

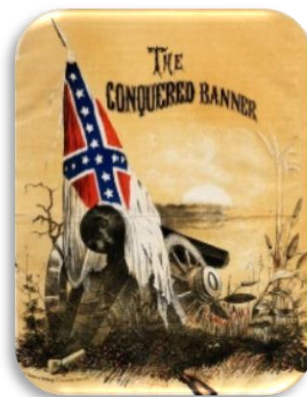


The Conquered Banner

Newsletter of the

Father A.J. Ryan San Diego Camp 302

Sons of Confederate Veterans



VOLUME 25 NUMBER 6

November 2017

Some Thoughts on “Presentism”

“Those unable to catalog the past are doomed to repeat it.” ~Lemony Snicket

There are times when word usage in our English language is somewhat stilted and out of date—perhaps words rarely used to describe a movement or new way of thinking on subjects such as those relating to a historical event or time. These words creep into, or renew, themselves within our language, projecting either a negative or positive slant on an established fact. The word “*Presentism*” may fit this category. I, personally, had never come across this word in everyday life...hadn’t known it existed. It was only recently that I heard “Presentism” used by a commentator in the context as it relates to the current attack on Southern history and culture.

Webster’s Dictionary defines presentism as “an attitude toward the past dominated by present-day attitudes and experiences.” There is a mindset in the Twenty-First Century—especially among the younger generation—that inhibits the ability to place thought patterns and actions of historical characters within the milieu of the physical times in which they lived. Are we, ourselves, susceptible to this way of thinking?

When we study history, reading about events that occurred long ago, well out of our reach, we tend to place ourselves in a protective bubble, viewing all that is going on and imagining that we are participating without any harm or consequences to our being there. Sitting next to people we admire and putting thoughts and words into their mouths that are based on *current* events. As Sons of Confederate Veterans, we research a good deal of the Civil War years, the times leading up to it as well as the awful reconstruction period that our ancestors lived through.

Can we, while in the comfort of our homes or offices—well within the reach of a cold beverage and snack—truly transport ourselves back in time? As we march along with Stonewall Jackson and his “Foot Cavalry” up and down the Shenandoah Valley, can we actually experience the hardships these men went through on a daily basis? Are we able, when we go to our local shooting range and leisurely fire off a few mini balls from our reproduction muskets at a stationary target 25 yards away, place ourselves alongside these soldiers as they fire their muskets and reload as fast as they can while on a run during an infantry charge or from a muddy, rain-filled trench being overrun by an equally determined enemy? Perhaps we can imagine sitting in on a cabinet meeting with President Davis and trying to understand why he argues against beefing up the diminishing Confederate ranks with slaves, as proposed by General Patrick Cleburne during the waning days of the war. If we attempt to place ourselves in the minds and literally the shoes of our Confederate ancestors of the mid-1800’s, while at the same time not understanding their reasoning and the culture of the time, then we are experiencing *Presentism*. For most of us this “transportation” is, of course, only temporary and we soon return to reality, knowing that we cannot in any way understand the emotions and life of the past.

There is a slippery slope we might find ourselves descending if we do not place the proper perspective on our history as it relates to the time in question.

(Continued on Page Three)

International Headquarters
 Sons of Confederate Veterans
 P.O. Box 59
 Columbia, Tennessee 38402-0059
1-800-MY-DIXIE

Salute to the Confederate Flag

I salute the Confederate flag with affection, reverence and undying devotion to the cause for which it stands.

Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and the ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Lt. General Stephen D. Lee

Newsletter

The Conquered Banner is the official newsletter of Camp 302 and is published each odd-numbered month. Permission to reprint material contained in the newsletter is freely given to SCV, MOSB and UDC organizations. Commentary and articles are solicited and should be mailed or e-mailed to the Newsletter Editor. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the preceding month. Consideration of space may require editing.

Meetings

The camp meets the 2nd Saturday of each odd-numbered month at various locations which are announced in the newsletter.

