



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Volume 24, No. 8

August 2024

Major Thomas J Key Camp Officers



Commander - *Walt Schley*



1st Lt. Commander- *Dan Peterson*



2nd Lt. Commander- *Paul Allen*



Adjutant- *Lawson Rener*



Chaplin - *Walt McKenzie*



Communications- *Rick McPherson*

THE CONFEDERATE'S CORNER

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

The July 2023 meeting was attended by members and guests.
This was the 238th regular meeting of the
Major Thomas J Jey Camp #1920



Historian and Past-President of the Civil War Round Table of KC, **Jim Beckner** presented, "The Story of the Confederate Veterans Home in Higginsville", including a short history of the creation of various Confederate homes across the country and their locations, and without federal funding, how they were not able to care for themselves.



Miscellaneous



Commander Schley opened the meeting asking **Chaplain McKenzie** to give the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by **1st Lt. Peterson**, The Salute by **2nd Lt. Allen** and the Charge led by **Compatriot Edwards**.



The Key Camp welcomed 17 members and 7 guests. Guests **included Betty Allen, Monet Kietzman, Parker Vansickle, Elsa Sewell, Jim Thornton, Donna Brooks and Katie Speicher**, daughter of our camp's founder and wife **Jim and Kaki Speicher**. Welcome to all and thank you for your attendance.



Commander Schley called on the Camp's good thoughts of prayers for those dealing with health issues including **Susan Peterson, Rick McPherson, Jim Edgerton and Dick Cole**. We look forward to your full and complete return to health.



Old Business: **Chris Edwards** reminded of the Aug 12th Disorder on the Border Symposium held in Harrisonville. Tickets are available for \$35. The Key Camp is one of the sponsors for this event and Chris will be one of the speakers.



Congratulations to **Lawson Rener** on his re-election as **Kansas Division Commander** and to **Rick McPherson**, elected **Lt. Division Commander**. And thank you to all the Key Camp Compatriots that attended the State Reunion in Topeka, Kansas.



25 Year Membership pins were presented to **Compatriots Chris Edwards and Dennis Garstang** by **Commander Schley**. They are the first 25-year medals to be awarded by the Key Camp. Congratulations!



Announcements:

August 3rd 6:30 August Key Camp Meeting, Speaker will be Mr. Mike Calvert, President of The Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri, presenting The Battle of Rock Creek.

August 5th 10:00 Mine Creek Heritage Day

August 10th 11:00 am Ladies of the Plains Mtg w/ Lane Smith JOCO Library Shawnee, KS

August 12th 9:30 Disorder on the Border Symposium

August 12th Army of the Trans-Mississippi Symposium in Texarkana, Arkansas

September 9th 11:00 Col. James "Spike" Speicher Camp Picnic in By Cyrus, Kansas. This will be held at Past Commander Sewell's home. BBQ will be provided. Please make plans to join your fellow Camp members and bring your Spouse and family. **RSVP at the meeting.**

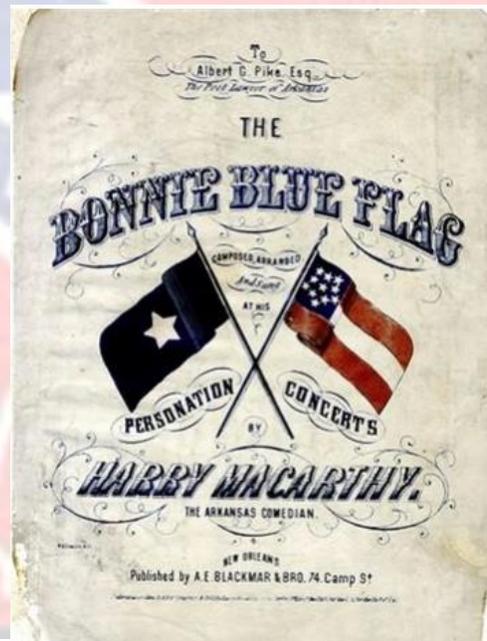
History of the Bonnie Blue Flag

*Taken from "At Home and in the Field",
The Quarterly Journal of the Society for
Women and the Civil War.*

Gold Star), which was derived from the White-
Starred 1810 Flag of the Republic of West
Florida

