



# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Vol. 23, No 4

April 2022

## The Confederate's Corner

By Rick M<sup>c</sup>Pherson

### Major Thomas J. Key

#### Camp Officers

##### Commander

Matt Sewell

##### 1st Lt. Commander

Dan Peterson

##### 2nd Lt. Commander

Lane Smith

##### Adjutant

Lawson Rener

##### Chaplin

Walt Schley

#### Newsletter Editor

Rick M<sup>c</sup>Pherson

Greetings to all compatriots and friends of the **Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920.**

*Recap of Camp Business of March 3, 2022*



**Cmdr. Matt Sewell** opened the 223<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Key Camp, welcoming our guests, Donna Brooks, Betty Allen, Linda Stoker and prospective member Arlie Perkins of Greenwood, Missouri a guest of Rick M<sup>c</sup>Pherson.

**Commander Sewell** gave a brief recap of upcoming events including Compatriots **Lane Smith's** presentation at Lecompton's Constitution Hall. He noted our membership count stood at 43 with one pending. Our Lee-Jackson event raised \$1,175 in January and our treasury balance stood at \$7,260.



*The Mine Creek Park Day will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Those willing to volunteer for assisting in the battlefield cleanup are encouraged to arrive at the Mine Creek Battlefield Visitors Center at 10:00 am.*

**The Camp has a new Web Page** that will help reach those that are interested in finding our SCV Camp for potential membership. That site will provide links to both the National SCV and the Major Thomas J Key Camp. It has links to direct email contact for information that promises a response within 48 hours. It has numerous capabilities that were unavailable on the previous site.



[WWW.MAJORTHOMASJKEYCAMP1920.COM](http://WWW.MAJORTHOMASJKEYCAMP1920.COM)

In addition to the new Web Page, we have the **Facebook Page** and the **Monthly Newsletter**. We believe that good communication is important to the success of our organization. As a reminder, we encourages each of you to submit photo's, stories, biographies etc. to be used for future publications of the newsletter and please join the Facebook page. Our current Facebook member count is 18.

The National Sons of Confederate Veterans Convention will be coming soon. It will be held in Cartersville, Georgia July 19-23. In addition to convention activities there will be more than four major battlefield tours available.

For more information go to [www.2022reunion.gascv.org](http://www.2022reunion.gascv.org)



Battlefield Tours Include

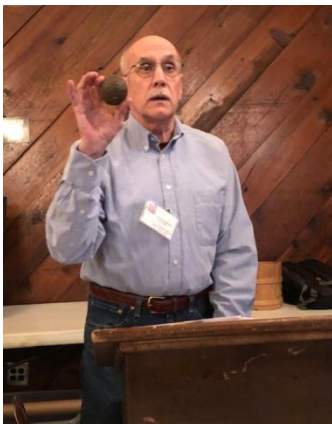
- Resaca
- Ringgold Gap
- Dalton
- Kennesaw Mountain
- Cheatham Hill
- Chickamauga
- Marietta Confed. Cemetery
- Battle of Atlanta Cyclorama

**Commander Matt Sewell** suggested that he would like to schedule a “backyard BBQ” similar to what was held during the pandemic restrictions to be held at his home in Bucyrus in the future. Multiple times throughout 2021 a number of Compatriots joined together around a great bonfire and enjoyed beverages and BBQ and most of all, wonderful camaraderie.

See us on Facebook – Enter Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920



**Lane Smith** sworn in as  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Commander



**Bill Stoker** spoke to the  
group



**Matt** presented **Bill**  
the Camp's plaque  
of appreciation

On Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup>, **Compatriot Lane Smith** presented “The Trial of Jefferson Davis” to an overflow audience at the old Constitution Hall in Lecompton, Kansas as part of the Bleeding Kansas speaker series.

Built in 1856, Constitution Hall is the oldest wood frame building in Kansas still standing in its original location. Its native cottonwood floor planks and black walnut lap siding boards were installed at the time of construction.



The building witnessed the early history of Kansas Territory, and visitors can stand where that history happened. The first land office in Kansas Territory was located here, and the Kansas Supreme Court met on the second floor. The territorial legislature also met upstairs, and proslavery delegates wrote the Lecompton Constitution with the intent of bringing Kansas into the Union as a slave state.

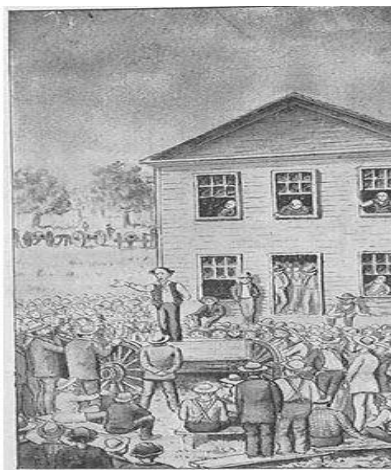
At this National Historic Landmark, a large antislavery delegation marched into Lecompton in 1857 to protest the proslavery constitutional convention meeting. The nation waited to see if the constitution written here would lead Kansas to join the Union as a slave state.



