



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

THE OFFICIAL DISPATCH FOR THE MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920
KANSAS DIVISION, SCV • JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

Volume 25, No. 3

March 2025

Major Thomas J Key Camp Officers



Commander - **Rick McPherson**



1st Lt. Commander- **Dan Peterson**



2nd Lt. Commander- **Larry Sumner**



Adjutant- **Walt Schley**



Chaplin - **Walt McKenzie**

THE CONFEDERATE CORNER

By Rick McPherson

Greetings to all Compatriots and friends of the **Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920**. Our March meeting was our 257th and attended by 20 members and 7 guests.



< The Key Presentation was given by **Compatriot Lane Smith** detailing the D-Day Invasion at Normandy.

Lane's presentation included many pictures that he took personally during his visit there in late 2024.



< Three Past Commanders of the Key Camp were on hand to present new **Commander Rick McPherson**, his Commander's medal. From left are **Matt Sewell, Jim Thornton, Walt Schley** and **Rick McPherson**. Our 1st Commander was **Jim "Spike" Speicher** (deceased).



< **Commander McPherson** presented **Past Commander Walt Schley** a framed photograph from the recent Lee-Jackson Banquet. The photo was of all who attended the 2024 banquet, which annually celebrates two of the SCV's most revered Generals of the Confederacy.

News from the Meeting



The Key Camp welcomed two future Compatriots in **Larry Meacham** and **Shayne Henre** who both submitted their applications for membership. Both men were introduced to the Camp and gave brief bio's on their Confederate ancestor.



Past Commander Matt Sewell, assisted by his daughter **Reagan**, gave a brief history of the Confederate Flags in honor of Confederate Flag Month.



Compatriot Josh Young was presented the **War Service Medal** by **Past Commander Walt Schley**. The medal is presented to SCV Compatriots who served in the Military.



Compatriot Lane Smith was announced as being nominated for the prestigious Heritage Defense Medal for 2025. This is in recognition for Lane's continuous contributions to promoting the history of the South through his various portrayals.



A special thank you goes out to **Compatriot Jerry Coffelt** for all his photo's submitted for both the newsletter and the Key Camp's Facebook site.



A calendar for 2025 Key Camp activities is included in this newsletter. Please print it out or make note of dates of interest and participation.



Registrations are now open for the June 21st, **Kansas Division Reunion** to be held in Topeka, KS. The fee is \$30 and can be sent to **Adjutant Walt Schley**. Please fill out the registration form found below in this newsletter.



Thanks to all who dropped some money into the "bucket". Our fee for the room at Zarda's is \$15 each time, which over the course of the year which eats up 16.5 membership dues received by our camp. So, your contributions help immensely!



Stay tuned for a future opportunity for the Key Camp to participate in the placement and dedication of a Confederate headstone. Additional details will be given as they are received.



Key Camp Web Page hits for last 30 days +78 Year to Date +153

Congratulations Josh



Compatriot Josh Young received his SCV War Service Medal from **Adjutant Walt Schley** during the March meeting. Josh's name will appear upon the plaque (pictured) along with other Key Camp members who served in the United State Military.

Others whose names are listed upon the plaque include:

James L Speicher

Scott Lalumondier

James Dale Tucker

William P Morgan

William T Rogers

Daniel J Peterson Jr.

Lane D Smith

Steven K Crawford

Loren F Lundy

Jackson Hendrick

Kevin A Makel

Larry J Brooks

Michael Smith

William Bruce Nichols

Ronald J Lucas

John J Poynter

Ronald H Jackson

J Scott Brown

Gary Neal Hayden

Scott A Porter

Walter H Schley Jr.

Jerry Allen Coffelt

James M King

Paul D Allen

Charles W Walthall

Melvin L Freeman Sr.

