

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



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

JULY 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA

Please come and celebrate
and bring your friends to the next

CAMP DIXON MEETING

JULY 21, 2022 -- 6:30 pm

Shiloh Assembly of God Church in Shiloh



PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR JULY 21

PRESENTATION

A Religious Experience

PRESENTER

Commander John Stanton

REFRESHMENTS

Lady Janice Beasley

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, a family death, or needs assistance.

Adjutant Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949

Chaplain Mike Biekert, 618-972-8190

ANNUAL DUES (August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023)

DUE by July 15, 2022

SCV Members \$55 (includes \$35 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

Mail to: Adjutant Gale Red
5 Hunters Pt
O'Fallon IL 62269-3133

THANK YOU

If not renewing, inform Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949

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FROM THE COMMANDER

ATTENTION TO ORDERS: Greetings to all faithful members of your Lt. George E. Nixon SCV camp. The officers of your camp hope that all is well with each of you and of your families as well. The nation has just again celebrated the July 4th Independence Day holiday. Americans have been in a celebration mood for this event from the earliest days of the founding. People have celebrated in the same manner of this momentous day when 56 men affixed their names to the famous Declaration of Independence. Fireworks and festivals with much food, drink and fanfare have been the norm. I would like to take you back to the time of which the delegates met to discuss and then ultimately vote to sign this document. The delegates themselves were in no cheerful frame of mind during the deliberations as to whether or not to sign this document that would be an official act of treason against their own government of the British crown. As each delegate approached to cast his state's vote, solemn silence pervaded the occasion. There were no cheers or long self-serving speeches that were recorded that day. When the vote was finished the pall of a gallows atmosphere loomed large over the assembly. Almost to a man the delegates had remarked to each other that they had each one just signed their own suicide pact. From Virginia, the delegate, Benjamin Harrison, tried to inject a little gallows humor to the affair. He being quite portly and overweight cheerfully proclaimed that since he was of such a physical condition that he would at least die faster from the hangman than the rest of the signers who held to a skinny body type. The signers of this document immediately knew that they were risking life, loss of property and wealth and the possible impoverishment of the wives and children. The delegate and signer from Maryland, the catholic, Charles Carroll, risked even more. He stood as one of the wealthiest individuals in the 13 colonies. When he walked to the table and signed the papers, Benjamin Franklin leaned over to another delegate and whispered, "There go millions." William Floyd of New York was the first to suffer loss. The British army quickly took control of his estate and for the next seven years his property served as a cavalry barracks. It was not until the year 1791 that this date in American history was the expression "Independence Day" recorded. On July 4th 1811, the signer Benjamin Rush informed John Adams that story of what the signers had risked and endured had been overlooked. He said, "The military men ran away with all the glory of this day." I can still remember being taught this account of these men and their courage and sacrifice that they bore for the actions they took for America's founding. One can only lament the sad and scandalous failure of a nation's school and educational system that deliberately omits such an heroic lesson of its own heroes. I hope that each member of our assembly will faithfully retell to your children and grandchildren these stories of our sacred past history. I believe that is what we are gathered into the SCV for too. Until our muster in July, GOD Bless all.

Confederately,
John Stanton

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ JUNE 16, 2022 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp # 1962, S.C.V., conducted their monthly muster at 6:45 p.m. on June 16, 2022 at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church, Shiloh IL; this being the 4th Muster of the year 2022.

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. Commander Stanton 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 (10)

Those present included: Mike Biekert, Eric Funkhouser, Johnny Kicklighter, Matthew King, John & Jane McKee, Ralph Oelschlager, Sharon Red, John Stanton, Phil Tate,

APPROVAL OF CAMP MEETING MINUTES, MAY 19, 2022. The minutes were approved by a motion to accept by John McKee and seconded by Ralph Oelschlager with a unanimous all-voices-agreed vote.



GROUP PHOTO

(L-R) (Front Row) Jane McKee, Ralph Oelschlager, and Eric Funkhouser

(Back Row) John McKee, Phil Tate, John Stanton, Johnny Kicklighter, Mike Biekert, and Matt King

Photographer: Sharon Red

FINANCIAL REPORT \$6,073.74. The report was approved by a motion to accept by John McKee and seconded by Johnny Kicklighter with a unanimous all-voices-agreed vote.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS

COLLECTING FOR CHURCH POWER FOR CHAPLAIN BIEKERT. Sharon Red passed the hat. (Collected \$33 – gave Mike \$20 -- \$13 to the kitty).

