

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



THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS



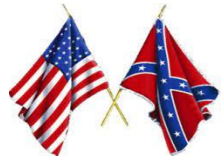
Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962
Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)

www.scvcamp1962.org

Editor: Johnny Kicklighter Email: Johnnywick@gmail.com



AUGUST 2025

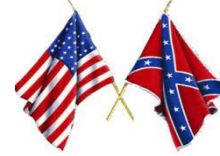


PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT MTG, 21 AUGUST

PRESENTATION: Update on Stone Mountain

PRESENTER: Johnny Kicklighter

REFRESHMENTS: John Stanton



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 Bickert, 618-972-8190

Help Transcribe Military Pension Files from the Revolutionary War!

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence, the National Archives and the National Park Service are collaborating on a special project to transcribe Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service. These Revolutionary War Pension Files consist of applications and other records pertaining to claims for pensions and bounty land warrants. Click the link below for details.

<https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/missions/revolutionary-war-pension-files>

FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS: Greetings to our faithful and loyal members of the Lt. George E. Dixon SCV camp. The officers of your camp hope all is well with you and your families. It is an interesting fact that Thomas Jefferson and John Addams who were the last living signers of the Declaration of Independence both died on the exact same day. What is appalling today is how little knowledge of this document is translated in the schools of our land today. I recently saw a video on YouTube where the interviewer went to colleges in the USA and asked people if they knew what the 4th of July celebrated. Most students could not correctly respond to this simple elementary fact. During the Roman era of human history, it is interesting to look back in the annals of time and to find what the ancients thought about their greatest achievements were. With all of Rome's military conquests, her engineering feats and the combined legacy of law and art; the Romans themselves thought that what made Rome great was none of its achievements as such. They believed that Rome's heroes to be the sole factor that had elevated Rome to greatness. We should reflect on the heroes of our nation and never forget the sacrifices they made for us.

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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 6:30 p.m. on 17 July 2025, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL.

1. Call to order – CC Stanton at 6:50 PM
2. Invocation – Chaplain Biekert
3. Pledge to U.S. Flag – CC Stanton
4. Salute to Confederate Flag – CC Stanton, followed by the camp singing “Dixie” led by Chaplain Biekert and Compatriot Steve Wilson.
5. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting as Presented in the July 2025 Edition of *The Blue Light News*.
Motion Eric Funkhouser 2nd: Phil Tate Passed
7. Treasurer’s report: None.
8. Communications
 - a. Possibly someone from Camp Douglas Camp in Chicago will transfer.
9. Reports
 - a. Standing Committees: None.
 - b. Special Committees
 - a. None
10. Old Business: None
11. New Business (items presented for the first time to be discussed/voted)
 - a. Lady Janice Beasley donated hardbound set of Confederate Veteran magazines from the 1890s – to be kept as reference for the members of the camp.
 - b. Need people to check on Gale Red.
12. Announcements
 - a. Lady Jane McKee will undergo knee surgery at the end of September.



13. GROUP PHOTO (L-R)

Back row: Phil Tate, Randall Cheatham, Mike Biekert, John Stanton, Jon Musgrave
Second row: John McKee, Barb Luma, Jim Luma, Eric Funkhouser
Front row: Jane McKee, Janice Beasley & Zoey

14. Blessing by Chaplain Biekert

15. Refreshments by Chaplain Biekert.

16. Program: One Confederate Chaplain.

17. Next Meeting: 21 August 2025/ Refreshments: John Stanton: Program by Johnny Kicklighter on Stone Mountain Update.

18. Benediction by Chaplain Biekert / 19. Adjournment at 8:30 PM



Emma Sansom: A Very Brave 15-Year-Old



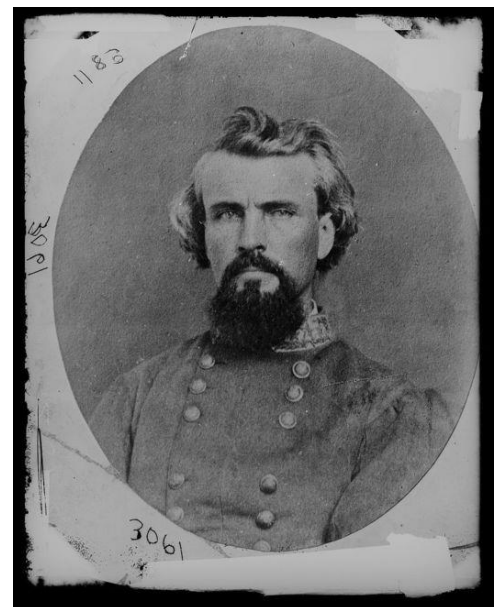
Emma Sanson Guides General Forrest: Bronze Map on Lawn of Alabama Dept of Archives & History

In 1863, Emma Sansom and her family lived near Gadsden, Alabama. On the morning of May 2, almost 2,000 Union soldiers under the command of Col. Abel Streight arrived at the Sansom farm with the intent of crossing nearby Black Creek and moving into Gadsden. They had been on a mounted infantry raid all the way across Alabama since April 28. Their goal was to reach Rome, Georgia, and destroy military installations and parts of the railroad in or near that town.

