

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



JANUARY 2025

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Per our Constitution, we must elect officers for the coming year. Be prepared to offer nominations.

PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT MTG, 16 JANUARY

PRESENTATION: The Roswell Women

PRESENTER: Johnny Kicklighter

REFRESHMENTS: TBD



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



GORDON HAYES
September 7, 1938-July 4, 2023

HARRIS 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

FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS" Greetings and a happy new year of us. I hope and pray that it will be a safe and prosperous one for all and for our nation. Rest assured that what we are facing is not something that our ancestors in times past were immune from. History is replete with trials and tribulations for all generations. This war that was thrust upon the states and it's inhabitants infected every aspect of America's national fiber. The carnage from that epoch still resonates in our national fabric until this very day. Some of the impacts were of beneficial nature to us in the form of inventions and such. This stands true for any era in which warfare requires human creative skills to achieve victory in battle. On the other hand, there are untold negative effects from such unwise adventures. I myself am witness to this legacy of what a war fought long before my birth can have lingering reaches into the future. My ancestors were killed in battle during this war and as a direct result families were relegated into a life of poverty. And so too with my families' history. The first person in my family able to attend a university following this war was myself. How many ways might we consider how what we now face is like the problems we are now facing in our own day. After the civil war our nation too began to look for hope and it was found in a national religious fervor which began as people turned their gaze unto our Creator. Pray that we do the same.

Until our next muster. 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 7:00 p.m. on 19 December 2024, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 12th Muster of the year.

CALL TO ORDER: Compatriot Kicklighter brought the meeting to order at 7PM, with invocation by Chaplain Biekert. A prayer was also given for Compatriot Gale Red.

ROLL CALL: 18



GROUP PHOTO (L-R)

Back row: J.C. Gideon, Dave Roper, Mary Wilson, Steve Wilson, Randall Cheatham, Mike Biekert, Mary Biekert

Front row: Dianne Tate, Johnny Kicklighter, Cindy Roper, Jane McKee, John McKee, Dale Rice, Janice Beasley, R. Lee, Ron White, Barb Luma, Jim Luma

A dinner/fellowship was held in lieu of a business meeting.

Meal consisted of ham and turkey (provided by Compatriot Steve Wilson), and covered dishes from the other members - Cajon Corn and Dixie mashed potatoes, cheesy grits, vegetable medley, vegetable casserole, four-bean salad, and Chinese Cole Slaw, and the desserts: Texas sheet cake, baked apple pies, pecan pie, and hot apple cider.

NEXT MEETING: 16 January 2025



Beautiful Center Pieces



No Presents for You



Food and Fellowship



Under Fire at Fredericksburg: Whitfield County (Georgia) Soldiers and the Stone Wall Defense



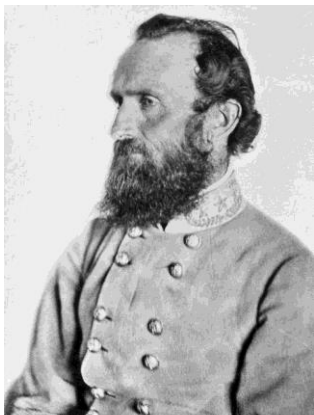
Sunken Road along the stone wall at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

On a bitterly cold December day in 1862, soldiers from Whitfield County took part in one of the most legendary defenses of the Civil War—the stone wall at Fredericksburg. They were among 172,500 troops engaged in the Virginia battle, a number exceeding the combined populations of Charleston, Richmond, Mobile, Memphis, Savannah, and Nashville at the time.

Following the deadly clash at Antietam Creek in September, Union Maj. Gen. George McClellan had failed to follow up his advantage against Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's retreating army. Becoming impatient, President Abraham Lincoln replaced him with Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside, tasking the new commander with delivering swift and decisive results.

Burnside responded with a bold, rare winter assault targeting the Confederate capital of Richmond. His chosen route led through Fredericksburg, a small town of about 5,000 people located sixty miles directly north of Richmond along the Rappahannock River. Burnside aimed for speed and surprise, reaching Fredericksburg on November 17.

