



# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Vol. 23, No. 6

June 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*

CAMP 1920 23, No 5  
May 2022

## The Confederate's Corner

*By Rick McPherson*

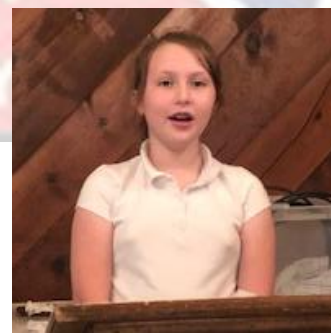
Greetings to all compatriots and friends of the **Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920.**

*Recap of Camp Business of May 5, 2022*



**Cmdr. Matt Sewell** opened the 225<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Key Camp, welcoming our guest speaker Paul Peterson who spoke on William Clarke Quantrill, "Fact vs. Fiction"

**Commander Sewell** welcomed 16 members and 6 guests, including Donna Brooks, Betty Allen, Susan Bolton, Joel Chapman, Guest Speaker Paul Peterson and our very special guest, Ms. Elsa Sewell who would bless us with a couple of songs and her presence.



Commander Sewell introduces his daughter Elsa as she performs her rendition of Twinkle Star to the Camp.

# Meeting Recap



Commander Sewell recognized Compatriots Paul Allen, Dan Peterson, Rick M<sup>rs</sup>Pherson, Gary Foster and Larry Tatum for their contributions to the Camp at the Mine Creek Park Day and the Missouri History Day events at Lone Jack Battlefield. Each was given a Certificate of Appreciation.



Commander Sewell reminded members of the July 13<sup>th</sup> flag rising at the Camden Point Cemetery honoring six Confederate soldiers who are buried there. Members are invited to join Erik and Carrie Martinez and members of the Brig. Gen William Steele Camp, the SCV Chapter from Leavenworth as we continue our Camp's tradition in honoring these soldiers.



Discussing Camp supplies, Paul Allen brought to the attention of the Camp a need to fill various supplies he has in the past supplied at his own expense, which has been given out to students and visitors to our Camp display and recruiting table at various events. Paul will resource and purchase supplies on behalf of the Camp.



Commander Sewell presented to the Camp a request for upgrading our "presentation" during events by adding a "popup tent" that our banners could be affixed to and house our displays. Chaplain Walt Schley provided a motion to spend up to \$250 toward that expense which was seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Commander Lane Smith. The motion was passed by the majority and Compatriot Rick M<sup>rs</sup>Pherson was directed to research the options.



Adjutant Lawson Rener updated our treasury balance then spoke on the upcoming Kansas Division SCV Convention to be held in Topeka, KS June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The registration form should be mailed by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Jim Thornton, past Commander, will be our program speaker and will have a presentation on Quantrill in Kansas and Missouri.

Let's show our support to our own Kansas Division Commander, Lawson Rener and be a part of this year's Convention. The registration fee is only \$30. Lodging is available. Please refer to the registration form below for more information.



Hits to the **Key Camp Web Page** from 4/25 to 5/25 were 29. YTD total are 345

**23rd Annual Kansas Division Convention/Reunion  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
June 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**

Friday Evening Meeting June 17th: Super 8 by Wyndham Topeka at Forbes Landing  
5922 Southwest Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Ks. 785-862-2222  
(It is the south Topeka location near Forbes Field)

Saturday Meeting June 18th: Museum of Kansas National Guard  
125 SE Airport Dr. Topeka, Ks.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_  
SCV Camp Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Personal Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name/s for Badge/s \_\_\_\_\_

**15 Super 8 Motel rooms are held for us: Make your reservations early as possible at 785-862-2222. Rm. Rate is approx. \$75 + taxes. Make mention that you are with the Kansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans. Reservation cut-off date is: 1 June 2022.**

**Registration includes:** Optional Friday evening gala and entertainment on Friday evening, June 17 at the SUPER 8 Motel Meeting Room and will begin at 5:00 pm with gathering of members and fellowship. Opening ceremony at 6:00 pm. Optional Friday evening gala is highly encouraged and is free to all Members and Guests.

