

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

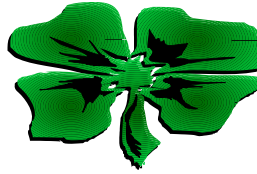


Editor: Lady Sharon Red, Cell 618-622-8949

MARCH 2021

**Don't forget to wear green and show off
your Irish spirit at the next
CAMP MEETING – MARCH 9, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.
Shiloh Assembly of God Church in Shiloh**

**(To protect yourself and others at the meeting,
please wear a mask or face covering)**



PROGRAM INFORMATION

PRESENTATION: *The Canadian Front*
PRESENTER: *Asst Adjutant John McKee*
REFRESHMENTS: *Knight Doug & Lady Betty Lawrence*

CAMP MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and are generally, except as announced, held on the second Tuesday evening 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 Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949

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 12 or older.



WE CARE! PLEASE CALL GALE OR MIKE AND KEEP US NEWS-INFORMED ... if you or a family member is ill, has an emergency, health or family issue, or needs assistance.

Adjutant Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949

Chaplain Mike Biekert, 618-972-8190



**Mr. Leprechaun wishes you
a Happy St. Patrick's Day
full of good luck, best of health,
and a pot of gold
at the end of your rainbow!**

FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS: Greetings once again, fellow and loyal members of the Lt. George E. Dixon SCV Camp #1962. Without your faithful and abiding steadfastness to the memory of our ancestors and our shared history, this organization could not exist. I am reminded of the disastrous month of April 1862 in the history of the War Between the States. It is very difficult for one to look back at past events and to fully understand the day-to-day implications of events as they unfolded in the annals of time. The month of early April 1862 is one of those events that can and has been glossed over in the years gone by. There have always been momentous perils and great loss of life throughout human history of which greatly surpassed the carnage of the battle of Shiloh, TN. Yet, the major loss of life and the perils of human suffering had never reached such a level in the short history of the fragile American experiment. The nation had witnessed the deaths and wounding of many of her young men in conflicts ranging from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War, but in one single engagement at a remote Tennessee region the nation held its breath. Never in the imagination of Americans in both the north and the south could such a disaster invade the young republic. Losses such as these were only to be found in the pages of history long past. Perhaps from an ancient Roman historian, or that of recollection from Europe's Napoleonic wars could the naive citizens of the United States find such appalling numbers. When the reports were transmitted to President Lincoln as to the losses, he asked for the telegrapher to resend such data as there must surely have been a mistake in transmission. He stood graven at the final information. In the provinces of our country of both sides of this conflict people too simply did not believe the news of this great battle. The event sent shock waves throughout the land and a sense of a silent darkness held sway in the premonition that even greater hardships would lie ahead. I have family members who fought at this great battle, with two cousins from Tennessee interred in Confederate mass grave trenches there. I have visited this field of honor twice and greatly suggest that each of you mark this as a place that you too should pay your solemn respects to those from both sides of this struggle in our shared national history. The Shiloh NMP is indeed a national treasure. See you at the muster. GOD BLESS

*Confederately,
John Stanton*



**Compatriot
Wellington Hamilton
"Ham" McDougal
Lemmer**

Feb. 17, 1947 – Feb. 17, 2021

**"Ham" passed away on
his 74th birthday after a
painful bout with
cancer. We pray he is
now being comforted by
Jesus in heaven.**

His obit is on page 4.



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CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ FEBRUARY 9, 2020 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly muster at 6:36 p.m. on February 9, 2021 at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 2nd Muster of the year 2021.

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

WELCOME: Commander Stanton welcomed the Camp's members, family, 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: None.

ROLL CALL (18) (Adjutant Red). *Please be sure everyone has signed in.*

Those present included: Janice Beasley, Walter "Mike" Biekert, Eric Funkhouser, Matt King, Ron & Alexis Lakin (guest), Jim & Barb Lumma, John & Jane McKee, Gale & Sharon Red, Dale Rice, John Stanton, Phil Tate, and Drew, Nick & Steve Wilson.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 12, 2021 MEETING MINUTES (Adjutant Red). The minutes were approved by a motion to accept by Drew Wilson and seconded by John McKee with a unanimous all-hands-agreed vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT (Adjutant Red). Reported the financial report of \$6,290.48. The report was approved by a motion to accept by Steve Wilson and seconded by Drew Wilson with a unanimous all-hands-agreed vote.



