

Deo adjuvanti non timindin ~ With God's help, we must not fear

# THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS



THE VOICE OF THE  
LT. GEORGE E. DIXON  
CAMP # 1962  
Sons of the  
Confederate Veterans

November 2013

scvcamp1962.org

## Thomas Sexton, CSA



Thomas Campbell Sexton was told he would face certain death if he refused to allow a doctor to amputate his leg after a Minie ball tore through it during the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863.

But as the story goes, Sexton being a stubborn man, told the doctor he would rather die than live without his leg. And live he did, almost to the age of 100 before he died of a heart attack in Dodge County in 1943.

Sexton was a private in Company D, 4th Virginia Infantry, in the army of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War.

The story continues...



*Thomas C. Sexton, a Confederate veteran, rocks on the porch of his home at 10th Street and Nye Avenue in Fremont. Sexton built the home in 1888.*



# Confederate veteran recognized by first of its kind organization in Nebraska

FREMONT TRIBUNE - OCTOBER 28, 2013

[By Stephen Rickerl/Fremont Tribune](#)

“Stonewall” Jackson, said Jim Arbaugh.

Fremont, Sexton’s great-grandson.

Thomas Campbell Sexton was told he would face certain death if he refused to allow a doctor to amputate his leg after a Minie ball tore through it during the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863.

But as the story goes, Sexton being a stubborn man, told the doctor he would rather die than live without his leg. And live he did, almost to the age of 100 before he died of a heart attack in Dodge County in 1943.

Sexton was a private in Company D, 4th Virginia Infantry, in the army of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. The brigade is probably one of the most famous Confederate brigades because it was commanded by Thomas

Arbaugh, a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, recently established the Thomas C. Sexton Camp 2232 in Fremont. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, like their counterparts the Sons of Union Veterans, honor their Civil War ancestors by preserving their history and heritage.

On Sunday in Ridge Cemetery, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Sons of Union Veterans and Civil War reenactors gathered around the gravesite of Private Thomas C. Sexton to pay tribute to his military service and honor the life he led after the war ended.

After the war, Sexton got a medical degree from the Baltimore Medical College, said Maj. Charles Folsom of

With the south devastated by the war and offering little opportunity, Folsom said his great-grand father decided to move north, and came to Fontanelle in Dodge County. Settled by an Ohio contingent in 1855, Fontanelle was a strong Union settlement and its inhabitants did not trust Sexton immediately.

Folsom said he isn’t sure exactly what happened but he believes Sexton saved someone’s life and the residents of Fontanelle began to trust him. He eventually married Emma Peters, who had been in Fontanelle since the age of 4, and practiced medicine in the Nickerson-Fontanelle area.

Folsom said Sexton retired at the “ripe old age of 44” and

## Confederate veteran recognized by first of its kind organization in Nebraska

built a house in 1888 at 10th Street and Nye Avenue in Fremont, which is still standing today.

About a mile west of Sexton's home, Sunday's ceremony in Ridge Cemetery was the first of its kind in the State of Nebraska, said Arbaugh, because the Thomas C. Sexton Camp 2232 is the only camp in the state recognized by the national organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Prior to its establishment, any ceremony honoring a confederate veteran was conducted by either the Grand Army of the Republic or Sons of Union Veterans, said Gale Red, Adjutant of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp 1962 in Belleville, Ill.

Red helped guide Arbaugh in establishing the Thomas C. Sexton Camp, and helped officiate Sunday's ceremony.

Red said the Sons of Confederate Veterans are the heirs of the United Confederate Veterans, and must be able to directly trace their lineage back to a Confederate veteran in order to be a member.

The United Confederate Veterans and the Grand Army of the Republic were made up of actual Union and Confederate veterans. The "Sons" organizations are their descendants.

Because there had never been a United Confederate Veterans or Sons of Confederate Veterans camp in Nebraska prior to the Sexton Camp, Red said "this ceremony is probably, as far as I know, the first ever by the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Nebraska."