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ JUNE 16, 2022 Muster (cont'd)

NEW BUSINESS

SMITHTON ANNUAL VILLAGE HOMECOMING PARADE, JULY 2022. Cancelled for this year.
FREEBURG HOMECOMING PARADE, AUGUST 20, 2022 – ANY INTEREST?

- (Sharon Red) Took a head count and those (9) who are planning to attend are:
 - Johnny & Chris Kicklighter (Johnny will obtain his son's truck/float and be the driver)
 - John & Jane McKee (John offered to be our official photographer)
 - Phil Tate (Dianne?)
 - Eric Funkhouser
 - Matt King (Andi?)
 - Mike/Mary Biekert
- Will pass count to Gale. He said he needs 10 sign-up's before notifying Freeburg of our activity. We received 9.
 - **ATTENTION: Folks who could not attend tonight's camp meeting -- if you plan to go to the Freeburg parade on August 20, please notify Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949.**

LEE/JACKSON DINNER SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2022 AT THIS CHURCH.

PROJECTOR SCREEN FOR THE CAMP (SHARON RED). John McKee gave us an extra P-Jing Projector Screen with Stand like the one he lends us during many presentations. Instead of paying him, he requested we give \$50 to the Shiloh Assembly of God Church. Passed the word to the Treasurer/Gale Red to issue a check. For now, it's being stored at the Red house.

REFRESHMENTS: Asst Adjutant John & Lady Jane McKee brought homemade soup (aka, jambalaya), cornbread, salad, and sweet tea. Thanks, John & Jane, for taking such good care of us.



John & Jane McKee

PRESENTATION: Powerpoint program on "Varina Davis, First Lady of the Confederacy" by Lady Jane McKee (accompanied by her husband, Asst Adjutant John McKee).

The presentation was about the wife of Jefferson Davis, Varina Anne Banks Howell Davis (1826-1906). Jane McKee gave voice to Mrs. Davis, reflecting her experience and views, while her husband worked as narrator, providing context of the events in her life. Slides were presented of the places, people and items associated with her life, but not as briefing charts.

Varina Davis was born on May 7, 1826 to William Howell and Margaret Kempe. Her father came from New Jersey, the son of the governor of that state, and related to George Read, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He settled in Natchez, MS, after serving during the War of 1812. The Howells were Welsh in origin, while the Kempes came from the backwoods of Virginia. The oldest child surviving to adulthood, she had to support the family, whether helping to raise her younger siblings, or sewing and mending clothes, or cooking the family meal. Through the good fortune provided by relatives back in New Jersey, she was able to attend two terms at Madame Grelaud's French Academy for Girls in Philadelphia, PA, which provided her a formal education (not to mention the private tutoring that Judge George Winchester provided in exchange for lodging at their home).



Lady Jane McKee

The family were considered of genteel poverty - despite her father's attempts at various businesses, poor management or the Panic of 1837 had kept the family from enjoying the status in local society. She was crowned as the Queen of the May, as well as a tomboy in playing with her brothers and sisters in the woods around her home, The Briars. But coming from a family of limited means while being outspoken on her views did not make her an object of courtship among the local suitors. However, she was invited to stay at the plantation of the Joseph Davis, and there met his widowed brother, Jefferson.

Here her wit and charm appealed to him, and they were married within a year. While she was left running the plantation, overseeing its slaves both in the house and out in the fields, her husband ran successfully for Congress, resigning to lead a regiment of volunteers (The Mississippi Rifles) during the Mexican War, and then fill an unexpired term as Senator for his state. Rather than run for Senator at the end of the term, he tried to run for Governor, but lost. However, in 1853, newly elected president Franklin Pierce appointed Davis as Secretary of War, and under that circumstance, Varina relocated to the nation's capitol and enjoyed the amenities of urban life. She became a gracious hostess and made friends the various regions of the country. She noted that her husband was happiest when working various public work projects. In 1855, her husband became Senator again, and they continued to live there until 1861.

CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ JUNE 16, 2022 Muster (cont'd)

When several states seceded and formed a new nation, Jefferson went to Montgomery, AL, seeking a field command. Instead, they elected provisional President of the Confederate States. She left Washington for Montgomery, taking up residence at the first White House of the Confederacy, until May, when they removed to Richmond, VA. However, she had mixed feelings. She did not want to abandon friends she made from up North, she believed in the role of slavery in Southern economics and States' Rights, but thought the march to war was folly and likely to end in failure. But she remained loyal to her husband, working to serve as the hostess necessary to support his role, despite the suspicion and dislike from Richmond society. Even her olive complexion conflicted with their ideals of Southern womanhood.

Tragedy would strike the household with the accidental death of their son Joseph in 1864, and the Dahlgren Raid later that year would strike fear mainly from the papers retrieved from Ulric Dahlgren, someone she recalled as a nice young boy. To counter this is the joy of the birth of their daughter "Winnie" who would later be known as the "Daughter of the Confederacy."

In March 1865, while anticipating the fall of Richmond to Union forces, she prepared and left with the children. After a few weeks she would meet up with her husband, separate, and then meet again. While encamped at Irwinville, GA, they thought that bushwhackers were trying to raid the camp for the Confederate Treasury (which was somewhere else); instead, it was Union cavalry seek them and the gold, even firing on each other for the chance to collect it for themselves. As Davis was trying to escape, a trooper noted his boots and was about to shoot him when Varina interceded. The two would argue whether risking death or staying alive was preferable.

Her husband was held in Savannah, GA, until others were brought - Clement Clay and her brother, Jefferson D. Howell. The men were shipped north to be imprisoned, while she was kept at a hotel in Savannah. She was stripped searched. Later, she was granted parole. She had arranged for her children, mother, and her siblings (who were not under Union custody) to live in Montreal, Canada East, and had been allowed to visit them.

Her husband was not faring well. He was not allowed visitors or even legal counsel. His wife was not allowed to visit, nor was he allowed to correspond. Only the Reverend Dr. Minnigerode was allowed access for spiritual comfort. Union Major General Nelson Miles was his jailkeeper, and showed extreme prejudice against him. Even Union Surgeon Dr. Craven was appalled and even published a book detailing Davis' trials.

Varina was not one to give up, and played the lessons of social politicking that she had learned a decade earlier. She worked to show his humanity, she gave interviews and talks, she engaged her Northern friends for support. She even lobbied President Andrew Johnson to improve his conditions. The immediate effect was to improve his lot, allowing him regular quarters to stay in, his wife and daughter Winnie to live with them, receive visitors. Later, he was given bond to await his treason trial in Richmond, VA, and no longer under guard. Eventually, President Johnson issued a proclamation which pardoned him and others of treason. They immediately left for Montreal without delay, and then relocated to England.

While Jefferson was trying to set up a business venture, Varina kept the family together. Her wish was that they live together as a family and not be involved in politics. The plantations needed rebuilding and this was a source of income, though the conditions of employment had changed. Joseph was overseeing both his - Hurricane - and Jefferson's - Brierfield. But Joseph died and Jefferson had to return to handle the estate. Only months later did the family return, only encountering tales that her husband was in a train's private car with a woman not his wife. While its veracity is highly debatable, Davis sought to kindle a relationship with Clement Clay's wife.

Jefferson would continue one venture after another, but only accepting positions suitable for a former president and offered to him. Finally, he decided to become a writer, and with the support of Sarah Dorsey, and successful writer, owner of Beauvoir, and a former classmate of Varina. However, Varina would decline invitations to come to Beauvoir until after Sarah's death. In the meantime, she had to deal with the deaths of her sons and brothers. Now, Jefferson was the last man in her life. She accepted the invitation and come to live there. Her daughter Margaret was already married, and young Winnie was attending a private school in Germany.

Varina helped Jefferson with his book, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, and later with *A Short History of the Confederate States of America*. After his death in 1889, she wrote a memoir about her late husband. She settled the affairs of the Beauvoir and Brierfield estates, and chose to relocate to New York City - that was where writers went. She was hired as a columnist of Joseph Pulitzer, whose wife was a cousin of Jefferson Davis, and Winnie became a novelist in her own right. However, Winnie died in 1898.

As she wrote, she once again enjoyed the city life that she could not find in the South. She was offered places to live for free, but her experience with Richmond would discourage her from pursuing her writing career. She was active in New York life, becoming one of the Southern Carpetbaggers who settled there and were active in the city's cultural life. Like other well-off New Yorkers, she lived in a series of resident of hotels, and enjoyed carriage rides in Central Park.

