and mineral deposits in the state would need protection from other countries. Thus, after California became a state in 1850, the islands in San Francisco Bay and the coastline would become the first line of defense. Three islands in the bay were chosen to guard the entrance: Alcatraz Island, Fort Point and Lime Point. Construction began on Alcatraz in 1853, and when it was completed, became the most powerful of the Pacific Coastal Defenses. The rugged sandstone topography of Alcatraz would add to the fortress' defenses. Blasting the rock and laying brick and stone, workers created steep walls around the island, behind which cannon were placed so as to cover the north, south and west of the island fortress for any incoming enemy ships. A sturdy brick citadel was constructed atop the island with rifle-slits in the windows of the two upper floors. Living quarters, kitchens and storage facilities were incorporated.



At left, the Citadel, atop Alcatraz Island as it appeared during the war.

The mid-1850's saw 11 cannon that was among the first defenses mounted on the island. Late in 1859, the fort was ready. Captain Joseph Stewart and 86 men of Company H, Third U.S. Artillery took command of Alcatraz Island. With the rumblings of war coming from the East Coast, Alcatraz would take the forefront of defending California from any possible seizure by Confederates.

Colonel Johnston would send 10,000 muskets and 150,000 cartridges to Alcatraz Island, and by the early 1860's, up to 111 cannon—*some firing a 15 inch ball weighting 450 lbs.*—surrounded the island. *At right are some of the cannon placements on Alcatraz.*



© National Parks Service

As Ted Boyias has told us in his previous articles, California, in those critical times, had folks throughout the state that were both pro-Union and pro-Confederate, enough of which that Federal authorities prepared defenses on the islands and ashore to prevent attacks by Confederate sympathizers. Albert Sydney

Johnston accomplished his task as a responsible Army officer to calm the unrest and threat of war in order to protect San Francisco, until the time he resigned and returned to the South, accepting his commission in the Confederate States Army. Johnston's replacement immediately placed Fortress Alcatraz on full alert and increased the number of troops on the island to 350 men.

Alcatraz Island was never attacked during the war. Military prisoners and some civilians were incarcerated at the military prison on the island at different times. Confederate sympathizers were most probably among them. There were some reported plots and plans to attack the island, none of which materialized. One such plot concerned the schooner J.M. Chapman, occurring in March of 1863. Government officials learned of a plot to arm the schooner and use it to attack and seize a steamship and overtake San Francisco Bay, using the captured ship to raid commerce along the Pacific Coast and to blockade the harbor and lay siege to the forts.

These plans soon went awry when the Chapman's captain was overheard talking of the scheme in a local tavern. The U.S. Navy seized the schooner and arrested the crew. The ship was towed to Alcatraz where authorities found large amounts of ammunition, cannon and supplies, as well as 15 men in-hiding. One of the men had on his person, papers signed by President Jefferson Davis ensuring an officer's billet in the Confederate Navy if the plot succeeded. The men were tried for treason and confined at Alcatraz. Fortunately, they were spared a ten-year sentence when granted a pardon from President Lincoln.

The commanding officer of Fort Alcatraz came very close to committing a diplomatic blunder with Great Britain in October 1863 when the H.M.S. *Sutlej* *Seen at right*, arrived at San Francisco. The heavily armed warship was seen entering the bay being towed by rowboats. There was no wind that day, thus the reason for the towing. Also, the flag was hanging limp on its mast. Captain Winder of Alcatraz ordered a warning shot fired off the bow of the mysterious ship, which called for it to halt and identify itself. The rowboats continued towing the warship toward Angel Island and another warning shot fired from Alcatraz. This time, the H.M.S. *Sutlej* returned a 21-gun salute just as the wind came up showing the British Flag. Fort Alcatraz then returned their 21-gun salute to acknowledge recognition of a visiting foreign ship. The blunder was averted. It just so happened that the *Sutlej* was the flagship of Admiral John Kingcome. Even though the British warship failed to properly identify themselves upon entering San Francisco Bay and were clearly at fault, the British Commander of the Pacific Fleet sent messages that they were unhappy of the reception they received. Captain Winder explained his actions upon review and was fully supported by the U.S. Commander of the Department of the Pacific. He would receive a letter of gentle reminder to be very cautious of all ships entering the bay. The reason being, that at this stage of the war, Great Britain still favored the Southern Confederacy.



