

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

# THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS

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

[www.scvcamp1962.org](http://www.scvcamp1962.org)

Editor: Lady Sharon Red, Cell 618-622-8949



**AUGUST 2016**



**REMINDER ABOUT ANNUAL DUES . . . WERE DUE BY END OF JULY**

If you have paid, thank you.

If you haven't, please do so ASAP ~ mail or give dues payment to Adjutant Red on August 9.

**SCV Members -- \$50**

**Life Members -- \$20**

**Knights and Ladies -- \$20**

THANK YOU FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Confederately,

*Johnny Kicklighter*

**LET'S MEET WITH OUR FELLOW CAMP MEMBERS  
AT THE NEXT**

**6:30 P. M. CAMP MEETING**

**BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9**



**\*\*\* NEXT CAMP DIXON MEETING \*\*\*  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2016 ~ 6:30 p.m.**

**SWIC Senior Citizen Center  
201 North Church Street, Belleville**  
*Location: Corner of East B and North Church Streets  
Parking Available Across the Street*

**PRESENTATION: Camp Jackson Massacre**

**SPEAKER: Compatriot John Harris  
(from Sterling Price Camp)**

**REFRESHMENTS: Compatriot Mark Morgan**

Please check with the receptionist about room location.  
Questions? Call Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949

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## **CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ JULY 12, 2016 Muster**

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV, conducted their monthly muster at 6:30 p.m. on July 12, 2016 at the SWIC PSOP Center, 201 North Church Street, Belleville IL, this being the 7th Muster of the year for 2016.

**CALL TO ORDER** by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander Ronald Lakin.

**INVOCATION** was given by Commander Johnny Kicklighter

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS.** All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. flag and saluted the Confederate flag, which were properly displayed at the meeting.

**COMMANDER'S WELCOME.** Commander Kicklighter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**JUNE 14 MEETING MINUTES.** Motion was made to accept the minutes by Dwight Moore, seconded by David McAuley. Motion carried. Minutes accepted.

**FINANCIAL REPORT.** Walter Hall made a motion to accept, seconded by Chris Ziebold. Motion carried.

**ROLL CALL (18).** Janice Beasley, Betsy Blake, Cassandra Bloomfield, Eric Funkhouser, J. C. Gideon, Walter Hall, Johnny Kicklighter, Ronald Lakin, Barb & Jim Lumma, David McAuley, Dwight & Nona Moore, Justin Ottolini (guest), David Schmitt, John Stanton, Phil Tate, Chris Ziebold

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**The Confederate Veteran Magazine.** Adjutant Red noted two items in the recent copy. On page 6 was a letter to the editor from Chatham camp member, John Bybee. On page 25 in the "Books in Print" section is a review of Zelma Halemeyer's book, "Rebel Grey – Poems of Confederate History."

**Email from Hecker Camp (Compatriot Dwight Moore).** Made note restating the SUVCW's support to the SCV in displaying the Confederate Battle Flag. *He also provided answers to some questions received from last month's presentation on the Confederate constitution.*

**Donation of Books to the Camp (Lady Janice Beasley).** She brought a dozen books for camp members.

**Annual Camp Dues (Commander Kicklighter).** Reminder to everyone that dues need to be paid this month.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Smithton Homecoming Parade, July 30, 5:00 p.m.** Phil Tate and Ron Lakin said they would be available to march.

**Freeburg Homecoming Parade, August 20, 5:30 p.m.**

**FORMAL PRESENTATION.** Compatriot Jim Lumma briefed about his ancestors.

**REFRESHMENTS** were provided by Compatriot Phil Tate.

**BENEDICTION** was given by Commander Kicklighter.

**MEETING** adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2016, 6:30 p.m. **Presentation** by Compatriot John Harris from the Sterling Price Camp on the *Camp Jackson Massacre*.

Respectfully submitted,

*Johnny Kicklighter*  
Commander

# Mary Elizabeth Bowser

## (Union Spy in The Confederate White House)



Mary Elizabeth Bowser was born in the time period of 1839, in Richmond VA. Mary was born as a slave for the Van Lew family. Her slave owner, John Van Lew, was a wealthy hardware merchant. John Van Lew died in 1843, and Mary and other slaves were freed by Elizabeth and Elizabeth's mother. Even though Mary was freed, she still continued to work for the family as a free, paid servant. Elizabeth Van Lew sent Mary to an African American Quaker school, in Philadelphia. Mary had to return back to Richmond when the Civil War tension began in 1860.

