

The Dixon Blue Light News

Camp Motto- "Deo adjuvanti non timindin"

Meaning: With God's help, we must not fear.

The Voice of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV

May 3, 2010 Edition website: scvcamp1962.org

Editor: Gale F. Red, 5 Hunters Pt., O'Fallon, IL 62269-3133

Telephone # 618-622-8949, E-mail: galered@yahoo.com



Sons of Confederate Veterans



7 New Camp Members ...
See story on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE:

Congratulations
to John Jeffers – new
Illinois Division
Commander...
See story on page 4



100th Anniversary of Alton
Confederate Monument...
See story page 8

**Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962
Confederate Memorial Day Observance at the
North Alton Confederate Cemetery
Saturday, 15 May 2010 at 11 AM
Please plan to come to help us
honor all our CSA veterans.**



Lest we
forget...



In This Issue:

Next Meeting.....	pg 1
Mark's Musings.....	pg 2 - 3
May Birthdays.....	pg 3
Calendar of Events.....	pg 3
Illinois Division News.....	pg 4
New Member News.....	pg 4
People News.....	pg 5
Poem Confederate Memorial Day	pg 5
Meeting Minutes.....	pg 6
Squad East Mtg. Minutes...	pg 7
Confederate Monument in Alton.....	pg 8

Program for May 6, 2010

Our May 6th program will feature a presentation by our own speaker extraordinaire and former Vicksburg National Park Ranger, Mark Morgan. He will present a discussion of the Battle for Little Rock, Arkansas. Come, learn, and enjoy!



Next meeting – May 6, 2010

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday evening May 6, 2010. The meeting will be held at the SWIC Senior Citizen Center on the corner of East B and North Church Streets, in Belleville. Parking is available immediately across the street from the building. The building is located at 201 North Church, just three blocks east of North Illinois on East B. To get to the auditorium where we will have the meeting, ask the gentleman at the desk what room we are in. If you have any questions, call **Gale Red** for directions at 618-622-8949.

Mark's Musings - by Compatriot Mark Morgan



Compatriots and friends of the camp—

Oh, here we go. For those of you who didn't hear or read about it elsewhere, the first week of April the proverbial "first shot" let fly over the coming sesquicentennial of the War Between the States. No, this one didn't take place in Charleston, S.C., although controversy continues there over the flying of the Confederate battle flag over the Confederate monument on the statehouse grounds (and rumors of a boycott continue, but I digress).

No, this fracas erupted in Virginia after the newly elected Gov Robert F. McDonnell formally designated April as "Confederate History Month" in the Old Dominion. In doing so he continued a practice started by Republican Governor George Allen in 1997 but suspended by the last two Democrat governors of Virginia, Mark Warner and xxx Kaine. However – at least initially – Governor McDonnell left out any reference to slavery. And with that, several groups erupted in indignation.

According to an article in the *Washington Post*, the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus and the NAACP immediately condemned the governor for his oversight (and apparently, to a major extent, for declaring a Confederate history month). Former governor Doug Wilder called it "'mind-boggling to say the least' that McDonnell did not include any reference to slavery or Virginia's struggle with civil rights in his proclamation."

"Confederate history is full of many things that unfortunately are not put forth in a proclamation of this kind, nor are they things that anyone wants to celebrate," Wilder continued. "It's one thing to sound a cause of rallying a base. But it's quite another to distort history."

Delegate Kenneth Alexander (D-Norfolk), chairman of the Caucus, was a tad more blunt: "Governor McDonnell's proclamation was offensive and offered a disturbing revision of the Civil War and the brutal era that followed...Virginia has worked hard to move beyond the very things for which Governor McDonnell seems nostalgic."

McDonnell immediately apologized, saying his lack of mention of slavery was "a major omission." He added "The abomination of slavery divided our nation, deprived people of their God-given unalienable rights, and led to the Civil War."

I'd argue the last point, have in the past, and will continue to politely disagree with those who state that the War was strictly fought to free the slaves. Abolition was a contributing factor and, following Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, became the North's official reason for the war. As we all know, the issues were much more involved and more complicated than that pat summation and included economics, trade and state's rights. However, to his credit, McDonnell's proclamation included the following:

"WHEREAS, all Virginians can appreciate the fact that when ultimately overwhelmed by the insurmountable numbers and resources of the Union Army, the surviving, imprisoned and injured Confederate soldiers gave their word and allegiance to the United States of America, and returned to their homes and families to rebuild their communities in peace, following the instruction of General Robert E. Lee of Virginia, who wrote that, '...all should unite in honest efforts to obliterate the effects of war and to restore the blessings of peace.'