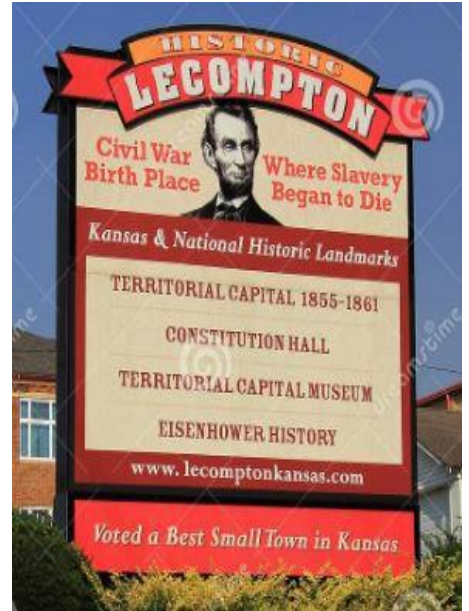




Original floors



SHOUTING DEFIANCE INTO THE CONVENTION'S  
Free-stater James Henry Lane shouts "defiant convention's ears and the battery's muzzles" Constitution Hall in LeCompton. The 1857 illustration copied from "Life of General James H. Lane" Speer. *Topeka Capital-Journal*



Compatriot Lane Smith

**Lane Smith** gave a wonderful presentation that was met with (mostly), an appreciative crowd.

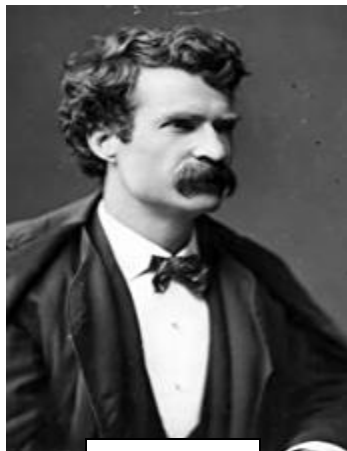
Sadly, there were a couple of folks that called Jeff Davis a traitor and said that he should have been hung, without first hearing the facts being presented. **Lane** handled them well.

Putting yourself out there, to interpret a controversial part of history, is admirable. It was a great way to spend this Sunday.

Congratulations to **Lane** on a job well done.



### Mark Twain fired one shot and then left!



Twain

At least, that's what he claimed in "The Private History of a Campaign that Failed," a semi-fictional short story published in 1885, after *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, but before *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. In it, he recounts a whopping two weeks spent in 1861 with a **Confederate militia** in Marion County, Missouri. But he introduces the tale by saying that even the people who enlisted at the start of the war, and then left permanently, "ought to at least be allowed to state why they didn't do anything and also to explain the process by which they didn't do anything. Surely this kind of light must have some sort of value." •

Twain writes that there were fifteen men in the rebel militia, the "Marion Rangers," and he was the second lieutenant, even though they had no first lieutenant. After Twain's character shoots and kills a Northern horseback rider, he is overwhelmed by the sensation of being a murderer, "that I had killed a man, a man who had never done me any harm. That was the coldest sensation that ever went through my marrow." However, his grief is slightly eased by the realization that six men had fired their guns, and only one had been able to hit the moving target.



Revere

### Paul Revere was at Gettysburg!

Paul Joseph Revere, that is—the famous Paul Revere's grandson. Unfortunately for fans of the first Revere and his partly mythical Ride, PJR was in the infantry, not the cavalry, with the 20<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts. He and his brother Edward were captured at the Battle of Ball's Bluff in October 1861. After being released in a prisoner exchange, the Reveres rejoined the fight.

Paul was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in September, 1862, shortly before he was wounded in the brutal Battle of Antietam (a.k.a. the Battle of Sharpsburg). Edward, however, wasn't so lucky "he was one of more than 2,000 Union soldiers who didn't make it out of Sharpsburg, Maryland, alive.

By the following year, Paul was promoted again to Colonel, leading the 20<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts at Chancellorsville and, in his final days, at Gettysburg. On July 3, 1863, he was mortally wounded by a shell fragment that pierced his lung, and he died the next day. He was posthumously promoted again to Brigadier General, and is buried in Cambridge, Massachusetts.