Before the war started, though, she was married to a free black man, William (Wilson) Bowser. William and Mary were married four days after the Civil War began. Their wedding ceremony was unusual because they were married in a church that only the white and wealthy people went to. The couple never had children. In the records recorded of Mary and William, it never stated that they got to see each other in the time of the Civil War. After the Civil War there were also no records on where the couple moved.

At the beginning of the Civil War on April 12, 1861, Elizabeth Van Lew asked Mary to be a spy to help the Union. Elizabeth couldn't take on the task by herself because she was supposed to be an important member of Richmond, but only because of her father's wealth and status. Elizabeth was a spy but also she helped the Union by saving the prisoners and helping them escape. Mary agreed to help Elizabeth out and started to work for the Confederate White House. She worked there until right before the end of the Civil War.

When Mary started to work for President Jefferson Davis and his wife she had to change some things. First off, she had to change her name to "Ellen Bond" just so no one would know her actual identity. Then before she actually started to work she had to remind herself that she was going to be a slave again. Mary was used to be treated with proper respect and like the intellectual that she actually was. But when she went to the Confederate White House she had to pretend to be unintelligent, and act like she didn't understand what they were talking about so she could get information on the Confederates and their plans to attack the Union. Ellen Bond (Mary Bowser) was considered "dim-witted, also slightly crazy, but able servant" to the president and his wife.

Mary couldn't get the information that she needed if she only did her job. While she cleared the dishes or cleaned the kitchen she had to listen in on the conversations about troop strategies and movements. Also when she cleaned up around the Confederate White House she would go into President Jefferson Davis' office and look through the letters and other paper work on his desk. Mary had a very good memory so she would report what they said or what she read, word for word to either Elizabeth or a new messenger, Thomas McNiven.

Thomas McNiven was a baker that would come to the Confederate White House often to sell baked goods. Every time he would come by Mary would go out to the wagon and exchange the information while he gave her the bread. Thomas would go and tell Elizabeth the information that Mary told him. Mary was different from most of the other slaves at that time because she could read, understand the conversations, and write. Mary was an important asset to the win of the Union.

President Jefferson Davis noticed that there was a leak in the Confederate White House, but he didn't suspect Mary until the very end of the war. When she knew that Jefferson knew she was the leak, she fled the White House on January, 1865. As one last attempt to help the Union, she tried to burn down the Confederate Capitol, but was unsuccessful. After the war there was no record of their life or death of Mary or William Bowser. The federal government burned all of the records of southern spies. The files included Mary Bowser, Thomas McNiven, and Elizabeth Van Lew, so that is why some of the details are missing in all of their histories.

In 1995, Mary was honored by the U.S. Government for her efforts in spying. She was inducted in the "U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame."

### What was said at the ceremony:

**"Ms. Bowser succeeded in a highly dangerous mission to the great benefit of the Union effort. She was one of the highest placed and most productive espionage agents of the Civil War. [Her information] greatly enhanced the Union's conduct of the war. Jefferson Davis never discovered the leak in his household staff, although he knew the Union somehow kept discovering Confederate plans."**

# Be A Proud American for the Battle Flag



**We want you - yes, you - to stand up and be proud of who you are - An American - Proud Confederate and proud of your heritage and the Confederate Battle Flag. Let's fly the flag!**

## **Secessionist Group Plans 'Operation Retaliation' Display of Confederate Flag**

*Supporters of the Confederate battle flag hope to display it along major interstate highways. John D. Simmons, [jsimmons@charlotteobserver.com](mailto:jsimmons@charlotteobserver.com)*

Associated Press CHARLESTON, S.C., July 31, 2016



The South Carolina Secessionist Party is making plans for something it's calling "Operation Retaliation."

The Post and Courier of Charleston reported on Sunday, July 31, that Chairman James Bessenger says the party is looking for help securing large Confederate battle flags that it can display along major interstates and in cities and towns.

