

Deo adjuvanti non timindin (With God's help, we need not fear)



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

www.scvcamp1962.org

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AUGUST 2024

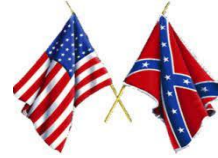


PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT MTG, 15 AUGUST

PRESENTATION: Confederate Chaplains

PRESENTER: Chaplain Mike Biekert

REFRESHMENTS: Chaplain Mike Biekert



CAMP MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and are, except as announced, held on the third Thursday evening of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the:

*Shiloh Assembly of God Church
4035 Lebanon Avenue
Shiloh, Illinois 62221*

We try to have an informative program with a speaker or film of interest at all meetings. Anyone with a Confederate ancestor or just having an interest in Civil War history is invited to attend.

Questions? Call John McKee, 618-491-9472

CAMP MISSION

The camp accepts its covenanted responsibility to maintain and preserve the Christian principles held by the Southern people that led them to their decision to defend the right of constitutional self-government. We strive to educate ourselves first and then the public to a fuller and more complete understanding of the true history of the period of the War Between the States. We seek to preserve the memory and honor of the noble Confederate soldiers, sailors, public servants, and loyal citizens.

CAMP MEMBERSHIP

is available to all male (12 years or older) descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate military. Direct or collateral kinship to a qualifying veteran or civil servant must be documented for full membership. We will help with genealogical assistance for documentation. For those who have not yet proven their kinship or just have an active interest in what we are doing, we offer camp membership through our auxiliary, The Knights and Ladies of the Golden Circle.

WE CARE! PLEASE CALL JOHN OR MIKE AND KEEP US NEWS-INFORMED ... if you or a family member is ill, has an emergency, health or family issue, a family death, or needs assistance. Adjutant John McKee, 618-491-9472 Chaplain Mike Biekert, 618-972-8190

Help Transcribe Military Pension Files from the Revolutionary War!

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence, the National Archives and the National Park Service are collaborating on a special project to transcribe Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service. These Revolutionary War Pension Files consist of applications and other records pertaining to claims for pensions and bounty land warrants. Click the link below for details.

<https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/missions/revolutionary-war-pension-files>

FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS: Greetings to our faithful and loyal members of the Lt. George E. Dixon SCV camp. The officers of your camp hope all is well with you and your families. It is an interesting fact that Thomas Jefferson and John Addams who were the last living signers of the Declaration of Independence both died on the exact same day. What is appalling today is how little knowledge of this document is translated in the schools of our land today. I recently saw a video on YouTube where the interviewer went to colleges in the USA and asked people if they knew what the 4th of July celebrated. Most students could not correctly respond to this simple elementary fact. During the Roman era of human history, it is interesting to look back in the annals of time and to find what the ancients thought about their greatest achievements were. With all of Rome's military conquests, her engineering feats and the combined legacy of law and art; the Romans themselves thought that what made Rome great was none of its achievements as such. Rather they believed that Rome's heroes to be the sole factor that had elevated Rome to greatness. We should reflect on the heroes of our nation and never forget the sacrifices they made for us.

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CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly muster at 6:30 p.m. on 18 July 2024, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL: this being the 7th Muster of the year.

1. Call to order – CC Stanton at 6:40 PM

2. Invocation – Chaplain Biekert

3. Pledge to U.S. Flag – CC Stanton

4. Salute to Confederate Flag – CC Stanton, followed by the camp singing “Dixie” led by Chaplain Biekert and Compatriot Steve Wilson.

5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting as Presented in the July 2024 Edition of The Blue Light News

Motion: S. Wilson; 2nd: P. Tate; = Passed

7. Treasurer’s report – I received payments for dues for three members, totaling \$95 in July, and the bills (\$779.45) from approved at the last meeting. The general account balance is \$5,209.01. The charitable account balance is \$220.99.