But wait, there's more...on 11 April, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour – a modern American hero if there ever was one, witnessed by his leadership of the state following Hurricane Katrina – threw his support behind Governor McDonnell. Barbour summed up the controversy in fine diplomatic, politically correct fashion, stating that controversy was "...trying to make a big deal out of something that doesn't amount to diddly."

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from the previous page)

“I don’t really see what to say about slavery,” the governor continued. “But anybody that thinks that you have to explain to some people that slavery is a bad thing, I think that goes without saying.”

As could be expected, Governor Barbour also received immediate negative responses, including one by Derrick Johnson, president of the Mississippi NAACP.

“I think it’s unfortunate that the governor is so insensitive to the atrocities made against African-Americans in this country by the former Confederate States. As governor of a state with a higher percentage of African-Americans than any other, we would hope he would be more sensitive to them. We have always raised out opposition to any memorial day that would raise some type of positive light on the Confederacy that broke away from the United States.”

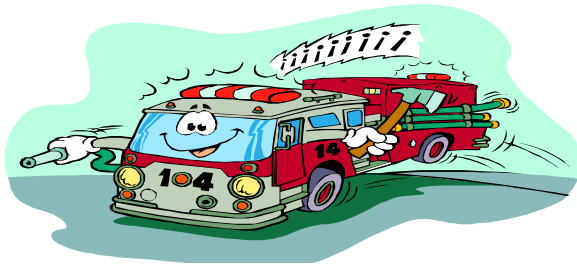
We’ve all agreed that slavery was an abomination, as was/is racism. But, when it comes to documenting and honoring our forbearers, keep that last comment in mind, for that is the mindset that we are truly facing.

Lest you have any doubt, any positive mention of the Confederate States of America; of Confederate leaders such as Davis, Lee, Jackson, Longstreet, etc; or of our valiant ancestors who answered the call to defend their states, their towns, their homes and their families will result in attacks. As we proceed into the 150th anniversary commemorations and events, the attacks will undoubtedly increase. In our modern, PC nation, there is to be no positive mention of the Confederacy.

As we used to say when I was flying for the Navy, “Fight’s on.” See y’all at the next meeting.

Hold high the flag!

Confederately, Mark Morgan



We’re going to have to call the fire department to put out all the birthday fires this month....

May Birthdays –

Johnny Kicklighter – May 3

John D. Kicklighter – May 5

Don Dillon – May 10

Harvey Cash – May 18

Anthony Booth – May 22

Chris Johnston – May 22

Joshua Paddock – May 26

John Barnhill – May 27

Billy Altman – May 28

Jerry Kirk – May 28

Pat Doran – May 31

Happy Birthday, Y’all....

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events



Thursday, May 6, 2010, Camp Meeting, SWIC Senior Center, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Saturday, May 15, 2010, Alton Confederate Memorial Program, No. Alton Confed. Cemetery, 11 - 12 PM

Monday, May 17, 2010, Squad East Meeting, Anthony’s Restaurant, Flora, 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 29, 2010, Mound City National Cemetery Memorial Day Observances 10 AM

Monday, May 31, 2010, Jefferson Barrack National Cemetery Memorial Day Observances 9:30 AM

Thursday, June 3, 2010, Camp Meeting, SWIC Senior Center, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Thursday, July 1, 2010, Camp Meeting, SWIC Senior Center, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Monday, June 21, 2010, Squad East Meeting, Anthony’s Restaurant, Flora, 6:30 PM



Illinois Division News

Chicago: 24 April 2010

Members of the Illinois Division met in Chicago for the annual state convention. It was the farewell for Commander James F. Barr who has served for the past four years, turning over the reigns to John Jeffers who was elected to become the new Division Commander. Dennis Ash, Commander of the John Kempshall Camp of Maora was elected 1Lt. Commander. Compatriot James Barr agreed to take on the duties of Division Adjutant. Other appointments were: Steven Quick – Heritage Preservation/Historian, Bobby Samuel – Chaplain, Recruiting Officer/Aide de Camp – Mike Triplett, Genealogist – Gale Red, Webmaster – and Newsletter Editor – Jacob Lake, Sergeant-at-Arms – Michael Pierpoint, and Division Matron of Honor – Chelle Triplett.