Across to the western bank of the Rappahannock, where Fredericksburg was located, Burnside needed to construct pontoon bridges. But when the materials failed to arrive on time, his advance was stalled. Lee took advantage of the delay to entrench his army on the hills behind Fredericksburg. Finally, on December 11, Union engineers began building the delayed pontoon bridges under relentless fire from Confederate sharpshooters from across the river. In retaliation, Burnside ordered the shelling of Fredericksburg, forcing desperate civilians to flee.



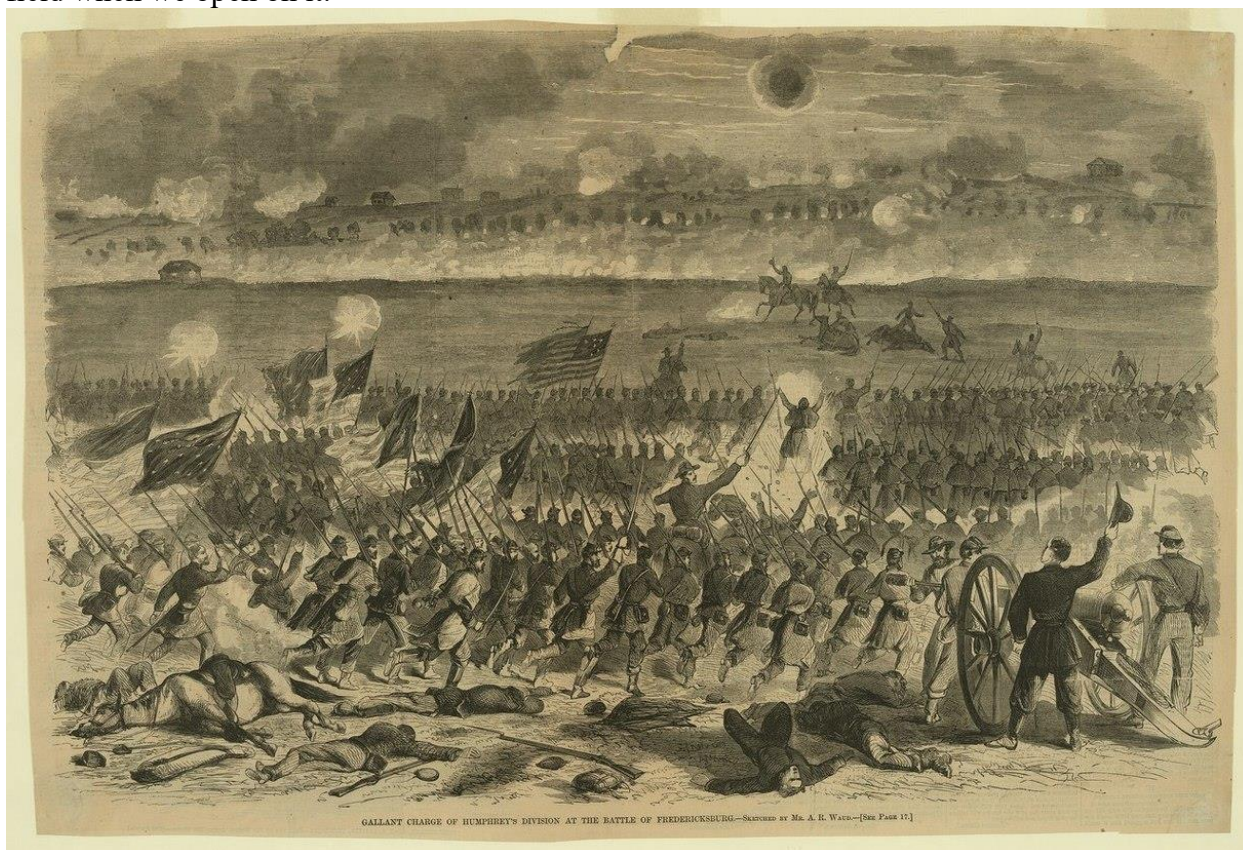
When the bombardment failed to dislodge the Confederates, Burnside ordered his troops to cross the river in boats, braving intense fire from Confederate defenders, finally establishing a beachhead. By December 12, Burnside's army had crossed the Rappahannock, looting, and vandalizing the town as they prepared for the coming assault.

