



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Volume 24, No. 7

July 2024

Major Thomas J Key Camp Officers



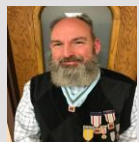
Commander - *Walt Schley*



1st Lt. Commander- *Dan Peterson*



2nd Lt. Commander- *Paul Allen*



Adjutant- *Lawson Rener*



Chaplin - *Walt McKenzie*



Communications- *Rick McPherson*

The Compatriots Corner

By Rick McPherson

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

The July 2024 meeting was attended by 18 members and guests. This was the 246th regular meeting of the
Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920



Compatriot Lane Smith was our featured speaker at our July meeting, as he spoke on the battle planning by General Robert E Lee, leading up to the Gettysburg fighting.

A wonderfully knowledgeable student of the Civil War, Lane offered details about the logistics and troop movements beginning at the Chambersburg Pike Road where the Army of Northern Virginia marched into the town, pushing the Army of the Potomac into the center of Gettysburg, to the Railroad Cut, and into the fields of McPherson's Ridge.

Several members of the **Key Camp** will be traveling, along with **Compatriot Smith**, to Gettysburg, meeting from Sept 30th to Oct 3rd. Those wishing to join in need to contact **Compatriot Smith** asap to be sure lodging can be reserved.

Thanks, Lane, for sharing your knowledge and passion to all your fellow **Key Camp** Compatriots!

Follow us on Facebook - Major Thomas J Key Camp

Camp Notes



Camp dues are due in the amount of \$55. Please return your membership dues to **Adjutant Lawson Rener** a.s.a.p.



The Key Camp will be hosting a **Re-dedication Ceremony** of the Confederate monument at Mine Creek on **Saturday August 3rd**. Please plan on attending. The event will begin at 1:00 and last 30 mins. Please wear your Camp shirt or CW attire. If you have a black powder firearm, you will be able to fire it.



Those interested in making a presentation at a future meeting of the Key Camp should contact **Commander Schley** to schedule you.



Members attending the Camden Point Memorial service were, **Peterson, Edgington, Smith, Coffelt, McPherson, Linck, Atherton, McKenzie**. Also, **Monet Kietzman, Jill McPherson, Mary McKenzie, Kathleen Schley** and **Linda Edgington**.



The **2nd Annual Spike Speicher Picnic** has been scheduled for **Saturday September 21st** and will be held at **Past-Commander Matt Sewell's** home. Friends and family are invited. Please mark this date on your calendar.



Walt, Tim and **Rick** attended, and represented the **Key Camp** and **Kansas Division**, at the 129th National SCV Convention in Charleston, South Carolina.



Anyone interested in serving in a **Camp officer position** and/or handling the newsletter duties should contact **Commander Walt Schley**. Camp elections will be held during the November meeting.



Congratulations to **Commander Walt Schley** on being selected to travel as part of a recent **Honor Flight for Vietnam Veterans**, to Washington DC. We are proud of you and your service to our country and appreciate your service to the Key Camp.



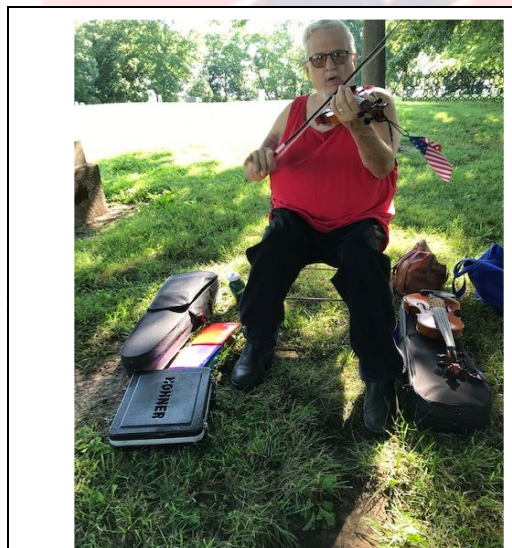
Prospective Compatriot Jerry Coffelt will soon become a member of the Key Camp. Jerry's ancestor was Thomas W Coffelt of Stan Watie's Regiment, Cherokee Mounted Volunteers. We look forward to swearing in Jerry into the SCV and Key Camp. Everyone please be sure to welcome Jerry into our group.



