



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Volume 24, No. 3

March 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 March 2024 meeting was attended by 14 members,
and 2 guests. This was the 242nd regular meeting of the
Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920



(Right) **Commander Walt Schley** addressed the Key Camp on the upcoming activities.

Compatriot Rick Manfredi returned to present to the Key Camp, "*Did Missouri secede from the Union*". Rick detailed the turmoil and confusion the state was in during that tumultuous time.



(Left) **Compatriot John Atherton** ended the meeting with his singing of a song about the Battle of Pea

News from the Meeting



Commander Walt Schley opened the meeting with the opening prayer by **Chaplain Walt McKenzie**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by **1st Lt. Peterson**, The Salute by **2nd Lt. Paul Allen** and the Charge led by **Compatriot Rick McPherson**.



The **Key Camp** welcomed 14 members and 2 guests. Guests included **Monet Keitzman** and **Donna Brooks**.



Commander Schley called on the Camp's good thoughts of prayers for those dealing with health issues including **Adjutant Lawson Rener's** father-in-law as well as our best wishes for Lawson as he deals with his business undergoing reconstruction.



Compatriot Rick McPherson showed slides from his and **Commander Schley's** visit to award 25-year member **Keith Phillips** his medal, and to present the Membership certificate to him in honor of his late son, **Compatriot Benjamin Carson Phillips**.



Members were asked to join at the Confederate monument in Forest Hill Cemetery to clean graffiti from the monument on **Saturday March 16th**, and to help at the **Mine Creek Battlefield clean-up day on April 6th**.



The **Key Camp** reported the profit from the **Lee-Jackson Banquet** as \$13.42 after expenses. Members attending agreed the venue and the food was wonderful. All attending and contributing to the evening's success was greatly appreciated.



Past Commander Matt Sewell volunteered to head up a plan to celebrate the "**20th Anniversary**" for the placing of the Confederate Monument at Mine Creek.



Compatriot Jim Edgington detailed plan for a "field trip" with members of both the **Key** and **Franklin** Camps, to Knoxville, Iowa to visit various sites including the Sprint Car HOF and to attend a race. **Compatriot Lane Smith** will also be making a presentation to a gathered audience. Date is June 8-9.



Key Camp Web Page hits YTD 84, last 30 days 24

Camp Activities

Cleaning the Monument



Monet Kietzman of Ladies of the Plains/UDC showed up ready to help. The UDC erected the monument in 1871 where now, more than 75 Southern soldiers are at rest.



Compatriot Rick McPherson got his hands dirty as well, once he put his camera down. This event was a great day to help protect a symbol of our Southern Heritage.



The Monument is the last of its kind in the KC area. While we respect not bringing undue publicity to it, we must help insure it remains to honor these men.

Saturday, March 16th, a few gathered to remove graffiti from the monument in Forrest Hill Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri. **Walt, Rick, Paul and Monet** were all there to assist in the cleanup.

Towering over the graves of 75 Confederate soldiers and families who fought with Gen Sterling Price as part of Price's Raid. This monument was erected by the UDC, "To the brave Southern soldiers who fell in the Battle of Westport, October 23^d, 1864". More than 8,500 Confederate troops launched an attack against 22,000 men led by Union Gen. Samuel Curtis as part of this area's Civil War history.



To everyone's surprise, much of the graffiti had been removed following Rick's solo attempt to clean the graffiti last fall, but traces of it remained upon our arrival for which the cleanup would be complete.

Commander Schley brought donuts and everyone brought scrub brushes and buckets of water and in short time the project was complete. With the job completed in less time than anticipated, the four preservationists headed off to the Waldo Café for a brunch together and to share in lots of enjoyable conversation.

This is an example of work that, as members of the Key Camp has pledged, to continue to glorify our ancestors' good name. Thanks to the four of you for showing up.



Waldo Porter Johnson (September 16, 1817 - August 14, 1885) was an American lawyer and politician who served as a Missouri state representative, as well as briefly as a U.S. Senator before being expelled for treason in 1862, then serving as a **Confederate States Army officer and Confederate States Senator from Missouri** from 1863 to 1865 and finally as chairman of the Missouri constitutional convention of 1875.

Born in Bridgeport, Virginia (present-day West Virginia), to the former Olive Waldo (1798-1852) and her New-York born cousin and husband, William Johnson (1791-1868). Waldo Porter Johnson had a dozen siblings and attended public and private schools. His father had become Bridgeport's postmaster and his older brother (this boy's uncle) Joseph Johnson, was a prominent local farmer and politician who intermittently served as the area's Congressman during this boy's youth, and became Governor of Virginia in 1851, after this Johnson moved to Missouri as described below. W.P. Johnson graduated from Baptist-affiliated Rector College (Pruntytown, Virginia) in 1839.

