

THE HOWLING DAWG

August 2011

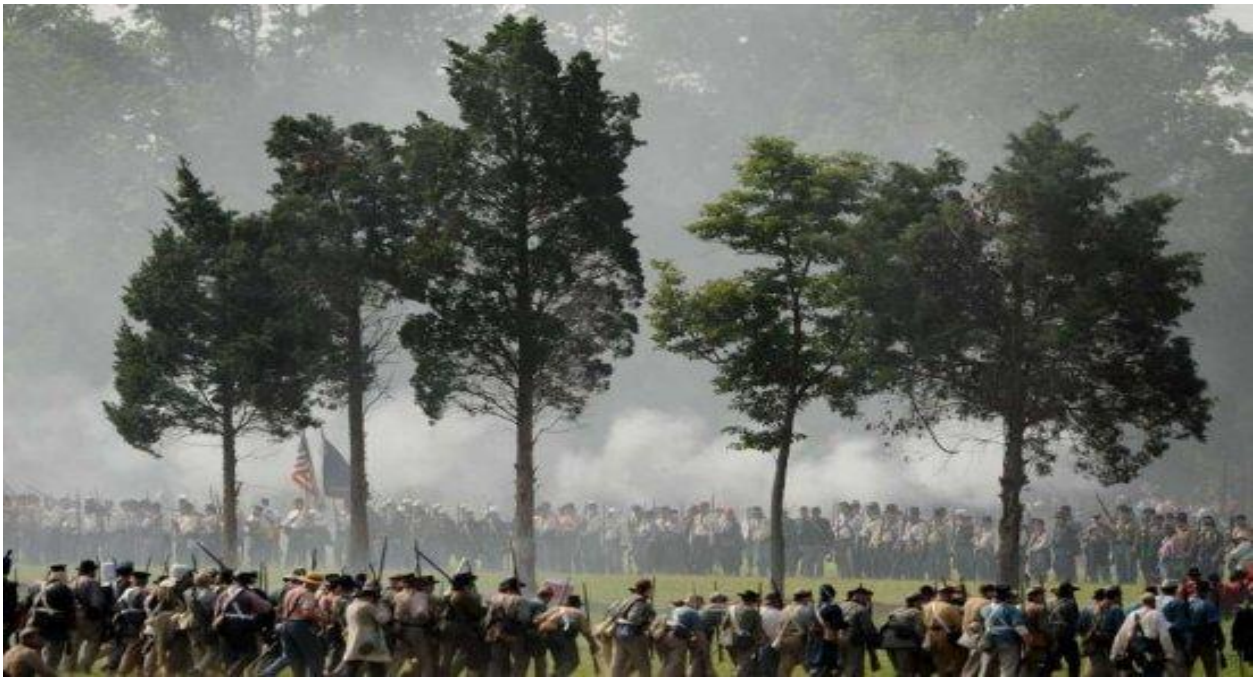


"Merc"

16th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment Company G

"The Jackson Rifles"

THE BIG EVENTS - ARE THEY WORTH IT?



EPA/MICHAEL REYNOLDS

Manassas 2011

In the July 23rd photo, above, smoke rises from the battlefield during this year's Virginia reenactment of the First Manassas. The event drew about 8,000 participants and was part of the 150th Anniversary Series of Commemorations. The real battle, a Confederate victory, which took place near Manassas, on July 21, 1861, involved about 35,000 Union troops who marched from Washington and clashed with a Confederate force of 20,000. Now, just as back then, those on the field had to endure brutal heat in a physically demanding endeavor. Large events like this are not the norm. For example, our 16th GA event in Old Clinton draws a few hundred and Olustee a couple thousand, at best. Although 8,000 is not an enormous number when compared to some reenactments of the past, it is nonetheless, quite a spectacle to witness. To get there and be a part takes a lot of preparation, time and cold hard cash. We have been to some of the large National events in years past and so have many of you. Some of you have not had the chance yet, but with the Sesquicentennial upon us, there are opportunities on the horizon. In this issue, we ask some of our readers: ***ARE THESE BIG EVENTS WORTH IT?***

ARE THESE BIG EVENTS WORTH IT? (continued from page 1)

