

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

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In These Days of Thanksgiving, Let Us All Pray...

A CONFEDERATE SOLDIER'S PRAYER

Author Unknown,

(Attributed to a battle weary C.S.A soldier near the end of the war)

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve;
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy;
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life;
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed.



Next meeting - November 3, 2011

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 November 3, 2011. 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.

Thursday's Presentation: One of our newest members, Compatriot John Fulton, will present a program on "geo-tracking" your Confederate family. John has developed a computer model with which to track both his Union and Confederate soldier ancestors showing where they were and what they were involved in. He will show it and explain how, if you want to do it yourselves, you can set up a similar program on your own family.

I think you will be fascinated as to how the visuals involved really help bring your families involvement more to life. Come and enjoy something very different.

COMMANDER'S DISPATCH - by Commander Mark Morgan

Compatriots and friends of the camp,

And we continue with our review of the events of 150 years ago. Generally, the month of November 1861 served as a repeat of October 1861, with several battles somewhat on the small side (of course, no battle is “small” when you’re one of the participants), some political moves and a few changes of command structure.

For starters, on 1 November 1861 Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan formally received the title of General-in-Chief of the United States Army, concurrent with the retirement of his predecessor, the legendary Lt Gen Winfield Scott. Notably, McClellan retained command of the Army of the Potomac despite his new duties, telling President Lincoln, “I can do it all.” Time would prove otherwise...

Out west in St Louis, another famous Union officer also faced relief. Maj. Gen. John C. Frémont, Commander, Department of the West, was relieved by direct order of President Lincoln. Following the Battle of Wilson’s Creek in August, Frémont came down hard on Missouri, imposing martial law, confiscating property owned by pro-Southern sympathizers and secessionists and freeing all slaves in the state.

The latter move provided the major sticking point with his commander-in-chief, as Lincoln suspected such an order by a Union senior officer would send several border states fully into the Confederacy. When Frémont refused to rescind the order, Lincoln replaced him with Maj. Gen. David Hunter. General Fremont protested mightily but in March 1862 accepted command of the Mountain Department (Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky). Later in 1862, Fremont went up against the still somewhat new commander of the Confederate Shenandoah Valley District: one Maj. Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson. Jackson received the command on 4 November 1861, with headquarters in Winchester, Virginia.

On 6 November, President Jefferson Davis dropped the “provisional” from his title, winning a six-year term as president of the Confederate States of America. Inauguration didn’t take place until 22 February 1862.

Meanwhile, out in the field...7-8 November brought three clashes between Southern and Northern forces. At Belmont, Missouri, Brig. Gen. U.S. Grant entered combat for the first time since the Mexican War, leading approximately 3000 Yankee troops against Confederates led by Brig. Gen. Gideon Pillow. Regret to say, the inexperienced Southerners initially broke and fled, leaving the Northerners to celebrate. While heading back to the Mississippi River with about 100 prisoners and two captured guns, they came under attack by Confederate reinforcements commanded by Col. Benjamin Cheatham while concurrently coming under fire from Southern artillery. Grant took a look at the situation, ordered his men back onto their boats and went up the Ohio River to Paducah. Both sides claimed the victory but probably the biggest, long-term outcome was this: Grant came to the attention of President Lincoln.

Elsewhere on the 7th of November, a Union amphibious operation on Port Royal Sound under Flag Officer Samuel DuPont captured Forts Walker and Fort Beauregard. Both fortifications suffered substantial damage; the Confederates, out of shot, shell and powder, evacuated Walker first, followed by the troops in Fort Beauregard across the sound. In one of the war’s early ironies, the brief fight marked the classic “brother against brother” situation: one of the Union warships Confederate commander Brig. Gen. Thomas F. Drayton faced was USS *Pocahontas*, commanded by his brother, Commander Percival Drayton.