Key Camp Web Page hits 223 YTD, 18 in last 30 days

Camp Activities

Camden Point Memorial Picnic

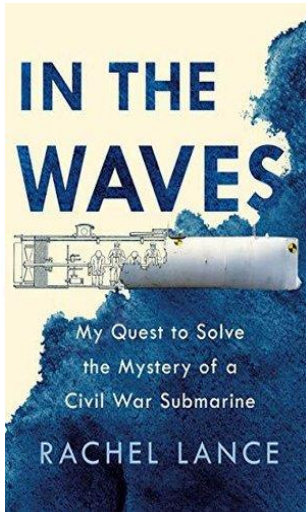


Yes, it was **hot** but we all adapted quickly (in the shade) and everyone had a great time and enjoyed a fried chicken picnic dinner. Thanks to all that helped make the Memorial Service a good one.
You guys are appreciated!

Follow us on Facebook - Major Thomas J Key Camp

A Review of "In the Waves"

A Book Review by Jim Thornton



I recently finished reading "In the Waves" by Rachel Lance, published in 2020. I decided to read this book as it appealed to two of my passions – science & technology and Civil War History. "In the Waves" managed to fuse those two passions of mine into solving one of the most puzzling mysteries of an historic Civil War event. Namely, just how did the crew of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley die?

For 131 years the eight-man crew of the H.L. Hunley lay in their watery graves, undiscovered. When finally raised, the narrow metal vessel revealed a puzzling sight. There was no indication the blast had breached the hull, and all eight men were still seated at their stations—frozen in time after more than a century. Why did it sink? Why did the men die? Archaeologists and conservationists have been studying the boat and the remains for years, and

now one woman would answer that very question.

Rachel Lance is a biomedical engineer who specializes in patterns of injury and trauma, and she is especially fascinated by blast and ballistic events. She works as an assistant consulting professor at Duke University, where she conducts research at the Center for Hyperbaric Medicine and Environmental Physiology. An engineer working for the Navy in 2014, Lance was studying at Duke University for a doctorate in biomedical engineering, and her thesis research concerned the effect of underwater explosions on humans. Most occurred during World War II, so these occupied her until her thesis advisor suggested that she give thought to the Hunley. A Confederate submarine as a doctoral thesis project? Who would have thought.



Rachel Lance with her scale model of the H.L. Hunley

Accounts of the Hunley's sinking had assumed horrific scenes of the men trying to claw their way through the thick iron hatches, or huddled in the fetal position beneath the crew bench in their agony. Sinkings of modern submarines have always resulted in the discovery of the dead clustered near the exits, the result of desperate efforts to escape the cold metal coffins; to sit silently and await one's own demise simply defies human nature.

The crew of the Hunley, however, looked quite different. Each man was still seated peacefully at his station. Why? This would become the focal point of Lance's doctoral thesis. In her subsequent research on the underwater explosion effects on the human body, she would strive to understand why the remains of the Hunley's crew did not match the accepted conditions. Following her successful thesis and the required defense of her research methods and final paper, Lance wrote this book in response to Civil War enthusiasts urging.

What follows is a history of early attempts at submarines, the history of the Hunley itself, and a very detailed description of Lance's research methods, her thought processes, her experimental successes and failures, her difficulties in obtaining large quantities of black powder and then working with it, and finally reaching that magical A-HA moment when it all comes together. In between all this,

she describes and disproves the various theories previously put forth to explain why the Hunley never returned and why the crew perished, even though the submarine was intact.

The narrative combines description of the author's research into what happened after the explosion with a detailed history of events on that night in 1864, including biographies of those involved and careful examinations of the eight victims. In Hollywood, an explosion hurls the hero through the air; he brushes himself off and walks away. In reality, most bomb blasts mutilate their targets, but a sufficiently strong shock wave can produce internal injuries that kill someone on the spot. Lance delivers a lively, if often technical, description of the many experiments, models, calculations, and explosions that persuaded her and her doctoral committee that this is what happened to the Hunley.

Lance's pursuit of the truth about the fate of the Hunley and her crew is aided by a movie-worthy cast of characters. Among others, her family, North Carolina farmers, an ATF agent, an Army bomb squad member turned med student, a metal artist, and a host of Duke undergrads join her in building a scale model Hunley, standing neck deep in a freezing pond, and setting off explosions on the stately Duke University campus. Along the way, Lance narrowly averts explosive death while transporting a trunk full of black powder on Interstate 40, arrestingly explains explosive physics, and provides insight into the history of the Confederacy.

