

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

THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS



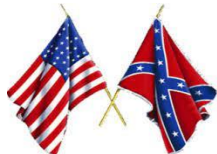
Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962
Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)

www.scvcamp1962.org

Editor: Johnny Kicklighter Email: Johnnywick@gmail.com



FEBRUARY 2024

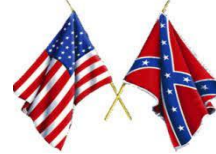


PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT MTG, 15 FEBRUARY

PRESENTATION: TBD

PRESENTER: Gale Red

REFRESHMENTS: 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

Lest We Forget

KEVIN DUFFY

January 6, 1940-October 15, 2010

PAT DORAN

May 31, 1939-September 7, 2011

BRETT WARNER

September 29, 1960-March 21, 2012

JAMES BENEDICT

July 18, 1947-October 27, 2012

RON DORAN

July 14, 1940-March 24, 2015

BILL BEASLEY

December 4, 1942-April 17, 2015

C. F. MARLEY

April 9, 1921-February 17, 2016

JOE LOPER

June 6, 1941-March 18, 2016

VERNON DeSELMS

October 9, 1941-August 14, 201



JARRIS YOUNG

November 9, 1924-September 29, 2017

RONNIE OTTINGER

August 3, 1951-November 8, 2018

SAM BOOTH

December 28, 1942-February 24, 2019

BOB HARDY

July 18, 1928-June 15, 2019

GREG KRIEG

October 2, 1946-September 11, 2020

WELLINGTON "HAM" LEMMER

February 17, 1947-February 17, 2021

MARCUS PATTON "PAT" BOOTH

November 1, 1941-February 5, 2022

JOHN BOSTON MASSEY

August 6, 1947-December 1, 2022

JIM CONN

October 4, 1953-March 17, 2023

GORDON HAYES

September 7, 1938-July 4, 2023

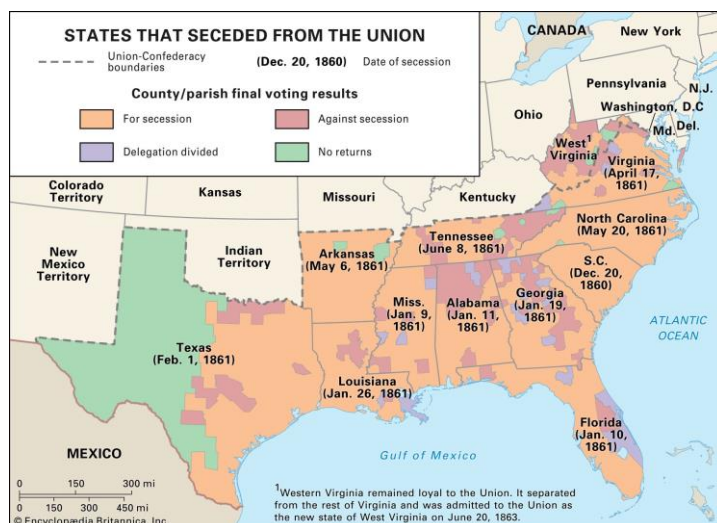
TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Meeting Minutes-----	2
General Longstreet-----	3
Painted Canteens-----	4
Calendar of Events ~ Birthdays ~ Camp Dixon Staff-----	6

FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS: Greetings to all loyal and faithful members of the Lt. George E. Dixon SCV camp. We are hoping for a well-attended meeting this month and hope all is well with you and your families. The recent cold spell has been a wake-up call as to long past winters. Many of us have been under the weather but keep a stiff upper lip and carry on. Bring with you to the meeting any ideas or input as to the future events for the camp. See you at the muster. GOD Bless





CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly muster at 6:32 p.m. on 18 January 2024, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 11th Muster of the year.

CALL TO ORDER: Adj. John McKee called the meeting to order.

WELCOME: Adj. John McKee welcomed the Camp's members, family, and friends.

INVOCATION: Chaplain Mike Biekert.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTE TO CONFEDERATE FLAG: Adj. John McKee.

ROLL CALL: 9



GROUP PHOTO (L-R)

Back row: Phil Tate, Mike Biekert, Johnny Kicklighter, Gale Red

Front row: John McKee, Eric Funkhouser, Janice Beasley, Jane McKee, Steve Wilson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Presented in the January 2024 Edition of The Blue Light News. Motion by Gale Red, 2nd:by Steve Wilson Passed

FINANCIAL REPORT: \$5,429.46 after deposits and withdrawals. In addition, I set up a sub-account into which all donations and expenses were put for the Camp's charity project. Total donations were \$820.15 and total expenses were \$599.16, leaving a balance of \$220.99. This account will be maintained separately from the general fund account for all charity projects.