Correspondence

Membership applications, dues renewals, changes of address and other business should be directed to the adjutant.

Dues

Annual dues are billed each August and are \$45.00 for members. Dues include the *Confederate Veteran* magazine and a newsletter. A red "X" in the following box indicates your dues have not been received. { }

Camp officers

<u>Commander</u>	<u>Jim Stephens</u>
<u>LCDR</u>	<u>Jim Millsap</u>
<u>2nd LCDR</u>	<u>George Faircloth</u>
<u>Adjutant/Treasurer</u>	<u>Roy Adair</u>
<u>Chaplain</u>	<u>Jim Coulsby</u>
<u>Sergeant-at-Arms</u>	<u>Steve Smith</u>
<u>Historian</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	<u>Jim Stephens</u>

Minutes from the September 9, 2017 Meeting

An informal breakfast meeting was called to order shortly after 9:00 AM at the home of Steve and Deanne Smith in Vista. Compatriot Dave Sanders conducted the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Confederate Flag was then recited. Members in attendance: CDR Jim Stephens, LCDR Jim Millsap, Steve Smith, Robert Johnson, Dave Sanders, John Armstrong and Ira Lack. The UDC's Jane Zoch and husband Robert were present as guests. Thanks goes to the meeting's hostess, Deanne Smith, for providing a great breakfast. CDR Stephens then presented Certificates of Appreciation to LCDR Jim Millsap and Compatriot Ira Lack as awarded by National Headquarters. CDR Stephens was presented the Distinguished Service Medal by Division Commander Steve Smith—a great surprise and much appreciated. The Treasurer's Report was presented by CDR Stephens: Camp Treasury balance as of 7/11/2017: \$46,079.92. The camp had a total inflow of funds amounting to \$1,924.00. With camp donations and payments of dues and subsidizing the new camp shirts, (See Old and New Business for donations.) total outflow of funds were: \$1,794.60 leaving a net total of \$129.40. Treasury balance as of 9/6/2017: \$46,209.32. Camp Tax report submitted this period.

Old Business: Donation of \$100.00 to the Mt. Soledad Memorial was submitted by Adjutant Roy Adair in the camp's name and which he received a grateful acknowledgement in return. Steve Smith is still working on the design and obtaining more information on creating a Camp 302 Challenge coin which will remain pending as an ongoing project.

New Business: Members were reminded once again of the Wreaths Across America event occurring on December 16, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. CDR Stephens recommended an annual monetary contribution, in the name of the camp, to WAA in lieu of attending due to the crowded nature and inability to park at the event. As there was not a quorum to call a motion for a vote, this will be carried forward to the next meeting. Steve Smith, as Division Commander, requested the camp hold off voting for a \$500.00 donation to the Santa Ana Monument due to inclusive details at present. CDR Stephens cited the success of the Blue/Gray Picnic and that the camp website will remain down until further notice. He also thanked the camp for a majority online vote for the \$500.00 donation to the SCV Relief Fund that will be forwarded to National Headquarters. The removal of the Jefferson Davis Plaque at Horton Plaza was discussed along with the removal of other Confederate Monuments around the country. Also, the attending members agreed to have an online vote to provide Compatriot Chuck Meadows sister a monetary donation for disaster relief as she and her family live in the Texas area affected by the hurricane. Her home was destroyed as a result. CDR Stephens brought up an informal proposal for a possible change in the format of the camp newsletter to convert from a PDF format to an E-mail format with no attachments. All the members present expressed the desire to stick with the PDF format. An upcoming meeting of camp commanders in Orange County was brought up by Steve Smith occurring on October 16, 2017. The next VMC Color Guard scheduled for October 28th was announced and CDR Stephens, Ira Lack and Jane Zoch (if she is available that day) volunteered for the event. The last camp meeting for the year is scheduled for November 11th and all present agreed to conduct it at Anna's Cafe in Lemon Grove.

