

Deo adjuvanti non timindin (With God's help, we need not fear)

THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS



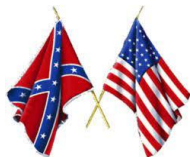
Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962
Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)

www.scvcamp1962.org

Editor: Johnny Kicklighter Email: Johnnywkick@gmail.com



SEPTEMBER 2024

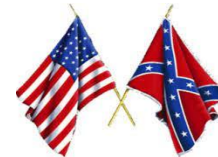


PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT MTG, 19 SEPTEMBER

PRESENTATION: Confederate Chaplains

PRESENTER: Chaplain Biekert

REFRESHMENTS: J.C. Gideon



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

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



Commemorative Stamp
Issued in 1955

During Robert E. Lee's tenure at Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, following the Civil War, he introduced practical subjects like business, agriculture, and engineering, believing education was crucial for the South's recovery.

Watch the video to learn more about Robert E. Lee's final years.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPtV5F2gM54>

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(From the Commander, Cont.)

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. 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. Until we meet. GOD bless. Confederately, John Stanton.



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 17 August 2024, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 8th Muster of the year.

1. Call to order – CC Stanton at 6:40 PM
2. Invocation – Chaplain Biekert
3. Pledge to U.S. Flag – CC Stanton
4. Salute to Confederate Flag – CC Stanton



GROUP PHOTO (L-R)

Back row: John McKee, Mike Biekert, John Stanton

Front row: Jane McKee, Caroline Pope, Maeve Pope, Bob Herr, JC Gideon, Eric Funkhouser, Phil Tate

Photographer: Janice Beasley

5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting as Presented in the August 2024 Edition of *The Blue Light News*

Motion: Phil Tate; 2nd: Mike Biekert = Passed

7. Treasurer's report – I received payments for dues for two members, totaling \$110, since our last meeting in July. The general account balance is \$5,319.01. The charitable account balance is \$220.99.

Motion: Bob Herr; 2nd: Eric Funkhouser = Passed

8. Communications (messages from National, other camps, other organizations)

a. From Dave Roper with the Stand Watie Camp #2300 of St. Peters, MO: They are looking for Camp Speakers for the Fall and Winter seasons. If you are interested, please email Dave at daveroper166@gmail.com, or provide me with contact information which I will forward to him.

9. Reports

- a. Standing Committees: None.

b. Special Committees

a. None

10. Old Business (items tabled at previous meetings to be discussed/voted)

a. None

11. New Business (items presented for the first time to be discussed/voted)

a. TBD

12. Announcements (sharing of information from members)

a. Chaplain Biekert shared information on Gale Red's condition. He had appeared better the last time they met.

b. Jane McKee reported her new eye medication was working & improving her vision in her left eye.

c. Chaplain Biekert also reported that turnips are up and growing.

13. Blessing by Chaplain Biekert

14. Refreshments by Chaplain Biekert.

15. Program: Eric Funkhouser on his CW ancestors.

16. Next Meeting: 19 September 2024

Refreshments by J.C. Gideon. Program by Chaplain Biekert, on Confederate Chaplains

17. Benediction by Chaplain Biekert

18. Adjournment at 8:00 PM



The War Officially Begins



Bombardment of Fort Sumter

On Wednesday, April 10, 1861, Confederate Gen. Pierre Gustave Toutant (P.G.T.) Beauregard, a French Creole from New Orleans, Louisiana, who was in command of the provisional Confederate forces at Charleston, South Carolina, demanded the surrender of the Union garrison of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. The Federal Commander, Maj. Robert Anderson, had taught artillery tactics at West Point where the French Creole was one of his favorite pupils. Anderson, who was born at a place called “Soldier’s Retreat, Kentucky,” refused. The crisis in Charleston Harbor began on December 26, 1860, when Major Anderson moved his small force of 80 men out of the other forts surrounding the harbor to Fort Sumter, which was located at the mouth of the harbor and surrounded by water. Anderson made his move in response to the action of the South Carolina Legislature to become the first state to secede from the Union on December 20, but his refusal to voluntarily surrender the fort and his defiant act of flying the Stars and Stripes over the harbor infuriated the Confederates, who felt that Anderson should peacefully vacate Charleston and board a Federal ship for the North.



