

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



OCTOBER 2024

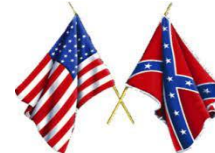


PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT MTG, 17 OCTOBER

PRESENTATION: Dent/Higdons in Civil War

PRESENTER: Jim Lumma

REFRESHMENTS: Jim Lumma



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

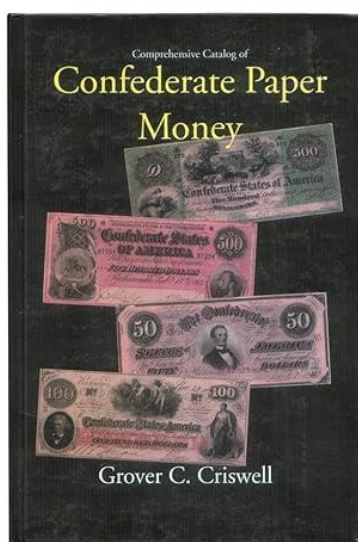
CAMP MISSION

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



Grover C. Criswell was a dealer specializing in Confederate paper. At one time he had \$20 million in face value. He became known as "the richest man in the world of Confederate money." His "Comprehensive Catalog of Confederate Paper Money" is still considered a valuable work and is essential to collecting Confederate currency.

FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS:

Greetings to the faithful and loyal members of our camp. The officers of the camp pray that all is well with you and families alike. I would like for the membership to come to our October muster and bring any ideas that you might have as to any type of plans that you feel the camp might like to do especially as we approach the holiday season. Some things have been discussed but not in length, but I am sure that we can together come up with a few interesting items. If you have not attended our meetings in a while we would like to encourage you to consider once again coming to the October gathering. You are missed. As a reminder, we still need volunteers to sign up for presentations and refreshments for the upcoming new year. Hope to see all at the muster. Until then, GOD Bless.



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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 6:35 p.m. on 19 September 2024, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 9th 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: John Stanton, Dale Rice, Mike Biekert

Front row: Jim & Barb Lumma, Eric Funkhouser,
Janice Beasley, JC Gideon

Photographer: Johnny Kicklighter

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

FINANCIAL REPORT: None

SWEARING IN: None

OTHER PROCEDURAL BUSINESS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: Johnny Kicklighter will make a presentation to the Brig. Gen. Chief Stand Watie Camp, on 14 December. John Stanton discussed the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Pilot Knob, Missouri is happening September 28 - 29, 2024. This is a reenactment on the actual battlefield, using the actual earthworks of Fort Davidson.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- None

REFRESHMENTS

- Chaplain Biekert gave the blessing.
- Compatriot JC Gideon provided the refreshments tonight.

PROGRAM: Chaplain gave a personal testimony.

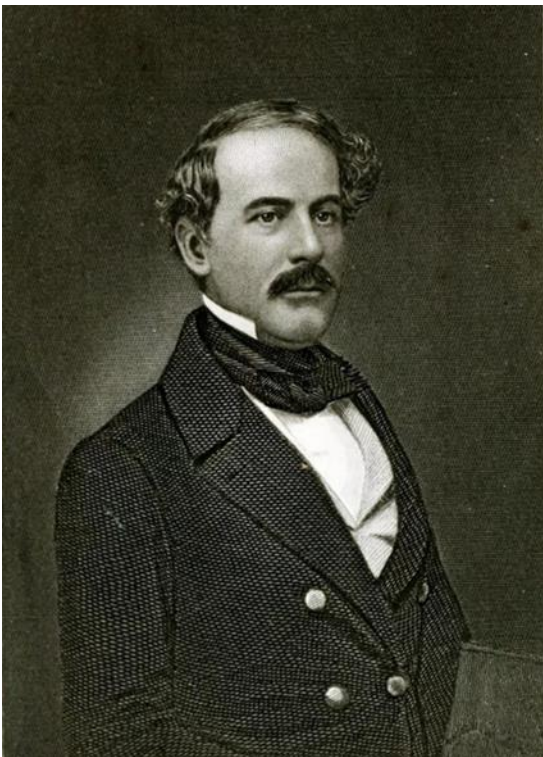
NEXT MEETING: 21 November 2024

BENEDICTION: Compatriot & Chaplain Mike Biekert.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 8:20 PM.