Red, in preparing for the ceremony, said he was able to identify 358 Confederate veterans who are buried in

Nebraska. But he suspects that number would double with further research. In Dodge County, Red has identified 13 Confederate veteran gravesites – eight of those are in Ridge Cemetery.

For those like Red and Arbaugh, Sunday's ceremony isn't so much about which side the veteran fought on, but that they fought and should be recognized for their role in shaping American history.

"We're honoring his service not only to the Confederate cause, but also as a productive citizen of this country," Arbaugh said. "This isn't about North and South, this isn't about politics. This is about preserving the memory of the men and what they did.

"It's not that they deserve to be remembered," he added. "It's that they earned the right to be remembered."

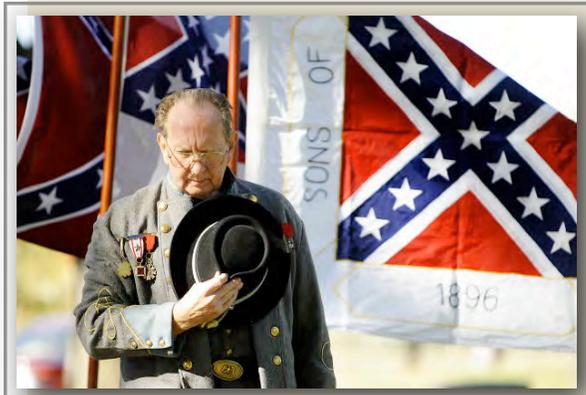
# Confederate veteran recognized by first of its kind organization in Nebraska



Jim Arbaugh, commander of the Thomas C. Sexton Camp 2232, pauses during a ceremony Sunday at Ridge Cemetery in Fremont. The ceremony, organized by local Sons of Confederate veterans, is believed to be the first of its kind in Nebraska.



Marv Welstead, left, and Maj. Charles Folsom pose for a portrait Sunday in Ridge Cemetery. Welstead and Folsom are the grandson and great-grandson of James Welstead and Thomas C. Sexton -- the longest surviving Union and Confederate veterans in Dodge and Saunders counties.



Gale Red, Lt. George E. Dixon Camp 1962



Civil War re-enactors perform a Musket Salute of Honor Sunday at Ridge Cemetery in Fremont.

# News from around the camp

Compatriot Ron Doran has been back into the hospital for severe respiratory distress and associated problems. He really needs your prayers for his health and recovery.

Compatriot Steve Wheat finally turned over guidance of the 5th Army Division Association. He helped lay the foundation of the monument being dedicated to the men and women who have served in the 5th Division over all the years of its service to the nation. He is also set to become the Commander of the Col. Hecker Camp, SUVCW, to which he also belongs. Good luck, Steve.

Compatriot Sam Booth of Flora's Squad East continues to make a slow recovery from his surgery of a couple of months ago. He has not been bouncing back as well as he had hoped. Please continue him in your prayers.

Compatriot Vernon DeSelms, also of Flora Squad East has been in the hospital with heart

complications and definitely needs all of our prayers on his behalf.

Compatriot John C. Gideon has finally recovered for the most part from having been quite ill for a couple of weeks. He is hoping to be back with us for our November meeting.

Compatriot Phil Tate has just about recovered from his surgery and will be back with us for the November meeting.

Compatriot Talley Balley, our away member living in Rhode Island has informed us that his book on the Coleman Scouts is finally ready to go to press. His book, called "Shadow Soldiers of the Confederacy, the Story of the Coleman Scouts: Behind Lines Heroes of the Confederate States of America (CSA) in Middle Tennessee (1862-1865)" is ready for release. In his book Talley reveals the exploits of these famous Confederate Scouts



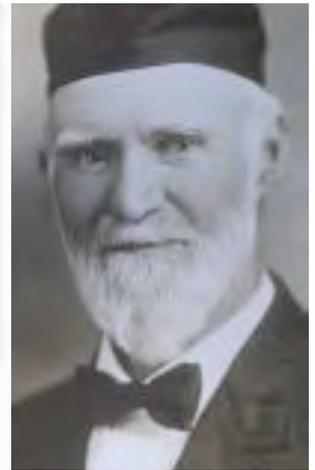
Commander Mark Morgan welcomed Dave Roper of the Utz Camp of Florissant, MO



Dr. Thomas C. Sexton, left, was about 95 when this photo was taken.



