

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: Johnny Kicklighter Email: Johnnywick@gmail.com



JANUARY 2024



PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT MTG, 19 JANUARY

PRESENTATION: General Forrest Homecoming

PRESENTER: DVD

REFRESHMENTS: Jim and Barb Lumma



CAMP MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and are, 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

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 John McKee, 618-491-9472

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 will help with genealogical assistance for 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.

WE CARE! PLEASE CALL JOHN 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 John McKee, 618-491-9472 Chaplain Mike Biekert, 618-972-8190

Lest We Forget

KEVIN DUFFY
January 6, 1940-October 15, 2010

PAT DORAN
May 31, 1939-September 7, 2011

BRETT WARNER
September 29, 1960-March 21, 2012

JAMES BENEDICT
July 18, 1947-October 27, 2012

RON DORAN
July 14, 1940-March 24, 2015

BILL BEASLEY
December 4, 1942-April 17, 2015

C. F. MARLEY
April 9, 1921-February 17, 2016

JOE LOPER
June 6, 1941-March 18, 2016

VERNON DeSELMS
October 9, 1941-August 14, 201



GORDON HAYES
September 7, 1938-July 4, 2023

HARRIS YOUNG
November 9, 1924-September 29, 2017

RONNIE OTTINGER
August 3, 1951-November 8, 2018

SAM BOOTH
December 28, 1942-February 24, 2019

BOB HARDY
July 18, 1928-June 15, 2019

GREG KRIEG
October 2, 1946-September 11, 2020

WELLINGTON "HAM" LEMMER
February 17, 1947-February 17, 2021

MARCUS PATTON "PAT" BOOTH
November 1, 1941-February 5, 2022

JOHN BOSTON MASSEY
August 6, 1947-December 1, 2022

JIM CONN
October 4, 1953-March 17, 2023

FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS: Greetings to all faithful and loyal members of the Lt. George E. Dixon SCV camp. We had a great meeting last month with inspiring music from the camp regimental singers. We only wish that more members had attended. The camp needs your support in our common goal to preserve and honor the memories of our southern ancestors. If we who are their descendants fail to carry forward their story, then what legacy will the elites go after next. There have been many who have fallen from the frontline from our membership rolls and have buckled with push against them. I have talked with such members and theses are their positions they have expressed. What will happen when the attack is launched against the church? God only knows but with such a legacy of complacency the future appears dire. Let not your steadfast courage depart from your heart. Until the next muster. GOD Bless



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CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly muster at 6:40 p.m. on 21 December 2023, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 12th Muster of the year.

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

WELCOME: Commander John Stanton welcomed the Camp's members, family, and friends.

INVOCATION: Chaplain Mike Biekert.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTE TO CONFEDERATE FLAG: Cmdr. John Stanton.

ROLL CALL: 12



GROUP PHOTO (L-R)

Back row: John McKee, John Stanton, Dale Rice, Phil Tate, Steve Wilson
Front row: Jane McKee, JC Gideon, Johnny Kicklighter, Ron Lakin, Janice Beasley, Mike Biekert, Eric Funkhouser

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Presented in the December 2023 Edition of The Blue Light News. Motion by Eric Funkhouser 2nd:by Steve Wilson Passed

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balance at \$5,477.21. Does not include pending deposits and bills.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

SWEARING IN: None

REPORTS:

- A. Thanksgiving/Christmas Charity Project: Motion to defer until next meeting by Steve Wilson, 2nd by Johnny Kicklighter. Passed.
- B. Wreaths Across America (WAA): CC Stanton provided an account of the wreath laying at the Alton Prison memorial and Smallpox Island Memorial. He noted the vast improvement at Smallpox Island, repairing all damages and improving the access and space.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion to reimburse Shiloh Church for the past three months (including current) by Johnny Kicklighter, seconded by Steve Wilson, passed. \$20 collected, leaving a balance of \$40.

REFRESHMENTS: Not available.