Bobby L Webster

C Milton Wallace

William Rogers

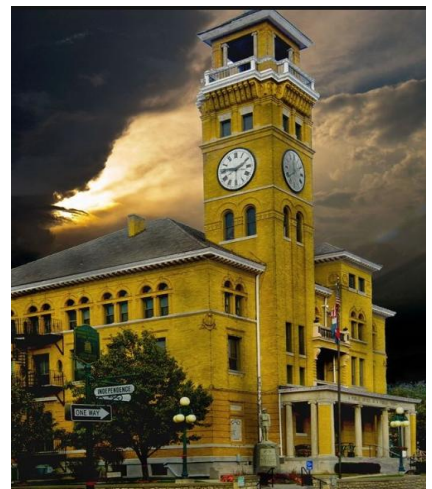
Ben Crain

Compatriots in the community

Compatriot **Lynn Langemeir**, accompanied by his son Leif and **Key Camp Commander Rick McPherson**, traveled to Baxter Springs, Kansas to present "*Shiloh*" to members of the **Pvt. Riley Crawford Camp**. Before the presentation they attended a luncheon hosted by the ladies of the Cowskin Prairie Chapter of the United Daughter's of the Confederacy.



Key Camp Commander Rick McPherson and **Compatriot Lane Smith** were in Harrisonville, Missouri where Rick presented "*The Black Knight of the Confederacy*" to the Cass County Civil War Roundtable by an invitation from **Hughes Camp Compatriot Jim Beckner**.





Daughter of Past Commander Matt Sewell makes Key Camp Mtg Debut!

Ms. Reagan Sewell assisted her father in a PowerPoint presentation for Confederate Flag Month.

While her daddy gave a history of the original flags of the Confederacy, Reagan skillfully controlled their laptop, making sure to keep him in place, when displaying the visuals upon the big screen TV.

Thank you, Reagan for visiting the Key Camp and doing a great job before heading off to your team practice.



Commander Rick McPherson introduces two new applicants for membership with the SCV and the Key Camp.

Pictured on the left is **Shayne Henre** and in the middle is **Larry Meacham**. Both submitted their applications on March 6th which have been forwarded to the SCV National Headquarters for verification and approval.

The Key Camp looks forward to *officially* welcoming both and look forward to their friendship and contributions to the camp.

Amnesty Under Johnson:

Thus, on May 29, 1865, President Andrew Johnson issued his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, which laid out provisions governing the restoration of citizenship and rights to former rebels. The majority of former Confederates could receive pardon for their participation in the rebellion by taking an oath swearing allegiance to the United States of America. However, within the Proclamation, Johnson excluded fourteen "classes" of former Confederates (eight more than Lincoln), who could not gain amnesty simply by taking the oath. Among these classes, three applied directly to members of the Confederate military. The third exception excluded "All who shall have been military or naval officers of said pretended confederate government above the rank of colonel in the army or lieutenant in the navy." The fifth class excluded all those who had left the United States military to serve in the rebellion. And the eighth class of those exempt from amnesty excluded "All military and naval officers in the rebel service, who were educated by the government in the Military Academy at West Point or in the United States Naval Academy."

These provisions essentially excluded all high-ranking military officers from the benefit of gaining amnesty by simply taking an oath due to their elevated position within the Army or Navy. However, the Proclamation stated that "special application may be made to the President for pardon by any person belonging to the excepted classes; and such clemency will be liberally extended as may be consistent with the facts of the case and the peace and dignity of the United States."

Two years later, on September 7, 1867, Johnson, desiring to hasten Reconstruction, narrowed the excepted classes to three, one of

which being "all who held . . . a military rank or title above the grade of brigadier general, or the naval rank or title above that of captain."

Johnson extended another proclamation less than a year later on July 4, 1868, granting amnesty to all former Confederates, excluding approximately three hundred, who were "under presentment or indictment in any court of the United States upon a charge of treason or other felony."

He later granted a final pardon to all former Confederates on December 25, 1868, hoping that his actions would "secure permanent peace, order, and prosperity throughout the land, and to renew and fully restore confidence and fraternal feeling among the whole people and their respect and attachment to the National Government."

Henry Wirz was executed for Andersonville, and Champ Ferguson was executed for being a guerrilla, but the charges had to do with war crimes and murder, not treason.

Davis posted bail on May 13, 1867 and walked out of court a free man - all by pre-arrangement with the US government. The Supreme Court made only one ruling on secession - April 15, 1869 almost two years later. The majority ruled in favor of the reconstruction government of Texas which claimed that its own secession government had illegally sold US bonds that were state property.

This was a fight that the Johnson administration (and Stanton in particular) did not want to fight in 1866-7. They dared not risk Jefferson Davis' acquittal. I wonder what they'd have done if they thought a victory was certain.

