

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

JUNE 2022

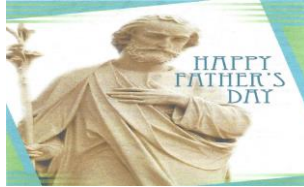
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY – June 19
Congratulations and Best Wishes

To All Fathers

CAMP DIXON MEETING

JUNE 16, 2022 -- 6:30 pm

Shiloh Assembly of God Church in Shiloh



PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR JUNE 16

PRESENTATION

Varina Davis

PRESENTER

Lady Anita Jane McKee

REFRESHMENTS

Compatriot John McKee

CAMP MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and are generally, 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 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, a family death, or needs assistance.

Adjutant Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949

Chaplain Mike Biekert, 618-972-8190

A Tribute to Fathers and Fatherhood

This is a special time of year to celebrate the men who support us and help us grow.

Dad, you've been my #1 fan and I can't imagine where I'd be without you. Thank you for always cheering me on and

ANNUAL DUES (August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023)

DUE by July 15, 2022

SCV Members \$55 (includes \$35 for National and \$20 for the Camp)

Life Members \$20 (for the Camp)

Knights & Ladies \$20 (for the Camp)

Please make check payable to: Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962

Can pay at June 16 meeting or mail to: Adjutant Gale Red

5 Hunters Pt

O'Fallon IL 62269-3133

THANK YOU

If not renewing, inform Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949

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FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS: Greetings again to the faithful and loyal members of our SCV camp. Your officers of the camp pray that all is well with each of you and that of your families. These are difficult times in our nation and our world. I was reflecting on the character of General R.E. Lee in the aftermath of the war between the states. General Lee became sort of a Mecca for southern officers and soldiers in his time spent at Washington and Lee University. He would graciously accept such visitations and would share his public but often private views on the war and in the period of northern occupation of the southern states. He became quite jaded of his chosen profession of warfare and personally would comment on its futility and the sad loss of youthful human life coupled with the destruction which lay in the path of any conflict. R.E. Lee maintained a public but privately held a different face than that exhibited in the media. He felt that there must be a healing between the states yet behind the scenes he oft expressed his displeasure with the heavy hand of the victorious powers of the north. At one such visit with a fellow visiting officer, he confided that how difficult it was for him to witness the subjugation of the northern powers upon the helpless southern people. He stated that he would have preferred to have died upon the field of honor than have lived to witness the subjugation of the poor southern people. Lee knew that if offered any such words to the press that it could only make matters worse for the southern citizens. He maintained his spirit of conciliation as a public duty but privately held a different and not quite such a generous view. When he was yearly to march in military parades to honor past soldiers, on such occasions he would always march out of step with the formations. This was his method of his displeasure with the occupation of soldiering. R.E. Lee towards the end of his life was to utter a statement of the future power of a united states when both north and south would at some time in the future unite as one power. With the keen vision of a Hebrew prophet he foresaw the potential military and economic power of such a union. General Lee at this time warned that it would one day become too great a temptation for men to not use this military force and to exert its muscle on a worldwide scale. If you take the time to dutifully look at the world stage, you will see that the United States has fulfilled his warning. People would be greatly shocked if they knew just how many military bases and incursions that our nation now finds itself in. The number is staggering and people have no idea to the extent of this imperial outreach of power. Look it up for yourself. Hope to see all at our June muster. Until we meet. GOD bless

Confederately,

John Stanton

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ MAY 19, 2022 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly muster at 6:45 p.m. on May 19, 2022 at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 3rd Muster of the year 2022.

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.

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS: None.

ROLL CALL (15) (Adjutant Red). *Please ensure everyone has signed in with Sharon Red.*

Those present included: Mike Biekert, Johnny Kicklighter, Matthew King, Jim & Barb Lumma, John & Jane McKee, Gale & Sharon Red, Dave Roper (Commander of the Waite Camp 2300), John Stanton, Phil Tate, Drew Wilson (with Jen, Mia and Ella), Nick Wilson, and Steve Wilson.

APPROVAL OF CAMP MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 21, 2022. The minutes were approved by a motion to accept by Drew Wilson and seconded by Phil Tate with a unanimous all-voices-agreed vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT (Adjutant Gale Red). \$6,073.74. Cost of printing the newsletter went up to \$.15 per page. *(If anyone is receiving the newsletter by mail and e-mail, please agree to receive only the colored e-copy instead of by mail to save money.)* The report was approved by a motion to accept by Steve Wilson and seconded by Jim Lumma with a unanimous all-voices-agreed vote.