Michael T. McAlpin /SCV Camp 1642 /Cumming, GA - {Many of you have met Mike from his faithful participation in our annual Griswoldville Memorial Service. He has some Manassas comments and photographs to share :} *I had fallen in with the 43rd GA on Saturday; Sunday with the 42nd (Consolidated). Many people had the sense that the ANV really didn't need Georgia troops at their reenactment, as they had more troops than they could fit on the field. It was a blast though. I have been in and around the environment for years (NSSA and SCV), however had never seen nor been involved with a reenactment, so this was the first time I "saw the elephant". And this elephant was big, 600 miles away, in incredible heat, and a Sesquicentennial event. There were thousands of tents and troops, and that magnificent cavalry was truly a sight. There was also more artillery present than could be placed on the field, and more troops than could be visualized. The battlefield itself was limited to an area that could be seen from the grandstands, yet the difficulties of command and coordination across a field of this size became clear. The enormity of bringing troops into line, and maneuvering them brought a new understanding of the tactics of the period. The skill of the officers and the execution of the troops was commendable. On the first day, the Georgia Volunteer Battalion was staged for hours and then placed on the field at the last moment. As a consequence, they were engaged for only a few minutes most fired only two or three shots. The late deployment, combined with the intense heat caused a great many of the troops to limit their participation. Many people, who had driven great distances, and committed a pretty good sum of money for this occasion, left on Saturday evening. The greatly reduced Georgia Battalion was deployed late again on Sunday, but in time to see significant action, maintaining good order and carrying the field. The intense heat and the complexity of staging such a large event emphasized that plans are only good until the battle starts. I was pleased and excited to be there and enjoy not only the size and scale of the effort but the camaraderie and fellowship of those that I had the honor of campaigning with. (Here are some of Mike's pictures)*



Col. Paul Jerram / GVB/ Roswell, GA - *Manassas was a good trip despite problems with the event in terms of our time on the field and the oppressive heat (VA in July, that should have been a shocker right?) Many were disappointed and yes, we lost about 1/2 our Battalion Saturday night (and the heat etc., had already cut down our attendance by about 50% from what originally registered). So Sunday we took the field with about 70+ men and those who stayed enjoyed a great fight ... it was frustrating (again) for us to again actually get onto the field but when we did, we enjoyed a fierce fight and pushed several Yankee units clear off the field. So all in all, Manassas was extremely frustrating, incredibly hot but ... what are you going to do? I can't exactly sit it out and wait for the next 150th or perhaps even the 155th?!! Contrary to popular urban myth, I can categorically say that NO re-enactors died at Manassas because of the heat nor did any horses. Evidently, 13 re-enactors were taken to the hospital and several retained overnight, but no fatalities. Isn't the rumor mill great?*

John Greene / Brigade Sutler - *After 42 years in our hobby, going to small and mega events, I have little use for the large ones. These are money makers for the promoters. The re-enactors get nothing for their efforts but a large registration fee and a chance to be part of someone's power play. True, you get to see large numbers of troops, but very little comradeship like at Clinton. As for us, we are finished with them.*

Amelia Welsher / Engineers Sutler - *The main thing I have to say about Manassas is when the Georgia and Florida boys start leaving and campaigners are marching out on Saturday in shorts and t-shirts, you know it's hot! The heat got me so I didn't get to see the battle but actually getting to be there and seeing the many different uniforms, such as the Zouaves, was very neat! We are running a special on shirts for \$25.*

ARE THESE BIG EVENTS WORTH IT? (continued from page 1 & 2)

1st Corp. Nathan Sprague / 16th GA / Macon, GA - "I think some big events are worth the effort. Let's take Gettysburg 1998 for instance - the magnitude of the event -the experience is like no other. It is important for us as re-enactors to visualize what a battle of that size was really like. I also think it is important to represent Georgia. Now, with all that being said, the event as we all know, hinges on the efforts on the hosting party whoever that may be. In my opinion the big events are something we always should at least consider because they bring a good balance along with experience to our campaign schedule."