**Registration also includes:** Reunion on-site registration/check-in at 08:30 until 09:00 at the Kansas National Guard Museum Meeting Room. Festivities start at 09:00 am to approx. 3 to 4:00 pm on Saturday June 18, a reunion booklet, a Convention Ribbon, lots of camaraderie, an excellent presentation, and a **Lunch will be provided on premises by a local caterer for preregistered Members & Guests.**

**Confederate Ancestor Memorials:** Have your Confederate ancestor's name/s listed in the reunion booklet. Cost is free for up to 5 names and must be submitted no later than June 11, 2022. Please include relationship, rank, name, company, and unit on separate sheet of paper.

**DEADLINE TO MAIL IN REGISTRATION FORMS IS SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2022**

Reunion registration cost is \$30 per SCV Member, \$20 per guest.

**QTY.**

\_\_\_\_\_ SCV Member.....@ \$30ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Member's Guests.....@ \$20 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Friday evening gala..... FREE \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to Kansas Division ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THERE WILL BE A DIVISION FUND RAISER AUCTION AFTER SATURDAY'S MEETING**

**PLEASE BRING ITEMS TO DONATE TO THE AUCTION**

**QUESTIONS? CALL DICK CROFT @ 620-545-5193**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**"KANSAS DIVISION SCV"**

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM W/PAYMENT TO:**

**Kansas Division Adjutant, Dick Croft 11017 S. 151st St. West Clearwater, KS 67026**

## THE REASON AMOST EVERY SOUTHERN COURTHOUSE LAWN HAS A CONFEDERATE MONUMENT *by Starke Miller*



On top is a painting showing a Southern family sending their boy to the Civil War. Below is what happened to so many of those dear boys. Most who died never even got a decent burial. And their families knew that. The photo further below is thought to be from the Wilderness Battlefield, taken a few years after the War. I want you to look at it and imagine if one of those skeletons was your son, or brother, or father, or uncle, or best friend.

I don't believe the people who move monuments that were dedicated to the dead boys who never came home have *EVER* looked at such pictures. I live with those pictures and descriptions, nearly every day.

I have just given six Shiloh tours in the last five weeks, and I sit here now, late at night, very tired, both physically and mentally. I have had to stand six groups of people at the largest of the Confederate burial trenches there at Shiloh, and explain to them all about those pits, in detail. It choked me up two or three times out of the six times that I did it. It chokes me up now.

There were 17 University of Mississippi alumni or students who died there at Shiloh in two days of fighting. I can guarantee you there are Ole Miss Boys who were thrown into those trenches. They are the fellow alumni of many of you reading this. Nearly every one of those boys left home something like the picture above, only to end up thrown into a hole, with so many others "*like they were a bunch of dead chickens*". Some did not even get a burial, like the men in the picture. And their families knew that.

Not only those Ole Miss Shiloh boys ended up like that, but 27% of the 1860-1861 UM student body died in the War. Fifty, out of 150 University Greys died in the War that is one third of them. Thirty two percent of the Class of 1861 seniors at UM died in 4 years time. Twenty five percent of all the men who went to War from Lafayette County died in the War. Twenty percent of all military aged Mississippians died in that War. And most of them did not get a decent burial.

*THAT* is why all over Mississippi, and the South, we have monuments dedicated to the boys who never came home, and for no other reason. Those Southern Courthouse monuments are the only markers that so many of those boys, and their families, ever got. You have been lied to.



# Did You Know?

*This is one I really hate to include in the “Did You Know?” section. I have researched this multiple times and afraid it is true. So, with great reluctance, here is my Did You Know? McP.*

## ***The song ‘Dixie’ did not originate in the American South***

*I wish I was in the land of cotton, old times there are not forgotten  
Look away, look away, look away, Dixieland  
In Dixieland where I was born in, early on a frosty mornin’  
Look away, look away, Look away, Dixieland*

Thus begins a song that was premiered this week in 1859, two years before the vicious conflict that made it famous. Dixie, a sentimental ballad about the joys of life below the Mason-Dixon Line, resonated with southerners then and still does today. Which makes it doubly ironic—given its often dubious modern association with white supremacists—that it was written not only by a northern supporter of Abraham Lincoln, but an Irish-American at that, and one who worked for a music hall act led by two Irish brothers.