GROUP PHOTO

(L-R) (Front Row) John & Jane McKee, Drew, Jen, Ella, and Mia Wilson, Mike Biekert, and Gale Red
(Back Row) Dave Roper, Nick Wilson, Phil Tate, Steve Wilson, John Stanton, Barb & Jim Lumma, and Matt King

Photographer: Sharon Red

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ MAY 19, 2022 Muster (cont'd)

COMMUNICATIONS (GALE RED)

COMPATRIOT ERIC FUNKHOUSER is better but is still not doing well and continues to be in significant back pain. He has spinal stenosis and is currently not able to be with us. Please continue to pray for him. **I will email his address to you.**

OLD BUSINESS

COLLECTING FOR CHURCH POWER FOR CHAPLAIN BIEKERT. Steve Wilson passed the hat. *(Collected \$31 – gave Mike \$20 -- \$11 to the kitty).*

NEW BUSINESS

RECRUIT DID NOT SHOW (Commander Dave Roper of the Waite Camp 2300). Sorry our recruit did not show for his swearing in.

RED CARPET EVENT ON BEDFORD FOREST, ELK SPRINGS (Commander Dave Roper of the Waite Camp 2300). My wife and I attended this event and I would like to show you the video of the reinternment.

HEAD-STONE DEDICATION/MEMORIAL OF MAJOR SAWYER (Commander Dave Roper of the Waite Camp 2300). You're invited to attend. I'll send an email to Gale to forward to you.

REACH OUT TO OUR MEMBERS (Steve Wilson). Please reach out/mentor our members to come to the meetings.

- (Gale Red) I can divide the roster and have you call members.

LEE/JACKSON DINNER (Steve Wilson). What's the outcome of this? I will be the POC with Mike Biekert assisting.

- (Gale Red) Let's discuss ... President Davis' birthday is in June ... however, this is too soon a date so suggest the fall ... perhaps September.

REFRESHMENTS: Compatriot Johnny Kicklighter provided Subway sub-sandwiches, chips, Oreo cookies, and beverages. Thanks, Johnny, for taking such good care of us. Hope you and Chris heal from COVID very soon.



Johnny Kicklighter

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ MAY 19, 2022 Muster (cont'd)

PRESENTATION: Powerpoint program on “Music of the Civil War” by Compatriot Drew Wilson (with grateful screen capability by John McKee).



Compatriot Drew Wilson

- Musical instruments – in camp – for marching
 - Fife – similar to piccolo – easy to play on both sides
 - Snare Drum – the more decorative drum was used by a rich soldier. Could be carried from the neck. Tune was adjusted by the tightening of the ropes.
 - Bugle – similar to trumpet but without keys or valves
 - Cornet – similar to trumpet. Metal was precious to you didn’t see much in the Confederacy
 - Sax Horn – upright valved brass instrument
 - Tuba – required 2 sets of valves – large which measured from mid-thigh to top of head. Marching was very difficult because the instrument was very large
 - Bass Drum – tuning was adjusted by the roping (ropes were loosened to preserve it)
 - Woodwinds – e.g., clarinets

- Civil War -- Three million men fought in the war; 54,000 were musicians (coming from Irish, German, English, and African decent)
- Bands (1861-1862)
 - Regimental bands included the drums
 - 26th North Carolina Regiment Band was present with Lee and Jackson
 - 1863-1865 – Regimental bands dismissed (brass ensembles)
- Differences between Union and the Confederacy

<u>Union</u>	<u>Confederacy</u>
- More bands	- Less bands
- Best instrument makers	- Instruments hard to obtain
- Superior instruments	- Short supply of metal
- Government issued (personal quality instruments)	- Instruments were confiscated from dead soldiers
- Better looking instruments	- Instruments were made from many sources including bone
- Influences and attitudes towards music
 - Lee/Jackson/Longstreet enjoyed being serenaded by bands and felt bands were very important to keep up morale
 - Bands were up front and music was played at a marching rhythm
 - Directional instruments would march backwards so the soldiers could hear the music better
- Drills, Calls and Entertainment
 - Typically were: wake up, lights out, roll call, and drills
 - Could enlist musicians as early as 12
- Commands – Orders and Morale – Drums, Fife and Bugles relayed orders
- Balls – Dancing and Social Influence
 - 1st Drill was to learn to dance which helped them march, keep time, how to maneuver in formations and teamwork
 - Three types of balls: private, public, and master-servant
 - Introductions were required
 - Spouses could only dance one dance – the first dance
 - Round dancing was scandalous (polkas and waltzes)
 - Women were required to accept request to dance
 - Dances were to make the women look good
 - Dance Master and Floor Master – appointed at each ball – assigns strangers to dance when looking for a suitable dance partner
 - Could only dance with a partner one time or appear lustful