Finally, on the 8th, another fracas in Kentucky, this time on Ivy Mountain in the southeastern portion of the states. The mountain battle was the culmination of a running fight between CSA Col. John Stuart Williams and Union Brig. Gen. William “Bull” Nelson. After spending time in Kentucky recruiting, Williams’ troops found themselves short of provisions and started heading for Virginia; Nelson sent soldiers in to run the Southerners to ground. However, the Confederates turned and ambushed Nelson’s pursuing force and a brief, nasty battle ensued. When a hard rain started falling, Williams completed his movement into Virginia and safety. Their departure allowed the North to consolidate its hold on the eastern part of the state.

The same day that the Confederates evacuated southeastern Kentucky, a major diplomatic storm came up at sea with lasting repercussions. On 7 November, east of Cuba, the frigate USS *San Jacinto* fired on and halted the British mail ship *Trent*. US Navy personnel then boarded the English ship and seized James M. Mason and John Slidell, Confederate government commissioners to England and France, respectively. The US Navy warship then – under the direct orders of Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles – proceeded to Boston and Mason and Slidell went into captivity at Fort Warren.

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While the Northern press hailed the high seas seizure of the two diplomats as a great victory for the North, the British understandably reacted with great outrage. For one thing, the two men were underway on sovereign Crown property (the *Trent*) and therefore under the care and protection of the Queen of England, Victoria. Secondly, hadn't the United States initiated a war with Great Britain in 1812 over the unlawful seizure of personnel from US ships by the Royal Navy?

"The Trent Affair" ended up severely testing the relationship between the two nations and almost precipitated another war, one the Union could not afford to fight what with the situation in the South. Great Britain increased troop levels in British Canada and started fortifying the border but both sides backed down. The US Government released Mason and Slidell to a British warship in January 1862 and they resumed their trip to Europe.

Other than a couple of other smallish battles, the rest of month primarily involved political moves in several locations. On 20 November, Kentucky's pro-Confederate elements of Kentucky's primarily Unionist government passed an ordinance of secession in Bowling Green. The Confederacy accepted Kentucky about three weeks later, on 10 December. Going in the opposite direction, on 26 November a West Virginia Constitutional Convention convened in Wheeling, Virginia, with the intent of separating from the Old Dominion. Finally, on 28 November 1861, the CSA accepted Missouri as its 12th State.

Tune in next month for more of the same and, as always, please make a point of showing up and participating in our regularly scheduled meeting for November. This month one of our own members will give a presentation on "geo-tracking" your Confederate ancestors; it should be different, it should be good and it'll definitely provide all with some useful tools in their search for family history.

Until then, hold high the flag!

Respectfully,

Respectfully, Mark Morgan, Cmdr.

Stephen Dill Lee



"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 those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

--- Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906.

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Events



Thursday, Nov 3, 2011, Dixon Camp Meeting, SWIC PSOP, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Monday, Nov. 21, 2011, Squad East Meeting at Anthony's Wild West Restaurant in Flora, 6:30 pm.

Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, Dixon Camp Meeting, SWIC PSOP, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Monday, Dec 19. 17, 2011, Squad East Meeting at Anthony's Wild West Restaurant in Flora, 6:30 pm.

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012, 10th Anniversary of the Chartering of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962

Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, Dixon Camp Meeting, SWIC PSOP, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Monday, Jan. 23, 2012, Squad East Meeting at Anthony's Wild West Restaurant in Flora, 6:30 pm.

Saturday Jan. 28, 2012, Lee/Jackson Dinner & Ball at Belle Clair Fairgrounds, Belleville, 6-10:30 pm.



Y'all have a Happy Dixie Birthday!

November Birthdays

Pat Booth – 1 Nov

Gene Smith – 3 Nov

Janice Beasley – 4 Nov

Frank Sheeler – 8 Nov

Harris Young – 9 Nov

Don Carnley -11 Nov

Dale Halemeyer – 13 Nov

Alan Sisson – 26 Nov



Col. Hecker Camp #443, SUVCW, To Hold Annual Encampment Dinner

My friends who wear another color,

It's time again for our annual encampment dinner and the members of the Dixon Camp are cordially invited.

It will be at Fischer's Restaurant in the Belleville Room, not the same as last year (No revival next door).

