



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Volume 24, No. 5 May 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 June 2024 meeting was attended by twenty-six members and guests. This was the 245th regular meeting of the
Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920



The **Key Camp** and their guests experienced the wonderful story telling of the Buffalo Soldiers by **Mr. George Pettigrew**, whom he said, got their start as a fighting unit on the plains of Western Kansas.

Pettigrew drew one of the largest attendances of the year including several first time wives and a potential new member. Everyone helped make George feel welcomed by personally shaking his hand and introducing themselves.

Following his presentation, he was presented the coveted Key Camp bullet plaque plus a motion to donate to the new Buffalo Soldier's Museum to be built near Fort Leavenworth was roundly approved.

Mr. Pettigrew drew a lot of laughs upon receiving his plaque with the Confederate battle flag saying he expected to raise a few eyebrows when others saw it on display in his home office.

Follow us on Facebook - Major Thomas J Key Camp

Camp Notes



Camp dues are due in the amount of \$55. You should be receiving your notice to renew from **Adjutant Lawson Rener** in the mail. Please return your dues a.s.a.p.



Because the 1st Thursday falls on July 4th, our **Camp meeting will be held July 11th**. Our speaker will be **Compatriot Lane Smith**.



Please plan on attending the Camden Point Memorial Service and picnic Saturday July 13th. BBQ will be served. You are asked to bring a dish to share. Please arrive by 4:30. Our program will begin at 5:00 p.m.



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 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.



The Gettysburg Battlefield trip is scheduled for September 30 through October 3rd with several members of the Key Camp and the Franklin Camp going.

Contact **Compatriot Lane Smith** for more information.



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 September meeting.



The Key Camp received an application from **Jerry Coffelt** following the June Meeting. Jerry's Confederate ancestor served with Stand Waite's 1st Cherokee Mounted Volunteers. We look forward to welcoming Jerry into the Key Camp.



Key Camp Web Page hits YTD, in last 30 days

Camp Activities

Hot Rod Racing Boys!



Compatriot Jim Edgington brought a few of his SCV buddies to Knoxville, Iowa to visit the Sprint Car Hall of Fame and to experience dirt track racing, something Jim knows a lot about. In fact, from 1964 to 1982, Jim competed in several racing divisions winning more than 50 events culminating with his induction in several race track Hall of Fames.

Joining Jim were **Compatriots Rick McPherson, Lane Smith** along with **Bill Stilly** from the Franklin Camp. The fellas enjoyed some BBQ and touring the Hall of Fame before settling down inside a glass enclosed suite to watch the racing. One thing Jim's buddies learned was that ear protection was a must.

By evening's end, they had watched dozens of races, collisions and even fireball explosions. The Finals led up to all the hype as it would end in a fraction of a second difference. Not only was the trip a new experience for several of the guys but it was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy each other's company.



25th Annual Kansas Division SCV Reunion

State Commander Lawson Rener opened the 25th Annual Kansas Division Reunion at the National Guard Museum in Topeka, Kansas, on Saturday June 15th.

Attendees from the Key Camp were **Commander Walt Schley, 1st Commander Dan Peterson, Compatriots Tim Peterman, Carl Linck, Lane Smith and KS Div Lt. Commander Rick McPherson.**

Also attending was **Ladies of the Plains President Monet Keitzman and Parker Van Sickle** who sported a wonderful new Confederate Officer's uniform complete with sash and sword.

The Division voted to make donations to both the Mine Creek Foundation and the National Confederate Museum on the SCV's Columbia, Tennessee compound.

