



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Vol. 24, No. 2

February 2023

Major Thomas J. Key Officers



Commander – *Walt Schley*



1st Lt. Commander- *Dan Peterson*



2nd Lt. Commander- *Paul Allen*



Adjutant- *Lawson Rener*



Chaplin – *Walt McKenzie*



Editor- *Rick McPherson*

The Confederate's Corner

By Rick McPherson

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



Lee-Jackson Day was held on Saturday January 21st, celebrating the birthdays of Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

About the January 5th meeting, our 233rd^d

The Key Camp welcomed 13 members and 6 guests at our January meeting. Thanks to those that attended. We hope to see you all again at our **March 2nd**, 2023 meeting.

Attendance at our 21st Annual Lee-Jackson Day Banquet included 48 members and guests.

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

Meeting Recap



Membership report: 48 current members are paid.



Our guest speaker in December was Anthony "Scotty" O'Connell, a good friend of then, **Commander-elect Walt Schley** and a Vietnam Veteran. Scotty's presentation included a video produced by Patriot Features. Scotty's story tells about, as a 15 1/2-year-old, he left his home in Scotland immigrating to Canada before making his way to America where he could live the American dream. He knew joining the US Military would be the path that would help him achieve that dream, one he urged not to be taken for granted. He said, "I always wanted to be an American".



The auction held at the Lee-Jackson Banquet raised \$1585 for the Key Camp. Thanks to all who donated and purchased items and to **Anne (Lane) Smith** for a great job as our auctioneer. A shout out to **Betty Allen** for her amazing generosity.



Bill Stoker, Commander of the **Franklin Camp** with the SUVCW and Key Camp **Compatriot Lane Smith**, were the speakers to those assembled at the Lee-Jackson Banquet.



Commander Matt Sewell, master of ceremony for the Lee-Jackson Banquet, oversaw the swearing in **new Commander Walt Schley** as the 4th Commander of the Key Camp.



The **Key's Battery Award** was presented to **Adjutant Lawson Renner**. Congratulations and thank you for all the work you do on behalf of our organization.



Total Hits to the **Key Camp Web Page** in 2022 were **610**.



Key Camp Web Page Hits from January 1st 2023 to date are +36

Commander Walt Schley

Congratulations to our new Commander, **Walt Schley**. Walt is a past recipient of the 2019 Key Battery Award and the SCV War Service Medal. He is retired from the U.S. Marine Corps, ranking as Chief Warrant Officer and served in Vietnam, Saudia Arabia, Kuwait and Southern Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf War. In addition he was recalled to active duty in 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He holds numerous decorations for his service.



Walt has been an instructor for High School JROTC and taught for 13 years at three High Schools retiring in 2011.

Walt is heavily involved in numerous organizations as a volunteer in addition to the SCV and has been very active in the numerous activities of the Key Camp.

Walt and his better half, Kathleen, live in Parkville, Missouri

Good luck **Commander Schley!**

Key's Battery Award

MAJ. THOMAS J. KEY

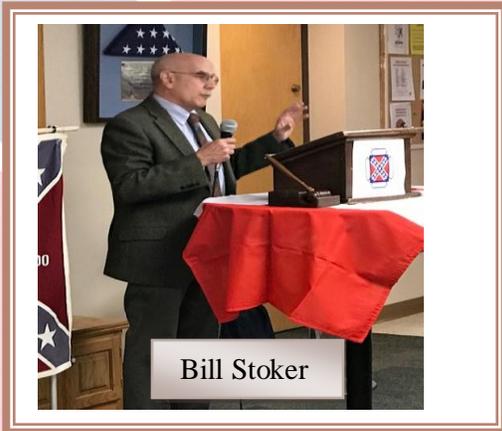
Congratulations to **Adjutant Lawson Rener**, the 2022 Key's Battery Award recipient. Lawson has long served as our Camp Adjutant, a position that requires numerous recording and reporting of the financial activities of the Major Thomas J Key Camp. In addition to his camp activities, Lawson serves as the Commander of the Kansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, while continuing his career in dentistry.



Commander Matt Sewell, Adjutant Lawson Rener and newly installed **Commander Walt Schley**, following the announcement of the Key's Battery Award.

Thanks to **Commander Matt Sewell, Compatriots Dan Peterson, Lane Smith, Walt Schley, Lawson Rener, Walt McKenzie** and **Rick McPherson** who have all served the Key Camp in various positions throughout the past year. We appreciate your contributions and look forward to your continuing participation in the New Year.

2023 Lee-Jackson Banquet



Bill Stoker



Lane Smith



Paul & Betty Allen



Martinez's & Buckner's



Peterson, Peterman, Edwards & Langemeier



The folks in the back of the room



Emily Sewell



Matt, Jeff & Lane



John & Ken



Jim, Langemeier's & Dan



Lawson and Monet



Walt & Lawson



Anne Smith



Larry, Paul, Betty, Jim Beckner

Gen. Lee visits Baxter Springs

Lane Smith presented Robert E Lee to a “Daughters of the Confederacy” group on Saturday, in Baxter Springs, Kansas.