It was also announced that the Division would be divided into two Brigades with Commander Jacob Lake of the Rock Island Camp becoming Commander of the Northern Brigade and Gale Red becoming Commander of the Southern Brigade. A major push will be forthcoming to regenerate the existing camps and form several new camps in the state. The Illinois Division will be coming into a new age. Commander John Jeffers has asked that everyone join with him in a major recommitment to our camps, the division, and the SCV.

Let us all march forward with pride and new direction.

Our thanks go to Past Commander James Barr for his four years of service. And, our congratulations go John Jeffers as he takes over the leadership of the Illinois Division.

For other details of the Illinois Division Convention, visit the Division website at:

<http://www.ill-div-scv.org>

Seven New Members to Join the Dixon Camp



We want to extend a very special welcome to all of our brand new members that have just joined the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962. We are very proud to welcome three new members to our Squad East, namely Mike Rinehart and Robert Marley, both of Flora, Illinois. We also welcome C.F. Marley, Robert Marley's father, from Nokomis, Illinois. Mike will probably be sworn in at the May 17th meeting, and the Marley men during the June 21st meeting.



Left: Bob Marley

Right: C.F. Marley



Right:

Mike
Rinehart



We also welcome three new members to our camp who live out of state. They are: Chris Boyle from Rapid City, South Dakota, Ronnie Ottinger from Newport, Tennessee, and Phillip Hannan from Silver Springs, Maryland. We hope to have pictures of these gentlemen soon to share with you.

And finally, we are very proud to let you know that Dwight Moore from Mascoutah, Illinois has finally found a Confederate ancestor at long last and will be joining the SCV and our camp.

We look forward to having all these men as part of our camp and getting to know them.

People News from the Camp

Judy Starek was alive and doing better (thank you) after having a very rough springtime. We are grateful she is feeling better.

Brett Warner has decided (on his own accord and against the advice of friends) to re-invest his worldly assets with the local physicians as they continue to practice their crafts on his body. Unfortunately, Brett is not having fun and needs all of our prayers still.

Ryan Warner, our intrepid out-of-the-area Air Force Historian, is enjoying life in the remote reaches of South Dakota. His dad reports that he has become a part-time badge-carrying cop. Guess it is in his blood. We miss him and pray for his safety.

David Hammer, our proverbial phantom, was last seen at this past weekend's gun-show. He is enjoying his retired life more and looks much more rested than he has in a LONG time. He is still very involved with the Boy Scouts and catching up on long overdue home repairs. We hope to see him soon.

Janice Beasley is out of town for a two-week tour of France. We wish her a great trip and a safe return.

Roger Heinrich & his lovely bride **Carole** are still up in western Washington State supposedly for work. However, the rumor is that all they are doing is sight-seeing and bumming around. They say they will be back mid-June. Don't believe it until you see the whites of their eyes.

Mark Morgan, our globe trotting other Air Force Historian, has just returned from another tough temporary duty trip to Little Rock, Arkansas. It may prove beneficial for us that he went this time as he was able to visit first-hand several battlefields in the area for material for his presentation at the May 6th meeting. His father-in-law, Don, is in the hospital recuperating from blood-clots in his lungs.

Gale Red will be traveling to Phoenix on May 25th to witness the graduation from high school of his granddaughter, Sarah Benjamin. She will be graduating with honors and plans on starting college classes right away in June. Gale will return in time for the June camp meeting.

Scott Baker, our camp member STUCK in Hawaii, reported that he finally started his college classes and is finding it more difficult than he thought it would be. He also reported that he and his wife, Julie, are pregnant.

For all these we know and for those we are not aware of yet, we pray. If you know of something happening with any of our camp family, please let the editor know so we can share it.



A Poem for Confederate Memorial Day

The Southern Dead are Sleeping

The Southern dead are sleeping
In a thousand Southern glens;
The moss and willows beckon
With the breath of Southern winds.

Though the blood-stained cross of St. Andrew
Is tattered now and furled,
They bore it high on every field
And o'er every ocean of the world.

It wasn't through their failing,
That the gleaming turned to rust,
And the dreaming of a Nation
Is enshrined within their dust.

Some would have their deeds forgot,
Their monuments swept away,
But while Southern blood flows in our
veins,
Those knaves shall never see the day.

Teach your children of their story,
Of battles, lost and won;
They must keep memory's light a'burnin'
Till Southern rivers cease to run.