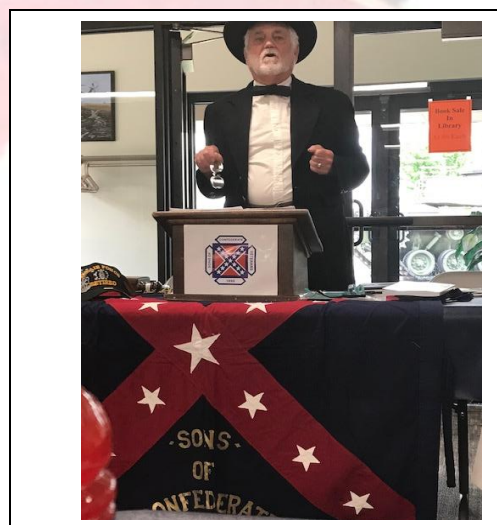
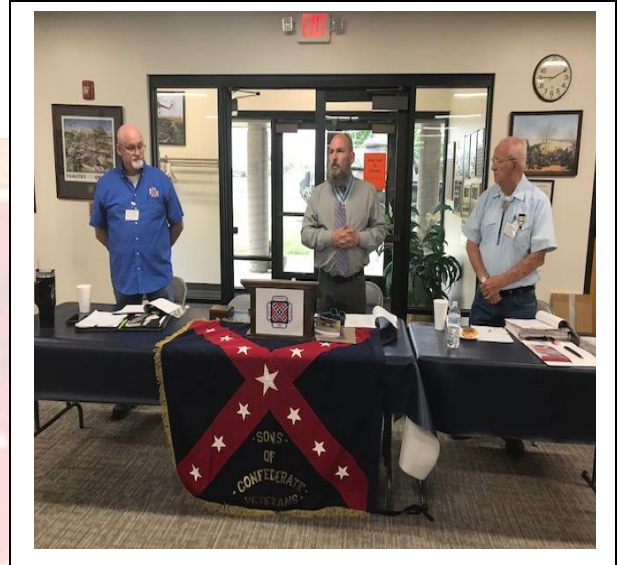
State Commander Rener announced the various awards for which the Key Camp was well represented. Among them were **Commander Schley, Compatriots McPherson, Peterson, Allen, Rener, Smith, McKenzie, Atherton and Sumner.**

Presentations were given by **Compatriot Lane Smith**, "The Trial of Jefferson Davis" and by past member **Chris Edwards.**

Also, **Monet Keitzman** spoke on who the UDC was and spoke to its history.

Each of the Camps present reported about their activities during the past year including **Commander Neal Hanley** from the Leavenworth's Steele Camp, **Commander Walt Schley** from the Key Camp and on behalf of Baxter Spring's Crawford Camp, prepared by **Commander Freund** and read by **Kansas Lt Commander McPherson.**

Following a wonderful Lasagna lunch, the Division's business was completed.



Do you have a grandson you would like to be a member of the Key Camp?

Memberships are available to all male descendants of a Confederate Veteran, twelve years and older, regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion.

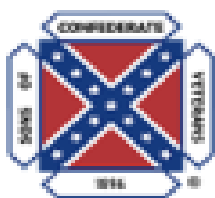


Sporting his new Confederate Officers' uniform is **Parker Van Sickle**, 13 year old grandson of **Compatriot Carl Linck**.

This isn't his first uniform but none have been as splendid as this one, complete with Cavalry boots, golden sash, officer's sword, gun belt and the perfect hat.

Parker has been attending Camp meetings and activities with his grandpa for many years and to everyone's excitement it was announced that he will officially join the Camp following his 14th birthday.

Thanks for being a great part of the Key Camp Parker!



**SONS OF
CONFEDERATE
VETERANS**

The Bonnie Blue Flag

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. Blackman & 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.

McCarthy went on to sing “The Bonnie Blue Flag” in all of 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.”



"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.



Harry McCarthy and His Wife, Lottie Estelle, Dressed in Confederate Attire for "The Bonnie Blue Flag."

Performance of



Major

Thomas J. Key Camp

#1920

Johnson County, Kansas
Camp Activities



July

11 Camp Meeting - (Date Changed to July 11th), Lane Smith speaker.

13 Camden Point Memorial Service - Camden Point, Missouri

16-21 SCV National Reunion - Charleston, South Carolina

August

1 Camp Meeting - Jonathan James, speaker (Moonlit Mayhem)

1 Annual Dues

7 Mine Creek Historical Day - 10 AM to 3 PM

And **Confederate Marker re- dedication**

September

5 Camp Meeting - Robt Jones (*Failed attempt to steal the General*)

Election of Camp Officers

2nd Annual **Spike Speicher** Camp Picnic

30 - Oct 4 Gettysburg Battlefield visit

October

3 Camp Meeting

Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival

Baxter Springs Encampment

November

7 Meeting/Key Camp Election of Officers

Leavenworth Parade

December

5 Camp Meeting

Camden Point Memorial Service

Saturday July 13th 5:00 P.M.



Join us Saturday July 13th, 2024 at Camden Point (MO), for our annual memorial service and picnic. Festivities begin at 5:00 pm with the memorial service, followed by BBQ and fellowship.

Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share. (Please arrive by 4:30)



20th Anniversary Re-dedication



160 Years ago, the Battle of Mine Creek occurred on the 600-acre battle site near Pleasanton, Kansas pitting 2600 Federal troops of the Army of the Border, led by Frederick W Benteen and John F Phillips against 7,000 troops in the Confederate's Army of Missouri, led by John S Marmaduke and James F Fagan. While the Union lost approximately 110 soldiers, the Confederate loss was more than 1200 soldiers of whom most were left upon the battlefield.