Very late in life, she stopped writing and enjoyed watching the city life beneath her apartment windows. Contracting pneumonia, she contacted her daughter Margaret, informing her about her pending death, admonishing her not to wear black, as doing so would make her unhealthy and her husband depressed. She died in 1906. She would have a large funeral procession in New York City. Her casket was taken to Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery, to be buried alongside her husband and children. Margaret and her family lived near Colorado Springs, CO, and through her are all descendants of Jefferson and Varina are traced.

BENEDICTION: Chaplain Biekert

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

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 19, 2022, at the Shiloh Assembly of God Church.

- **Presenter:** Commander John Stanton **Program:** A Religious Experience
- **Refreshments:** Lady Janice Beasley

Gale F. Red
Gale F. Red
Adjutant

What happened on July 4, 1863 in the Civil War?

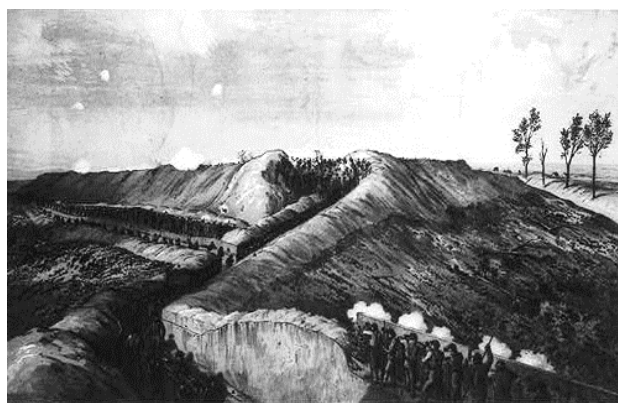
July 4, 1863 was the turning point in the Civil War. Two important, famous, well-documented battles resulted in Confederate defeats: the Battle of Gettysburg (Pennsylvania), July 1-3, and the Fall of Vicksburg (Mississippi), July 4.

The **Siege of Vicksburg** (May 18-July 4, 1863) was a decisive Union victory during the American Civil War (1861-65) that divided the confederacy and Union General Ulysses S. Grant (1822-85).



The thirteenth, fifteenth, and seventeenth corps in Union trench under command of General U.S. Grant. Courtesy Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-USZC4-1754.

Siege of Vicksburg. The fight in the crater of Fort Hill after the Union explosion June 25, 1863. Courtesy Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-5558.



Vicksburg During the Civil War (1862-1863): A Campaign; A Siege

by Michael B. Ballard / April 2004

<https://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/issue/vicksburg-during-the-civil-war-1862-1863>

When Vicksburg fell to Union troops on July 4, 1863, the Confederacy lost its last chance to control the Mississippi River.

Control of the Mississippi River during the American Civil War was an economic and psychological factor for both the North and the South. For many years, the river had served as a vital waterway for midwestern farmers shipping their goods to the eastern states by way of the Gulf of Mexico. The farmers, along with politicians and merchants, did not like the idea of the river being closed because of Confederate artillery looming along the banks where the “Father of Waters” flowed through the Confederacy.

For the Confederacy, control of the lower Mississippi River was vital to the union of its states. The portion of Louisiana west of the river plus Texas and Arkansas formed the Transmississippi which held manpower and materiel that the rest of the southern military machine needed.

Vicksburg was “the key,” as U. S. President Abraham Lincoln termed it, to the Union gaining control of the river. Lincoln looked at a map of the Mississippi River and saw that its hairpin turn in front of Vicksburg, which sat high on bluffs above the river, made boats traveling in both directions vulnerable to artillery fire from the Confederate batteries on the shore line and on the high bluffs.

A campaign -- The effort of United States troops to capture Vicksburg took over a year, from the spring of 1862 to the summer of 1863, and it involved thousands of soldiers and caused much bloodshed.

The Vicksburg campaign can best be understood when divided into four phases. First came the spring 1862 upriver attack by Union gunboats. Then came General U. S. Grant's fall campaign, which involved the invasion of north Mississippi and an attempt to flank the Confederates with General William T. Sherman's Mississippi River expedition to a point just north of Vicksburg called Chickasaw Bayou. Grant then launched his spring 1863 campaign of diversions that eventually allowed him to get his army across the river south of Vicksburg. The final phase included Grant's hard-hitting overland campaign into central Mississippi and his siege operations at Vicksburg.