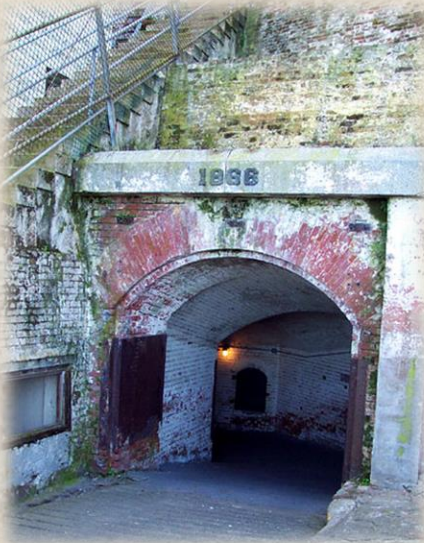
The guns of Fort Alcatraz might have come into play if the secret plans of Captain James Waddell, Commanding Officer of the C.S.S. *Shenandoah* *Seen at left*, materialized in the summer of 1865. The war was over by then, you say. Well, we'll get to that.

After breaking free of the Bering Sea ice flows earlier, Waddell and his ship headed south along the west coast of the United States and far out to sea off California. There is no evidence that Captain Waddell shared his secret with his second-in-command, Lieutenant Conway Whittle, and other officers under his command as there are no entries in their logbooks.

Waddell had hoped to take the *Shenandoah* and crew and attack San Francisco. He had a strong belief that a reported Federal gunboat lay at the entrance to San Francisco Bay that could be easily taken, giving them the opportunity to attack the city. In their book, *Last Flag Down*, published in 2007, authors John Baldwin and Ron Powers make no mention of Fort Alcatraz and other island forts, leaving a doubt as to whether Captain Waddell was aware of them.

Nagging thoughts ran through Waddell's head during this time as they sailed southward. Was the war between the Union and Confederacy still on? He and his men knew very well that if the war was indeed over, every action they had taken in recent times and the attack on San Francisco would be an outright act of piracy. They knew, too, the consequences they'd faced if captured. Waddell had to find out from any ship he could stop that was leaving San Francisco to pass on word of the war's situation.

In early August of 1865, Waddell's suspicions would be confirmed. A ship bearing English colors was spotted sailing out of San Francisco and he ordered the Shenandoah to overhaul her. She was the English Bark Barracuta bound for Liverpool. The news Waddell received from their captain was bleak. He was informed that the war had been over since April. It was at this point that Waddell abandoned any thought of further combat plans and started the crew to immediately disarm the Shenandoah and he considered taking this proud and undefeated warship to a neutral port in Australia or South Africa. Not sure of the reception they would receive there, the decision was made to make the long voyage back to Liverpool and surrender the ship in the port where it began its illustrious career. The rest is history.



Pictured at left is one of the sallyports constructed at Fort Alcatraz right after the war. The ineffectiveness of Fort Alcatraz as a harbor defense became evident, particularly with the 100 or so smooth-bore cannon on the island. As a later exercise during the 1870's would demonstrate, the cannon could not even hit an anchored ship loaded with explosives a short distance from the island. As was aptly put, the smooth bores probably performed the only function they were good for as when they fired, in unison, a mourning salute for the funeral of President Lincoln that would mark the end of an era.

During the next several decades, the army transformed the island topographically many times, building housing for the men stationed there with their families (*seen at right*). Why cellblocks? It was soon after the war that the army determined that Alcatraz was best suited as a security prison than as a harbor defense.

During the Civil War as previously mentioned, many Pro-Confederate prisoners were held on the island that included, for a short while, the Chairman of the California Democratic Committee for supposedly making "incendiary" remarks during the 1864 Presidential Campaign.

As an army base, mostly army prisoners were held on the island. During the Indian wars, many American Indians from various tribes were imprisoned there. Many of the army's own Indian scouts were held on Alcatraz for mutiny in the ranks.





