

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)

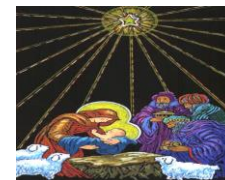
www.scvcamp1962.org

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

DECEMBER 2019



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
PLEASE SHARE THE HOLY SEASON'S CHEER AT THE NEXT
CAMP DIXON MEETING
Belle-Clair Fairgrounds
TUESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2019 6:30 P. M.

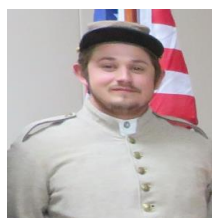


WELCOME

NEW CAMP DIXON MEMBERS
Conner E. Cowan & Craig E. Cowan



Ancestor is 1st Lt Richard Dickey Cowan
of Co. C, 15th Missouri Cavalry
Regiment



Congratulations
Ronald J. Lakin
as
Camp Dixon's
2nd Lt. Commander

Sorry for omitting Chaplain Walter Mike Biekert as a U. S. M. C. veteran (in the last newsletter). Thank you, Mike.

FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTN: TO ORDERS: Greetings to all faithful comrades of the Lt. George E. Dixon SCV Camp. I hope all enjoyed a festive Thanksgiving with friends and family.

The officers of the camp would like to express their hopes and desires for each and every member to also enjoy a Merry Christmas this month.

It was good to see members of the Dixon Camp in attendance at the SUVCW annual dinner. We hope that there are more such opportunities in the future for both organizations to gather with each other in friendship.

Please remember that we will collect for our Christmas charity fund at this month's meeting. I hope all will contribute as in years past. During the holiday seasons it can be easy to forget those less fortunate than ourselves. It also can be a trying time for those who are ill or who have suffered loss in the past. I would like each of you to remember those of our Camp who are sick or have suffered great loss in your prayers and in our remembrance of their loyalty to our Camp and in the pride in which they held up for their Confederate relative.

Please plan to participate in The Wreaths Across America Day on December 14, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Alton Confederate Cemetery. In case you're not familiar with this annual event, background information is on page 5.

It will be great to see all of you again at this month's meeting and Alton.

Until then, GOD BLESS

Confederately,

John Stanton

***** NEXT CAMP DIXON MEETING *****
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019 ~ 6:30 p.m.

Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center
200 South Belt East, Belleville IL
Parking/Entrance on East Side of Building

PRESENTER: Adjutant Gale Red

PROGRAM: Child Soldiers of the Civil War

REFRESHMENTS: Compatriot Steve Wilson

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

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CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ NOVEMBER 12, 2019 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly Muster at 6:35 p.m. on November 12, 2019 at the Exposition Hall, Belle Clair Fairgrounds, Belleville IL; this being the 11th Muster of the year 2019.

CALL TO ORDER: Commander John Stanton called the meeting to order.

COMMANDER'S WELCOME: Commander Stanton welcomed the Camp's members and friends.

INVOCATION: Chaplain Mike Biekert

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS (Pledge of Allegiance, and Salute to Confederate Flag): The American Flag was properly displayed. 1st Lt Commander Matt King led everyone in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and the salute to the Confederate Flag.

SWEARING-IN: Conner Edward Cowan and his father, Craig Edward Cowan, were sworn in as new members of the SCV and the Dixon Camp. Their Confederate soldier ancestor is 4th Great-Grandfather and 3rd Great-Grandfather, 1st Lt. Richard Dickey Cowan of Company C, 15th Missouri Cavalry Regiment.



Commander Stanton read the Camp Preamble to Conner and Craig Cowan.
Also present are Adjutant Gale Red and Compatriot J. C. Gideon.



Adjutant Gale Red, the Cowans, and J. C.



The Cowans are attentively listening to Adjutant Red deliver the oath, with J. C. present.



Adjutant Red is handing out the Camp membership cards.



Compatriots Steve Wilson and Ron Lakin, Commander Stanton, Compatriots Conner Cowan, Craig Cowan, J. C. Gideon, Adjutant Red, and Santa (Chaplain Mike Biekert).

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS: Vote confirmed Ronald Lakin as 2nd Lt Commander.



ROLL CALL (19) (Adjutant Gale Red). *Please ensure everyone signs the muster roll.*

Those present included: Janice Beasley, Walter Mike Biekert, Conner Cowan, Craig Cowan, Walter Hall, Eric Funkhouser, J. C. & JoAnn Gideon, Ronald Lakin and Alexis (Lexy) Rensing (guest), Matt & Andrea King & Jordyn Renfro, Gale & Sharon Red, Dale Rice, John Stanton, Phil Tate, and Steve Wilson.

