

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

THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS



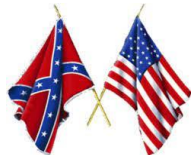
Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962
Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)

www.scvcamp1962.org

Editor: Johnny Kicklighter Email: Johnnywkick@gmail.com



NOVEMBER 2024

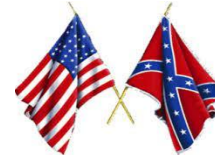


PROGRAM INFO

PRESENTATION: Confederate Sharp Shooters

PRESENTER: John McKee

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

The Battle of Chancellorsville (April 30-May 6, 1863) was a huge victory for the Confederacy and General Robert E. Lee during the Civil War, though it is also famous for being the battle in which Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was mortally wounded. Fought in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, Lee's daring decision to face a force twice his size—Union General Joseph Hooker's Army of the Potomac—by splitting his own army in two made the Battle of Chancellorsville go down in history as Lee's most significant tactical victory.



Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1789

"Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor-- and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be-- That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks--for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence..." President George Washington

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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 17 October 2024, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 10th Muster of the year.

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

WELCOME: Commander Stanton welcomed the Camp's members, family, and friends.

INVOCATION: Chaplain Mike Biekert.

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

ROLL CALL: 9



GROUP PHOTO

(L-R)

Back row: Phil Tate, John Stanton, Mike Biekert

Front row: Steve Wilson, Jim & Barb Lumma,

Janice Beasley, Eric Funkhouser

Not Pictured: Jonathan Musgrave

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AS PRESENTED IN THE OCTOBER 2024 EDITION OF THE BLUE LIGHT NEWS: 1st. Mike Biekert, 2nd. Eric Funkhouser. Accepted.

FINANCIAL REPORT: None

SWEARING IN: None

OTHER PROCEDURAL BUSINESS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

OLD BUSINESS

- Fort Davidson Camp Activity Report – Steve Wilson reported that it was a wonderful day weather wise, and the event was well attended. Janice and Ron, Jim and Barb, and Mary and Steve had a great spot along the front edge of the re-enactment. Their infantry, cavalry and artillery activities and demonstrations directly in front of us. The ground shook with cannon and infantry fire. Steve and Mary walked to the south field of the Fort where there is a mass grave is for the Confederate soldiers who died there is located. It was roped off for the event. They had good food trucks and a great sutler area. Pics from Steve Wilson are in the October Newsletter.

- A discussion was held about the Christmas Dinner for the Camp. It was decided to have a carry-in dinner at the church on December 19th in place of the meeting. There were a couple of requests for more Cheesy Grits and Sausage grits this year. Steve Wilson will send emails to the camp membership to get a list of food and desserts people are bringing and to get a number so we can set up the church. Steve Wilson will put together a slide show of Confederate Christmas scenes to play continuously while we are having dinner.

NEW BUSINESS

- Camp Activity for 2025 – a discussion was held about selection of a Camp Activity for 2025. Much discussion and a conclusion came to doing a Trip to the Jefferson Barracks Civil War Museum, Fort Bellefontaine, doing a potluck dinner at a shelter there and visit the Confederate section in the Jefferson Barracks Cemetery to do a memorial. Date in the Spring to be determined. Steve Wilson will send emails on additional details as they become available.

REFRESHMENTS

- Chaplain Biekert gave the blessing.
- Jim and Barb Lumma provided great refreshments.

PROGRAM: Jim Lumma talked about the Higdon and Dents in the Civil War. His ancestor was the longest living Confederate Veteran in the State of Kentucky. We learned that Abe Lincoln was a distant relative by marriage as well as General Grant via his wife, Julia Dent. It was a good short informative presentation.