Emma was small, slender, round faced, with auburn hair and dark blue eyes. Her family had moved to Gadsden in 1852 from Georgia. Her father was dead but living in the house with Emma that day were her mother Levina, her sister Jennie, a neighbor girl Mary, and an enslaved girl, Fannie. Her brothers were serving in the Confederate Army.

Once the Yankees arrived, they began to search the house for food and guns. They demanded the girls give them some water and then posted a guard at the house. Soon, all the troopers made their way to a nearby bridge over Black Creek. This bridge was located approximately 200 yards from the Sansom home.

Pursuing Confederate cavalry commanded by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest arrived shortly. Forrest asked if there was an alternate crossing of Black Creek, since Streight had posted a guard and had partially burned the only bridge. Emma revealed the existence of a little-known cattle ford on their property. By utilizing this ford, Forrest could flank the Yankees at the bridge and threaten the bulk of their command then in Gadsden. Emma told General Forrest she would personally escort him to the site. Emma's mother was outraged and refused to give her permission. The general assured Levina that he would take care of her daughter, and no harm would become her.



Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest



Emma Sanson

But all the time, young Emma had moved out of the house and into the yard to prepare to assist Forrest. She was going no matter what her mother said! Emma fulfilled her mission, and the Confederates chased the Federal rear guard into Gadsden, and Streight and his command had to retreat quickly. Eventually, Forrest and 300 of his cavalry would capture all of Streight's nearly 2,000 men near Cedar Bluff, Alabama, the next day.

Emma would marry Christopher Johnson in 1864. She and her husband and their children moved to Texas in 1876. Emma died in 1900 and is buried in Upshur County, Texas. (Courtesy blueandgrayeducation.org)

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Remembering the Sultana



The Sultana is a story of needless tragedy and the greed and corruption that led to it. But it is also a story of bravery and sacrifice. The Sultana is the deadliest maritime disaster in American history, yet many Americans have never heard of it.

The Sultana was a Civil War-era Mississippi River sidewheel steamboat that exploded and burned at two in the morning on April 27, 1865, when the boat was 7 miles upriver from Memphis, Tennessee. Licensed to carry only 376 passengers, the Sultana had been loaded with over 2,100 people at Vicksburg, Mississippi. Most of the load were Union soldiers recently released from two Southern prison camps in Cahaba, Alabama, and Andersonville, Georgia.

Bribery and corruption traced to the captain of the Sultana and Union captain Reuben Hatch, the chief quartermaster at Vicksburg, led to the overcrowding. Captain Hatch had a sordid history, and his military advancement was aided at many times by his connection to President Abraham Lincoln. Glad to have survived the deadly prison pens, and joyful to finally be returning home to their loved ones, the men endured the overcrowding for two days as the Sultana steamed upriver toward "God's country."

The explosion occurred in the dark of night. Shocked to wakefulness, the passengers sought safety in the swirling waters of the Mississippi. The soldiers went down in groups. Half of the people on the Sultana died, either from the initial explosion or drowning. But the story of the Sultana is far more than the story of a lot of people dying at the end of the Civil War. The rescue itself has many fascinating stories, including a Confederate

soldier rescuing many drowning Union soldiers and Union pickets unwittingly firing on boats attempting to save the drowning.

Currently, the story of the Sultana is being told through a small, thousand-square-foot museum in Marion, Arkansas (15 minutes from downtown Memphis, Tennessee), near where the Sultana sank. The museum has had visitors from all 50 states and 14 foreign countries. However, the entire story of the Sultana, from her construction in Cincinnati in 1863, to her demise on April 27, 1865, will be told on a much greater level when a new, 21,000-square-foot museum opens.