Bessenger says his organization is looking for land on which to fly the flags around the state and has gotten several offers.

Earlier in July, several hundred people gathered at a rally and temporarily raised a Confederate flag at the State House. The event marked the one-year anniversary of the day the Confederate battle flag was furled and sent to a museum.

## Ready to participate in the Freeburg Homecoming Parade?



**Camp Dixon representatives at Freeburg Homecoming Parade in 2014**  
**(L-R) Chris Rutledge, Ron Lakin, Gale Red, Dianne Tate, Jane McKee, John McKee (photographer), Johnny Kicklighter, Lindsey Cossey, Mike Mauer, and Phil Tate.**

**Come to Freeburg, receive a warm welcome, and see how much fun you'll have if you participate with Camp Dixon in this parade! Do dress up, throw candy to the children, shoot your musket, share the time together, and represent the camp because we need you and want you to ride on the float (or march) on Saturday, August 20. You'll be glad you did. Parade starts at 5:30 p.m. Show time is 4:30 p.m. Please call Adjutant Red, 618-622-8949, and tell him you're going and find out about show location.**

# GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE



If ever a man was born to be a hero, it was Robert E. Lee. Born January 19, 1807, in Westmoreland County, Virginia, he was the son of a hero. "Light Horse Harry" Lee of the Revolution, and a descendant of one of the "First Families" of the old Dominion. Being a Virginian would dominate his life.

He entered the United States Military Academy in 1825, and graduated second in his class in 1829, to spend the next 36 years in uniform. Lee saw wide and varied service, but it was in combat that he excelled. In the war with Mexico he served on the staff of General Winfield Scott, performing dangerous scouting missions that were integral to American successes. Peacetime found Lee in quieter roles, including superintendent at West Point, though in October 1859 he commanded the contingent that fought and captured John Brown's raiders at Harpers Ferry.

In 1861 Lee had the opportunity for high command with the Union, but with Virginia's secession he followed her fortunes. Briefly he commanded the state militia until President Davis commissioned him a brigadier, and later a full rank general. But Lee's Civil War did not start well. He failed in a command in western Virginia, then commanded the defenses of South Carolina, and by early 1862 was stuck as military advisor to the president in Richmond.

When Joseph E. Johnston fell wounded at Seven Pines in May, Lee got his chance. Davis gave him the command of what would become the Army of Northern Virginia, and the general and the army were never apart for the rest of the war or posterity. In a dazzling campaign Lee drove the Federals away from Richmond, then struck north, defeating them on the old Manassas battlefield before launching his first invasion of the North, ending at Antietam. Despite that setback, Lee inflicted a severe defeat at Fredericksburg in December, and the next May, at Chancellorsville, won the most crushing battlefield victory of the war. Elated with his success, he gambled on another invasion, but was stopped at Gettysburg in July.

The spring of 1864 pitted Lee against a new antagonist, U. S. Grant, and only Lee's tactical brilliance prevented Union numbers from pushing him aside. At the Wilderness and Spotsylvania, the North and South Anna, and Cold Harbor, Lee repeatedly stymied Grant, who nevertheless kept coming. By June Lee had his back to Richmond, and no alternative but to accept being besieged. For the next ten months he held Grant at bay, but in early April all the options were gone. Lee and his army made a dash to the west, but Grant caught them at Appomattox, and there on April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered.

Lee spent his last years trying to rebuild his Virginia and discourage sectional enmity. He took the presidency of the failing Washington College at Lexington, and built it into a fine institution, later to be Washington and Lee University. He died in Lexington October 12, 1870, and was mourned in the North and the South as a symbol of dignity and conciliation.

(Reference: *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War* by William C. Davis.)