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ MAY 19, 2022 Muster (cont'd)

- Songs
 - Between 9,000-10,000 compositions were written during the Civil War
 - More than 2,000 in the first year
 - Beginning of Blues and Jazz
 - Favorite Union song: John Brown's Body
 - Favorite Confederate songs: Dixie, Goober Peas, Maryland My Maryland
 - Favorites of Both Sides: Wait for the Wagon, Lorena, and Listen to the Mockingbird
- Legacy
 - Taps – 1862 – gave time for soldiers to get back to camp – performed by a bugle
 - Battle of the Bands – both sides ended up playing “Home Sweet Home”
 - At Appomattox Lincoln ordered the Union band to play Dixie as the Confederates departed



**Drew closed his presentation
by playing “Taps”**

**Steve Wilson (on the ukulele)
and sang “Dixie”
with Mike Biekert**



BENEDICTION: Chaplain Biekert

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 16, 2022, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church.

- **Presenter:** Lady Anita Jane McKee **Program:** Varina Davis
- **Refreshments:** Asst Adjutant John McKee

Respectfully submitted,

Gale F. Red
Adjutant

THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIER

(Reference: The Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War by William C. Davis)

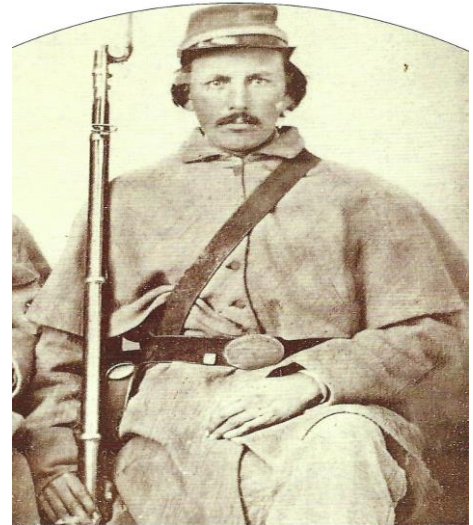
When armed conflict began, lack of uniformity in dress of troops was a major problem. Many Rebel units didn't have gray, so they fought in what they often termed "butternut" uniforms. Close to the end of the war, North Carolina textile mills turned out a big batch of Confederate uniforms before taking care that they had suitable dyes on hand. When no gray could be found these were dyed blue and shipped off for use by Confederate units. This inevitably led to numerous instances in which comrades fired upon comrades.

What the Rebel soldier wore showed the deplorable state of Confederate supply. Scores of regiments equipped themselves locally before going off to war, but as clothing and equipment wore out it was often up to the private soldier to replace it himself. Even what the Richmond government did manage to distribute was often of wildly varying quality. Uniforms alone varied from gray so dark as to be almost blue to "butternuts" and browns – all of it supposedly the official "cadet gray." As for the items prescribed as "regulation issue," only a few regiments raised early in the war ever got them all. In time, an issue of new socks would be a memorable day.

The uniforms gave very little protection against the elements during harsh winter temperatures, and no comfort in hot and dry, dusty camps in summer. In the summer of 1864, one Confederate soldier likened a walk through camp to a stroll through an ash heap. "One's mouth would be so full of dust that you do not want your teeth to touch one another." A cannoneer wryly remarked that whenever a grasshopper jumped up, it raised such a cloud of dust that Union lookouts reported that the Confederate army was on the move again. The dust blew through holes in their worn clothing and caked to the sweat on their bodies. "I have no seat on my pants," lamented a Virginian, "the legs are worn out, have had but one pair of socks which are worn out completely, my shirt is literally rotted off me." A new issue shirt proved to be so louse-ridden that he could not bear to wear it.

Clothing deteriorated badly, and there were frequently no reissues, so that by the end of the war uniforms as such had ceased to mean anything. The men simply redressed themselves with whatever they could find in hand.

