

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

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



December 2016



**FROM YOUR COMMANDER**

**PROPOSED CHRISTMAS LIST  
FOR YOU ...**

**Celebrate, appreciate, and give thanks for God's greatest gift – His Son – and all the many blessings we take for granted – our work, our health, our loving family, blessed friends, and our American freedom.**

Freedom is just a word unless you think about where it came from and what it means. Why not come and travel with us on **"Wreaths Across America" Day on Saturday, December 10**, as we lay commemorative Christmas wreaths on our fallen comrades' resting places buried at the **Alton Confederate Cemetery, Smallpox Island Monument in Alton, and in Belleville at the Walnut Hill Cemetery and Greenmount Cemetery**. We owe them this little remembrance at Christmas time. **Meet time: 9:00 a.m., at Gale Red's house and caravan to these special places.**

**Please spend some Christmas time with us and come to this month's meeting on the 13th.** You are the reason for the camp's existence, and your attendance is very important. We miss you when we don't see you every month. Please come and bring your spouse too.

Confederately wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year,

*Johnny Kicklighter*

**DECEMBER CAMP MEETING  
Requests the pleasure of your company  
to a Christmastime Gathering at**

**6:30 P. M.**

**CAMP DIXON IN BELLEVILLE  
TUESDAY, the 13th**

**\*\*\* NEXT CAMP DIXON MEETING \*\*\*  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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:** Confederate Ancestor  
**SPEAKER:** Compatriot Eric Funkhouser

**REFRESHMENTS:** Knight Steve Wilson

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

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# ANNUAL ALTON CONFEDERATE CEMETERY MEMORIAL



**(Saturday, November 5, 2016, Alton Confederate Cemetery, Alton IL)** *The sun and perfect temperatures smiled down on the Camp Dixon members/participants/guests (Johnny Kicklighter, Gale Red, John and Jane McKee, Jim and Barb Lumma, Steve Wheat, Don Carnley, John Stanton, Justin Ottolini, Ron Lakin, Phil Tate, Janice Beasley, Walter Hall, David McAuley, Mike Biekert, Howie Thornley, Bill Boyd, J. C. Gideon, and David & Yvonne Schmitt, and Tom Smith), for their annual celebration of life in honor of the Confederates buried at the Alton Confederate Cemetery. Following is the program of events that took place:*

## PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Welcome ... Adjutant Gale Red  
Invocation ... Commander Johnny Kicklighter  
Charge to the SCV ... Compatriot John McKee  
Poem "The Thin Gray Line" ... Compatriot Jim Lumma  
"Dixie" ... played by Compatriot Stephen Wheat (sung by all)  
Poem "A Confederate Soldier's Prayer" ... Compatriot Don Carnley  
Memorial Remarks ... Compatriot John Stanton  
Prayer of Dedication ... Commander Kicklighter

## PRESENTATION OF HONORS

Roll Call of Honor by States ... 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander Ron Lakin  
Draped Sword ... Compatriot Justin Ottolini  
Presentation of Battle Flag to Widow ... Compatriot Phil Tate  
Placement of Memorial Bouquet ... Lady Jane McKee  
Placement of Red Rose ... Lady Jane McKee  
Placement of White Rose ... Compatriot Dave Schmitt  
Presentation of Evergreens ... Compatriot Stephen Wheat  
Presentation of Cross ... Lady Janice Beasley  
Spreading of Southern Soils ... Compatriot Jim Lumma  
"Amazing Grace" played by Compatriot Stephen Wheat (sung by all)  
Salute of Honor – Moment of Silence

Taps

Benediction ... Commander Kicklighter

PHOTOGRAPHER ... Compatriot David McAuley



The Thin Gray Line

Thinner with every passing year,  
Fewer at roll call answering "Here."  
There's a gap today where none replies  
And the sergeant misses a coat of gray,  
While the captain, looking with misty eyes,  
Bows his head as he turns away;  
None to answer, and he knows why  
As the thin gray line goes marching by.