The menu will be the same and this year I have added period music from a D.J., so there will be dancing if you choose.

The guest speaker is Walter Hall (Dixon Camp) on military intelligence in the Civil War. The price is the same as last year, \$24.00 per person. It will take place: Saturday November 19th 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

A formal invitation will follow. Pass the word

Minutes of the 6 October 2011 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly Muster at 1830 hours on 6 October 2011 at the SWIC PSOP Center, 201 North Church Street, Belleville, IL, this being the 9th Muster of the year 2011. **CALL TO ORDER:** Camp 1Lt Cmdr. Billy Altman called the meeting to order, and introduced Commander Mark Morgan. **COMMANDER'S WELCOME:** Cmdr. Morgan welcomed the Camp's members, friends, and welcomed back former commander John Merritt who has been away for eight months. **PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS:** The Colors were properly displayed and stationary in the room so no presentation ceremony was conducted; all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and the salute to the Confederate Flag. **INVOCATION:** Chaplain Johnny Kicklighter provided the invocation. **ROLL CALL:** Those present included: Mark Morgan, Billy & Helen Altman, Gale Red, Johnny Kicklighter, Robert Hardy, Earl Armstrong, John Merritt, Walter Hall, Jim Conn, Harris & Lois Young, Bill & Janice Beasley, Bill Boyd, Tom Sheeler, John Gideon, John Fulton, Gene Smith, Joe & Judy Starek, Ralph Oelschlager, Ron Lakin, Mike Mauer, Phil Tate, and guests Thomas Sory and Robert Cook. **INDUCTION:** Michael Mauer of Freeburg was sworn in by Adjutant Gale Red and welcomed by Commander Morgan as a new Knight of the Golden Circle.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The 1 Aug 2011 meeting minutes were previously published in The Dixon Blue Light News; therefore, reading was foregone. Two corrections were made, namely that Gale, Billy, Helen and Ron went to Rolla, Missouri vs. Raleigh, NC, and Billy's nephew is Zachary vs. Alex. A motion to accept corrected minutes was made by Earl Armstrong, was seconded by Walter Hall, and was approved by unanimous vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Adjutant Red reported a Treasury balance of \$2,079.77.

COMMUNICATIONS: Compatriot Johnny Kicklighter reported that he had received a letter from a school librarian thanking him as webmaster of our camp website for the outstanding assistance available on our website for people needing help in researching their Confederate ancestors. This is just one more testament to the quality of our website. We also received word that Compatriot John Merck who was injured in Iraq is continuing to make good progress, and hope to return home soon for continued treatments and rehabilitation.

OLD BUSINESS: Billy Altman reported on the rousing success and great fun had by camp members at the Victorian Days Festival over the Labor Day weekend in Jerseyville. He also reported on the success of the Harvest Days Festival at Highland. Great fun was had by all who were able to participate. Billy then reported on the results of the last of the year gun-show recruitment table on October 1st and 2nd at the Fairgrounds. The crowds were slim and we had few visitors to the table. We will be taking another look at our presentation for future recruiting efforts.

NEW BUSINESS: Mark Morgan told everyone about the upcoming election for Camp Officers to be held at the January 2012 meeting, and encouraged anyone desiring to run for one of the elected offices to put their names into consideration. Gale Red reported that the annual Lee-Jackson Dinner Ball will be held once more at the Belle Clair Fairgrounds in Belleville on Saturday evening the 28th of January 2012 from 6 to 10:30 pm. The cost will again be only \$25.00 per person. Gale then invited camp members to travel with him to Flora for the Squad East meeting on the 17th of October.

REFRESHMENTS: The refreshments were furnished by the Beasleys and Mark Morgan.

FORMAL PRESENTATION: Following a brief break for refreshments, we reassembled to listen to a very nice presentation on "Old Glory" by guest presenter Robert Cook. He presented a brief background to the flag of the United States, its history and meaning.

NEXT MEETING: 3 November 2011, 6:30 pm, same location.

BENEDICTION: Chaplain Johnny Kicklighter provided the benediction.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.