The business portion of the camp meeting was brought to a close and the attendees finished breakfast and socialized for the remainder of the morning.

(Thoughts on "Presentism," continued from Page One)

There are folks in every generation who have looked on the country's past with a jaundiced eye, feeling that what occurred long ago has direct relevancy on what is occurring today. These folks are, for example, relating slavery (though an indisputably ugly part of our country's past) directly to the racial strife, or perceived strife, of today. They cannot seem to grasp that what we have learned from the past has allowed us to evolve into what we have become today as a people. Many of the younger folks, for the most part, have come to a point where they place blame for the many social ills of today on the actions or decisions of the leaders of our past, including our founding fathers.

Since we are relating to the mid-1860's, particularly to the War Between the States and our Southern military and political leaders, most of whom are vilified to no end and cast as slave-holding racists, we know of course that these people were products of their time and were merely carrying on the traditions that were passed down to them from much earlier generations. While slavery did not take hold to any extent north of the Mason-Dixon Line, it did exist and was tolerated in many of the Northern States. The regard for racial minorities, especially free blacks, was universally a case of distrust, outright suspicion, fear and generally pure disdain of a people who were not thought to be intellectually capable of voting or even considered to be each a full person to count on the census tally. Do our progressives today look on this as a nationwide occurrence at that time? Do they look at the New York Draft Riots of 1863 when innocent blacks were killed and Irish immigrants were protesting what they saw as an unfair draft into an army and a fight they wanted no part in? Do they criticize Union military leaders for excluding Jewish soldiers from their ranks and early on only allowing black soldiers to serve non-combat roles? For the most part, I would say *no*! These people, perhaps, were not taught the facts of this period in our history to its fullest. What little instruction they've received of the *antebellum* and *post-Civil War* periods of our country is miniscule to say the least. It is for this reason that they have been brought to where we are *now*.

Today, race relations are at a low ebb, being pushed in part by a distrust between blacks and law enforcement, general unrest on our college campuses, and the pervasive rhetoric emanating from teachers and speakers making many of our learning institutions ripe for swaying young minds. They are encouraged to strike out at the nearest boogey man to vent their frustrations, blaming slavery of the past—the supposed root cause of their present problems—not only on Southern leaders but on our founding fathers. What recourse do they have, then, but to tear down statues and monuments that represent a past that they know little of? Even some of our present leaders, themselves unknowledgeable or unwilling to look into the past, acquiesce to those who are, unwittingly, destroying history in front of our very eyes.

Thus, *presentism*, a word that represents everything wrong when looking back on history, has become anathema in the way today's study and the way one looks at our Confederate past and Southern heritage. Can we do anything about it now? I don't think so. The very people that can effect a change in attitudes are not willing to listen. We can only hope that things will quieten down somewhat (which seems to be happening now) and that the monuments and statues that remain will go unharmed and we, Sons of Confederate Veterans, can go on celebrating our Southern heritage.

Jim Stephens

Camp Meeting, September 9, 2017

Camp 302 conducted its September meeting at the home of Steve and Deanne Smith in Vista. All those present were provided an excellent breakfast for which we extend our thanks to Steve and Deanne. A productive meeting was had. Among the discussions held, the upcoming Musket Shoot at the South Bay Rod and Gun Club was foremost.



L to R: John Armstrong, Guests Robert and Jane Zoch, Deanne Smith, LCDR Jim Millsap, Steve Smith, Robert Johnson and Dave Sanders



Commander Jim Stephens congratulates Compatriot Ira Lack on receiving his Meritorious Service Medal as awarded by National.



Our hosts, Deanne and Steve, look over the layout and appear very pleased with the results as members and guests arrived for the breakfast meeting.