Thinner with every passing year,  
Fewer at roll call answering "Here."  
One by one where the shadows creep  
Under the sod for which they fought  
One by one they must fall asleep  
Where love and the lilies a couch have wrought;  
And the south wind carried a comrade's sigh  
As the thin gray line goes marching by.

One by one from the year's gray toll  
The line thins out as the war drums roll;  
One by one they march away  
Where Lee and his legions keep the guard;  
One by one and the coat of gray  
Rests where the roses crown the sward;  
Yet from the street comes a ringing cry  
As the thin gray line goes marching by.

Thinner with every passing year,  
Fewer at roll call answering "Here."  
And the day is ahead when the South shall weep  
And turn to the sod where her heroes sleep  
As the grizzled sergeant calls in vain --  
Calls where the silence settles deep  
Around dim mounds on hill and plain;  
And "Dixie" turns with a saddened sigh  
Where the thin line passed as a dream must die.





GROUP PHOTO

(L-R) 1<sup>st</sup> Row: Lady Janice Beasley (with R. Lee), Compatriot David Schmitt, Commander Johnny Kicklighter, 1<sup>st</sup> Commander Ron Lakin, Compatriot J. C. Gideon, Compatriot Bill Boyd, Lady Jane McKee, Compatriot Stephen Wheat, and Compatriot Howie Thornley  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Tom Smith, Yvonne Schmitt, Compatriot Justin Ottolini, Compatriot John Stanton, Mike Biekert, Barb Lumma, Compatriot John McKee, and Adjutant Gale Red  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Compatriot Phil Tate and Compatriot Jim Lumma

## CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ NOVEMBER 8, 2016 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV, conducted their monthly muster at 6:40 p.m. on November 8, 2016 at the SWIC PSOP Center, 201 North Church Street, Belleville IL, this being the 11th 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** by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander Lakin. 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 the guests: Nona Moore and Mike Biekert. Adjutant Gale Red will not be with us tonight. He's suffering terribly from hip pain and cannot move. Please pray for him.

**ROLL CALL (19).** Janice Beasley, Walter "Mike" Biekert (guest), Betsy Blake, Eric Funkhouser,, Robert Hardy, Bob Herr, Johnny Kicklighter, Ronald Lakin, David McAuley, John & Jane McKee, Dwight and Nona Moore, Justin Ottolini, Sharon Red, Dale Rice, David Schmitt, John Stanton, and Phil Tate.



### **GROUP PHOTO** (by Sharon Red, photographer)

(L-R) 1<sup>st</sup> Row (seated): Robert Hardy, Nona Moore, Janice Beasley (with R. Lee), and Betsy Blake

2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Jane McKee, Eric Funkhouser, Bob Herr, John Stanton, Dale Rice,

Ron Lakin, David Schmitt, Phil Tate, and John McKee

3<sup>rd</sup> Row: David McAuley, Dwight Moore, Johnny Kicklighter, Justin Ottolini, and Mike Biekert

### **PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**OCTOBER 11 MEETING MINUTES.** Motion was made to accept the minutes by John McKee, seconded by Phil Tate. Motion carried. Minutes accepted.

**FINANCIAL REPORT (Commander Kicklighter for Adjutant Red).** Bob Herr made a motion to accept, seconded by John McKee. Motion carried.

## CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ NOVEMBER 8, 2016 Muster (cont'd)

### COMMUNICATIONS

**HECKER CAMP ENCAMPMENT DINNER (Commander Kicklighter).** Will be held on November 18 at Crehan's Irish Pub, 5500 North Belt West, Belleville. We have copies of the flyer if you're interesting in attending.