The Southern dead are sleeping.

by Sgt. Benjamin R. Gormley, 1988

Camp Meeting Minutes from March 4, 2010:

Sergeant-at-Arms, Billy Altman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and Commander Merritt welcomed all members and guests. Chaplain Johnny Kicklighter provided the opening prayer, and Billy Altman led the honor guard in the posting of the colors, the pledge and the salute. The roll call found the following people present: John Merritt, Kevin Duffy, Gale Red, Harris Young, Terry Young, Harold Knudsen, Janice & Bill Beasley, Billy Altman, Dale Rice, Kirk Dermint, Earl Armstrong, Joe & Judy Starek, Gene Smith, Alan Wandling, Johnny Kicklighter, John Kicklighter, Ron Doran, Tom Sheeler, Walter Hall, Bill Boyd, Doug & Betty Lawrence, Dennis Headlee, Vernon DeSelms, and Jessie Hall. The Minutes were accepted as presented in the last newsletter. The financial report was accepted as presented. Under "Communications", Gale Red reported that Scott Baker and his wife Julie are now pregnant and expecting a baby. He also read an invitation to the Fee Fee Cemetery in Bridgeton, Missouri on April 25th for a Confederate Memorial Day Observance. Under "Old Business" Commander John Merritt called upon Kirk Dermint of the Sons of Union Veterans Camp to talk about the success of the Blue & Gray Fund-Raising Breakfast at Applebee's Restaurant on March 13th. Along with reports from several members who were there, the news was all good; everyone had a wonderful time, the customers all seemed satisfied, and a very nice check was presented to the camp for all the efforts of everyone who helped out. We hope this will become an annual joint event. Billy Altman then reported on the gun-show recruiting table. He thanked all who helped out. It is always a good time and gets us out to meet the public. We just need some new people to help out who may not have been able to do it before. Under "New Business", Commander Merritt talked about plans for our participation in three community homecomings (Mascoutah, Freeburg, and Smithton). Billy Altman has found a generous donor to lend us a wagon to use as a float to be pulled by John Kicklighter's truck. These are always fun events, and we have always been well-received by the public. We hope everyone will plan on being with us. Following a short break for refreshments furnished by Lois and Harris Young, we reassembled for a great presentation by our good friend Lt. Col. Harold Knudsen, US Army, on General Longstreet, the New-Century Military War-Fighter. He discussed aspects of his training and background as well as detailing battlefield artillery employment used so effectively by General Longstreet in several battles. Harold's professional military training as an artillery commander and tactician were evident. His personal experience and extensive knowledge of both General Longstreet and leaders from other wars led to an enlightening and interesting presentation. The program was very well received and appreciated. Following the program, Chaplain Johnny Kicklighter gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned for the evening.



John Merritt presents a certificate of appreciation to Commander Kirk Dermint of the SUVCW Camp for their wonderful cooperation and support at the breakfast.



Left: John Merritt presents a certificate of appreciation to Bill Jacobus of the SUV Camp for his efforts at the Blue & Gray Breakfast. The certificate was presented at the SUVCV meeting on 7 April.



Gale Red presents a program on "Sam Davis- Confederate Hero" to the Sterling Price Camp on 13 April in Creve Coeur, MO.

MINUTES of April 19, 2010, meeting of the Squad East George E. Dixon Camp #1962

The April 19, 2010 meeting was called to order by Sgt. Marcus Booth at 6:30pm at Anthony's Wild West Restaurant in Flora, IL. Roll was taken with the following members and guests present:

Members: Walter Hall, Bob Herr, Marcus P. Booth (Squad Leader), Sam Booth (Chaplain), Dr. Vernon DeSelms (KGC), Adj. Gale Red, Dennis Headlee, Dr. Robert Marley (prospect, application approved), Mike Rinehart (prospect, application approved),
Guest:- Ms. Janice Folsom (Historian, Kinmundy, IL)

After Roll was taken, the invocation and blessing was offered by Chaplain Sam Booth. Members and guests said the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Confederate Flag. The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and approved.

Old Business

There was ongoing discussion regarding the 3 Memorial Services scheduled during May of this year. These services include locations near Mound City, Jefferson Barracks, and Alton. Squad East determined to make the Alton service a (maximum effort) event and any member able to attend should contact Dennis Headlee regarding transportation.

The recruiting Press Release has been published in the Clay County Advocate Press and will run 3 times, at 2-week intervals. At present, there have been no responses or inquiries regarding the Press Release. It was suggested that prior to our next Release, that a decorative border and perhaps other graphics should be added to give the ad a bolder (eye-catching) appearance when arrayed among other classifieds.

New Business

After some discussion, it was agreed that our next newspaper ad will be published in Effingham County. This is consistent with our on-going plan to publicize our recruiting in the area surrounding Clay County.