Wayne Dobson / 16th GA / Macon, GA - "I have always liked the big National events but a couple of them every five years are plenty. They are costly in time taken off from work, gasoline, lodging, food, registration; you name it, they are expensive. Moreover, there are no guarantees. Some of you who have been around remember the great time we had at the first Antietam event we went to. Some of those same folks went to a second one a few years later and it was not bad - just not as good. At Gettysburg in 1998 we had a great time and a lot of fighting for a couple of days, but not much at Pickett's Charge. Speaking of Gettysburg, many are set on being at the 150th, like it was some High Holy Day. I agree, it would be real special to be there. The most pronounced suggestion I have regarding that is to attend a smaller National event before Gettysburg as an explanation or warm up. This is especially true if you have never been to a large event. The big events are different from what you have been used to in many ways. I had strongly suggested Shiloh in 2012. However, now we have two separate factions (AOT / Cleburne) squabbling over who will host it and the last I heard they both were and on the same date. It would not surprise me if they were planning to use the same acreage. I can get no word yet from AOT as far as a schedule although they have a web site open for registration. I wrote to Cleburne asking for a schedule and they wrote back saying they were not sure of their plans yet but they hoped to open with a skirmish on Thursday. Wow, sure sounds like they have it together - yeah, right! Many of us are skeptical and disgusted about the whole thing and people came back from Manassas just plain mad, swearing off the ANV forever! Maryland not be hosting Sesquicentennial events at all. Chickamauga might be good, as well as Atlanta (if they don't price themselves out of business) and you know Olustee will probably have a good one. The 150th will likely be the last go round for me, so the gamble (and it is one) is probably worth it.

NOTE: Ben Morris & Thomas Patton of the 16th GA went to Manassas, falling in with Capt. Walczak & the 53rd GA. None of them returned our request for their report or comments.

J.C. Nobles / 16th GA / Jeffersonville, GA - Everyone should attend a National Event at least once, just so they will know what it is like to drive hundreds of miles at great expense just to get PO'd and a headache. By the same token it can be a once in a lifetime experience to be in a line of battle with that many folks. Dealing with the politics and egos of event commanders and hangers on can be a real hassle. To me the joy of a National Event is visiting the Battlefield with my brothers and sisters and taking in the spirits that still linger there. I may look at going to events, not so much to participate fully, but to be a part of the fellowship and hopefully good times that we could have. Good or bad, the experience is one that you will cherish and or ___about. It's what you make of it.



The Manassas re-enactment of 1961

YARD SALE

Greetings to all 16th family, friends and associates!! The 16th GA is pleased to announce that at Nash Farm we will be having a unit "yard sale". It is time to take inventory of your equipment. We are requesting that you bring your unwanted, unused and extra equipment or clothes to be sold. One purpose of this is to outfit unit members with the equipment they need at a discounted price. Another purpose is to turn the equipment you have, that is collecting dust, into money that can buy the equipment you don't have or just want in an effort to prove your impression. Remember the National events coming up!! Do YOU have all the items YOU need??? I have already been contacted by some folks and know there are hats, jackets, pants, shoes being brought. There is even going to be an A frame tent complete with poles offered for \$40.00!!!! Please plan to be financially prepared to participate in this rare opportunity to improve your impression and equipment at discounted prices!!! These items will be offered ONLY to 16th members on Friday night. On Saturday morning at formation we will make an announcement for other units to come look at anything that is left. Please contact me with any questions.

Humbly serving the 16th, 1st Cpl. N. Sprague

COMMENTARY

I have spent a significant amount of time thinking about the article "A Good Soldier Never Checks Up Short" published in the July edition of the *Howling Dawg*. As I recall the first sentence was "this newsletter has always been transparent, we both praise and criticize openly." I would like to take this opportunity to do both. In the time I have been with the unit, almost two years now, I have witnessed firsthand the respect and awe we receive both on and off the field. I've even spoken with other re-enactors as far away as Ohio that know of our reputation. But what IS our reputation? From what I have seen it is a unit that fights harder, goes longer, and fires more rounds down range than most other units. Also, our fierce loyalty towards each other, our ability to play just as hard as we fight, and to challenge anyone who says otherwise. As stated in the article "if you are 16th excellence is EXPECTED by the entire reenactment world. We portray SOLDIERS NOT REENACTORS". As stated we DO portray soldiers and in that I have to ask, what does it mean to "portray" a soldier? Well to me it means when you put on that uniform you take on the responsibility of your rank and position as a soldier of that time, also you are representing a soldier who fought for a cause they believed in and possibly died for. You have certain basic responsibilities when you don that uniform, such as completing your uniform within the time permitted by our bylaws (which we ALL signed on to when we joined) and by showing up at a function with the appropriate gear when you are told to have it. As a veteran, I myself, have had nightmares on occasion while in the service of not showing up to muster with my uniform and gear squared away, (and still do on occasion). As stated before, the 1st Sgt. expects a soldier of the 16th to show up to a function or event with the required uniform and gear; and rightly so! We are a military organization when we put on our uniforms and we should act as such. It is an insult to those of us who take the time to prepare for an event or function by purchasing powder and rolling it AHEAD OF TIME, not the day of the event. Buying powder should only be done at an event if it is for future use, not use at that event. I realize that most of us have jobs and our time is somewhat limited, but if you buy and roll powder when you are off you will have it done. Showing up at a function as a full member, not a "pup" without a uniform you were instructed to bring weeks ahead of time, is completely and utterly UNSATISFACTORY. It is almost shameful that you wear the 16th numbers on your hat. My chief and Gunny Sgt. would have had ALL of us doing pushups until HE got tired. The old saying "if you have it, use it," should be in effect at ALL times. If you have eating utensils and a plate NEVER assume that you get to use the plates and utensils provided FOR OUR GUESTS. You are a soldier act like it. As far as cleaning rifles, if it is your rifle, you are expected and required to clean it properly after you use it with YOUR own cleaning supplies, not the ones you constantly borrow from other members. If you are borrowing a rifle you are expected AND required to clean and care for that rifle and return it to its proper owner cleaned and inspection ready after its use. I have been guilty of not doing this one time, and I have NEVER let it happen again, so I know firsthand the problems it can cause. These are the few issues that I would like to have addressed. I urge our NCO's & officers to address these matters and to reprimand those offenses when they arise. I also urge ALL 16th GA members to step up and square away your comrades when needed and take more pride into being prepared because no one else should be responsible for you your uniform or your gear.