Johnny Kicklither, Dave Roper and Mark Morgan



Thomas Sexton

and tells the story of fourteen of the men, including Sam Davis, a true Confederate hero.

His painstaking research and care to detail plays out the drama of these dedicated and daring soldiers as they journeyed behind enemy lines to gather critical information to help the Confederates combat the

invading Union forces. Tally has offered the members of our camp a significant reduction in price by buying the book on CD directly from him for only \$12.00. You can take advantage of this offer by contacting Talley at: Talley Bailey, 988 Reynolds Road, Chepachet R.I. 02814, [critt61626@aol.com](mailto:critt61626@aol.com), 401-567-0298.

If you know of any news to share about our members, please contact Gale Red.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 Nov - Pat Booth
- 3 Nov - Talley Balley
- 4 Nov - Janice Beasley
- 9 Nov - Harris Young
- 11 Nov - Don Carnley
- 13 Nov - Dale Halemeyer
- 14 Nov - Jeff Barnes, Kelly Calhoun
- 24 Nov - Amzy Hibler
- 28 Nov - Larry Weber
- 30 Nov - Stephen Wheat

# Minutes of the Dixon Camp

OCTOBER 3, 2013

Minutes of the 3 Oct 2013 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly Muster at 1830 hours on 3 Oct 2013 at the SWIC PSOP Center, 201 North Church Street, Belleville, IL, this being the 10th Muster of the year for 2013.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Acting Sgt. of Arms Ron Lakin called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION:** Chaplain Johnny Kicklighter provided the invocation.

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS:** All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and saluted the Confederate Flag which were properly displayed at the meeting.

**C O M M A N D E R ' S WELCOME:** Commander Mark Morgan welcomed Dave Roper of the Utz Camp of Florissant, MO, and Chris Shell. Chris is a Navy veteran who served on the USS Harry Truman.

**P R O C E D U R A L BUSINESS:** The Illinois Division of the SCV been not been providing support to the two state camps for several years. We will be working with the Army of Tennessee to determine the future of the Illinois Division.

**SWEARING IN:** None

**ROLL CALL:** Michelle Hampton, Allysse Hampton, John McKee, Jane McKee, Walter Hall, Charles Sheeler, Tom Sheeler, John Fulton, Billy Altman, Helen Altman, Dale Rice, Gale Red, Johnny Kicklighter, Bill Boyd, Robert

Hardy, Janice Beasley, Bill Beasley, David Roper, Ron Lakin, Bill Boyd, Chris Rutledge, and Mike Mauer.

**SEPTEMBER MINUTES:** A motion was made by John McKee to accept the September minutes and was seconded by Mike Pierpoint. Motioned carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The camp has \$4,911.53 in the account. Of that amount, we have received \$140 for the Lee/Jackson ball. We have set aside \$420 which are dues for the Illinois Division. We are holding those funds until we get clarity on the future of the Illinois Division. John McKee made motion to accept and it was 2nd by James Conn. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Dave Roper of the Utz camp is raffling a .44 caliber 1858 Remington replica.

# Minutes of the Dixon Camp

OCTOBER 3, 2013

**OLD BUSINESS:** We did not have a representative at the gun show 5-6 October gun show and will end our participation in future gun shows until further notice. Gale Red announced the upcoming Lee/Jackson Ball being held 25 Jan 2014. Tickets need to be purchased at least 2 weeks prior to the event. The Hecker Camp will have their annual encampment at the Our Lady of the Snows on 22 Nov. Event beings at 6 PM with dinner served shortly thereafter. Applications need to be in by 20 Nov.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Janice Beasley spoke that Chester Library will have "Civil War Talks" 17 October 2013. The presenter is a member of the SUV and SCV. Mark Morgan gave a background speech on his involvement of the camp over the years. He announced the retirement of Billy Altman and we have a vacancy. We need a

new 1st and 2nd Lt. Commander. Mark challenged members to consider volunteering for these positions. We currently have 82 members and 25 Knights and Ladies of the Golden Circle. Mark's term ends in January 2015 and he would like to take some time off before being considered again. We need to train some of the young members to role of leadership. We also need more help with homecomings and other events. Mark announced that our Acting Sgt. of Arms will be Ron Lakin.