## Personal Possessions of General Robert E. Lee

- |                              |   |   |  |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1. Field tent (a mock up)    | 7. Leather gauntlets                                    | 12. Wooden camp chest                                   | 17. Colt Model 1851 Navy                             |
| 2. Saddle blanket            | 8. Virginia State sword belt                            | 13. Mess gear chest                                     | 18. The pen used to sign the surrender at Appomattox |
| 3. Scarf (gift from England) | 9. The camp bed and blanket used at siege of Petersburg | 14. Modified Grimsley saddle                            | 19. A table used at the winter HQ, 1863-4            |
| 4. Frock coat                | 10. Mess gear utensils                                  | 15. Field glasses and case                              |  |
| 5. Frock coat                | 11. Leather riding boots                                | 16. Hat given by General Lee to the Rev. J. Clay Stiles |  |
| 6. Leather haversack         |   |   |  |

## Mississippi Votes to Keep Controversial Flag

(ABC News, April 18, 2016)

To some, it's a symbol of racism and hatred. But to the majority of Mississippi voters, it's a piece of history, and one worth preserving in the state's controversial flag. On Tuesday, April 12, voters in the state overwhelmingly decided to keep their flag as is — with the stars and bars in the upper left corner — making it the last state in the union to wave the rebel symbol over its Statehouse.



Just Cloth on a Stick? Attorney Greg Stewart helped lead the effort to preserve the flag. "It's just a piece of cloth that flies on a stick, and certainly that is a decision that even the most common citizen can have an opinion about and they're entitled to have that opinion," he said. But others said they would continue to fight the flag. "It's not over," vowed Deborah Denard of the NAACP chapter in Jackson, Miss. "We're not going away." But Stewart said he doubted it would come up for a vote again. "I don't think there'll be any support in Mississippi to bring this up again," Stewart said. "I can't see it, even among the people who originally pushed the proposed pattern. They had a good shot, they gave it a good college try. It's over."

Voters had two choices: keep the current flag, adopted in 1894, with the Confederate emblem of 13 white stars on a blue X, or adopt a new flag with 20 white stars on a blue square, to symbolize Mississippi's role as the 20th state.

### Economic Argument for Change

The Confederate symbol has sparked an emotional debate inside the state and out. Advocates argued it is a crucial part of the state's heritage that should continue to have a prominent space in the flag. Earl Faggert, of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, said when he looks at the flag, "I see honor, duty, courage, sacrifice, loyalty and devotion." Faggert, obviously, was pleased with the outcome. "I knew the people of Mississippi felt strongly about their flag and their heritage," he said. "They've spoken very loudly and very clearly to all of us." But others saw the emblem as symbol of Mississippi's slave-holding and segregationist past. "I see discrimination, Jim Crow laws," said Denard. Georgia and South Carolina addressed similar controversies last year. In those states, politicians were able to reach a compromise. But in Mississippi, the issue was put directly to the people in today's referendum.

### Economic Concerns

Some advocates for change had argued the debate over the flag was not only about history or race relations, but also about economics. George Shelton of the Mississippi Legacy Fund said the state must change its image if it wants to attract investors and tourists. "This is our chance to show the world what progress we've made and cast some of those old myths aside," Shelton said before the vote, suggesting that the Confederate symbol and its association scares away investors. Blake Wilson of the Mississippi Economic Council, who also helped lead the effort to preserve the flag, said he did in fact expect and economic backlash against the state — but added that it could be overcome. "It does set us back and I think it's not insurmountable," said Wilson "I think it's something that we can overcome by pulling together and by telling people the other positive things that are happening in Mississippi."

### Many Concerned With Other Issues

The drive to change the flag may have failed partly because the debate did not divide along racial lines as sharply as expected. Some African-American residents said they were not offended by the Confederate symbol, or felt officials should devote their time and state funds to more important issues. The vote on the flag cost Mississippi more than \$2 million, and people wondered how the poorest state in the union can justify spending so much money to change a symbol. "I think it's more important to pay attention to the education system in Mississippi than the flag," said one African-American resident of Vicksburg, which was besieged by Union forces in one of the pivotal battles of the Civil War. Another resident argued the people were trying to use the flag debate to solve racism — a problem that would not be erased by a mere vote. "I don't think the flag is the concern," the man said. "I'm concerned more with the hearts and minds of people. A piece of cloth with stars on it ain't going to change nothing." (ABCNEWS' Jeffrey Kofman in Vicksburg contributed to this report)

## News from Around the Camp

**COMPATRIOT WELLINGTON "HAM" LEMMER** is still in poor health, and we sent our prayers and get-well wishes to him in a greeting card. Get Well Soon, Ham. We miss you!