Pictured here are American Indians at Fort Alcatraz

During the Spanish-American War, many soldiers returning from the Philippines had contracted contagious tropical diseases and were hospitalized at Alcatraz. Also, many army prisoners found their way to Fort Alcatraz. Because of this, additional cellhouses had to be built to take this influx. When the 1906 earthquake struck San Francisco, and a firestorm approached the city jailhouse, 176 prisoners were transferred to Alcatraz for nine days. Eventually, the old Citadel was torn down and a new cellhouse complex constructed over the basement. It would be the largest reinforced concrete structure in the world when it was finished in 1912. A steam plant and a power plant to produce electricity were also built at that time.

In order to portray a proper image of military obedience, the army did then as they do today, which is to change the names to suit the times. Fort Alcatraz became the "*Pacific Branch, U.S. Disciplinary Barracks*," with emphasis on education and rehabilitation. It was during this time that many San Franciscans disapproved of the island's appearance. The army went to work landscaping the island with Bluegrass, plants of all types and over 300 trees.

The disciplinary barracks on Alcatraz was always a minimum-security prison. There would some prisoners who would sneak aboard a boat heading for the mainland. Others, at times, would try to swim from the island, usually drowning in the process.

Finally, the island's location proved to be the army's worst problem. As a result of the Great depression and continuing negative publicity, the army left the island in 1933. Fortress Alcatraz came to an end. Soon, the Federal Bureau of Prisons would take possession.

Sources: 1. *National Park Service*

2. *Last Flag Down, The epic journey of the last Confederate warship, John Baldwin and Ron Powers, 2007*

Jim Stephens

Re-Confederation, 2023

On Friday, March 10, 2023, members of the California Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (Dixie West) began gathering at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Bakersfield, California for the 29th Annual Re-Confederation. Kindred spirits from around the state would spend the weekend socializing and conducting important division business.



Men of the division, their ladies and the ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy began gathering at the hospitality suite on Friday afternoon to enjoy the comradery and good conversation throughout the evening while enjoying pizza and fried chicken, along with soda pop, beer and the stronger spirits to satisfy their thirst.

Steve Madden of the Inland Empire Camp, 1742, and Jim Millsap, Division Lieutenant Commander and Commander of Camp 302, San Diego share a laugh during Friday's get-together.

For the remainder of Friday evening, compatriots from around the state continued to arrive at the hotel to get checked-in and later joined in at the hospitality suite for the evening's festivities.

Come Saturday morning, the 11th, it would be time to get down to business. Some members would gather at the hospitality suite at 7:30 for coffee, juice and rolls, and the hotel presented all arrivals complimentary passes for breakfast at the Bistro Café. At 8:30, men of the division would gather for Welcome and Call-to-Order by Division Commander Mike Climo.



Tod Terry presented the Invocation, followed by the Posting of the Colors by the Sergeant-at-Arms/Color Sergeant, Greg Frazier. Steve Smith led the group with the Pledge-of-Allegiance to the United States Flag with Jim Millsap taking up the Salute-to-the Confederate Flag with all reciting in unison. Steve Madden read the Charge. Division Adjutant, Vern Padgett came in with the Roll Call of the Camps. 8 camps were present: 302 San Diego, 1627 Sacramento, 1440 San Jose, 1804 Fresno, 2048 Tehachapi, 1208 Los Angeles, 1742 Inland Empire, 1770 Orange County, with the following camps absent: 2023 Modesto, 1631 Santa Barbara, 2062 Ventura County, and 2007 Long Beach. Division officers (*below*) are in place to conduct the business meeting.



L to R: Commander Mike Climo, Lieutenant Commander Jim Millsap, Adjutant/Treasurer Vern Padgett, Chief-of-Staff Steve Smith, Lower South Brigade Commander Steve Browning, Upper South Brigade Commander Tad Smith.

Introduction of guests followed the opening ceremonies, starting with United Daughters of the Confederacy's California President, Terrie Madler (*at right*), speaking and inviting the division SCV members to attend their annual meeting on October 6th. Sandy Padgett, President of the California Society of The Order of the Confederate Rose, welcomed all present and introduced Jeannie Terry as the new Bakersfield Chapter President.