After Dixie, the most popular song of the Confederacy was "The Bonnie Blue Flag." On January 9, 1861, a stage performer by the name of Harry McCarthy was in Jackson, Mississippi, when the convention of the people of Mississippi followed South Carolina's lead and adopted an Ordinance of Secession. Although born in England in 1834, McCarthy billed himself as "The Arkansas Comedian." A professional entertainer, he often appeared on stage in a costume with a low-set collar, ruffled shirt front, wide wristbands, and diamond rings on his fingers. After Mississippi's Ordinance of Secession was signed, a blue flag with a white star was raised over the capital building in Jackson. Soon after witnessing this event, McCarthy was inspired to write the lyrics to "The Bonnie Blue Flag." For the melody, he borrowed the familiar Irish tune, "The Irish Jaunting Car."

It is unclear if McCarthy completed the song in time to perform it at the end of Mississippi's secessionist convention. There is evidence that his sister, Marion McCarthy, sang it at the Variety Theatre in New Orleans and that Harry performed it in September 1861, during one of his so-called "Personation Concerts", held at the New Orleans Academy of Music. The audience was filled with soldiers from Louisiana and Texas who were on their way to Virginia and the song received an overwhelming response. By then it was published by A.E. Blackmar & Bro. of 74 Camp St., New Orleans, who eventually issued it in six different editions. It was also printed in England, and several northern publishers issued parodies of the song.

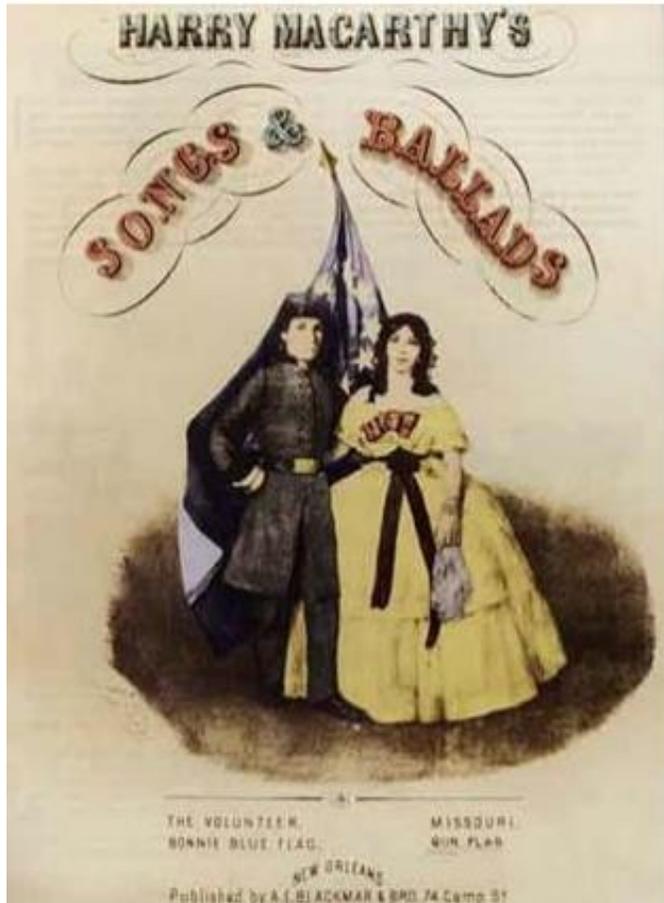


Civil War-Era Image of the Bonnie Blue Flag, also known as the Burnet Flag, the Star of the West Flag and the Lone Star Flag. An Unofficial Flag of the Early Confederacy, it was Originally Adopted by Texas Confederate Troops from the Republic of Texas Flag (with a

Original Cover for Sheet Music of "The Bonnie Blue Flag"

McCarthy went on to sing "The Bonnie Blue Flag" in all the major cities of the South. His active concert schedule at the very time that

Southern patriotism was at a fever pitch certainly helped to spread its popularity. In 1904, one old soldier wrote "Often I have heard him sing it when thousands of people went wild with excitement and enthusiasm."



