

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

Lady Sharon Red, Cell 618-622-8949

JULY 2018



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICAN CONFEDERATES
COME CELEBRATE OUR COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE AT OUR NEXT MEETING

6:30 P. M.

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018
Belle-Clair Fairgrounds



FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Greetings, fellow members of the Lt. George E. Dixon SCV Camp 1962, from your new commander. I would like to take this moment to personally thank each and every member for their confidence in their election of me to the office of camp commander. It is with great pride and yet humility that I have accepted this position, and I fully appreciate the heavy burden of maintaining an honorable character and a sincere desire to always observe the best face forward in remembrance of all of our common ancestors' service and devotion to their duty.

I fully realize that it is with a very short time that I have been ushered to the office of commander, but I feel that with the guidance and direction of the leadership from Adjutant Gale Red and 2Lt Commander Johnny Kicklighter, I will be able to learn from their able experience in the duties I have assumed in the SCV.

It is with a humble attitude that I fervently seek your prayers for my role as your commander and I pray seek your devoted support of the memory of our ancestors and a truthful defense of their service and sacrifices to which they nobly served.

At this time, I would like to also thank outgoing commander Ron Lakin, who I fully believe came to the decision to relinquish his tenure as commander with great difficulty. Ron has served this camp and has and remains one of its most fervent devotees.

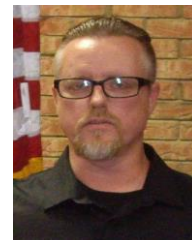
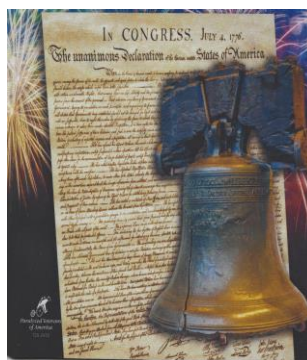
As commander I would like to remind all members of the upcoming 4th of July holiday. Many of our confederate ancestors' relatives proudly served the cause of the 13 colonies during the Revolutionary War and they were, in turn, greatly influenced by their devotion against what they beheld as tyrannical government.

Also, please remember that the Smithton Homecoming Parade is on the 28th of July and the Freeburg Homecoming Parade is to be on the 18th of August. I beseech all members who can attend these events to proudly participate as a unified voice and visual positive re-enforcement of our camp and the memory of our ancestors. In light of the current political culture that exists within our nation, it is our duty to attend such events when we are invited and as such help foster a much-needed remembrance of our history.

Thank you and God Bless.

Confederately,

John Stanton



TIM MACKEY
welcome newest member!

Annual Dues

(August 1, 2018 - July 31, 2019)

Requested by July 1
but NLT July 31

SCV Members \$50

(incl \$30 for National and
\$20 for the Camp)

Life Members \$20

(for the Camp)

Knights & Ladies \$20

(for the Camp)

Please make check

payable to:

Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962

Bring payment to meeting,

or mail to:

Adjutant Gale Red

5 Hunters Pt

O'Fallon IL 62269-3133

If not renewing, call Gale,
Cell 618-622-8949.

*** NEXT CAMP DIXON MEETING ***

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018 ~ 6:30 p.m.

Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center

200 South Belt East

Belleville IL

Parking/Entrance on East Side of Building

PROGRAM: Civil War
PRESENTER: Adjutant Gale Red
REFRESHMENTS: Compatriot J. C. Gideon

Questions? Call Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
From Your New Commander – John Douglas Stanton	1 & 9
New Member – Timothy Lee Mackey	1 & 9
Camp Dixon Picnic in Walsh IL, June 3	2-3
Minutes: Camp Dixon Meeting, June 12	4-6
Where the Fourth Means Little Vicksburg	7
A Diary from Dixie by JoAnn Gideon	8
News from Around the Camp	9
Calendar of Events ~ July Birthdays ~ Camp Leadership	10

CAMP PICNIC

(SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018, LADY JANICE BEASLEY'S HOME IN WALSH IL) We had beautiful cool weather with a nice breeze surrounded by lots of shade trees and a good turnout at the picnic at Janice's home. The following 19 attended:

The hostess with the mostest – Janice Beasley – and her friend, Ron Bright

Bob Herr and his friend, Larry

(presenter/demonstrator of his 16-pound cannon, the art of artillery, and setup of cannon crews)

Mike, Mary, and Caroline Biekert

Steve and Mary Wilson

John and Jane McKee

Ronnie Lakin

John Stanton

J. C. and JoAnn Gideon

Larry Weber and friend

Gale and Sharon Red (photographers)

At 1:00 p.m., Bob Herr started his brief on Civil War cannons, ammunition, and background/safety of its use, then he called for attendees to be part of cannon crews. Everyone had fun. They brought their chairs, a covered dish, and enjoyed participating plus the food that followed. The camp provided the BBQ pork. Janice provided her home and refreshments.