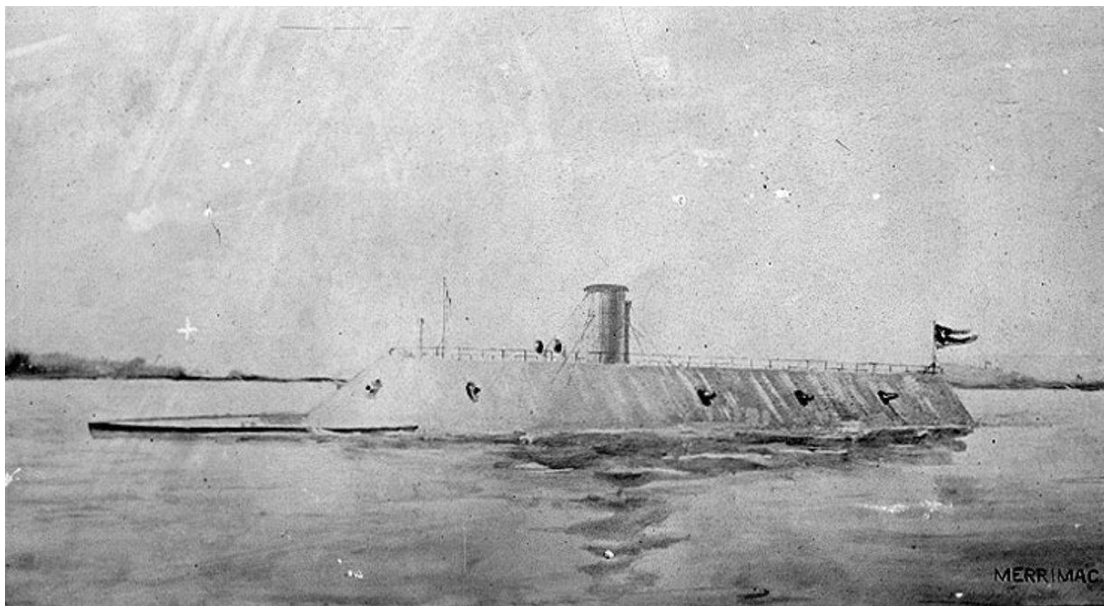
NEXT MEETING: 21 November 2024

BENEDICTION: Compatriot & Chaplain Mike Biekert.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 7:50 PM.



What Happened the Day Before the Merrimac and Monitor Met?



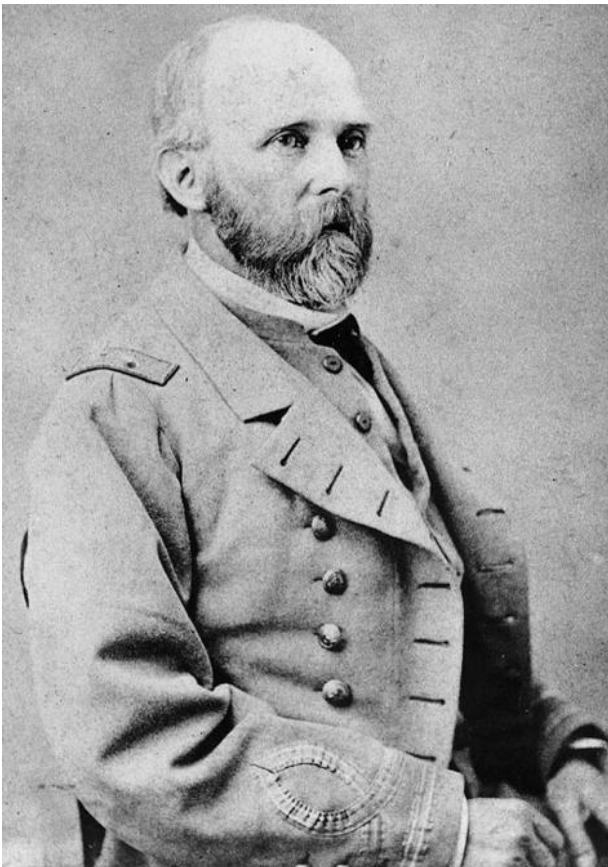
CSS Virginia (aka USS Merrimac)

Forty-one-year-old Welsh Virginian, Catesby ap Roger Jones, sat at the desk in his cramped cabin aboard the CSS Virginia (formerly the USS Merrimac and usually known by that name) shortly before midnight on March 8, 1862. He hastily drafted a brief account of the day's events to be forwarded to Capt. French Forrest, commander of the Confederate Gosport Navy Yard at Norfolk, Virginia. First Lt. Jones, now serving as flag officer owing to his captain (Franklin Buchanan) having been wounded, nonchalantly claimed that his steam-powered ironclad vessel had left port at 11 a.m. that morning and proceeded down the Elizabeth River to engage Union warships off Hampton Roads, Virginia.