The Confederate soldier was also poorly equipped with handguns and longarms. At the start of the war, the army had control of only a few of its own armaments manufacturing facilities. It developed more during the course of the conflict, but it was always limited by lack of production equipment and skilled manpower, as well as by the scarcity of materials. As a result, the CSA had to use a mixture of whatever weapons it could find at the beginning of the war: new manufacture of antiquated flintlock and percussion designs and of a few new designs of its own, weapons captured from Union forces, and a small number of imports, especially from Great Britain. In the era of enormous technological inventiveness, Southern manufacturers did play their part, both by developing new pistol and rifle designs and ingeniously copying those of their foes.



A Confederate infantryman in crudely manufactured "butternut" frock coat with a bayonet-mounted musket. He is actually one of three brothers who joined the same regiment.



Confederate Infantry Equipment

1. 1st Sergeant's frock coat
2. Forage cap
3. Linen havelock
4. Trousers for 1st Sergeant's frock coat
5. Uniform vest for 1st Sgt's frock coat
6. Shirt
7. Cartridge box
8. Cap box
9. Fayetteville rifle
10. Brogans
11. Wooden canteen, name of owner inscribed
12. Haversack
13. Model 1860 Colt Army revolver and holster
14. Side knives

As well as the variable nature of the soldiers' weapons, the army also initially had problems with their troops' abilities to fire the guns. Observers often wondered just who stood to suffer the greater damage from them. Despite their variety, almost all of the muzzle-loading weapons required precisely the same routine from the soldier, a routine which was reduced to a dozen commands and twenty specific motions. At the command "Load," the soldier stood his rifle upright between his feet, the muzzle in his left hand and held eight inches from his body, at the same time moving the right hand to his cartridge box on his belt. At "Handle Cartridge," the paper-wrapped powder and bullet were brought from the box, and the powder end placed between the teeth. The next two commands brought the cartridge to the muzzle, poured the powder into it, and seated the ball in the bore. "Draw Hammer" elicited the appropriate action, and "Ram" sent the bullet down the bore to sit on the powder charge. Another command replaced the rammer, then came "Prime." The soldier brought the weapon up and extending outward from his body with his left hand, while with his right he pulled back the hammer to the half-cock position and reached into his cap pouch, removed a cap, and placed it on the ripple.

Now came the real business. "Shoulder:" he put the rifle to his right shoulder. "Ready:" he took the proper foot stance and returned the piece to a vertical position at his right side, his right hand on the lock, his thumb pulling the hammer back to full-cock. "Aim:" up went the rifle to his right shoulder, his head to the butt so that his eye could sight between the opened "V" notch at the rear and over the blade sight at the muzzle. His finger sat ready on the trigger. "Fire:" and he did.

However, these guns were more often than not just a lot of smoke and noise. Some officers actually declined to issue to their men live cartridges during skirmish drill, for fear of the mishaps that almost inevitably followed.

A common problem came with the second shot. Amid the shouting and firing, most men were not conscious of the sound of their own rifle firing, nor of the kick against their shoulders when they did. Consequently, thousands improperly reloaded their weapons – forgetting to bite off the end of the paper cartridge before ramming it home or else neglecting to place a percussion cap on the firing nipple – and when they pulled their triggers they did not notice that their guns had failed to discharge.

Occasionally, this oversight led to a situation in which the gun could be more dangerous to friend than to foe. After the three-day Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, the victorious Federals retrieved 27,000 rifles from the battle line, most if not all of them dropped by the wounded and the killed. Nearly half of them were found to hold two unfired rounds in their barrels. Between three and ten loads crammed the breeches of another 6,000. And one rifle was filled almost to the muzzle with no fewer than twenty-three cartridges.



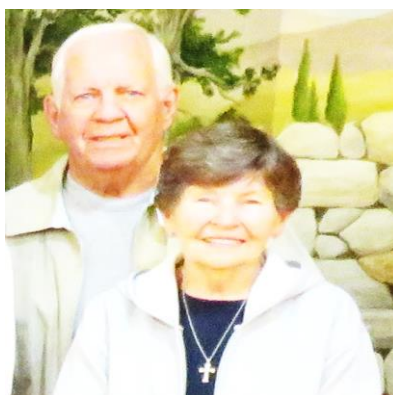
Confederate Cavalry Artifacts

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Battleflag | 8. Shell jacket | 15. Remington New Army revolver complete with holster and percussion caps |
| 2. Slough hat with star insignia | 9. Canteen | 16. Pouch for percussion caps |
| 3. Reins and bit | 10. Gauntlets | 17. Federal officer's sword belt |
| 4. Model 1859 McClellan saddle | 11. Carbine cartridge box | 18. Pair of spurs |
| 5. Girth | 12. Model 1849 cavalry saber | 19. Leather high riding boots |
| 6. Model 1859 Sharps carbine | 13. Pair of field glasses | |
| 7. Haversack | 14. Saddlebags | |