The way Rachel Lance treats the Hunley, and especially her crew, with respect is commendable. She is not judgemental, as so many authors are today, but rather mindful that these were men fulfilling their duty as they saw it.

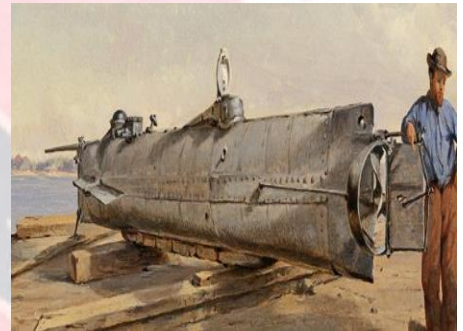
The book is a fascinating journey in the solving of a 160 year old mystery. But the author does tend to sometimes forget her readers may not be as educated in the sciences as she is and

using scientific jargon that can befuddle the readers and leave them scratching their heads. The ending, however, when all the pieces come together, will blow you away (pun intended). The final explanation makes so much sense and it is so logical when the author explains it, and she explains her findings and conclusions without the hard to understand techno-speak she uses early in the book.

"In the Waves" is many things, all of them entertaining to read: a scientific documentary woven with thriller novel intrigue, a serious history accented with gentle sarcasm, and a rapidly paced recounting of the dogged pursuit of scientific truth and a PhD. But "In the Waves" is also an accessible and important exploration of an injury deeply affecting the current generation of America's service members, bomb blast internal injuries without external evidence. In that, Dr. Rachel Lance does a service, providing critical information about a poorly understood injury as old as black powder itself.

If you don't mind techno-babble (mostly early on in the story), this book provides an

in-depth tale into the how's and why's of the Hunley's demise. I consider it a must-read for anyone who, like me, is captivated by the story of the H.L. Hunley. I would give this book 8 out of 10 stars on a rating scale.



Compatriot Jim Thornton

And, speaking of the HL Hunley...

Commander Schley and Compatriot McPherson visited the HL Hunley Museum



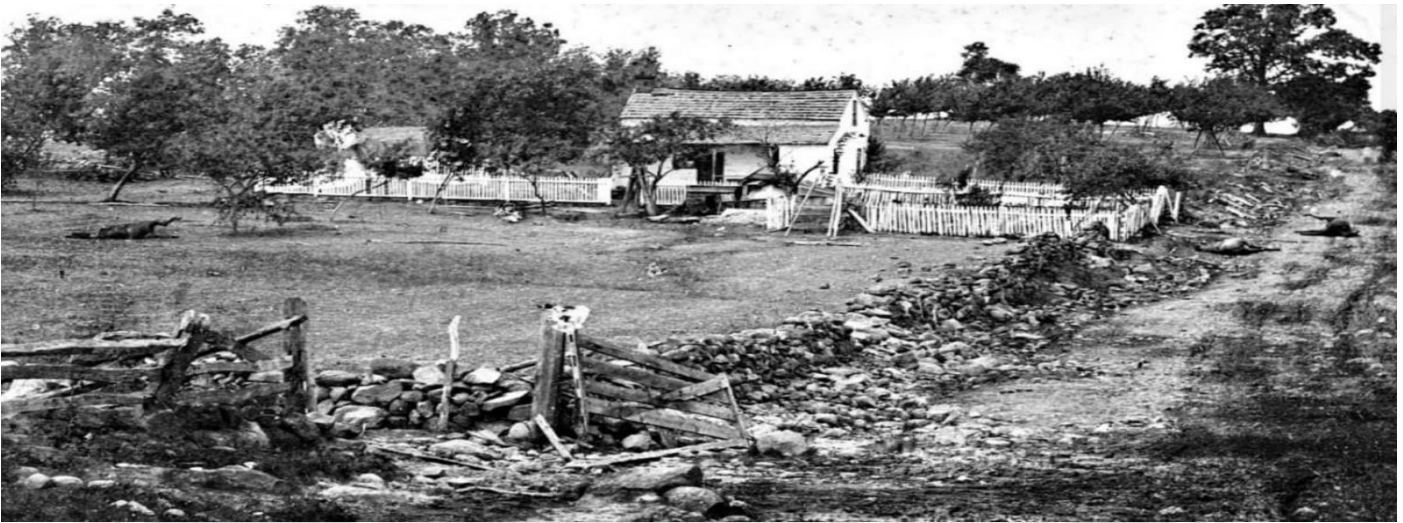
Mock up of the last crew of the Hunley



Rick demos the compact interior



Jewelry recovered from the HL Hunley



GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD THEN & NOW — A July 1863 photo by Alexander Gardner of George Meade's headquarters at Widow Lydia Leister's farm on Taneytown Road — note the dead horses — paired with a Google Street View image.

