

*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 2021

*The birth of Jesus is the reason  
for the Christmas season!  
See you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month  
CAMP DIXON MEETING  
DECEMBER 16, 2021 -- 6:30 pm  
Shiloh Assembly of God Church in Shiloh*



## PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER 16

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>Civil War Santa Claus</b>
<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>Lady Mary Biekert</b>
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>	<b>Compatriot Steve Wilson</b>

### CAMP MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and are generally, except as announced, held on the third Thursday evening of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the:

**Shiloh Assembly of God Church**  
4035 Lebanon Avenue  
Shiloh, Illinois 62221

*(Parking lot available next to the church)*

We try to have an informative program with a speaker or film of interest at all meetings. Anyone with a Confederate ancestor or just having an interest in Civil War history is invited to attend.

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

### CAMP MISSION

The camp accepts its covenanted responsibility to maintain and preserve the Christian principles held by the Southern people that led them to their decision to defend the right of constitutional self-government. We strive to educate ourselves first and then the public to a fuller and more complete understanding of the true history of the period of the War Between the States. We seek to preserve the memory and honor of the noble Confederate soldiers, sailors, public servants, and loyal citizens.

### CAMP MEMBERSHIP

Is available to all male (12 years or older) descendants of any veteran who served honorably in the Confederate military. Direct or collateral kinship to a qualifying veteran or civil servant must be documented for full membership. We offer genealogical assistance with documentation. For those who have not yet proven their kinship or just have an active interest in what we are doing, we offer camp membership through our auxiliary, The Knights and Ladies of the Golden Circle. Applicants must be 12 or older.



**WE CARE! PLEASE CALL GALE OR MIKE AND KEEP US NEWS-INFORMED ... if you or a family member is ill, has an emergency, health or family issue, or needs assistance.**

*Adjutant Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949*

*Chaplain Mike Biekert, 618-972-8190*

## FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS: MERRY CHRISTMAS to one and all. The officers of your camp would like to wish the very best holiday celebration recognizing the birth of the Messiah. We wish you and your families good health and good cheer. It is interesting to reflect on the history of the American Christmas traditions from the American War Between the States. Prior to the oncoming of this conflict the celebration of the Christmas holiday was one of being practiced rather casually or not at all. The traditions of the northern states reflected a staunch Calvinistic and puritan view of a holiday not prescribed by scripture. The season was observed as a more solemn church service. In the southern states many slave holders would give presents to their slaves and a feast. But for most in America it was not celebrated at all. With the beginning of the war, the ways in which both sides viewed Christmas began to change. As soldiers were dislocated from their families, a sense of homesickness developed in the hearts and minds of these men and families. Many letters home began to mourn the inability to be with loved ones at this time. Soldiers were given the day off from normal duties and generally feasted on fresh beef stew and drink. In regions of the conflict in which gifts had been exchanged the economic down turn of the war eliminated such practice. The event was turned into a holiday with a patriotic flavor. Any decorations quickly turned from ornaments and garland of green into what became a substitute: popcorn strung on string. The idea of St. Nick became solidified in the minds of all Americans with the depiction of the jolly old man be the work of the artist Thomas Nast. At the conclusion of the war, the reverence of the soldiers and their families continued to grow for this holiday. In 1870 the government passed a national law recognizing Christmas as a national holiday. I greatly doubt that with the cultural climate of which we live today if such a law would see the light of day if it were to be voted upon now. Until the next muster, GOD Bless.

*Confederately,*

*John Stanton*

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### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY Saturday, December 18

Want to pay tribute to our  
Confederates that died for the cause?  
Respect them at Christmas -- help lay  
wreaths on their graves at:



• 1000 Alton • 1100 Smallpox Island • local cemeteries

**Please call/let Gale Red know you're going -- Cell 618-622-8949.**

## **CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ NOVEMBER 18, 2021 Muster**

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly muster at 6:40 p.m. on November 18, 2021 at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 11<sup>th</sup> Muster of the year 2021.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commander John Stanton called the meeting to order.

**WELCOME:** Commander Stanton welcomed the Camp's members, family, and friends.

**INVOCATION:** Chaplain Mike Biekert.

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS (Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to Confederate Flag):** The American Flag was properly displayed. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander Matt King led everyone in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and the salute to the Confederate Flag.