GROUP PHOTO

(L-R) (Row 1) Sharon Red, Janice Beasley, Jane McKee, Alexis Lakin, Barb & Jim Lumma, and Mike Biekert

(Row 2) Dale Rice, Nick Wilson, Drew Wilson, Ron Lakin, and Matt King

(Last Row) Phil Tate, Steve Wilson, John McKee, Eric Funkhouser, and John Stanton

Photographer: Gale Red

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ FEBRUARY 9, 2020 Muster (cont'd)

COMMUNICATIONS

COMPATRIOT HAM LEMMER FROM MILLSTADT IL (Adjutant Red). His wife said he is dying but no details. He has many kinds of cancer. She is screening all his mail so he doesn't receive any mail. Ham has progressed to the point that he will die soon. Please keep him in your prayers.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMANDER JOHN STANTON. I had COVID but didn't know it. Felt like the flu. I'm in good health again.

FOR USE OF CHURCH POWER (Adjutant Red). Please put a dollar or two in the hat being passed around by Ron Lakin. *(Collected and gave Mike Biekert \$20)*

HYMN PERFORMANCE – MARCH 7, 10:45 (Compatriot Steve Wilson). I will play 11 hymns on my ukulele here at the church. Please join me.

REMINDER -- CANNON SHOOT AT JANICE'S HOME, JULY 18 (SUNDAY) – 1:00 SHOW. Plan is for everyone to enjoy Bob's demonstration of his 16 pounder, good food including BBQ, and bring a covered dish.



Phil Tate

REFRESHMENTS: Compatriot Phil Tate brought hot gumbo soup, hot chili, his favorite sausage, crackers, cheese, and beverages. Thanks, Phil, for taking such good care of us.

PRESENTATION: Book review of the Widow of the South by Lady Sharon Red.

Sharon delivered a powerpoint presentation about the widow of the south, Carrie McGavock, who turned her home into a field hospital to take care of the wounded from the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, that occurred on November 30, 1864. This battle was known as the bloodiest five hours of the Civil War and one of the greatest massed-infantry assaults ever seen in North America – more than double Pickett's similarly ill-fated charge at Gettysburg a year earlier. There were more casualties in those five hours at Franklin than in the 19 hours of D-Day – and more than twice as many casualties as at Pearl Harbor.

Carrie not only cared for the 1,500 soldiers but dug them up in her back yard to save them from being plowed under and reburied them in her own personal cemetery on the Carnton plantation. Today, hers is the largest Confederate Cemetery on private property in the United States of America.

BENEDICTION: Chaplain Biekert delivered the benediction.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church.

- **Presenter:** Asst Adjutant John McKee. **Program:** The Canadian Front
- **Refreshments:** Knight Doug and Betty Lawrence



Sharon Red

Respectfully submitted,

Gale F. Red
Adjutant

Farewell, Compatriot
Wellington Hamilton “Ham” McDougal Lemmer
February 17, 1947 - February 17, 2021



Wellington Hamilton McDougal Lemmer, 74, of Millstadt, Illinois, passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at his home surrounded by his loving family. Wellington was born on February 17, 1947 in Little Rock, Arkansas to George C. and Elizabeth D. Lemmer, Jr., nee McDougal, and they precede him in death.

Wellington bravely served his country during the Vietnam War as a United States Marine. Upon the completion of his military service, he worked with the VISTA Corps and the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program through the Illinois Department of Employment Security. He then was a law enforcement officer with the GSA and later became a police officer for the Village of Millstadt. Later in life, he worked for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services as an investigator and supervisor prior to his retirement.

Wellington was a member of St. James Catholic Church in Millstadt, The American Legion of Millstadt, and the Disabled American Veterans. In his spare time, he enjoyed reading and fishing and most of all spending time with his friends and family.

Left to cherish his memory is his beloved wife of 41 years, Laura Havranek of Millstadt, Illinois, his children: George C. Lemmer III of Belleville, Illinois, Erica K. Lemmer of Millstadt, Illinois and Michael L. Lemmer of St. Peters, Missouri and his grandchildren: Maverick, Phoenix, Solo and Harper Lemmer. Wellington also leaves many beloved friends and extended family.

Funeral service and visitation times are being planned, please check back in the coming days for detailed information. Wellington will be laid to rest with full military honors at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri, in a private service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. James Catholic Church, Millstadt, Illinois.



Compatriot Ham was a proud and loyal member of Camp Dixon for 5 ½ years. When he could, he read all our newsletters. He died on his 74th birthday and put up a good fight against cancer. We humbly pray he is in heaven with all our fallen Compatriots.