While digging up Taneytown Road near Meade's HQ in spring of 1910 workers made an amazing discovery: hundreds of bullets from the Civil War. It was the first big relic find on the battlefield in years, according to a local newspaper.

"The plough was turning up the road at a lively rate when the first were seen," the Gettysburg Times reported on May 14, 1910. "A hurried search was made and heaps of thirty or forty were found. There seemed to be no end to the things and before the time for quitting work came almost 850 had been found."

The newspaper speculated Pennsylvania Reserves discarded the ammo or the bullets may have simply fallen from an ammo crate. Or perhaps there was a more sinister explanation.

"Some have even been so unkind to intimate that they may have been planted," the Times noted, "to accommodate the wishes of the tourist trade for that kind of relic to take home."



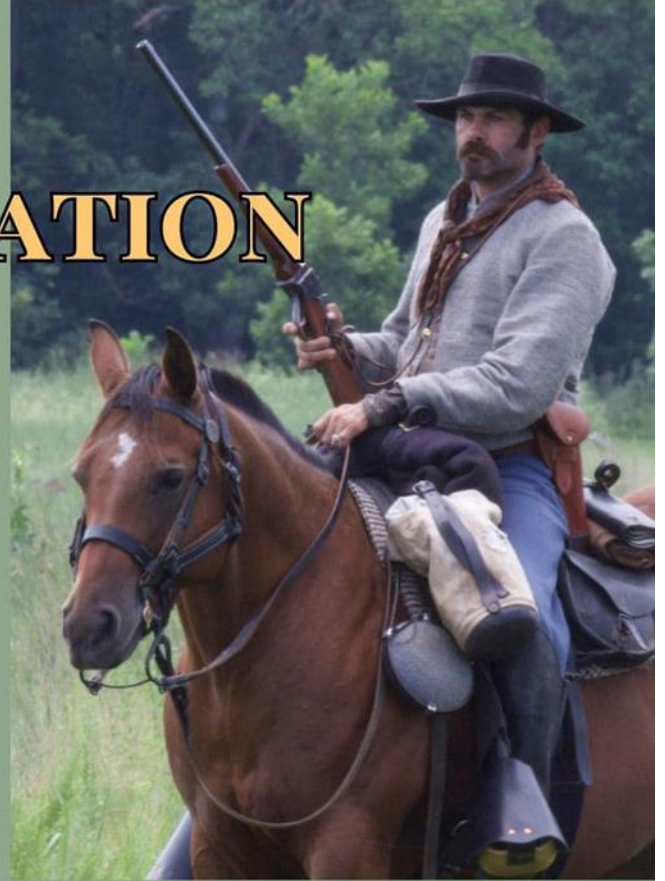
The Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation Presents

THE 160TH COMMEMORATION

of the Battle of Mine Creek

**Honoring our past,
celebrating our
heritage.**

Join us for a day of
historical significance at
Mine Creek Battlefield in
Pleasanton, Kansas



Saturday, August 3rd • 10 am to 5 pm

**Special Rededication of the
20th year of the
Confederate Monument at 1 pm.**

Mine Creek Battlefield
20485 KS Highway 52 • Pleasanton, Kansas 66075

Scheduled Program - (tentative)

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Confederate Monument

Mine Creek Battlefield

(All participants should make their way down to the monument beginning at 12:30)

Presentation of the Flags of the South - **Music by Livingston Camp Bag Piper, John Norris**

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag- **Livingston Camp**

Salute to the Confederate Flag- **Campbell Camp**

Laying of Wreath- **Cowskin Prairie Ladies, Ladies of the Plains, United Daughters of the Confederacy**

