

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES – DAVID T. DIXON

Two Lines (under 140 characters)

David Dixon earned his M.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts. His articles appear in scholarly journals and magazines.

Short

David Dixon earned his M.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts. His articles appear in numerous scholarly journals and magazines. David Dixon hosts “B-List History,” a website celebrating obscure characters and their amazing stories. www.davidtdixon.com.

Medium

David Dixon likes nothing better than spending hours dumpster-diving in archives and throughout cyberspace. Dixon earned his M.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts in 2003. He has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and magazines. Most focus on black history and on Union sympathizers in the Civil War South. His short biography of U.S. and Confederate congressman Augustus R. Wright appeared in The Georgia Historical Quarterly in 2010. He remains intrigued by the problem of defining “loyalty” in the context of civil war. David Dixon hosts “B-List History,” a website celebrating obscure characters and their amazing stories. www.davidtdixon.com.

Long

David Dixon likes nothing better than spending hours dumpster-diving in archives and throughout cyberspace. His passion is obscure characters that are caught up in the sweep of history’s great events. Rather than finding yet another angle of attack in tackling the biographies of Lincoln, Washington, and other “A-List” historical figures, Dixon chooses to focus on what he calls “B-list” subjects who, although they may not be well-known to most readers, have something important to tell us nonetheless. Some of these “B-List” characters end up with “A-List” media platforms when their sagas are entrusted to master researchers and storytellers such as like Laura Hillenbrand and Erik Larson. Dixon believes that all historians should aspire to their recipe of thoughtful scholarship combined with beautiful prose.

Dixon was hooked on history at an early age, when his father gave him a copy of Northwest Passage, by Kenneth Roberts. Throughout his life, he has served on the boards of historical societies, organized local preservation efforts, and helped create a maritime museum. After more than twenty years in business management with Fortune 500 corporations, Dixon went back to school and earned his M.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts in 2003. Since then he has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and magazines. Most focus on black history and on Union sympathizers in the Civil War South. His short biography of U.S. and Confederate congressman Augustus R. Wright appeared in The Georgia

Historical Quarterly in 2010. He remains intrigued by the vexing problem of defining “loyalty” in the context of the American Civil War.

His interest in Civil War allegiance led David to the fascinating life story of Charles Anderson, a slaveholder who sacrificed everything to save the Union. When he learned that Anderson’s long-lost oration that followed Lincoln’s address at Gettysburg had been uncovered in a remote part of Wyoming, Dixon knew that he had a compelling story worth of a book-length project. For the past several years, the author has been retracing Anderson’s incredible odyssey through some of the most dramatic events of the period. In his digging, he made an exciting discovery of his own: some early drafts of Anderson’s Gettysburg speech are still in private hands. Despite the innumerable books and articles on Lincoln’s iconic address, fresh surprises still await the diligent and curious researcher.

David Dixon hosts “B-List History,” a website celebrating lesser-known characters and their amazing stories. www.davidtdixon.com.

Speaker Introduction

Our speaker, David Dixon, earned his M.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts in 2003. He has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and magazines. Most focus on black history and on Union sympathizers in the Civil War South. His short biography of U.S. and Confederate congressman Augustus R. Wright appeared in The Georgia Historical Quarterly in 2010. He remains intrigued by the problem of defining “loyalty” in the context of civil war.

David’s book is titled: The Lost Gettysburg Address: The Civil War Odyssey of Charles Anderson. Today David will explain why Anderson, a slave owner, sacrificed nearly everything to help save the Union and how he ended up sharing the spotlight with Lincoln at Gettysburg in November, 1863.

Please welcome David Dixon.

Five Little-Known Facts about David Dixon

1. He entered college with the intention of becoming a professional baseball announcer.
2. He is addicted to Trader Joe’s Blueberry Pomegranate sherbet.
3. He is so competitive in Scrabble that his wife will no longer play with him.
4. His first concert was, regrettably, Mac Davis with The Captain and Tennille.
5. He once convinced his baby sister that she had been adopted from a fire station.