During the afternoon, his ironclad had sunk the frigates Cumberland and Congress, driven the steam frigates Minnesota and Roanoke into shoal waters, and exchanged fire with several small armed steamers and shore batteries. He boasted that only shallow waters and nightfall had prevented the deep-draft Merrimac from attacking and destroying other Union warships. At 6:30 p.m., the ironclad had fired her last gun, and 90 minutes later had anchored under the Confederate cannon at nearby Sewell's Point. The destruction that lay behind amazed all who had witnessed the day's events. Jones wrote: "Amid the smoke, and flame, and blood of the last few hours, the centuries-long era of the wooden warship had passed forever." Aboard the Merrimac, Lt. Robert Minor noted that "the IRON and the HEAVY GUNS did the work." A new era had been born. Lieutenant Jones concluded his brief account by reporting the Merrimac had suffered but two men killed and eight wounded during the engagements. After inspecting the condition of his "half submerged crocodile," he described its damage as light. But more importantly, Jones proudly maintained that "the bearing of officers and men was all that could be wished."

Changing Loyalties

Months earlier, after Virginia left the Union, Catesby ap Roger Jones had placed loyalty to Virginia above loyalty to the Union, and on April 17, 1861, he resigned his commission in the U.S. Navy. Not surprisingly, three of his six younger brothers did likewise and took positions in the Confederate Army and Navy. Of his three brothers who remained loyal to the Union, only one fought in the conflict, attaining the rank of brigadier general in the army. On the day following Jones's resignation, Virginia governor John Letcher appointed him a captain in the Virginia Navy. Less than two months later, he participated in an unauthorized attack on the



Gosport Navy Yard at Norfolk that captured 300,000 pounds of powder and many shells. After the daring attack, Jones was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Confederate States Navy on June 10, 1861; he took command of the defenses at Jamestown Island on the James River. For the next five months, Jones oversaw the construction of fortifications and batteries on the island before being instructed to proceed to the Confederate Gosport Navy Yard at Norfolk, Virginia.

On November 11, 1861, Confederate Secretary of the Navy Stephen Russell Mallory appointed Jones executive and ordnance officer aboard the CSS Merrimac, then being outfitted as an ironclad warship. He would spend the next four months preparing the former Union ship Merrimac—the vessel on which he had previously served in 1856.

On that evening of March 8, 1862, evening, dead tired, Jones signed and dispatched his report, ate dinner, spoke briefly with ex-Virginia governor Henry Wise and a group of civilians who had gathered on shore, and then tried to catch a few valuable moments of sleep. The following day, March 9, 1862, naval warfare would be forever revolutionized as the Merrimac confronted the Union ironclad Monitor in the world's first modern naval engagement.



Chromolithograph depicting the Battle of Hampton Roads

Calhoun's Moving Grave



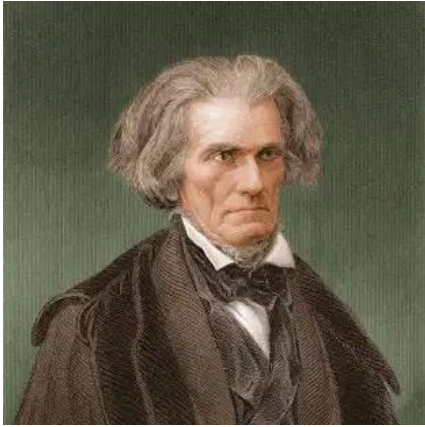
The photo shows the grave of U.S. Sen. John C. Calhoun, in the Western Churchyard of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Charleston, SC. It is actually the post-Civil War reburial site. Calhoun's casket was removed to a secret grave during the War, to protect his remains from possible vandalism. Calhoun was revered by the South but not by the North, because of his strong defense of slavery. John Calhoun has been buried at three separate locations.

John C. Calhoun's grave in St. Philip's Episcopal Church western cemetery is the source of many a unique historic legend and mystery. Calhoun, who was born in Abbeville, South Carolina, was buried at St. Philip's in 1850, despite the fact that he was a Calvinist who attended the Huguenot Church when in Charleston.

