



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Vol. 23, No. 8

August 2022

Major Thomas J. Key Officers



Commander - *Matt Sewell*



1st Lt. Commander- *Dan Peterson*



2nd Lt. Commander- *Lane Smith*



Adjutant- *Lawson Rener*



Chaplin - *Walt Schley*



Editor- *Rick McPherson*

The Confederate's Corner

By Rick McPherson

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

Recap of Camp Business of July 7, 2022



Our guest speaker, **Compatriot Chris Edwards** spoke on a variety of subjects including Confederate History and Academia. In addition, he gave his perspective on Quantrill as well as provided various excerpts from his books. He cautioned that "If we leave our history solely to the history books, then we will never win"

The Key Camp welcomed 11 members and 3 guests, including Donna Brooks, Bill Stoker and Carl Linck's grandson Parker.

Compatriots are reminded that spouses, guests and especially prospective members, are always welcome to our meetings.

Meeting Recap



Commander Sewell advised the members of a recent health issue with **Compatriot Dick Cole** and asked that our prayers of healing be with Dick and his family.



Adjutant and State Division Commander Rener reported our treasury balance and noted our current membership stands at 45. He reminded members that dues of \$50 will be forthcoming in August. He also stated that a letter will be sent to the **Kansas Division Adjutant, Dick Croft**, for gifting the Division Flag to the care of the Key Camp. He also spoke on the Kansas Division Reunion and thanked the members of the Key Camp for helping make it a success.



The National SCV Reunion was to be held July 19-23 in Cartersville, GA. Compatriots **Schley** and **M^cPherson** will be attending the events.



Commander Sewell announced that the **Mine Creek Heritage Day** would be held on Saturday August 6th. Key Camp members are expected to be represented to display artifacts and to represent our Camp to prospective members.



Information for embroidered polo shirts was presented. The vendor screenmastersart.com will be developing a web page for future orders for the Key Camp.



Key Camp members signed up to participate in the Camden Point Memorial service which was held on July 13th.



Hits to the **Key Camp Web Page** from 6/20 to 7/25 were +44. YTD total hits are 434

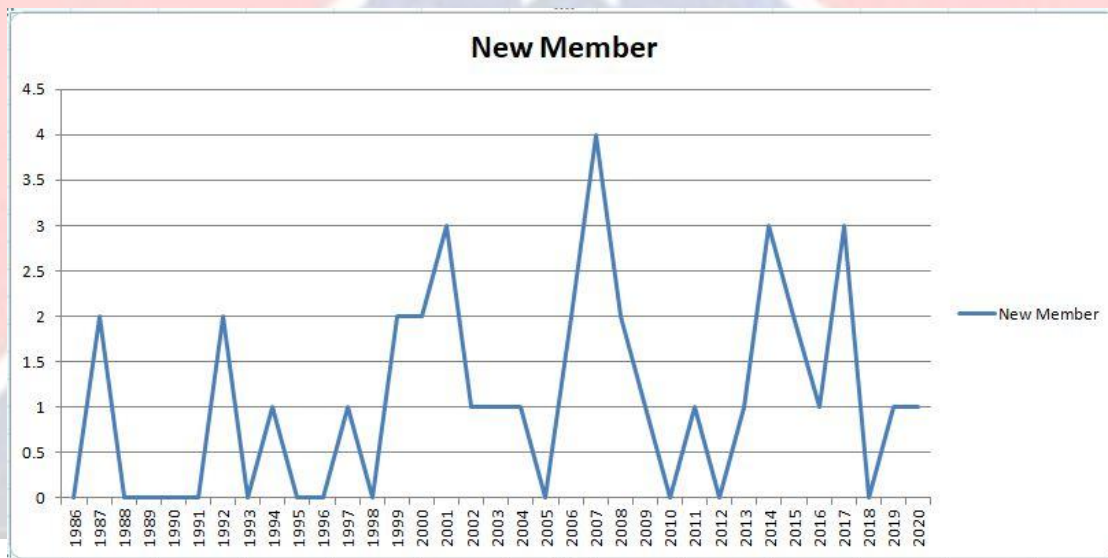


Let's Talk

The Telegraph Key is a “**news**letter” that is intended to tell of the events of the Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920. At times, we have very little news to report. Fortunately, several issues of the first few years are archived in scrapbooks that Spike Speicher maintained and other years were captured and placed on the Telegraph Key web page that John Weir maintained up until this past year. Often activities from our past are added to this newsletter, reminding us of the camp’s past.

