



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Vol. 23, No. 5

May 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*

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 April 7, 2022



Cmdr. Matt Sewell opened the 224th meeting of the Key Camp, welcoming our speaker Dan Cudnik who would be presenting issues around the life of those imprisoned at "Andersonville

Commander Sewell spoke on the upcoming events at the Mine Creek Park Day and the Missouri History Day at Lone Jack Battlefield. **Adjutant Lawson Rener** reported our membership count stood at 44 with the addition of Spencer Goddard of Gardner, KS.

With Commander **Bill Stoker** in attendance, **Matt** congratulated the **Franklin Camp** on being named Kansas SUVCW Camp of the Year.

The Camp's new web page received 307 views in the first month online. There are many opportunities for visitors to learn about the SCV and to contact us through this site. We are now being found on Google search. Suggestions are welcome for additional content from our membership.

Mine Creek Battlefield Park Day was held Saturday April 10th



Rather than having a traditional pose we thought we'd have a bit of fun with our picture. Here **Paul and Dan** wrestle over a shovel.



Boys will be boys!

Park Day at Mine Creek-

On Saturday April 9th, **Dan, Paul, Larry and Rick** participated in the annual Park Day at Mine Creek.

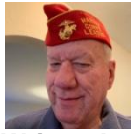
Their time and contributions are very much appreciated.



Major William Simpson Dunlop, 12th South Carolina Infantry, writing of the Confederate soldier –

"They fought for principle and not for pay -- for home rule, local self government, and constitutional liberty— against aggression, paternalism and Federal domination. And while their cause went down under the "arbitrament of the sword," no court of justice or equity has ever adjudicated against their claims. They were grand soldiers, and they were right."

My Great-Great Grandfather, Richard E. Lee



Written by **Compatriot Steve Crawford**

He was born in Howard County, Missouri in 1831, the first born son of James B and Naomi Lee. James was a cousin of Stephen Dill Lee.

In 1850 the family moved to Bethlehem Community, Henry Country, Missouri and was among the first settlers there.

The Bethlehem Baptist Church was started in James B Lee's home.

Richard had a good upbringing and met and fell in love with a young girl in the community, Eliza Jane James. Both the Lee and James families had come from Kentucky. Richard married Eliza Jane in 1859 in the Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Trouble was brewing back east but the heavy taxes being waged on the Southern states in the east were not waged against Missouri.

In February 1861 Missouri held a constitutional convention like many other Southern states but voted overwhelmingly to not secede from the Union. They would just remain neutral and stay at peace.

The peace lasted until May 10, 1861, when Captain Nathaniel Lyons arrested the unarmed Missouri State Guard at Camp Jackson and marched them back to Jefferson Barracks to be locked up. There was no call or reason to do this. When the Missourians in St Louis saw what was going on they lined the streets in protest. Lyons had his men fire into the crowd, killing 121 men, women, and children. This was known as the Camp Jackson Massacre

Governor C F Jackson of Missouri petitioned Lincoln and Congress multiple times, asking that Lyons be removed from command and peace in Missouri be restored. They got their answer in July 1861 when now, General Lyons met with them in St Louis and promised to kill every man, woman and child in Missouri. Lincoln rewarded Capt Lyons by prompting him to a Brigadier General.

It became clear Lincoln was behind this massacre of civilians and had ordered Lyons to start a fight with Missouri. The reason, Lincoln was afraid of losing control of the trails, the major highways of the day, which all started in Missouri. Lyons immediately began the invasion of Missouri. Governor Fox got back to Jefferson City and moved the elected congress to Neosho, Missouri. The War in Missouri had begun.

Meanwhile back in Bethlehem, Missouri all was still peaceful. News traveled slowly and they didn't know about this. The Yankees found invading Missouri to be a lot harder than they thought. Progress was slow. By the end of 1861 the Yankees controlled very little of the state. They had lost the first major battle at Wilson's Creek, and General Lyons learned the hard way that angry Missourians were a lot better shots than he thought. He only knew this for a few seconds before hitting the ground dead.

On October 31, 1861, Missouri officially seceded from the Union and Missouri was accepted by the Confederate Congress as the 12th Confederate State on November 28, 1861.