Confederate HISTORY MONTH



Confederate History Month is a month designated by seven state governments in the Southern United States for the purpose of recognizing and honoring the Confederate States of America. April has traditionally been chosen, as Confederate Memorial Day falls during that month in many of these states. The designation of a month as Confederate History Month began in 1994. Though this designation has been made *less official* in recent years, several states still *unofficially* celebrate it including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Only Mississippi has officially declared April as Confederate Heritage Month in recent years while others have chosen one day of celebration.

Last year, Gov. Tate Reeves of Mississippi proclaimed Confederate Heritage Month with this statement, *"Whereas, as we honor all who lost their lives in (the Civil War), it is important for all Americans to reflect upon our nation's past, to gain insight from our mistakes and successes, and to come to a full understanding that the lessons learned yesterday and today will carry us through tomorrow if we carefully and earnestly strive to understand and appreciate our heritage and our opportunities which lie before us,"* the proclamation says.

The **Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920** recognizes Confederate History Month as a reminder of our Southern Soldier ancestors who fought for their beliefs, their heritage and their rights, protecting both their homes and their families. Let us always pay tribute to the Confederate Veteran.

Long Live Their Memory- Long Live the South- May We Never Forget.



March Meeting Pics

MAJ. THOMAS J. KEY

CAMP 192



Bill & Monet in a heavy discussion



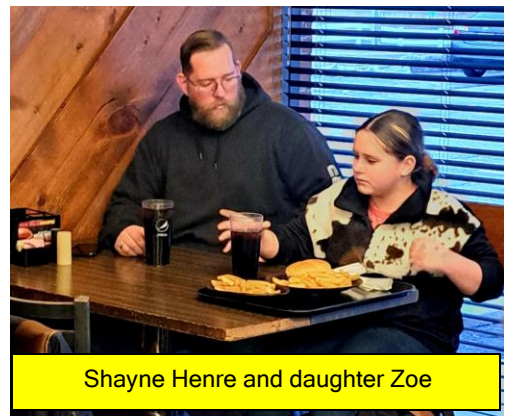
Always good to see Larry & Donna

EST.

2000



Paul & Jim visit before the meeting



Shayne Henre and daughter Zoe



Jerry Coffelt's new Kansas license plate



Lane presents his program on Normandy



Tim, John and Jerry listen to the presentation



Walt & Josh bow their heads in prayer



Tom & Dan enjoy some BBQ prior to the meeting



Floyd Olsen, Rick & Lynn Langemeir



Compatriot Dale Walters of Topeka and daughter Marci Blakely once again attended the meeting.



Bill Stoker, Monet Keitzman, Josh Young and Larry Sumner. Monet is with the Ladies of the Plains, UDC.



Kansas Division Commander Lawson Rener



Camp members giving "The Salute" to the flag.



Too often, the person taking photo's for the camp meeting rarely gets their own picture taken. This photo points out **Compatriot Jerry Coffelt** who has graciously submitted many of the photo's appearing in this newsletter. In fact, Jerry has been appointed our "*Official Camp Photographer*". Thanks Jerry for giving us so many great pictures. Of course, I cannot forget my buddy **Walt Schley** for his ongoing submission of photos. Both help make the newsletter a bit more enjoyable. Thanks guys!

April 26th is our Memorial Cleaning at Mine Creek Battlefield

Key Camp Compatriots! On **Saturday, April 26th** at 9:30 am. we will meet at the Mine Creek Visitors Center before heading down to the Confederate monument to spruce up the area, as the battlefield prepares to open the 2025 season.

We will bring several bags of mulch to be spread and we should expect to trim the hedges, and sweep away dirt, debris and potentially branches and leaves.

Each year during the Mine Creek Battlefield Park Day, the Key Camp fulfills our ongoing responsibility to maintain the monument.

We hope to have numerous Compatriots join in. Please sign up at Thursday's Camp meeting and let's make our memorial site sparkle!

Missouri History Day - May 2nd

EST. 2000

On **Friday May 2nd**, the Key Camp will participate in the Missouri History Day at the Lone Jack Battlefield in Lone Jack, Missouri.

Each year, as the end of school draws near, bus loads of nearby 8th graders are brought to the Lone Jack Battlefield to learn about that period, when the Battle of Lone Jack was fought. Each group of kids will spend about 15 minutes at each "stop" set up upon the battlefield which will offer the Key Camp time to show off our display and to tell a bit about the Confederate's role at the battle. Lunch will be provided and the event should end about 2:00 pm.

