

*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](http://www.scvcamp1962.org)

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**OCTOBER 2025**

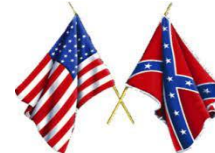


## **PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT MTG, 20 November**

**PRESENTATION:** Colt Firearms

**PRESENTER:** Steve Wilson

**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*

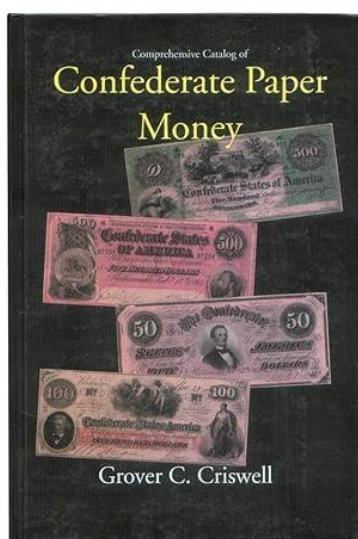
### **CAMP MISSION**

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 Bickert, 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 produce 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 the home of Janice Beasley, 5 October 2025, this being the 10th Muster of the year.

### ROLL CALL: 12

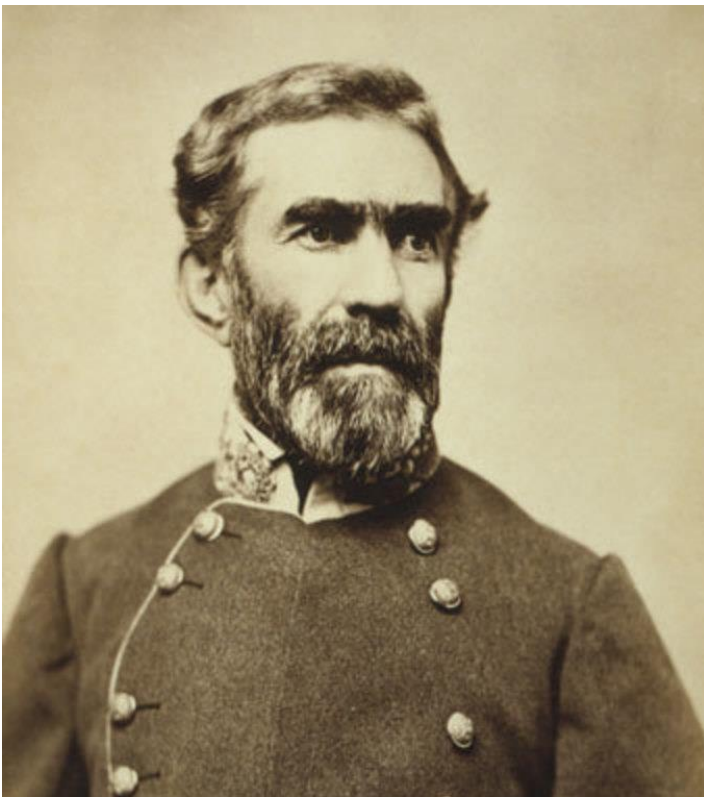
Janice Beasley hosted our cannon shoot. In attendance were Janice Beasley and Ron, Mike and Mary Biekert, John and Wendy Stanton, Justin Ottolini, Jim and Barb Lumma, Steve Wilson, Bob Herr, and Larry Stephens. We had a lot of great food and desserts. We could not resist and had to eat 1st! Then we fired the cannon with 10lb black powder charges. Everyone who wanted to pull the lanyard to ignite those 10lb charges got to feel the ground shake under their feet!

<https://youtu.be/6u5wHFXyR5M>

NEXT MEETING: 20 November 2025



## The Army Commander Most Despised by His Lieutenants



**Braxton Bragg**  
**Confederacy's Most Controversial General**

American humorist Will Rogers once remarked, “I never met a man I didn’t like.” Obviously, Mr. Rogers never met Confederate general Braxton Bragg. Bragg was born and raised in North Carolina. He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating fifth in the class of 1837.