At right: Guest speaker Robert Cook as he talks about "Old Glory."

MINUTES, OCTOBER 17, 2011 - SQUAD EAST GEORGE E. DIXON CAMP #1962

The monthly meeting of Squad East was called order at 6:30 PM by squad leader Sgt. Marcus Pat Booth at the Anthony's Wild West Restaurant in Flora, Illinois. Sgt. Booth let the attendees in the pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Confederate Flag. The invocation was given by Chaplain Sam Booth. The attendance roll was taken with the following members and guests present: Sgt. Marcus P. Booth, Dr. Robert Marley, Harvey Cash, Dennis Headlee, Chaplain Sam Booth, Adj. Gale Red, Walter Hall, Dr. Vernon DeSelms, and Alex Booth (guest). After roll was taken the minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Old Business: Continue attempts at recruitment and scheduling of presentation for each month. Adj. Red recommends that we establish a goal for scheduling at least 6 months in advance.

New Business: Discussion considered whether to have a December meeting since the meeting date is so close to Christmas, Harvey Cash indicated that John Walsh of Dover, Tenn. is interested in doing a presentation at the December meeting. This remains to be confirmed.

It was decided, however, that we will at least have a Christmas dinner with spouses and friends on our scheduled Dec. 19th meeting date.

Program: The evening's program was given by Dr. Vernon DeSelms. The presentation "Fort Sumpter, the War Begins" covered events leading up to the beginning of the Civil War and the actions resulting in the surrender of Fort Sumpter to the Confederates. Dr. DeSelms supported his lecture with "power point" graphics. The program was of great interest, and was well-received by those in attendance.

Good job "Doc".

At the end of the presentation, the Benediction was given by Sam Booth. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Dennis Headlee



News About Our Members

An email received from **Lady Janice Beasley**:

Dear friends, I have not been answering or reading email for about a week because I have been pretty sick. I had a gall bladder attack and spent 5 days in the hospital because it caused pancreatitis. As soon as my pancreas recovers I will have the gall bladder surgery. Right now I am very worn out and can't walk from one end of the house to the other without having to rest. So, if I don't show up at meetings or shoots, you know that I want to be there but am not physically able. - Janice

We hope that you will keep Janice and her family in your prayers for her safe surgery and a very speedy recovery.

Former Camp Commander John Merritt has returned from exile in the far reaches of Charleston, South Carolina after an eight-month absence. Welcome home, John!

We were very much saddened to learn of the death of **Jeremy Samuel**, the son of **Bobby and Margaret Samuel** of the Pvt. Spince Blankenship Camp of Marion, IL on October 7th. Jeremy died of heart failure and was buried on October 10th. Our condolences were sent to Bobby and Margaret in their time of grieving. May God be with and comfort them now.

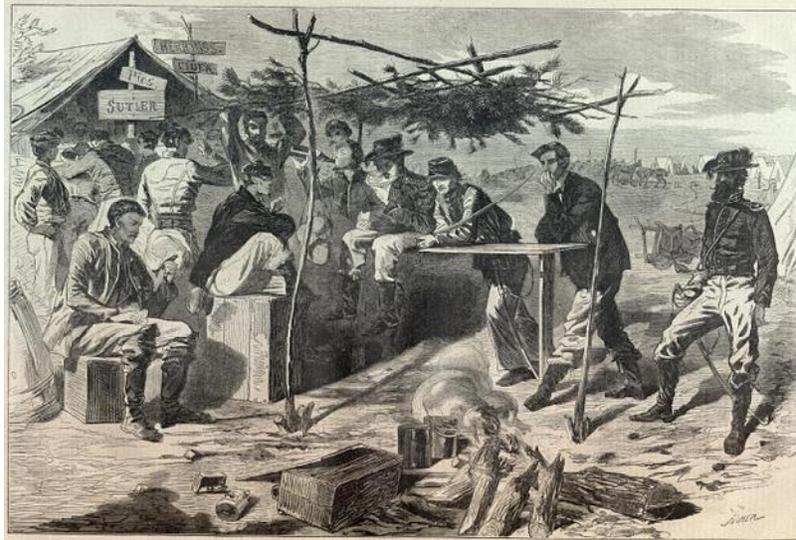
If you know about the health, well-being, or happenings with any of our members and want to share it with the rest of the camp, please forward a note to the editor, Gale Red.