When our current Facebook page was set up, the first thing done was to preserve all previous Key Camp newsletters and place them in the “files” section. Those who have access to this page can read the camp’s activities back through the years. For those that are not Facebook members, the most recent newsletters are archived on the new Key Camp web page. Judging by the “hits” to that page, more than 40 views are made each month.

When looking at past issues, from 10-15 years back, there were monthly announcements introducing new members to our Camp. In some issues, pictures are shown of multiple members being handed their membership certificate. Those of course were different times as our organization was not being affected by the controversy highlighted by the battle flag however; we know the SCV is much more than the flag. Most certainly this has affected our opportunities to recruit new membership. In fact, in the past two years we have added just two new members. Let’s take a look at a chart showing when our current paid members joined the SCV. (Some joined via the National HQ previous to our Camp’s founding).



In 2007, a high of 4 members joined that year. From 2017 to 2022 we have had 6 members join us that are dues paying members, but not necessarily attending meetings. The reality is that we must increase our recruiting efforts. Every opportunity to reach out to individual through various events must be taken advantage of to bring in new members. We must seek ways to overcome false perceptions of our organization and to tell others what we are really about. And by the way,

we are not alone in the challenges in recruiting members, but we can't let that stop us from seeking out and taking advantage of every opportunity.

The Major Thomas J Key Camp does this through Wreaths across America, the Lone Jack Battlefield History Days, The Mine Creek Battlefield Heritage Day and the Camden Point Memorial service. We'll be at the Shawnee Mission Indian Festival once again where we have an opportunity to be exposed to the public.

Are there opportunities to do more? In times past we were represented at the Mahaffie Farm Civil War Days. We were represented at Higginsville. We marched in the Ottawa Parade and various others. We participated in the Johnson County Library History and Genealogy Day and Old Shawnee Days. Those days may be on hold or even gone so we must use the venues available to us now to tell the history of our ancestors and organization.

We have activities for all who wish to participate in. Next up is Mine Creek on August 6th. If you join us there we'll recognize you in a picture in our news letter, or perhaps we'll hand out a certificate of appreciation to you and our next meeting. These are small rewards but you'll be creating memories with your fellow SCV buddies and supporting the camp. Join us where we recruit and help us bring in new members. Join us at our meetings and help fill the empty chairs that are reserved for you. Take a look at the picture below of a full house several years ago. We'd love to see you and catch up with all that's going on in your life. Perhaps you'd like to make a presentation. Awesome! We welcome all who are able, to join in, to participate in and to support your wonderful SCV chapter. Come join us again. *Let's make some news together!*



Commander "Spike" opened the October meeting of the Compatriots of the SCV of the Thomas J. Key Camp; to A "Full" House.

We have a duty. It is a duty which General Stephen D Lee incorporated in the "Charge" to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principals for which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations".

The Key Camp had a great showing at the Camden Point Memorial service on July 13th. Unfortunately **Compatriot Eric Martinez** and Jason were unable to join us but for a brief moment as they had just learned about an illness in their family and had to leave. They were in our opening prayers. The Camp's Compatriots that did attend enjoyed a BBQ picnic with Compatriots bringing food to share. **Commander Sewell** began the service with an opening tribute followed by the laying of a wreath by **Monet Keitzman** of the UDC, then by six Compatriots reading the bio and placing a Sterling Price flag at the grave of each soldier. The memorial ended with the playing of Taps and then the singing of Dixie. A "toast" to the memory of the soldiers preceded the picnic.

Camden Point Memorial Service

Thanks to Chaplain Walt Schley for your prayers and "MC" duties!



Shown I.-R: Monet, Larrv, Dan, Chris, Garv and Jim



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

Camden Point Memorial Opening

We are here today for one purpose, and one purpose only, to honor the Southern heroes who lie among us in this hallowed ground. As we do, we also honor the Southern heroes whose blood was spilled on the battlefields, from Vicksburg to Gettysburg, and even right here in Camden Point, those who never came home or were heard from again.

We are here to honor the men who were paroled, from Appomattox to Elmira, and who came home to a desolate and destroyed nation. And let us not forget the women who watched as their homes were burned, and most certainly fought and died to protect their families.

Most, if not all of us here today, descend from the great men and women who were our Southern heroes. Never forget them, never bring dishonor upon their name or deeds, and always remember the sacrifices they made, and the legacy of independence they fought to give us.

The confederate soldiers were our kinfolk and our heroes. We testify to the country our enduring fidelity to their memory. We commemorate their valor and devotion. There were some things that were not surrendered at Appomattox. We did not surrender our rights and history; nor was it one of the conditions of surrender that unfriendly lips should be suffered to tell the story of that war or that unfriendly hands should write the epitaphs of the Confederate dead. We have the right to teach our children the true history of the war, the causes that led up to it and the principles involved.