Harry MacCarthy and His Wife, Lottie Estelle, Dressed in Confederate Attire for Performance of "The Bonnie Blue Flag." Courtesy of Glen Cangelosi, WashingtonArtillery.com

"The Bonnie Blue Flag" was so popular that when New Orleans was occupied by Federal troops on April 28, 1862, Major General Benjamin Butler had the song's publisher, A. E. Blackmar, arrested and fined \$500.00. Butler had all copies of the song destroyed and threatened to slap a \$25.00 fine on any man, woman or child that sang, played, or even whistled "The Bonnie Blue Flag."¹ It is interesting to examine the third verse, which was apparently added after February 1, 1861, when all these states had seceded. Whoever wrote it erred in the order of secession. After South Carolina voted to secede December 20, 1860, the actual order of secession was Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas.

First, gallant South Carolina nobly made the stand; Then came Alabama who took her by the hand; Next, quickly Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida, all raised on high the Bonnie Blue Flag, that bears a Single Star. Though McCarthy's political sympathies lay with the Confederacy, he steadfastly avoided conscription by claiming British citizenship. When the Southern cause seemed to be lost, McCarthy fled to Philadelphia in 1864, never again to return to the South. After the war, he composed a parody on "The Bonnie Blue Flag," which seemed to praise reconciliation. He died in Oakland, California in 1888.

We are a band of brothers

Camp Activities



Left: Compatriots and guests listened to our July speaker **Jim Beckner** at our meeting location inside of Zarda's BBQ in Lenexa, Kansas.



Commander Schley presents a bullet plaque to **Jim Beckner** in appreciation for his speaking to the Key Camp.



At left: **Compatriot Paul Allen**, Guest **Katie Speicher**, and **Betty Allen**.

Katie is the daughter of our late Founder **Jim "Spike" Speicher** and **Kaki Speicher**.

Thank you, Katie, for joining with us. We enjoyed your visit and come back again!



Commander Schley is presented a Certificate of Appreciation by **Monet Kietzman** of the Ladies of the Plains.



Ms. Elsa Sewell entertained the Key Camp with a beautiful song.



Compatriots Chris Edwards (L) and **Dennis Garstang** (R) are presented 25 Year Membership medals by **Commander Walt Schley**.

Congratulations to Chris and Dennis for your contributions and support of the SCV.

Did You Know?

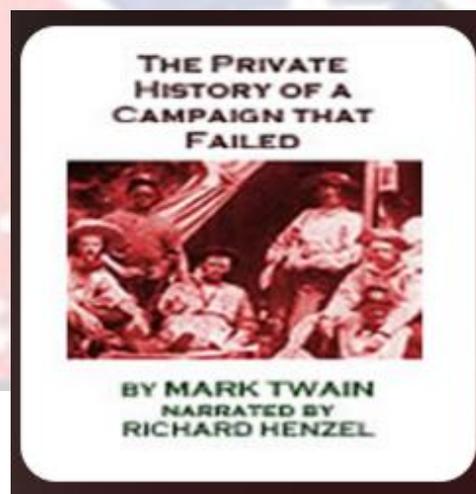
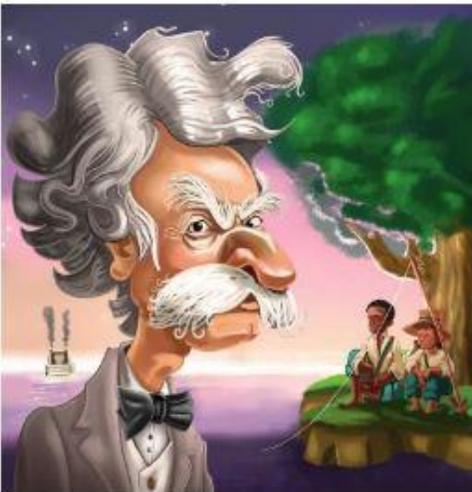
Col. Dyer, Abraham Lincoln and the town of "Diarrhea"

In early 1865 shortly before his death, President Abraham Lincoln received a visit from Missouri Senator John Brooks Henderson and Congressman Robert T. Van Horn. Senator Henderson asked the President to promote the 49th's commander, Col. David P. Dyer, to the rank of Brigadier General. President Lincoln responded, as he often did, with a story:

"The name of Dyer reminds me of an incident that happened in the State of Illinois when the first railroads were being built. One of these road ran through a tract of land owned by a man named Dyer. It was decided to locate a depot on the land and to map out a town. The first question that came up was to find a name for the town. Various suggestions were made as name but none seemed to suit until it was finally with much unanimity, agreed to call the town "Diarrhea"."

