

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

THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS



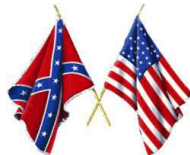
Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962
Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)

www.scvcamp1962.org

Editor: Johnny Kicklighter Email: Johnnywkick@gmail.com



NOVEMBER 2025

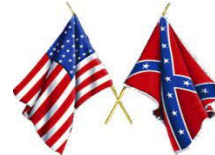


PROGRAM INFO

PRESENTATION: Colt Revolvers

PRESENTER: Steve Wilson

REFRESHMENTS: Janice Beasley



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

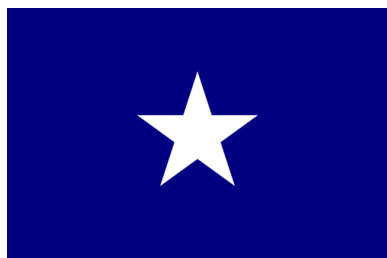
CAMP MISSION

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



When the state of Mississippi seceded from the Union in January 1861, this flag was flown from the capital. Harry Macarthy popularized this flag as a symbol of independence, with the song "The Bonnie Blue Flag." The Bonnie Blue was used as an unofficial flag during early in 1861. It was flying above the Confederate batteries that opened fire on Fort Sumter. Many military units would carry it into battle.

<https://tinyurl.com/4pzak4rs>

Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1789

"Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor--and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be-- That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks--for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence..."

President George Washington

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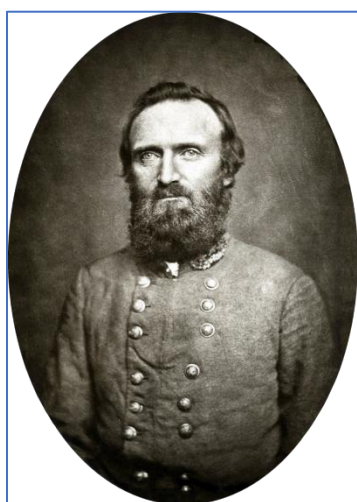
CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was conducted on 5 October 2025 at the home of Janice Beasley during the cannon shoot. Details are in the October 2025 newsletter.

NEXT MEETING: 20 November 2025



Second Manassas Campaign: Why Did It Occur? What Happened?



Stonewall Jackson

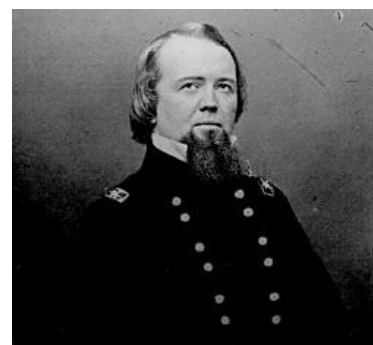
The morale of Confederate soldiers and civilians soared after the Seven Days Battles in midsummer 1862, raising hopes for foreign recognition of the Confederacy. However, within three months, following the Battle of Antietam, the Lincoln administration issued the Emancipation Proclamation, shifting the war's purpose from merely restoring the Union, to ending slavery. Sandwiched between these events was the Second Manassas Campaign.

By early 1862, both sides had main armies operating along the Washington–Richmond corridor, with smaller forces operating in or near the Shenandoah Valley. Confederate general Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson achieved a series of small but impressive victories in the Shenandoah Valley in the spring of 1862, with his 17,000-man army accomplishing the brightest feats of the Confederacy.

Jackson's success can be attributed, in part, to the fact that three different Federal departments in or adjacent to the Shenandoah Valley were never able to cooperate effectively with their 50,000 soldiers, which allowed him to confront each department separately. This prompted a command reorganization, merging the separate departments into the Army of Virginia under John Pope, just as the Seven Days Battles began.

In early June, Jackson left the Shenandoah Valley to reinforce General Robert E. Lee's main army, maintaining independent command until his last autonomous battle at Cedar Mountain.

As the Second Manassas Campaign geared up in the late summer 1862, both sides were reassessing their army structures and leadership in the East. The Federal government established guidelines for Confederate-sympathizing civilians in occupied areas, with strict consequences for violations. Confederate authorities grappled with countering practices they deemed unacceptable. This civilian issue contributed to bringing John Pope from the Western theater, as his policies contrasted with Union commander George McClellan's more conciliatory approach.



General Pope

Pope's army faced the possibility of becoming the primary Union force in the East. After Pope announced the harsh policies toward Confederate-supporting civilians, Lee sent Jackson to intercept Pope's advance toward Richmond, stressing the need “he ought to be suppressed.” Lee, however, had concerns about Jackson's leadership style, noting that Jackson rarely explained

the reasoning behind his orders. Lee suggested that Jackson's subordinates would act more intelligently if informed of the purpose of their movements.