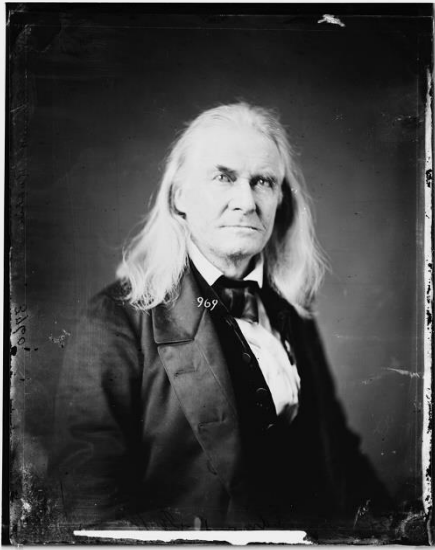
Maj. Robert Anderson



Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard

Prior to his departure from office, U.S. President James Buchanan had tried to reinforce and resupply Anderson using the unarmed merchant ship, *Star of the West*, but this failed when the ship was fired upon by shore batteries on January 9, 1861. South Carolina authorities then seized all Federal property in the Charleston area, except for Fort Sumter. As the Confederates strengthened their positions around Fort Sumter, Anderson was rapidly becoming short of men, guns, food, and supplies.

Soon, six other states followed South Carolina in secession, and in February 1861, they formed a provisional government, elected a president, created a Cabinet, and set about arming and equipping an army for the defense of the newly created Confederate States of America. Eventually, four other states would join the Confederacy. As the provisional Confederate States Army began to take shape, many of the South’s leading military officers quickly resigned from positions in the United States’ Government and offered their services to the Confederacy, including Beauregard, who was appointed as General and sent to Fort Sumter to expel his former teacher. Beauregard promised to begin firing on the fort at 4:00 a.m. on the morning of April 12 should Anderson’s force remain. When Friday, April 12 arrived, anxious Charleston citizens listened for sounds of the guns that would surely mark the beginning of war and the end of an era. Most did not go to bed that night in anticipation of what they expected would be the birth of a new Confederate nation and a glorious celebration. Four a.m. came, and there was still silence. Four fifteen a.m. and no sounds were yet heard. Perhaps Beauregard and the Confederates were bluffing? Or, perhaps Anderson had evacuated during the night?



Edmund Ruffin

At 4:30, the booms of the thunderous cannon were heard, piercing the night sky with the streaking red-and-yellow fireballs that soared over the harbor toward the small fort. It was clear now that war was on as the unmistakable roaring continued for the next 34 hours. Anderson had ignored Beauregard's ultimatum and Beauregard's cannon had replied with a solemn resolve. Beauregard had allowed the first shot to be fired by 74-year-old fire-eater Edmund Ruffin, a native Virginian who had come to South Carolina to participate. Ruffin had preached the merits of secession for decades and, in 1858, he had founded the League of United Southerners, an organization dedicated to the creation of an independent Southern Nation. Ruffin has been largely credited with firing the first shot of the Civil War.

Unable to mount any effective reply from his outgunned and outmanned post, Anderson ordered the flag of surrender to be raised at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 13. There were no casualties on either side during the four-month siege and the 34-hour bombardment, but before the Federal garrison evacuated on Sunday, April 14, one of Anderson's artillerists was killed and three more wounded, one mortally, while firing off a 100-gun salute prior to their departure. They stopped at 50 salutes when one of the cannons exploded. Anderson and the Federals were welcomed as heroes in the North including in New York City, where the flag that they flew over Charleston Harbor was cheered.

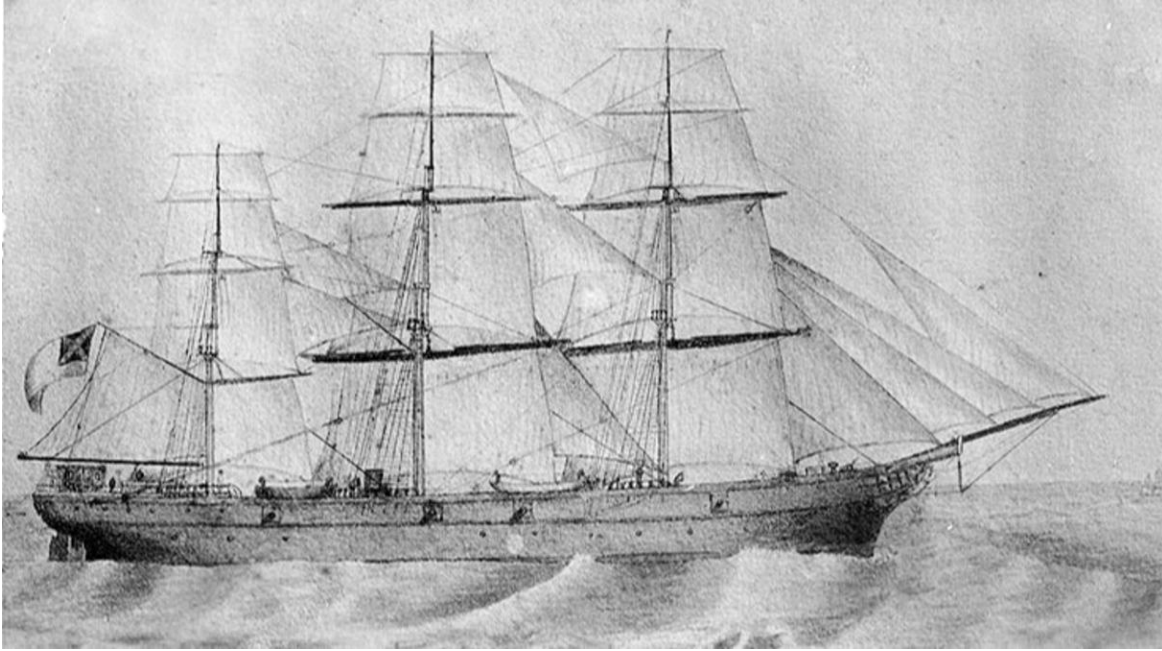
Following the battle of Fort Sumter, there would be widespread support from both the North and the South, and President Lincoln immediately called for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the rebellion, while in the South, thousands of young men and boys flocked to join the Confederate Army. The Civil War had officially begun.



