

*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 like 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 sword;  
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

**Annual Confederate Memorial  
North Alton Confederate Cemetery**



**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Monument**

**Presented by the Men & Women of the  
Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962  
Illinois Division, SCV  
June 12, 2010 – Alton, Illinois**

## Alton Confederate Memorial Program

*Music Prelude* – Compatriot Mark Morgan

*Welcome* – John F. Merritt, Commander Camp # 1962, SCV

*Invocation* – Compatriot Johnny Kicklighter

*Pledge of Allegiance* – Compatriot Kevin Duffy

*Salute to the Confederate Flag* – Compatriot Billy Altman

*Poem* – Linda Halemeyer, UDC

*Remarks* – Compatriot Earl Armstrong

*Memorial Remarks:* - John F. Merritt, Commander

*“Dixie”* – Led by Compatriot Mark Morgan

### Presentation of Honors

*Presentation of Draped Sword* – Compatriot Bill Beasley

*Presentation of Battle Flag to Widow* – John F. Merritt, Commander

*Presentation of Widow’s Single Rose* – Janice Beasley, Confederate Widow

*Presentation of Family Bouquet* – Catherine Merritt, Confederate Widow

*Presentation of Evergreens* – Compatriot Jacob Kicklighter

*Presentation of Wreaths* – Compatriot Earl Armstrong

*Presentation of UDC Wreath* – Sheri Horton, UDC

*Presentation of SCV Cross* – Sharon Red, Confederate Widow,  
escorted by Compatriot Kevin Duffy

*Spreading of Southern Soils*

*“Amazing Grace”* – 1<sup>st</sup> Verse led by Compatriot Mark Morgan

*Musket Salute of Honor* – Honor Guard

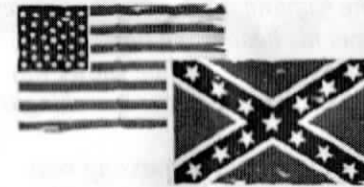
*Taps*

*Benediction* - - Johnny Kicklighter

\* Everyone is invited to have lunch with us at  
Mac’s in downtown Alton after the Memorial.

## Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States, and  
to the republic for which it stands, one nation under  
God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



## 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.

Away, Away, Away down south in Dixie,  
Away, Away, Away down south in Dixie.