Austin Benjamin Mannheim PVT 16th GA



FIELD TRIP

A small group went over to the Governor's Mansion at Georgia College in Milledgeville on Saturday, August 13th. If you have never been it is well worth it. Pictured are Jessie, Jenny and Kellie Banks, Joel, Matthew and Charles Whitehead and Wayne Dobson. Brenda Dobson snapped the picture. It was a real treat to have Jenny with us. This long time 16th GA member now makes her home in South Carolina where she attends college. We have hopes she can make it to Nash Farm.



IN DEEPEST SYMPATHY

It is with sadness that I must tell you of the death of Captain Rob Luke's (3rd Wisconsin) step grandson. The young man was killed in an accident Monday morning, August 8. Please keep the families in your prayers and ask the Lord to give them comfort and a strength that only He can, to go through these next few trying days.

Your Servant, Jim Boone

RIFLE CLEANING TIPS

Often, at an event, someone needs to borrow a rifle; new members are always coming in or some members just have not been able to get one yet. Several of us own more than one and lending is never a problem. From what I have seen, this year, most (not all) who have borrowed one has returned it in good order. Have you ever loaned a rifle and were getting ready leave for home, when the person that borrowed brought it back to you and said, "I ran some water through it." What does that mean? Usually, that means it is still wet, especially if the water poured in it was not raging hot. If it is still wet, meaning no dry patches have swabbed it out, then you can bet you're in for a barrel full of rust by the time you get home. Even if you are not very far from an event, I doubt the first thing you do when you get home and get unpacked is to clean your rifle - not unless you shower with it. So this rifle that "had some water run through it," sits in that condition and when you do get around to cleaning it, you have a mess. Now, you could say the person who "ran the water through it" was trying to repay your loaning it to them or you could say they did just enough to get by or to get off the hook. In either case they are doing you no favor! There are a couple of easy things that can help this situation:

1. If you borrow a weapon, ask the owner about cleaning it - what do they expect of you. If someone uses one of mine Saturday and Sunday, then they are, naturally, going to have to clean it Saturday night to be ready for Sunday inspection. If it is a one day event or if they just used it on Sunday, then it suits me (and I am speaking only for me) for them to just return it to me unclean. In this case, trying to do a half-way job of cleaning it, is worse than no job at all.
2. If you borrow a weapon, you still need to bring your own cleaning patches, rags, oil, etc. I mean to borrow someone's rifle then go back to them and ask for something to clean it with is stretching "cool" way out of shape. Even if you do not have gun oil, you can often get by in the field with just boiling hot water and patches. Get in the habit of carrying patches in your cartridge box pouch and you will always be ready. *Duke*

"You have no reason to be ashamed of your Confederate dead; see to it they have no reason to be ashamed of you." -- Robert Lewis Dabney, Chaplain for Lt. General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, CSA

16TH GA Co. G. "Jackson Rifles"