Robert E. Lee: "I Declined the Offer"



In March 1861, Robert E. Lee met with Gen. Winfield Scott at the United States War Department. For three hours, the old general and his favorite subordinate spoke together. What was said during that conversation was never revealed. But Scott's known opinion to secession—despite being from Virginia—his admiration for Lee, and his desire to assure strong leadership for the army allow us to reconstruct part of the dialogue. Scott told Lee that he would soon be promoted to colonel and hinted that, should Scott himself be too feeble to take the field, he would recommend Lee as his second-in-command. If Lee responded to Scott's overtures, it was with the sentiment that if Virginia seceded, he would follow her, as he considered his primary obligation to be to his state. When Lee left, it was reported that Scott's manner was "painfully silent."

About the same time Lee got a letter written dated March 15 from LeRoy Pope Walker, the Confederate States of America's Secretary of War. This letter was a direct offer of a commission as brigadier general—the highest rank then authorized—in the army the South was forming. The letter read: "You are requested to signify your acceptance or non-acceptance of said appointment, and should you accept, you will sign before a magistrate the oath of office herewith

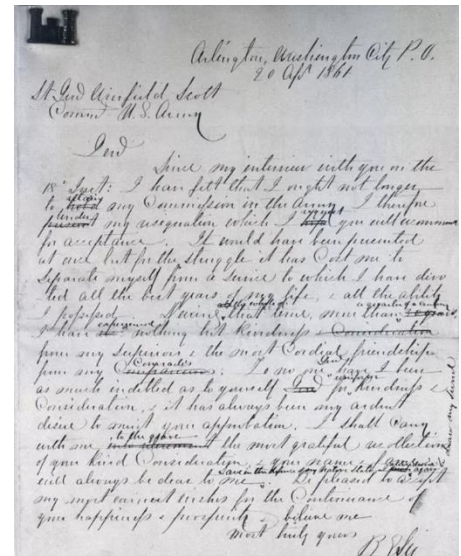
and forward the same, with your letter of acceptance to this office." After many years of slow promotion, honors were now coming quickly: a colonelcy in one army and a generalship in the rival service. There is no record of Lee's reply to this offer from the Confederacy, but it is likely he ignored it. What is certain is that he was not enticed by the promise of high position. Lee felt allegiance to only two governments: that of Virginia and that of the Union. If these two entities did not conflict, and if Virginia did not join the Confederacy, there was no thought of a third.

By March 28, Lee had been promoted to full colonel in the U.S. Army and had taken the oath of allegiance to the U.S. Constitution. On the morning of April 18, with no news yet from the Virginia Secession Convention in Richmond, Lee rode over the bridge to visit Francis Preston Blair, whose home stood across the street from the Presidential Mansion. Blair promptly explained his reason for the meeting. A large army, he said, would soon be called into the field, and President Lincoln had authorized him to ask Lee if he would accept the command.

This was a significant offer: command of an army of 75,000, perhaps even 100,000 men; the chance to apply all he had learned in Mexico; the realization of a soldier's highest ambition; the full support of the government; the companionship of many of his most capable comrades; and the rank of major general. Yet Lee's response was clear: "If the Union is dissolved and the government disrupted, I shall return to my native state and share the miseries of my people and save in her defense, I will draw my sword on no one." There he made the fateful reply he later recounted of the interview: "I declined the offer he made me to take command of the army that was to be brought into the field, stating as candidly and as courteously as I could, that though opposed to secession and deprecating war, I could take no part in an invasion of the Southern States."

Bidding farewell to Blair, Lee went directly to General Scott's office. He sensed Scott's deep interest in his decision, and as soon as he had arrived, he told him what Blair had offered and his subsequent refusal. "Lee," said Scott, deeply moved, "you have made the greatest mistake of your life, but I feared it would be so."

That was all, as far as Lee was concerned. He had long before decided, instinctively, what his duty required, and the allure of supreme command, with all that a soldier craved, did not tempt him to equivocate for an instant or to see if there were not some way he could keep his own honor and still have the honor he understood the president had offered him. (Courtesy Blue Gray Org.)



Letter of Resignation

Wounds Glowed Blue



After the Battle of Shiloh, many soldiers had to wait two days before a medic could treat them. At night, they noticed that some of their wounds glowed blue. Stranger still, after being treated by a physician, the soldiers with glowing wounds healed faster than their non-glowing comrades. They dubbed the miracle "Angel's Glow."