Mark Twain fired one shot and then left.

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 at least to 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.



Samuel Clemens deserted from the Confederate Army after just two weeks of military service, which may have been a factor in his adopting a pen name in the west.



The Confederate Army simply dissolved at the end of the war

When Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses Grant, the man known for demanding unconditional surrender granted surprisingly generous terms. The entire army was paroled and granted leave to go home. From Appomattox the army, or rather what remained of it, fell apart as the men looked for ways to return to their homes. There was no separation, no discharges, and though a few of the men may have headed off to join the remaining Confederate Army in the field, under Joseph Johnston in North Carolina, the overwhelming majority of Lee's veterans returned to the homes from whence they came.

The Union Army demobilized quickly after the end of the war

Grant and Sherman commanded huge armies at the end of the American Civil War, and there were arguments that they were still needed to contain the French intervention in Mexico, occupy the defeated South, and control the Native American tribes on the plains. The veterans of the war had other ideas, as did their families at home, and the Union army disbanded with startling speed, from over 1 million men in arms in April 1865, to about 54,000 in May of 1866. Many of the volunteers in the reduced United States Army were veterans from the Confederate Army, particularly in the cavalry units of the Western Plains.

The soldiers of the Civil War created the largest American Army to be seen until World War One

Military Pay

In theory, the soldiers of both the Confederate and the Union armies were supposed to be paid every two months. In practice, they usually weren't so lucky because the military paymaster had to keep up with the troops who moved swiftly over long distances. When the paymaster did arrive with the current and back pay, it was a happy day in camp. The following figures compare the income per month of the soldiers of each rank.



Army Pay per Month	Confederate	Union
Private	\$11.00	\$13.00
Corporal	\$13.00	\$13.00
Sergeant	\$17.00	\$17.00
First Sergeant	\$20.00	\$20.00
Quartermaster Sergeant	\$21.00	\$21.00
Sergeant Major	\$21.00	\$21.00
Second Lieutenant	\$80.00	\$105.50
First Lieutenant	\$90.00	\$105.50
Captain	\$130.00	\$115.50
Major	\$150.00	\$169.00
Lieutenant Colonel	\$170.00	\$181.00
Colonel	\$195.00	\$212.00
Brigadier General	\$301.00	\$315.00
Major General	\$301.00	\$457.00
Lieutenant General	\$301.00	\$748.00
General	\$301.00	-----

Colored Troops:

Colored Troops received \$10 a month for most of the war, of which \$3 was deducted for clothing allowance. This deduction was abolished in September, 1864.

Disorder on the Border

Sat, Aug 12th 2023 at 9:30 AM CDT · By Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

A Symposium on the Events and Effects of the Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border



August 12, 2023
9:30am-5:30pm

Day Includes:

SPEAKERS

Dr. Joseph Bellein Jr.
George Pettigrew
Jonathan Jones
Carole Shelton
Chris Edwards
Sam Farr Sagastume
Tom Rafiner

CATERED LUNCH

Kurzweil's
Country
Meats

- Historical Book Vendors
- Historical Organizations Information Tables
- Border War Drawing (cash only)
- Historic Harrisonville Square Walking Tour
- Swag Bag