**SWEARING IN:** None.

**PROCEDURAL BUSINESS:** None.

**ROLL CALL (20)** (Adjutant Red). *Please ensure everyone has signed in with Sharon Red.*

Those present included: Janice Beasley, Mike Biekert, Eric Funkhouser, J. C. & JoAnn Gideon, Johnny Kicklighter, Matt King, Doug & Betty Lawrence, Jim & Barb Lumma, John & Jane McKee, Ralph Oelschlager, Gale & Sharon Red, Dale Rice, John Stanton, Phil Tate, and Steve Wilson.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 21, 2021 MEETING MINUTES (Commander Stanton).** The minutes were approved by a motion to accept by Steve Wilson and seconded by Ralph Oelschlager with a unanimous all-voices-agreed vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORT (Adjutant Gale Red).** \$5,916.48. Still need to take out \$100 for the newsletter. The report was approved by a motion to accept by Steve Wilson and seconded by Ralph Oelschlager with a unanimous all-voices-agreed vote.



**GROUP PHOTO -- "A Great Turnout"**

**(L-R) (Front Row)** Doug Lawrence, Phil Tate, Matt King, Ralph Oelschlager, J. C. & JoAnn Gideon, Janice Beasley (w/R. Lee), Betty Lawrence, Jane McKee, and Gale Red

**(Back Row)** Mike Biekert, Dale Rice, Eric Funkhouser, Barb & Jim Lumma, Steve Wilson, John Stanton, and John McKee

*Photographer: Sharon Red*

## **CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ NOVEMBER 18, 2021 Muster (cont'd)**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**CAMP THANKSGIVING CHEER BASKET (Commander Stanton).** J. C. Gideon is making slow recovery progress and is here tonight!! (*applause*) J. C. and JoAnn appreciate the offer of assistance with Thanksgiving but are fine without it. Thanks for thinking of them.

- (Adjutant Red) Anyone know of a family/friends/close neighbors in need for Thanksgiving or Christmas?
  - A member of our camp made a substantial amount. Need to know quickly since Christmas is only a month away. Please let me know ASAP!
- (Johnny Kicklighter) A house burned in Smithton yesterday. Will stop by to see if they're in need and will let Gale know.

**COMPATRIOT ANDY NAVARO (Commander Stanton).** Andy called to say he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer which has metastasized to his bones. He will be undergoing surgery and treatment. He will keep us informed. Keep Andy in your prayers. Sharon will send a camp get-well card.

**2<sup>nd</sup> LT COMMANDER RON LAKIN (Commander Stanton).** Ron sends greetings and said he misses the camp but is still working the evening shift and cannot attend the meeting.

**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF "THE BLUE LIGHT" FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE HUNLEY MUSEUM (Compatriot Johnny Kicklighter).** This issue is all about the finding, bringing, and restoration of the Hunley. Twenty copies are for the taking.

- (Adjutant Red) I did a presentation on the Hunley but this is an update.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**MUSKET AND POWDER SHOOT, SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022 (Steve Wilson).** Janice reached the Sparta POC -- \$10 per shooter. They want a certificate of general liability insurance as a group (can do by individual). Will see if there's another place.

- (Adjutant Red) Steve, check with the Chief of Police in Columbia. They have a range for training that maybe we could use.
- (Compatriot Jim Lumma) Between Alton and Grafton is a private shooting range. Will check into it. I know the Chief of Jerseyville who can help make contact.

### **NEW BUSINESS (Commander Stanton)**

**DECEMBER 16 MEETING (Commander Stanton).**

- Refreshments -- Steve Wilson
- Program Speaker -- Mary Biekert -- Topic: Civil War Santa Claus

**COLLECTING FOR CHURCH POWER FOR CHAPLAIN BIEKERT.** Please put a dollar or two in the dish on the refreshments table. Thanks. (*Collected \$39 -- gave Mike \$20 -- \$19 placed in kitty*)

**REFRESHMENTS:** Compatriot Jim and Barb Lumma provided chili, cheese, ham sandwiches, apple pie, cake, and refreshments. Thanks, Jim and Barb, for taking such good care of us.