As a young officer, he was argumentative with his peers and contemptuous of authority, often to a fault. Ulysses S. Grant wrote of him: In the old Army, “when stationed at a post of several companies commanded by a field officer, he [Bragg] was himself commanding one of the companies and at the same time acting as post quartermaster and commissary. ... As company commander, he made a requisition upon the quartermaster—himself—for something he wanted. As quartermaster, he declined to fill the requisition and endorsed on the back of it his reasons for so doing.” He then engaged in a series of back-and-forth with himself seeking to have the requisition filled while also denying it. Finally, he referred the issue to the post commander. Upon seeing it, the commander exclaimed, “My God, Mr. Bragg, you have quarreled with every officer in the army, and now you are

quarreling with yourself.” As an Army commander, he was the embodiment of toxic leadership. Though brave and intelligent, he was as different from Robert E. Lee in the qualities that inspire and motivate men to achieve the impossible as ineptness is from genius.

Where Lee would accept the mistakes of subordinates as failings on his part, Bragg was quick to blame others for the slightest transgression, never shouldering any of the blame. And while Lee was humble, gentlemanly, and engendered trust and affection, Bragg was arrogant, hot-tempered, and bred mistrust and hatred. Under Bragg, initiative was extinguished. Malice and disdain flourished. His corps and division commanders were hesitant to act except on receipt of written orders. Some would tacitly disobey his instructions, disrespectful of the man and his authority.



### **Battle of Chickamauga—A Bragg's disaster**

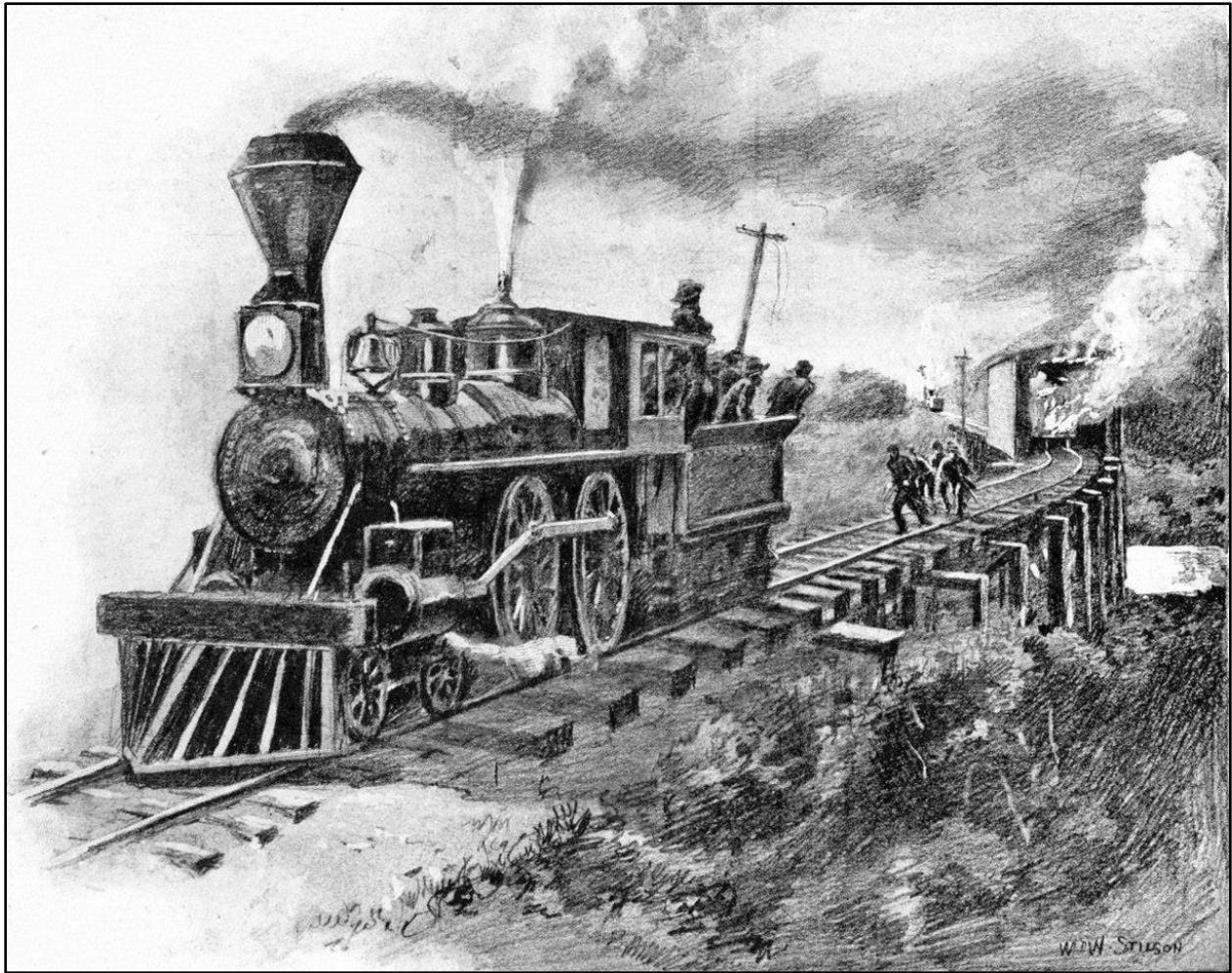
In the prelude to Chickamauga, the reluctance of his lieutenants to act promptly, or at all, prevented the Army of Tennessee from crippling the Army of the Cumberland at McLemore's Cove on September 10 and 11 and from striking a devastating blow two days later at Lee and Gordon's Mill.

