

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: Johnnywkick@gmail.com



MARCH 2024

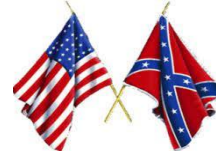


PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT MTG, 21 March

PRESENTATION: Davis-Hayes Video (continued)

PRESENTER: Video

REFRESHMENTS: Janice Beasley



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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - Dues for the 2024-2025 Year

- National sets the fiscal year from 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025.
- Make checks/Money Orders to "Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV". Please send or give to me by 6/20/2024 (Camp Meeting and first day of summer).
- Annual dues are composed of two parts: \$35 National + \$20 Camp = \$55 annual.
- If you have Life Membership, please pay the Camp \$20. If you wish not pay the camp, then you have only honorary camp status, meaning no newsletter, but you'll still receive your dues card through the camp.
- Knights and Ladies of the Golden Circle: \$20.
- If you choose not to renew, please advise, and I will note you as resigned, not suspended. Those who have been dropped but wish to rejoin will have to pay \$55 plus \$5 reinstatement fee.
- If you have any questions or want to make arrangements, please contact me. If you delay contact me until after August 20, you might have to pay a reinstatement fee with your dues (National only). Dues notices will be sent by the end of March.

Deo Vindice, John M. McKee, Camp Adjutant.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Meeting Minutes-----	2
Irish Confederates-----	3
Anatomy of a Frock Coat-----	4
News from Around the Camp-----	5
JoAnn Gideon Obituary-----	7
Calendar of Events ~ Birthdays ~ Camp Dixon Staff-----	8



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 15 February, 2024, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 2nd Muster of the year.

CALL TO ORDER: Cmdr John Stanton called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Chaplain Mike Biekert.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTE TO CONFEDERATE FLAG: Cmdr John Stanton.

ROLL CALL: 12



GROUP PHOTO (L-R)

Back row: Barb Luma, Jim Luma, John McKee, John Stanton Mike Biekert,

Front row: Jane McKee, Steve Wilson, Jonathan Musgrave, JC Gideon, Ron Lakin, Janice Beasley, Eric Funkhouser

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Presented in the February 2024 Edition of The Blue Light News. Motion by Jonathan Musgrave, 2nd:by Eric Funkhouser Passed

FINANCIAL REPORT: \$5,233.46 after deposits and withdrawals. Total deposits were \$55 and total expenses were \$251, leaving a balance of \$220.99. Charitable account balance is \$220.99.

REPORTS:

A. Standing Committees: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: (items tabled at previous meetings to be discussed/voted)

A. Presented membership certificate and membership pin to Compatriot Musgrave.

NEW BUSINESS: (items presented for the first time to be discussed/voted)

Activities. A general discussion on activities for the year. As we did not participate in the Homecomings last year, Adj. McKee will contact both Freeburg and Smithton village halls about this year's homecoming events.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (sharing of information from members)

A. Shared status of Compatriot Gale Red. All are encouraged to pray for him’

PROGRAM: A video presentation from one of the Davis-Hayes programs.

NEXT MEETING: 21 March 2024.

BENEDICTION: Chaplain Mike Biekert.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 8:20 PM.



Irish Confederates



Irish Brigade

This tells the story of the Irish and their key roles at the battle of Gettysburg and the overall Civil War. Because of their longtime absence from the historical record, the contributions of these young Irish men and boys at the decisive Battle of Gettysburg will be explored. The unforgettable story of many Irish Confederates who played leading roles in the most climactic moment of the battle, “Pickett’s Charge,” on the hot afternoon of July 3, 1863, needs to be told.

These young men and boys from Ireland, especially the most recent immigrants, were caught between two worlds—the ancient homeland and the New World—when they stoically advanced across the open fields in the ranks of Lee’s greatest offensive effort. The Irish on both sides included soldiers who still spoke the Irish language.

Large numbers of Irish on the Confederacy side marched to their deaths during the audacious bid including Pickett’s Charge to pierce the right-center of the Army of the Potomac at a weak point of the Cemetery Ridge defensive line. Before the most famous attack of the Civil War, Irish Confederates played leading roles in equally determined

assaults on the second day at both ends of Major General George Gordon Meade’s lengthy defensive line centered on the expanse of Cemetery Ridge: East Cemetery Hill on the north, where large numbers of Louisiana Irish Rebels charged the heights with the war cry “We are the Louisiana Tigers!”; and in the all-important showdown for possession of strategic Little Round Top, where Irish soldiers of the Alabama Brigade and the Texas Brigade performed magnificently in determined assaults on the line’s southern end.