After reading law, Johnson was admitted to the Virginia bar, and began his legal practice in Harrison County, Virginia in 1841.

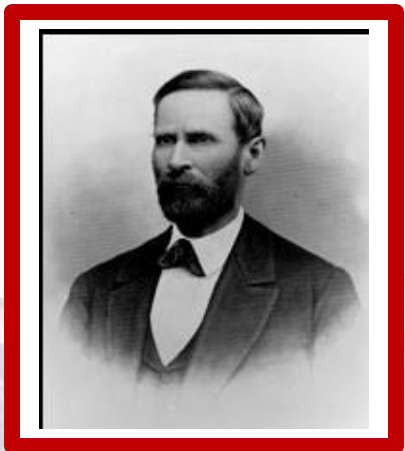
A year later, in 1842, Johnson moved westward to Osceola, Missouri, and continued his legal practice in the developing (and troubled) border between Missouri and what became the State of Kansas following the Missouri Compromise of 1850.

Meanwhile, Johnson volunteered to fight in the Mexican-American War, serving as a private in the First Missouri Regiment of Mounted Volunteers. In 1847 he won election to the Missouri House of Representatives and was elected circuit attorney in 1848 and judge of the seventh judicial circuit in 1851. He resigned his government positions in 1852 and resumed his private legal practice.

During the 1850s, Johnson filed several land claims with the General Land office.

Missouri voters elected Johnson as a Democrat to the United States Senate in 1860 and he served from March 17, 1861, to January 10, 1862, when he was expelled from the Senate for disloyalty to the government. He was a member of the peace convention of 1861 held in Washington, D.C., in an effort to devise means to prevent the impending American Civil War.

Johnson volunteered to serve in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, having attained the rank of Major in the Missouri State Guard. He recruited a battalion which fought in the Battle of Pea Ridge near Bentonville, Arkansas. On April 28, 1862, his unit was re organized in Memphis Tennessee as the 4th Missouri Infantry Regiment (Confederate) with Johnson as lieutenant colonel. In 1863, Johnson was appointed a member of the Confederate States Senate to fill a vacancy.



Following the Confederate surrender, from August 1865 to April 1866, Johnson resided in Hamilton, Ontario. He returned to Osceola, received a presidential pardon, and resumed his legal practice. Johnson was president of the State constitutional convention in 1875.

In 1847 he married Emily Moore (1822-1884) in Harrison County. By 1850 they lived in Missouri, where she had given birth to the future lawyer and judge William Tell Johnson (1848-1930). In the 1860 census, Johnson's real estate and personal property values had soared, and his family included 11-year-old W.T. Johnson and his brothers Charles (1859-1901), St. Clair (1855-1900) and Thomas Moore Johnson (1851-1919). Johnson also owned a 30-year-old mulatto woman as a slave.

Johnson survived his wife but died of a lung abscess in Osceola in 1885. He was reburied in the elaborate family tomb at Forest Hill Calvary Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri.



DEATH OF WALDO P. JOHNSON.

A brief telegram in Sunday morning's papers announced the death of Hon. Waldo P. Johnson, at his home in St. Clair county. He was a man of deep learning and much force of character, but old-fashioned and plain in his manners, an old-time Democrat and a typical Missourian of the old school. It may be added that a better or worthier people never dwelt on earth than these old Missourians and old-time Democrats.

Judge Johnson was elected United States senator from this state in 1861, and occupied his seat until the booming of the cannon was heard and his countrymen were hurrying to arms and to horse. He loved the South, and so loving there was but one course for him to pursue. He resigned his seat in the senate and offered his services to the Confederacy, subsequently becoming a member of the Confederate congress. After the restoration of peace he came back to Missouri, and finished his days quietly among warm friends in the Southwest, among whom he was highly esteemed for his many excellent qualities. He persistently abstained from politics and rejected all overtures to participate in public affairs, only once accepting office, that being a seat in the constitutional convention of 1875, of which he was made president. He was sixty-eight years old and immensely rich in lands' located in St. Clair, Cedar and Henry counties. His death is deeply mourned by all who knew him personally.

★ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ★
PARK DAY



Volunteers for History



AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ★ ★ ★

Join us to **PRESERVE HISTORY** at our historic site

Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic
Saturday April 6, 2024
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

This is an event that the **Key Camp** is committed to maintaining. We need you to help with this service project. Bring a friend or a kid with you. Let's take pride in the only monument dedicated to our Southern ancestors in the State of Kansas.