Tod Terry of the Tehachapi Camp presented his report on the Graves Guardian Program, stating that he and Greg Frazier, also of the Tehachapi Camp, are now authorized California Division Representatives.



Tod indicated that the SCV national program is growing with the California Division, having great potential, The Alabama Division now leads the SCV with 29 authorized members. National headquarters has a database showing where the bulk of Confederate Veterans around the country are buried. The California Division has data showing 1543 graves with detailed information to be forwarded to National HQ.



LCDR **Jim Millsap** talked to the attendees, presenting a 29-year history of our division from its start in 1994 to present day. He said that peak membership reached 323 members in 2006 with 4 new camps added. We were reminded that the division started meeting in Bakersfield in 2015 with it now becoming, you might say, California Division's official meeting headquarters.

Chief-of-Staff, **Steve Smith**, spoke briefly of the division's meeting location, the need to delegate certain duties to camps and encouraging all to attempt to arrive early to help in the Re-Confederation setup.

Vern Padgett, The California Division's long-time Adjutant/Treasurer, then delivered his Treasurer's Report: The division has 12 camps with a current membership of 222 paid members. Vern reminded all that the distance from the Southernmost Camp 302 in San Diego to the Northern most Camp 1627 equals the distance from Texas to the Georgia border. He reminded all present that the division has met for annual reunions every year except one since its founding in 1994. Vern acknowledged the great support of the California OCR and its President, Sandy Padgett, and Bakersfield Chapter President, Jeanne Terry.

Adjutant Padgett then reported on various division expenses and income, such as the bank balance of \$9576 with an income of \$3075 less expenses of \$3965, leaving a current balance of \$8686. A detailed listing of outlays can be found on the division website. Of particular interest to all is the upcoming donations to the National Confederate Museum, which will include a substantial sum from Camp 302, other camps in the division, and especially the California Division at the upcoming National Reunion in July.

Reports continued from division officers and camps. Upper South Brigade Commander, Tad Smith, talked of membership, reminding all present of upcoming division dues and beginning of notifications starting in May. Lower South Brigade commander, Steve Browning, emphasized communication as number one priority.

During his presentation, Commander Climo, *At right*, made a motion to fund brigade commanders \$300.00 for travel expenses, which passed unanimously by a follow-up vote.





Judge Advocate, Robert Crook, *At Left*, stated in his report that all camps should have a complete list of assets and that all camps have at least two signatories on their bank accounts, which Camp 302 does in-fact have, and this data be provided to the division. Regarding insurance, he indicated that the division should have a liability risk policy that would cost about \$1000.00 a year and that camps should donate \$100.00 annually to cover the costs. Commander Climo chose to table these suggestions for the time being.

Sergeant-at-Arms/Color Sergeant, Greg Frazier, demonstrated the ability to use Christmas tree stands for use as flag stands. Division Quartermaster, Tod Terry, reported on the division storage facility at Bakersfield and its costs of \$600.00 annually. Historian Russ Pearson noted that the Central Valley is a fertile ground for sharing the SCV's message via radio. Russ also said that he will be presenting a historical PPT with Aaron Moore at Rosedale Middle School.

Commander Climo, as Division Webmaster, told of his child-friendly Huntington Beach and Buena Park presentations and of how he currently operates 32 accounts and that we use BraveNet out of Canada.

Then came the camp reports-starting with 302. All camps present spoke of the accomplishments they achieved the previous year and their current membership numbers. Camp 1440 San Jose's Lynn Malaznik told everyone that their member David Pyle, the division's long-time Chaplain, had moved to Idaho and Lynn stated that he was not sure of the status of the camp. Sacramento, Camp 1627, still leads the division with 47 members, 13 of which are *Life Members*.

For some of us, we've long looked at Camp 2048, headed by Kevin Street, as the Bakersfield/Tehachapi camp, but most properly it is strictly called Tehachapi Camp 2048.