PROGRAM: Christmas singalong led by Chaplin Biekert and Steve Wilson.

NEXT MEETING: 19 January 2024

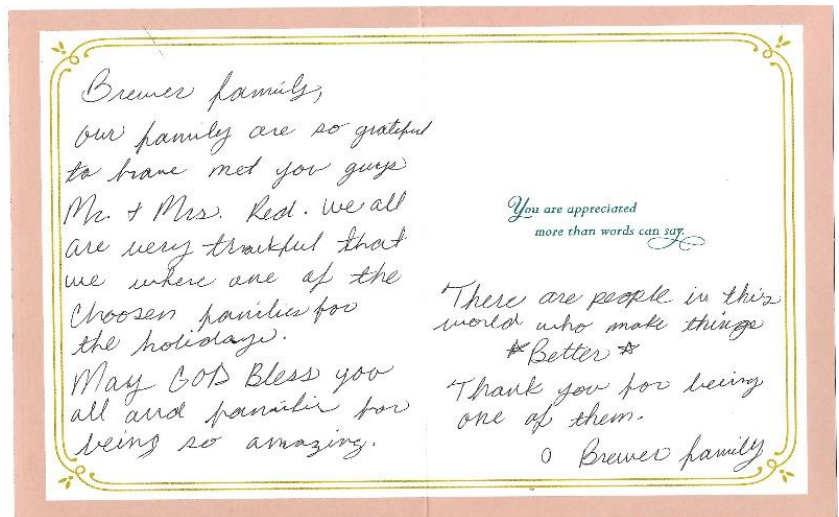
BENEDICTION: Chaplain Mike Biekert.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 8:30 PM.



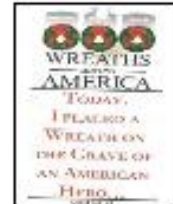
News From Around The Camp

Thought you would like to see the very nice thank you card from the Brewer family's mother, Kamera, for the camp's Thanksgiving foodstuffs and Christmas meal and gifts. (Extra special thank you to the camp members who made donations, especially our very generous Compatriot Chris Ziebold.)



“Our family are so grateful to have met you guys. Mr. and Mrs. Red, we all are very thankful that we were one of the chosen families for the holidays. May God bless you all and families for being so amazing. You are appreciated more than words can say.

There are people in this world who make things better. Thank you for being one of them.”
Brewer family



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Saturday, December 16, 2023 -- Confederate Cemetery, North Alton IL



Camp Dixon again remembered and contributed to the Wreaths Across America national event by placing Merry Christmas wreaths on behalf of the Confederate veterans' graves. This is the 10th year we've participated in this practice of laying wreaths, compliments of the Worchester Wreath Company in Maine.

Present at Alton on this cool and breezy 40-ish-degree Saturday with the sun shining and winter wind blowing were only nine members of Camp Dixon and the UDC: Commander John Stanton, Compatriot Gale & Lady Sharon Red, Compatriot Jim & Lady Barb Lumma, Lady Janice Beasley, Linda Mizell and Peggy Sternberg, members of the Martha Leah Chapter #2912 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy—(UDC), and Ray Sternberg.



WELCOME REMARKS ... Gale Red



"Until We Meet Again"
Read by Barb Lumma



THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

Inscription on Monument

**ERECTED
BY THE
UNITED STATES
MARK THE BURIAL PLACE
OF
1354 CONFEDERATE
SOLDIERS WHO DIED HERE
AND AT THE
SMALLPOX HOSPITAL
ON THE ADJACENT ISLAND
WHILE PRISONERS OF WAR
AND WHOSE GRAVES
CANNOT NOW BE IDENTIFIED**

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

We think about you always
Especially on
Wreaths Across America Day.
We talk about you still.
You have never been forgotten
And you never will.
We hold you close within our hearts
And there you will remain
To walk and
guide us through our lives
Until we meet again.