Would Jackson heed Lee's advice? If not, could he demonstrate that his leadership style was effective with a larger command than he previously directed in the Shenandoah Valley? These questions would be answered in the Second Manassas Campaign. (Courtesy blueandgrayeducation.org)



A Lesser-known Confederate in the Atlanta Campaign



Brig. Gen. James Cantey

Brig. Gen. James Cantey, a Mexican War veteran, and the colonel of the 15th Alabama Infantry, demonstrated considerable promise as a regimental commander at the Battle of Cross Keys, Virginia, in 1862, earning him a promotion. Elevated to brigadier general in January 1863, he spent the next year on garrison duty around Mobile. Frequently ill with an unspecified ailment, he was on medical furlough when his men left Pollard, Alabama, on April 20, 1864, for Rome, Georgia, to join Johnston's army. His brigade arrived in Resaca, Georgia, on May 6, and he arrived the next day.

At 45 and ailing, Cantey did not impress Col. James C. Nisbet, the current post commander at Resaca. Nisbet recalled that Cantey said, "I know nothing of the situation and wish you would ride out on the road with me and explain matters." When the Union threat to Resaca materialized on May 9, Nisbet accused Cantey and another general of "sitting in a bomb-proof pit." Nonetheless, Cantey kept Johnston informed of developments, allowing for timely reinforcements. By the end of the day, Cantey defended the town with 6,000 men in five brigades, enough to discourage Union Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson's attack.

Once Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk's Army of Mississippi fully arrived, Cantey took on divisional command, leading his own brigade and Brig. Gen. Daniel H. Reynolds's Brigade of Arkansans. However, his status remained unclear. At Cassville, Polk temporarily dissolved Cantey's division without explanation. This might have been due to a lackluster performance on May 15 during the second day's fight at Resaca, or it could have been due to Cantey's poor health.

Cantey led his small division of about 3,000 men through the fighting along the New Hope Church Line from May 25 until the first week of June, holding various parts of the Confederate earthworks. His division was not directly tested at New Hope Church on May 25 or at Pickett's Mill on May 27. On May 28, Cantey gained a third brigade of Tennesseans and Louisianans under Brig. Gen. William A. Quarles, 1,400 men strong, and 400 officers and men of the 26th Alabama, increasing his total force to about 5,000 men.



**Confederate Earthworks Overlooking
the Battlefield at Resaca**

However, Cantey's time with the army was short-lived. On June 1, Leonidas Polk requested a new division commander for the brigades of Cantey, Reynolds, and Quarles. Polk did not explain his reasoning, but health was a factor.

Around this time, Cantey took a serious fall from his horse, suffering considerable injuries to his face. "We were riding along a corduroy road," wrote Lt. John I. Kendall. "The logs were fresh, the road was unsteady, and it was dark, and the weather was bad. ... Suddenly Cantey's horse stumbled and fell. The general shot over his head ... and slid for some distance on his face." It soon became apparent Cantey "suffered considerable injuries to his face." Despite his attempt to soldier on, it was clear he was in great pain.

President Jefferson Davis approved Polk's suggestion. On June 10, Edward C. Walthall was promoted to major general, effective June 6, and took command of the division. Cantey went home on extended sick leave and never returned to field service. Some sources incorrectly list him as being in the field toward the end of the war, even surrendering with Johnston in North Carolina, but there is no record of his parole nor a signed loyalty oath. He returned to his plantation in Fort Mitchell, Alabama, where he died in 1874. (Courtesy blueandgrayeducation.org)



Trials and Triumphs of the 11th Tennessee Regiment



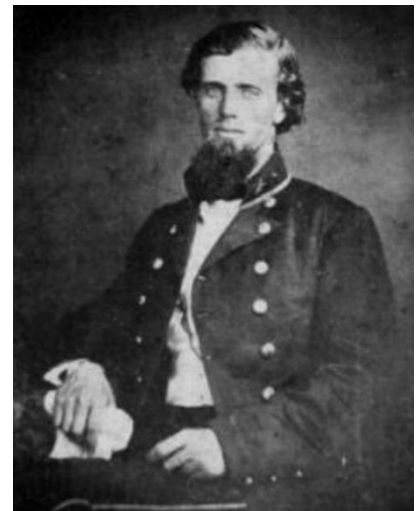
**Battle flag of the 11th Tennessee on Display
at the National Confederate Museum in
Columbia, TN**

Organized in the summer of 1861, the 11th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, Confederate States Army, was a Civil War fighting unit that would spend most of the war battling the enemy from Cincinnati to Atlanta.

Two of the regiment's colonels would become generals, and the men that made up the companies of this regiment were recruited mostly from Davidson, Cheatham, Dixon, and Humphreys Counties. Some of the local companies adopted unique names, such as "The Hermitage Guards" and "The Beauregard Light Infantry." They fought at notable places like Wild Cat, Tazewell, Fishing Creek, and Perryville, Kentucky.