Events coming up this fall:

22 Nov: Hecker Camp Annual Dinner, Our Lady of the Snows, IL

25 Jan 2014: Annual Lee/Jackson Ball, Belleville, IL

**F O R M A L PRESENTATION:** Chaplin Johnny Kicklighter – "The Kicklighter Brothers who served

During the War." Johnny gave a detailed discussion of his 7 Kicklighter ancestors who fought with the 4th and 5th Georgia Cavalry. Seven brothers, his grandfather among them, all joined the CSA and fought alongside Wheeler's Cavalry with the Army of Tennessee fighting with Sherman as he marched to the sea.

**REFRESHMENTS:** The refreshments were furnished by Michelle Hampton.

**N E X T M E E T I N G :** Thursday, 7 Nov, 6:30 pm, same location.

**BENEDICTION:** Chaplain Johnny Kicklighter provided the benediction.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

# Commander's Dispatch

COMMANDER MARK MORGAN ~ NOVEMBER 2013

Commander's Dispatch  
November 2013

Compatriots –

As a descendent of Tennesseans (lest y'all hadn't heard, great-great grandpa and his brothers served with the 13th Tennessee Cavalry and Forrest, Wheeler and Hampton), I found the month of November 1862 particularly notable, as most of the major combat operations took place in the Volunteer State. To be sure, other "events" took place elsewhere in the Confederacy, including operations in Virginia, but Tennessee held center stage for most of the month.

On 4 November 1863, Army of Tennessee Commander Gen Braxton Bragg ordered Lt Gen James Longstreet – on detachment from the Army of Northern Virginia – to Knoxville to head off an attempt by the Union to reinforce the

city. Longstreet headed out with two divisions led by Maj Gen Lafayette McLaws and Brig Gen Micah Jenkins plus about 5000 cavalry and raced Burnside's Army of the Ohio for a strategic crossroads town which controlled southerly access into Knoxville. Burnside arrived at the town – Campbell's Station – first, on 16 November and put his troops into position...and literally within a few minutes, Longstreet's men were on them.

Longstreet had his division commanders attempt a double envelopment, ie, strike both ends of the line at the same time in an attempt to flank the Yankees. McLaws' division immediately forced back the Union right but the Yankees recovered and held on; at the opposite end of the line, Jenkins' assault failed. Burnside then executed an orderly, fighting withdrawal into the city, ending the Battle of Campbell's Station. Total

casualties ran about 400 for the northerners and 570 for the Confederates.

The Southerners quickly laid siege to the Yankees trapped inside Knoxville, but ran into an immediate problem: they weren't supplied or set up for a lengthy siege and quickly started running out of supplies and armaments. The Army of the Cumberland spent their time further improving the trenches and fortifications surrounding Knoxville while Longstreet waited for reinforcements, including an infantry brigade commanded by Brig Gen Bushrod Johnson and cavalry brigade commanded by Brig Gen William "Grumble" Jones.

On 29 November 1863, Longstreet's troops hit the northwestern line of fortifications at the former Confederate Fort Loudon, now known as Fort Sanders. The initial assault elements came in

# Commander's Dispatch

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under cover of darkness, followed by three brigades who ran head-long into wired barricades and substantial ditch, leaving them exposed to concentrated rifle and canister fire. After 20 minutes of massive casualties, the Southerners retreated back to their siege line and settled in for a stay of unknown length. While one of the most able corps commanders in the Confederate States Army, Longstreet – Lee's "Old War Horse" – had come up short in independent command.