Carterville, IL:

On Thursday, October 13th, Gale Red and Walter Hall made the trip to John A. Logan College in Southern Illinois to participate in their annual Civil War Days event. Each year the college puts on a day long program of speakers and presenters for area grade school and junior high school students on a variety of Civil War related topics. Period music, notable speakers, and re-enactors come together to pique the interest of the young people and try to hook their interest in that period of our nation's history. This is the fourth year that Gale and Walter have gone to fly the Southern colors on the John A. Logan College campus. It is always a wonderful opportunity to interact with the school kids and to be able to help teach them some true history from a Southern perspective of the War Between the States. This year they presented mini-lessons on the symbols of the South and the meaning of the Confederate flags. We look forward to returning there next October once more.



Have a Happy Confederate Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving in Camp - *Harper's Weekly* - November 29, 1862

During the Thanksgiving season we often hear that the first national Thanksgiving Proclamation was given by Abraham Lincoln in Washington, D.C. on October 3, 1863. What the northern history books fail to mention is that Lincoln, bowing to political pressure, copied the President of the Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis actually had made the first national Proclamation of Thanksgiving two years earlier in Richmond, Virginia. Here it is:

Proclamation of Thanksgiving, 1861 by President Jefferson Davis

WHEREAS, it hath pleased Almighty God, the Sovereign Disposer of events, to protect and defend us hitherto in our conflicts with our enemies as to be unto them a shield.

And whereas, with grateful thanks we recognize His hand and acknowledge that not unto us, but unto Him, belongeth the victory, and in humble dependence upon His almighty strength, and trusting in the justness of our purpose, we appeal to Him that He may set at naught the efforts of our enemies, and humble them to confusion and shame.

Now therefore, I, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, in view of impending conflict, do hereby set apart Friday, the 15th day of November, as a day of national humiliation and prayer, and do hereby invite the reverend clergy and the people of these Confederate States to repair on that day to their homes and usual places of public worship, and to implore blessing of Almighty God upon our people, that he may give us victory over our enemies, preserve our homes and altars from pollution, and secure to us the restoration of peace and prosperity.

Given under hand and seal of the Confederate States at Richmond, this the 31st day of October, year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty one.

By the President, JEFFERSON DAVIS

By the way, that was a full two years before Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving proclamation October 3, 1863.



**Annual General Robert E. Lee & General Stonewall Jackson
GRAND BALL**



**ON
Saturday, January 28, 2012
at the
Belle-Clair Fairgrounds in Belleville**

*The Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962
(Sons of Confederate Veterans)*

*cordially invites you to attend their Annual Grand Ball for an evening of
great music, good food, camaraderie, and dancing (including the Virginia Reel)*

6:00 P.M. Doors Open

6:30 P.M. Delicious Catered Buffet Dinner

- * Period Music by the Chris Talley Trio
- * Pay-As-You-Go Bar
- * Silent Auction
- * 50/50 Drawing

SUGGESTED ATTIRE: Period Uniform/Dress

COST (per person): \$25.00 (check payable to Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962)

Due January 14, 2012 (please, no refunds after this date)

POC: Adjutant Gale Red, 5 Hunters Pt., O'Fallon IL 62269-3133, Cell 618-622-8949 or 618-979-7853



Reservation Form for SCV Lee/Jackson Grand Ball, January 28, 2012

***** Make check payable to: Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962 *****

Due: January 14, 2012 (please, no refunds after this date)

Name (please print): _____

Name (please print): _____

Address (please print): _____

Number Attending: _____ @ \$25.00/person. Check for \$ _____ enclosed.

Mail to: Adjutant Gale Red

5 Hunters Pt.

O'Fallon IL 62269-3133