The men of the 11th faced their biggest test at Murfreesboro (also known as the Battle of Stones River), Tennessee. On December 31, 1862, their commander, Gen. James E. Rains, was killed. The former chief prosecutor for the Middle Tennessee counties of Davidson, Sumner, and Williamson was shot through the heart leading his men, and his last words were, "Forward, my brave boys, forward."

The 11th was also present when another well-respected commander was shot, this time at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia. Assigned to Preston Smith's Brigade, the 11th Tennessee found themselves on the attack during the night of September 19, 1863. Gen. Preston Smith, leading the charge, became disoriented in the darkness and believed he was barking orders to his own Tennesseans, but he was addressing the 77th Pennsylvania. The confusion quickly attracted enemy gunfire, and Smith was shot; a bullet deflected off a golden pocket watch and into his chest. He was brought to the rear of the line but died within the hour. Smith was a successful Tennessee attorney with multiple offices in cities like Memphis and Waynesboro.



Gen. James E. Rains

His body was transported to Marietta, Georgia, where it was temporarily buried. A newspaper account of the funeral reported, "A silver plate, upon the coffin containing the body of General Smith, bore the inscription



Gen. Preston Smith

'General Preston Smith, C.S.A., killed September 19 at the Battle of Chickamauga at 6 p.m'. ... [The coffin was] made of solid oak, elegantly finished and appropriately adorned with wreaths of magnolias and arborvitae, with a tastefully arranged bouquet of flowers on the lid. ... The services of the Protestant Episcopal Church were said by the Rev. Doctor Charles T. Quintard. ... The remains were escorted to the cemetery by the cadets of the Georgia Military Institute. ... A military salute fired over the grave." In 1868, the general's body was reinterred at Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis.

The 11th Tennessee went on to fight in Sherman's campaign to capture Atlanta and participated in Confederate General Hood's Franklin and Nashville Campaign. The regiment would finish the war near Greensboro, North Carolina. The battle flag of the 11th Tennessee still exists and can be viewed at the National Confederate Museum in Columbia, Tennessee. (Courtesy of blueandgrayeducation.org).



Longtime George E. Dixon camp member, Andrew Charles Novara, recently passed away.



June 18, 1939 - October 24, 2025

Andrew Charles Novara, age 86, husband of Alice Jane Novara (both formerly of Murphysboro), passed away October 24, 2025, at their Lake of Egypt home following a battle with cancer. Andy was born June 18, 1939, to Leonard and Carmelita Novara, in Murphysboro, Illinois. On April 25, 1959, Andy married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Alice Jane Arbeiter. She survives. As a young man, Andy worked for his father at Western Auto, subsequently taking over the business in 1973 as owner and operator until closing the store in 1993. He then worked at Lake Murphysboro for a year before going to work for Central Management Services at the Illinois Department of Transportation offices in Carbondale until his retirement in 2002. Andy was active in the community of Murphysboro. He followed in his father's footsteps and served the community as a Police & Fire Commissioner for several decades.

Andy was proud to be an American of Sicilian heritage. He loved his family history and American History. His happiest moments were those spent with his family and those spent on the water fishing. He was blessed with so many special friends and fishing friends. Fish fries were a constant, whether in Murphysboro or at the Lake of Egypt, and frequently included a competitive game of bocce. Holidays were reserved for true Italian celebrations complete with the family recipes of homemade meatballs and sauce.

Andy was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard, and Carmelita Novara; Jane's parents, Eddie and Alice Arbeiter, brother, Albert "Butch" Novara; sister-in-law, Nan Novara; brother-in-law, Don Arbeiter; niece, Rebecca Jane Novara; and nephew, Thomas John Novara.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Murphysboro Education Foundation. Checks may be made payable to Murphysboro Education Foundation and mailed to: Murphysboro Community Unit School District #186, District Office, 593 Ava Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966. Memorials may also be made through PayPal. (Search: Murphysboro Education Foundation.)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 17 Wright Brothers Day
- 18 **CAMP MEETING**
- 21 Winter Solstice – 9:03 AM
- 25 Christmas Day

JANUARY

- 1 New Years Day
- 15 Lee-Jackson in Virginia
- 15 **CAMP MEETING**
- 19 Robert E. Lee Day
- 20 Inauguration Day
- 27 Holocaust Day

FEBRUARY

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 8 Super Bowl Sunday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 Washington's Birthday
- 18 Ash Wednesday
- 19 **CAMP MEETING**



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jacob Talley Bailey (Chepachet, RI)
- 4 Janice Beasley (Walsh, IL)
- 11 Don Carnley (Highland, IL)
- 14 Jeff Barnes (O'Fallon, IL)
- 24 Amzy Hibler (Katy, TX)
- 28 Larry Weber (Effingham, 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	
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