As their sons and daughters, it is our duty, our duty, to see that these Southern heroes are never forgotten!



National SCV Convention



Gen Stephen D Lee Award
winner
President Donald J Trump

The 127th General Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans was held July 20-23 in Cartersville, Georgia and was attended by Key Camp Compatriots, **M^cPherson** and **Schley**.

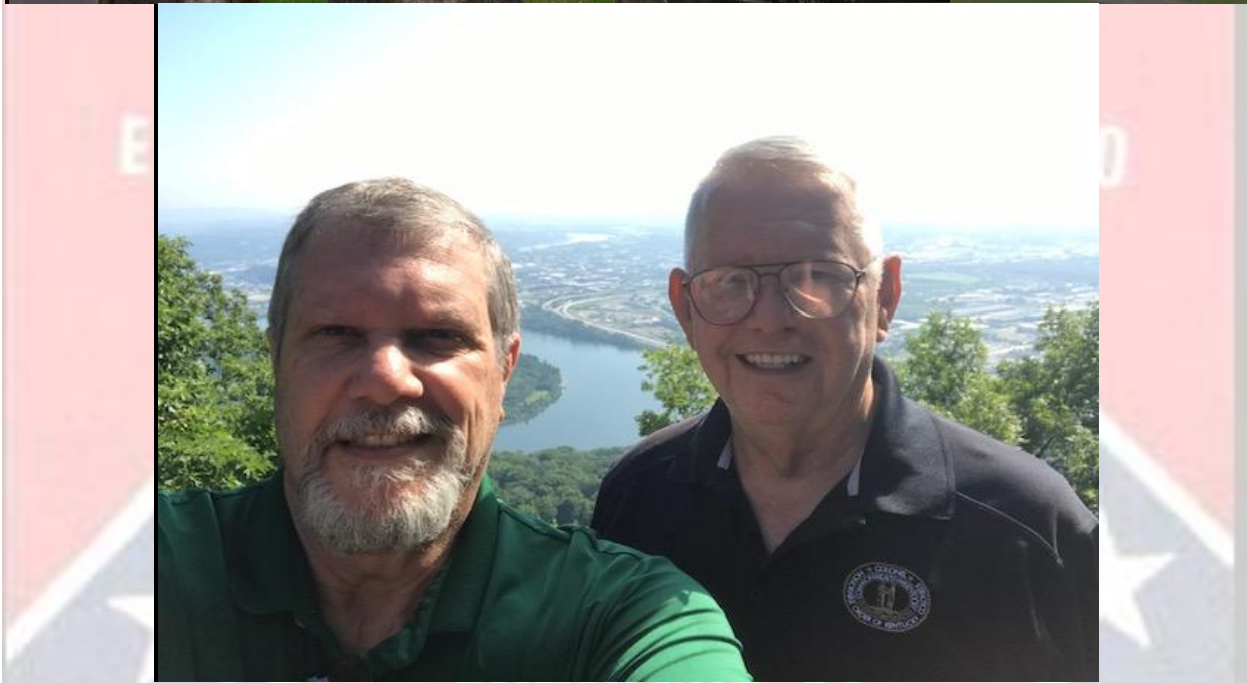
The business session dealt with a call to recruit, recruit, and recruit. In addition, a review of the growth at the new museum located on the grounds of the Columbia, TN SCV Headquarters was shown via a Power Point presentation. A call for both financial and memorabilia donations to the museum was requested.

The SCV legal team discussed the numerous battles to prevent removal of Confederate monuments and the growing fight to erase our history. One place of concern is the Stone Mountain monument.

Also discussed was the 2021 re-internment of Nathan Bedford Forrest which has generated a considerable increase in visitors to the National HQ. In the Spring of 2024, the equestrian statue that was previously located in Memphis will be dedicated. The re-internment last fall drew 1843 approved guests.

And most surprisingly, the 2022 Gen. Stephen D Lee Award went to former President Donald J. Trump.

Key Camp Boys on the Road to Georgia



One of our most interesting stops was in Fairview, Kentucky where the Jefferson Davis Memorial appears, and towering high above the landscape. This monument erected in 1924 towers 351 feet high, second tallest to the Washington Monument and is the tallest unreinforced concrete structure in the world.