During the battle of Chickamauga, Bragg's incompetence to ensure his orders were delivered and understood all but wrecked the right wing of his Army around the Kelly farm on the second day of fighting.

Amid the subsequent siege of Chattanooga, his lieutenants revolted, prompting a visit from President Jefferson Davis to restore good order and discipline. Foolishly siding with his dear friend Bragg, President Davis returned to Richmond leaving the command climate even worse than before.

That the Confederates failed to capture Chattanooga and were instead driven from Missionary Ridge is not surprising. In war, generals, and leadership matters. Braxton Bragg was a colossal failure in both. (Courtesy Jerry McAbee, [blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org))

## The Other Great Locomotive Chase



The Mitchel Raiders set a train car on fire to set a covered railway bridge ablaze and thwart pursuit. The event is referred to now as the Great Locomotive Chase but also referred to as "The Mitchell Raid."

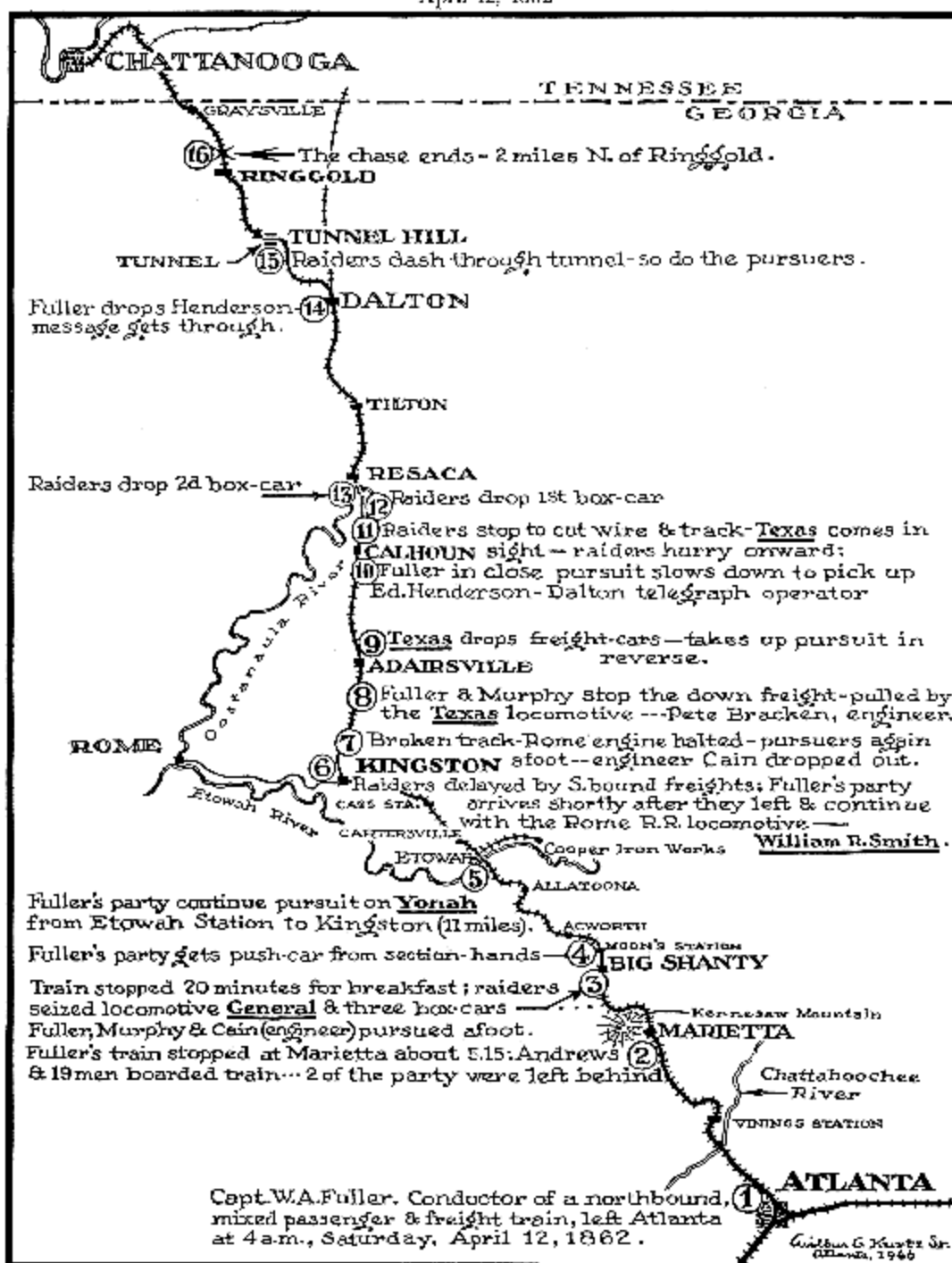
The Western & Atlantic Railroad played a critical role during the Civil War. Built by the state of Georgia and opened in 1850, the W&A supplied the Confederate armies in Tennessee from the major railroad junction of Atlanta. This situation led to one of the most celebrated adventures of the Civil War.

