

The Thin Gray Line

Thinner with every passing year,
Fewer at roll call answering "Here."
There's a gap today where none replies
And the sergeant misses a coat of gray,
While the captain, looking with misty eyes,
Bows his head as he turns away;
None to answer, and he knows why
As the thin gray line goes marching by.

Thinner with every passing year,
Fewer at roll call answering "Here."
One by one where the shadows creep
Under the sod for which they fought
One by one they must fall asleep
Where love and the lilies a couch have wrought;
And the south wind carried a comrade's sigh
As the thin gray line goes marching by.

One by one from the year's gray toll
The line thins out as the war drums roll;
One by one they march away
Where Lee and his legions keep the guard;
One by one and the coat of gray
Rests where the roses crown the sward;
Yet from the street comes a ringing cry
As the thin gray line goes marching by.

Thinner with every passing year,
Fewer at roll call answering "Here."
And the day is ahead when the South shall weep
And turn to the sod where her heroes sleep
As the grizzled sergeant calls in vain --
Calls where the silence settles deep
Around dim mounds on hill and plain;
And "Dixie" turns with a saddened sigh
Where the thin line passed as a dream must die.

by Grantland Rice, in the Nashville Tennessean

Annual Confederate Memorial Alton Confederate Cemetery



Presented by:
Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962
Illinois Division, SCV
May 16, 2009– Alton, Illinois

Alton Confederate Memorial Program

Music Prelude – Provided by Alton Boy Scout Troop #16

Welcome- Compatriot Gale Red, Adjutant

Invocation – Compatriot Kevin B. Duffy

Pledge of Allegiance – Compatriot John Barnhill

Salute to the Confederate Flag – Hal Fleming, Cmdr. Sterling Price

Poem: *The Bivouac of the Dead* – Compatriot Scott Leas

“Dixie” – to be sung by everyone

Poem: *The Thin Gray Line* – Compatriot Josh Stovall, UDC

Memorial Remarks – Hal Fleming, Cmdr. Sterling Price Camp

More Memorial Remarks – John Merritt, Cmdr. Camp #1962, SCV

Poem: *Confederate Memorial Day* – Lady Janice Beasley

Presentation of Honors

Draped Sword with Colored Ribbons – Compatriot Dale Halemeyer

Presentation of Battle Flag to Widow – Cmdr. John Merritt

Presentation of Widow’s Rose – Lady Sharon Red

Presentation of the Memorial Bouquet – Lady Janice Beasley

Presentation of Evergreens – Compatriot Bill Boyd

Presentation of SCV Wreath – Lady Sharon Red, Confederate Widow

Presentation of K & L of GC Wreath – Lady Linda Halemeyer

Presentation of UDC Wreath – Lady Sheri Horton, UDC

Presentation of Wreath – Alton Boy Scout Troop #16

Spreading of Southern Soils

“Amazing Grace” – 1st Verse

Musket Salute of Honor – SCV Honor Guard

Taps – Alton Boy Scout Troop #16

Benediction – Compatriot Gale F. Red, Adjutant



Salute to the Confederate Flag

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



Dixie

I wish I was in the land of cotton,
Old times there are not forgotten,
Look away, look away, look away Dixie Land,

In Dixie Land where I was born,
Early on a frosty mornin',
Look away, look away, look away Dixie Land,

Then I wish I was in Dixie – Hooray, Hooray!
In Dixie Land I'll take my stand
To live and die in Dixie,

Chorus

Away, Away, Away down South in Dixie,
Away, Away, Away down South in Dixie.

* Everyone is invited to go to the Alton Belle for buffet lunch.