**Jim & Barb Lumma**



## CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ NOVEMBER 18, 2021 Muster (cont'd)

### POWERPOINT PRESENTATION “Civil War Quiz about President Jefferson Davis”

By  
Adjutant Gale Red



Everyone appreciated the brain quiz about our Confederate President Davis. Following are a few of the questions asked. *(Answers are found at bottom of page.)*

Did you know?

1. In what year was Jefferson Davis born? 1826, 1808, 1776, 1865
2. In what state was Davis born? IL, CA, KY, MS
3. Which future President was born near Davis? Richard M. Nixon, Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant
4. From which of the following schools did Davis graduate? The United States Military Academy at West Point, the University of Virginia, Harvard University, or Davis never attended college
5. Davis' first wife was the daughter of which American President? Andrew Jackson, Zachary Taylor, John Quincy Adams, James Buchanan
6. In what battle did Davis earn acclaim during the Mexican War? The battle of Buena Vista, the battle of Chapultepec, battle of Hoth, siege of the Alamo
7. What state did Davis represent in the United States Senate from 1847 to 1851 and 1857 to 1861? KY, MS, AR, MA

**BENEDICTION:** Chaplain Biekert

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, December 16, 2021, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church.

- **Presenter:** Lady Mary Biekert **Program:** Civil War Santa Claus.
- **Refreshments:** Compatriot Steve Wilson

Respectfully submitted,

*Gale F. Red*  
Adjutant

Answers: 1. June 3, 1808. 2. Christian County KY, 3. Lincoln, 4. West Point, 5. Zachary Taylor, 6. Battle of Buena Vista, 7. MS

# Christmas in the American Civil War

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Santa Claus distributes gifts to Union troops in Nast's first Santa Claus cartoon (1863)



U.S. President Abraham Lincoln and his son, Thomas "Tad" Lincoln

**Christmas in the American Civil War** (1861–1865) was celebrated in the Confederate States of America (the South) but frowned upon and actually fined in Massachusetts. It was seen as an unnecessary expense and should be a day of fasting by the Puritans and Lutherans. The day did not become an official holiday until five years after the war ended. The war continued to rage on Christmas and skirmishes occurred throughout the countryside. Celebrations for both troops and civilians saw significant alteration. Propagandists, such as Thomas Nast, used wartime Christmases to reflect their beliefs. In 1870, Christmas became an official Federal holiday when President Ulysses S. Grant made it so in an attempt to unite north and south.

## War Activities

On the first Christmas Day during the war, Lincoln hosted a Christmas party during the evening; earlier that day, he spent many hours trying to legitimize the capture of Confederate representatives to Great Britain and France, John Slidell and James Murray Mason (the Trent Affair).

In 1862, the Lincolns visited injured soldiers at the various hospitals. Many Union soldiers in 1863 received gifts "From Tad Lincoln", as Tad had been deeply moved by the plight of Union soldiers when he was taken by his father to see them. The gifts were mostly books and clothing. The most famous Christmas gift Lincoln ever received came on December 22, 1864, when William Tecumseh Sherman announced the capture of Savannah, Georgia.

Military exercises also took place on December 25. In 1861, a blockade runner was caught by the Union navy, and there were two skirmishes in Virginia and Maryland. In 1862, there were several skirmishes, and Confederate general John Hunt Morgan engaged in his famous Christmas Raid in Kentucky. On that day, Morgan's men destroyed everything they could of the improvements that the Louisville & Nashville Railroad had made along 35 miles of track from Bacon Creek to Lebanon Junction. There was also a military execution for desertion that the soldiers were forced to witness. In 1863, Union forces destroyed Confederate salt works at Bear Inlet, North Carolina and, in South Carolina, there were skirmishes between the Union navy and Confederate artillery on the Stono River and near Charleston. In 1864, the Confederates fiercely repelled the Federal assault of sixty warships on Fort Fisher and several skirmishes were fought in the western theater of the war.

## Celebrating



A silk Christmas card, ca. 1860

Soldiers not actively campaigning celebrated Christmas in several ways. Union soldiers would use salt pork and hardtack to decorate Christmas trees. Others were treated to special meals; a captain from Massachusetts treated his soldiers to foods such as turkey, oysters, pies, and apples. However, many soldiers received no special treats or privileges. In one incident on December 25, 1864, 90 Union soldiers from Michigan, led by their captain, dispensed "food and supplies" to poor Georgians, with the mules pulling the carts decorated to resemble reindeer by having tree branches tied to their heads. In some units, celebrating Christmas was not allowed. On December 25, 1862, soldiers of one unit were punished for celebratory gunfire for the holiday, when actually the gunfire was for a funeral salute.