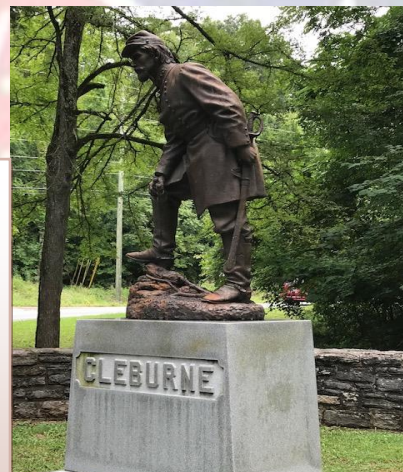
The above picture shows Chattanooga in the background from atop *Lookout Mountain* in Tennessee.



Marietta Confederate Cemetery



Jake, Glen & Walt Schley visit "The General"



Sites and Battlefield visited included: Chickamauga, Kennesaw Mountain, Resaca, Ringgold, Cheatham Hill, Marietta Confederate Cemetery, Jay's Mill, Snodgrass Hill, Mill Creek Gap, the Huff House in Dalton, Ga. (HQ for Gen Joseph Johnston), Stones River, Look Out Mountain, Stone Mountain and the Atlanta History Museum including the Cyclorama featuring the Battle of Atlanta. In addition, **Walt's** son and grandson joined us on a visit to the Civil War Railroad Museum where "The General" locomotive was on display.

Snodgrass Hill at Chickamauga, where Hood and Longstreet would fight, Longstreet losing a limb. The confederates drove off the federalists and Chickamauga was ended. 2500 Rebels dead, fewer of the blue coats would die. Chattanooga was protected and the Federalist would leave and head toward Resaca.

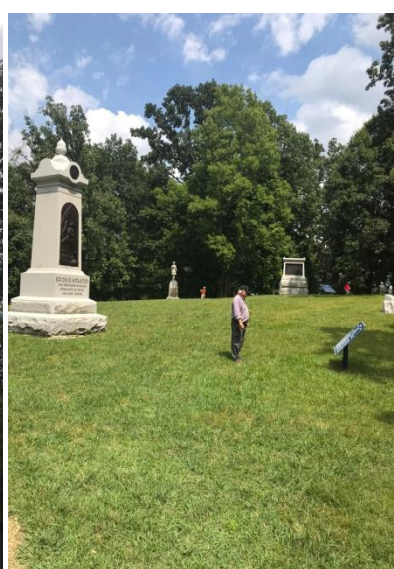
In 1895 a celebration of the battle would be held for both the boys of blue and of the grey. Both sides were encouraged to place monuments throughout the battlefield to tell the story of May 14/15/16. More than 50,000 attended the event, causing the railroads to rework their schedules to handle the throngs of people.

The celebration was the biggest of this kind, veterans from both sides putting away their differences and telling their harrowing stories. The two combatants came together.

A lesson learned. If they could do it, then why can't we?



Buses full of old people!





