

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, Cell 618-698-0053



APRIL 2025



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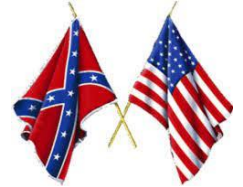
www.hunley.org

PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT CAMP MTG, 17 APRIL

PRESENTATION James Dent Higdon

PRESENTERS Jim Lumma

REFRESHMENTS: Jane McKee



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

(Parking lot available next to the church)

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, 618-416-5072

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 offer genealogical assistance with 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. Applicants must be twelve or older.



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, 618-416-5072

Chaplain Mike Biekert, 618-972-8190

Civil War Casualties Facts

- ✓ More than three million men fought in the war.
- ✓ Two percent of the population—more than 620,000—died in it.
- ✓ In two days at Shiloh on the banks of the Tennessee River, more Americans fell than in all previous American wars combined.
- ✓ During the Battle of Antietam, 12,401 Union men were killed, missing, or wounded—double the casualties of D-Day, 82 years later. With a total of 23,000 casualties on both sides, it was the bloodiest single day of the Civil War.
- ✓ At Cold Harbor, Virginia, 7,000 Americans fell in 20 minutes.



The Only Note Portraying Stonewall Jackson - \$500-1864
Today's Value: \$1,800 in Uncirculated Condition

FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS: Greetings to the faithful members of the Lt. George E. Dixon SCV camp. Hope that all is well with our members, and we are looking to see all at our April muster. It is important to gather together in a spirit of like spirit to honor our culture and ancestors. We encourage the membership to bring any ideas for things that the camp might undertake. Come prepared to discuss any ideas that you might have. See you at the muster. GOD Bless

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CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ MARCH 20, 2025, Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly muster at 6:40 p.m. at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 2nd Muster of the year 2025.

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: eight



GROUP PHOTO (L-R)

Back row: Phil Tate, Mike Biekert, John Stanton, Randy Cheatham, Steve Wilson

Front row: JC Gideon, Bob Herr, Johnny Kicklighter, Dale Rice, Eric Funkhouser

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Presented in the March 2025 Edition of The Blue Light News. Passed

FINANCIAL REPORT: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: Randy Cheatham reported that the food at Sharp Shooters Pit & Grill is still good.

REPORTS:

- A. Standing Committees: None.
- B. Special committee: None

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: It was reported that the monthly collections to pay for the utilities for the building have not been received. This resulted in two motions:

- A. Set a goal of collecting \$25 and all future contributions will go toward the utilities and use of the “kitty” is discontinued. 1st. Johnny Kicklighter, 2nd. Bob Herr. Passed
- B. The church should be reimbursed for money not received. 1st. Johnny Kicklighter, 2nd. Bob Herr. Passed.

REFRESHMENTS by Phil Tate.

PROGRAM: Steve Wilson showed a Davis-Hayes Video on the first firing on Ft. Sumpter.

NEXT MEETING: 17 April 2025.

BENEDICTION: Chaplain Mike Biekert.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 7:40 PM.



Civil War Treasure: What Happened to the Lost Gold of Richmond's Banks?



Artist's imaginary rendering of the robbery of the gold train, in Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper

The Confederate States of America did not surrender but, in the last days of the fighting in the Civil War, faded into history. The most famous of that conflict's many lost gold stories come from those final days.

By 1865, the southern government was bankrupt, relying solely on donations and a controversial loan. Virginia borrowed \$300,000 in gold and silver coins from the banks of Richmond. Despite denials by some, the money was indeed borrowed for the Confederate government. Confederate officials repeatedly directed payments made in gold from Richmond's banks as evidence. This gold, kept separate from the Confederate government's gold,

was loaned to the Confederate government in exchange for cotton securities. In other words, Confederate cotton served as security for the loan.

On April 2, 1865, Jefferson Davis and his government escaped Richmond, leading to his capture by federal cavalry at Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10. The last of the Confederate treasury was paid out along Davis's escape, but what remained of the Richmond banks' funds was left behind at the Bank of the State of Georgia in Washington, Georgia.



An illustration of treasure hunting on a southern farm, Harper's Weekly

Union Captain Lot Abraham arrived in Washington on May 5, with 50 men from the Fourth Iowa Cavalry. Representatives of the Richmond banks arrived on May 8. They decided to ship the coins overland by wagon to the railhead at Abbeville, South Carolina, and eventually back to Virginia. Abraham provided seven federal soldiers to escort the five wagons.

The treasure train set out from Washington on May 24, 1865. Fourteen Tennessee cavalymen and one Alabama soldier set out to rob the wagons. The wagons and their escort traveled 18 miles and camped on the Moss farm near the Savannah River. Around midnight, the pursuers raided the wagons. The seven guards offered no resistance, and the bandits filled whatever they had with coins. Some of the Federal soldiers also looted. Bank agents totaled the money lost at \$251,029.90. What remained in the wagons, \$159,929.90, eventually went to the United States Treasury. Stories swirled that much of the gold remained hidden, but almost all the money was, extraordinarily, eventually recovered.