Carols, hymns, and seasonal songs were sung during the period, with some, such as "Deck the Halls", "Oh Come All Ye Faithful", and Mendelssohn's "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (1840), still sung today. American musical contributions to the season include "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (1850), "Jingle Bells" (1857), "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (1857) and "Up on the Housetop" (1860). Although popular in Europe at the time, Christmas cards were scarce in the United States, and would not enjoy widespread use until the 1870s.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote his pacifist poem, "Christmas Bells" on Christmas Day 1864 at the news of his son, Lieutenant Charles Appleton Longfellow, having suffered severe wounds in November during the Mine Run Campaign. The poem was set to the tune "Waltham" by John Baptiste Calkin sometime after 1872 and has since been received into the established library of Christmas carols. The carol does not include two stanzas from the original poem that focused on the war.

For children, Christmas was altered during the war. Presents were fewer, especially in the devastated South. In *We Were Marching on Christmas Day*, author Kevin Rawlings notes that some southern children worried about the Union blockade, and one little girl, Sallie Brock Putnam, plotted the course Santa Claus would have to take to avoid it. Sometimes fathers on both sides were allowed furlough, and children were said to react to their fathers as if seeing "near strangers". Excuses for a lack of Santa included Yankees having shot him.



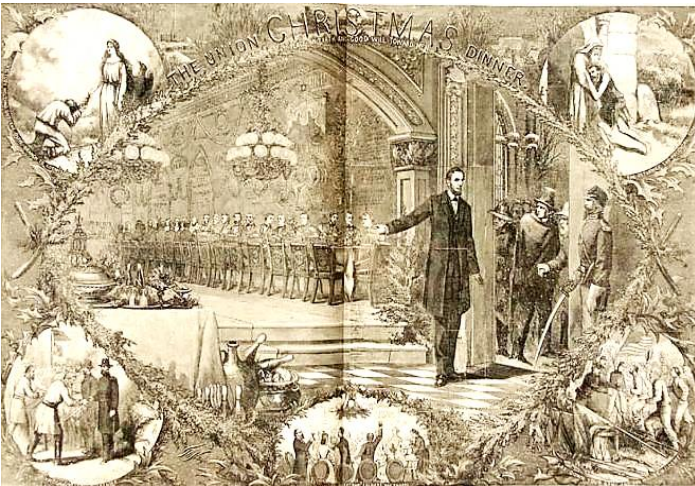
## Nast Cartoons and Other Propaganda



A husband and wife separated by the war  
(Nast, 1862)

Thomas Nast, who used his editorial cartoons to issue Union propaganda, made several illustrations reflecting the war.

The one for Christmas Eve 1862, which ran in the January 1863 issue of Harper's Weekly shows a wife on one side praying through a window in one circle, and in another circle shows her husband on the battlefield, also in prayer. The same issue's cover started how Santa Claus would be perceived by future Americans, as a white-bearded Santa hands such gifts as socks to Union soldiers, while also holding a Jefferson Davis dancing puppet with a rope tied around its neck to imply his execution. The Christmas 1863 issue showed the couple back together.



Lincoln welcomes Confederate soldiers  
(Nast, 1864)

The Nast Christmas cartoon for 1864 was a more conciliatory piece, showing Lincoln inviting Confederate soldiers into a warm lodge hall full of merriment. Lincoln called Nast's use of Santa Claus "the best recruiting sergeant the North ever had."

Nast was not the only one to use Christmas as a propaganda tool. On the Union side, *The New York Herald* also engaged in propaganda. One illustration published in the paper included Santa Claus fuming that he could not reach southern children, due to the northern blockade. On the Confederate side, *The Richmond Examiner* described Santa to its young readers as "a Dutch toy monger" who was a New York/New England "scrub" and Hottentot that had nothing to do with traditional Virginian celebrations of Christmas.

Even though the war was over, Nast had a drawing in the Christmas 1865 issue of Harper's Weekly depicting the heads of several Confederate generals at Ulysses S. Grant's feet in an image that centered on Santa. After the war Nast purposely made the North Pole the home of Saint Nick so that no one else could use him for nationalistic propaganda like Nast himself did.