It sounds like the stuff of legend, but in 2001, a microbiologist suggested the glow could have been caused by a type of bioluminescent soil bacteria known as *Photorhabdus luminescens*. The bacteria share a symbiotic relationship with a tiny, parasitic worm that uses the bacteria to feed on insects and

other microorganisms. When the worm vomits up the bacteria, these microorganisms expire.

Normally, the nematode worms and their bacteria can't live inside a human body; it's too hot. But soldiers left outside in the rainy, muddy Tennessee nights could have caught hypothermia, lowering their body temperature enough to harbor the worms and their glowing bacteria. At that point, *P. luminescens* would have killed the harmful bacteria infecting the soldiers' wounds, which explains why they healed faster. (Courtesy of Ranker)

The Great Grandson of Gen "Stonewall" Jackson

This World War II photo depicting the flight of four P-51 Mustang fighters was taken on July 26, 1944, from a camera posted on a B-17 Flying Fortress. All four pilots served in the 361st Fighter Group, nicknamed the "Yellow Jackets," and the commanding officer and flying lead plane in this photo was Col. Thomas "Jack" Christian, Jr. the great grandson of Gen "Stonewall" Jackson. Seventeen days after this photo was taken, Colonel Christian was killed and his Mustang destroyed in a dive-bombing attack against the Arras Railroad yard in Boisleux-au-Mont, France.



Christian, Jr. called, "Jack" was born on November 19, 1915, in San Francisco, California, his father was an officer at the Presidio's field artillery training school. Christian Sr.'s mother was Julia Jackson, Stonewall Jackson's daughter.

Jack graduated 45 out of 456 at the United States Academy at West Point in 1939. He first joined the field artillery, following his father's service, but soon changed to the Army Air Corps. Between 1939 and 1941, he studied in the Texas Flying School at Love Field,

Dallas, and then became an instructor at Randolph Field near San Antonio. In March 1941, he transferred to the 19th Bombardment Group at Clark Field in the Philippines. By May 1942, he was in the 67th Pursuit Squadron; he was the very first U.S. Army pilot to land on Guadalcanal on August 15, 1942. He returned to the United States to marry Marjorie Ashcroft, whom he met while training in Dallas. While at home, he formed and trained the 361st Fighter Group in Richmond, Virginia. He was their leader and now promoted to colonel when the "Yellow Jackets" arrived in England as part of the 8th Air Corps in November 1943. In January 1944, his wife gave birth to their daughter, Lou Ellen. That is why Jack had "Lou IV" painted on his Mustang. He would never meet his daughter.

A report by 2nd Lt. Robert Bain, a pilot in Colonel Christian's flight on August 12, 1944, observed, "We circled the target receiving instruction from Colonel Christian to make the bomb run from south to north. ... I observed a very good hit in the center of the railway yard ... and assumed it was the Colonel's bombs. I repeatedly called our leader over the radio but never received an answer."

The daily report from the 361st Flight Group noted, "Our Group paid the price when the Group and Station Commander, Colonel Thomas J.J. Christian, Jr. was reported Missing in Action. ... Christian molded a small and weak entity into a strong and hard-hitting unit. ... His loss is noted in reverent tribute by all who had the pleasure to know or serve under him."

In the Faubourg-d'Amiens, France, cemetery, he is commemorated by a special memorial inscribed with the words "believed to be buried in this cemetery." He is the only American casualty believed to be there. He is also memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium. He has a cenotaph memorial in the Texas State Cemetery, Austin, and another one in the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery in Lexington, Virginia. The exact location of his body is unknown. (Courtesy Blue Gray Org.)

Where is Stonewall's Arm?



The Lacy family graveyard at Ellwood Manor in Orange County, Virginia has a marker for the burial place of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson's arm. But whether the arm is there any more is up for debate.

At the Battle of Chancellorsville, Confederate Lieutenant General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson was mortally wounded -- a very significant event during the Civil War. Indeed, historians have long debated the impact of Jackson's death on Confederate performance in subsequent battles such as Gettysburg. General Robert E. Lee, for one, felt the loss deeply, likening it to "losing my right arm."

