

*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)

Editor: Lady Sharon Red, Cell 618-622-8949



FEBRUARY 2018

**TUESDAY WILL BE OUR CAMP ELECTION NIGHT**  
**VOTE FOR YOUR LEADERS FOR COMMANDER, 1<sup>st</sup> LT. COMMANDER, AND ADJUTANT**

***PLUS WHY NOT DO THE SAME NICE GESTURE AS LAST YEAR AND  
BRING YOUR VALENTINE TO THIS MONTH'S MEETING***

**6:30 P. M.**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

**Belle-Clair Fairgrounds**

PLEASE VOTE



## FROM YOUR COMMANDER

The next camp meeting on February 13 is very important because you will have a chance to nominate and vote for your camp leadership (positions of Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander, and Adjutant).

PLEASE ATTEND AND VOTE AT THE NEXT MEETING!

February is designated the month of love – a special time to remember your loved one on Valentine's Day. The token could be flowers, candy, or dinner but whatever it may be, it will be special because it comes from you.

I want to remember our camp and tell you I have another love besides Chris, and it's the camp. You have made me proud to be your Commander and made this camp what it is – one of rich Confederate heritage, membership warmth and giving, participation in meetings and all our activities, and love for one another. I have never witnessed a better camaraderie than yours, and I hope you continue to share of yourselves to be kind, please others, spread the word about your Confederate spirit, seek the older and younger fold as future members, and make Camp Dixon proud of today and the many tomorrows to come.

Confederately,

*Johnny Kicklighter*

## WELCOME

## NEW MEMBER

**WALTER BRIAN HARRIS**

**FROM GLEN CARBON IL**

Ancestor is his 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grandfather  
Pvt Sylvester Vines  
Co. H, 28<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry

\*\*\* NEXT CAMP DIXON MEETING \*\*\*  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017 ~ 6:30 p.m.**

**Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center**  
**200 South Belt East**  
**Belleville IL**

Parking/Entrance on West Side of Building

**PRESENTATION: ILLINOIS IN THE CIVIL WAR**  
**SPEAKER: ADJUTANT GALE RED**

**REFRESHMENTS: LADY JANICE BEASLEY**

*Questions? Call Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
From Your Commander	1
Minutes: Camp Dixon Meeting, January 9	2
Thank You from HQ SCV Veterans Relief Fund	3
Interesting Discovery Almost 150 Years Later: The Key to Robert E. Lee's Puzzling Death Might Be Hidden in a Photo of His Earlobe	4-5
Civil War Timeline – Some February Events	6
Traditions and Practices of Valentine's Day	7-8
News from Around the Camp	9
Calendar of Events ~ February Birthdays ~ Camp Leadership	10

## **CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ JANUARY 9, 2018 Muster**

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV, conducted their monthly muster at 6:30 p.m. on January 9, 2018 at the Belle-Clair Exposition Center, 200 South Belt East, Belleville IL, this being the 1<sup>st</sup> Muster of the year for 2018.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander Ron Lakin.

**INVOCATION:** Chaplain Mike Biekert.

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS:** The colors were properly displayed and stationary in the room so no presentation ceremony was conducted. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. flag and Salute to the Confederate flag.

**WELCOME:** Commander Johnny Kicklighter.

**ROLL CALL (13):** Janice Beasley, Mike Biekert, J. C. Gideon, Robert Hardy & Valery Countryman (guest), Walter Hall, Johnny Kicklighter, Matt & Andi King, Ron Lakin, John & Jane McKee, John Stanton.

### **PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**DECEMBER 12 MEETING MINUTES (Commander Kicklighter):** Approved by voice vote with a motion to accept by John McKee, seconded by Walter Hall.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** No motion. Deferred to next meeting.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**THANK-YOU LETTER TO WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** (read by Commander Kicklighter).

**THANK-YOU CARD SENT TO BARB & JIM LUMMA FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO HIGHLAND FAMILY** (Commander Kicklighter).

**UPDATE ON MARY BIEKERT** (Chaplain Biekert).

**UPDATE ON GALE RED** (Walter Hall).

**THANK YOU FROM JANICE BEASLEY** for honoring Bill's grave with a wreath and crossed flags.

**SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST TO CHAPLAIN BIEKERT FOR GALE & SHARON RED** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Commander Stanton).