Janice Beasley and Ron Bright



Bob Herr talks about his Civil War cannon

CAMP PICNIC (cont'd)



(L-R) Listening attentively to Bob's speech are:

JoAnn Gideon, Larry Weber, John McKee, Ron Bright, Larry's friend, Janice Beasley, Jane McKee, Gale Red, J. C. Gideon, Ron Lakin, and Mary and Steve Wilson



(L-R) A cannon crew at work –

Larry Weber, Bob Herr, Steve Wilson, John McKee, and Ron Lakin
(in background is JoAnn Gideon and Jane McKee)



J. C. and JoAnn Gideon



J. C. Gideon and Caroline, Mike, and Mary Biekert



Mary and Steve Wilson

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ JUNE 12, 2018 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV, conducted their monthly muster at 6:35 p.m. on June 12, 2018 at the Belle-Clair Exposition Center, 200 South Belt East, Belleville IL, this being the 6th Muster of the year for 2018.

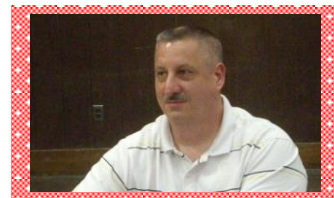
CALL TO ORDER: Adjutant Gale Red.

INVOCATION: Chaplain Mike Biekert.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS: Adjutant Gale Red. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. flag and Salute to the Confederate flag.

WELCOME: Adjutant Red

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS: Adjutant Red greeted **Walter Harris**, new member since February 2018 (*photo at right*). Walter is an Alderman/Trustee for the City of Glen Carbon and received a dispensation from the city council meeting to attend our camp meeting.



SWEARING-IN OF NEW COMMANDER, JOHN STANTON (Illinois Div Commander Gale Red). This will be my last official duty as the Illinois Division Commander since I am stepping down in July. Johnny Kicklighter will step in for Ronnie in the passing of the sword (command). If you recall from February when I did this, the sword has a lot of history and was authorized by the Secretary of the Navy of the Union to have 1,000 of these swords sold to the Confederacy. They were delivered to Virginia and disbursed to J. E. B. Stuart's cavalry. I'm very fortunate to have one of the 1,000. The guidon is passed from the old Commander to the new Commander. The tradition is to pass the sword (the symbol of power and leadership for the military).

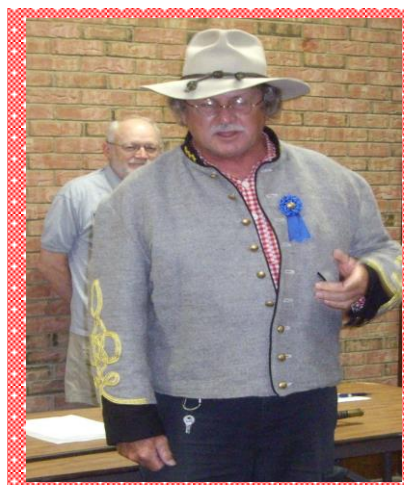


Johnny Kicklighter is passing the sword to John Stanton

(In the foreground is Div Cmdr Gale Red and in the background is Chaplain Mike Biekert)



Div Cmdr Gale Red administering oath of office to John Stanton



New Camp Commander – JOHN DOUGLAS STANTON

REMARKS BY COMMANDER JOHN STANTON: “. . . I need your prayers and support to continue to remember our ancestors, so I honor you and do request your prayers.”

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ JUNE 12, 2018 Muster (cont'd)

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY for Timothy Lee Mackey. Ancestor: Brig. Gen. Turner Ashby, Jr., Commander of the 7th VA Regiment Cavalry.



ROLL CALL (24): Janice Beasley, Mike & Mary Biekert, Bill Boyd, Eric Funkhouser, J. C. & JoAnn Gideon, Walter Hall, Walter Harris, Johnny Kicklighter, Matt King, Greg Krieg, Tim Mackey, John & Jane McKee, Dwight Moore, Justin Ottolini, Gale & Sharon Red, Dale Rice, John Stanton, Phil Tate, and Steve & Mary Wilson.