Those of you who have been a part of this event in the past are needed to help once again. We expect members representing the **Franklin Camp** to join with us.

1st Lt Commander Dan Peterson and **2nd Lt Commander Larry Sumner** will lead this event and will appreciate *your* help. Larry will haul tables, our tent and our Civil War muskets/guns etc. and will need help unloading and setting up. He will be there by 9:00 a.m. to unload and begin to set up.

There will be a *sign up sheet* at the April meeting. Everyone is invited to participate.

We guarantee you will enjoy this day as well!

2025 SCV Key Camp Calendar - updated

April

Confederate History Month

- 3 Camp Meeting 6:30 Teresa Miller, Linn Country Historical Society
- 26 Mine Creek Battlefield Clean-up 9:30 - Noon

May

- 1 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Dan Cudnek, Author
- 2 Lone Jack Battlefield - Missouri History Day w/8th Graders

June

- 5 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Chris Harris, Liberty Arsenal
- 7 Confederate Memorial Day - Higginsville, Missouri
- 7 Southern Women's Historical Association - Fayetteville, Arkansas
- 21 Kansas Division SCV Reunion - Topeka, Kansas

July

- 10 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Parker Van Sickle
- 13 Camden Point Memorial Service - Camden Point, Missouri 4:30pm (Sunday)
- 16-20 SCV National Reunion - Houston, TX
- 16-21

August

- 1 Annual Camp Dues
- 7 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Monet Keitzman

September

- 4 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Bill Stoker
- 13 3rd Annual Spike Speicher Picnic- *Celebrate Key Camp's 25th Anniversary*
- 20 Mine Creek Heritage Day

October

- 2 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Todd Stetner
- 11-12 Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival

November

- 6 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Dick Titterington

December

- 4 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker KS Division Commander Lawson Renner
- 14 Wreaths Across America, Ft Leavenworth, Higginsville

***Note July Camp Meeting will be the 2nd Thursday due to July 4th**

April is Confederate History Month



As members of the SCV, we have a shared interest in preserving and honoring the memory of our Confederate ancestors. Confederate History Month provides a dedicated time for us to reflect deeper into their experiences and the historical context of their service.

This month offers us a unique opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices and motivations of Confederate soldiers, and to ensure that their stories are not forgotten.

It also provides opportunities for each of us to educate, when given the opportunity, the history of the Confederate soldier, and to correct any misconceptions that may exist. Use this time to share your knowledge of the military history of the Confederacy and the battles that were fought, with your friends and neighbors.

On **Saturday, April 26th**, those who gather at the Confederate monument at the **Mine Creek Battlefield for the Park Day**, will pause to honor those who lay beneath the hallowed ground at Mine Creek and remember all who fought to protect their homes, their sovereignty and their way of life.

Join us on this day to help prepare our monument site, where the only monument dedicated to the Confederacy in Kansas sits, in preparation for the visitors to this historic site.



How can I earn a SCV medal?

We have all noticed the SCV medals appearing on member's sportcoats, most notably at our Lee-Jackson Banquet in January. How do they earn them and how can you specifically receive one?

Each Commander sets their own criteria on how a medal is earned and it is given out toward the end of each year. Those who serve as a camp officer receive one for the assistance they provide during their term, and others who perform duties deemed *Distinguished* or *Meritorious* can also be nominated to receive a medal. In addition, there is a SCV Commendation medal for all around service to the Key Camp, and proudly, there is the Military Service medal, awarded to those who have served in our military, which includes their name being engraved on the plaque you see at each meeting.

There is also a SCV Leadership Award, and a Superior Achievement Award. Both are certificate awards.

Nominations are made by the Camp Commander and submitted to the Division Commander before being sent to the National SCV Headquarters for approval.

Nominations based on a compatriot's 2024 service, will be presented later this fall during a camp meeting.

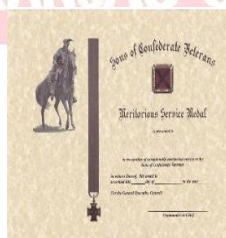
As the 2025 term is now upon us, those participating in camp activities, will be considered for a SCV award, presented in the fall of 2026. The more the involvement, the better the opportunity to earning a medal. Nothing would be more pleasurable for me than to nominate a large number of Compatriots to receive medals next year.