Invocation- **Chaplain Crawford Camp Rick Parmale**

Welcome - **KS Division Lt. Commander, Rick McPherson**

Unveiling of the Monument - **All Camp Commanders**

Presentation Marmaduke Flag - **Campbell & Livingston Camps**

Remarks - **Commander Michael Freund, Pvt Riley Crawford Camp, Commander Walt Schley, Major Thomas J Key Camp**

Donation **Key Camp Commander Walt Schley**

Donation **Franklin Camp SUVCW Jim Thornton**

Donation **KS Division, represented by Compatriot Dan Peterson, Key Camp**

Closing - **KS Division Lt Commander Rick McPherson**

Benediction- **Chaplain Livingston Camp Wayne Pease Jr.**

Retiring of Colors

Volley Salute

Dixie - **Key Camp John Atherton**

Longstreet and Lee at Gettysburg



The relationship between James Longstreet and Robert E. Lee, while generally cordial, became a focal point of tension during the Battle of Gettysburg. This complex dynamic significantly impacted the outcome of the battle and, subsequently, the Lost Cause narrative.

Longstreet and Lee shared professional respect and personal camaraderie that had developed over years of service together. Longstreet was one of Lee's most trusted lieutenants, known for his strategic acumen and battlefield leadership. However, their perspectives on military strategy often diverged.

The most pronounced disagreement between the two generals occurred during the Battle of Gettysburg. Longstreet was a proponent of defensive warfare, believing that the Confederacy should avoid pitched battles against superior Union forces. In contrast, Lee, emboldened by recent victories, favored a more aggressive approach.

This difference in strategy became starkly evident at Gettysburg. Longstreet argued for a flanking maneuver to envelop the Union left, a plan he believed would be more effective than a direct frontal assault. Lee, however, opted for a bold attack on the Union center, which culminated in the disastrous Pickett's Charge.

The outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg, a decisive Union victory, dealt a severe blow to the Confederacy. The defeat shattered the myth of invincibility that had surrounded Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

The role of Longstreet in the battle became a subject of intense controversy in the years following the war. As the Lost Cause narrative took shape, efforts were made to place the blame for the defeat squarely on Longstreet's shoulders. Accusations of incompetence and even treason were leveled against him. These attacks served to protect the image of Lee as an infallible military genius, while simultaneously vilifying Longstreet.

In reality, the reasons for the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg were complex and multifaceted. While Longstreet's criticisms of Lee's plan have merit, it is essential to avoid oversimplifying the issue. Both generals made decisions based on the information available to them at the time, and the outcome of the battle was influenced by numerous factors beyond their control.

The controversy surrounding Longstreet and Lee's relationship at Gettysburg continues to be a subject of historical debate and the lost cause movement. Understanding the nuances of their disagreement is crucial to appreciating the complexities of the Civil War and the challenges faced by the Confederacy.

Camp Calendar

August

- 1 Camp Meeting - Jonathan James, speaker (Moonlit Mayhem)
- 1 Annual Dues
- 7 Mine Creek Historical Day - 10 AM to 3 PM
Confederate Marker re- dedication 1:00

September

- 5 Camp Meeting - Robt Jones (Failed attempt to steal the General)
2nd Annual Spike Speicher Camp Picnic
- 30 Gettysburg Battlefield visit

October

- 3 Camp Meeting
Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival

November

- 7 Meeting/Key Camp Election of Officers
Leavenworth Parade

December

- 5 Camp Meeting
Wreaths across America, Ft Leavenworth, Higginsville

SOB's

The term SOB, within our group is a term of endearment and refers to those who are members of both the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, thus “Sons of Both”.

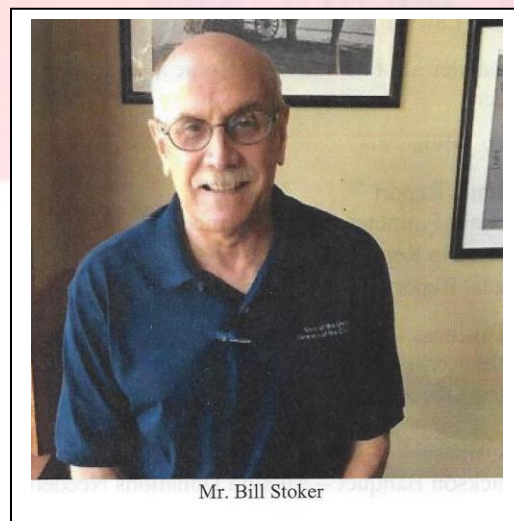
The Key Camp has numerous members that proudly carry this designation, in fact one of our Past Commanders, Jim Thornton, now carried the distinction of being the SUVCW's current Commander.