This **August 3rd**, The **Key Camp** will hold a re-dedication ceremony at the marker placed near the battle site, twenty years ago in April 2004. Joining the **Key Camp** will be members of the **Riley Crawford Camp**, the **Livingston Camp**, and the **Campbell Camp**. This event will feature a Color Guard, re-dedication remarks, the Marmaduke Flag presentation, a gun salute and a Rebel toast.

This event will coincide with both the 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Mine Creek but also the Mine Creek Heritage Day. Both the **Key Camp** and the **Franklin Camp** will be showing our Civil War replica relics inside the Visitors Center but will break to participate in the re-dedication ceremony.

Please, join us for this re-dedication service. Both the **Kansas Division SCV** and the **Missouri Division SCV** will be represented. As the originator and host of this event, we need every one of our **Key Camp** members to be there. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan on attending.

This marker was made possible through the efforts of our **Key Camp** founder, **Col. Spike Speicher**. It is our responsibility to maintain and commemorate it. As "The Charge" says, *Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.*

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

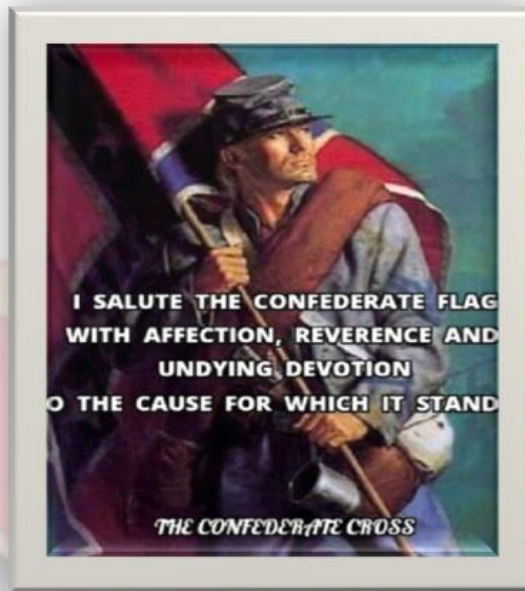
The **Key Camp** will meet on **Thursday July 11th** at Zarda's Bar B-Q on the southwest corner of 87th and Quivira in Lenexa, Kansas with the official meeting starting at **6:30 p.m.** You are invited to arrive early (6:00 p.m.) for BBQ, conversation, and camaraderie.

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.*

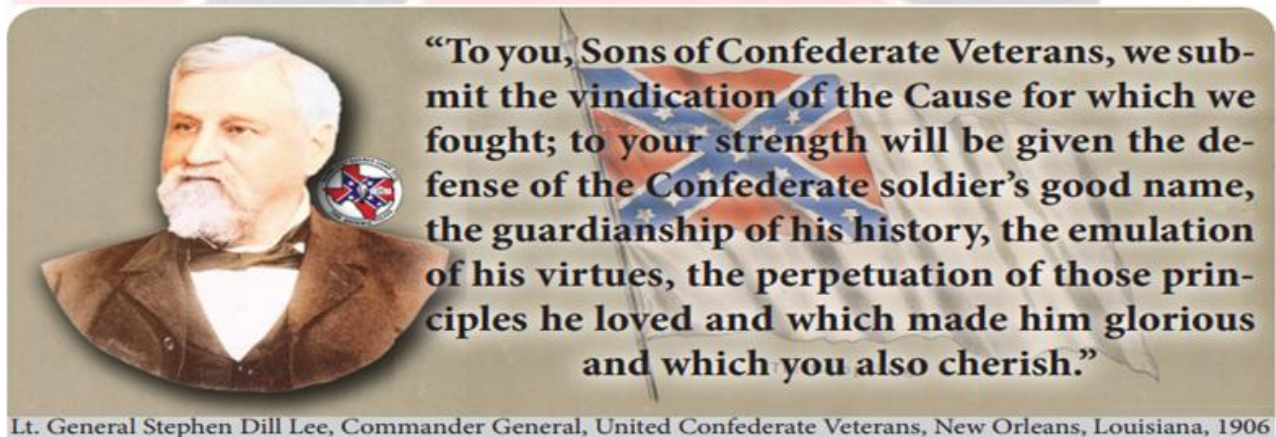


Key Camp Web Page: www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com

Email: Commander Walt Schley: gunnerschley@gmail.com

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

National SCV Web Page
www.scv.org



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.