### **OLD BUSINESS/REPORTS FROM THE FIELD**

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA LAST MONTH** (Commander Kicklighter).

**16<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY OF THE CAMP** (Commander Kicklighter).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS** (Commander Kicklighter). Deferred until February.

**FORMAL PRESENTATION ON Kicklighters in the Civil War** (Commander Kicklighter).

**REFRESHMENTS** were provided by Matt & Andi King.

**BENEDICTION** was given by Chaplain Biekert.

**MEETING** adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center.

Respectfully submitted,

*Johnny Kicklighter*  
Commander



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

## Sons of Confederate Veterans

"Historic Elm Springs"

31 December 2017

Lt. George E. Dixon Camp 1962  
O'Fallon, IL

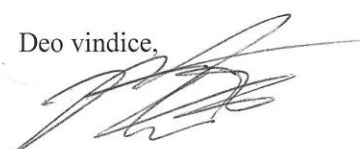
Dear Compatriots,

On behalf of Commander-in-Chief Thos. V. Strain, Jr., Relief Committee Chairman Danny Honnoll, and the entire membership of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, I wish to thank you for your generous donation to the Sons of Confederate Veterans Relief Fund.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans is a non-profit veterans' organization, but it is also charitable in nature. This fund is set aside specifically to support our members who have had tragedies in their lives and assist them back on their feet. Donations such as yours enable us to help those brothers of ours in great need. 2017 was a year of great need and members like you provided for their assistance.

Thank you very much for providing assistance to these members in need; they are very grateful to those like you who are willing to support them. Thank you again for your steadfast commitment to the Sons of Confederate Veterans and our efforts.

Deo vindice,

  
Michael L. Landree  
Executive Director

*Thank you very much, Compatriots!  
God bless y'all*

The SCV is a 501 c 3 tax-exempt organization; therefore, your donation may be tax deductible in accordance with the current rules of the IRS. You have received no goods or services for this contribution. Please use \$1035.00 when determining your allowed tax deduction.

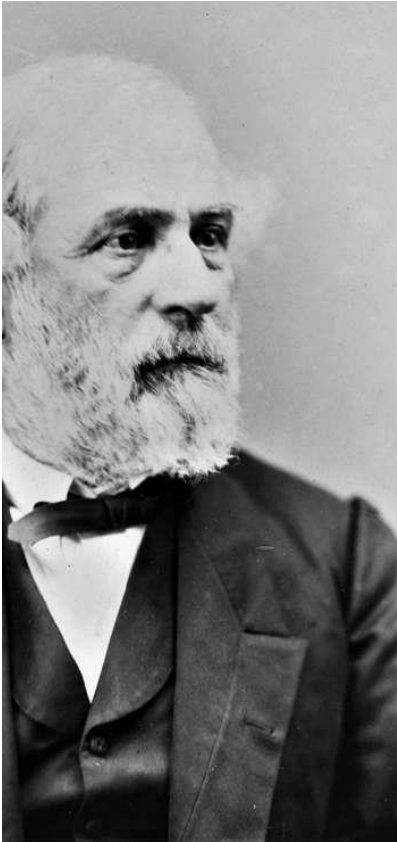
## Interesting Discovery Almost 150 Years Later:

### The Key to Robert E. Lee's Puzzling Death Might Be Hidden in a Photo of His Earlobe

BY Evan Lubofsky

January 26, 2018

Source: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/526291/key-robert-e-lees-puzzling-death-might-be-hidden-photo-his-earlobe>



Library of Congress // Public Domain

When Confederate Army general Robert E. Lee died five years after the Civil War ended, the cause of his death had doctors stumped. He had been in poor health, but his specific illness was a mystery; there weren't many clues beyond symptoms Lee had described in letters. "The troops are not encamped near me and I have felt so unwell since my return as not to be able to go anywhere," he wrote to his wife in 1863.