Editors Commentary:

*On Thursday March 14th, I attended the **Hughes SCV Camp** in Blue Springs, MO.*

*Speaking on behalf of the **Missouri Division** was **State Commander Jeff Futhey**. His remarks focused on Recruiting New members, something we must all be trying to do.*

We all understand the challenges in recruiting, but our numbers must improve. How do we go about getting prospects?

We all need to consider a "Plus One" attitude. Each of us adding one new prospect can only be accomplished if we just ask those we know if they have an interest in history. Did they have an ancestor that served during the Civil War? Would they like to attend a future meeting as your guest.

Let's find a way to grow our efforts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Key Camp, how about coming out for Park Day at Mine Creek Battlefield in Plesanton, KS where we will be sprucing up the **ONLY** Confederate monument in Kansas and placed by the SCV?

We need rakes, shovels, trash bags, hedge clippers (no power available), leaf blowers, 6 bags of mulch, all to complete the job.

You will enjoy the comraderie and be treated to free freshly grilled hamburgers along with drinks provided by the E3 Ranch Meat Company foe which Compatriot Jim Dick is affiliated with.

Want to ride down with someone? Sign up to help and ride along at the April 4th meeting.



Missouri State Commander
Jeff Futhey

Congratulations on 25 years to Compatriot Keith Phillips



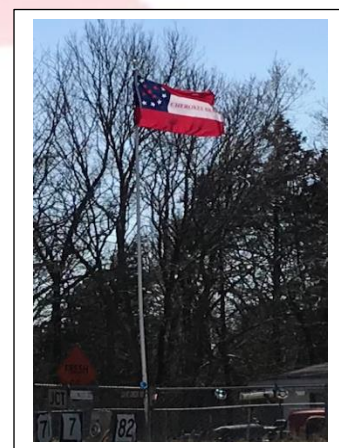
On March 7th, **Commander Walt Schley** and **Kansas Lt. Commander Rick McPherson**, traveled to Warsaw Missouri to meet with Key Camp member, **Compatriot Keth Phillips** who was presented both a 25 year medal and the membership certificate for his late son, **Benjamin Carson Phillips**, who now appears as a member of the SCV and the Major Thomas J Key Camp.

Many thanks to **Adjutant Lawson Rener** who helped make this happen.

Compatriot Phillips wanted to honor his late son and to be sure he was forever recognized as a member of the SCV for future generations to remember. With this in mind, Walt, representing the Key Camp and Rick, the Kansas Division, wanted Keith to be feel honored by personally making this presentation.

Following a lunch at *the Rusty Skillet Restaurant* and a quick phot op on a bench in front of the Café, Keith showed us his memorabilia inside his home which included a flag that flew over the Camden Point Confederate graves and many other unique items.

Flying proudly outside his home was the Cherokee Indian Nation Confederate flag which is a part of his Confederate heritage.



Gettysburg Anyone?

If you've never been to Gettysburg or really want to see it again, now is your opportunity.

In late September, members of the Key Camp as well as those from the Franklin Camp are joining together to spend three days in Gettysburg. Compatriot Lane Smith will be presenting the battle as it happened in various locations during this campaign.

Never again will you have this unique opportunity to visit Little Round Top, the Railroad Cut, Devil's Den, the Peach Orchard, Cemetery Hill, Cemetery Ridge, and Seminary Ridge and where Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address, and so much more, especially with your Civil War buddies!

Learn the story behind the battle, what Gen Lee's battle plan was and how it was carried out. Visit the Gettysburg Heritage Center and Museum, view the field on which Pickett's Charge was made.

Those participating will meet in Gettysburg, transportation is to be made by each attendee. Want to share a car and your lodging? Make plans now.

Want to bring a friend, a son, a grandson or even your spouse.....well, I guess that's possible.