Dixie could hardly be less ‘southern’ than if it had been born in Hawaii to a Kenyan father and a Kansan mother. It emerged from the American tradition of the ‘blackface’ minstrel. These were white performers, who like the thoroughly modern Ali G, liked to pretend they were black. Among their number was an Irish-American singer/performer from Ohio named Daniel Decatur Emmett. He was a member of a troupe of music hall singers led by a pair of New York Irish brothers named O’Neill. The song quickly became a rousing closer for their touring show. It became a popular favorite all over the USA. A presidential candidate, Abraham Lincoln, used it at his rallies to get the crowds going. By the time Dan Emmet died more than thirty people were claiming they had written the song.

Many years later Emmet ruefully observed that ‘If I had known to what use they were going to put my song I’ll be damned if I had written it’. ‘They’ were the soldiers of the Confederacy. In the case of the song Dixie it would appear that origins were of no consequence, context was paramount, and melody conquered all. Of course, context is relative. If taken literally, the song is a nostalgic celebration of southern culture. Except that it was intended by Emmet as a satirical take on slavery. The song is sung in the voice of a freedman who misses the plantation on which he was enslaved. Southerners didn’t get the joke. Or maybe they did, and the joke was on Dan Emmet.



Despite the subversive connotations, after it was quickly conscripted as an anthem of the Confederacy, Lincoln never quite lost his love for the song – it was just so damn catchy. He ordered it to be played when he was informed that General Robert E. Lee had surrendered his army at Appomattox. Or maybe that was just his way of rubbing Southern noses in their defeat. The speech he made at the time was typical of his wry sense of humor.

I thought “Dixie” one of the best tunes I ever heard ... our adversaries over the way attempted to appropriate it. I insisted yesterday that we had fairly captured it ... I presented the question to the Attorney-General, and he gave his opinion that it is our lawful prize ... I ask the Band to give us a good turn upon it

Which the band duly did. Certainly, Lincoln’s troops had no great affection or reverence for the piece. Union troops sang the song frequently, but with amended lyrics. These went ...

*Away down South in the land of traitors,  
Rattlesnakes and alligators  
Right away, come away, right away, come away.  
Where cotton’s king and men are chattels*

*Union boys will win the battles,  
Right away, come away, right away, come away*

Emmet died in 1904. His gravestone bears the legend ‘his song Dixieland inspired the courage and devotion of the southern people and now thrills the hearts of a reunited nation,’ which today comes across as someone optimistically ‘whistling Dixie’.

So, was that great anthem of the Confederacy written in the Old South? No, it wasn’t, it was written by a Yankee Irish-American. Unfortunately!



## Member Spotlight

*In August, 2005 Tim Peterman joined the SCV. The photo on the left was taken when past Commander Spike Speicher pinned the Life Member pin upon Tim's lapel. Tim was recently asked about his SCV membership and why becoming a life member of the SCV was important to him.*

*I became interested in genealogy at about age 12 or 13. My grandmother told me about the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) at age 15; became a member of SAR at age 23. I received a BA from Northwestern University in 1981, history and anthropology major; my focus was on paleanthropology or human origins. I joined the Libertarian Party in 1980. I considered America's post-Revolutionary War political structure (a decentralized confederation) to be a good move in the direction of a libertarian society. As the 1980s progressed, I realized that perhaps a majority of my lines of ancestry were southern and that American history looks a lot different when studied from the up-close perspective that genealogy offers. I began to wonder if most of us had been misled by the Yankee interpretation of Civil War era history. At some point in the early 1990s, I purchased a book through a Libertarian publisher titled; The South Was Right, by the Kennedy brothers, a real eye opener for me.*