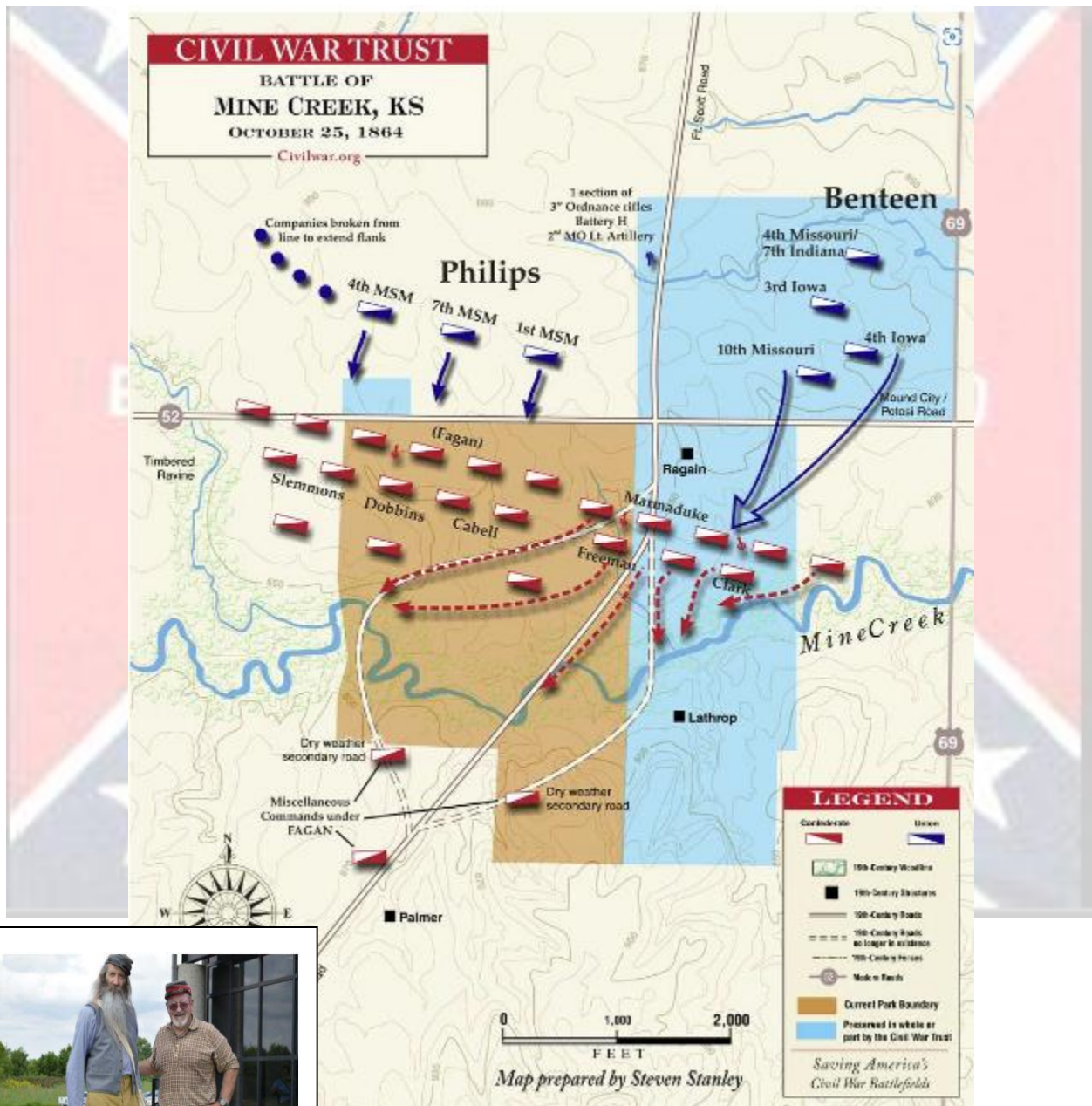
Walt visiting Chickamauga



Yes, he was a Yankee but one of the highlights for **Compatriot M^cPherson** was to visit the memorial site where **Major General James Birdseye M^cPherson**, was killed during the Battle of Atlanta. In addition, inside the Atlanta History Museum was a display that included **General M^cPherson's** field trunk, canteen, and belt buckle and the bullet that **killed** him.

Reminder for your calendar

It's that time again! The Mine Creek Battlefield History Days is Saturday August 6th from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm
Come join your fellow Key Camp Compatriots as we display our artifacts and potentially recruit future members to our camp.



Paul and Dan at 2020 Heritage Days

Confederates Captured at Mine Creek

Compatriot John Bolton originally submitted this article back in 2002. He found the original document, typed by his mother, which was taken from the *St Louis Democrat* and retyped with its original spelling and grammatical errors as well as a touch of Yankee propaganda.

From the *St Louis Democrat*, November 11, 1864

Arrival of Rebel Prisoners

Their forlorn appearance—How they were captured and what they say

At three o'clock yesterday afternoon two trains of cars on the Pacific Railroad arrived at 14th Street Depot with 620 of the Rebel prisoners captured by Gen. Pleasanton in the running fight at Mine Creek near Mound City, Kansas. They were guarded by 275 men of the 23rd Wisconsin Infantry, under the command of Lieut. and Major Virgin.

The prisoners were taken from the cars at 14th Street depot preceded by a band of music, were marched up 14th Street to Wash. Ave., down Washington Ave to Fifth St., down Fifth to Gratiot and lodged in there prison where they will remain until forwarded by Rock Island. The officers 47 in number were also sent to the prison (not to Barnums) and will be forwarded to Johnson Island.

The Rebels were the toughest set of men we ever saw. There was a hardy man among them in healthy looking condition. Their faces were lean, haggard and cadaverous, their cheeks sunken, their forms bowed and their whole appearance wretched to the extreme. Among them were quite a number of boys from 14 to 16 and a few men over sixty. They were all clad in rags. Some without shoes, some without hats, some with greasy blankets or ragged strips of carpeting thrown over their shoulders. The prevailing style was butternut; two or three of the officers only being dressed in regular rebel uniforms. Not a few of them were sick and scarcely able to walk. One man named Francis Mariam Jackson of Monteu Co., Mo. On alighting from the cars fell prostrate upon the ground and was unable to rise. Some of the ladies present poured a cup of coffee and did what they could to revive the fainting captive.