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

ACCEPTANCE OF MAY 8 MEETING MINUTES (Adjutant Red): Motion to accept by Dwight Moore, seconded by John McKee. Minutes accepted by a show-of-hands vote. Motion carried. Minutes accepted.

FINANCIAL REPORT (Adjutant Red): Current balance was reported. No outstanding bills to be paid – next expenditure will be for next month's newsletter. Motion to accept by John McKee, seconded by Steve Wilson. Report accepted by a show-of-hands vote. Motion carried. Financial report accepted.

COMMUNICATIONS (Adjutant Red)

COMPATRIOT JEFF BARNES is in Alaska all month for his annual salmon fishing trip. Let's all feel sorry for him.

COMPATRIOT JOHN & LADY JANE McKEE's DAUGHTER was in an automobile accident a week ago. Status: car fixed after \$500 damage and daughter is back to working her 32 hours at Walmart. Praise the Lord she's OK.

COMPATRIOT & MRS. MIKE BIEKERT'S DAUGHTER. Emily Biekert has suffered from an auto accident 4 years ago in October. All this time, she was given misinformation on degree of injury. Now she will need surgery soon. Please pray for the guidance of her physicians and successful surgery.

OLD BUSINESS/REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

REPORT ON MOUND CITY MEMORIAL DAY EVENT, MAY 26 (Adjutant Red). Request your opinion on this event.

(Phil Tate) We met at Gale's house and 5 miles down the road, Gale wanted to sing "99 bottles of beer." This was broken up by breakfast at McDonald's. The public ceremony went first, then ours. John Stanton was an outstanding speaker – his speech was the highlight. We went to Huckleberry's for lunch. A very long day. *(Gale said we appreciate Phil taking us down there and back.)*

(John Stanton) Admire the moving speech (prerecorded) of the Navy Seal who is a quadriplegic. He showed no sympathy for himself but for his fellow Seals who never came back.

(Walter Harris) I'm a member of the SAR and American Revolution. Students don't apply for a scholarship that is free money.

(Adjutant Red) The Illinois Division used to give a scholarship but was not getting much response so dropped it.

REPORT ON MEMORIAL DAY EVENT AT JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MAY 28 (Adjutant Red). We had 11 people here, and thank you for those who did come. Same as Mound City – very few people. Down to less than 100 that went in – approximately 500 people on the whole field. We're at a crisis point in our country. People need to do the right thing.

(Steve Wilson) On a good note, at least three people thanked me for wearing the uniform. Nice memorial services for Union and Confederates.

REPORT ON CANNON SHOOT AT JANICE BEASLEY'S HOME IN WALSH, SUNDAY, JUNE 3 (Adjutant Red). Bob Herr brought his 16-pounder and he talked on the way it's supposed to be used and safety measures.

(Mike Biekert) My first experience on the cannon crew – what a charge!

(Janice Beasley) 20 people showed up. The 16-pound cannon was a replica. Every guy on the crew has a special job to do.

(Adjutant Red) The camp has a facebook page for all to see. Search for: Lt George E. Dixon 1962.

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ JUNE 12, 2018 Muster (cont'd)

NEW BUSINESS

CAMP WEB SITE UPDATE (Johnny Kicklighter). New hosting platform – in process of migrating files to the server. *Gale Red said you will receive an email when web site is operational.*

SMITHTON HOMECOMING PARADE, SATURDAY, JULY 28 (Adjutant Red). Line-up begins at 4:00 with step-off at 5:00. Johnny Kicklighter will verify truck/trailer availability with his son, John. Float will have bales of hay for sitting. Good time to show the colors. Please put on your calendar.

FREEBURG HOMECOMING PARADE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18 (Adjutant Red). Line-up begins at 4:00 with step-off at 5:00. Johnny Kicklighter will verify truck/trailer availability with his son, John. Float will have bales of hay for sitting. Good time to show the colors. Specifics to follow. Please put on your calendar.

ANNUAL DUES (AUGUST 1, 2018 – JULY 31, 2019) (Adjutant Red). Would be helpful if you could pay by July 1. Please make check payable to "Lt George E. Dixon Camp #1962."