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ NOVEMBER 12, 2019 Muster (cont'd)



GROUP PHOTO

(L-R) (1st Row, seated) Phil Tate and Janice Beasley
(2nd Row) J. C. Gideon, John Stanton, Steve Wilson, Ron Lakin, Lexy Rensing, Dale Rice,
JoAnn Gideon, and Jordyn Renfrow
(3rd Row) Mike Biekert (Santa), Eric Funkhouser, Conner Cowan, Craig Cowan,
Matt King, Andi King, Sharon Red, and Gale Red

Photographer: Walter Hall

MINUTES: The October 8, 2019 meeting minutes were approved by a motion to accept by Steve Wilson and seconded by Phil Tate with a unanimous all-hands-agreed vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Gale Red reported the financial report of \$7,009.48. Came across a check for \$100 not yet deposited from Smithton and will be added. Not included is the \$110 cost for newsletter processing. The Financial Report was approved by a motion to accept by Walter Hall and seconded by Steve Wilson with a unanimous all-hands-agreed vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

HECKER CAMP YEARLY ENCAMPMENT/DINNER, NOVEMBER 23, AT CREHAN'S (LOCATED ON NORTH BELT WEST NEAR SKYVIEW DRIVE-IN, BELLEVILLE (Commander Stanton)). All are invited to attend. Doors open 5:00 p.m. *(Four raised their hands to attend.)*

NEW BUSINESS

ANNUAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 (Adjutant Red).

- Please put this on your calendar to attend. Begins at the Alton Confederate Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. We will then go to the Small Pox Island Monument and the graves of deceased members of our camp.

2020 REFRESHMENTS LIST AND PROGRAM PRESENTATION LIST WAS AVAILABLE FROM SHARON RED FOR SIGN-UP (Adjutant Red).

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ NOVEMBER 12, 2019 Muster (cont'd)

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY OUTREACH (Adjutant Red). All hands said yes to do this.

- Commander Stanton: Can we help our own?
- Adjutant Red: Ham Wellington is terminally ill. Chaplain Biekert will make contact.
 - It will take \$200 to support each family we choose. We can open our wallets or have the option to draw from our treasury.
 - Compatriot Steve Wilson: Suggest we match our pocket money to the treasury. This was approved by a motion to accept by Steve Wilson and seconded by Ron Lakin with a unanimous all-hands-agreed vote.
 - Passed the hat and received \$156 ~ with the same match from the treasury totaled \$312.
 - Adjutant Red: Plan to support two families. *(If you know of a family that needs assistance, please let me know.)*

SING-A-LONG BY STEVE WILSON AND HIS UKULELE ... Dixie & We Gather Together *(accompanied by Chaplain Biekert)*



REFRESHMENTS: Phil Tate provided chili, sausage, crackers, cheese, and beverages. Thank you, Phil, for taking such good care of us.

PROGRAM: Commander John Stanton from Godfrey IL presented a briefing about The Kingdom of Jones County MS.

Synopsis

Commander Stanton presented a brief talk about the Kingdom of Jones, MS. The narrative focused on the historical facts of this event concerning a supposed secession of a MS County under the leadership of a Confederate deserter named Newton Knight. Commander Stanton discussed the historical accuracy of the recent Hollywood movie, "The Kingdom of Jones" and pointed out many inaccuracies in the film.

BENEDICTION: Chaplain Biekert delivered the benediction.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 6:30 p.m., at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center. Presenter will be Adjutant Gale Red who will talk about "Child Soldiers of the Civil War." Refreshments will be provided by Compatriot Steve Wilson.



Respectfully submitted,

Gale F. Red
Adjutant

About the National Wreaths Across America Day

(a special day set aside to lay wreaths on veterans' headstones)

By Lady Sharon Red

For those of you who are unaware of the Wreaths Across America or the man who started this wonderful tradition, here is some background information:

Reference FOX News Sunday with Chris Wallace

Interviewing Morrill Worcester of the Worcester Wreath Company -- December 25, 2016

The origin of "Wreaths Across America" was when Mr. Morrill Worcester made numerous wreaths and just didn't want to throw them away. He thought of Arlington and all those graves. When the cemetery approved, he and a dozen volunteers drove the wreaths down and laid them on the headstones. And so it continued for years until a few Christmases back when an Air Force Sgt took a picture of the Arlington graves with the beautiful wreaths adorning each headstone and posted it on the internet ~ which went around the world.