These prisoners were turned over to Capt. C.S. Hills and taken by him to Warrensburg, from which they were guarded by the 33rd Wisc. under Col. Lovell. Capt. Hills says he was taking descriptive rolls of the men, nearly all of them claimed that they had been conscripted into the Rebel service, and many were desirous to take the oath and go into the Union Army. It was stated by Gen. Cobel that they charged upon the Rebels, Pleasanton "run over" Old Pap himself but being unknown, he escaped together with about 40 others. The charge was made in three lines, the first two breaking through the Rebel ranks keeping on, while the third line came through behind and gathered up the prisoners.

Price and Cabell were together, passed by the two front lines. Cabell surrendered to both lines and was endeavoring to escape by riding through the flank of the third, when his girth broke and

he was thrown from his horse and captured. Price, Fagan and the other officers having nothing about them to indicate their rank managed to slip through unnoticed. From the fact that there were so many general officers together, it is believed they were holding a council of some sort, either war or peace. Among a lot of thirty men captured in another place, ten of them were officers.

These men were all Mo. or Ark men. The Arkansans complain bitterly of the treatment they received from Price. They said Price was induced to make the raid by pressure brought to bear on him by Missouri troops. They said they were kept in the rear while Missourians went in advance thereby securing all the plunder and leaving them nothing. At the time of the rout the spoils had not been divided and were pretty nearly all burnt by Price after his defeat by Pleasanton.

Price came into Missouri with 16 pieces of artillery, two Parrots, two James rifles, two brass mountain Howitzers, two Iron Howitzers, six smooth bore guns and 11, 4 inch steel rifled guns very light used for killing Artillery horses. Of these guns, two were captured at Independence; one was disabled at Jefferson City. One burst at Westport and nine were captured at Pleasanton. So, Price has but three left and two of those are light rifled pieces, for which he has no ammunition.

Besides the prisoners who arrived yesterday, others remain at Fort Scott, Mound City, Paola, Kansas City, Fort Leavenworth, Independence, Lexington, Sedalia and Jefferson City. Those in Kansas will probably be sent by Gen. Curtis direct to Rock Island without passing through this city.

As a considerable number of those captured claim that they were unwilling conscripts, it is possible that the whole bunch will remain here in order that an examination will be made. And those who were forced to take up arms will no doubt be released upon taking the oath of Allegiance and giving bond for their future loyalty.



Mine Creek 2004

*Flash
Back!*

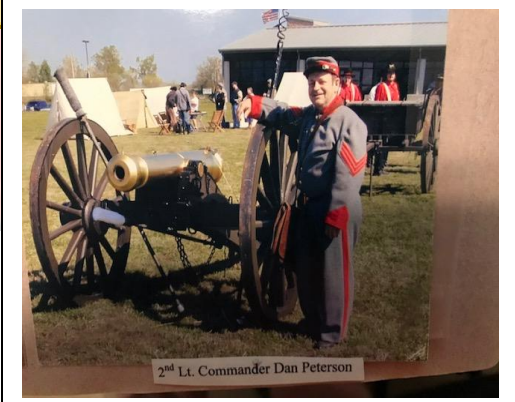


These pictures are from the Mine Creek History Day in August 2004.

As you can see, a recruiting table was set up to attract visitors and prospective members to the table display. It even featured a TV monitor that played a recruiting video on a loop.



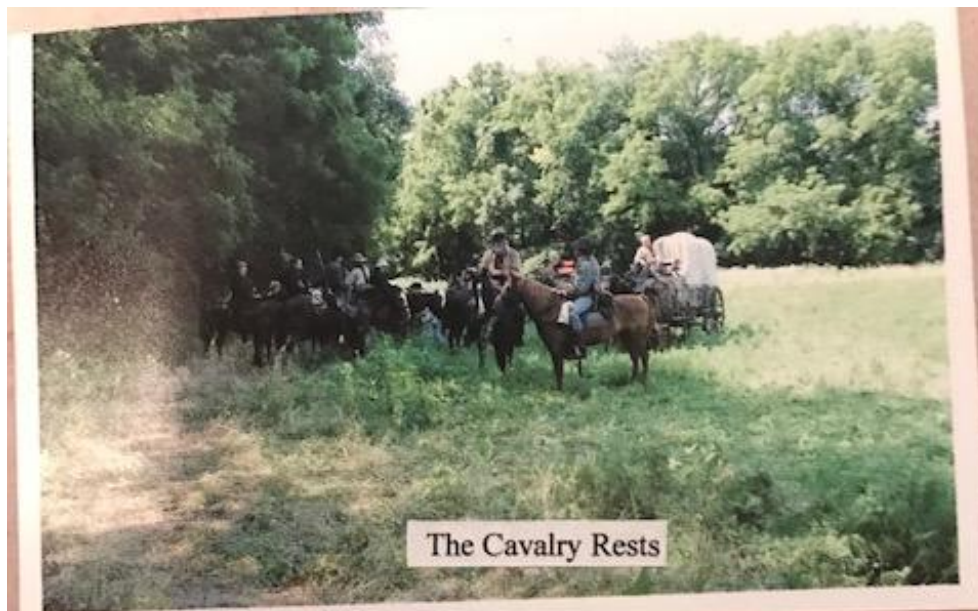
Below left, Spike Speicher addressed visitors as he spoke about the battle held at Mine Creek and also about the weapons on display.