Division General Executive Council Meeting

On October 15, 2017, Division Commander Steve Smith conducted a DIVGEC meeting at the home of Brigade Commander and Staff Judge Advocate Robert Williams and his son, Compatriot Ryan Williams in Mission Viejo. Nine division members were in attendance. As it was open to Division officers, past and present camp commanders, I was pleased to be present for this gathering. Key areas discussed included problems associated with today's Information Technology as it relates to observing internet security—keeping phone numbers and E-mail addresses off the web and newsletters being most important. Division Webmaster, Mike Climo, noted that camp newsletters will no longer be published on the division website not only because their subject matter is sensitive in nature, but also because the published info is most applicable to *local* camp members. The upcoming Division Convention was discussed and duties were handed out. Camp 302 will again coordinate the "Silent Auction." I volunteered to write up instructions pertaining to the "Division Rebel of the Year" award that will be reinstituted for 2018. "Camp of the Year" and "Honor Roll" were key topics.



The California Division Executive Council meeting was conducted on October 15, 2017 at the home of Robert and Ryan Williams in Mission Viejo. Six of those attending are pictured L to R: Robert Williams, Jon Fowler, Jim Stephens, Steve Smith, Mike Climo and Greg Frazier. Not pictured are: Steven Steinberg, Ryan Williams & Sheldon Fowler.

*Annual Event at the VUMM, Coronado, CA
October 14th 2017*



Captain Paul Murphy, (USN, Retired), President of the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument Board of Directors, accepts Camp 302's annual donation of \$150.00. He stands alongside Camp 302 Adjutant Roy Adair and wife Robyn of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.



A great view of the 50 state flags at the VUMM that fly proudly at the memorial. Camp 302's \$150.00 donation goes toward the annual replacement of the Southern states flags.

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

October / November 1862

During this period, we see fighting in Florida, Mississippi, Texas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri. The engagement at Corinth, Mississippi is most significant. *Civil War Day by Day* by Philip Katcher, Chartwell Books, Inc. 2010, pp 74-77 (abridged):

October 3-4 – Mississippi, **The Battle of Corinth**. A combined Confederate army of 22,000 men is defeated attempting to crush heavily defended Corinth, spoiling plans for a Confederate drive into mid-Tennessee.

October 4 – **The Battle of Galveston**. The port of Galveston is forced to surrender by U.S. gunboats and tough Union diplomacy after a lengthy period of blockade.

October 8 - **The Battle of Perryville**. As part of the South's fight for Kentucky, in September generals Braxton Bragg and Kirby Smith launched an invasion from Tennessee. By October 4 Bragg secured the state capital of Frankfort and set up a new Confederate state government. It was short lived, though. Today, the Union Army of the Ohio led by Don Carlos Buell meets Bragg's Army of the Mississippi. After a morning assault by Union troops, after noon a Confederate division hits the Union left flank and forces it back. More Rebel divisions join the battle, eventually forcing back the Union line. Union troops on the left flank, reinforced by two brigades, stabilize the line. A Confederate attack against a Union division on the Springfield Pike is repulsed, the attackers retreating back to Perryville. Union troops pursue into the town. With his left flank threatened, Bragg withdraws and retreats into East Tennessee. Union losses are 4,211; Confederate 3,196.

November 7 – President Abraham Lincoln appoints Ambrose E. Burnside commander of the Union Army of the Potomac in place of George B. McClellan, who he felt was not aggressive enough.

November 7 – **The Battle of Clark's Mill/Vera Cruz**. A Union force of 100 men occupying Clark's Mill, Douglas County, surrenders after battling 1,000 Confederate troops.



The Two-Band Enfield: Enfield Short Rifle: 33 inch Barrel

Submitted by Vern Padgett, Adjutant Camp 1208 Los Angeles, 13 October 2017

I remember buying my first reenacting rifle from a sutler at Fort Tejon in 1989 or 1990. That sutler did not want to sell me the rifle I wanted, saying that the three-band was the one to buy. I wanted the two-band because I knew it was used for sharpshooting, and its shorter barrel (thirty-three inches) gave it better marksmanship than the standard three-Band Enfield with the thirty-nine-inch barrel.