News From Around the Camp

**WE MISS THE FOLLOWING CAMP MEMBERS
AT OUR CAMP MEETINGS**

(Sent a camp "Thinking of You" card to them on May 28, 2022.)



ANDY & JANE NOVARA
(Creal Springs IL)



DALE RICE
(Bethalto IL)



RALPH OELSCHLAGER
(Belleville IL)



DOUG & BETTY LAWRENCE
(Keyesport IL)



J. C. GIDEON
(Belleville IL)



ERIC FUNKHOUSER
(Belleville IL)



DAVID McAULEY
(Carbondale IL)



CRAIG & CONNER COWAN
(Chester IL)



CHRIS ZIEBOLD
(Chesterfield MO)



JEFF BARNES
(O'Fallon IL)



HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

TO

THE FOLLOWING JUNE BRIDES & GROOMS



Congratulations and best wishes to these camp couples!!
Hope they have many more happy years of good health, joy and happiness.

(The camp will send congratulatory cards.)



JUNE 12

30th ANNIVERSARY

ASST ADJUTANT JOHN & LADY JANE McKEE

(SHILOH IL)



JUNE 15

31st ANNIVERSARY

COMPATRIOT PHIL & DIANNE TATE

(MASCOUTAH IL)

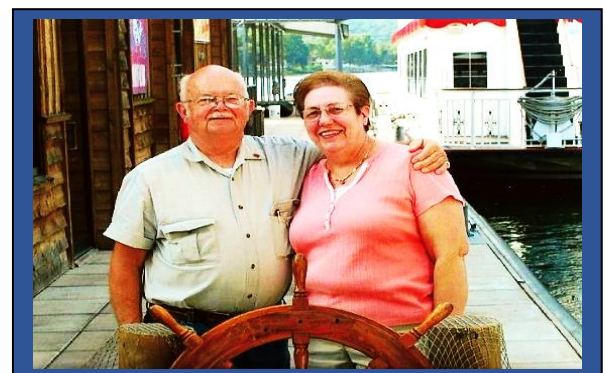


JUNE 16

49th ANNIVERSARY

COMPATRIOT BOB & SUE HERR

(MT. VERNON IL)



JUNE 23

59th ANNIVERSARY

COMPATRIOT DALE & BONNY RICE

(BETHALTO IL)

CAMP 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JUNE

16 6:30 CAMP MEETING
19 Father's Day
21 Summer Begins

JULY

4 Independence Day
21 6:30 CAMP MEETING
27 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

AUGUST

4 U. S. Coast Guard Birthday (1790)
18 6:30 CAMP MEETING



BEST OF BIRTHDAY WISHES

CAMP DIXON MEMBERS

JUNE

18 ANDREW NOVARA (Creal Springs IL)
20 STEVE WILSON (Columbia IL)
25 AARON LEONARD (Flora IL)



CAMP DIXON STAFF

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

John Douglas Stanton
Matthew James King
Ronald Joseph Lakin
John Wayne Kicklighter
Gale Franklin Red
John Mitchell McKee
Sharon Marie Red
Walter Michael Biekert
Gale Franklin Red
Sharon Marie Red
Stephen Dean Wilson
Eric Jan Funkhouser
VACANT

Cell 618-610-6464
Cell 510-213-1972
Cell 618-420-6358
618-257-9079
Cell 618-622-8949
618-416-5072
Cell 618-979-7853
618-972-8190
Cell 618-622-8949
Cell 618-979-7853
Cell 314-497-0798
618-233-6148

spqrkaiser2@gmail.com
mjking72@hotmail.com
RonaldLakin1337@gmail.com
kicklighter.Johnny@mcleodusa.net
galered@yahoo.com
history_ferret@yahoo.com
smred60@yahoo.com
--
galered@yahoo.com
smred60@yahoo.com
steverdean@yahoo.com
Funkhousereric1995@yahoo.com