This was before electrocardiograms and x-rays existed. There were no obvious physical findings to support a formal diagnosis, either. Lee's doctors made some educated guesses based on his gripes and treated him with everything but the kitchen sink: hot mustard plasters and footbaths, doses of turpentine or ammonia, and enemas, all of which were standard medical treatments in the Civil War era. Without a robust medical history to guide them, the doctors diagnosed stroke, rheumatism, and pneumonia in the months leading up to Lee's death.

Now, new research from East Carolina University sheds light on the age-old question of what actually caused Lee's demise, thanks to the discovery in a photograph of a crease running diagonally across Lee's right earlobe. According to the case study, recently published in the *American Journal of Cardiology*, the crease is a physical sign that Lee likely died from heart disease.



Richard Reinhart, an emeritus professor of medicine at East Carolina University and author of the paper, says earlobe creases can help detect heart disease. Some previous reports have pointed to heart disease as the cause of Lee's death based on written evidence, but "until now there hadn't been an actual physical finding supporting this diagnosis," Reinhart tells Mental Floss. "His earlobe crease is the only piece of objective physical evidence that helps back it up."



Virginia Historical Society

The possible connection between earlobe creases and heart disease was first made in 1973, and there have since been more than 120 studies investigating the link. Scientists aren't sure why creases appear in the earlobes of some heart disease patients, but researchers have suggested that a heart condition may affect the blood vessels and elasticity of the earlobe in a way that forms a crease over time. Reinhart, a history buff who has a particular interest in the life of Lee, saw a close-up photo of the general at the Virginia Historical Society one day and noticed the wrinkle on his ear. Aware of the possible link between earlobe creases and heart disease, he began poring through Lee's personal letters and attending physicians' notes, as well as previous reports of Lee's illness, to see if his symptoms jibed with a failing heart.

It turned out the symptoms correlated well: Lee initially had an episode of chest pain in 1863, which progressively worsened when he exerted himself and eventually took on characteristics that would be recognized today as heart disease. And in the months before his death in 1870, he began to have chest pain even at rest, which suggests a heart attack was imminent. "The constellation of symptoms, I believe, are readily explained by heart failure due to progressive coronary artery disease," Reinhart says.

In an age where advanced medical diagnostic tools weren't yet in play, a physical feature like an earlobe crease would have been a useful visual cue had doctors known it might signal heart trouble. But even if they *had* known, could they have done anything to help Lee? One option—a nitroglycerin-based substance called amyl nitrite, which dilates the coronary artery for better blood flow to the heart—had been documented in the British medical journal *Lancet* in 1867 but wasn't used much clinically. Salicylate, the precursor to aspirin, which today's physicians recommend for preventing heart attacks, had been around since before the Civil War. But the idea of using it as an anti-platelet drug wouldn't occur for decades.

"Understanding heart disease back then was in its relative infancy, and I don't think there's anything that would have turned Lee's condition around," Reinhart says. "Even today, I believe the outcome from his final illness—end-stage heart failure—may not have been much better, given that the mortality rates for it are still significant."

## Civil War Timeline – Some February Events

(January 1861 - Six additional southern states secede from the Union.)

**February 8-9, 1861** - The southern states that seceded created a government at Montgomery, Alabama, and the Confederate States of America are formed.

**February 18, 1861**- Jefferson Davis is appointed the first President of the Confederate States of America at Montgomery, Alabama, a position he will hold until elections can be arranged.

**January 1861** - Six additional southern states secede from the Union.

**February 8-9, 1861** - The southern states that seceded create a government at Montgomery, Alabama, and the Confederate States of America are formed.

**February 18, 1861**- Jefferson Davis is appointed the first President of the Confederate States of America at Montgomery, Alabama, a position he will hold until elections can be arranged.

**February 6, 1862**- Surrender of Fort Henry, Tennessee. The loss of this southern fort on the Tennessee River opened the door to Union control of the river.

**February 8, 1862**- Battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina. A Confederate defeat, the battle resulted in Union occupation of eastern North Carolina and control of Pamlico Sound, to be used as Northern base for further operations against the southern coast.

**February 16, 1862**- [Surrender of Fort Donelson, Tennessee](#). This primary southern fort on the Cumberland River left the river in Union hands. It was here that Union General Ulysses S. Grant gained his nickname "Unconditional Surrender".