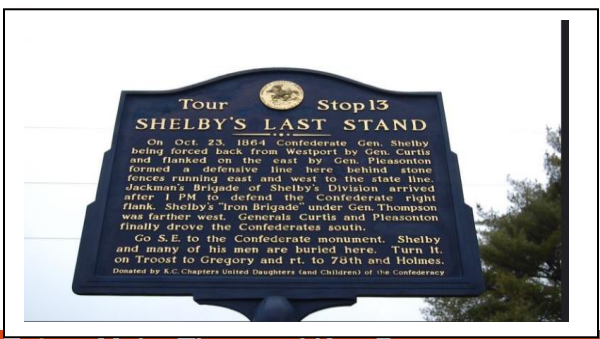
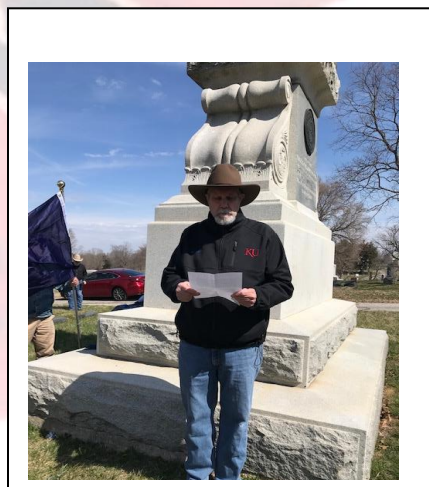
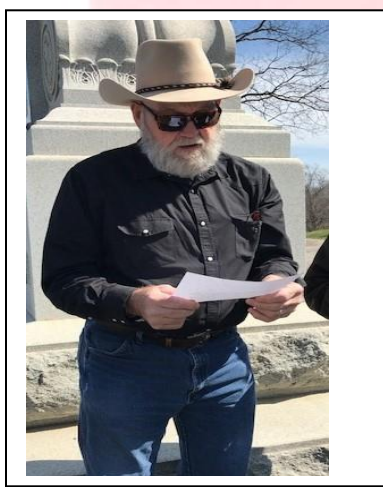
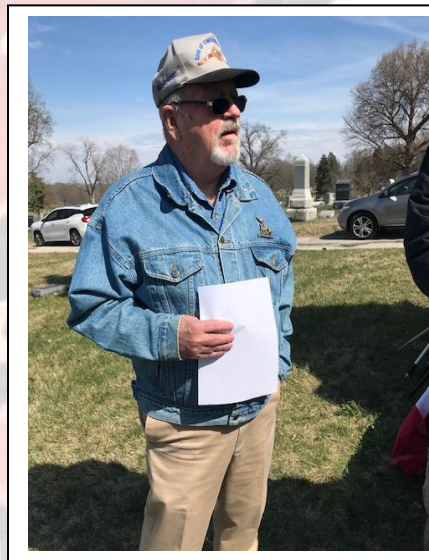
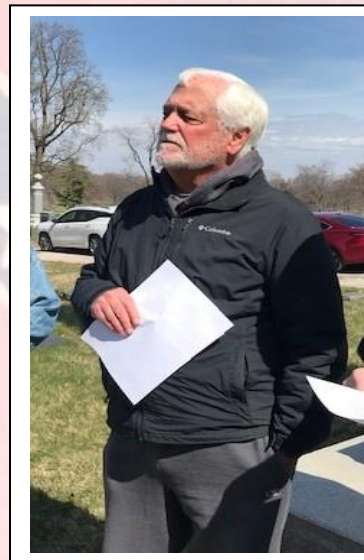
In order to secure a block of rooms, Lane needs your decision by June 1st.

Don't miss what should be a memorable time.

Confederate Flag Day

A few Compatriots met at the Monument in Forrest Hill Cemetery in Kansas City Missouri on Saturday March 27th, to commemorate Confederate Flag Day. The event included a few pics with members flying various flags from the Confederacy and for each Compatriot to read a portion of service.

Those participating were **Walt Schley, Dan Peterson, Gary Foster, Lane Smith, Rick McPherson, Kathleen Schley** and **Jill McPherson**. Thank you to each of you for giving of your time to honor those who served on behalf of our Southern ancestors and to bear the colors.





Hey you *fast drivin'*, whisky drinkin', redneck, city slickers.....naw, just you **Key Camp** guys.

Compatriot Jim Edgington has planned a road trip to Knoxville, Iowa in June 9-8 to visit the Sprint Car Capitol of the World, attend a race and other activities that is sure going to be something to talk about.

This two day trip to what is sure to be a "*good ole boy good time*". Contact Jim for details by May 1st.





Army of Trans-Mississippi



Members of the Lt. Alexander Cameron Camp 2226, Greenville, TX, paid tribute to Private John Via at the Friendship Cemetery in Comby, TX. Via was in Pickett's Division and survived the famous charge at Gettysburg.



Members of the new Pvt. Riley Crawford Camp 2348, Baxter Springs, KS, with new Commander Michael Freund, Adjutant Cole Hagebusch, KS Division Lt. Commander Rick McPherson and members of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp 1920, Johnson County, KS, in support of the new camp, attended the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Baxter Springs at a place called Fort Blair. The fighting was led by William Quantrill. Shown are members of the 2nd Brigade, TX Division at the Brigade Picnic.