The Sultana Historical Preservation Society using the talents of Haizlip Studio of Memphis, Tennessee, a team of architects, planners, and exhibit designers are working on state-of-the-art concepts to be presented in the new museum. It is actively constructing a new, much larger Sultana Disaster Museum in Marion, Arkansas, with a projected phased opening: the initial lobby, gift shop, auditorium, and temporary exhibition gallery are scheduled to open in late October 2025, and the main exhibition gallery will open in April 2026. (Courtesy blueandgrayeducation.org)



Artist Rendition of the New Museum in Marion, Arkansas

See the Last Voyage of the Sultana: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJg1xfRC730>



The Bonnie Blue Flag at various times was associated with the Republic of Texas, the short-lived Republic of West Florida, and the Confederate States of American during the Civil War. Where, when, and why did this historic flag originate? Click the link to learn more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpJ7J54DC2M>



News From Around the Camp

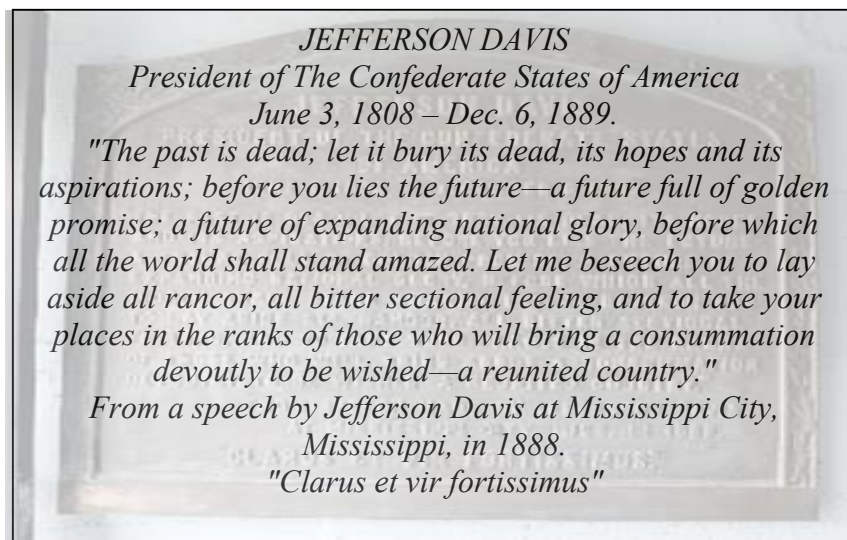
Steve Wilson took 1st place at the National Oldsmobile show in Bowling Green, KY. He also got to visit the Jefferson Davis Monument and Museum in Fairview, KY.



Steve Wilson

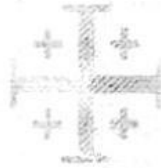


1966 Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight Convertible



Flag Used at One of the Post War Reunions of Confederate Veterans in Lexington, KY.

I received this from Lady Sharon Red. This prayer moved her heart, and she wanted to share it to everyone.



SAINT NICHOLAS

PARISH COMMUNITY

A Prayer for Life

O Most Holy Lord, Creator of heaven and earth,
from Your gentle hand flows the gift of life.

To Your sons and daughters

You have given the role of stewards to care
for all of Your creation from womb to tomb.

Hear us as we pray for a greater respect for all of life
throughout the world:

- that the unborn may be born.
- that the child may be safe.
- that the teen may be prepared.
- that the young adult may be other-centered.
- that the adult may be selfless.
- that the aged may be revered.
- that the dying may have dignity.
- that the deceased may rest in peace.
- that the resources of creation may be used well.
- that all Your creation may be blessed.

Having served You loyally on earth,
may we obtain the rewards of everlasting life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day
- 8 Nativity of Mary
- 16 Mayflower Day
- 17 Constitution Day
- 18 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 19 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 22 Autumnal Equinox

OCTOBER

- 2 Yom Kippur
- 11 General Pulaski Memorial Day
- 13 Columbus Day
- 16 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 20 New Moon
- 27 Navy Day
- 31 Halloween

NOVEMBER

- 2 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 4 Election Day
- 11 Veterans Day
- 20 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 27 Thanksgiving
- 28 Black Friday
- 30 First Sunday of Advent



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 6 John Massey (Harvest, AL)
- 19 Jason Ziebold (O'Fallon, IL)
- 23 Chris Kicklighter (Smithton, IL)
- 28 Mark Morgan (Ballwin, MO)
- 31 Bob Herr (Mt. Vernon, IL)



CAMP DIXON STAFF

Commander	John Douglas Stanton	618-610-6464	spqrkaiser2@gmail.com
Advisor to the Commander	Johnny Kicklighter	618-698-0053	johnnywkick@gmail.com
Adjutant	John McKee	618-491-9472	history_ferret@yahoo.com
Cardmaster	Barbara Lumma	618-498-2563	jimandbarb62@gmail.com
Chaplain	Walter Michael Biekert	618-972-8190	mbiekert62@yahoo.com
Program Chairman	John McKee	618-491-9472	history_ferret@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Johnny Kicklighter	618-698-0053	johnnywkick@gmail.com
Sgt of Arms	Stephen Dean Wilson	314-497-0798	steverdean@yahoo.com