Attendees heard the reading of greetings from SCVCIC Jason Boshers and later, the voting for Camp-of-the-Year in which Camp 2048 won again for 2023. Their achievements are many, including their presence at Fort Tejon, a parade and booth at Old West Days in Randsburg. They have placed 2 monuments in Bakersfield's Union Cemetery. 2048's Tod Terry heads the Division Graves Guardian Program with Greg Frazier. They also recovered the Hollywood Forever Cemetery Confederate brass marker that was on display during the reunion.

The minutes of the 2022 reunion were approved. Division Lieutenant Commander Jim Millsap reported on the Division Challenge Coin sales and said they have nearly paid for themselves. Commander Climo then announced that the turnout for the division ZOOM meetings for the DEC have been good.

This was the year for division elections. Three familiar names came up at the reunion for California Division Commander: Incumbent Mike Climo, Kevin Street and Robert Crook. Kevin and Robert are well known throughout the division, and each would have made an excellent commander, but as was the case, all present were pleased to vote overwhelmingly to retain Mike Climo as Division Commander.

Mike and his work with Jason Boshers, our Commander-in-Chief, to intervene with Randy Burbage to deliver the California awards in a timely manner are well known at headquarters. Jim Millsap was reelected as Lieutenant Commander of the division. Appointed offices in the division hierarchy are as follows: chief-of-staff, adjutant/treasurer, genealogist, historian, quartermaster, color sergeant, sergeant-at-arms, judge advocate and chaplain. After the elections, due to David Pyle moving out of state, Greg Frazier was appointed the new Division chaplain. Thanks goes to Greg for stepping up to this task.

It was decided that the ReConfederation for 2024 will take place at the Four Points by Sheraton, as usual, and that plans were tentatively made to do this conjointly with the United Daughters of the Confederacy as they meet at the same location.

Our new Division Chaplain, Greg Frazier, then closed the business meeting with the Benediction at 12:49 and all present adjourned for lunch.



Shortly before 5:00 pm on Saturday, the attendees gathered in the hotel courtyard for the traditional group photo while *Massing-of-the Colors*. This is your California Division, the United Daughters of the Confederacy of California, and guests. It was time to begin preparations for the evening events.

One of the first things done in the banquet room before the festivities is setting up the silent auction tables with items that are brought in by members from around the division. Setting the tables up and coordinating the sales are functions that Camp 302 has gladly accomplished for the past several reunions. *At right* is just a small sample of what was on display for the auction that would net the division an \$810.00 profit at the end of the evening.



Members and guests, seen here *at left*, mill about the banquet room. Many folks can be seen checking out the items on the auction tables



Past President of the California UDC, Christine Loeffler *at right*, speaks to the banquet guests. Tod Terry at podium, presents a Charter Graves Guardian Award to Ms. Margaret Alley standing *at his right*



Tehachapi Camp 2048's Kevin Street, *at left*, shows off the Camp-of-the-Year sword they've just won while at the same time having some new compatriots sworn in during the banquet.

Camp 302's Simon Reid *at left* and Zane Welsh of Camp 2048, serenaded the guests with their banjos during the banquet.

Robert Crook delivered the Banquet Address this year, concentrating on the design, construction and placement of the Nathan Bedford Forrest statue that will be placed at the Confederate Museum. Two awards of significance this year went to Tehachapi Camp 2048 who won the Camp-of-the-Year award for their many achievements (*See Page Eleven.*) The Chuck Norred Award (*Formerly Rebel-of-the-Year,*) went to Tod Terry of Tehachapi Camp 2048 for his untiring work for his camp and the division.

The following day, Sunday, March 12th, the men of the California Division and several ladies of the California UDC and guests joined with the ladies of the Mary Boykin Chesnut Chapter

2634 of Bakersfield to pay respects to the Confederate veterans interred at the city's Union Cemetery and celebrate our Confederate heritage. No annual reunion is complete without this honorable event.

Chapter President Mrs. Pennie Lizalde welcomed the gathering. Mrs. Ashley Cooper then delivered the Invocation and members of the California SCV, led by Greg Frazier of the Tehachapi camp, presented and posted the colors. Mrs. Lizalde then led all present with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States, followed by Mary Ann Claxton leading with the salute to the Confederate flag.