26th ANNIVERSARY OF ASST ADJUTANT JOHN & LADY JANE McKEE – today – they desired to celebrate tonight with their camp family!



MEETING GROUP PHOTO (L-R)

(Row 1, seated) Mary Biekert, Mary Wilson, Jane McKee, JoAnn Gideon, and Janice Beasley (with R. Lee)

(Row 2) Matt King, Johnny Kicklighter, Dale Rice, Steve Wilson, Eric Funkhouser, Dwight Moore, Tim Mackey, Phil Tate, and J. C. Gideon

(Row 3) Gale Red, Walter Harris, Mike Biekert, John Stanton, and John McKee

Photographer: Sharon Red

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION: Gale Red presented two interesting presentations on "Oddities of the Civil War."



REFRESHMENTS were provided by Chaplain and Mrs. Mike Biekert.

BENEDICTION was given by Chaplain Biekert.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 10, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center. **REFRESHMENTS** by J. C. Gideon. **PROGRAM** on the Civil War by Adjutant Red.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale F. Red
Adjutant

Where the Fourth Means Little Vicksburg

(The Confederate stronghold that surrendered to Union troops on July 4, 1863, still can't find reasons to celebrate the national holiday)

Sun Journal, July 04, 1997 By Bryan Woolley, DALLAS MORNING NEWS

VICKSBURG, Miss. -- Eleese Doyle thumbs a sheaf of pages tacked to the wall beside her cash register at Burger Village, where she rules as chief cook and cashier. "They put out this calendar of events to tell the people of Vicksburg what we're going to be doing," she says. "Let's see what we're going to be doing on the Fourth of July."

She flips through the pages twice. She adjusts her glasses on her nose and checks again. "Nothing," she says. "Not anything special. Nothing special going on in Vicksburg." Doyle knew the answer before she looked, for she's a native of this town. She knows that on most of the Independence Days in its history, nothing special has been going on in Vicksburg.

The most painful event in Vicksburg's long history occurred 134 years ago on the Fourth of July. For many years afterward, the humiliation of that event made it impossible for many of its citizens to rejoice on the nation's birthday.

"There was nothing for us to celebrate for a long, long time," says Gordon Cotton, local historian and director of the Old Courthouse Museum, where the community's relics are on display. "Even the post office stayed open for a number of years on the Fourth of July."

By the time the wound had scabbed over, Vicksburg was used to not observing the Fourth. Even today it seems unable to get the hang of it.

Vicksburg sits on a high bluff on the eastern bank of the Mississippi. During the first two years of the Civil War, the town had about 5,000 residents. It was called "the Gibraltar of the West," because Confederate cannons arranged along its bluff controlled the broad, muddy river below, holding off Union gunboats and protecting the flow of men and supplies to the Southern armies in the East.

In May 1863, after Union naval bombardments and a series of infantry assaults failed to conquer the seemingly impregnable town, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant decided to starve it into submission. He placed Vicksburg under siege. Cut off from supplies and reinforcements and under constant artillery fire, many of its citizens moved into caves they burrowed into hillsides. As the siege wore on and the food supply dwindled, both the citizenry and the Southern army subsisted on the meat of mules, dogs and, some said, rats.

More than 100,000 Union and Confederate soldiers fought there. The Union lost more than 10,000 killed, wounded and missing, the Confederacy more than 9,000. Eighteen civilians died by cannon fire. Vicksburg endured for 47 days. Then, on July 4, Gen. John Pemberton marched his army of starving wraiths out of their forts and earthworks and surrendered Vicksburg to Grant. The loss of the town and control of the river was a disaster for the South. It severed the trans-Mississippi states of Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas from the rest of the Confederacy, depriving its army of most of the food, supplies and thousands of men that those states had provided.

Although the war would drag on for almost two more years, Grant's victory -- coupled with the defeat of Gen. Robert E. Lee's army in Gettysburg, Pa., on the same day -- broke the back of the Confederacy and assured an eventual Union victory. "It was no accident that the Confederates surrendered on the Fourth of July," says Cotton. "General Pemberton said he could have lasted another week, but what was the point? Because they surrendered on Independence Day, it wasn't an unconditional surrender, as Grant had been used to getting. Pemberton was pretty demanding, and Grant was pretty generous, because he wanted the surrender to be on the Fourth -- wanted to present that prize to President Lincoln on that day."