**LADY CAROLE CORGIAT (COMPATRIOT ROGER HEINRICH'S BRIDE)** had undergone gall bladder surgery and is at home recovering. She will also undergo hip surgery in the near future. Our prayers and get-well wishes are with her. *(The camp sent a get-well card.)* Roger is in the O'Fallon IL area after returning their granddaughter, Gianni. He will return home to Olympia WA on August 2.

**KNIGHT VERNON DeSELMS (from Squad East)** is still fighting hard against the cancer, so the camp sent a "thinking of you" card with many thoughts and prayers for him and his wife, Cindy. Please pray t the Dear Lord to work healing and comforting miracles!

**WELCOME BACK, COMPATRIOTS KEVIN WICKER and DAVID HAAKE !!**

**ADUTANT GALE RED'S OLDER SISTER, LYNN RED, 73,** passed away on July 19 in the community hospital of Tacoma WA. She was born July 7, 1943 and retired as a veteran librarian. She was preceded in death by her parents, Franklin Smith and Mary Ellen, nee Humphreys, Red; and a brother-in-law, Dennis Bobbert. Surviving are her brother, Gale Franklin Red of O'Fallon IL, younger sister, Kathleen Bobbert of Roy WA, and many loving friends. She was cremated. A memorial service in Washington will be held at a later date.



*The Red Family (circa 1965)  
Father (Franklin) and Mother (Mary Ellen)  
Brother (Gale), Older Sister (Lynn), and Younger Sister (Kathleen)*

*If tears could build a stairway and memories were a lane,  
We would walk right up to heaven and bring you back again.  
No farewell words were spoken – no time to say goodbye,  
You were gone before we knew it and only God knows why.  
Our hearts still ache in sadness and secret tears still flow;  
What it meant to lose you no one will ever know.  
But now we know you want us to mourn for you no more,  
To remember all the happy times life still has much in store.  
Since you'll never be forgotten, we pledge to you today  
A hallowed place within our heart is where you'll always stay.*

## CAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### AUGUST

- 9 6:30 BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON MEETING  
 20 FREEBURG HOMECOMING PARADE

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 LABOR DAY  
 11 GRANDPARENTS' DAY  
 13 6:30 BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON MEETING  
 19 6:30 FLORA SQUAD EAST MEETING

### OCTOBER

- 10 COLUMBUS DAY  
 11 6:30 BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON MEETING  
 17 6:30 FLORA SQUAD EAST MEETING  
 31 HALLOWEEN

### NOVEMBER

- 1 ALL SAINTS DAY  
 6 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  
 8 ELECTION DAY  
 8 6:30 BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON MEETING  
 11 VETERANS DAY  
 21 6:30 FLORA SQUAD EAST MEETING  
 24 THANKSGIVING

### DECEMBER

- 13 6:30 BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON MEETING  
 19 6:30 FLORA SQUAD EAST MEETING  
 25 CHRISTMAS DAY



## AUGUST

- 3 Larry Marsh  
*(from St. Louis MO)*
- 3 Compatriot Ronnie Ottinger  
*(from Newport TN)*
- 6 Compatriot John Massey  
*(from Harvest AL)*
- 7 Compatriot David Schmitt  
*(from O'Fallon IL)*
- 19 Compatriot Jason Ziebold  
*(from Virginia Beach VA)*
- 23 Lady Chris Kicklighter  
*(from Belleville IL)*
- 28 Compatriot Mark Morgan  
*(from St. Louis MO)*
- 31 Compatriot Bob Herr  
*(from Mt. Vernon IL)*

### CAMP DIXON AND SQUAD EAST OFFICERS

Commander	John Wayne Kicklighter	618-257-9079
1Lt Commander	Ronald Lakin	Cell 618-420-6358
2Lt Commander	VACANT	
Adjutant	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Chaplain	VACANT	
Sgt at Arms	Michael Pierpoint	618-697-4472
Program Chairman	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Squad East Lieutenant	Robert Neil Marley	Cell 618-662-4765
Squad East Chaplain	Sam Booth	Cell 618-838-3053
Squad East Program Chairman	Vernon DeSelms	Cell 618-508-5074