Ironically, the Irish soldiers were often the butt of jokes and racial stereotypes among the non-Irish, providing a source of soldiery humor across the South. Even the famous diarist Mary Chesnut, who had her own Irish servants, wrote how she saw the Irish nurse of the President Jefferson Davis family “weeping and wailing as only an Irish woman can.”



Pickett’s Charge

Sadly, for the historical record, these Irish Confederates have left us with few letters, diaries or memoirs in private collections and archives around the United States, an unfortunate development that has doomed these Sons of Erin and their notable battlefield achievements to obscurity, especially in relation to the Battle of Gettysburg. In fact, no aspect of Gettysburg historiography has been more overlooked than ethnic studies that

have revealed new insights into the overall American experience. This has been an ironic development because of the important roles of Irish Confederates during the three days at Gettysburg, providing additional evidence of an especially rich field of study.



Battle of Gettysburg

By 1860, the South was a multicultural and multiethnic nation that mocked the postwar stereotype of the homogeneous Anglo-Saxon (or Aryan) population that allegedly represented Anglo-Saxon purity—one of the greatest and most enduring Lost Cause myths of the Old South. As the largest immigrant group in the South in 1860, the Irish people and their vibrant culture added the most colorful component of what was a true heterogeneous mix, which mirrored the demographic realities of the South's population and, in turn, Confederate armies, including the Army of Northern Virginia.

Unfortunately, the romance of Lost Cause myths has obscured the South's ethnic

realities and complexities, especially the disproportionate Irish wartime contributions in a great silencing of the historical record. Offering a comforting psychological explanation and moral justification for the vanquished Southern people to minimize their humiliating defeat and subjugation, these persistent racial myths were developed by an active group of postwar southern writers, ex-Confederate leaders, and historians to explain their disastrous defeat and to regain the moral high ground lost by slavery's defense.

Fortunately for the Confederacy in terms of its war-waging capabilities—in a parallel that had been seen in the thirteen colonies just before the American Revolution—the South possessed a vast Irish manpower pool by 1860. Tens of thousands of immigrant Irish had flooded into the South, especially major urban areas (most of all New Orleans) because of the exodus created by the Great Potato Famine of 1845–1849. Known as the *An Gorta Mor*—ancient Gaelic for “The Great Hunger.”

Unlike in major northeastern cities, the much easier assimilation of Irish immigrants into the overall mainstream of a more open and tolerant Southern society—the unity of whiteness in a slave society enhanced equality for whites—ensured a deep loyalty, including Democratic Party adherence, to their adopted homeland and a widespread wearing of the gray.

Most revealing, during the 1850s, ugly anti-Irish riots swept through the ethnic slums and ghettos of New York City, Philadelphia and Boston and even targeted Catholic churches, while the Irish were accepted as full-fledged citizens in Richmond, Mobile and Charleston. This was a significant difference not lost on tens of thousands of Sons of Erin across the South with their adopted homeland's call to arms in April 1861, after the firing on Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina.

Therefore, most of the Irish people found that the South, not the North, was the true land of liberty, offering greater social and economic opportunities and easier access into the overall mainstream of everyday life. Indeed, since before the nation's founding in the fiery forge of a people's revolution, the South and its people—not only in the cities but also in the rural areas and in the western frontier regions (as far west as the plains of west Texas)—were fully receptive to the Irish refugees from hard economic times, famines and British oppression.

In total, an estimated forty thousand Irishmen fought for the Confederacy. Fighting against centralized authority had become a way of life to generations of Irish, and the Civil War was only the latest chapter of what had become a cultural tradition to the Sons of Erin. The ancestors of many Irish Catholics of the Army of Northern Virginia (ironically, like the blue-uniformed men of the Irish Brigade) had been liberty-loving rebels who had revolted against English invaders centuries before on the ancient homeland.
(Courtesy Phillip Thomas Tucker, Ph.D., @IrishCentral)



The Anatomy of a Confederate Colonel's Frock Coat



Front

The double-breasted frock coat shown here, made of cadet gray wool broadcloth, is adorned with the rank insignia of a Confederate colonel. Consider that there was approximately one full Confederate colonel per one thousand men, and you will readily see why there are so few colonel's uniforms found in collections today. In fact, my experience of 40 years has shown that there are more surviving Confederate States general uniforms than there are colonel uniforms. The frock's breast is padded with raw cotton batting and lined with the same cadet gray broadcloth used for the frock's outer construction.



Close-up of collar and buttons

The collar carries the three stars of a Confederate colonel on each side, but the central star on each side is larger than the flanking stars except for the right rear star, which is larger than either. The large central star and the three rows of sleeve braid suggest the coat originally was made for a Confederate major, and the additional stars were added as he rose in rank from a major to a full colonel. The collar facing is made of fine wool in a buff color with a pinkish tint.