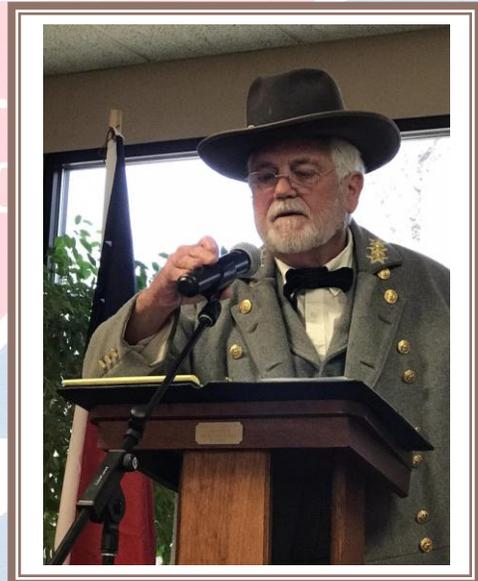
Lane’s presentation included Lee’s devotion to his family’s Virginia heritage.

Joining Lane were **Monet Keitzman** from the Ladies of the Plains Chapter of the UDC and **Compatriot Rick McPherson** of the Key Camp.

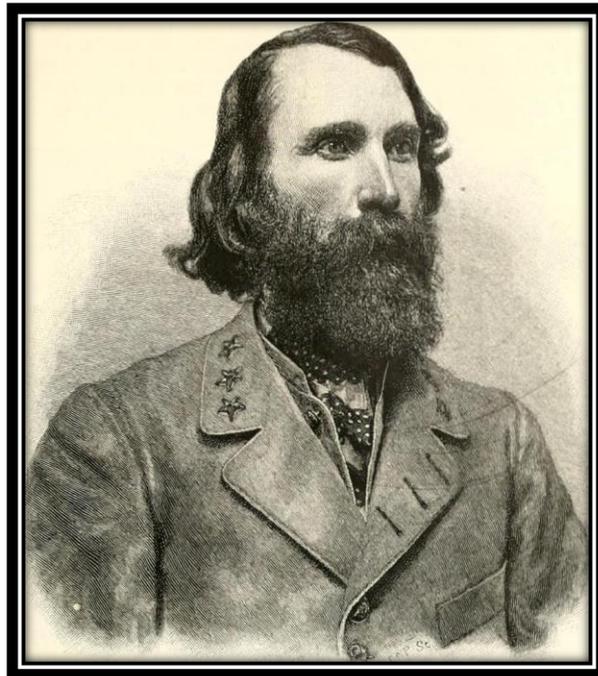
Before a crowd that included members from the sponsoring group as well as those from the Carthage, Missouri Livingston SCV Camps, **Compatriot Smith** spoke to the family history of the Lee family and why General Lee chose to serve with the Army of Virginia instead of accepting the Command of the Army of the Potomac.

The event was held at the Baxter Springs Historical museum which was a beautiful and impressive venue.

As usual, Lane made an impressive presentation. Well done!



On January 21st, the remains of **Confederate General A P Hill** were reinterred in Fairview cemetery in Culpeper, VA. Curiously, this was actually the 4th time that General Hill has been buried. The first was after his death during the war in 1865. Then in 1867, he was moved to Hollywood cemetery in Richmond VA. His remains were moved in 1891, placed below a monument that had been erected on his memory, also in Richmond VA. Following the removal of that monument in December 2022, his remains were moved to Culpeper VA where he was buried, again, on January 21, 2023.



Thanks Matt



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



Major

Thomas J. Key Camp

#1920

Johnson County, Kansas
Camp Activities



Ladies of the Plains Chapter Mtg via Zoom – February 4th 10:00am
MO Division Reunion March 2023

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*

No February Meeting will be held

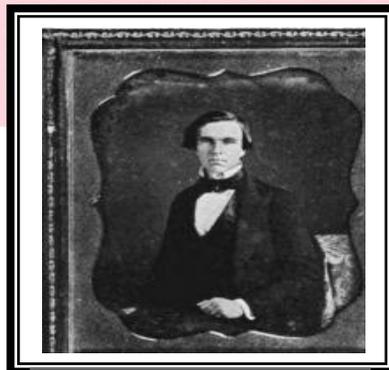
*******NEXT CAMP MEETING*******

March 2nd, 2023

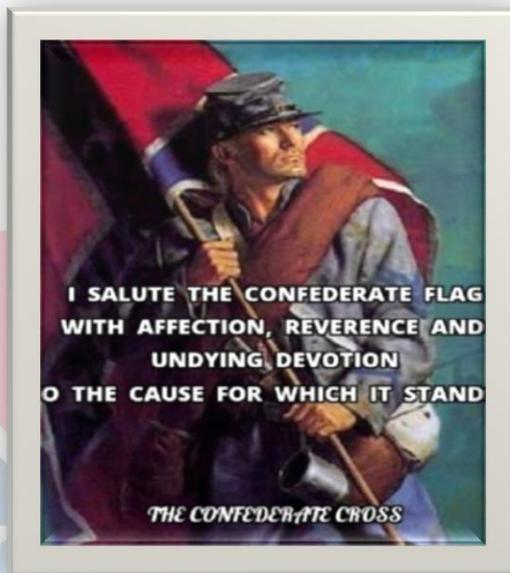
The Key Camp will meet on Thursday January 5th at Zarda's Bar B-Q on the southwest corner of 87th and Quivera in Lenexa, Kansas with the official meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to arrive early (6:00 p.m.) for BBQ, conversation and camaraderie.

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.



Major Thomas J Key



Key Camp Web Page:
www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com

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

National SCV Web Page
www.scv.org



“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we 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.”

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906

*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.*