But, "No," said the sutler. "If you have the Short Enfield Rifle, the barrel is not long enough for Infantry. And it is too short for artillery." He told me the three-bander was needed for infantry reenacting because the two-bander would blast in the ears of the rank in front of me, if I were in the second rank, and in the artillery, they used shorter rifles.

Nuts, I thought. I ordered one anyway and paid up front: around \$500 (in today's money, that'd be about \$1000). It came in burgundy brown, nicely finished, and with perfect metal work. It fired as well as I could have expected. *The unidentified soldiers at left are with the two-band Enfield and Sword Bayonet.*

The Model 1853 Enfield (.577 caliber): The British M1853 Enfield rifle, imported in large quantities by both the US and CSA, became one of the staples of Civil War infantry as it saw use in almost every significant engagement of the war from Fort Donelson onward. Both two- and three-band versions were produced, the latter being vastly more common. (Wikipedia)

The second most widely used weapon of the Civil war, and the most widely used weapon by the Confederates, was the British Pattern 1853 Enfield. Like the Springfield, this was a three-band, single-shot muzzle-loading rifle musket. It was the standard weapon for the British Army between 1853 and 1867. Confederate soldiers liked it because its .577 cal. barrel allowed the use of .58 cal. ammunition used by both sides. The Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield, England was forbidden to sell arms to the Confederacy, but private contractors who manufactured the weapon under license were not.

Approximately 900,000 of these muskets were imported during 1861-1865, seeing use in every major battle from Shiloh onward. Many officers preferred Springfield muskets over the Enfield, due to the interchangeability of parts that the machine-made Springfields offered. But some soldiers liked the Enfield better because its blued steel barrel and fittings did not have to be continually polished to ward off rust like the bright metal of the Springfield did.

Comparing a two-band Enfield, with its thirty-three inch barrel, to a three-band Enfield with a thirty-nine inch barrel, during each loading cycle there are six inches less barrel you have to push your ramrod down, and six inches less you have to withdraw the ramrod from—a two-bander is faster to shoot. In the pictures of the winning teams in the Nationals, most of the winning teams are holding thirty-three-inch barrels—Enfield Naval Rifles, Mississippi Rifles, two-band Springfields, Fayettevilles, and two-band Special Model 1861's. Back in the 1860's, when the British NRA sponsored rifle matches all over Britain, and members of the army and civilian members competed with Enfields, anyone using the shorter barrel rifles had ten points deducted from their match score, because the Enfield Short Rifles with the one in forty-eight inch rifling twist in the barrels was more accurate. (*Southron Sr. 24th Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Member 3002 of the North-South Skirmish Association, 3 August 2014*)

NEXT CAMP MEETING

Date: November 11, 2017

Time: 12:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Anna's Family Restaurant, 8099 Broadway, Lemon Grove, 91945, (619)462-9295

Directions: From I-15 or I-805 take CA-94 E to Exit 13A to Lemon Grove Ave, keep right, turn left on Broadway.



Ira Lack, Jim Stephens & Steve Smith ready for Color Guard, VMC, Balboa Park, October 28, 2017

Camp 302's 2017 Musket Shoot

Once again, members of Camp 302 and guests ventured out to the South Bay Rod & Gun Club in Dulzura to fire off their reproduction Civil War muskets and pistols to test their shooting skills and just have some fun during this once-a-year event. Thanks goes out again to Range Masters Joanne Frazier and David Boyle for the excellent help and advice they always provide during the event. This year, congratulations goes out to Adjutant Roy Adair who came in first with a score of 47, Jim Shephard second with 45, Jim Millsap third with 44 and Travis Smith brought up the fourth position with 42. Very close scoring from all four shooters. Also, we're much obliged to those who brought food and drinks.



Roy Adair firing his musket on the way to becoming this year's winner



Steve Smith takes aim, Travis Smith standing by



Gus Goetch looks on as Travis Smith loads his musket



Jim Stephens and Jim Millsap observe as Roy checks out the mayo. Deanne Smith lays out the snacks.