In the spring of 1862 during the initial Union attempt to take Vicksburg, women in Vicksburg got their first taste of war and often found themselves in harm's way. While men fought the campaign, most Vicksburg women left to stay with acquaintances in safer areas, or to camp out in Warren County hills beyond the range of Union guns. The initial Federal attempt proved more inconvenient than dangerous for most Vicksburg women. When the Union navy gave up and departed, life returned to normal.

Life was hard for African Americans. While many were freed by the Union army, they were pressed into service in the summer of 1862 to build canals to bypass the Mississippi River. The work was hot, many became sick, and the canals were unsuccessful. Eventually, formerly enslaved men joined the Union army as part of the United States Colored Troops.

A siege -- But tough times lay ahead. During the night of April 30-May 1, 1863, General Grant crossed his army from Louisiana into Mississippi, and citizens in Vicksburg were on the verge of encountering Union troops.

Grant won the Battle of Port Gibson on May 1 and moved quickly inland, marching northeast toward Edwards and the Southern Railroad of Mississippi, the vital supply line that connected Vicksburg with Jackson and points east. Meanwhile, from May 12 to May 17, Union forces won a battle at Raymond, captured Jackson, and defeated General John C. Pemberton's main army at Champion Hill and the Big Black River. Pemberton retreated into Vicksburg and Grant followed.

So war on a large scale came to Vicksburg again, with the Union army arched around the city from north to east to south and the Union navy on the river. As Pemberton's dispirited army came into Vicksburg, many women, children, and other noncombatants tried to leave, but with Confederate troops retreating into Vicksburg, and most of the roads out of town leading east into Grant's army, many had to return.

Grant's army tried twice to overwhelm Pemberton's army, and, having failed, settled in for a siege that ultimately lasted 47 days. The siege had various impacts on the lives of people caught in the city. Black refugees filled "vacant houses, churches, sheds, and caves" crowded together, most of them sick and without food or medicine.

Upper-class White women often went from comfortable circumstances to deprivation and humiliation, lower-class White females went from not having much to having even less, and enslaved women went from a structured existence to uncertainty.

Whatever their station, the women who stayed in their hometown rather than escaping before Grant arrived struggled to survive. The women had to look out for themselves and try to keep their lives going while the war whirled around them. Their story is one of courage, sacrifice, and persistence. Their surviving letters and diaries tell stories of both physical and mental terror. Their story is one of courage, sacrifice, and persistence.

The citizens -- Diarist Emma Balfour of Vicksburg worried about trapped citizens like herself and her physician husband. Between Grant's army and Union gunboats she wondered, "What is to become of all the living things in this place when the boats commend shelling--God only knows--shut up as in a trap--no ingress or egress--and thousands of women and children," who had earlier sought safety in Vicksburg. Food supplies would not last long. Confederate commanders urged citizens to occupy caves built the previous summer and to dig more.

Emma Balfour wrote of the early fighting: "I was up in my room sewing and praying in my heart . . . when Nancy [her servant girl] rushed up, actually pale . . ." Nancy warned of the falling shells, which sent people "rushing into caves."

"Just as we got in, several . . . [shells] exploded . . . just over our heads, and at the same time two riders were killed in the valley. . . . As all this rushed over me and the sense of suffocation from being underground, the certainty that there was no way of escape, that we were hemmed in, caged:--for one moment my heart seemed to stand still. Nearly all the families in town spent the night in their caves."

For civilians trapped in the city, the siege proved to be a time of hourly uncertainty. Between brief lulls came terror and extreme mental stress. Caves provided the only security. The soil around Vicksburg was mostly easy to dig, yet firm enough so that caves could be dug into the sides of the hills without great fear of cave-ins. People carefully selected cave sites in order to minimize risks of being hit with artillery shells. Both White citizens and their enslaved laborers worked with shovels, though most of the work fell on the latter.

The caves could be simple one-room abodes or multi-room suites. They contained parlors and bedrooms that were furnished with items from home; most cooking was done outside the main cave entrance. Sometimes there were connecting openings from one family cave to another for escape purposes in case an artillery shell caused the earth to crumble.