Presentation

The evening's presentation was given by Compatriot Bob Herr, the topic being the Southern Claims Commission. Compatriot Herr's program, using handouts, was very informative and covered a little known subject in our history. Of further interest, Compatriot Herr shared documentation regarding an ancestor and the processes required in submitting such a claim. Our compliments to Compatriot Herr for a fine presentation.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2010, with a presentation by Adj. Gale Red; the topic being Galvanized Yankees.

There being no further business before the Squad, Chaplain Sam Booth gave the benediction. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis K. Headlee
Your Obedient Servant

The following article was transcribed from "History of Madison County" pgs. 322-3. It is interesting to note the change in the economy from then to now.

Confederate Monument at Alton

A Military prison was located in Alton during the war on the old penitentiary grounds. Several thousand prisoners were incarcerated therein during the four years of strife and some fifteen hundred died during that period and are buried in a cemetery set apart for that purpose. For many years after the war the cemetery was neglected and the slabs which marked the graves rotted down or were carried away by vandals and used for fuel, and the identity of those buried there was thereby lost. Some seven years ago Congress passed an act providing markers for the graves of the Confederates who died in northern prisons, but in this case the disappearance of the original slabs made identification practically impossible, so the Sam Davis Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, located here, petitioned the war department to appropriate the sum permanent markers would have cost to the erection of a monument in the center of the grounds upon which the names of all the soldiers there buried should appear. The petition was granted, the government purchased and improved the site and surrounded it with a substantial iron fence, and the contract for the monument was let. The work was completed in September 1909. The memorial is a lofty granite column, some forty feet high. On the sides of the base are large bronze plates on which are engraved the names, companies and respective regiments of all the Confederates buried in the cemetery. It is a splendid specimen of artistic workmanship, a fitting memorial to brave, though, from the Union standpoint, mis-guided men, and also a tribute to the magnanimity of the government. The inscriptions on the monument, in addition to the names, are as follows"

"Erected by the United States to Mark the Burial Place of 1,354 Confederate Soldiers who died here and at the Small Pox Hospital on Adjacent Island, while Prisoners of War, and whose remains cannot be Identified."

The monument cost \$5,000 and the government pays \$60 annually for the care of the grounds.

The Alton chapter of the organization, known as the Daughters of the Confederacy, was established some seven years ago. It was named after a brave young southerner who, captured within the federal lines, refused to reveal certain information he was known to possess and suffered the fate which the rules of war demands in such cases. The original officers were: Mrs. John N. Drummond, honorary president, a position she held during her lifetime. President Mrs. Pauline Collins; Vice President, Mrs. G.G. Grommett; Secretary, Mrs. S.H. Gregory, Treasurer, Mrs. Scott Cunningham; Custodian of Cemetery, Mrs. Harry Base, succeeded by Mrs. Daniel Miller. Mrs. Collins is still President at this writing.

The handsome entrance to the grounds, which lie in the northern section of the city, was erected by the Sam Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, at a cost of \$700. It consists of two gracefully curved archways of stone between the pillars of which are swung massive iron gates. On one of the pillars is a tablet inscribed: "Erected in memory of the Confederates who Died in Alton Prison 1862-65, by the U.D.C. through efforts of the Sam Davis Chapter, in the years 1910."

On the opposite pillar is inscribed:

Soldier, rest, thy warfare o'er;
Sleep the sleep that knows no waking;
Dream of battlefields no more,
Days of danger, nights of waking."

* It should be here noted by the editor that there were, in fact, at least another 290 names that do not appear on the tablets on the base of the monument. There were quite a number of other Confederate soldiers, Union soldiers, civilians, and even several women buried there also whose names should be noted but are not. The exact number of Confederates who perished at the Alton Prison or on Small Pox Island will never be known for sure as the records are at best incomplete. There is another monument erected nearly eight years ago now that recognizes many of the men who died on Small Pox Island and whose graves were lost to the Mississippi River. The North Alton Confederate Cemetery is one of five official cemeteries in the state of Illinois. There are likely between 14,000 and 19,000 Confederates who perished at Alton, Camp Butler, Cairo/Mound City, Rock Island and Camp Douglas in Chicago. To date, almost 1,000 other Confederate veteran graves have been identified around Illinois in community, church and private family cemeteries in all but two counties of the state. The project continues to try to find and identify the graves of all Confederate veterans buried in Illinois and to learn all we can about each man. As long as we don't forget them, there are not truly lost to the ages. Remember them always; make every day a Memorial Day.