"No," says Mayor Joe Loviza, "there was nothing for the South to celebrate on that Fourth of July." So, in Vicksburg, they didn't. Not in 1863. Not for a long time.

In 1945, when the Allies had conquered Nazi Germany and were about to defeat Japan, Vicksburg, like the rest of the country, had an attack of patriotic fever. "They started celebrating again," Cotton says. "But they didn't call it the Fourth of July or Independence Day. They called it the Carnival of the Confederacy. They had parades and floats and all that, and they had a pretty girl to represent each Southern state."

The town did the same thing the next year. But then the practice died away.

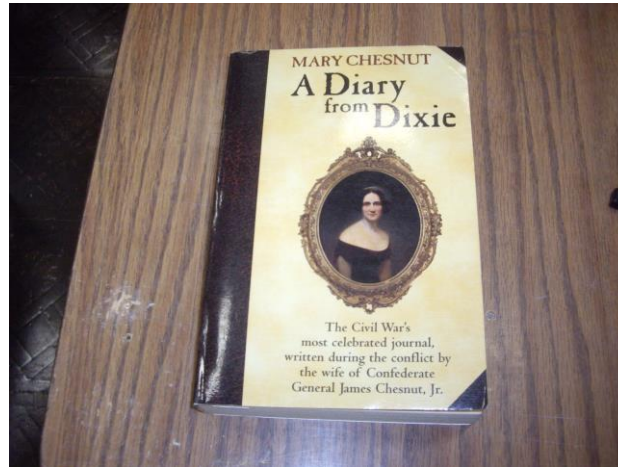
About 25,000 people live in Vicksburg now. Much of its livelihood still depends on the Mississippi. The Army Corps of Engineers operates three major installations there. Eighteen barge lines work out of its port, the largest river port in the state. Since 1993, four gambling casinos have opened along its river front.

Barbara McCleese is a licensed guide at Vicksburg National Military Park. She explains the battlefield's grass-covered earthworks and trenches, and its scores of statues of gallant and suffering soldiers, and the thousands of graves.

"But the Fourth of July is still not a big thing," McCleese says. "We have a Memorial Day parade and other patriotic things. Not much on the Fourth, though."

A DIARY FROM DIXIE

Reported By JoAnn Gideon



Have you heard of Mary Boykin Chesnut? She was the wife of Confederate General James Chesnut, Jr., but she also was the author of the Civil War's famous diary written (1860-1865).

Mary Chesnut acquired a very good education which developed her literary skills. She had an acute mind and spoke French fluently.

Mary was a woman of society. She and her husband were close friends with President Jefferson Davis and Varina, Vice President Alexander H. Stephens, General Robert E. Lee, General "Stonewall" Jackson, General Wade Hampton, General Joseph B. Kershaw, General John B. Hood, General John S. Preston, General Robert Toombs, R. M. T. Hunter, Judge Louis T. Wigfall, and other famous people of the times.

Her diary consists of 48 thin volumes, originally written on "Confederate paper." When Sherman was coming, it was buried for three days with a silver sugar-dish, teapot, milk jug and a few spoons and forks -- also, Hood's silver cap, which was partly crushed when he was wounded at Chickamauga.

The author expected her journal would some day be printed, but it was thought best to wait. It went to press the summer of 1904.

Mary saw and lived history during and before the war.

From the beginning, at the bombardment of Fort Sumter, she watched with others from the housetop. Mary knew her husband was rowing in a boat in the bay. She became so weak she sat on something that looked like a black stool. It was a chimney and the sparks set her clothes on fire. But, a man extinguished it before harm was done.

On August 23, 1861, Mary visited all the hospitals in Richmond VA. She couldn't forget the human misery. Gilland's was the worst. Then she went to St. Charles and saw the dead and dying until she fainted.

Three years later, she made an entry of spending \$75 for a little tea and sugar and \$85 for shoes. Near the end of the war \$1,000 in paper money was needed to buy a simple kitchen utensil. Before the war it could be purchased for less than one dollar in gold.

When prices started to rise, Mary sewed a money belt made of cloth and heavy strings to hold gold and diamonds to wear in an emergency. A friend, Mr. James L. Petigru, said, "You take your money to market in a basket, and bring home what you buy in your pocketbook."

The women were always eager for news, but often news was incorrect. Someone once asked Mary, "Why do you write when you have to contradict it?" And Mary said, "Because I tell the tale as it is told to me. I write current rumor. I do not vouch for anything."