Cave dweller Mary Loughborough penned vivid scenes of her experiences:

“Our policy in building had been to face directly away from the river. All caves were prepared, as near as possible, in this manner. As the fragments of shells continued with the same impetus after the explosion, in but one direction, onward, they were not likely to reach us, fronting in this manner with their course. On one occasion, I was reading in safety, I imagined, when the unmistakable whirring of Parrott shells told us that the battery we so much feared had opened from the entrenchments. I ran to the entrance to call the servants in; and immediately after they entered, a shell struck the earth a few feet from the entrance, burying itself without exploding. I ran to the little dressing room, and could hear them striking around us on all sides. One fell near the cave entrance, and a servant boy grabbed it and threw it outside; it never exploded. And so the weary days went on . . . when we could not tell in what terrible form death might come to us before the sun went down.”

While some women coped with caves, others braved the streets to help out at hospitals. One such volunteer nurse earned the admiration of a pastor, who noted her dedication: “Week after week, with untiring diligence would she nurse & feed this young man. Now her cheek becomes pale from constant labor & her strength evidently begins to fail.”

Women, like all others in besieged Vicksburg, civilian and soldier alike, suffered also from a lack of food and good drinking water. By the time Pemberton surrendered his army, there were still ample supplies in town, but rations had been cut severely in an effort to make food last longer. Women, as did Confederate soldiers in the trenches, lost weight, became dehydrated, and suffered from severe malnutrition.



Currier & Ives hand-colored lithograph of the siege and capture of Vicksburg, July 4, 1863. Courtesy Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-USZC2-2998.

When the 47-day siege ended on July 4, 1863, Vicksburg women shed tears, but many remained defiant. Margaret Lord, wife of a local minister who served in a Mississippi regiment, refused to be disheartened. She turned down the offer of a hated Yankee to help find supplies for her family.

Many Confederate soldiers who survived the war eventually came to terms with the bitterness of the harsh four years, and they attended joint reunions with former foes. The men who had fought each other shared a common legacy of experiences, a legacy that healed psychological scars wrought by the horrors of battle.

For women in Mississippi, and elsewhere in the South, forgiving attitudes did not come that easy. They worked to make sure that succeeding generations of southerners did not forget what they had suffered. Though both armies brought war and deprivation to their worlds, these women blamed the North for the war and honored Confederate soldiers. They were the driving force behind the post-war Lost Cause movement that celebrated positive memories of the Confederacy.

Michael B. Ballard, Ph.D., is archivist in Mississippi State University's Mitchell Memorial Library. He is the author of five books, including A Long Shadow: Jefferson Davis and the Final Days of the Confederacy, and Pemberton: A Biography.

GOOD GOVERNMENT IN 2021 | VETERANS' BENEFITS

UNLIKELY HERO

John L. Burns, veteran of multiple wars, gets Lincoln's attention

J. MARK POWELL
InsideSources.com

When Abraham Lincoln stepped off the train at the little depot, a swarm of local dignitaries, military officers and gawkers was there to greet him. After all, it wasn't every day that the president of the United States called on a small town in rural Pennsylvania — in wartime, no less.

But this was no typical small town. It had just witnessed the largest battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere. And Lincoln was there to help dedicate Gettysburg's new military cemetery. Invited almost as an afterthought, he had been asked to make "a few appropriate remarks." But before he would deliver what many consider the greatest speech in history, there was someone he wanted to see. Jaws fell open when the president asked to be taken to see John L. Burns.

Many small communities have a town character, someone whose quirkiness stands apart from the pack. Burns was Gettysburg's eccentric.

Seventy years old when Lincoln visited in November 1863, Burns' life had been far from dull. He had fought in the War of 1812 as a young man, volunteered for the Mexican-American War in middle age and even tried to enlist again in the Civil War at age 67. (The Union let him drive a wagon for a while to appease him.)

When the Battle of Gettysburg began on July 1, 1863, Burns gave directions to Union troops as they streamed into town. His fighting blood now up, he impulsively grabbed his rifle and fell in alongside them dressed in



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

John L. Burns stands in a portrait with a musket fitted with a bayonet. Burns, a veteran of two wars, was a civilian who fought in the Battle of Gettysburg with Union troops.

his black swallowtail coat and a stovepipe hat that had seen better days.

He fought with the 150th Pennsylvania Infantry. At first jeered by the soldiers, they quickly came to admire his bravery. Burns fired away until he was wounded and then reportedly said, "Tell my old woman to fetch the wagon and get me home. I can't move." As the story goes, his wife, Barbara, answered, in part, "Devil take him! The old fool, going off as

old as he is, getting holes in his best clothes. And he won't be able to work for two months."