On April 12, 1862, federal spy James J. Andrews and 19 Union soldiers disguised as civilians seized the locomotive named *General* and three of its box cars at Big Shanty, near Marietta, Georgia. They planned to burn the W&A's bridges as Union general Ormsby Macknight Mitchel attempted to capture Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Huntsville, Alabama.

The *General*'s conductor, William Allen Fuller, and the foreman of the railroad's wood supply, Anthony Murphy, pursued the raiders for 87 miles on foot, with a handcar, aboard the locomotives *Yonah* and *William R. Smith*, and finally, in the locomotive *Texas*, while running the engine in reverse. Reinforced by armed Confederate recruits and track hands, they finally caught up with the *General* 2 miles north of Ringgold, Georgia.

# Route Map of the Great Locomotive Chase

April 12, 1862



Map of the Chase Route

With their engine out of steam, the raiders abandoned the General. Furthermore, because of determined pursuit of Fuller, they damaged no bridges. The saboteurs were all in custody within a few days. Andrews and seven of his raiders were hanged, but the survivors would be the first recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Fuller became the hero of the "Andrew's Raid," or "the Chattanooga Railroad Expedition," or "The Great Locomotive Chase," later the subject of two motion pictures, most notably Walt Disney's 1956 *The Great Locomotive Chase*.

Fuller, however, claimed he had another epic adventure. In 1902, he told of how in 1864 and 1865, as Sherman's legions marched across Georgia, he saved the railroad's 47 locomotives, 49 coaches, and 580 freight cars by

taking them to Macon, Savannah, Charleston, Columbia, Augusta, and back to Atlanta, while losing only 17 freight cars. The image of vast Georgia trains stretching for miles as they escaped destruction makes the Andrews Raid seem almost insignificant. But why did Fuller wait so long to mention this important event? The answer is that he made up the story after no one remained who could dispute him. Martin H. Dooley, the roadmaster for the W&A during that time, received the credit for saving a total of 40 engines and 500 cars from Sherman, but not at one time.

William A. Fuller, a legitimate Civil War hero, died on December 28, 1905, and was buried in Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery, a short distance from the original railroad yards and from where James Andrews was hanged in 1862. His tombstone credits him with stopping the Andrews Raid but mentions no second "Great Locomotive Chase." (Courtesy Robert Scott Davis, [blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org))



**Andrews Raiders monument at Chattanooga National Cemetery**



### **Interesting Facts about Lincoln's Assassination**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPjSG460IFo>**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

2 Daylight Saving Time Ends  
4 Election Day  
11 Veterans Day  
**20 6:30 CAMP MEETING**  
27 Thanksgiving  
28 Black Friday

### DECEMBER

7 Pearl Harbor Day  
15 Bill of Rights Day  
17 Wright Brothers Day  
**18 CAMP MEETING**  
21 Winter Solstice  
25 Christmas Day

### JANUARY

1 New Years Day  
**15 CAMP MEETING**  
16 Lee-Jackson in Virginia  
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)



### CAMP DIXON STAFF

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