Fox News was there next year as workers at the Worcester Wreath Company loaded up 5,265 wreaths and then they embarked on what could be called the world's longest Veterans Day parade – a 750-mile journey – at some point attracted more than a 100 vehicles. And when they got to Arlington, so many people wanted to participate. For years, Worcester paid for all of this out of his own pocket and he started Wreaths Across America sending hundreds to cemeteries and war memorials and across the country, but he will need help to reach his new goal – it's a tall order to decorate 2.7 million graves – but he would like to do it. He's going to keep doing it as long as he can work and knows his family will continue it. It will be here for a long time.

This is the 25th year Morrill Worcester has taken off on his Christmas wreath project. This month more than 800,000 volunteers helped place more than 1.2 million wreaths on veterans' graves at all 50 states and overseas. And after going to Arlington last week, Morrill dropped by to say why this project is still growing over a quarter of a century: Morrill said: "I think it's America and what America needs to be. There are a lot of people who have roots in the military – they have veterans that have served. They want to spend a little time remembering those people and being at the cemeteries all over the country – just saying their names out loud and keeping their memories alive. I'm going to keep doing this as long as the Good Lord will let me – I'll do as long as I possibly can ... and then my family's behind me. They're going to keep on going – this will never stop. It's what the country's all about. We have to know where we've been and what we've been given in order to go forward in a meaningful way – what's been given to us -- so we can have what we have all down through the history of our country."

Camp Dixon has been participating in this effort for 6 years and are proud of it. We encourage as many of you that are available to show up, participate and remember our fallen who have given their brave lives for their country and Confederacy. It's a warm feeling you'll receive knowing you did this ... the right thing for them ... remembering and warming the hearts of all these soldiers on a cold day. It will warm your heart truly and God will bless you always for your caring deed.

Rest easy, sleep well my brothers.
Know the line has held, your job is done.
Rest easy, sleep well.
Others have taken up where you fell, the line has held.
Peace, peace., and farewell.



Christmas Bells

One of America's best-known poets, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), contributed to the wealth of carols sung each Christmas season, when he composed the words to "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" on December 25th, 1864.

The carol was originally a poem, "Christmas Bells," containing seven stanzas. Two stanzas were omitted, which contained references to the American Civil War, thus giving us the carol in its present form. The poem gave birth to the carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," and the remaining five stanzas were slightly rearranged in 1872 by John Baptiste Calkin (1827-1905), who also gave us the memorable tune. When Longfellow penned the words to his poem, America was still months away from Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9th 1865; and, his poem reflected the prior years of the war's despair, while ending with a confident hope of triumphant peace.

"Christmas Bells"

(The original poem, complete with all seven stanzas)



"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth He sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"



A Confederate Soldier's Christmas

**T'was the night before Christmas, he was all alone
In a field or forest so dismal with weeds and some stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
And to see just who was not where he used to live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see.
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.**

**No stocking by mantle, just a left-behind family did stand,
Missing the loved one who went to a war-beaten land.
No medals or badges, or awards of any kind,
A sobering thought came to my mind.
For this place was different, so dark and so dreary,
The sad home of a missing soldier, now I could see clearly.**

**The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up against a tree called his one-bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the area in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a Confederate soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up next to a tree, no warmth for a bed?**

**I realized the families that I saw this night
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.**

**I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The Confederate soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry; this life is my choice.**

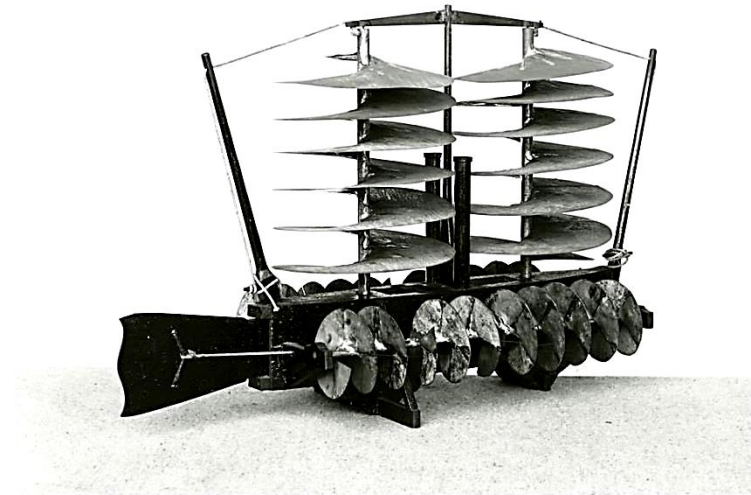
**I fight for Southern freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my South, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
And we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.**

**I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night,
This Southern guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas, brave soldier, and to all a good night."**



The Confederate Helicopter That Never Got Off the Ground

By Rebecca Onion



Three-quarter view of William C. Powers' model.
(National Air and Space Museum (NASM A-34342-A), Smithsonian Institution)

During the Civil War, advances in technology rendered the conflict bloody and lopsided, as the industrial North churned out weapons, canned food, and uniforms for its far-flung armies and used its superior railroad network to resupply them.

