

**Site of the Dickson House
June 15, 1864**

Late in the day General Butterfield's division of the Federal XX Army Corps fought past the Dickson House intending to assault the Confederate entrenchments at Gilgal Church, 300 yards south of this point near the intersection of Acworth-Due West and Kennesaw-Due West roads. High ground was gained 50 yards north of the roads, but the assault on the defenses was not made due to darkness and Confederate resistance. In this action the house was heavily damaged by artillery and rifle fire but remained standing. Referred to as the "Dixon House" on 1864 military maps, it served as headquarters for Gen. Joseph Hooker on June 17, 1864.

Text written by Dr. Phil Secrist

References and footnotes provided by Barbara Flack, April 26, 2007

Sources – Site of the Dickson House

- Davis, George B., Major, U.S. Army, Leslie J. Perry, Civilian Expert, Joseph W. Kirkley, Civilian Expert, Capt. Calvin D. Cowles, Compiler. *The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War*, reprint, New York: Fairfax Press, 1983. (This volume was originally published as *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891-1895.)
- Kerksis, Sydney C., compiler. *The Atlanta Papers*. Dayton, OH: Press of Morningside Bookshop, 1980.
- Kirby, Joe. *Rediscovered Memoir Adds to Urgency of Effort to Save Battle-Scarred House*. Civil War News, Jan. 2006. <http://www.civilwarnews.com/archive/articles/dicksonhouse.htm>.
- U.S. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion, A compilation of the official records of the union and Confederate armies*. Series I, Volume XXXVIII. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891. (Information obtained from this source will have the designation of “OR”.)
- Willie Johnson (Historian at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park), conversation with Barbara Flack at the research library, April 11, 2007.

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Late in the day General Butterfield's division of the Federal XX Army Corps fought past the Dickson House² intending to assault the Confederate entrenchments at Gilgal Church, 300 yards south of this point near the intersection of Acworth-Due West and Kennesaw-Due West roads.³ High ground was gained 50 yards north of the roads⁴, but the assault on the defenses was not made due to darkness and Confederate resistance⁵. In this action the house was heavily damaged by artillery and rifle fire but remained standing.⁶ Referred to as the "Dixon House" on 1864 military maps⁷, it served as headquarters for Gen. Joseph Hooker on June 17, 1864⁸.

¹ Davis, Plate LIX, map 3 (which is a compilation map showing the 3rd Epoch of the Atlanta Campaign), shows the name "Dixon" on the east side of Sandtown Road. The house that is the subject of this commemoration was on the west side of the road. A couple of factors might explain this discrepancy. Kerksis, Page 839, stated that the campaign was one long-running fight and reports were often not made until after it was over. If someone wrote a report about the location of the house in hindsight, they might have made an error in stating its location. In OR, Part IV, 501 Butterfield sent a message to Hooker complaining that various roads and paths made by the enemy obscured things and that he was trying to find someone who could point out the roads so they didn't end up going in a wrong direction. Also, Kerksis, 838 referenced another north/south road, of which traces were still visible. Again if someone made a report in hindsight, confusion stemming from the conditions of the roads or the existence of multiple roads could have led to an inaccuracy in the report, which in turn might have been transmitted to the engineers and mapmakers.

² Kerksis, 834. Although the house is not mentioned, the route from Mt. Olivet Church to the north, heading south down Sandtown Road to Gilgal Church would have taken them past the house.

³ Kerksis, 834; Davis, Plate LIX, map 3 (location of church site).

⁴ Kerksis, 838; Johnson also verified the terrain matches this description.

⁵ Kerksis, 835; OR, Part IV, 484.

⁶ Other than what has already been stated in these footnotes, I was not able to find a Civil War era reference that actually mentions the house, therefore I did not find information from that time period that speaks to this damage. However information may exist that can shed some light on this. In the Kirby article an unpublished memoir called "Memory of the Confederate War" was mentioned. The memoir was dictated in 1935 by Eliza Dickson Helton who was 14 at the time of the battle. It discussed a friendly-fire accident that led to the house being damaged and bloodstains on the floorboards. If Dr. Secrist has a copy of this memoir, or has access to it, this portion of the text may be verifiable from that source.

⁷ Davis, Plate LIX, map 3.

⁸ I was not able to substantiate this part of the statement. The closest I could find was OR, Part IV, 522 where Hooker sent a message to Brig. Gen. Whipple on June 19th in which the header of the message stated his location as being "Near Dixon's House".