*By the mid-1990s, I had become Registrar & Membership Secretary for the Kansas Society, Sons of the American Revolution and had also become a life member of the SAR. It was in this capacity that I became acquainted with another SAR member by the name of James Speicher; he had told me a bit about the SCV. And so it was, in 2006, the Kansas SAR had an Outreach Booth at Old Shawnee Days; as fortune had it, the SAR booth was right next to the SCV booth. I left the event with an SCV application in hand. That single event in 2006 both sparked the beginning of the Monticello Chapter in the Kansas SAR and my decision to join the SCV. Becoming a life member of the SCV was the next step.*

*Since joining the Major Thomas J. Key Camp, SCV, I have been a regular attendee of camp meetings, and have attended a number of national reunions.*

*Timothy E. Peterman*

# Reminder for your calendar



**July 13, 2022  
5:00 p.m.  
Camden Point**

Join Eric and Carrie Martinez and members of the Major Thomas J Key Camp as the Sterling Price battle flag is raised at the memorial to the six Confederate soldiers killed this day in 1864.

^^^

*JOIN US ON JULY 13<sup>th</sup> AS WE ONCE AGAIN RAISE THE FLAG TO HONOR THESE MEN*



Southern Memorial Association's  
Confederate Memorial Ceremonies  
Fayetteville, Arkansas  
June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am

^^^

[Annual Memorial Ceremonies at the Confederate Cemetery – Southern Memorial Association](#)

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



## And finally.....



**Memorial Day** in America has a special meaning for each of us. As children, it was baseball, hot dogs, homemade ice cream and family gatherings. As for the adults it included remembrances' of family that were no longer living. That day would usually include a visit to a cemetery where flowers were placed upon the graves of a grandpa or grandma.

*One of the advantages of writing this newsletter is the opportunity to write about my own family history. (Got to fill some space, right?)*

In my home town, where my parents lay at rest, there is a small, older section within the cemetery where all the headstones are identical. Among those uniform, white headstones is a tall flag pole with a large American flag that flutters in the breeze. As a boy, it always drew me toward it where I would run my fingers over the names inscribed on each headstone and imagine the soldier that each marker represented. I had a great imagination back then, thanks to all the action shows that appeared on TV and in the movies. I was particularly drawn to Civil War movies; after all, my "Southern raised" Mother always spoke of our family ties to General Robert E Lee. Though the white markers were all of Yankee's, I figured they were close enough for me to be soldiers that deserved my honoring.

Because of his notoriety, General Lee's character was portrayed in most every movie of the Civil War. It was only natural that the Confederate soldier would become a favorite of mine. In later years I learned I had someone more direct that fought for the Confederacy. That would be my mother's great grandfather, Lt. Samuel Addison Campbell of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi Infantry. Four years ago I finally found his grave in Cherry Creek Cemetery in Pontotoc, Mississippi. He was a member of the Cherry Creek Rifles and many of those he served with are buried there as well. I love walking that cemetery and reading their names.

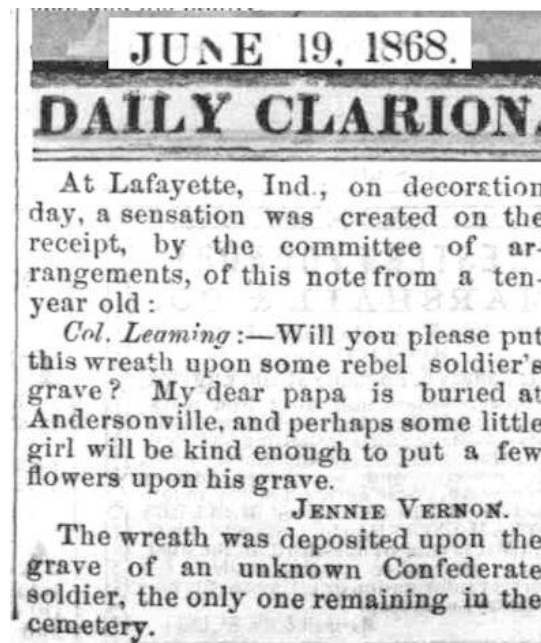
Amazingly, serving alongside my Campbell great grandfather was a M<sup>o</sup>Pherson cousin, Henry “Tobe”, M<sup>o</sup>Pherson, who captured the colors of the 149<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania at 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas and was later killed at the Wilderness. Somewhere, beneath that quiet, peaceful and hollowed battlefield, Private M<sup>o</sup>Pherson rests. His heroism is recognized upon the **Confederate Roll of Honor**. There is no marker to mark his death, but his bravery and courage will always be remembered.