1862 saw the guerilla war take hold in Missouri. Most Missourians still wanted to remain neutral, The Yankees imposed a new Governor in Jefferson City, Governor Gamble, but he was never elected nor was he respected. He could not get men to join his army and got angry.

Meanwhile in May 1862 Richard and Eliza Jane had a baby girl, Mary Melvina Lee (My Great Grandmother)

Governor Gamble turned tyrannical by mid-1862. He ordered all Missouri men to join the Union Army by August 1st, 1862 or be arrested. 60,000 men did join the army by August 1st, the Confederate Army of Missouri.

Richard Lee left his little family and went to Osceola, Missouri and joined Colonel Tracy's Confederate Cavalry on August 1st, 1862. There was no such thing as boot camp in those days. On August 16th Col Tracy and his men were watching Yankee invaders in the road of a small town they were harassing, Lone Jack, Missouri. The order was given and they charged the Yankees from the hedge row to the

west across a corn field. The hedgerow and the field are still there. The Yankees broke and ran and lost the battle. Richard's first battle was a success.

Shortly thereafter, Sterling Price realized that every Missouri Farm boy could ride a horse and he had a lot of cavalry but not enough foot soldiers. Richard was dismounted and became part of Company K, 16th Missouri Confederate Infantry.

From there on he followed Sterling Price wherever he went, fighting in various states. The Confederacy was using the Army of Missouri in the South instead of defending Missouri. The defense of Missouri was left up to the Partisan Rangers (Bushwhackers) They were very good and terrified the Yankees. Then in 1863, things were going poorly for Vicksburg, Tennessee. The Army of Missouri was ordered to Arkansas to attack the town of Helena, upstream from Vicksburg. The Army of Missouri force marched in the hopes that attacking Helena would pull off Yankees from the attack on Vicksburg. The attack was on July 4, 1863. While attacking the Yankees, Richard was shot and died. July 4, 1863. The day that Vicksburg fell and General Lee left Gettysburg, a day that changed history for us all.

Meanwhile back in Missouri, Eliza Jane was raising Mary Melvina. When word was received that Richard had died, it was posted in the Clinton, Missouri newspaper and Red Legs saw it. Soon a band of Red Legs attacked the Lee home in Bethlehem Community with the intent to kill the wife and baby of the Lee family. Eliza Jane heard them coming and ran to a neighbor who sent out his sons to alert the community. The Red Legs shot up the house not knowing that Eliza Jane and the baby had left. When they entered and found out they had not killed the wife and baby, they set the house on fire after throwing the furniture down the well. Then the neighbors attacked and drove them off.

Eliza Jane feared for her daughter so quickly married a man named Cyrus Davis. She would call her daughter Mary Melvina Davis from then on to hide her true identity as a Lee. Don't worry; she was still a devoted Confederate. She named her first born son with Mr. Davis, Jefferson.

Then on March 8, 1864 Richard's father, James B Lee, was caught by Yankees returning home late at night in his empty buckboard wagon. They accused him of taking supplies to Quantrill and hung him. He died two days later.

Now, is there anyone that does not understand why I grew up thinking that "Damn Yankees" was one word?

Steve Crawford

(Confederate.)
S. 16 Mo.
Richard Lee
Reg't, Co. K, 7 Reg't Missouri Infantry.*
Appears on
Company Muster Roll
of the organization named above,
for April 30 to Aug 31, 1863.
Enlisted:
When Aug. 1, 1862.
Where Osceola Mo
By whom Col Tracy
Period War
Last paid:
By whom Maj Monroe
To what time Apr 30, 1863.
Present or absent
Remarks: Killed in battle at
Helena on 4 July 1863

*This regiment appears to have been designated at various times as 1st, 3d, 4th, 7th, 14th, 15th and Jackson's Regiment Missouri Infantry. It was finally designated the 5th Regiment Missouri Infantry by S. O. No. 177, Headquarters Price's Division, dated December 15, 1863.
Some men from this regiment together with men from the 10th Regiment Missouri Infantry were formed into Company C, 9th Battalion Missouri Sharpshooters, November 29, 1862.
Book mark :
R. Lee
(642) Copyist.