We want everyone in the Key Camp involved when possible, from the monthly meetings to our outside events. Through your participation in camp activities, we make our organization stronger and build friendships. Please review the camp calendar, published each month to find events that you can participate in. Our camp is only as strong as we collectively make it.

Rick



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE



MERITORIOUS SERVICE



SCV COMMENDATION



Lane Smith Nominated for Prestigious Award

Compatriot Lane Smith has been nominated to receive the *Heritage Defense Award* medal. The announcement was made at the camp meeting on March 6th.

The *Heritage Defense Medal* recognizes an SCV camp member who has worked “above and beyond” to promote a positive image of Southern History and Heritage. To receive this award the nominee must meet certain criteria for which Lane is believed to have met.

With this announcement, Lane will be recognized as a Camp Officer for the 2025 term and will be presented his medal at the 2026 Lee-Jackson Banquet.

Congratuations Lane!



Commander Rick McPherson congratulates Compatriot Lane Smith as he was announced the Key Camp's first recipient of the Heritage Defense Medal. Smith joined the SCV in May of 2004 and has served in numerous positions within the camp. A Veterans of the US Army, Lane has devoted much time and energy to promoting Southern Heritage throughout the greater Kansas City region, specifically in his portrayal of General Robert E. Lee and in “The Trial of Jefferson Davis”



Major

Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Johnson County, Kansas
Camp Activities



*****NEXT CAMP MEETING*****

The Key Camp will meet on Thursday April 3rd at Zarda's Bar B-Q on the southwest corner of 87th and Quivira in Lenexa, Kansas with the official meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. You are invited to arrive early (6:00 p.m.) for BBQ, conversation, and camaraderie.



Theresa Miller will be our guest speaker at the April 3rd camp meeting.

Theresa is a Marketing Consultant at the Linn County News and President of the Linn County Historical Society, Museum & Genealogy Library located in Pleasanton, Kansas.

Local folks may remember Theresa when she owned and operated *The Elephant's Trunk* in Overland Park, KS.

The Linn County Museum contains many artifacts from Linn County as well as from the Mine Creek Battlefield area. Theresa will speak to us on the museum and the upcoming activities of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation.

Be sure to join us on Thursday. Come early and enjoy some Zarda's BBQ and camaraderie with your fellow Key Camp compatriots.

As always, we encourage your participation in your Camp's activities.

Email **Commander McPherson** for more information on any events you are interested in assisting.

Key Camp Web Page: www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com

Email: Commander Rick McPherson @ mcpersonsales@sbcglobal.net

Key Camp Facebook Page:
Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920

National SCV Web Page
www.scv.org

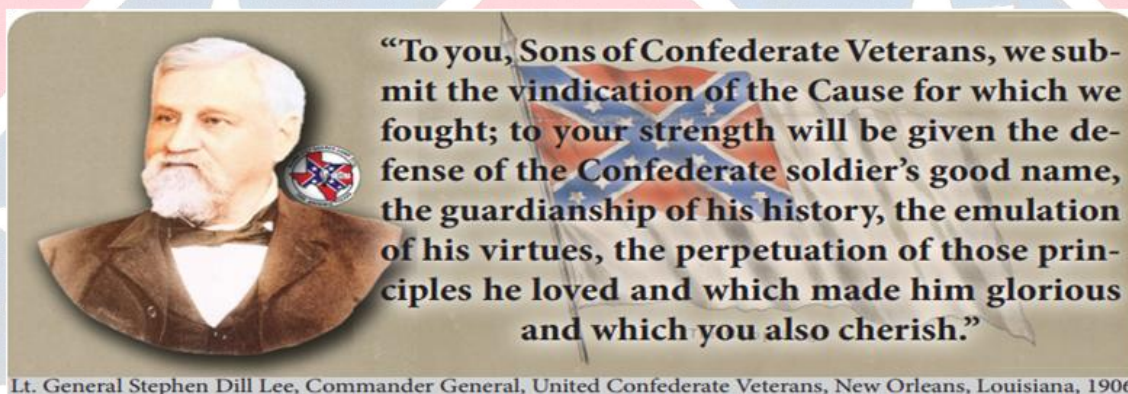
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The Telegraph Key

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Major Thomas J Key



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