Laying of a Wreath
on the only single
gravemarker
of
Joseph Pearson Julian
Co. E., 10 Texas Inf,
CSA
(located down below the
hill from the monument)

Placed By
Commander John Stanton



"Twas the Dawn Christmas Morning"
Read by Linda Mizell



((L-R) Gale Red, Barb Lumma, Janice Beasley, Jim Lumma, John Stanton, Peggy Sternberg, and Linda Mizell

'Twas the Dawn Christmas Morning
 'Twas the dawn Christmas morning and a soldier was sad;
 He was far from his family in a nation gone bad.
 He thought of his children all tucked up in bed.
 He thought of his wife and a tear he did shed.
 "Is this crap all worth it?" He said to his mate.
 "I want to go home not sit here and wait."
 His mate thought for a bit, then said with a smile,
 "It's the reason we're here that makes this worthwhile.
 We're tired and cramped in this pit in the ground
 So our families are safe and free all year round.
 We're doing our bit like those in the past
 So peace has a chance and freedom can last."
 The soldier nodded his head – this year had been tough;
 He'd seen warfare and famine and nastier stuff.
 He thought of his children and thought of his wife
 And was thankful they had such a fortunate life.
 Seeing some shepherds protecting their herds,
 He suddenly smiled and whispered these words:
 "Merry Christmas, my family – I really miss you
 But my presence right here is my present to you."



ALTON CONFEDERATE CEMETERY MONUMENT GATE ENTRANCE
 (L-R) Barb Lumma, Peggy Sternberg, Jim Lumma, John Stanton, Linda Mizell, Gale Red, and Janice Beasley

Saturday, December 16, 2023 – Smallpox Island, Alton IL



Smallpox Island Monument

(L-R) Barb & Jim Lumma, Janice Beasley, Gale Red, and John Stanton.

The day may have appeared overcast and gloomy, but Camp Dixon shone forth with much pride and eloquence in continuing the tradition of WAA. Six camp members braved the weather and again remembered the Confederate veterans who died at Smallpox Island and presented a wreath. In attendance and proudly representing the camp were: Commander John Stanton, Compatriot Gale and Lady Red, Lady Janice Beasley, and Compatriot Jim and Lady Barb Lumma.



Smallpox Island Monument Inscription

THE ALTON PRISON WAS ORIGINALLY OPENED IN 1833 AS THE ILLINOIS STATE PENITENTIARY. IT REMAINED IN SERVICE UNTIL 1860 WHEN A NEW FACILITY WAS BUILT IN JOLIET ON FEBRUARY 9, 1862. THE VACANT STRUCTURE REOPENED AS THE ALTON FEDERAL MILITARY PRISON. DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS AT LEAST 11,704 CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS WERE HELD IN THIS FACILITY.

BY ALL OBJECTIVE ACCOUNTS, CONDITIONS IN THE PRISON WERE SUBSTANDARD. THE MORTALITY RATE WAS HIGH. HOT, HUMID SUMMERS AND COLD DAMP WINTERS UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE HIGH DEATH RATE. OVERCROWDING, INADEQUATE FOOD AND CLOTHING AND UNSANITARY CONDITIONS FURTHER COMPOUNDED THE PRISONERS' MISERY. PNEUMONIA AND DYSENTERY WERE COMMON KILLERS, BUT CONTAGIOUS DISEASES LIKE SMALLPOX AND RUBELLA WERE THE MOST FEARED. THE SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC THAT BEGAN IN LATE 1862 ULTIMATELY PROMPTED PRISON OFFICIALS TO TRANSFER THE CONTAGIOUS PRISONERS TO A TEMPORARY QUARANTINE FACILITY, A SAFE DISTANCE FROM CIVILIAN RESIDENTS OF ALTON.



OPENING PRAYER
Gale Red



COMMANDER'S REMARKS
John Stanton delivered compliments to the Corps of Engineers for the restoration of the monument area (quite a definite and needed improvement from last December).