Given this situation, it shouldn't be too surprising that Confederate inventors scrambled to come up with new ideas to tip the balance. One such idea was the CSS Hunley, the first submarine ever to successfully engage in combat. This helicopter, a model of which is held at the National Air and Space Museum, was another.

Living in Mobile, Ala., engineer William C. Powers saw the effects of the Union blockade of Confederate ports firsthand. Understanding that Confederate naval power wasn't equal to the task of breaking the Union line, Powers set about inventing a flying machine that could bomb the blockading ships.

Powers' design used a steam engine for power, and Archimedean screws (four in total, two vertical and two horizontal) for lift and thrust. The design also had a rudder in the rear, meant to allow the operator to steer the helicopter like a boat.

The design had multiple defects. J.G. Leishman, a professor of aerospace engineering, writes that all helicopter models built before the early 20th century suffered from a lack of theoretical understanding of aerodynamics, the unavailability of light and powerful engines and building materials for the machine's body, and a host of other technical problems. "The history of flight documents literally hundreds of failed helicopter inventions," Leishman writes. "More often than not, the machine just vibrated itself to pieces."

Powers' helicopter was never built. Tom Paone of the National Air and Space Museum writes that Powers may have been afraid that a successful helicopter might fall into Yankee hands and be put into mass production in Northern factories, only to return in swarms to wreak havoc on Confederate forces.

News From Around the Camp



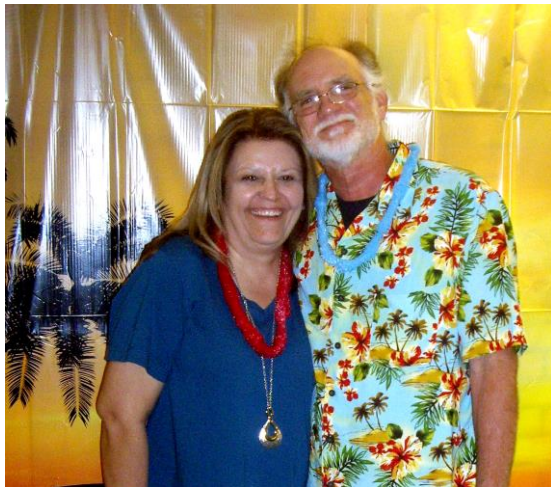
NEW MEMBERS OF THE CAMP

**Conner Edward Cowan and Craig Edward Cowan
of Chester IL**

Ancestor
4th Great-Grandfather & 3rd Great-Grandfather
1st Lt. Richard Dickey Cowan
of Company C, 15th Missouri Cavalry Regiment

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO WEDDING ANNIVERSARY COUPLES

(The camp will send congratulatory greeting cards.)



December 17 (37th)

Chaplain Mike and Mary Bickert



December 19 (21st)

Adjutant Gale & Lady Sharon Red



December 22 (29th)

Compatriot Al & Robin Wandling



December 28 (51st)

Compatriot Dwight & Nona Moore

CAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS



DECEMBER

- 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 10 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 14 ANNUAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
- 22 First Day of Winter
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
- 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

JANUARY 2020

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 14 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY 2020

- 11 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 Presidents' Day
- 22 Washington's Birthday
- 26 Ash Wednesday



Happy
Birthday
and
Best
Wishes
for a
Very
Merry
Christmas



DECEMBER

- 11 DAVID HAAKE (Grand Junction CO)
- 26 JACK SANDFORD (Brighton IL)
- 26 ARTHUR TULAK (Ewa Beach HI)



CAMP DIXON LEADERSHIP

Commander	John Douglas Stanton	Cell 618-610-6464
1 st Lt Commander	Matthew James King	Cell 510-213-1972
2 nd Lt Commander	Ronald Joseph Lakin	Cell 618-420-6358
Advisor to the Commander	John Wayne Kicklighter	618-257-9079
Adjutant	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Asst Adjutant	John Mitchell McKee	618-416-5072
Chaplain	Walter Michael Biekert	618-972-8190
Sgt of Arms	David Francis Schmitt	Cell 618-334-6148
Program Chairman	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Door Greeter	Lady Susan Harris	Cell 618-550-8784