Little Known Facts About the Civil War

The King of Siam Offered War Elephants to Lincoln

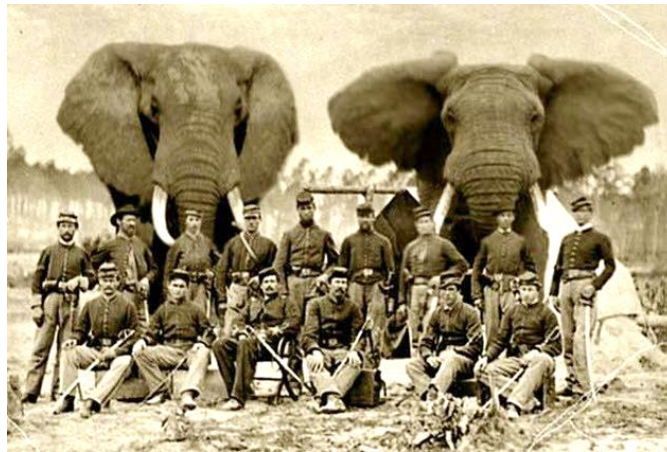


Photo credit: shoeuntied.wordpress.com

Before the war, King Rama IV of Siam found out that the US did not have elephants. This, King Rama IV felt, was a tragedy and one that needed to be righted as soon as possible.

When the Civil War began, Rama IV jumped on the opportunity. He wrote to Abraham Lincoln, offering to send him as many war elephants as he required. These, King Rama IV explained, would not only help him crush the Confederates but could also be put to work on construction projects or just set loose in the forests.

Lincoln did his best to be polite. “I appreciate most highly Your Majesty’s tender of good offices,” he wrote back. “Our political jurisdiction, however, does not reach a latitude so low as to favor the multiplication of the elephant.”

It’s easy to imagine, though, that a few years further in, Lincoln was probably regretting not putting a few war elephants on the front lines.

People Bought Tickets to Watch Prisoners of War

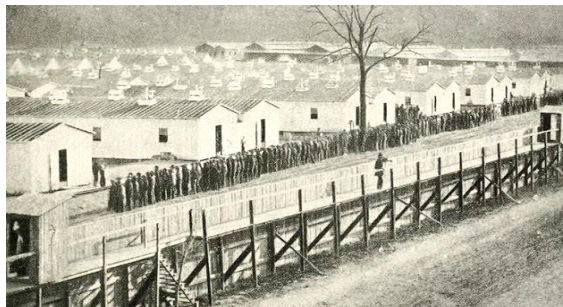


Photo via [Wikimedia](https://www.wikimedia.org/)

One of the most brutal prison camps in the war was Elmira Prison. It had been built to hold 5,000 Confederate soldiers. But as the war raged on and more people came in, the prison started getting more than it could handle. Soon, there were nearly 10,000 people crammed inside its walls. The civilians couldn’t help but be a little curious, and it didn’t take long for someone to capitalize on it. A tower was set up across the street. For 15 cents, you could climb to the top, take a seat with some peanuts and lemonade, and watch the prisoners. The prisoners started to realize they were being watched and, being bored out of their minds, began putting on shows to make it worthwhile. Some would juggle or do acrobatics to impress the audience watching them from above. The guards put a stop to their antics, though. Soon, there was nothing to do but wither away. Disease spread through Elmira so viciously that a quarter of the prisoners died. But the audiences kept coming out, paying a nickel and a dime to watch men waste away and die.

An Entire University Signed Up and Didn't Come Home



Photo credit: Doug Kerr

When the Civil War began, the University of Mississippi had 139 students. Of them, 135 signed up to fight for the Confederate Army. The school was put to use as a war hospital, and all but four members of its student body joined together to form Company A of the 11th Mississippi.

Not a single member of the company, nicknamed the “University Greys,” made it back unharmed. The group had a rare 100 percent casualty rate, with every man either coming back wounded or never making it home at all.

The Greys were even supposed to fight in First Battle of Bull Run. Their train, however, was delayed, and most of the men didn't make it. Even without fighting, though, Colonel Moore became one of their first casualties by accidentally shooting himself in the foot.

The rest of the group kept fighting and nearly made it to the end. But on the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg, the Greys joined a mad, desperate charge against the Union soldiers. Of the Confederate soldiers involved, half died—and not a single man from the University of Mississippi made it out alive.

When Lincoln Was Almost Assassinated Nine Months Before He Was Assassinated



In August 1864, the Sixteenth President of the United States of America was nearly assassinated about nine months before he was actually assassinated. This is the story.

The Soldier's Home

Throughout the Civil War (1861-1865), President Abraham Lincoln and his family spent the summer and fall in a cottage on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home in the country outside of Washington, D.C. Relatively isolated and poorly guarded, Lincoln was dismissive of any danger to himself or his family. He is reputed to have said: "It would never do for a President to have guards with drawn sabers at his door, as if he fancied he were . . . an emperor."

Many in his administration were concerned about the lack of security, and on occasion took matters into their own hands, as reported by a friend:

The President and his family have been living out at the Soldiers' Home, about four miles only this side of the rebel line of skirmishers; but on Sunday night Secretary Stanton sent out a carriage and a guard and brought in the family, who are again domesticated at the White House. The lonely situation of the President's summer residence would have afforded a tempting chance for a daring squad of rebel cavalry to run some risks for the chance of carrying off the President, whom we could ill afford to spare right now.

