

The Dixon Blue Light News

Camp Motto- "Deo adjuvanti non timindin"

Meaning: With God's help we must not fear.

**The Voice of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV
March 28, 2009 Edition**

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The Lt. George E. Dixon Camp Doubles in Size in Just One Year

The SCV membership of the camp has doubled in just one year, from 28 at this time last April to 56 with the addition of 10 more members this month alone. We also have 16 Knights and Ladies of the Golden Circle (our associate members). Thanks to all the hard work of each member of the camp and to the excellent programs and activities of our camp, we continue to grow at a wonderful rate. Thanks to everyone for helping make all our new members feel welcome and at home. Keep up the great work and keep bringing them in. (See list of new members on page 3.)



Have you made your reservations to attend the Illinois Division Convention in Springfield on April 18th? If not, please contact Gale Red right away as these reservations and the money must be turned into the division adjutant right away. We need to show our camp colors.

In This Issue:

Next Meeting.....	pg 1
Mark's Musings.....	pg 2
Calendar of Events.....	pg 3
New Member Welcome.....	pg 3
Meeting Minutes.....	pg 4 – 5
Gun-show report.....	pg 6
Other Camp News.....	pg 6
Alton Confederate Monument Repairs.....	pg 7
Communique from the Corporal	pg 8
"Lincoln's War"	pg 9
April Birthdays.....	pg 10
IL Division Convention.....	pg 10
SUVCW Meeting.....	pg 10

Heritage - Not Hate



Program for April 2, 2009:

**Come learn about "Thunder on the Mississippi:
New Madrid & Island No. 10" presented by
Bill Altman**

Next meeting - April 2, 2009

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV will be held at 7 pm on Thursday evening April 2, 2009. The meeting will be held at the SWIC Senior Citizen Center on the corner of East B and North Church Streets, in Belleville. Parking is available immediately across the street from the building. The building is located at 201 North Church, just three blocks east of North Illinois on East B. To get to the auditorium where we will have the meeting, ask the gentleman at the desk what room we are in. If you have any questions, call **Gale Red** for directions at 618-622-8949.

Mark's Musings - by Compatriot Mark Morgan

Compatriots (and ladies!) We're well into a great start for this year, with several good speakers already and more to come, along with a number of important activities.

As you're well aware, Saturday 18 April – about two weeks from when you read this – is the Illinois Division Convention in Springfield. Adjutant Red's mentioned it at the last couple of meetings and information on the confab is contained within this edition of the *Blue Light*. We're going for a record turnout this year from the Dixon Camp, as many participants as possible (as I've mentioned at an early meeting, partly to "keep the skeer on" our esteemed colleagues from Cook County, the Camp Douglas Camp). Several of us attend in uniform but like the Lee-Jackson Dinner, it's not a big deal if you don't have a uniform, just plan on joining us. It should be a large time, particularly if the Lt George E. Dixon Camp can turn out a large number of attendees.

Down South, April also marks observances of Confederate Memorial Day in several states. In Alabama and Mississippi, the holiday is the fourth Monday in April (and trust me, it *is* a state holiday). Florida, Georgia and Texas mark their observance every 26 April, the anniversary of Gen Joe Johnston's surrender of the Army of Tennessee and all remaining Confederate forces in Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas to Maj Gen William T. Sherman. The other states follow with their own observances in May and June, with the exception of Arkansas (19 January, combined with Gen Robert E Lee's and the Reverend Dr Martin Luther King's birthdays) and Texas, which observes Confederate Hero's Day on 19 January and Confederate Memorial Day on 26 April (God bless Texas!).

Obviously, regionally we have our own observances towards the end of May, starting with the Dixon Camp's annual commemoration at the North Alton Confederate Cemetery and followed by Memorial Day at Mound City and Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. We'll provide additional details as the end of May approaches, but again, I strongly recommend y'all mark your calendars and plan on attending and participating. All are truly outstanding activities.

Why *do* we participate, commemorate and otherwise salute our valiant predecessors? There are many reasons, including Gen Stephen D. Lee's charge that it is our "...duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations."