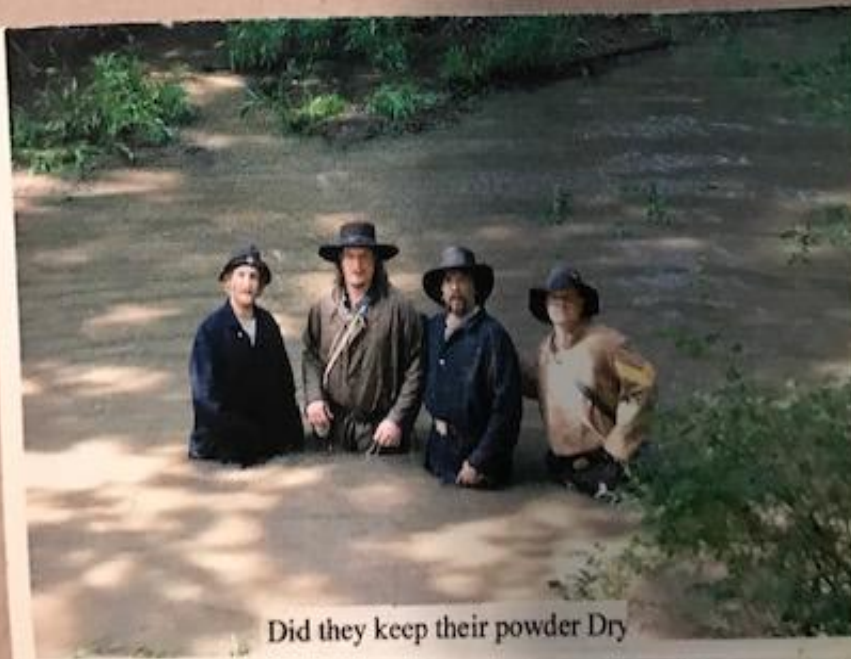
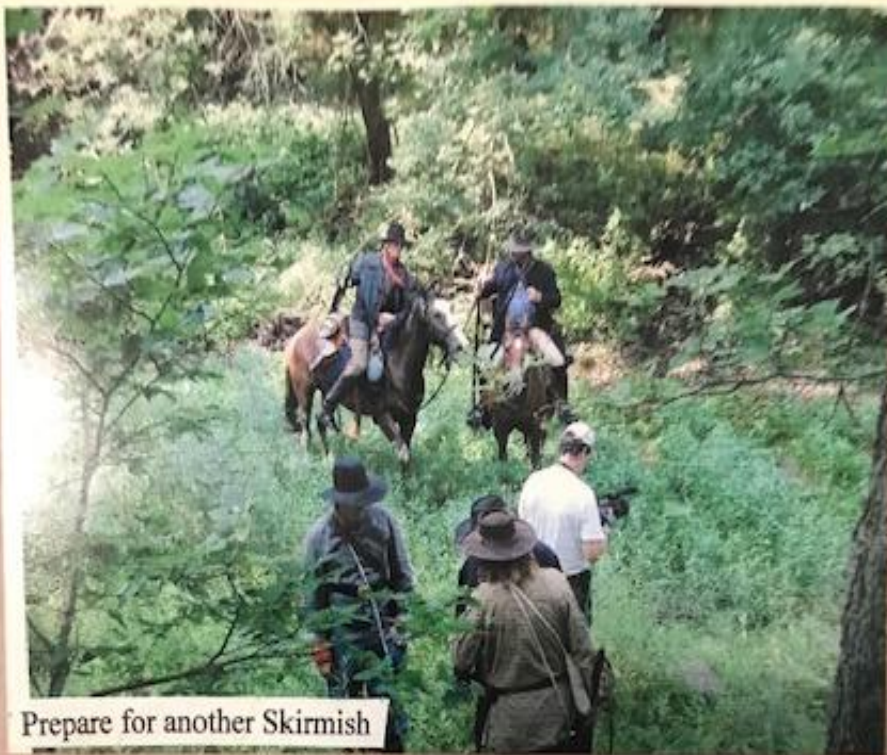