**February 22, 1862**- Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as President of the Confederate States of America.

**February 9, 1864**- Escape from Libby Prison, Richmond. After weeks of digging, 109 Union officers made their escape from the notorious Libby Prison, the largest and most sensational escape of the war. Though 48 of the escapees were later captured and two drowned, 59 were able to make their way into Union lines.

**February 27, 1864**- In Georgia, Camp Sumter Prison Camp opens. Universally referred to as [Andersonville Prison Camp](#), it will become notorious for overcrowded conditions and a high death rate among its inmates.

**February 14-20, 1864**- Union Capture and Occupation of Meridian, Mississippi. Union forces under William T. Sherman enter the city of Meridian, Mississippi after a successful month of campaigning through the central part of the state. The capture of this important southern town, well known for its industry and storage capabilities, severely hampers the efforts of Confederate commanders to sustain their armies in the deep south, Georgia and west of the Mississippi River.

**February 17, 1864**- First Successful Submarine Attack of the Civil War. The CSS *H.L. Hunley*, a seven-man submergible craft, attacked the USS *Housatonic* outside of Charleston, South Carolina. Struck by the submarine's torpedo, the *Housatonic* broke apart and sank, taking all but five of her crew with her. Likewise, the *Hunley* was also lost and never heard from again until discovered in 1995 at the spot where it sank after the attack.

**February 1, 1865**- Sherman's Army leaves Savannah to march through the Carolinas.

**February 17, 1865**- Sherman's Army captures Columbia, South Carolina while Confederate defenders evacuate Charleston, South Carolina.

**February 22, 1865**- Wilmington, NC, falls to Union troops, closing the last important southern port on the east coast. On this same day, Joseph E. Johnston is restored to command the nearly shattered Army of the Tennessee, vice John B. Hood who resigned a month earlier.

## Traditions and Practices of Valentine Day

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, I thought a look back on the traditions and practices of the holiday might be fun. For instance, did you know that during the American Civil War, homesick and love-struck soldiers sent Valentine Cards from the battlefield?

It was a common occurrence on the home-front to receive letters and small items from the battle-lines but during special holidays, those items often took on a more romantic and sentimental tone. Harpers Weekly, the leading newspaper of the time period, even published a special Valentine's Day greeting page in 1864 celebrating the Valentine tradition.







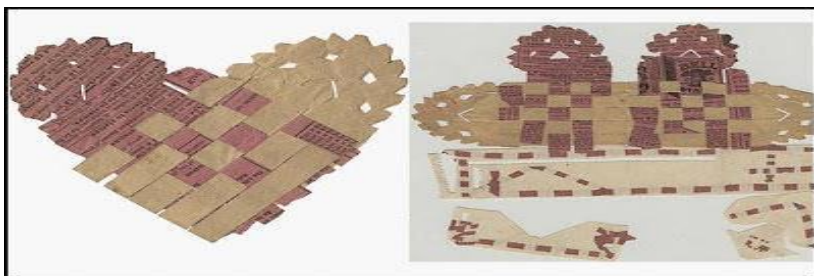
Recognizing that many soldiers sent letters and cards, to their sweethearts back home, Harper's Weekly celebrated undying love on Valentine's Day during the Civil War with a special edition devoted to soldiers' love. Some soldiers could not read or write, and instead had very close friends pen love letters and make-shift cards to their loved ones. Most Civil War soldiers bought Valentine Cards from a sutler, who in addition to carrying supplies of boots and weapons, also sold stationery and greeting cards.

Here's an example of a beautiful Civil War era Valentine titled 'MY LOVE':



During the War there were special valentines for soldiers and their sweethearts. Some showed couples parting ways. Others had a tent with flaps that opened to reveal a soldier. These were called a Window Valentine. Another Civil War novelty was the valentine that included a lock of hair. And another was the paper doll valentine that had a printed face and feet, with the figure dressed in cloth or paper. Many cards also had political and patriotic messages and imagery. Love letters between soldiers and their sweethearts have become collectors' items and family heirlooms, and remind us that love and romance is present in even the most gruesome circumstances.