### OLD BUSINESS AND REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

**CAMP T-SHIRTS (Commander Kicklighter)** J. C. is not here but will follow up next month.

**ALTON CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL (Commander Kicklighter, John Stanton, and others).**

Mike Biekert said it was very touching and moving. He said you believe the way he does – in Jesus – and it was visible in the ceremony. He has been a pastor for the last 17 years from being in jail prior but will remember this event for the rest of his life. By the way, he will be married to Mary Beth for 35 years, and passed around a card for all to sign.

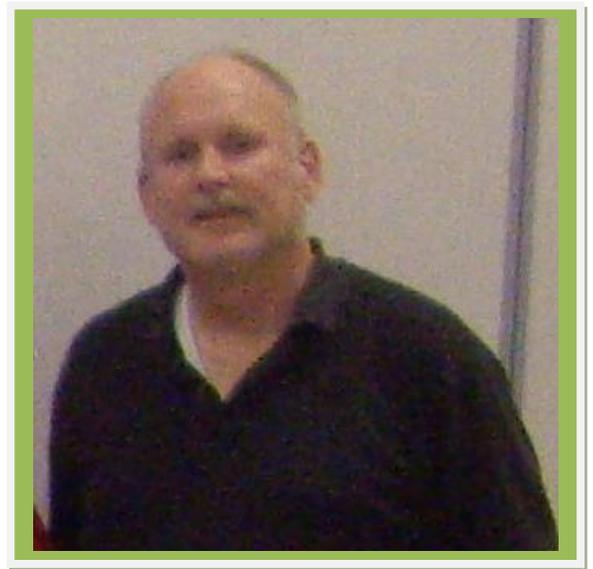
John Stanton, the guest speaker, said he spoke from his heart (no planned script) and from what he believes and from what his Grandmother taught him.

### NEW BUSINESS

**SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR REFRESHMENTS AND PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS (Commander Kicklighter).** Please be generous and pass the sheets around (return to Sharon Red).

**VACANT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS (Commander Kicklighter).** Need to fill seats for 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Commander, Chaplain, Sgt-at-Arms, and Greeter. Please volunteer if you're interested.

**FORMAL PRESENTATION: “Prophet Without Honor: Hinton Rowan Helper and the Real Debate on Slavery” by Compatriot John McKee.** Believe it or not, John chose this topic because of his interest in Helper since the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Info on Helper states he was more reviled than Lincoln in 1860, and thought of slavery as an economic issue. His big claim to fame was his book on the South – he was a true prophet without honor. The debate on slavery was that abolitionists saw it was wrong to own slaves. The issue was more emotional than rational. Helper started writing in 1855. He was a visionary -- handled foreign claims and helped American citizens obtain foreign funds – promoted real estate land deals – wanted to build industry especially locally – promoted intercontinental railroads – and traveled a lot. Helper was a dreamer – lacked common sense – but was an early proponent of populism. Helper was honored more outside this country than inside. He lived in an apartment and died from gas leak. Helper is buried in Maryland.



**REFRESHMENTS** were provided by Compatriot and Mrs. David Schmitt.

**BENEDICTION** was given by Commander Kicklighter.

**MEETING** adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 6:30 p.m. **Presentation** by Compatriot Eric Funkhouser on his Confederate Ancestor. **Refreshments** will be furnished by Knight Steve Wilson.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gale F. Red*  
Adjutant

## SQUAD EAST MEETING MINUTES ~ NOVEMBER 21, 2016 Muster

The members and friends of Squad East, SCV, conducted their monthly muster on November 21, 2016 at Anthony's Wild West Restaurant in downtown Flora IL.

**CALL TO ORDER 6:40** by Lt Robert Marley.

**INVOCATION** was given by Adjutant Gale Red.

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS** was led by Adjutant Red and Lt Marley. 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.