Above, then 2nd Lt. Commander Dan Peterson at Mine Creek in 2004

Key Camp in the Movies

*In 2004, several Compatriots in the **Thomas J Key Camp** participated in the making of a film documenting the fighting at Mine Creek Battlefield aired on the History Channel titled "The Hidden Battle"*





I'd walk a mile for a camel

Submitted by **Compatriot Walt Schley**



“Old Douglas” was a domesticated camel used by Company A of the Forty-third Mississippi Infantry, part of the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Because of Old Douglas, the 43rd Mississippi Infantry came to be known as the Camel Regiment.

Douglas was originally part of a U.S. War Department program called the Texas Camel Experiment, which aimed to experiment with camels as a possible alternative to horses and mules, which were dying of dehydration in vast numbers. Jefferson Davis, who had ascended to the position of United States Secretary of War in 1853, was a strong proponent of the program, and used his political influence to make the experiment happen.

Although the details are unknown, Douglas somehow made his way to Mississippi. He was initially given to Colonel W. H. Moore by 1st Lt. William Hargrove. Besides being a mascot, Moore assigned Douglas to the regimental band, carrying instruments and knapsacks.

Though the men tried to treat Old Douglas like a horse, the camel was known to break free of any tether, and was eventually allowed to graze freely. Despite not being tied up, he never wandered far from the men. The Infantry’s horses feared Old Douglas, and he is recorded to have spooked one horse into starting a stampede, which reportedly injured many, and possibly killed one or two horses.

Old Douglas’s first active service was with Gen. Price in the Iuka campaign. He also participated in the 1862 Battle of Corinth. He remained with the regiment until the Siege of Vicksburg, where he was killed by Union sharpshooters. Enraged at his murder, the men swore to avenge him. Col. Bevier enlisted six of his best snipers, and successfully shot the culprit. Of Douglas’s murderer, Bevier reportedly said, “I refused to hear his name, and was rejoiced to learn that he had been severely wounded.”

Douglas is currently honored with his own grave marker in Vicksburg's Cedar Hill Cemetery. He, along with other camels used during the war, are not overlooked by historians, nor by Civil War Re-enactors. There is currently a group called the Texas Camel Corps, whose mission is to promote the stories of camels, like Old Douglas, used during the Civil War.

Membership Dues are payable by September 1st.



DUES INVOICE
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920

DATE: July 10, 2022
FROM: Lawson Rener, Camp Adjutant

Dear Compatriot:

Our annual membership dues are due and payable to SCV International Headquarters August 15. Please remit to the camp adjutant your dues as indicated and outlined below so we may forward the funds to International Headquarters in a timely fashion.

If dues are not paid by September 1, members are considered delinquent. An additional fee of \$5.00 will be required to be reinstated. Additionally, for those whose dues are not paid, their subscription to "The Confederate Veteran" magazine will be discontinued September 1.

Please provide your requested information below. Enclose this form and your payment in an envelope and mail to our camp adjutant, Lawson Rener, at the address below. Please make check to "Key Camp, SCV 1920".

COMPATRIOT INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

SCV ID #: _____

DUES AMOUNT BREAKDOWN:

<u>FOR REGULAR MEMBER</u>	<u>ASSOCIATE MEMBER</u>
National Dues = \$35.00	Camp Dues = \$10.00
Division Dues = \$5.00	*Primary membership
Camp Dues = \$10.00	is with another camp*

FOR LIFE MEMBERS

National Dues = \$0
Division Dues = \$5.00
Camp Dues = \$10.00



DUES STATEMENT

NATIONAL DUES: \$ 35⁰⁰

DIVISION DUES: \$ 5.00

CAMP DUES: \$ 10.00

TOTAL DUE: \$ 50⁰⁰

Please make payable to Key Camp, SCV 1920

Please send this form and payment to:

Adjutant Lawson Rener
4320 Wornall Road, Suite 402
Kansas City, MO 64111



Major

Thomas J. Key Camp

#1920

Johnson County, Kansas
Camp Activities



Saturday August 6th Mine Creek Battlefield History Day



Annual Membership Dues payable by September 1

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*******

Thursday August 4th

The Key Camp will meet on Thursday August 4th 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

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

National SCV HQ Web Page
www.scv.org

Charge to the Sons “To you Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will submit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier’s good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.” General Stephen Dill Lee