Fort Sumter Storm Flag | Fort Sumter National Monument

Courtesy By Robert Jenkins, blueandgrayeducation.org

Did Hawaii Play a Role in the Civil War?



Artwork Depicting the CSS Shenandoah / Some Hawaiians and Hawaiian-born Americans Served

The “Hawaii Sons of the Civil War” were a group of approximately 119 Native Hawaiians and Hawaii-born men who served bravely in the Civil War. Despite King Kamehameha IV declaring the Kingdom of Hawaii’s neutrality at the outset of the war, many Native Hawaiians and Hawaii-born Americans, both abroad and in the islands, enlisted in the Union and Confederacy. These men included sailors who joined the Union Navy, as well as sailors who were captured by the Confederate Navy. Some of the latter served on the CSS Shenandoah, which is known for firing the last shot of the Civil War across the bow of a whaler near the Aleutian Islands.

Native Hawaiians had served in American wars since the War of 1812. At the beginning of the Civil War, there was a rising tide of sympathy among Hawaiians with the Union due to their historic ties to New England, established through missionaries and the whaling industry. Additionally, many in the islands opposed slavery.

In recent years, Hawaiian residents and historians, along with descendants of the combatants, have worked to bring attention to the heroics of the Hawaii Sons of the Civil War. On August 26, 2010—the anniversary of the signing of the Neutrality Proclamation—a bronze plaque honoring them was erected.



Plaque for Hawaii Sons of the Civil War / National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu



News From Around the Camp

Members of the Kicklighter family returned from a trip to Destin, Florida. In addition to doing some parasailing, they went deep sea fishing for red snapper.



Sundance and Liberty at the Illinois/Iowa state cowboy shoot. Janice was 3rd in her age category. They have a great range, and it was a fun shoot. The championship featured intense shooting competitions, showcasing the participants' skills in handling period-correct firearms. Competitors engaged in various stages, demonstrating their speed, accuracy, and proficiency in the sport of cowboy action shooting. The event attracted participants from across the state and beyond, bringing together enthusiasts of the Old West and shooting sports. The championship not only tested the shooters' abilities but also celebrated the spirit and culture of the American frontier.



Lucy Pickens was known as the "Queen of the Confederacy" and was a prominent figure in the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. As the wife of Francis Wilkinson Pickens, the governor of South Carolina when it became the first state to secede from the Union, she held an influential position. She sold jewels given to her by the Russian royal family to help outfit a Confederate Army unit called the "Lucy Holcombe Legion". She encouraged other Southern women to volunteer in hospitals and sell their jewelry for the Confederate cause. Notably, she was the only woman depicted on any Confederate States of America currency. This made her a unique and recognizable figure on Confederate money, further cementing her status as an icon of the Confederacy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

11 General Pulaski Memorial Day
14 Columbus Day
16 Boss's Day
17 6:30 CAMP MEETING
18 Alaska Day
31 Halloween

NOVEMBER

3 Daylight Saving Time Ends
5 Election Day
11 Veterans Day
21 6:30 CAMP MEETING
28 Thanksgiving
29 Black Friday

DECEMBER

7 Pearl Harbor Day
15 Bill of Rights Day
17 Wright Brothers Day
19 CAMP MEETING
21 Winter Solstice – 9:27 PM
25 Christmas Day



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 Walter Harris (Glen Carbon, IL)
7 Gordon Hayes (Granite City, IL)
16 Dwight Moore (The Villages, FL)
30 John Stanton (Godfrey, IL)



CAMP DIXON STAFF

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