

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



FEBRUARY 2025

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Per our Constitution, we must elect officers for the coming year. Be prepared to offer nominations.

PROGRAM INFO FOR NEXT MTG, 20 FEBRUARY

PRESENTATION: Civil War Colt Revolvers

PRESENTER: Steve Wilson

REFRESHMENTS: Phil Tate



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

SAVE THE HUNLEY



The Hunley Project is conducted through a partnership with Friends of the Hunley and several agencies. To learn more or become a member go to: www.hunley.org.

FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS: Greetings to all loyal and faithful members of the Lt. George E. Dixon SCV camp. We are hoping for a well-attended meeting this month and hope all is well with you and your families. The recent cold spell has been a wake-up call as to long past winters. Many `SSSSSSSSSSSSW of us have been sick but keep a stiff upper lip and carry on. Bring with you to the meeting any ideas or input as to the future events for the camp. See you at the muster. GOD Bless

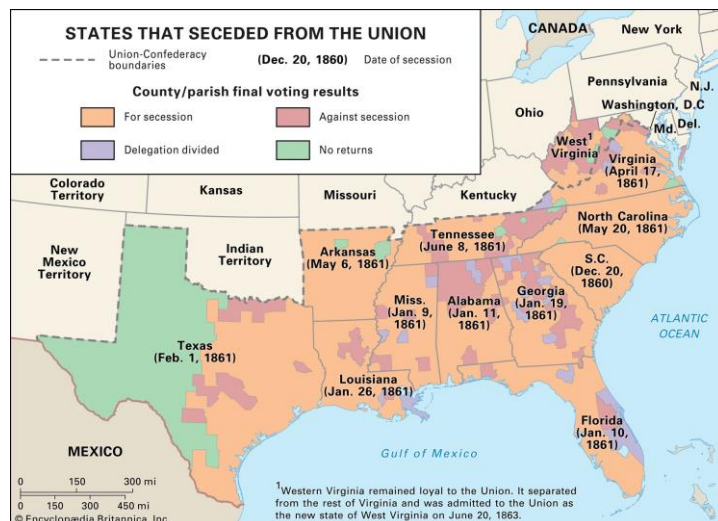


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CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES

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 16 January 2025, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 1st Muster of the year.

CALL TO ORDER: CC Stanton called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Chaplain Mike Biekert.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTE TO CONFEDERATE FLAG: CC Stanton.

ROLL CALL: 13



GROUP PHOTO (L-R)

Back row: John McKee, Randall Cheatham, Steve Wilson, Mike Biekert, Phil Tate,
Second row: JC Gideon, Bob Herr, John Stanton, Dale Rice
Front row: Jane McKee & Zoey, Janice Beasley & R. Lee, Johnny Kicklighter, Jim Lumma

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Presented in the January 2025 Edition of The Blue Light News. Motion by Jim Lumma, 2nd: by Steve Wilson Passed

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Adjutant initially reported an amount but was taken from the wrong report, requiring it to be pulled back. Therefore, the correct amount will be reported at the next meeting. Motion: Steve Wilson; 2nd: Jim Lumma = Passed.

REPORTS:

- A. Standing Committees: None.
- B. Special Committees: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: Compatriot Gale Red provided a copy of a letter sent to the Wreaths Across American (WAA) organization. He and Lady Sharon distributed the wreaths in December 2024.

OLD BUSINESS: Missouri Civil War Museum – choices between May 4 and June 7, with most selecting the latter. After the tour, we will eat at Sharpshooter's Grill on Gravois Street.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Cannon Shoot – will need to plan for this year's cannon shoot.
- B. Grits Cook Off – as part of our regular meeting on March 20.

BLESSING: Chaplain Biekert

REFRESHMENTS: Steve Wilson

PROGRAM: Compatriot Johnny Kicklighter on the Roswell Mill Workers.

Synopsis: *Compatriot Kicklighter had visited Roswell, GA, and shared information on the tragedy of the Roswell Mill Workers. Most of these women were poor but who earned their living at the Roswell Mills making textile products. During Sherman's March to the Sea, a Union force went to shut down the mills. One mill had a French flag, but Union troops discovered that goods were being made for the Confederate government. Enraged, General Sherman ordered that the mill workers be gathered up and brought to Marietta, GA, and then to Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. Approximately 400 people (possibly many more) were forcibly relocated up North. Only a handful ever returned. At this time, local historians are trying to search for descendants of these people, who likely settled in the North.*

NEXT MEETING: 20 February 2025. **NOTE:** Camp Elections will be held.

BENEDICTION: Chaplain Mike Biekert.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 8:15 PM.