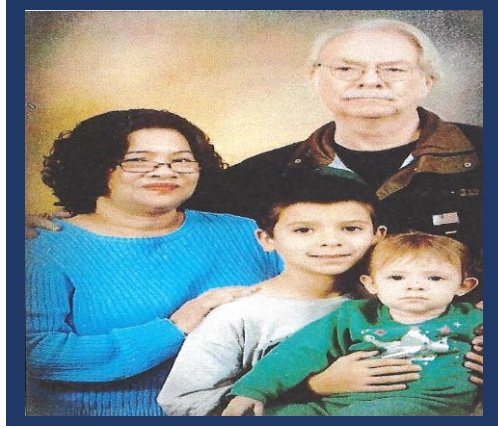
Nobody was laughing four months later when Burns, now nationally famous as a hero of Gettysburg, strolled arm-in-arm with President Lincoln through downtown to attend a special church service together.

Lincoln's gesture was meant to convey an important point: All military veterans deserve our respect, regardless of their rank — or age.

About this series: "Good Government in 2021" is a monthly series exploring specific aspects of government, how they were envisioned. InsideSources.com in an exclusive partnership with Lee Enterprises. InsideSources.com is a leading provider of in-depth reporting and

Submitted by JoAnn Gideon, wife of J. C. Gideon, who said this "is such a funny part of history."

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CAMP



**Congratulations and Best Wishes
to
Compatriot David and Boonthom Runells
on their
47th Wedding Anniversary
July 15
(*The camp sent a congratulatory card.*)**



**Congratulations and Best Wishes
to
Compatriot Mark and Kelli Morgan
on their
14th Wedding Anniversary
July 19
(*The camp sent a congratulatory card.*)**

CAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS (2022)



JULY

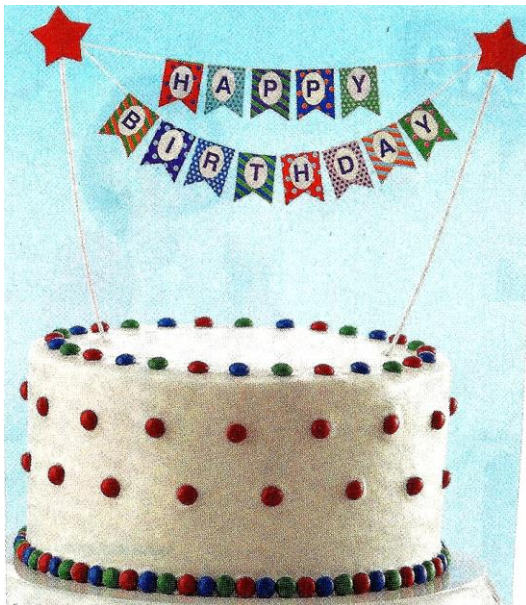
- 4 Independence Day
- 21 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 27 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

AUGUST

- 4 U. S. Coast Guard Birthday (1790)
- 18 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 20 5:00 Freeburg Homecoming Parade

SEPTEMBER

- 2 V-J Day (1945)
- 5 Labor Day
- 15 6:30 CAMP MEETING
- 17 Lee/Jackson Dinner (church)
- 17 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 18 U. S. A. F. Birthday (1947)
- 22 First Day of Autumn



MANY HAPPY RETURNS CAMP DIXON MEMBERS

JULY

- 2 SHARON RED (O'Fallon IL)
- 4 BOB MARLEY (Flora IL)
- 4 ERIC FUNKHOUSER (Belleville IL)
- 7 STEVEN PIKE (Swanton VT)
- 17 MARY BIEKERT (Belleville IL)
- 28 DAVID McAULEY (Carbondale IL)
- 31 BOB HERR (Mt. Vernon IL)



CAMP DIXON STAFF

Commander
1st Lt Commander
2nd Lt Commander
Advisor to the Commander
Adjutant
Asst Adjutant
Cardmaster
Chaplain
Program Chairman
Newsletter Editor
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
Sharon Marie Red
Walter Michael Biekert
Gale Franklin Red
Sharon Marie Red
Stephen Dean Wilson
Eric Jan Funkhouser
VACANT

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Cell 510-213-1972
Cell 618-420-6358
618-257-9079
Cell 618-622-8949
618-416-5072
Cell 618-979-7853
618-972-8190
Cell 618-622-8949
Cell 618-979-7853
Cell 314-497-0798
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