According to Tom Strain, former SCV deputy chief of staff, "We don't need to forget the actions of these men and the struggles they went through. Some of these men gave their all for what they thought was right, and that was state's rights. Future generations need to know the struggles that these men went through."

To do so requires diligence and steadfast devotion, particularly when we face comments, misconceptions or outright attacks, such as contained in the following letter to the editor of the Medford (OR) *Mail-Tribune* about a month ago:

"A Confederate flag waving high on a pole at an eastside Medford home greeted me as I drove to church Sunday morning, March 1. The flag invoked images of the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln (our martyred president) whose compassion and lifeblood subdued the mutiny of the South, which saved the Union, ended slavery, ended secession and gave birth to the Civil Rights Act, which declared all blacks citizens and denied states power to restrict their rights, passed by Republicans in 1866."

"To fly its colors today is an open display and a strong statement of disenchanting rebellion, which translates into anarchy towards the United States of America. It is a threat toward the presidency of the United States and the sovereignty of this nation. Take it down."

Above and beyond the writer's rather fractured concept of history, all I can say is they don't call it the "left coast" for nothing.

This is what we face and this is what we must deal with...again, with diligence, devotion and, above all, polite, articulate firmness. Participation in commemorations and Memorial Day events goes a long way to helping that cause.

In the meantime, hold high the flag!

Confederately,
Mark Morgan



Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

April 2, 2009, Camp Meeting, SWIC Senior Center, 7 – 9 PM

Program - Bill Altman - "Thunder on the Mississippi: New Madrid & Island No. 10"

April 18, 2009, Division Convention, Springfield, 9:30 AM – 4 PM

May 7, 2009, Camp Meeting, SWIC Senior Center, 7 – 9 PM

Program - Kevin Monroe - "The Role of Southern Women In Support of the War Effort"

May 16, 2009, Alton Confederate Memorial Ceremony, North Alton Confederate Cemetery, 11 AM - Noon

May 23, 2009, Mound City National Cemetery Memorial Day Event

May 25, 2009, Jefferson Barracks Memorial Day Event

June 4, 2009, Camp Meeting, SWIC Senior Center, 7 – 9 PM

Program - Scott Leas - "Private Alexander Eller, 4th North Carolina"

June 13, 2009, Memorial Ceremony for Pvt. Nelson A. Eller, Pvt., 4th NC Infantry (Great-Grandfather of Scott Leas) at Liberty Cemetery near Bingham, Fayette Co., IL – Noon

July 9, 2009, Camp Meeting, SWIC Senior Center, 7 – 9 PM

Program - Dr. Tom Curran, "Southern Women and the Military Justice System of St Louis"

Please plan to be with us.



New Member Welcome



We are thrilled to announce the addition of several new members to our camp. We are awaiting the three more applications. Most of these new members will be sworn in at our April 2nd meeting. I know you will extend your hand of fellowship to our new brothers and give them a hearty Southern welcome to our camp.

Name

Ancestor

Unit

Michael A. Wandling

Pvt. Allen Wandling

Co. E, 2nd VA Infantry

Harvey Cash

Pvt. Calvin I. Sharp

Co. A, 51st AL Partisan Rangers

John R. Prichard

Pvt. John Wesley Prichard

Co. A, 34th BN VA Cavalry

Dennis K. Headlee

Pvt. Joseph Sylvester Baker

Co. G, 15th ARK. NW Vol. Inf.

Joshua K. Headlee

Pvt. Joseph Sylvester Baker

Co. G, 15th ARK. NW Vol. Inf.

Alex E. Booth

Pvt. Samuel S. Booth

Co. H, 38th GA Inf.

Marcus P. Booth

Pvt. Samuel S. Booth

Co. H, 38th GA Inf.

Samuel C. Booth, Jr.

Pvt. Samuel S. Booth

Co. H, 38th GA Inf.

Samuel C. Booth

Pvt. Samuel S. Booth

Co. H, 38th GA Inf.