REPORTS:

- A. Standing Committees: None.
- B. Wreaths Across America (WAA): After action report in the newsletter. Copies of the photos are to be sent to National for inclusion in the Confederate Veteran magazine.
- C. Winter Charity Project: Gale Red reported on the charity project, the support given to two families, and that O'Town Restaurant in O'Fallon provided free dinners to the families.

COMMUNICATIONS: Received a call from the Executive Director of the Mendota Museum and Historical Society requesting assistance for a history program this summer. One former resident of that town was William Clark Quantrill, who led guerillas along the Kansas-Missouri border. I have provided some material from other sources, but I reached out to Kevin Monroe who presented an account of General Order No. 10. If you have an interest in helping set up this program, please let me know and I can provide you with contact information.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Newsletter expenses: To cover newsletter expenses (printing and stamps) from August to December 2023: \$251.00 Passed None.

PROGRAM: A DVD presentation of the Gen Forrest Homecoming in Columbia, TN.

NEXT MEETING: 15 February 2024.

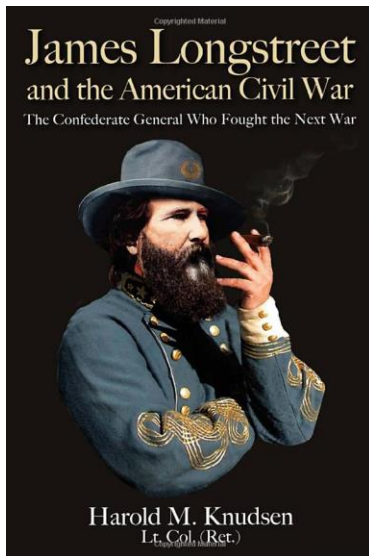
BENEDICTION: Chaplain Mike Biekert.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 8:35 PM.



General James Longstreet and the American Civil War

(The Confederate General Who Fought the Next War)



Back in 2007 I met an officer working at USTRANSCOM, Lt. Col. Harold Knudsen. Col Knudsen had just published a book on General Longstreet in 2010. Here is a brief review of his book.

The American Civil War is often called the first “modern war.” Sandwiched between the Napoleonic Wars and World War I, it spawned a host of “firsts” and is considered a precursor to the larger and more deadly 20th century wars. Confederate Gen. James Longstreet may be overlooked but made profound modern contributions to the art of war. Retired Lt. Col. Harold M. Knudsen explains what Longstreet did and how he did it in “James Longstreet and the American Civil War: The Confederate General Who Fought the Next War.”

Initially, commanders on both sides extensively used Napoleonic tactics that were obsolete because of the advent of the rifled musket and better artillery. Some professional army officers worked to improve tactics, operations, and strategies. On the Confederate side, a careful comparison of Longstreet’s body of work in the field to modern military doctrine reveals several large-scale innovations.

Longstreet understood early that tactical defense was generally dominant over the offense, which was something few grasped in 1862. Longstreet’s thinking demonstrated a clear evolution that began on the field at First Manassas in July 1861, developed through the bloody fighting of 1862, and culminated in the brilliant defensive victory at Fredericksburg that December. The lethality with which his riflemen and artillery mowed down repeated Union assaults hinted at what was to come in World War I. Longstreet’s ability to launch and control powerful offensives was on display at Second Manassas in August 1862. His assault plan at Chickamauga in Georgia the following September was similar, if not the forerunner to, World War II tactical-level German armored tactics. Other areas show progressive applications with artillery, staff work, force projection, and operational-level thinking.

Longstreet was not the sole agent of modern change away from the Napoleonic method, but his contributions were significant and executed on a large scale. They demonstrated that he was a modern thinker unparalleled in the Confederate Army.

Unfortunately, many Civil War students have a one-sided view of Longstreet, whose legacy fell victim to bitter postwar Southern politics when “Old Pete” supported Reconstruction bills, accepted postings with the Grant Administration, and criticized Robert E. Lee. Many modern writers continue to skew the general’s legacy.

This book draws heavily upon 20th century U.S. Army doctrine, field training, staff planning, command, and combat experience and is the first serious treatment of Longstreet’s generalship vis-a-vis modern warfare. Not everyone will agree with Knudsen’s conclusions, but it will now be impossible to write about the general without referencing this important study.

Editor’s Note: Col Knudsen has since rewritten his book and it was published in 2022. It’s available on Amazon.com and the interlibrary loan system: ISBN: 9781611214758 (hardcover).



Painted Canteens During the Civil War

The canteen, typically made up of two pieces of wood or tin with a pewter spout and cork, was part of every Civil War soldier's kit. They were carried over the shoulder using a leather or cloth strap. They became popular surfaces for artists to create works of art, both during and after the Civil War.