*In 1862 Lee's Army crossed the Potomac into Maryland to begin the campaign. The citizens of Frederick, Maryland made mention of the Confederate soldier's appearance. Confederate soldier David E. Johnston wrote about his uniform during the Maryland Campaign. "A musket, cartridge box with forty rounds of cartridges, cloth haversack, blanket and canteen made up the Confederate soldier's equipment. No man was allowed a change of clothing, nor could he have carried it. A gray cap, jacket, trousers and colored shirt - calico mostly - made up a private's wardrobe. When a clean shirt became necessary, we took off the soiled one, went to the water, usually without soap, gave it a little rubbing, and if the sun was shining, hung the shirt on a bush to dry, while the wearer sought the shade to give the shirt a chance. The method of carrying our few assets was to roll them in a blanket, tying each end of the roll, which was then swung over the shoulder. At night this blanket was unrolled and wrapped around its owner, who found a place on the ground with his cartridge box for a pillow. We cooked but little, having usually little to cook. The frying pan was in use, if we had one."*

*An unnamed citizen of Frederick City noted: "I have never seen a mass of such filthy strong-smelling men. Three in a room would make it unbearable, and when marching in column along the street the smell from them was most offensive... The filth that pervades them is most remarkable... They have no uniforms, but are all well armed and equipped, and have become so inured to hardships that they care but little for any of the comforts of civilization... They are the roughest looking set of creatures I ever saw."*

*Not to mention, many had no shoes.*





**Members of Key Camp - 2009 SCV National Convention**



**Taken September 3, 2009**

**The Key Camp Celebrating our 100th Camp meeting and the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Compatriot Loren Lundy with Commander Spike Speicher.**



**General JEB Stuart's Cased Golden Spurs- submitted by [Walt Schley](#)**



General JEB Stuart's Cased Golden Spurs were presented to him by the "Ladies of Baltimore", a patriotic group of Baltimore women who supported the Confederacy and its troops.

After receiving the spurs, General Stuart referred to himself in letters written to them as the Knight of the Golden Spurs, illustrating his fondness for chivalry. These spurs were also most likely with him at his death as he was very proud of them. His gold spurs are still in the original red velvet case and accompanied by his original leather boot straps.



Certainly, these are some of the most important cavalry accouterments known to exist of General JEB Stuart. The Ladies of Baltimore continued supporting the Southern troops throughout the war, at one point confronting Union General Dix at Fort McHenry over the banning of the Ladies wearing their red, white, and blue bonnets, a passive symbol of Southern support.

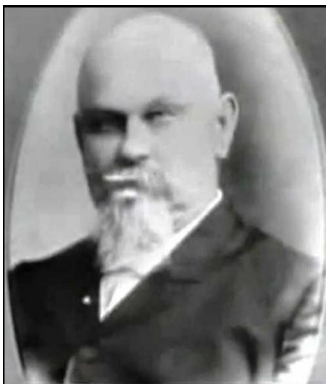




The grave in Harlem, Georgia of Oliver Hardy, Civil War veteran and father of the legendary comedian Oliver Norvell Hardy.

He was the son of a farmer who owned thirteen acres of land and nine slaves, and descended from English stock. When the Civil War began in 1861, young Oliver was one of the local farmers in Columbia County who rallied to defend their way of life. He enlisted in Company K, 16th Georgia Infantry, rising from Private to Sergeant, and eventually fighting in sixteen battles during the course of the war. He was wounded during the Battle of Antietam in Sharpsburg, Maryland, on September 17, 1862. At the end of the war, he was among less than half of the original Columbia County soldiers who returned home.

Hardy was wounded at Sharpsburg but survived the war. His son, Oliver Hardy Jr. went on to fame as half of the comedy team of Laurel and Hardy.



Oliver Hardy Sr.



Oliver Hardy Jr.

Oliver Norvell Hardy (born Norvell Hardy, January 18, 1892 – August 7, 1957) was an American comic actor and one half of **Laurel and Hardy**, the double act that began in the era of silent films and lasted from 1927 to 1951. He appeared with his comedy partner Stan Laurel in 107 short films, feature films, and cameo roles. He was credited with his first film, *Outwitting Dad*, in 1914. In some of his early works, he was billed as "Babe Hardy".



Major

# Thomas J. Key Camp

#1920

Johnson County, Kansas  
Camp Activities



## Mine Creek Battlefield Park Day

Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am

The Key Camp has always been counted upon to help volunteer at Mine Creek Battlefield.  
Please join us. 20485 KS Highway 52, Pleasanton, KS 66075

Missouri History Day's at Lone Jack Battlefield April 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am

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

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



### \*\*\*\*\*NEXT CAMP MEETING\*\*\*\*\*

### Guest Speaker Sam Gill - Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>

The Key Camp will meet on Thursday April 7th at Zarda's Bar B-Q on the southwest corner of 87th and Quivera in Lenexa, Kansas with the official meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to arrive early (6:00 p.m.) for BBQ, conversation and camaraderie.

### The Telegraph Key

The Telegraph Key is a newsletter published for the Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). The SCV is a non-profit organization with a patriotism historical and genealogical orientation and is not affiliated with any other organization. Opinions in this newsletter reflect the views of the writers and contributors and are not necessarily a statement of the views of the SCV, the Kansas Division, the Kansas Brigades, nor any other camp. Comments and articles are solicited.





**Key Camp Web Page: [www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com](http://www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com)**

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

**National SCV HQ Web Page: [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)**