While Burnside and Longstreet's forces made their initial contact at Campbell's, events started picking up to the southwest in Chattanooga. On 15 November, Maj Gen William T. Sherman arrived at Stevenson, Alabama, with the vanguard of the battle-hardened Army of the Tennessee, which he now commanded. Sherman met with Maj Gen US Grant,

Commander, Military Division of the Mississippi; Maj Gen George Thomas, Commander, Army of the Cumberland; and Maj Gen Joseph Hooker (in overall command of two corps) to plan the Union breakout from Chattanooga.

Incredibly, during this period, Bragg – completely unaware that the Union now had two full armies plus multiple corps piled up on the Tennessee River and ready for a fight – detached the division of Maj Gen Simon Bolivar Buckner and sent it to Nashville to reinforce Longstreet.

The Yankee breakout started on the 23rd when 14,000 of George Thomas' men formed up in an open valley and marched towards a rocky mound named "Orchard Knob," defended by just over 600 southerners. The defenders put up a good fight but no surprise, were forced out of their trenches

and pushed back to the base of Missionary Ridge. Apparently, at about this time General Bragg started to realize he might be in for some trouble.

Bragg received confirmation the next day. Having observed a few days of seemingly non-stop blue-clad troop movements into the flats below Lookout Mountain, Maj Gen Carter Stevenson – with perhaps 1200 men under his command defending Lookout Mountain, primarily Tennesseans, Alabamans and Georgians – alerted Bragg that something was afoot. The commanding general mulled over the information but failed to send Stevenson any reinforcements...and on the morning of the 24th, "Fighting Joe" Hooker's forces started moving up the mountain from Lookout Creek, working from the southwest slope to the top of the ridge and then north.

## Commander's Dispatch

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Despite being attacked from an unexpected direction, the Southerners put up a good fight but were steadily swept up the mountain. Low-lying fog along the ridge prevented those below and on Missionary Ridge from seeing the action, but they could certainly hear it; in fact, the assault on Lookout Mountain became known as "The Battle Above the Clouds." About 2:30 PM, somewhat reinforced and reorganized, Brig Gen Edward Walthall's and Brig Gen Edmund Pettis' brigades attempt to push back the advancing Yankees and, despite the numbers, actually achieved some success. However, at 4 PM, Bragg issued orders to Stevenson to evacuate what forces he could from Lookout Mountain to Missionary Ridge.

On the morning of 25 November, three Union armies looked up at the Confederates on the Ridge, to the immediate east of Chattanooga. Sherman's

Army of the Tennessee had the north or left end of the Union line while Hooker – coming off the previous day's success – anchored the south/right end of the line. In the middle, the Army of the Cumberland under the "Rock of Chickamauga," General Thomas. The order came and the armies swept forward and up... and immediately ran into trouble.

On the Union right (Bragg's left), Hooker's corps under Maj Gen O.O. Howard ran into immediate trouble which delayed the attack. The previous evening, while moving his men from Lookout Mountain to Missionary Ridge, General Stevenson had burned several bridges over Chickamauga Creek. At the other end of the line – and despite outnumbering the Confederate defenders 10-1 – Sherman's troops also stalled; they'd run into a buzz saw in the form of Maj Gen Patrick Cleburne's division, primarily

made up of Arkansans and Texans but also with regiments from Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi.

Grant, seeing both ends of the planned flanking movement fully stalled, ordered Thomas to send his men to the base of the ridge to clean out the defending Confederates. The Army of the Cumberland moved out at 3:30 PM, took the Confederate trenches and then ran into a serious fire from up on the ridge. Faced with a choice of pulling back to safety or continuing up the ridge without orders, the Northerners chose the latter, heading right into the Confederate fortifications. At his command post on Orchard Knob, an astonished and confused General Grant turned around and demanded who had authorized the Union assault up the side of Missionary Ridge. Thomas, equally surprised, responded, "I did not."