Memorials were read out to the Confederate Veterans, women of the Confederacy and Veterans of all wars. As in all ceremonies, everyone was encouraged to present a red rose in honor of his or her Confederate ancestor after the Roll Call of the States. This was led by Mrs. Claxton and Robbie Byrne. Then came the presentation of the wreath.



The ceremony ended with the closing prayer and traditional Gun Salute with pistols led by Greg Frazier, along with Tod Terry, Simon Reid, Steve Smith and Glen Edwards.



Several of us present at the ceremony gathered at two very old and deteriorated wooden grave markers for the wife and child of Nathaniel Roberts Wilkinson, Co. I, 13th Regiment, Virginia cavalry to view the new metal plaque made and installed by Tehachapi Camp 2048 commemorating this burial site. Seen here, many of the ladies along with Kevin Street stand by the new marker.

Greg Frazier took several of us to the sealed and condemned Kern County Abbey Mausoleum at Union Cemetery, *below*, that was damaged as a result of an earthquake during the 1970s, for the dedication of the plaque placed outside next to the wall of the edifice honoring Benjamin C. Williams, Co. G, 3rd Regiment, Arkansas Infantry.



For safety, numerous bodies that included Mr. Williams had to be left inside. Williams served the Confederacy in Arkansas as Consul. He had real estate and insurance business and lived in Bakersfield. He was killed in an auto accident at Morro Bay while driving with his son. He was interred in the abbey in 1922.

The memorial service ended at this time and all present departed for their respective homes.



ZOOM Meeting March 4, 2023

Camp 302 members gathered, via ZOOM, on March 4th for a pre-Division Reunion meeting that began at 10:45 AM. We were pleased to have a good attendance from members sitting around their computers. Those present were Commander Jim Millsap, LCDR George Faircloth, Adjutant Jim Stephens, compatriots Ira Lack, Treasurer Roy Adair, J.D. Brown, Peter Yancey, David Ham, Mike Climo and Robert Johnson. Much obliged to our out-of-state members for taking the time to join us. We were all glad to see J.D. for the first time. Peter and Robert, we want to see you guys more often.

Roy Adair then gave his Treasurer's Report: As of March 04, 2023, the camp has an ending balance of \$38,802.93 in our account. Over the period beginning January 21, 2023, the camp expended \$18.55 for Website domain renewal, \$112.93 for flowers for Becky Ham and \$217.12 for projector and stand reimbursement. \$90.00 was deposited for proceeds from openers, journals, and pen sales.

David Ham mentioned that the flowers that were ordered for his wife, Becky, following her surgery, had not arrived and Commander Millsap said that he would look into the matter with FTD who was paid to deliver them.

Division Commander Mike Climo discussed the division reunion coming up on the 11th and who in Camp 302 would be attending. He briefly went over the business agenda and some of the organization of the reunion, along with the number of folks slated for the banquet,

Jim Millsap went over the remaining camp agenda for the year and particularly emphasized plans for a camp gathering aboard the USS Midway sometime soon with dates pending. Perhaps a June timeframe on a Sunday would be preferable.

The attending members then discussed contributing to a community service such as a national organization like St. Jude's. We should firm this up by next meeting. Members were asked to come up with a favorite concern of their choosing.

The question came up regarding the payment of annual dues to continue ZOOM. Jim Stephens stated that he would be renewing the camp's subscription in May. He also indicated that he would confirm that the division had paid their share of the dues.

The meeting ended at this time. The next gathering will be at Marie Callender's in La Mesa in May.

Commander's Greetings

Our 29th annual SCV CA Division "Dixie West" Convention and Re-Confederation at Bakersfield was another great success. Once again, the banquet dinner was well attended with many of the UDC ladies from CA chapters.

Even though we did not have a special guest from SCV headquarters this year, everyone enjoyed the comradery and the special presentation on Forrest's gravesite by our judge advocate and LA camp commander, Robert Crook.

The convention banquet silent auction was also a great success with \$810.00 in total sales. All proceeds from the auction sales go to the CA Division.

Our next camp meeting will be coming up on May 13th at Marie Callender's restaurant in La Mesa from 11am-1pm. Look for an E-mail reminder coming out soon.

Your Vigilant Commander,
Jim Millsap...Deo Vindice