Every member should read this diary. It gives a different perspective of events leading up to the war and what is going on at home during the battles. It is a story of real people.

JoAnn Gideon is the wife of Compatriot J. C. Gideon. Mary Chesnut is an ancestor of her father. That is how she became interested in her life.

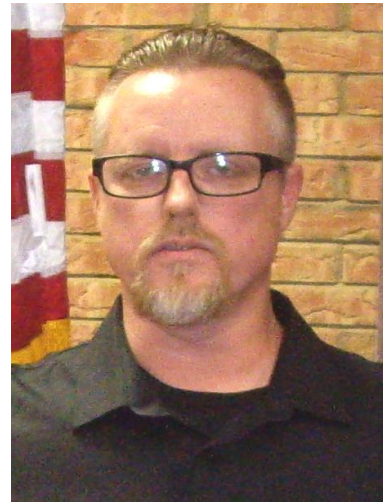
NEWS FROM AROUND THE CAMP



JUNE 12, 2018
CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME
COMMANDER JOHN DOUGLAS STANTON

Welcome and congratulations, Commander Stanton, as the new leader of Camp Dixon. John has been a member for three years, and held the positions of 1st and 2nd Lt Commander. He has briefed the camp on many issues and was the keynote speaker at the camp's annual Memorial Day event at Mound City IL on May 26. John has been a strong influence on his grandson, Justin Ottolini, and was instrumental in recruiting him to the camp. John is married and resides in Godfrey IL.

His ancestor is Brig Gen Robert Gadden Haynes Lowry from Adams' Brigade, Loring's Division, 3rd Corps, Army of Tennessee (Rankin County, Mississippi).



JUNE 12, 2018
CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME
COMPATRIOT TIMOTHY LEE MACKEY
NEW CAMP DIXON MEMBER

Welcome, Tim, on meeting all the qualifications for entry as a Son of Confederate Veteran and member of Camp Dixon. Tim hails from Belleville IL and is married to Brandy, and they have five children. His ancestor is Brig. Gen Turner Ashby, Jr., Commander of the 7th VA Regiment Cavalry.



BEST WISHES AND GOOD LUCK IN YOUR SURGERIES
COMPATRIOT ROBERT GRAY
FROM WYMORE, NEBRASKA

Robert will soon have surgery on his jaw to repair a torn meniscus/torn cartilage and then at the same time to repair a torn quad tendon tear on his knee. Hope everything will be successful and he will have a quick recovery!
(The camp will send a get-well card.)



JULY 19, 2018
COMPATRIOT & MRS. MARK MORGAN
CONGRATULATIONS ON THEIR 10th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

We haven't seen much of Mark at the meetings or events but hope he joins us real soon. We do wish him and Kelli a happy 10th Diamond Anniversary and many more happy and healthy years together. *(The camp will send a congratulatory card.)*

CAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JULY

4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (HOLIDAY)
10 6:30 CAMP MEETING
28 5:00 SMITHTON HOMECOMING
PARADE

AUGUST

14 6:30 CAMP MEETING
18 5:00 FREEBURG HOMECOMING
PARADE

SEPTEMBER

11 6:30 CAMP MEETING



JULY

2 SHARON RED (O'Fallon IL)
4 ERIC FUNKHOUSER (Belleville IL)
4 ROBERT MARLEY (Flora IL)
7 STEVEN PIKE (Swanton, Vermont)
10 ALPHONS SCHOOTS (Alpen, Germany)
16 TRAVIS CONNER (Thompson CT)
18 ROBERT HARDY (St. Louis MO)
24 ROY HOBBS (O'Fallon IL)
28 DAVID McCAULEY (Carbondale IL)
29 GALE RED (O'Fallon IL)
29 TIMOTHY MACKEY (Belleville IL)
30 PAUL ZELEN (Belvidere IL)

CAMP DIXON LEADERSHIP

Commander	John Douglas Stanton	618-610-6464
1 st Lt Commander	VACANT	
2 nd Lt Commander	John Wayne Kicklighter	618-257-9079
Adjutant	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Asst Adjutant	John Mitchell McKee	618-416-5072
Chaplain	Walter Michael Biekert	618-972-8190
Sgt of Arms	David Francis Schmitt	Cell 618-334-6148
Program Chairman	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Historian	VACANT	
Door Greeter	VACANT	
Quartermaster	VACANT	