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COMMANDER MARK MORGAN ~ NOVEMBER 2013

However, soldiers from Sherman's and Hooker's commands saw what was happening, quickly shifted to the middle of the battle line and started their own ascent of the ridge while chanting, "Chickamauga! Chickamauga!" They hit the top of the ridge and ran right through the Confederate infantry and artillery, capturing over 3000 in the process. Said one Union officer afterwards in the New York Times, "The storming of the ridge by our troops was one of the greatest miracles in military history...the men were not to be held back, hopeless as the attempt appeared to military prudence."

Grant followed the unexpected quickly by ordering Hooker to chase after the retreating Confederates, including General Bragg who barely escaped with his staff. However, on 26 November, Pat Cleburne fought a successful

holding action at Ringgold Gap which halted the northern advance and gave Bragg enough time to regroup and dig in in the vicinity of Dalton, Georgia. Two days later, Gen Braxton Bragg submitted his resignation to President Davis; the president accepted the resignation on the 30th and named corps commander Lt Gen William Hardee – one of Bragg's fiercest critics – as the acting army commander.

Bragg returned home to await further orders. Hardee worked hard to get the battered Army of Tennessee back into the shape for a probable follow-up move by the northerners. Overall for the Confederacy – and this included Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, which spent November fending off probes by Meade's Army of the Potomac – the situation looked very bleak.

Afterword: On 19 August 1890, the US government established Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park as the first of the War Between the States battlefield parks.

As commander I strongly advise y'all plan on attending our November meeting, where we'll get a rousing presentation on General John Hunt Morgan (no relation although believe me, I did look for a connection). Also, don't forget the upcoming Hecker Camp annual dinner on 22 November. In the meantime compatriots,

Hold high the flag,  
Respectfully,  
Mark L. Morgan  
Commander



**SCV ANNUAL GRAND BALL**

**Honoring General Robert E. Lee and  
General Stonewall Jackson  
on  
Saturday, January 25, 2014  
at the  
Bellecourt Manor  
225 East "A" Street  
Belleville IL**

**The Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962 (Sons of Confederate Veterans)  
cordially invites you to attend their 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Ball for a night  
of fun, food, family, friends, and fellowship, plus open/period dancing,  
including the Grand March and the Virginia Reel.**

6:00 P.M. Doors Open

6:30 P.M. Delicious Buffet Dinner

- \* Outstanding Period Music by The Chris Talley Trio
- \* Professional Photographer, Bill Freeman
- \* Silent Auction
- \* 50/50 Drawing
- \* Pay-As-You-Go Bar

**SUGGESTED ATTIRE:** Period attire encouraged, but not required.

**COST (per person):** \$35.00 (check payable to Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962)

**POC:** Adjutant Gale Red, 5 Hunters Pt, O'Fallon IL 62269-3133, Cell 618-622-8949 or 618-979-7853

*Reservation/Payment Due: January 10, 2014*

**(NOTE: No extensions or refunds after this date)**



**Reservation Form for SCV Lee/Jackson Grand Ball, January 25, 2014**

**Make check payable to: Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962**

*Due: January 10, 2014 (no extensions or refunds after this date)*

**Name (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dress color:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell/Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$35.00/person. Payment for \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **enclosed.**

**Please mail reservation form/payment to: Adjutant Gale Red  
5 Hunters Pt  
O'Fallon IL 62269-3133**

# Lt. George E. Dixon



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## THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE  
LT. GEORGE E. DIXON  
CAMP # 1962  
Sons of the  
Confederate Veterans

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### OUR NEXT MEETING, NOVEMBER 7, 2013

The monthly meeting of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday evening November 7, 2013. The meeting will be held at the SWIC Senior Citizen Center on the corner of East B and North Church Streets, in Belleville. Parking is available immediately across the street from the building. The building is located at 201 North Church, just three blocks east of North Illinois on East B. To get to the auditorium where we will have the meeting, ask the gentleman at the desk what room we are in. If you have any questions, call Gale Red for directions at 618-622-8949.

**NEXT MEETING, NOVEMBER 7, 2013: GENERAL JOHN HUNT MORGAN**

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