Like many of you, I also have many direct ancestors that fought to preserve the Union. My M<sup>o</sup>Pherson Great- Grandfather, Cpl. Isaac Lawson M<sup>o</sup>Pherson fought in the 14<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry. One battle his unit was involved in was at Mine Creek. The monument the Key Camp helped place there gives special meaning to me because of his involvement there.

Dad’s *maternal* grandfather and great grandfather, (named Leaming), served together in the Missouri State Militia. Each year, I clean their gravesites and markers located in SE Kansas. As I do, I have nice long talks with them, reminding them who I am and letting them know how proud I am of their service and that they are still being remembered all these years after their passing.

Today I came across an article about one of my Leaming great uncle’s contribution to the origins of “Decoration Day”, at least in Indiana, where he lived following the war.

Col. Henry Leaming is best remembered as a Commander of a Union regiment at Stones River. As one of the most decorated soldiers within the 1868 community of Lafayette, Indiana, Col. Leaming one day, received a flower arrangement from a 10 year old child with a special note for him attached. A newspaper account of it appears below.



Memorial Day remembrances' isn't limited to Civil War ancestors. We have Veterans Day to specifically honor all who served in our countries wars. (Veterans Day was first organized and celebrated in my hometown in 1953, one year before Eisenhower signed it into law). I'll be visiting my parent's graves in my hometown to both remember them and to "talk" to them. I'll be placing a fresh, new American Flag next to Dad's grave, thanking him for his service in WWII and for being my Dad. He'll even get a new golf ball laid next to it. That was always his favorite Father's Day gift.

I'll tell Mom that I will be going soon to visit the graves of her Southern ancestors and how I continue to honor their heritage. One of my sisters makes sure fresh flowers adorn both their graves on special occasions. I'll be sure to take a picture and send to all my siblings.

And then, I'll wander over to that little area of white markers reserved for Civil War soldiers. I'll thank them for their service and take myself back in time, to when I was a boy filled with lots of imagination. I'll envision the bravery of each of them and though they might have been Yankees, I'll honor each and every one of them. And, I'll remember all my Southern ancestors as well.

To all my brother's of the Major Thomas J Key Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, I extend to each of you a happy Memorial Day to you, your family and all whom you will be remembering on this special day.

McP



**The Confederate Iron Cross of Honor**

**“Deo Vindice”, meaning “Under God, Our Vindicator” was the motto of the Confederacy.**

# Hot Off The Press

As we have several “SOB’s” in our group, a number of us gathered today (Saturday) at the Civil War Monument located in Olathe Memorial Cemetery to honor those who served not only on the American Civil War but all wars in our nation’s history. As part of the service put on by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, one member of the Key Camp, Walt Schley, was presented a Quilt of Honor for his service to our country.

Compatriot Lane Smith as well as Bill Stoker and Jim Thornton were part of the presentation.

We’d like to congratulate Compatriot Schley on his receipt of this honor.



Kathleen and Walt display quilt



Assembled guests at the service



Major

# Thomas J. Key Camp

#1920

Johnson County, Kansas  
Camp Activities



**Annual Memorial Ceremonies at the Confederate Cemetery**  
**Fayetteville, Arkansas June 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.**

**Kansas Division Reunion**  
**June 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Topeka, KS**

*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 June 2nd**

The Key Camp will meet on Thursday June 2nd 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)**

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

**PRAYERS FOR  
UVALDE**