# *News From Around the Camp*



**GET WELL WISHES AND MANY HEALING PRAYERS  
TO  
COMPATRIOT ANDY NAVARO  
(of Creal Springs IL)**

We pray Andy is blessed with a cure of his cancer and on the road to recovery.  
Sending the healing/saving graces of God to him and his caregiver, Jane  
God bless them both!

*(The camp sent a get-well card.)*



**DECEMBER 17  
HAPPY 39<sup>th</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
TO  
COMPATRIOT/CHAPLAIN MIKE & LADY MARY BIEKERT  
(of Belleville IL)**

Congratulations and best wishes to a wonderful couple who deserves the best. Hope their anniversary celebration is full of fun and happiness. Many more blessed years to them!

*(The camp will send a congratulatory card.)*





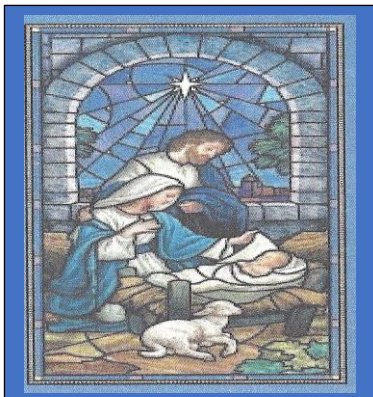
**DECEMBER 19  
HAPPY 23<sup>rd</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
TO  
ADJUTANT GALE & LADY SHARON RED  
(of O'Fallon IL)**

Congratulations and best wishes to a wonderful couple who deserves the best.



**DECEMBER 28  
HAPPY 53<sup>rd</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
TO  
COMPATRIOT DWIGHT & NONA MOORE  
(of The Villages FL)**

Congratulations and best wishes to a wonderful couple who deserves the best.  
Hope their anniversary celebration is full of fun and happiness. Many more blessed years to them!  
*(The camp will send a congratulatory card.)*



**AN ADVENT PRAYER**

Let us lift our voices as we wait the coming Lord.  
Let us lift our voices now and offer up a song.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come into our hearts;  
Come, Lord Jesus, for you our spirits long.

There will be a new Messiah, born a child and yet a King.  
He will bring us joy and gladness; He will give us grace to sing.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come into our hearts;  
Come, Lord Jesus, make the darkness light.

Hope will have a new beginning and a bright new day!  
Jesus, born of Mary, comes, as we prepare the way.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come into our hearts;  
Come, Lord Jesus, be born to us today!

## CAMP 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### DECEMBER

- 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 13 U. S. National Guard Birthday (1636)
- 16 **6:30 CAMP MEETING**
- 18 **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's Eve

### JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 20 **6:30 CAMP MEETING**

### FEBRUARY

- 14 **Valentine's Day**
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 17 **6:30 CAMP MEETING**
- 21 Presidents' Day
- 22 Washington's Birthday



## A Very Happy December Birthday to Camp Dixon Members

- 11 DAVID HAAKE (CHEYENNE WY)
- 26 JACK SANDFORD (Brighton IL)
- 26 ARTHUR TULAK (Ewa Beach HI)
- 28 DREW WILSON (Moline IL)



### CAMP DIXON STAFF

**Commander**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Lt Commander**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Commander**  
**Advisor to the Commander**  
**Adjutant**  
**Asst Adjutant**  
**Chaplain**  
**Program Chairman**  
**Newsletter Editor/Cardmaster**  
**Sgt of Arms**  
**Asst Sgt of Arms**  
**Door Greeter**

John Douglas Stanton  
 Matthew James King  
 Ronald Joseph Lakin  
 John Wayne Kicklighter  
 Gale Franklin Red  
 John Mitchell McKee  
 Walter Michael Biekert  
 Gale Franklin Red  
 Sharon Marie Red  
 Stephen Dean Wilson  
 Eric Jan Funkhouser  
 VACANT

Cell 618-610-6464  
 Cell 510-213-1972  
 Cell 618-420-6358  
 618-257-9079  
 Cell 618-622-8949  
 618-416-5072  
 618-972-8190  
 Cell 618-622-8949  
 Cell 618-979-7853  
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