Eric J. Walz

Sgt. Robert J. Henry

Co. H, 11th AL Inf.

Also joining our camp as a new Knight of the Golden Circle member is Ralph Oelschlager.

Meeting Minutes from February 5, 2009:

Commander John Merritt called the meeting to order at 7 PM and called the Color Sergeants to advance the colors. Ryan Warner led the Pledge and Commander Merritt led the Salute. Gale Red gave the opening prayer. Then Commander Merritt introduced and welcomed our guests Kirk Dermint, Senior Vice-Commander, Col. Hecker Camp, SUVCW, Matthew Fontaine Maury Chapter, UDC President Sherri Horton, and Gary Swain and his wife. Next, new member Joshua Paddock was sworn in by Adjutant Gale Red and welcome to the camp by Commander Merritt. We then took a group photo of the uniformed members with our newest member. Commander Merritt then called on those to receive the award of the Distinguished Service Medals to come forward. Unfortunately, not everyone to be presented with a medal was present. Those receiving the medals who were present were: Helen Altman, Bill Altman, Janice Beasley, Bill Beasley, Brett Warner. Those not present who were to be awarded the medals were: John Barnhill, Ron Doran, Susan Harris, and Butch Harris. These medals were given in recognition of the continuous enthusiastic support given by these members over the past year. It is only through such dedication and support that our camp has been so successful. The roll call of those present included: John Merritt, Mark Morgan, Gale Red, Ryan Warner, Brett Warner, Gary Swain and wife, Roger Heinrich, Kevin Duffy, Jason Prichard, Josh Paddock, Johnny Kicklighter, Walter Hall, Doug and Betty Lawrence, Bill and Helen Altman, Harris & Lois Young, Don Dillon, Sherri Horton, Bill Boyd, Charles, Frank and Tom Sheeler, and Kirk Dermint. The minutes were accepted as presented in the last newsletter. The financial report was accepted as presented. Under "Communications", Gale Red read the message from Division Adjutant Ed Briggs about the April 18th Division Convention to be held in Springfield. Everyone who can was encouraged to attend. It is a great opportunity to meet other SCV members from around the state. There was no "Old Business" to be discussed. Under "New Business", we took names for volunteers to assist in manning the gun-show recruiting table for April 14th and 15th. We then heard from Kirk Dermint of the SUVCW Camp. He discussed possible joint programs and activities between the SCV and SUV groups, including a possible money raiser by working a breakfast session at a local Appleby's Restaurant. We are exploring ways to reach across the aisles and work with the "Union" boys toward better relations and community outreach. He was well received by the camp. Bill Altman then gave out catalogs from a Civil War sutler that is going out of business and offering good discounts on merchandise. He also told us about some small items and stickers items that he and Helen had purchased and are donating to the camp to be sold at the gun-shows. Jason Prichard told about the great stickers he is having printed up to be given out or sold to camp members or at the gun-shows. He also told about a professionally produced recruiting poster he is having made up for the camp. It should be ready by our next meeting.

We then took a short refreshment break and enjoyed the bountiful refreshments furnished by the Lawrences and the Sheeler brothers. At 8 PM we rejoined for our program of the evening. Ryan Warner, assisted by his father Brett Warner, presented a brief power-point on close-order drill procedures. He then went through the basic manual of arms and commands. Brett gave the commands and Ryan went through the movements. Afterward, he answered a few questions. After the program, Gale Red gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Our next meeting will be April 2nd.

(See pictures on next page)

Pictures from the Camp Meeting:

Group photo of uniformed members with new member



Joshua Paddock is sworn in



Commander Merritt awards Service Medals



Adjutant Gale Red and Commander John Merritt with guests



Ryan Warner discusses and demonstrates some of the manual of arms.



Kirk Dermint of the SUCVW discusses some possible joint projects.