After a lengthy federal investigation, the Richmond bankers obtained government permission to receive the assets. However, a Congressional resolution in late March 1867 ordered that the Treasury retain the funds. Throughout the 1870s and 1880s, attorneys for various claimants and successors tried to obtain the money. On June 22, 1893, the U.S. Court of Claims decreed that the claimants receive only \$16,987.88. Critics argue that the greatest thief became the United States government! (Courtesy Blue-Gray Org)



Fredericksburg National Cemetery Luminaria



The Fredericksburg National Cemetery Luminaria is an annual event featuring over 15,000 lanterns in the cemetery – one for each soldier buried in the cemetery grounds. This event takes place on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. The luminaria honors soldiers who have died in the service of this country. This year's luminaria is scheduled for Saturday, May 24, between the hours of 8 pm to 11 pm. In the event of rain, the event will be moved to Sunday, May 26th.

During the luminaria, 15,300 candles brighten the Fredericksburg National Cemetery. Each candle represents a soldier buried in the cemetery and honors those who died in the service of this country. Throughout the evening a bugler will play “Taps” every 30 minutes as park staff posted throughout the cemetery relate stories about some of the soldiers.

The Fredericksburg National Cemetery was established in 1866 and remained open for military burials until 1945. It holds the remains of 15,243 soldiers, sailors, and Marines, most of whom died during the Civil War. At least 85% of the graves are unidentified, resulting in over 12,770 unknowns. The annual luminaria has served as a poignant tribute to the fallen since 1996. Learn more about the Fredericksburg National Cemetery. This event would not be possible without the assistance of local Scouts, who volunteer to set up and light the luminarias.

Take The American Civil War Quiz

<https://www.britannica.com/quiz/american-civil-war-quiz>



The Lt. George E. Dixon Camp 1962 Honors the Memory of Longtime Member Charles E. Lee

April 25, 1936 - April 2, 2025



Mascoutah, Illinois - Charles E. Lee, 88, of Mascoutah, IL was called to the Lord on April 2, 2025. He was born in Allisona, TN, on April 25, 1936, the son of Louise, nee McMurray, and Samuel Thomas Lee. He was the eldest of three children.

After graduating high school in 1954, Charles joined the U.S. Air Force to start a 30-year career. He chose the weather field and was part of a tornado chaser group in the panhandle of Nebraska when he met the love of his life, Sarah Sabala. They married in 1958, and Charles continued his career in the U. S. Air Force, being stationed all over the US and in Germany. Charles also served in American Samoa and Greenland.

Charles was a well-educated man having received a B. S. from McKendree College and an MBA from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Charles retired as a Chief Master Sergeant in 1985 and became an auditor for the Illinois Department of Revenue. He was a member and past commander of the American Legion Post

292 in Mascoutah, a member of K of C Bishop William Cosgrove Assembly 3151 4th Degree, Freeburg, American Meteorological Society, and the McKendree Alumni Association, and served on the St. Clair County Board and the Public Building Commission. He was also chairman of the advisory board for the Belleville News Democrat. He and Sarah were members of Holy Childhood Catholic Church in Mascoutah.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Louise and Samuel Lee, and a sister, Dorothy Grubbs of Nashville, Tn. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sarah; two children, Rebecca Rosas (James) of Crosby, TX, and Charles E. Lee II of Pataskala, OH; a sister Barbara Mann; five grandchildren, Jacqueline (Tyler) Chambers, Alexandra Lee, Olivia Lee, Joseph, and Justin Lee.

The family would like to thank the nurses of HSHS Hospice and HSHS home health for their assistance in caring for Charles. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Charles's name to St Jude Children's Hospital, 680 Craig Rd #300, St. Louis, MO 63141. Condolences can be sent to the family by visiting mollfuneralhome.com.

FUNERAL: A funeral service was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at Moll Funeral Home with Father Mark Stec officiating. Burial with military honors will follow in Holy Childhood Catholic Cemetery, Mascoutah, IL. To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.





**Congratulations
On your 45th Wedding Anniversary
Doug & Betty Lawrence
(Of Keyesport, IL)
April 27th**

**Only best wishes to you on this special day. Hope you will have many happier & healthy
years together!**
(The camp will send a congrats card.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 1 May Day
- 3 Kentucky Derby
- 8 V-E Day
- 11 Mother's Day
- 15 **6:30 CAMP MEETING**
- 26 Memorial Day

JUNE

- 16 Father's Day
- 19 **6:30 CAMP MEETING**
- 18 Waterloo Day
- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 Summer Solstice
- 24 St. John's Day

JULY

- 1 Battle of Gettysburg
- 4 Independence Day
- 10 Full Moon
- 17 **6:30 CAMP MEETING**
- 20 Moon Landing, 1969
- 25 St. James Day



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|----|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | J.C. Gideon | Belleville, IL |
| 2 | Nathan Ziebold | Twin Oaks, MO |
| 5 | Doug Lawrence | Keyesport, IL |
| 7 | John Kruse | East Setauket, NY |
| 10 | Chris Ziebold | Chesterfield, MO |
| 17 | Don Young | Advance, MO |
| 25 | Charles Lee | Mascoutah, IL |
| 26 | John McKee | Shiloh, IL |



CAMP DIXON STAFF

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