Motion: B. Herr; 2nd: S. Wilson; = Passed

8. Communications (messages from National, other camps, other organizations)

a. None

9. Reports

a. Standing Committees: None.

b. Special Committees

a. None

10. Old Business (items tabled at previous meetings to be discussed/voted)

a. Steve Wilson followed up on his email blast from the previous day regarding the Fort Davidson reenactment to be held September 28&29.

b. Steve Wilson also followed up on the presentation and refreshments sign-up lists. The Camp needs members to sign up for refreshments for September of this year, and February, March, April, June, July, August, September, October, and December in 2025. Presenters are needed for any month in 2025.

11. New Business (items presented for the first time to be discussed/voted)

a. None

12. Announcements (sharing of information from members)

a. None.



GROUP PHOTO

(L-R)

Back row: Phil Tate, JC Gideon, , Mike Biekert, Dale Rice, John Stanton

Front row: John & Jane McKee, Randall Cheatham, Robert Herr, Steve Wilson, Janice Beasley

14. Blessing by Chaplain Biekert

15. Refreshments by Compatriot Jim Lumma.

16. Program: Compatriot Randall Cheatham gave a presentation on his ancestor MG Benjamin F. Cheatham.

17. Next Meeting: 15 August 2024 / Refreshments & Program by Chaplain Biekert on Confederate Chaplains

18. Benediction by Chaplain Biekert / 19.Adjournment at 8:30 PM



Major General Benjamin Franklin Cheatham

Chaplain Randall L. Cheatham shared with the Camp an account of the life of his ancestor, General Cheatham, who was born in Nashville, TN, in 1820, growing up on the family's plantation. When the Mexican War broke out in 1846, he volunteered with other Tennesseans to serve in Mexico. He also served alongside Ulysses S. Grant; this encounter would prove to be the first among several.

He was in California when the nation slipped into Civil War. He applied for and was commissioned as a brigade commander under Major General Leonidis Polk in Pillow's division. His first action was leading a counterattack against his former comrade, then-Brigadier General Grant at the Battle of Belmont. As he was crossing the river with his troops on a steamboat, he charged his horse from the deck to the shore, urging his troops to charge into battle. The result was to drive the Union forces from the field. Grant and Cheatham met later that night to discuss the exchange of prisoners and the burial of the dead.

Cheatham would continue to serve, rising to the rank of Major General. He would lead his troops at Shiloh, Perryville, Stones River, Chickamauga, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Franklin, and Nashville. As part of the Army of Tennessee, he would lead the remnants of his troops to North Carolina, surrendering his division at the Bennett Farm under General Johnston's command.

Returning to Tennessee after the war, he took up farming. In 1866, he asked his friend and chaplain, Charles Todd Quintard, to baptize him and to officiate at his marriage to Anna Bell Robertson. They had five children.

He made an unsuccessful attempt for the U.S. Senate, then became the director of state prisons and later as postmaster. He died on September 4, 1886. His last words were "There go the troops, bring me my horse. I am going to the front."

CONFEDERATE GENERAL

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

CHEATHAM



Born on October 20, 1820 near Nashville, Tennessee, "Frank" was one of eleven children. As a youth he enjoyed fishing, boating, and swimming. During one excursion, a slave companion faltered in deep water and young Frank unhesitatingly jumped in and rescued his young friend.

2

When the Mexican War broke out in May of 1846, Frank was among the 30,000 Tennessee "Volunteers" to answer the governor's call for 2,800 troops.

During that war Frank served with another future, and well known, Civil War General, Ulysses S. Grant.

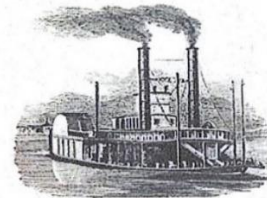


They were destined to meet again at the Battle of Belmont in November of 1861 on the Mississippi River across from Columbus, KY at a small riverboat landing at Belmont, MO.

3

The Confederate troops were garrisoned at Belmont when Grant and his 3,000 troops moved on the camp.

The Confederates across the river hastened to reinforce their comrades on the other shore. Cheatham and his men were ferried across aboard the steamboat *Prince*.



After the battle, Cheatham and Grant met on one of Grant's boats over drinks to arrange prisoner exchange and the burial of the dead. It seems at that point it was still a gentlemen's war.