**WELCOME.** Lt Marley welcomed everyone..

**ROLL CALL (5).** Walter Hall, Robert Marley, Gale Red, Larry Weber, and John Winterfeld.

### **PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**OCTOBER 17, 2016 MEETING MINUTES.** Motion made to accept the minutes by Gale Red, seconded by Larry Weber. Motion carried. Minutes approved by membership.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**ALTON CEMETERY MEMORIAL HELD ON NOVEMBER 5 (Adjutant Red).** Reported the event went well and 25 people attended.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**COMPATRIOT PAT BOOTH, MEMBER OF SQUAD EAST (Adjutant Red).** Pat is slowly improving from his injuries suffered from a car accident but is still in the hospital in Springfield IL. Request all keep him in our prayers.

**FORMAL PRESENTATION: "Impact of Railroads in the Civil War" by Adjutant Gale Red.** His presentation was very interesting, informative and contained insight as to how each side came to realize the value of this mode of transportation. The North had a big advantage in terms of miles of track and equipment.



**BENEDICTION** was given by Adjutant Red.

**MEETING** adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING** scheduled for Monday, January 16, 2017, 6:30 p.m. **Presentation** by John Winterfeld on "Riverboat, Gunboat Design."

Respectfully submitted,  
*Robert N. Marley*  
Lieutenant



## 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the South  
Not a Rebel was stirring, except for their mouths.

They talked about home and stockings hung by the chimney with care  
In hopes that the war would soon end and St. Nicholas would be there.

It was hard to be nestled and snug in their make-shift beds,  
Only visions of Southern comfort danced in their heads,  
Thoughts of home and Mama in her little night cap,  
Played thru their minds ~ and not found in any knapsack.

When out in the woods there arose such a clatter,  
They sprang from their warm spot to see what was the matter.

Around a tree, they flew like a flash,

Grabbed the muskets and ran a mad dash.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,  
Gave the luster of mid-day to Civil War objects below.

When, what to their wondering eyes should appear,  
But Commander Kicklighter standing right next to them near.

Johnny was their leader, so lively and quick,

They knew in a moment it wasn't St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles Ron Lakin and Gale Red came.

They whistled, and shouted, and called Camp Dixon rebels by name:

"Now! Walter Hall, Now, Dale Rice, Now, John McKee, and Phil Tate,  
Now, Bill Boyd, Robert Hardy, Bob Herr, J. C. Gideon, and Betsy Blake.

On Jim Lumma, Eric Funkhouser, On Dwight Moore, On David McAuley,

On John Stanton, Justin Ottolini, Janice Beasley, and mascot, R. Lee.

On Jane McKee, David Schmitt, Chris & Jason Ziebold

On Ralph Oleschlager, Doug and Betty Lawrence and Steve Wilson were tol

Let's march to the PSOP center with its painted white wall,

Now come to the meeting, come to the meeting, they shouted to all.

As winter weather blows, all the leaves fly,

But Southern spirits rise and continue to mount to the sky,

So up to the meeting place the rebels all blew,

Hoping Christmas cheer will come from St. Nicholas, too,

Then, in a twinkling, they heard on the roof

Snow falling like the pawing of a little reindeer hoof.

As they thought about Camp Dixon's planned presentations next year,

Everyone yelled a "Hip, Hip, Hurray" with lots of hardy cheer.

To discuss their Southern roots they hold so dear.

Each Confederate was dressed in rebel gray from his head to his foot,

And his clothes were all tarnished from fighting and soot.

A bundle of belongings was flung on his back.

And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes ~ were so tired! His face was war-torn,

His cheeks were all wrinkled, his nose cold on this Christmas morn.

His droll little mouth was still speaking of a Confederate win,

While a war scar could still be found on his chin.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,

And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.

He had a thin drawn face, and no signs of a round belly

Little laughter for this Southern gentleman who longed for peach jelly.

Each rebel was not chubby nor plump, nor a jolly old elf,

So I cried when I saw him in spite of myself.

However, a wink of his eye and a twist of his head

Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,

Loaded his musket, then turned with a jerk.

And laying his finger aside of his nose

And giving a nod, out to the snow he rose.