The Roots of Wreaths Across America



**Morrill Worcester, Founder of Wreaths Across America,
and His Wife Karen Worcester**

Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, was a 12-year-old paper boy when he won a trip to Washington D.C. It was his first to our nation's capital and one that would change the trajectory of his life and the lives of millions of others across the country. Seeing the hundreds of thousands of graves and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. It was to be an experience that would follow him throughout his life and successful career, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of his nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe (ret), arrangements were made for the surplus wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older cemetery sections that had been receiving fewer visitors each passing year.

As plans were underway to transport the wreaths to Washington, several other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Prout, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided

transportation to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington D.C., helped to organize the wreath-laying.

For over a decade, this annual tribute went on quietly and privately. Everything changed in 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the homespun tribute from a small town in down east Maine was receiving national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help purchase and lay wreaths at Arlington. Thousands more wanted to emulate the Arlington project at their local National and State cemeteries. Still others simply desired to share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes. Many were surviving family members of some of those heroes.



Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state: One for each branch of the military and an additional wreath to pay tribute to POW/MIAs. In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteered as escorts for the wreaths going to Arlington in the beginnings of the annual "Veterans Honor Parade," a convoy that now travels the east coast every year in early December.

The annual trip to Arlington and the groups of volunteers eager to participate in Worcester's simple wreath-laying event grew each year until it became clear that the desire to remember and honor our country's fallen heroes was bigger than he could have imagined possible at the outset. The movement had grown beyond Arlington and bigger than this one company in Harrington, Maine.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with the support of veterans' organizations and a variety of other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual veterans wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support others around the country who wanted to do the same. The simple mission of the organization was established: Remember. Honor. Teach. On, December 13, 2008, it was unanimously voted by the United States Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day."

The wreath-laying that began more than 30 years ago is held annually on the second or third Saturday of December. WAA's annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as "the world's largest veterans' parade." Every year the convoy of trucks, law enforcement, staff and supporters stop at schools, monuments, veterans' homes, and communities along the way to talk about the WAA's mission and remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach. WAA is committed to teaching all generations about the value of their freedoms, and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. In 2022, the organization launched its expanded TEACH program and collaboration with like-minded organizations focused on character development and service projects for young people of all ages, with lesson plans for all grade levels and learning abilities. Wreaths Across America would not be successful without the help of volunteers, active organizations, and the generosity of the trucking industry, which offers invaluable support to WAA's mission.

Editors Note: Former Adjutant Gale Red and his wife Sharon laid wreaths back in December 2024. You will see their efforts depicted below. Many thanks for their sacrificial efforts.

Photos -- Wreaths Across America 2024

North Alton IL Confederate Cemetery



Belleville IL Green Mount Catholic Cemetery



Robert H. Muckensturm



Cyril Muckensturm



Clarence "Lefty" Muckensturm



Kevin Duffy

Fairview Heights IL Lakeview Memorial Gardens



Reagan Harris Young

Belleville IL Walnut Hill Cemetery



Ron Doran



Hiram D. Anderson



William J. Underwood



William H. Harris

Belleville IL Walnut Hill Cemetery (continued)



Henry E. Schrader

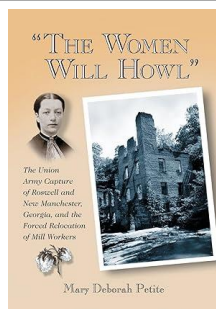


Union Monument

Mascoutah IL Community Cemetery



Brett Warner



To learn more about the women who were shipped north with most never returning, read:
"The Women Will Howl": The Union Army Capture of Roswell and New Manchester, Georgia, and the Forced Relocation of Mill Workers.

Available for purchase or check with your library.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

9 Daylight Savings Time
15 Ides of March
17 St. Patrick's Day
20 Vernal Equinox (4:01AM CDT)
20 CAMP MEETING
23 World Meteorological Day

APRIL

1 April Fools' Day
9 Winston Churchill Day
9 Bataan Day
13 Passover/Palm Sunday
17 CAMP MEETING
20 Easter

MAY

1 National Day of Prayer
4 Star Wars Day
11 Mother's Day
15 CAMP MEETING
26 Memorial (Decoration) Day
29 Ascension of Jesus



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Carson Leonard (Ingraham, IL)
14 Phil Tate (Mascoutah, IL)
14 James Johnson (Hopkinton, MA)
20 Jim Lumma (Jerseyville, IL)
20 Ralph Oelschlager (Belleville, IL)

And a correction to January's Newsletter:
Jan 9th: David Runnels (Victorville, CA)



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