Companions of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp 1920, Johnson County, KS, gathered at the Mine Creek Battlefield in Pleasanton, KS, during the Heritage Day Celebration. The members demonstrated artifacts and weapons and recruited future members to their camp.



Major Thomas R. Livingston Camp 2327, Carthage, MO, dedicated a military headstone for Sgt. Andrew W. Ballard, Perkins Missouri Cavalry Battalion CSA at Carl Junction, MO. For more information...

The Key Camp was twice recognized in the March/April Confederate Veteran magazine for recent activities. It's nice to get recognition!

U.S. House passes resolution to remove Lee statue at Antietam National Battlefield

The attack on Confederate Monuments continues, this time it is the US Government pushing to take down a statue of General Robert E. Lee at Antietam National Battlefield. This must stop NOW!

Tell your representatives to vote NO on HR 7474-Robert E. Lee Monument Removal Act. It only takes a few minutes to help end the war on our history.



SCV Life Membership Sale!

Ages 12 to 64	\$650
Ages 65 to 79	\$325
Ages 80 & up	\$160

One day only!

April 1, 2024

Call the Membership Office at (931) 380-1844 or visit our website, www.scv.org

Call early- limited to the first 100 members to pay! Must be paid in-full on April 1st, 9am-3pm, CT

APRIL IS CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH

STAND UP FOR YOUR HERITAGE



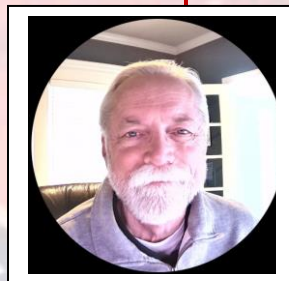
Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Johnson County, Kansas
Camp Activities



Next Meeting - April 4th - Zarda's BBQ - 6:30 pm

Mr. Rob Lofthouse, best selling and award winning author, genealogist and historian. He will be telling the story of Gordon Joseph Lippman, highly decorated WWII, Korea and Vietnam veteran which included the Distinguished Service Cross. You will want to be on hand to hear Rob speak. Bring your wife or bring a friend. We look forward to your joining us as we welcome him to the Key Camp.



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.*

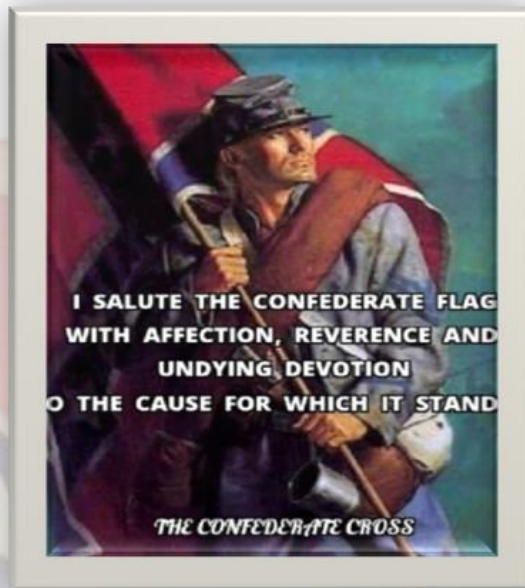
*******NEXT CAMP MEETING*******

The **Key Camp** will meet on **Thursday April 4th** 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.



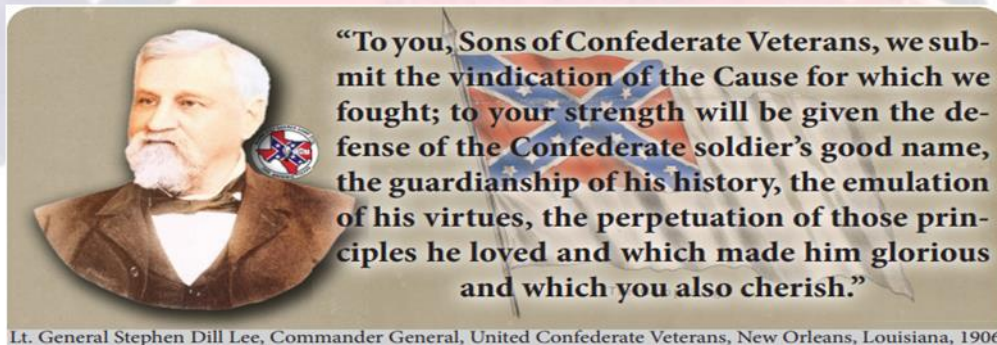


Key Camp Web Page: www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com

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