March 14th & 15th Gun-show:

Members of the camp turned out in great numbers in support of our camp's recruiting table for both days of the gun-show at the Belle Clair Fair Grounds. The gun-show was especially well attended and we had a lot of visitors stop by on both days. I think everyone had fun working with each other and sharing information with the public. The Altman's reported that the sale of stickers and trinkets went very well. That money is being reinvested in other new merchandise for future shows. Between the two days, we had fourteen people sign up as being potentially interested in learning more about the SCV and perhaps becoming a member of our camp. On Sunday, we learned that Helen Altman was training to become a sheet salesperson. Additional excitement was provided late that afternoon when some visitor to the gun-show accidentally discharged a round into the ceiling. We had a great ribbing Bret Warner who galvanized into his Yankee blues to work with them at the SUVCW recruiting table. He almost certainly had a rash after wearing that blue uniform all day. At least he knows where home is. A good time was had by all who participated. If you weren't with us for this show, the next one will be in May 2nd and 3rd.



Kevin Duffy checks out a possible recruit.



Other News from Around the Camp

Joe Starek reports that he is making a good recovery after his recent surgery. He is up walking, driving, and getting around pretty well now. He says he may even try to make the meeting.

Sgt. Brandon Baker, our fearless warrior stationed in Iraq, is back hard at it there, but is looking forward to coming back stateside in July. Please continue to keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Jason Prichard's uncle Bill Whitley just passed away in Proctorville, Ohio. Jason has been out of town for the funeral. We extend our sympathies and prayers to his extended family.

Patrick Price, one of our members who was living in Wisconsin, has moved to Farmington, NM for a new job out there.

Ron Doran, underwent some minor surgery a few weeks ago and is very much on the mend.

Roger Heinrich, our sometimes with us traveler, will be out on his final Alaska run, and should be able to be back with us on a more regular and active basis soon.

* If you know of things going on with our members, please let Gale Red know so we can keep up with everyone.

NEW: Grant to fund restoration of Confederate Cemetery and Memorial

March 25, 2009 - 1:47 PM

By LINDA N. WELLER

The Telegraph

ALTON - A 99-year-old historical site in Alton will be repaired in coming months with a \$250,000 grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The money will be used to remove joints and then re-tuckpoint the cracks, then clean the towering limestone prisoner of war dead monument at the Confederate Cemetery and Memorial, 600 Rozier St. The cemetery contains the remains of 1,354 Confederate soldiers who died at the former Alton Federal Military Prison, and at the quarantine hospital on an island across the Mississippi River. Prisoners afflicted with smallpox were housed at the hospital during the Civil War.

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in South St. Louis County oversees the cemetery as part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Association.

Larry Williams, assistant director at Jefferson Barracks, said he had submitted a request for the funding and was both pleased and surprised to hear Tuesday that the money is forthcoming.

"The joints have rubber seals or concrete, and we are going to redo all of that," Williams said. He said the limestone obelisk and bronze plaques listing the prisoners' names would be cleaned, the latter having taken on a green patina from the elements.

The large plaques are mounted on all four sides of the monument base and they list names, regiment and company of soldiers interred in the cemetery. The individual graves are not marked. Williams said the cleanup may extend to the entrance to the cemetery.

Many of the soldiers buried in Alton were from the western part of the Confederacy - Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, and the border state of Missouri, which had many Confederate sympathizers. The monument also honors unknown soldiers who died of smallpox and were buried near the river, with those graves now underwater.

Some 11,764 prisoners were housed at Alton Federal Military Prison, which originally opened in 1833 as the first Illinois State Penitentiary north of what is now West Broadway at William Street. The prison closed in 1860, then the federal government reopened it on Feb. 9, 1862 to alleviate overcrowding at two war prisons in St. Louis.

The Alton facility became overcrowded and living conditions were poor.

U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello, D-Belleveille announced the funding distribution, which he said is "going to shovel ready" projects to create jobs and stimulate the economy."

Of the grants the Congressman announced, \$6,366,000 is going toward improvements at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Marion, and \$150,000 to repair the Illinois State Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Mound City National Cemetery that dates to 1874.