Jim Shepherd points out an interesting feature on the musket to a concerned Roy, Jim and Ira.



Ira, Range Master David Boyle, Jim Stephens and Jim Millsap check Range after a round of shooting.

(2017 Musket Shoot continued from Page Nine)

Camp 302 is very grateful for the fantastic photographs taken by Range Master Joanne Frazier during this year's annual musket shoot. The adjacent photo montage of participants at the actual moment of their muskets firing and the beautiful display of our camp's flags flying majestically at the South Bay Rod & Gun Club caps off another great annual event that we all hope continues for a long time to come. The administrative staff of the gun club are great and special thanks goes to Mr. Tom Fox who works with us each year to obtain the range and gives us ample time to spend there for our event. We cannot thank them enough when we speak of David Boyle and Joanne Frazier, our range masters. Their help and advice throughout the shoot are invaluable. We want to thank all those who were able to attend this year to make this event work. The shooters were as follows: Roy Adair, Steve Smith, Deanne Smith, Travis Smith, Ira Lack, Jim Millsap and Jim Shepherd. Jim Stephens was not able to shoot due to an ailing shoulder. We also want to thank Robyn Adair, Brian Adair and Scarlett Stahl Shepherd for attending and patiently watching throughout the event. Despite the drive out to the range, this is a great outdoor event that is both relaxing and exciting—giving camp members and guests a chance to actually fire a Civil War reproduction musket. Let us have a great turn-out in 2018.



Commander's Message



Friends and fellow Compatriots, the year is coming to a close and, with this November issue of "The Conquered Banner," I'll highlight a few of the events that have occurred. I wish I could say that 2017 was a good year overall but, sadly, an unpleasant shade of gray descended over the camp with the passing of our good friend Compatriot Stu Hoffman, the last of the active founding members of Camp 302. In addition, our fellow member and chaplain emeritus, Ernie Powell, has been fighting a series of ailments in recent times and must also watch closely over his wife, Catherine. They were forced to move into an assisted living home a short time ago. We pray for his return to active participation in the camp.

Your camp did some good things this year. Because of the severe damage caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Camp 302 donated \$500 to the relief effort coordinated by Compatriot Tom Bolton, Commander of Camp 1804. (A sizable contribution was made by the California Division for the SCV's overall donation to the hurricane relief.) I wish to thank all our camp members who voted overwhelmingly for this donation. We were also able to come to the aid of Compatriot Chuck Meadows when he informed us that his sister, Kelly, and her family had lost their home to the storm. Chuck and Kelly both thanked us for our efforts. Chuck, you can pass onto Kelly that we were most happy to do what we could to help.

I offer gratitude to my fellow members who continually volunteer to act as Color Guard for the Veterans Museum Center at Balboa Park. Marine Corps League, Region 12 Coordinator, John Vorhies has voiced to me many times his appreciation in our participation and he welcomes us in our Confederate uniforms. We had a great division reunion in Bakersfield last March and are looking forward to the 2018 Reunion. I encourage as many members as possible to attend that event. Once again your camp has volunteered to coordinate the Silent Auction at the Reunion. If anyone has any items they would like to donate for the auction, please let us know. The annual Musket Shoot went off well this year as you can see by the photos in the newsletter. Thanks to all the attendees.

Camp membership has gone up and down a bit. We've lost several members this year but we do have a couple of gentlemen who are working on their membership paperwork at the present time.

With our upcoming camp meeting in a few days, I encourage all to make an effort to attend and please feel free to bring up any concerns you may have. We are currently working on the camp's 2018 calendar of events and we'll have some important topics to discuss. Our final scheduled event for 2017 is *Wreaths Across America* which occurs on December 16th. We'll talk about this at the meeting. Let us look forward to a fruitful 2018.

Jim Stephens