As the term suggests, SOB's have ancestors that served on both sides of the conflict. They do not disparage one side verse the other but celebrate their family heritage and the memory of the soldier, regardless of the politics of that army.

In addition to those among us who are SOB's, we also have “**Friends of the SCV**” among us who regularly attend our meetings and activities. Though they may not have lineage directly linking them to a Confederate soldier, they appreciate our heritage, and love and support the history that all of us celebrate.

Among them is a beloved and true friend of all, **Bill Stoker**. Bill is a past Commander of the SUVCW and has always supported the Key Camp. We, the members of the Major Thomas J Key Camp thank Bill for all his support and friendship, and trust that he feels the same from each of us.

Bill is just one of several “Friends” we hope always feels welcome. As each “SOB” respects the heritage represented by both the Blue and the Gray, all Compatriots should be welcoming and celebrate the heritage of all our “friends” and guests. Thank you Bill for all you do to both support the Key Camp and the heritage of all Civil War ancestors, and especially for your friendship.



Mr. Bill Stoker

Key Camp Leads Donations to Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation

During the June Key Camp Meeting, the membership suggested a donation to the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation to show our appreciation to all they have done to make our group feel welcomed, and for the support they have given us as we prepare to rededicate our Confederate Monument located on Foundation property.

The Key Camp has sent \$252 to the Foundation plus a (near) match of \$250 by Compatriot Jim Dick and the E3 Ranch. Then, following the Kansas Division Reunion in Topeka, another \$100 was pledged for a total of \$652.

Later, following the June Meeting of the Franklin Camp, SCVCW, their pledge of \$251 was made. Franklin Camp Commander and Key Camp Compatriot Jim Thornton, challenged other Kansas SUVCW Camps to also contribute. To date, the Old Abe Camp out of Topeka pledged \$377 and several individuals, including Compatriots Schley and Coffelt, have added another \$230 bringing the grand total to date, to \$1170.

For those wishing to make individual donations, Tami Neal has set up a “[gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-mine-creek-battlefield-foundations-projects)” page to accept your donations. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-mine-creek-battlefield-foundations-projects>

Donations will help support the educating of guests about the Battle and the Civil War in Kansas and various projects including the rebuilding of the Benteen Bridge that was destroyed by the flooding of Mine Creek.

Thank you to the Key Camp, the Kansas Division and all who have help support this fundraising effort.

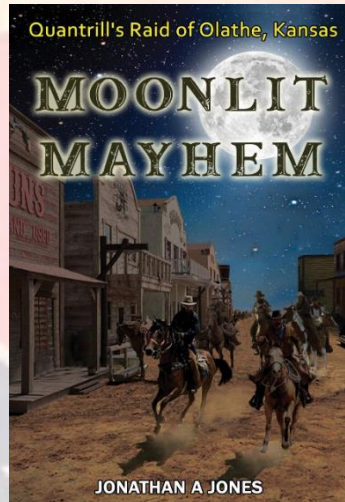
One more note:

The Key Camp also pledged a donation to the National Confederate Museum Building Fund.

Every member of the Key Camp should feel proud that collectively, we have helped make a difference in preserving our heritage and the Civil War history in Kansas.



Our August guest speaker will be author **Jonathan Jones** who will speak on Quantrill's Raid of Olathe, entitled ***Moonlit Mayhem***.



Would you turn your back on your family and friends if the local authorities asked you to do so? Residents were asked to do just that during the Missouri/Kansas Border War prior to and during the Civil War.

William Clarke Quantrill and his infamous raid of the city of Lawrence, in 1863, is known to most residents on the Missouri/Kansas Border. What led Quantrill and his men to such a drastic and risky undertaking in the first place? *Moonlit Mayhem: Quantrill's Raid of Olathe, Kansas* tells this story from the Bleeding Kansas years to the rise of Quantrill and eventually to the raid on Olathe on September 6, 1862.