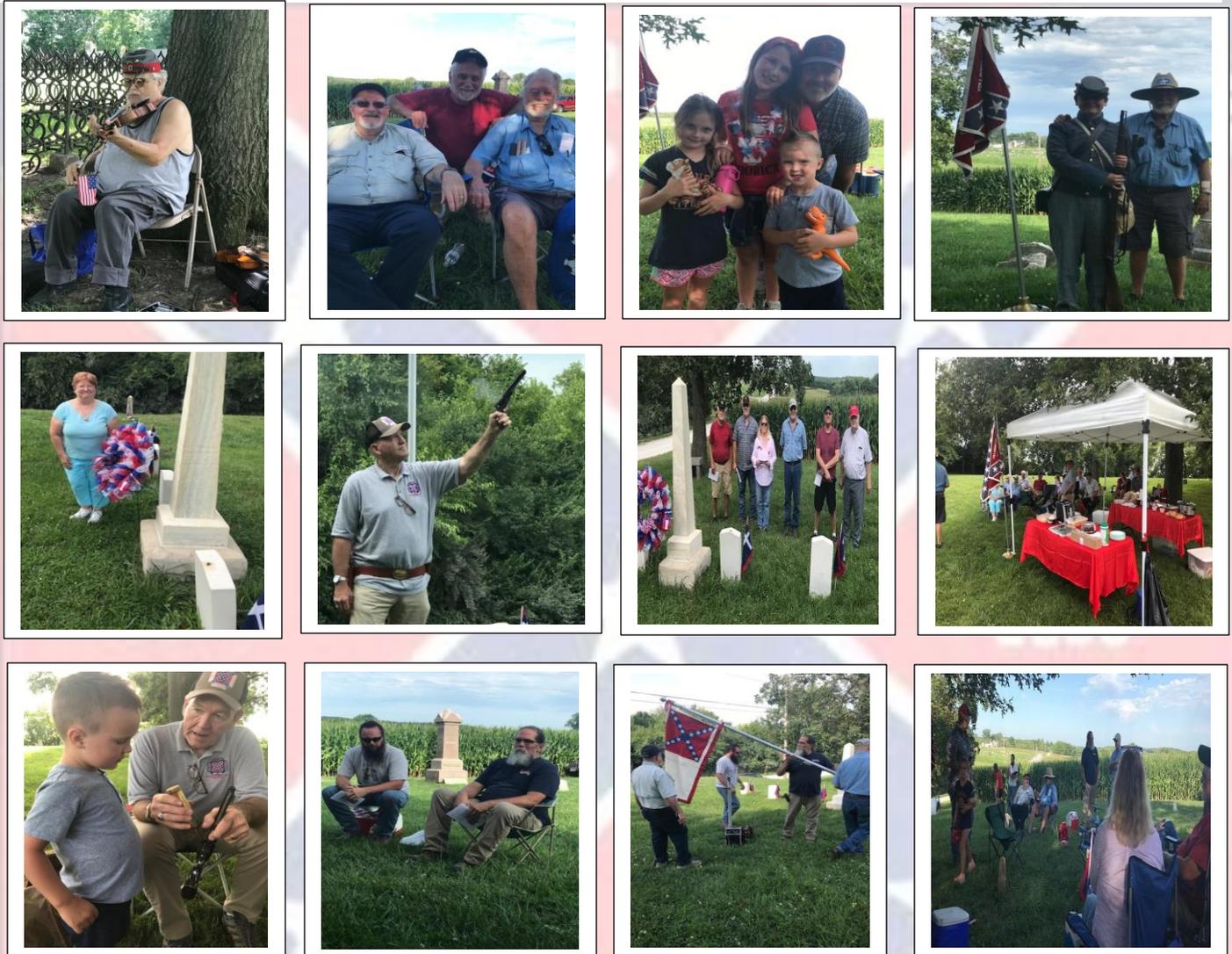
<https://secure.givelively.org/event/freedom-s-frontier-national-heritage-area/disorder-on-the-border>

Don't Forget Mine Creek Heritage Days Saturday 10:00 am.
Join your Key Camp members as we display our artifacts!



See us on Facebook - Enter - Major Thomas J Key Camp

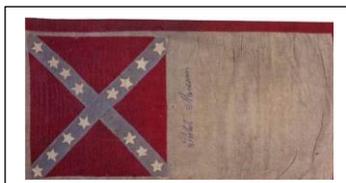
Camden Point



The Camden Point Memorial Service and Picnic was held on July 13th at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Camden Point, Missouri. Attending was the Bolton's, McKenzie's, Schley's, Sewell Family, Edgington's, Martinez's, Compatriots Atherton, Edwards, Foster, Linck, McPherson, Peterson, Smith, Parker VanSickle, and Ladies of the Plain's Monet Kietzman.

The ceremony began with a prayer, flag raising, readings of the monument's history, the recount of the battle, reading of the soldier's biographies, taps, a gun salute and singing of Dixie.

Following the service, a BBQ and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who joined in to make this event a great success.