Not all Valentines were a happy occasion to read however... One such Valentine is a surprisingly elaborate one, from a Confederate soldier named Robert King to his wife, Louiza. King used a penknife to cut through an envelope and a newspaper, then he wove them together into a heart shape (**shown below**). When opened, the card shows two figures crying. In a prophetic turn of events, the Valentine didn't reach his wife until nearly two months after the holiday, on the same day that another letter was delivered to her home. The letter stated that King was killed in battle.



So, hold someone close this Valentine's Day, and remember that life is short, no matter how great a love can be.

Source:

<http://justanotherstaticheart.blogspot.com/2013/02/civil-war-valentines.html>



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE CAMP

**(JANUARY) GET-WELL WISHES TO COMPATRIOT DWIGHT MOORE** since he injured his back while fixing their home for sale in March. *(They plan to permanently move to Florida this summer.)* This injury kept Nona and him from vacationing in Hawaii last month. Please pray for his speedy recovery.

**(JANUARY 16) COMPATRIOT WALTER HALL** survived his macular degeneration eye surgery – it was a success -- he is recuperating nicely. Thank you for your prayers.

**(JANUARY 20) 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. COMMANDER JOHN STANTON** removed Christmas wreaths from the Alton Confederate Cemetery and Smallpox Island Monument.

**(JANUARY 20) ADJUTANT GALE & LADY SHARON RED** removed the Christmas wreaths from:

Green Mount Catholic Cemetery, Belleville

Compatriot Kevin Duffy

Walnut Hill Cemetery, Belleville

Joseph Underwood (CSA)

William H. Harris (CSA)

Compatriot Ron Doran

Henry Duvall Anderson (CSA)

Henry E. Schrader (CSA)

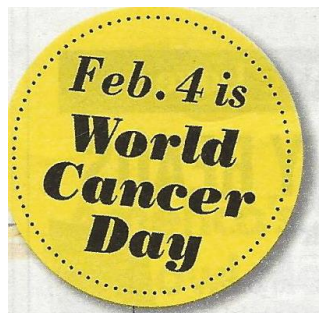
and

the Union Monument

Mascoutah Community Cemetery

Compatriot Brett Warner

**SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION FROM ADJUTANT GALE RED** for your get-well thoughts, prayers, cards, and telephone calls regarding his chemotherapy. They meant so much to him.



## CAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### FEBRUARY

- 2 GROUNDHOG DAY  
 12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY  
**13 6:30 CAMP DIXON MEETING**  
**---- CAMP ELECTION NIGHT ----**  
 14 ASH WEDNESDAY (LENT BEGINS)  
 14 ST. VALENTINE'S DAY  
 19 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY  
 (PRESIDENT'S DAY (HOLIDAY))

### MARCH

- 11 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS  
 (SET CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR)  
**13 6:30 CAMP DIXON MEETING**  
 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
 20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING  
 25 PALM SUNDAY  
 30 GOOD FRIDAY



### **FEBRUARY**

- 3 Carson Leonard**  
*(from Ingraham IL)*  
**14 Phil Tate**  
*(from Mascoutah IL)*  
**14 James Johnson**  
*(from Hopkinton MA)*  
**17 Ham Lemmer**  
*(from Millstadt IL)*  
**20 Jim Lumma**  
*(from Jerseyville IL)*  
**20 Ralph Oelschlager**  
*(from Belleville IL)*

Commander  
 1Lt Commander  
 2Lt Commander  
 Adjutant  
 Chaplain  
 Sgt at Arms  
 Program Chairman  
 Historian  
 Door Greeter  
 Quartermaster

#### **CAMP DIXON LEADERSHIP**

John Wayne Kicklighter  
 Ronald Joseph Lakin  
 John Douglas Stanton  
 Gale Franklin Red  
 Walter Michael Biekert  
 David Francis Schmitt  
 Gale Franklin Red  
 VACANT  
 VACANT  
 VACANT

618-257-9079  
 Cell 618-420-6358  
 618-610-6464  
 Cell 618-622-8949  
 618-972-8190  
 Cell 618-334-6148  
 Cell 618-622-8949