The Union attack began on December 13, shrouded in dense early morning fog. Burnside's strategy involved a two-pronged offensive. His first assault targeted Lee's right flank under Lt. Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson to the south of the city. While this offensive gained initial success, Jackson's men ultimately repelled the Federals, inflicting heavy losses.

Lt. Gen. Stonewall Jackson

The second and bloodiest assault focused on Marye's Heights, where Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's Corps controlled the high ground west of town. At the base of the hill, along Telegraph Road, stood a four-foot-high stone retaining wall, behind which Brig. Gen. Thomas R. R. Cobb's Georgia soldiers, including men from Whitfield County, were entrenched. The position was formidable: Confederate artillery commanded the heights, and the Georgians used the wall as cover, with additional troops reinforcing their line to maintain continuous fire.

To reach this stronghold, Union soldiers had to cross an open 600-yard, wide-open plain, exposed to rifle and artillery fire. Further complicating Burnside's planned charge was a mill race across this field, fifteen feet wide and five feet deep, filled with three feet of water. Longstreet's artillery chief declared, "A chicken could not live on that field when we open on it."



Charge of A. A. Humphreys' Division at the Battle of Fredericksburg

The slaughter began shortly before noon. General Cobb waved his hat in the air and shouted, "Get ready, boys, here they come!" The Georgians opened fire, and when the smoke cleared, the Union line had virtually disappeared. Soon thereafter, Cobb was mortally wounded by an exploding shell.

Brig. Gen. Joseph Kershaw's South Carolina Brigade was brought up to reinforce Cobb's men at the stone wall. Since the Georgians occupied the front along the wall, Kershaw's troops "doubled up," making the Confederate line four-men deep. Those in the rear loaded the muskets and passed them forward, allowing the Confederates to fire rapidly and continuously.

Throughout the afternoon, Burnside ordered wave after wave of his infantry across the open field toward the stone wall, to almost inevitable slaughter. Refusing to believe his situation was hopeless, Burnside sent at least fourteen successive brigades. All were mown down by rifle and artillery fire from the Confederates' nearly impregnable positions.

Not a single Union soldier reached the Confederate line, and few made it within fifty yards. Finally, at about 7:00 p.m., the Union assaults ended. Behind the stone wall, about three hundred Confederates had been shot, while in front, approximately 8,000 Union soldiers had fallen.

As night fell, the scene across the field was one of unspeakable carnage and suffering. Thousands of Union casualties were trapped in freezing wintry conditions, without food, water, or medical care. Fredericksburg, one of the largest and deadliest battles in North American history, introduced the first major shelling of an American city since the Revolutionary War, the first opposed river crossing in U.S. military history, and the Civil War's first instance of urban warfare.

On December 15, Burnside's beaten army retreated across the Rappahannock. The Union had lost 13,000 soldiers in a battle in which the dreadful carnage was matched only by its utter futility. Confederate losses numbered about 5,000. Burnside was soon relieved of his command. As Federal morale plummeted, Confederate spirits soared.



Confederate Troops Behind the Stone Wall

(Courtesy Blue-Gray org)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

2 Groundhog Day
6 Ronald Reagan Day
14 Ash Wednesday
14 Valentine's Day
20 CAMP MEETING
22 Washington's Birthday

MARCH

5 Ash Wednesday
9 Daylight Savings Time
17 St. Patrick's Day
20 Vernal Equinox
20 CAMP MEETING
29 Partial Solar Eclipse

APRIL

1 April Fools' Day
9 Winston Churchill Day
9 Bataan Day
13 Palm Sunday
17 CAMP MEETING
20 Easter



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Walter Biekert (Belleville, IL)
5 Patrick Ottolini (Godfrey, IL)
9 David Runells (Victorville, CA)
28 Eugene Gray (Wymore, NE)



CAMP DIXON STAFF

Commander	John Douglas Stanton	618-610-6464	spqrkaiser2@gmail.com
Advisor to the Commander	Johnny Kicklighter	618-698-0053	johnnykick@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	johnnykick@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