"This funding will help uphold the commitment we have made to our veterans to provide them the best possible medical care, while taking care of our VA cemeteries is an important show of respect for those who have given so much to our country," Costello said. "Our veterans have made the freedom we enjoy possible and our dedication to them must never falter."

The Confederate Cemetery in Alton dates to 1910, and is located in a hilly, treed North Alton residential area.

A crew had to clean portions of the monument after a vandal smeared obscenities and various graffiti on the sidewalk and base in October 2007. It appeared that the vandal used the hulls from fallen nuts that feel from trees at the cemetery to rub on the lettering.

Williams said there has not been any vandalism since that incident.

linda_weller@thetelegraph.com

Guest article by Johnny Kicklighter

Johnny Kicklighter is an avid collector and enthusiast of Confederate currency. His research and collection will be of interest to anyone who loves the story of Southern currency and the many tales of intrigue surrounding it. The artwork is amazing. This is the first of several such articles that Johnny plans to share with us.

Communiqué from the Corporal

The folks who said, “Hold on to your Confederate Money boys, the South will rise again,” were the brunt of many a joke over the years. Now however, the wise ones who kept their paper are laughing all the way to the bank. The South hasn’t declared its independence again, but the value of Confederate currency has shot through the roof.

Once the war started back in 1861, the Confederate States of America (CSA) began to issue its own money to the citizens of the South.

Although not legal tender, it was readily accepted as such. They took a chance that if the South won the war, the money would be redeemable. The first of 70 different types of notes was printed and issued by the CSA in April, 1861 and regularly produced through 1864. All in all the CSA issued \$1.7 billion under the various acts of the Confederate Congress. Interestingly, nearly all the notes carried the following inscription in various forms: *“Six months after the ratification of a treaty of peace between the Confederate States and the United States The Confederate States of America will pay to the bearer on demand....”* Many of the issues were interest-paying notes offering to pay bearers a fixed amount of interest for the amount of time they kept the money.



*\$10 from 1864, “Horses Pulling Artillery”
R.M.T. Hunter, Secretary of State (Value: \$60)*

Almost every Confederate note was painstakingly hand signed and numbered. Secretary of the Treasury, Christopher G. Memminger, believed hand signatures helped prevent counterfeiting. Due to the large numbers of notes produced, clerks were hired to sign “for Register” and “for Treasurer.” Most of the clerks after 1861 were women due to manpower shortages. Many were the wives and daughters of soldiers killed or missing in action. A great number of these notes also have uneven and rough borders since scissors were used to quickly cut the sheets of notes apart.

Counterfeiting became a serious problem for the South in spite of the Treasury’s efforts to prevent it. Toward the end of the war the Southerners lost confidence in the Confederate currency and eventually the notes were totally worthless. Indeed there were stories of people wallpapering their homes with the money.

Today, the value of these notes has risen significantly and is far from worthless. Their prices range from less than \$100 for the most common, to the tens of thousands for the rarest. Many of heavily printed issues are still available while the less common notes are getting extremely hard to find. As a novice collector of Confederate currency, I view these notes as a glimpse into a fascinating part of our nation's history. It’s my way of honoring my ancestors through the preservation of history and heritage.

Johnny Kicklighter, Corporal
Squad 4

“Lincoln’s War”

From *A Treasury of Civil War Tales* by Webb Garrison, his epilogue closing section of the book is a very well stated synopsis of why the War Between the States should rightfully be called “Lincoln’s War”. The following is copied verbatim from pages 251 and 252.

“Novelists frequently report that their chief character takes over and dictates the action. In this volume of non-fiction one person – Abraham Lincoln – did precisely that, in a fashion not planned or expected.

A Southerner by birth and a Unionist by conviction, Lincoln emerges as the larger-than-life central figure in the colossal drama of the North/South conflict. Clearly, Lincoln had no great interest in abolition, or even in the slavery question, as such. His one life-dominating goal, in which he succeeded against great odds, was the preservation of the Union, no matter what the cost to him personally or to the embattled sections, or to the families and individuals caught up in a struggle few fully understood.