Appomattox Court House, April 12, 1865

They faced each other in two long straight lines - just as they had so many times before on so many bloody fields of fire. This time was different. Three days earlier, General Robert E. Lee had surrendered the skeletal remnants of his hard-fighting Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant in farmer Wilmer McLean's parlor. Now it was time for the Sons of the South to lay down their arms and give up their bloodied battle flags. As enemies, these men in blue and gray had faced each other at Petersburg and Cold Harbor, at Gettysburg and Chancellorsville, at Fredericksburg and Antietam, at Second Manassas and Malvern Hill. Now they again stood in great ranks opposite each other - one now the victor, the other now the vanquished.

Placed in command of receiving the Southern surrender was Brigadier General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, a Northern war hero who bore four battle wounds inflicted by these men in gray and butternut now assembled before him. Absent in Chamberlain, however, was any animosity toward these former foes; present instead was a sense of respect for fellow countrymen who had given their all in the grip of war.

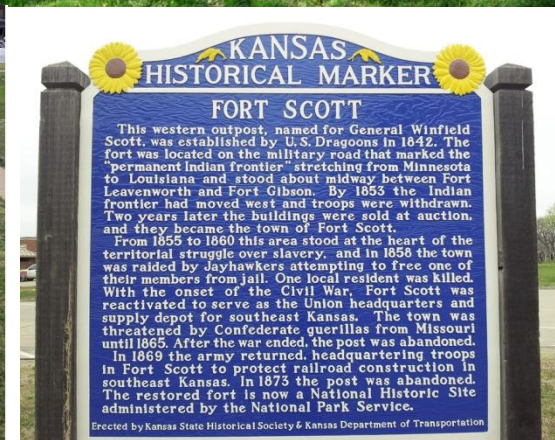
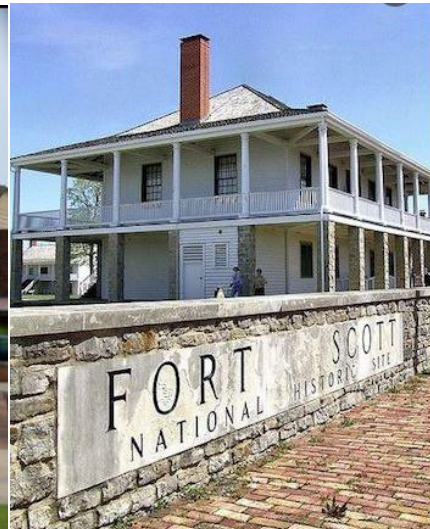
At Chamberlain's order, there was no jeering. No beating of drums, no chorus of cheers nor other unseemly celebration in the face of a fallen foe. "Before us in proud humiliation," Chamberlain would later recall, "stood the embodiment of manhood: men whom neither toils and sufferings, nor the fact of death, nor disaster, nor hopelessness could bend from their resolve; standing before us now, thin, worn, and famished, but erect, and with eyes looking level into ours, waking memories that bound us together as no other bond. Was not such manhood to be welcomed back into a Union so tested and assured?"

At Chamberlain's command, the Northern troops receiving the surrender shifted their weapons to "carry arms" - a soldier's salute, delivered in respect to the defeated Southerners standing before them. Confederate General John B. Gordon immediately recognized this remarkable, generous gesture offered by fellow Americans - and responded with a like salute. Honor answering honor. Then it was over. And a new day had begun - built on this salute of honor at Appomattox. Former foes both North and South - in mutual respect and mutual toleration - now faced the future together. As Americans all.

Encampment Weekend- Fort Scott National Historic Site

April 23rd and 24th

Walt and Rick traveled down 69, 88 miles south of Kansas City, to Fort Scott last Sunday as the old army fort held a weekend encampment. It was a beautiful day to walk the camp grounds, visit the buildings dating back to 1842, and to interact with those re-enacting. In addition they visited the National Military Cemetery and enjoyed the beauty of the historic downtown. Afterwards they enjoyed Luther's BBQ located next to the Fort.





Missouri History Day

April 27th

Lone Jack Battlefield

Paul, Gary and Rick, represented our Key Camp while presenting Civil War weapons from the battlefield to 160 eighth graders from Grain Valley.