He sprang to his vantage point, to his troops gave a whistle,

And away Camp Dixon all flew like the down of a thistle.

But I heard them exclaim, ere they marched out of sight –  
Happy Confederate Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE CAMP

**GET-WELL WISHES TO COMPATRIOT PAT BOOTH (FROM SQUAD EAST).** Pat was in an automobile accident in October and is suffering from numerous injuries. Pneumonia set in, but he is improving -- still hospitalized in Springfield IL. Please keep him in your diligent prayers. *(The camp sent a greeting card.)*

**WELCOME RETURNING MEMBER OF THE LADIES OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE, SUSAN HARRIS.** Susan is Ron Doran's daughter and wants to get back among her father's Confederate friends. Please welcome her.



**NOVEMBER 18  
SUVCW COLONEL HECKER CAMP #443  
INSTALLATION DINNER AT CREHAN'S IRISH PUB,  
BELLEVILLE IL.** Members of Camp Dixon ~ Compatriot J. C. Gideon and Adjutant Gale Red *(in left photo)* (and his wife, Sharon) ~ plus co-members of SCV & SUVCW ~ John/Jane McKee, John Stanton, Justin Ottolini, and Steve Wheat ~ attended, enjoyed a nice meal, and conversed with all.

**DECEMBER 19  
HAPPY 18<sup>th</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
ADJUTANT GALE & LADY SHARON RED**

Hope they have many more happy and healthy years together.



**DECEMBER 22  
HAPPY 26<sup>th</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
COMPATRIOT AL & ROBIN WANDLING**

Best wishes to them and hope they have a blessed day and many future years of wedded bliss.  
*(The camp will send a greeting card.)*



# CAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## DECEMBER

- 7 NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY
- 10 (tent) Camp Dixon Honors "Wreaths Across America Day"
- 13 6:30 BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON MEETING
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

## JANUARY

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR
- 10 6:30 BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON MEETING
- 16 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BIRTHDAY
- 16 6:30 FLORA SQUAD EAST MEETING
- 20 INAUGURATION DAY

## FEBRUARY

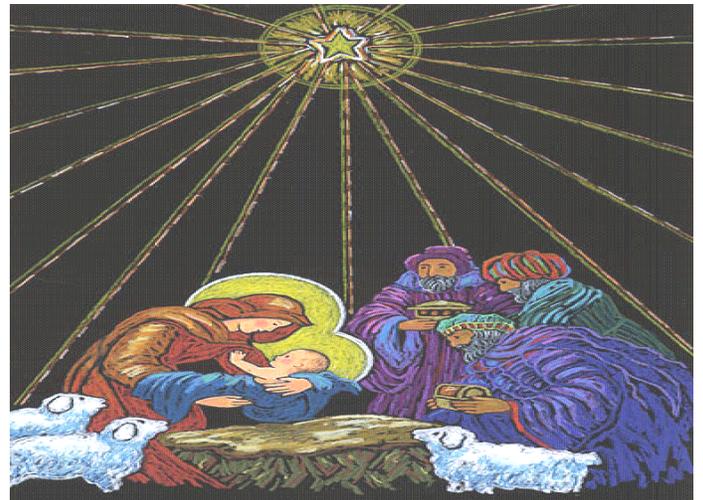
- 14 VALENTINE'S DAY
- 14 6:30 BELLEVILLE CAMP DIXON MEETING
- 20 PRESIDENTS' DAY
- 20 6:30 FLORA SQUAD EAST MEETING



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

## DECEMBER

- 11 **Compatriot David Haake**  
*(from Sheridan WY)*
- 26 **Compatriot Arthur Tulak**  
*(from Ewa Beach HI)*
- 28 **Compatriot Sam Booth**  
*(from Flora IL)*
- 30 **Compatriot Kevin Wicker**  
*(from Illiopolis 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	VACANT	
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	VACANT	