Calhoun died in Washington, D.C., and was initially buried there, but was exhumed and returned to Charleston with a grand funeral parade and was buried in the western, or "stranger's graveyard," which got its nickname from a 1760s decision by the congregation to set aside a section for those who died here while on visits or business—because in those days they didn't ship the bodies home. This adds to the flavor of a curious incident during the Civil War, when Calhoun's body was exhumed and placed in an unmarked part of the eastern graveyard as a precaution against desecration by Union troops. Known as the "friendly graveyard," from the legend that this part is reserved for members of the congregation born in Charleston, the eastern side would only hold Calhoun until after the war, when, again according to legend, it was decided the man from Abbeville

should be in with the “strangers.” In the 1880’s, Calhoun’s body was moved again to its current site and the massive monument that bears his name.

In the 1960s, there was a rumor that Calhoun had been dug up again, this time by a group called STORCH, “striving to return Calhoun home,” who wanted him to join his wife, Floride, at her gravesite in the upstate. Probes were made and the grave proved to be undisturbed, but poor old John C. Calhoun may not be completely at rest, considering how much fuss has been made over moving and locating his grave.



John Caldwell Calhoun

John Caldwell Calhoun (March 18, 1782–March 31, 1850) was an American statesman and political theorist who served as the seventh vice president of the United States from 1825 to 1832. Born in South Carolina, he adamantly defended American slavery and sought to protect the interests of white Southerners. Calhoun began his political career as nationalist, modernizer and proponent of a strong federal government and protective tariffs. In the late 1820s, his views changed radically, and he became a leading proponent of states' rights, limited government, nullification, and opposition to high tariffs. His beliefs heavily influenced the South's secession from the Union in 1860 and 1861. He was the first of two vice presidents to resign from the position, the second being Spiro Agnew, who resigned in 1973.

Calhoun began his political career with election to the House of Representatives in 1810. As a prominent leader of the war hawk faction, he strongly supported the War of 1812. Calhoun served as Secretary of War under President James Monroe and, in that position, reorganized and modernized the War Department. The Electoral College elected him vice president. He served under John Quincy Adams and continued under Andrew Jackson, who defeated Adams in the election of 1828, making Calhoun the most recent U.S. vice president to serve under two different presidents.

He had a difficult relationship with Jackson, primarily because of the Nullification Crisis and the Petticoat affair. In contrast with his previous nationalist sentiments, Calhoun vigorously supported South Carolina's right to nullify federal tariff legislation that he believed unfairly favored the North, which put him into conflict with Unionists such as Jackson. In 1832, with only a few months remaining in his second term, Calhoun resigned as vice president and was elected to the Senate.

Calhoun served as Secretary of State under President John Tyler from 1844 to 1845, and in that role supported the annexation of Texas as a means to extend the Slave Power and helped to settle the Oregon boundary dispute with Britain. Calhoun returned to the Senate, where he opposed the Mexican–American War, the Wilmot Proviso and the Compromise of 1850 before he died of tuberculosis in 1850. He often served as a virtual independent who variously aligned as needed, with Democrats and Whigs.

Later in life, Calhoun became known as the "cast-iron man" for his rigid defense of white Southern beliefs and practices. He owned dozens of slaves in Fort Hill, South Carolina, and asserted that slavery, rather than being a "necessary evil," was a "positive good" that benefited both slaves and enslavers. Calhoun supported states' rights, and nullification, through which states could declare null and void federal laws that they viewed as unconstitutional. He was one of the "Great Triumvirate" or the "Immortal Trio" of congressional leaders, along with his colleagues Daniel Webster and Henry Clay.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 17 Wright Brothers Day
- 21 **CAMP MEETING**
- 21 Winter Solstice – 3:19 AM
- 25 Christmas Day

JANUARY

- 1 New Years Day
- 12 Lee-Jackson in Virginia
- 18 **CAMP MEETING**
- 19 Robert E. Lee Day
- 20 Inauguration Day
- 27 Holocaust Day

FEBRUARY

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 4 Super Bowl Sunday
- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 20 **CAMP MEETING**
- 19 Washington's Birthday



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jacob Talley Bailey (Chepachet, RI)
- 4 Janice Beasley (Walsh, IL)
- 11 Don Carnley (Highland, IL)
- 14 Jeff Barnes (O'Fallon, IL)
- 24 Amzy Hibler (Katy, TX)
- 28 Larry Weber (Effingham, IL)



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