Gary explains the types of guns used in battle



Paul tells those gathered how Missouri got drawn into the Civil War



8th graders from Grain Valley listening to Paul



< Rick gets ready to tell about the big artillery cannons used at Lone Jack and showed off various cannon balls.

Did You Know?

MAJ. THOMAS J. KEY

Bizarre as the bird looks, the origins of the University of Kansas mascot are pretty clear. "Jayhawkers" were bands of free-state Kansans who looted their neighbors, like hawks stealing from a nest, in the run-up to the Civil War. Once the Union started recruiting, a Kansas regiment led by Charles Jennison adopted the nickname Jennison's Jayhawkers.

The story of the Missouri Tigers, however is murkier, its links to the war less renowned. The Missouri mascot has been traced to the war-era "home guard" called the Columbia Tiger Company. Some 90 men assembled to protect the township – not from the Jayhawkers, but from fellow Missourians determined to win one for the Confederacy. The Columbia Tigers were local residents and business people just trying to hang onto their livelihoods.

In the fall of 1864, rumors were wild that Confederate Gen. Sterling Price's invasion army would strike at Columbia where the lone building representing the college, Academic Hall, was held by Union forces and served as a prison for Southern Sympathizers. Anti-Union guerrillas, led by "Bloody Bill" Anderson were on a tear on the north side of the river. So the Columbia Tigers organized, built a log bunk house and erected a big bell to warn its citizenry. But, the guerrillas never showed up.

This history's irony- more than a century into the "Border War" hype between Kansas and Missouri sports teams – is that these Tigers never met the Jayhawkers.



BATTLE OF CARTHAGE REENACTMENT



May 21 - 22

Civil War Ranch

417-359-8181



160th Anniversary

Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon had chased Governor Claiborne Jackson and approximately 4,000 Missouri State Militia from the capital, Jefferson City, to Boonville, and continued to pursue them. Col. Franz Sigel led another force of about 1,000 Union troops into southwest Missouri in search of the governor and the militia. On July 4th, after learning that Sigel had encamped at Carthage, Jackson formulated a plan to attack the much smaller Union force. On the morning of July 5th, Jackson advanced towards Sigel, established a battle line on a ridge ten miles north of Carthage, and enticed Sigel to attack him. Opening with artillery fire, Sigel closed to the attack. Seeing a large Confederate force—actually unarmed recruits—moving into the woods on his left, he feared that they would turn his flank. He withdrew. The Confederates pursued, but Sigel conducted a successful rearguard action. By evening, Sigel was inside Carthage and under cover of darkness; he retreated to Sarcoxie. The battle had little meaning, but the pro-Southern elements in Missouri, anxious for any good news, championed their first victory.

160th Anniversary

BATTLE OF CARTHAGE

Reenactment at

Civil War Ranch

Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 21st

Opening Ceremony 9:00 am
Ladies Tea 10:30 am
Arms Inspection 12:30 pm
Battle Reenactment 1:00 pm
UDC Cakewalk 3:00 pm
Civil War Ball 7:00 pm
Camp Life, Drills & Demonstrations during camp hours of 9 am - 5 pm

Sunday, May 22nd

Church Service 10:00 am
Arms Inspection 12:30 pm
Battle Reenactment 1:00 pm
Camp Life, Drills & Demonstrations during camp hours of 9 am - 3 pm

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR AT
WWW.BATTLEOFCARTHAGE.COM FOR
UPDATES AND MORE INFORMATION.



From the Archives

MAJ. THOMAS J. KEY

The unveiling of the Confederate Monument at Mine Creek Battle Creek—the only Confederate monument in Kansas.



In 2003 an impressive number of Key Camp members participated in the activities at Mine Creek Battlefield.

The Battle of Camden Point took place on July 13, 1864 near Camden Point, Missouri

During the mid-1864 Paw Paw Rebellion in north-western Missouri, detachments of Federal troops crossed the Missouri River and occupied Platte County, Missouri. At this time a Confederate cavalry force approximately 200-300 strong under Colonel J. C. Thornton was organizing around Camden Point. On July 13, Thornton's men held a picnic in an open pasture near the town. Detachments of the 2nd Colorado Cavalry and 15th Kansas Cavalry, totaling 700 - 1,000 soldiers, ambushed Thornton's picnicking force, routing it and killing two and wounding approximately 25 Confederates, having suffered one killed and fourteen wounded. Three of these wounded Federals later died from their wounds. Four additional Confederates were captured and executed by Federals after the battle ended. Ammunition, weapons, and gunpowder were captured and Camden Point was burned.