Speaking of lost arms...Jackson was mistakenly shot by his own troops when returning to camp as darkness fell on May 2. His left arm was shattered, and field doctors amputated it. As the limb was about to be discarded, Jackson's military chaplain, Rev. Beverley Tucker Lacy, stepped in to save it. Lacy took the arm to his brother's nearby home, Ellwood manor, and gave it a full Christian burial in the family graveyard. A few days later, Jackson, who was weak from the operation, died of pneumonia. He was buried in

Lexington, Virginia but his arm stayed interred at Ellwood to rest in peace per Mrs. Jackson's request. That should have been the end of the story, but Stonewall's arm would not get the peace it deserved.

As noted in a Maryland colonel's journal, Union soldiers exhumed the arm in 1864. Although they reburied it, no one knows if it was in the same spot or somewhere else. Years later -- in 1903 -- former Confederate soldier James Power Smith set a stone in the cemetery, marking the graveyard as the resting place of Stonewall Jackson's arm. If there was anyone who knew the true whereabouts of the arm in 1903 it would have been Smith -- he had served as Jackson's aide-de-camp during the war and had then married into the Lacy family. Still, some suspected that he may have intentionally mismarked the location of the arm to protect it from treasure-seekers.

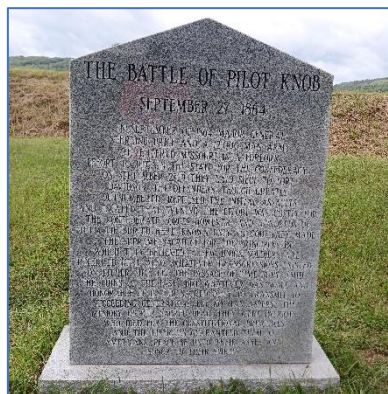
According to legend, one skeptic was General Smedley Butler, USMC. While leading Marines on a training exercise in the area in 1921, Smedley ordered his men to dig up the ground around the marker. As the story goes, the Marines found the arm and reburied it in a metal box, though there is some reason to doubt whether this, in fact, did happen. The National Park Service did an archaeological study at Ellwood in the 1990s and found no evidence of significant digging in the area around the marker or of a metal box in the cemetery. This led to rumors that the arm had been stolen and conspiracy theories that the Park Service had secretly stashed the bones away. (It probably goes without saying that the NPS denies these accusations.)

All we know for sure is that Stonewall's left arm was once buried at Ellwood plantation cemetery and the event is recognized with a marker. The exact location of the grave -- and whether the arm is still there -- remain a mystery and source of curiosity. As John Hennessy, the chief historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park put it, Jackson's arm "was the most famous appendage in America at that time and certainly remains one of the most famous today."

Source: The Trail and Tale of Stonewall Jackson's Arm," Mysteries and Conundrums blog by Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

Reenactment of the Battle of Pilot Knob, Missouri

Report from Steve Wilson: "It was a gorgeous day, and I was surprised at how many people were there. Several of Lt. George E. Dixon Camp members were in attendance. The food trucks and vendors where all good and great camps both Union and Confederate were represented. The cannons during the re-enactment were a thousand times better. Shook the grounds they did. I took a picture of the marker for the mass burial (it is the one shaped like a Confederate Headstone) and the burial field south of the fort. There is a picture of a Confederate Re-enactor with a Sharp's Carbine strapped on for a cavalry rider. First time I have seen one."



Monument Inscription

In September of 1864 Major General Sterling Price and a 12,000 man army re-entered Missouri in a forlorn effort to regain the state for the Confederacy. On September 27th they laid siege to Fort Davidson. The defenders, though greatly outnumbered, repulsed the initial assaults and escaped that evening. The effort was costly for the Confederate forces however, and hundreds of them lie buried here, known only to God. They made the supreme sacrifice for the principles in which they believed. A few Union soldiers are interred here also. Whatever transgressions existed on either side, let the passage of time bury amid the ruins of the past; but whatever was noble and honorable it is our sacred duty to transmit to succeeding generations. Let no man asperse the memory of our sacred dead. They were patriots who died for the constitutional principals and the liberties guaranteed them as American. Peace be unto their ashes and honor to their spirits.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

3 Daylight Saving Time Ends
5 Election Day
11 Veterans Day
21 6:30 CAMP MEETING
28 Thanksgiving
29 Black Friday

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

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



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 John Loper (Seabrook, TX)
10 Jane McKee (Shiloh, IL)
15 Dale Rice (Bethalto, IL)
25 Betty Lawrence (Keyesport, IL)
31 Philip Leonard (Effingham, IL)



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