Capt. William "Rebel" Bradberry - 404-242-7213

1 Lt. Noah Sprague - 706-491-9755

1st Sgt. Kevin Sark - 478-731-8796

1st Corp. Nathan Sprague - 478-320-8748

2nd Corp. Alan Richards - 478-308-9739

3rd Corp. / Adj. John Wayne "Duke" Dobson - 478-731-5531

waynedobson51@yahoo.com or waynedobson@cox.net

Chaplain Ronnie "Skin" Neal - 478-994-0958

Assistant Chaplain - Charles Hill - 770-845-6878

Treasurer Ricky "Coonpossum" Smith - 478-956-2840

Musician Cody Sprague - 478-320-8748

(Copies of the current roster are always available upon request by e-mail or regular mail)

NEARLY 1,000 FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK: "JACKSON RIFLES"

WAY TOO MANY ENEMIES TO COUNT

All 2011 issues of the *Howling Dawg* can be viewed at the Lt. James T. Woodward Website (scvcamp1399.org), thanks to the gracious efforts of Steve Scroggins.



MANASSAS: IN HONORED MEMORY OF THOSE WHO FELL

Creed of the Living Historian

By Bruce Catton

We are people to whom the past is forever speaking. We listen to it because we cannot help ourselves, for the past speaks to us with many voices. Far out of that dark nowhere, which is the time before we were born, men who were flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone, went through fire and storm to break a path to the future.

We are part of the future they died for. They are part of the past that brought the future. What they did – the lives they lived, the sacrifices they made, the stories they told and the songs they sung and finally, the deaths they died – make up a part of our own experience.

We cannot cut ourselves off from it. It is as real to us as something that happened last week.

*The one absolutely unselfish friend that a man can have in this selfish world;
the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous,
is his DAWG.*

- G.G.Vest

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 10-11 - TUNNEL HILL

SEPT. 17 - VA HOSPITAL - Dublin, GA - No uniforms needed, bring homemade desert, pens, pads. (POC is Ricky Smith 47-956-2840).

SEPTEMBER 23-25 - NASH FARM, NEAR MCDONOUGH, GA

Nash Farm is on! It will cost \$5 dollars per soldier AT registration. Family members attending that are not portraying a soldier will not be required to pay. There will be no pre-registration. We will be Federal the entire weekend with our friends the 3rd Wis. and others. If you are going, let 1 Sgt. Kevin Sark know by September 5.

OCTOBER 1-2 - ANDERSONVILLE, GA

OCTOBER 22 - DIXIE & LEE'S WEDDING - 4:30PM - OLD CLINTON - Uniforms, accouterments & weapons.

OCTOBER 20-22 - SPIRITS IN OCTOBER - MACON, GA (contact Austin Mannheim if interested)

NOVEMBER 5-6 - BATTLES @ IRWINVILLE, GA (POC is Lee Murdock 478- 986-5290)

NOVEMBER 18-20 - RAID ON THE SUWANNEE RIVER - LIVE OAK, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 19 - GRISWOLDVILLE MEMORIAL SERVICE GPS: 32°52'00"N 83°28' 10"W

NOV.19-20 - "Burning of Clinton" (POC is J.C. Nobles 478- 718-3201)

PLANS FOR THE FALL CAMPAIGN

Camping for Nash Farm and Andersonville will be authentic for those who are able. If that changes you will be contacted by your squad leaders. Anyone who does not have the means to camp authentic needs to contact their NCO; we may be able to find a tent to borrow or be able to help you transport your tents if that's what is needed. *Lt. Noah Sprague*

NCO SCHOOL

In addition to our Winter Muster (which is commonly held in January) we are planning an NCO School to prepare those in the 16th GA who aspire to such rank. It will be likely be held this Fall or next Spring and hosted by (Ervin Garnto & Herbert Burns), near Scott, GA. Alan Richards is the coordinator for this training. It includes a memorial service for James W. Drake, Co. G 32nd GA. If interested, let us know. More information will be forthcoming in The Howling Dawg. *Duke*

Mr. Lincoln Incites Race War

"With enlistments dwindling after costly defeats and popular support for his war nil, Lincoln proposed his abolition scheme which was severely criticized by the British press as simply a plan to incite race war. The British were familiar with this secret weapon as Lord Dunmore, Royal Governor of Virginia, proclaimed his own emancipation decree in 1775 after which slaves flocked to his standard to fight against American independence. It was used by the British once again in 1814 as Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane issued another emancipation proclamation to incite slave insurrection to destroy the United States from within." bernhard1848@att.net