It is not an exaggeration to label our nation’s bloodiest conflict as “Abraham Lincoln’s war.” Had he not won the White House in 1860, events could not have taken the course they did.

Pledged to preserve the Union, the chief executive skillfully jockeyed secessionists into firing the first shots at Fort Sumter. Had he called Congress into session it would have been difficult or impossible to have gotten a declaration of war. So in order to wage undeclared war, he raised troops for his ninety-day militia, and when their terms were about to expire, he bulldozed reluctant military leaders into decisions that led to the fiasco at First Bull Run.

The nation teetered on the brink of military dictatorship during months in which Lincoln deliberately violated the Constitution for the sake of the war effort. His skillful selection of prominent Democrats for top military posts was part of the overall plan to win, regardless of what victory might require.

Now, hailed as an epochal move toward a more equitable social order, Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation was part of his war strategy, not a bid for social justice. It came only after he had twice countermanded emancipation edicts of his own generals, and only when he judged its timing psychologically right. Significantly, no slave owner in Union territory suffered financial losses as a result of the proclamation, and no slaves in areas not in rebellion gained their freedom. It was a superb thrust at the jugular of the Confederacy, but it clearly was not a carefully constructed move toward social justice for black Americans.

Finally, Lincoln barred the way to an earlier peace. His adamant refusal to discuss any terms less than absolute submission and return to the Union made peace movements – Northern as well as Southern – futile until the Confederacy was battered to its knees.

All this will lead many readers of this collection of tales to ponder a momentous question: “What would have taken place in the 1860’s and thereafter had Lincoln not emerged as the dominant actor in the nations drama?”

While any answers must include conjecture, clusters of well-established facts suggest a likely scenario. With no leader possessing the personal impact of Lincoln, the bitter conflict would have continued and eventually South Carolina and a handful of other hard-line pro-slavery states’ rights states would have seceded. Virginia (and hence Robert E. Lee) would have remained in the Union, and the British success with cotton in India, leading to breakup of the southern cotton monopoly, would have created economic chaos in the already – faltering one-crop economy of seceding states. Within a few decades - perhaps within a generation – the cotton/slavery culture would have collapsed. Seceded states would have sued for readmission to the Union, perhaps under a plan of gradual emancipation with compensation of slave owners.

Such a train of developments would not have preserved the Union intact at all times, but even Lincoln failed in that objective. Had seceding states been permitted to go their own way, the Union would have been restored – bloodlessly – in relatively few years and at social and economic cost almost unbelievably low by comparison with that of the Civil War and Reconstruction.”

April Birthdays
Scott Leas – 3 April
Alex Booth – 3 April
Doug Lawrence – 5 April
Richard Campen, Jr. – 12 April
Donald Young – 17 April
Charles Lee – 25 April
Mike Wandling – 26 April



Division Convention Slated for April 18th in Springfield, IL

Our 16th annual Illinois Division Convention will be held on April 18th at the Hilton Springfield Hotel located at 700 Adams Street in Springfield, Illinois. Registration cost will be \$25.00 per person. Registration forms will be mailed out to the camps soon. In addition to our normal business meetings, we will have a luncheon to be followed by our guest speaker, Steven Ritchie, the Commander of the Indiana Division. The division convention is an opportunity to be part of the business of the division and to meet members from other camps in the state. We encourage everyone to come show our colors and raise the flag of Dixie in Lincoln's hometown. We hope you will plan to go in force with us to show the rest of the division what the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp is all about.



Who do you know who has Southern ancestry that could become a member of our camp? Have you asked them? Remember, recruiting is everyone's job.



NOTICE

The Col. Friedrich Hecker Camp # 443, SUVCW has invited anyone who is interested to attend their camp meeting on Wednesday, April 1st at 7:30 PM at the SWIC PSOP (same place we meet) for a lecture by Tom Pearson, Lecturer and Historian, as he presents "The Plot to Kill President Lincoln." The SUVCW Camp invites all the members of our camp to attend and share the evening of information and fellowship. If you can go, please do not wear your Confederate uniforms to this event.