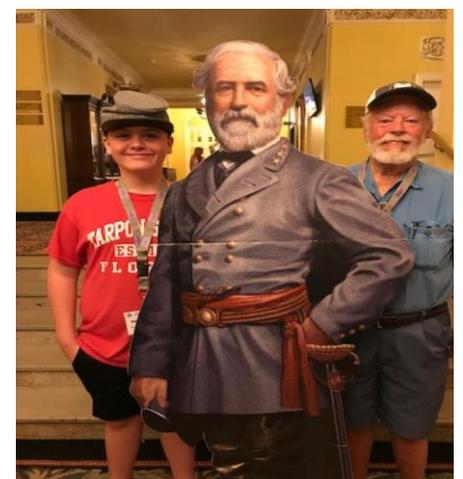
Hot Springs Reunion

The Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920 was well represented at the 2023 SCV Reunion held in Hot Springs, Arkansas at the "Historic" Arlington Hotel. "Historic" meaning the hotel was "old" having been built in 1875.

Attendees included Commander Walt Schley, Kansas Division Lt. Commander Rick McPherson, Compatriots Chris Edwards, Tim Peterman, Carl Linck, and his grandson Parker Vansickle.

Of the 868 Camps, 167 were represented where the theme was the effort to preserve our national heritage, to stand together and keep our focus on the mission of protecting all that our Confederate ancestors fought for.

Awards received at the Reunion will be presented to the Camp during next Thursday's regular camp meeting. Thanks to all who made the trip to Hot Springs.





Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Johnson County, Kansas
Camp Activities



Mine Creek Battlefield History Day - August 5th 10:00 - 5:00 pm

Ladies of the Plains Meeting - Thurs Aug 10th 11:00 am JOCO Library- Shawnee, KS
w / Compatriot Lane Smith's presentation of the Trial of Jefferson Davis

Disorder on the Border - August 12th Harrisonville, MO 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Army of the Trans-Mississippi Symposium- August 12th Texarkana, Arkansas

Spike Speicher Camp Picnic - September 9th - Sewell Family Compounf, Bucyrus, KS

Fall Festival - October 14th 10: 00 am - 5:00 pm Shawnee Indian Mission

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

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

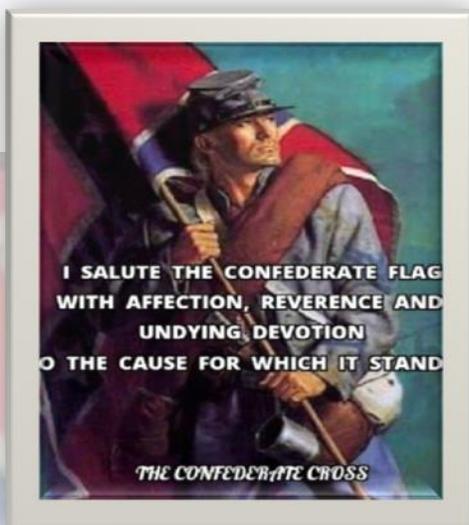
*****NEXT CAMP MEETING*****

The **Key Camp** will meet on **Thursday August 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.

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.



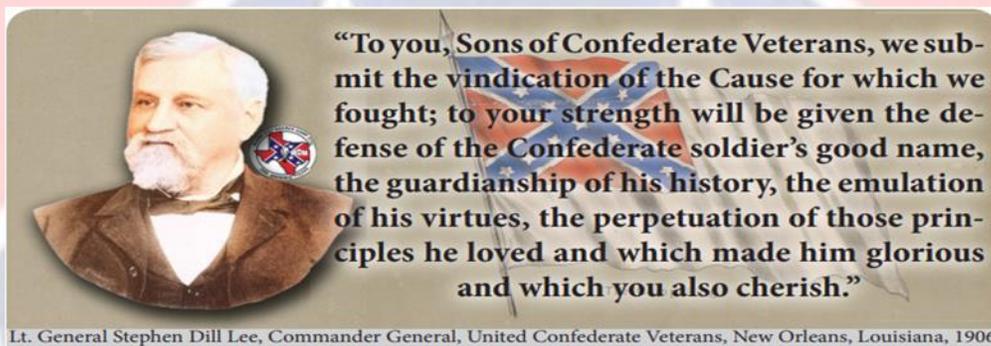


Key Camp Web Page: www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com

Email: Commander Walt Schley: gunnerschley@gmail.com

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

National SCV Web Page
www.scv.org



Individuals attending events hosted by the **Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920** and the **Sons of Confederate Veterans**, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the any Camp Newsletter, any **SCV/Camp** website and/or on any **SCV/Camp** Social Media outlet, or any other **SCV/Camp** material.