"God Saw You Getting Tired"
Read by Janice Beasley

GOD SAW YOU GETTING TIRED

God saw you getting tired and a
cure was not to be
So He put His arms around you and
whispered
"Come with me"
With tearful eyes we watched you
suffer and saw you fading away
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating;
Working hands were put to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.



"Merry Christmas from Heaven"
Read by John Stanton

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM HEAVEN

I still hear the songs
I still see the lights
I still feel your love on cold wintry nights.
I still share your hopes and all of your cares
I'll even remind you to please say your prayers.
I just want to tell you, you still make me proud.
You stand head and shoulders above all the crowd.
Keep trying each moment to stay in His grace.
I came here before you to help set your place.
You didn't have to be perfect all of the time.
He forgives you when you slip if you continue to climb.
To my family and friends, please be thankful today.
I'm still close beside you in a new special way.
I love you all dearly
Now don't shed a tear
Cause I'm spending my Christmas Day with Jesus this year.

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Green Mount Catholic Cemetery, Belleville IL
By Sharon Red



Lt. Clarence Muskensturm
September 28, 1917-May 18,



Robert Muskensturm,
June 3, 1918-September 20,



Kevin Duffy
January 8, 1940-October 15, 2010



Reagan Harris Young
November 9, 1924-September 29, 2017

Mascoutah Community Cemetery, Mascoutah IL
By Gale Red



Brett Warner
September 29, 1960-March 24, 2012

Walnut Hill Cemetery, Belleville IL
By Gale and Sharon Red



William Joseph
Underwood
1833-1892



William H. Harris
1842-1907



Ron Doran
July 14, 1940-March 24, 2015



Hiram Duvall Anderson
January 12, 1848-December 27, 1910



Henry E. Schrader
August 16, 1839-October 31, 1920



Defenders of the Union Monument
NECHER INFANTRY REGIMENT
207
CIVIL WAR UNION SOLDIER'S
MEMORIAL



**Steve Wilson Places Wreath
Studt Cemetery, Renault, IL**



Tilman A. McKinney



**St Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery
Waterloo, IL**



Thomas J. Payne

Note: No wreaths were received or placed on the following gravestones: Robert Hardy, Vernon DeSelms, Sam Booth, Greg Krieg, Ham Lemmer, Gordon Hayes, John W. Jackson, Ninian Oliver Bell, Thomas J. Payne, or Tillman A. McKinney.

PROPOSED NEW ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT THE JANUARY CAMP MEETING
Should the Camp be the sponsor for their WAA wreaths in 2024 and the future?

Do you want the camp to continue to support the Wreaths Across America Day which in 2024 will be the 11th active year for this outstanding cause? (Remember, Worchester Company has made and funded us for the last 10 years.)

We bring this up because we need you to be advised that the Worchester Company may not be able to provide free wreaths to us in 2024 unless they can obtain a sponsor to fund the cost. (None has been received yet.)

Since this could impact the camp's annual tradition in the 11th year running, do you think Camp Dixon would want to and be able to afford to sponsor these wreaths for a cost of \$17 each X 24 or an estimated \$288? (This estimate does not count the six local deceased members in the area.)

This is very important. Your attention and vote in this matter are requested at the next camp meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

2 Groundhog Day
4 Super Bowl Sunday
14 Ash Wednesday
14 Valentine's Day
15 CAMP MEETING
19 Washington's Birthday

MARCH

10 Daylight Savings Time
15 Ides of March
17 St. Patrick's Day
19 Vernal Equinox
21 CAMP MEETING
31 Easter

APRIL

1 April Fools' Day
9 Winston Churchill Day
9 Bataan Day
13 Jefferson's Birthday
18 CAMP MEETING
23 Passover



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

11 David Haake (Cheyenne, WY)
26 Jack Sanford (Brighton, IL)
28 Drew Wilson (LeClaire, IA)



CAMP DIXON STAFF

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Asst Sgt of Arms	Eric Jan Funkhouser	618-233-6148	funkhousereric1995@yahoo.com