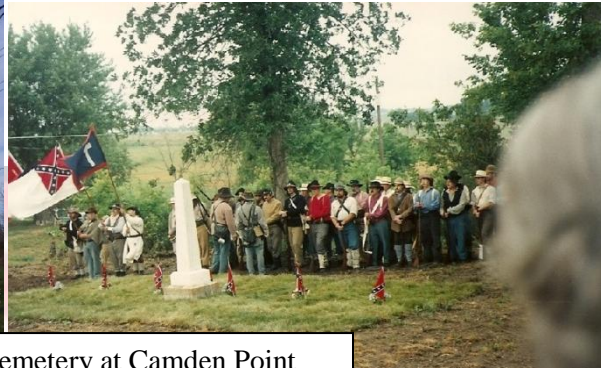
The battle flag of the Confederate force was captured as well, and now resides in the possession of the Colorado State Historical Society. In 1871, a memorial to the Confederates killed in the engagement was erected at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery near Camden Point where the Confederate slain are buried and is the third oldest Confederate memorial west of the Mississippi River. Two older Confederate memorials can be found in Lone Jack, Missouri and Chowan Cemetery (Wayne County, Missouri) erected in 1870.



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 13th AS WE ONCE AGAIN RAISE THE FLAG TO HONOR THESE MEN

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



Pleasant Grove Cemetery at Camden Point
The re-dedication ceremony held Nov 2000



Jasper Clements was one of the raw recruits that Colonel "Coon" Thornton enlisted in Platte County, Missouri. He was one of two Southerners killed at Camden Point. Along with Jesse Myles, Jasper Clements was taken prisoner then killed. Jasper's brother, John, joined the Union Army under Colonel Morgan. As was often the case, brothers were on opposite sides. John Clements was at the battle of Shiloh and latter with Sherman on his march to the sea.

The Civil War isn't forgotten in Camden Point, Missouri, where six Confederate soldiers are buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery, one of the oldest Confederate Cemetery's west of the Mississippi. Resting here are the soldiers killed during the July 13, 1864 battle at Camden Point. The cemetery itself dates back to 1847.

In June 2000, the Major Thomas J Key Camp began a long-term project to care for the graves of these soldiers. The pictures above are from the re-dedication ceremony, in November 2000, presided over by Col. Spike Speicher.



Robert McCormick was about ten when his family migrated to Platte County.

He was part of a Confederate force having a picnic when they were surprised by a detachment of Federals who would ambush Thornton's troops.

When the Federals surprised and killed some of Col. C.C. Thornton's company, Robert suffered severe wounds. He was able to hide in a fence corner full of brush but his pains were such that he cried out and was discovered by the Federals and shot.



Jesse Myles was a regular with Colonel Thornton's one hundred or so volunteers. Jesse, along with Jasper Clements, was taken prisoner and was shot to death without even the form of court-martial.



Andrew Smith was not one of the men that Colonel James Ford claimed his men killed at Camden Point. He was killed latter at Union Mills and his body was moved from there to Camden Point for burial in Pleasant Grove Cemetery.



Richard Alvis was one of six soldiers buried in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery. He was enjoying a restful Sunday picnic with his fellow soldiers. Richard was one of the two men killed outright July 13, 1864, not far from the spot where he would be buried and latter commemorated.



Lt. Alamarine Hardin is the only officer with five other men commemorated on the white marble obelisk. After the murders of the men, Federal officers proceeded to burn Camden Point, destroying twenty houses and several businesses.



Major **Thomas J. Key Camp** #1920
Johnson County, Kansas
Camp Activities



Battle of Carthage Reenactment- 160th Anniversary

Sat May 21st – May 22nd

Kansas Division Reunion
June 17th – 18th 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 May 5th

The Key Camp will meet on Thursday May 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.



Key Camp Web Page:
www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com

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

National SCV HQ Web Page
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