A YANKEE ABOLITIONIST DEFENDS THE CONFEDERATE STATES' RIGHT TO SECEDE

"Wendell Phillips, Boston abolitionist as he was, in a speech made at New Bedford on the 9th of April, 1861, three days before the bombardment of Fort Sumter, fully recognized this right. He said: *Here are a series of States girding the Gulf, who think that their peculiar institutions require that they should have a separate government. They have a right to decide that question without appealing to you or me. A large body of the people, sufficient to make a nation, have come to the conclusion that they will have a government of a certain form. Who denies them the right?*" bernhard1848@att.net

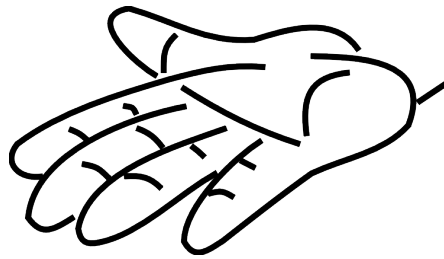
GETTYSBURG: THE CROWN OF YANKEE PROPAGANDA

"Gettysburg is the crown of the Yankee propaganda machine. Their "Visitors' Center" has an animated statue of Lincoln swearing to free "all" the slaves to save the Union. Of course, they leave out "some" or "none" in their little display. The whole thing is so politically correct it is frankly breath-taking. But then, Gettysburg has always been a Yankee place. It's the "victory" that brought them ultimate "victory."

At least in the past, the South was given some place at the "historic table," but no more. Furthermore, nobody - not even Southerners - seem to care about the callous and un-Christian treatment of Confederate wounded and dead after the battle! It wasn't until well after the war that the women of the South were able to petition the noble "Union government" to allow them to dig the poor dead of Lee's army from their wretched "graves" and carry their noble bodies back to be buried in Richmond.

As I have said to the Civil War Trust people, if the present crop of "heritage groups" do not start to protect the heritage, history and honor of the South - including her heroes and symbols - I wouldn't give them one thin dime. To my mind, it would be better by far that these battle fields be consigned to oblivion than that they stand as testimonies to Yankee lies and tyranny." Deo Vindice, Valerie Protopapas

NEED



"... thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked..." Revelation 3:17

We like to think of ourselves as being self sufficient, but we really are needy people. In my household, all too often, we need to run to the grocery for something (and we grow a good portion of the food we eat), or we need to get gasoline or I am out of printer ink; we always need something. We need someone to turn up the air conditioner or the heater, to go check the mail, to cut the grass, to wash clothes, to do dishes, feed the cat, or feed the dog - or feed the cat to the dog; the list is endless. When we are in the field and camping it only gets worse; we need firewood, water, cartridges, caps, hay and on and on it goes. Often we are so caught up in that way of thinking that we act like we need things even when we don't - if you don't believe me then why do you visit the sutlers at every event - we just need stuff? We are a needy people.

In context, the verse at the top of the page is God talking to a church which has developed the attitude that they have everything they need. They need nothing - not even God.

For me, NEED had a lot to do with the way I came to God and my continuing relationship with Him. I do not mean to suggest that the only reason I went to God is because I needed something, although many operate like that. Let me explain it this way; in the familiar old hymn, "Rock of Ages," my favorite line is: *"In my hand, no price I bring. Simply to Thy cross I cling."* Man, I like that because it describes me perfectly. When I came to God, in NEED, of salvation, I was not on a winning streak. I did not bring to him any promises of how I was going to be a good person, how I would quit drinking, how I would never miss church or how much I would drop in the offering plate - no, sir! I came to God and said (more or less),

"God, YOU say that I am on my way a burning Hell, forever, unless YOU save me. So, I NEED YOU to save me!!!!" And He sure did. There is a story about Jesus and a leper over in Luke 5. The man with leprosy came to Jesus with a problem. He had an incurable disease and he sought the only doctor that could do anything about it. He came to the Lord Jesus Christ with a NEED. Most of us go to doctors, who help heal our ills and they expect to be paid. The leper was empty handed - he brought nothing but NEED.

Some folks act like they need God for what He can do for them. Me too! That is not really bad attitude, not really. It depends a lot on what the NEED is (we are not talking new car here, although He can do that, too). First of all by going to Him you are recognizing that He is God and that He can do something about everything that concerns you, from your aching back to a soul that needs a touch - He can more than meet the need. He is able. Maybe you agree that you need God but think He does not need you. To that, I simply say that He wanted you, He loved you, He NEEDED you so much that He paid His very life blood for You. If that is not proof enough, I have nothing else to write. Bring your need to God. It is enough. *"In my hand no price I bring. Simply to Thy Cross I cling."*

jwd