But of course, that was all about to change.

In 1886, on September 4, Benjamin Franklin Cheatham passed away. As with other of his Civil War contemporaries during his final hours he returned to his time on the battlefield and he was widely quoted as saying, "There go the troops, bring me my horse. I am going to the front."



For group presentations:

Contact

Chaplain

Randall L. Cheatham

at:

chaplain10th@yahoo.com

Or

618-641-8536

After engagements at Shiloh, Perryville, Stones River, Chickamauga, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Franklin, Nashville, Cheatham was finally with General Joe Johnston at Bennett Place near Durham, North Carolina, for the largest surrender of Confederate troops of the war, which in essence ended the Confederate States of America.



When Union General William Tecumseh Sherman met with Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston to discuss terms of surrender, General Cheatham and his division of Tennesseans were there.



Frank Cheatham

Cheatham's men were recognized as a hard-hitting combat unit by both Confederate and Union observers.



General Sherman



General Johnston

After the war Cheatham returned to Nashville and made an unsuccessful run for Senator from Tennessee, served as director of prisons and postmaster for the state of Tennessee.

In 1866 he asked his wartime friend and chaplain Charles Todd Quintard to baptize him, and two months later the chaplain officiated at Cheatham's wedding to Anna Bell Robertson. Their marriage produced five children.



Explosion at City Point, Virginia



City Point After Explosion of Ordnance Barges

of shot, shell, bullets, pieces of wood, iron bars and bolts, chains and missiles of every kind was never before witnessed."

Examination of the wreckage revealed that a barge loaded with ammunition had exploded, detonating 30,000 artillery shells and 75,000 rounds of small arms ammunition. Unknown numbers of contraband men who were not working at the time but near the dock were never accounted for and the Post Office and Adams Express Office were blown to bits leaving mail scattered in with the debris. The wharf was almost destroyed, and the damage was put at \$2 million.

After the war, it was discovered that the massive explosion thought to be an accident had been an act of sabotage by the Confederates. Confederate Secret Service agent John Maxwell had smuggled a time bomb aboard the ammunition barge. Maxwell used a clockwork mechanism to ignite 12 pounds of gunpowder packed into a box marked "candles." He called it his "horological torpedo." (Horological referring to time keeping; torpedo was a term used in the Civil War a wide variety of bombs and booby traps.) Although sabotage was not yet affirmed, the ammunition supply wharf was rebuilt to a much higher degree of security. (Courtesy of Blue Gray.org)



Drawing of the Explosion of the Barge

On the 9th of August 1864, the quiet of noon at City Point near Richmond, was shattered by a deafening roar. Shot and shell were hurled high in the air. Fragments fell around the headquarters of General Grant. A barge laden with ordinance stores had blown up, killing, and wounding some 250 employes and soldiers, throwing down over some 600 feet of warehouses, and tearing up to 180 feet of wharf. This view was taken the next day.

On August 9, 1864, a tremendous explosion shook the city. General Grant reported, "Every part of the yard used as my headquarters is filled with splinters and fragments of shell," and a staff officer wrote, "Such a rain



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

2 Labor Day
8 Nativity of Mary
13 Friday the 13th
15 POW/MIA Recognition Day
17 Constitution Day
19 **6:30 CAMP MEETING**
22 Autumnal Equinox

OCTOBER

9 Columbus Day
11 General Pulaski Memorial Day
14 Columbus Day
18 Alaska Day
17 **6:30 CAMP MEETING**
27 Navy Day
31 Reformation Day

NOVEMBER

3 Daylight Saving Time Ends
5 Election Day
11 Veterans Day
21 **6:30 CAMP MEETING**
28 Thanksgiving
29 Black Friday
30 St. Andrew's Day



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 July Belated: Sharon Red, (O'Fallon, IL)
6 John Massey (Harvest, AL)
19 Jason Ziebold (O'Fallon, IL)
23 Chris Kicklighter (Smithton, IL)
28 Mark Morgan (Ballwin, MO)
31 Bob Herr (Mt. Vernon, IL)



CAMP DIXON STAFF

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