Of course, Lincoln did have a contingent of guards, a part of Company K of the 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Remaining assigned to the President from 1862 until his death in 1865, the President's Bodyguard developed a friendly relationship with him. Nonetheless, he disliked it when they accompanied him during his commute to the White House; in his typical wry style, Lincoln complained to the Army Chief of Staff Henry Halleck that he "was more afraid of being shot by the accidental discharge of one of [the new recruits'] carbines or revolvers, than of any attempt on his life."

Even with the assigned guard, Lincoln frequently slipped away and commuted back and forth to the cottage alone; on many occasions, he even enjoyed a lonely moonlight ride to an evening destination like the Naval Observatory in Foggy Bottom.

1864 Assassination Attempt

It was during a lonely ride back to the Soldiers' Home one night in August when an attempt was made on the President's life. Riding slowly on the road that led to the entrance to the grounds, a rifle shot from approximately fifty yards away startled his horse; Old Abe, the horse, took off at what the President called "break-neck speed [which] unceremoniously separated me from my eight-dollar plug hat, with which I parted company without any assent, express or implied."

When he arrived at the Soldiers' Home at about 11 o'clock that evening, he met Private John W. Nichols, whom he knew. Nichols noticed that the President was "bareheaded" and riding briskly. When he asked, the President mentioned the rifle shot and that the quick jump of his startled horse "jerked his hat off."

Later, Nichols and another soldier went searching and found the hat with a bullet hole in it. Nichols presented the hat to Lincoln who was dismissive of the danger. When his friend Ward Hill Lamon (to whom he told the story as a humorous, Ichabod Crane-type tale) expressed concern, Lincoln remained convinced that it was just an accident:

Now, in the face of this testimony in favor of your theory of danger to me, personally, I can't bring myself to believe that any one has shot or will deliberately shoot at me with the purpose of killing me; although I must acknowledge that I heard this fellow's bullet whistle at an uncomfortably short distance from these headquarters of mine. I have about concluded that the shot was the result of accident. It may be that someone on his return from a day's hunt, regardless of the course of his discharge, fired off his gun as a precautionary measure of safety to his family after reaching his house.

In the end, Lincoln wanted the entire matter hushed up. He instructed Private Nichols that the event should be "kept quiet," and told Lamon:

The whole thing seems farcical. No good can result at this time from giving it publicity. It does seem to me that I am in more danger from the augmentation of an imaginary peril than from a judicious silence, be the danger ever so great.

Lincoln continued to serve as President of the United States, apparently without another such incident, until his assassination on April 14, 1865.

News From Around the Camp



FEBRUARY 17

**DEEPEST SYMPATHY
TO
LAURA HAVRANEK (AND FAMILY)
(WIFE OF HAM LEMMER)**

Ham passed away at home on February 17, 2021 after fighting cancer for too long. He died on his birthday.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Laura Havranek, of Millstadt, Illinois, his children: George C. Lemmer III of Belleville, Illinois, Erica K. Lemmer of Millstadt, IL and Michael L. Lemmer of St. Peters, MO and his grandchildren: Maverick, Phoenix, Solo, and Harper Lemmer.

(The camp sent a sympathy card.)



**MARCH 24
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES
TO
COMMANDER JOHN & MRS. WENDY STANTON
48th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
(of Godfrey IL)**

May all your happy memories and all the dreams you share combine to make a perfect day for a very loving pair.

(The camp will send a congratulatory card.)

CAMP 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MARCH

- 9 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 28 Palm Sunday
- 29 National Vietnam War Vets Day

APRIL

- 2 Good Friday
- 4 EASTER
- 13 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 30 Arbor Day

MAY

- 8 V-E Day (1945)
- 9 Mother's Day
- 11 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 15 Armed Forces Day
- 31 Memorial Day



MARCH

- 7 JAMES MOOSE (Mascoutah IL)
- 8 ANDI KING (Highland IL)
- 30 JANE NOVARA (Creal Springs IL)



CAMP DIXON STAFF

Commander
 1st Lt Commander
 2nd Lt Commander
 Advisor to the Commander
 Adjutant
 Asst Adjutant
 Chaplain
 Program Chairman
 Newsletter Editor/Cardmaster
 Sgt of Arms
 Door Greeter

John Douglas Stanton
 Matthew James King
 Ronald Joseph Lakin
 John Wayne Kicklighter
 Gale Franklin Red
 John Mitchell McKee
 Walter Michael Biekert
 Gale Franklin Red
 Sharon Marie Red
 VACANT
 VACANT

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