The sleeves carry the three rows of braid rank insignia of a Confederate field officer, which is correct for a major, a lieutenant colonel, and a colonel. The braid was applied at the time of manufacture, which indicates that its owner was a major or above when the coat was made. Regarding the buttons, the coat's breast is adorned with 14 Federal staff officer's buttons with extra quality back marks (marks on the back of buttons that include the manufacturer's name and often address).

Hunley 160th Anniversary: A Legacy of Innovation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9t9LNDG2Sus>



Back

The tails have one MVC (Mobile Volunteer Corp) button and three identical Federal staff buttons with the extra quality back marks. Each sleeve carries three Federal staff cuff buttons; all six have the same extra quality back marks.

The sides and back are lined with a cotton/silk fabric that has ivy inside a wreath woven into the material. An inner pocket is set into each breast. The frock's skirt is lined with the same cotton/silk material as the back and sides. Inner pockets are set into the tails. Unbleached cotton twill line the sleeves, breast, and tail pockets. (Courtesy blueandgrayeducation.org)



Frock coat sleeve

News from Around the Camp



Jonthan Musgrave Receives His SCV Pin



Congratulations on your 51st Wedding Anniversary – March 24
Commander John and Lady Wendy Stanton
 Only the best of wishes for you on this special day.
 Hope you will have many happier & healthy years together!



Josephine Ann Gideon

1944 - 2024



Josephine Ann Gideon
July 11, 1944 - February 20, 2024

Belleville, Illinois - Josephine Ann Gideon (JoAnn), nee Merrills, 79, of Belleville, IL, born Tuesday, July 11, 1944, in St. Louis, MO, passed away Tuesday, February 20, 2024, in Belleville, IL.

Josephine was an active 50 Year member of DAR. (Daughters of the American Revolution) and 10-year member of the Sierra Club. She devoted herself to DAR serving as past chapter regent and holding many offices. She was also active with C.A.R (Children of the American Revolution) for many years. Josephine was a talented drummer since her days at Signal Hill School and marched playing the drum in many local parades throughout her life.

She enjoyed reading, researching family genealogy, and travel. She was able to visit numerous countries in her world travels including France, Turkey, Ireland, Romania and Vietnam to

name a few. She was especially fond of studying the history of the South. Her favorite book was Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind." Her affection for Southern history blended well with her husband's interest in the Confederacy. He is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and regularly attends the meetings of the Lt. George Dixon Camp 1962.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wayne and Martha C., nee Treadwell, Merrills, brothers-in-law, Edward P. Lopinot and Thomas A. Thebus;

Surviving are her loving husband of 54 years, John C. Gideon of Belleville, IL, daughter, Ellen (Frank) Nefzger of Jackson, MI, sisters, Fran L. Lopinot of Belleville, IL, and Martha Elaine Thebus of Belleville, IL.

Express condolences at:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/belleville/name/josephine-gideon-obituary?id=54446888>.

Memorials: Memorials may be made to the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) - Belleville Chapter or C.A.R. (Children of the American Revolution) Six Mile Prairie Chapter.

<https://ildar.org/chapters/belleville/car.html>

Funeral: A Celebration of Josephine's Life will be planned at a later date.
(Courtesy of the Belleville News Democrat.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

JUNE

- 13 **CAMP MEETING**
- 14 Flag Day
- 16 Father's Day
- 20 Summer Solstice
- 21 St. John the Baptist Birth
- 28 Paul Bunyan Day



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|----|-------------|---------------------|
| 7 | JIM MOOSE | (Mascoutah, IL) |
| 30 | JANE NOVARA | (Creal Springs, IL) |



CAMP DIXON STAFF

Commander	John Douglas Stanton	618-610-6464	spqrkaiser2@gmail.com
Advisor to the Commander	Johnny Kicklighter	618-698-0053	johnnywkick@gmail.com
Adjutant	John McKee	618-491-9472	history_ferret@yahoo.com
Cardmaster	Barbara Lumma	618-498-2563	jimandbarb62@gmail.com
Chaplain	Walter Michael Biekert	618-972-8190	
Program Chairman	John McKee	618-491-9472	history_ferret@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Johnny Kicklighter	618-698-0053	johnnywkick@gmail.com
Sgt of Arms	Stephen Dean Wilson	314-497-0798	steverdean@yahoo.com
Asst Sgt of Arms	Eric Jan Funkhouser	618-233-6148	funkhousereric1995@yahoo.com