Quantrill's raid is an event that would shape Olathe's history for many years to come. Most locals have little knowledge of this event that so heavily impacted the history of their town. *Moonlit Mayhem* provides a view of life, on both sides of the border. In addition, short summaries of events before and after the Olathe Raid, give the reader a complete picture of the time and key players on both sides. *Moonlit Mayhem* is packed with over 100 color images and maps showing the modern locations of historic events. This meticulously researched work is a must for anyone looking for an easy to understand explanation of the Border War and its impact on the residents of the border counties.

There were no winners and losers in the Border War, the residents of the border counties suffered greatly. *Moonlit Mayhem* tells their story.

Congratulations to Key Camp Commander Walt Schley on being selected to represent Vietnam Veterans on an Honor Flight to Washington DC this past month. Thank you to Walt and all our Veterans for your service and patriotism.



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

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

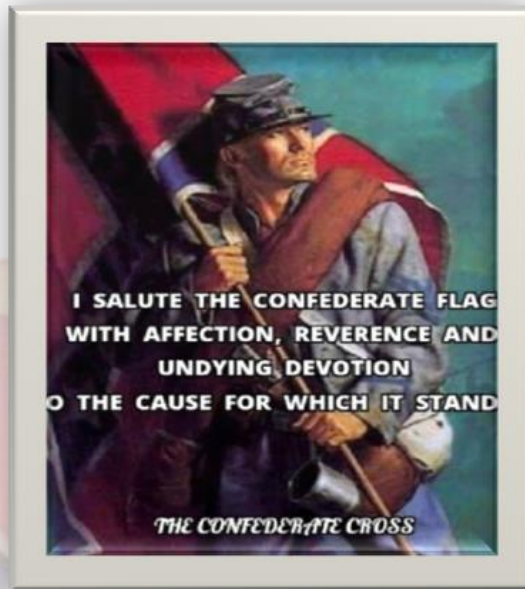
The **Key Camp** will meet on **Thursday August 1st** at Zarda's Bar B-Q on the southwest corner of 87th and Quivira in Lenexa, Kansas with the official meeting starting at **6:30 p.m.** You are invited to arrive early (6:00 p.m.) for BBQ, conversation, and camaraderie.

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.



*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 in.*

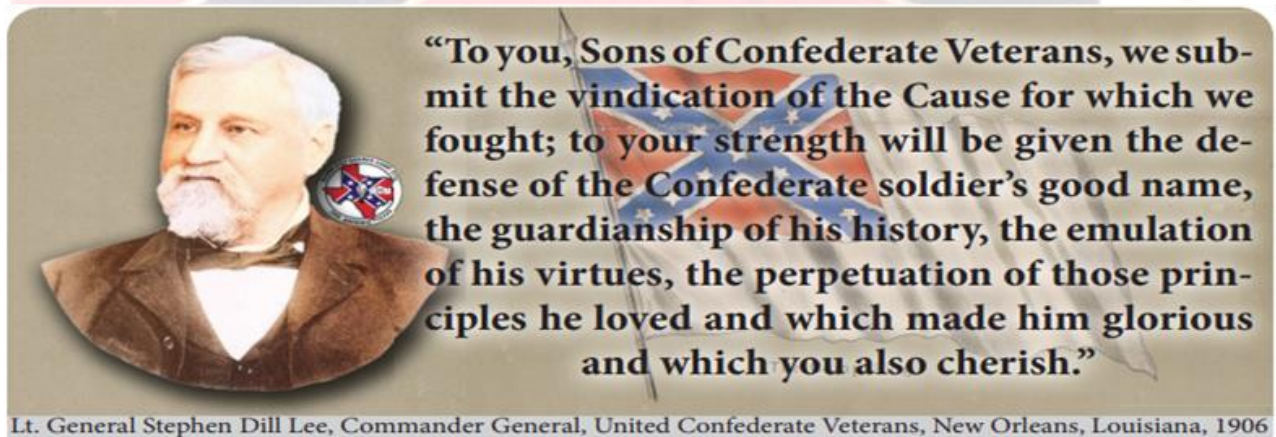


Key Camp Web Page: www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com

Email: Commander Walt Schley: gunnerschley@gmail.com

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

National SCV Web Page
www.scv.org



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 Camp Newsletter, any **SCV/Camp** website and/or on any **SCV/Camp** Social Media outlet, or any other **SCV/Camp** material.