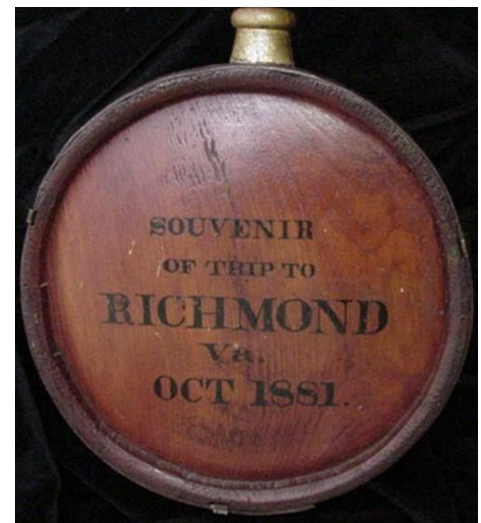


This oil-painted Confederate canteen depicts a Confederate cavalryman wearing a gray kepi, an oilcloth raincoat, yellow pants, and knee-high riding boots. He is supporting his weary infantry companion, who is wearing a gray jacket and dark pants under a full-length gray greatcoat. The weary horse, rider, and infantryman are traveling through a war-torn area in the rain, and the sun is setting on the Confederacy in the background. I believe the artist was depicting the road from Appomattox, as both are unarmed, and both have despairing countenances. The painting is outlined in gold, which is still brilliant. The spout is also painted gold.

The lettering on the reverse, “Souvenir of the trip to RICHMOND Va Oct. 1881,” gives great insight into the history of painted canteens. Just above the date, lightly

Confederate Cavalryman with Infantryman

written in pencil, is “Yorktown Centennial.” October 1881 was the centennial of Cornwallis’ surrender at Yorktown. In 1881, meetings of Confederate veterans were still very much frowned upon by the Federal Government and evidently the veterans gathered in Richmond under the auspices of celebrating the Yorktown centennial. At that gathering, two prominent Confederate artists donated work to the ladies’ bazaar; one was Alan Shepard, and the other John Adams Elder. Elder painted the canteens shown here, and later, it would be the model for one of his most famous works, “After Appomattox” in 1886.



Canteen's Reverse

Author and historian Michael Aubrecht says, “Elder remains the most coveted of pre- and post-Civil War artists and is considered one of the most celebrated artists ever to come out of the Civil War era.” And, in 2008,

Christopher O. Uebelhor wrote, "Elder's work played a significant role in postwar America, helping to perpetuate the idea of the glorious Old South and the 'Southern mystique,' which is still very much alive today."



Bellona Arsenal

The second painted canteen appears to depict the view from Bellona Arsenal toward the hills of Richmond overlooking heavy artillery and a prisoner of war camp at Belle Isle. Both canteens were painted by the same artist in Richmond, which lends credence to my impression that the artillery scene is indeed Bellona.

The discovery of the dated and addressed canteen sheds light on other painted canteens. Since both of these were painted and sold as souvenirs of the trip to Richmond, it stands to reason that a large portion of the few surviving painted canteens with a military

scene were painted at the same time by the same artist.

(Courtesy Shannon Pritchard, October 9, 2023, blueandgrayeducation.org)



Reverse



The Hunley Project is conducted through a partnership with Friends of the Hunley, the South Carolina Hunley Commission, Clemson University Restoration Institute, Naval History and Heritage Command, and the Charleston Naval Complex Redevelopment Authority.

To become a member, do it online at <https://www.hunley.org/donate/>.

For questions about membership or how to donate, email membership@hunley.org or mail to:

Friends of the Hunley
Attn: Donations
1250 Supply Street
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405



The evolution of the Confederate flag

The official flag of the Confederacy went through a few different iterations during the Civil War.



1861-1863
First Confederate flag:
"The Stars and Bars"



1863-1865
Second Confederate flag:
"The Stainless Banner"



1865
Third Confederate flag:
"The Blood-Stained Banner"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

10 Daylight Savings Time
15 Ides of March
17 St. Patrick's Day
19 Vernal Equinox
21 **CAMP MEETING**
31 Easter

APRIL

1 April Fools' Day
9 Winston Churchill Day
9 Bataan Day
13 Jefferson's Birthday
18 **CAMP MEETING**
23 Passover

MAY

2 National Day of Prayer
4 Star Wars Day
9 Asension of Jesus Christ
12 Mother's Day
15 **CAMP MEETING**
27 Memorial (Decoration) Day



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Carson Leonard (Ingraham, IL)
14 Phil Tate (Mascoutah, IL)
14 James Johnson (Hopkinton, MA)
20 Jim Lumma (Jerseyville, IL)
20 Ralph Oelschlager (Belleville, IL)

And a correction to January's Newsletter:
Jan 9th: David Runnels (Victorville, CA)



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