



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Vol. 24, No. 5

May 2023

Major Thomas J. Key Officers



Commander – *Walt Schley*



1st Lt. Commander- *Dan Peterson*



2nd Lt. Commander- *Paul Allen*



Adjutant- *Lawson Rener*



Chaplin – *Walt McKenzie*



Editor- *Rick McPherson*

The Confederate's Corner

By Rick McPherson

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

The March 2023 meeting was attended by 11 members and 5 guests. This was the 235th regular meeting of the Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920

Our April Speaker was **Compatriot Bennett Dickson**



The “Confederate Soldier of NW Arkansas” was the topic of **Compatriot Dickson’s** presentation. It included discussion on the various battles including Elkhorn Tavern, Cane Hill, Prairie Grove and Fayetteville.

Dickson also spoke of former C.S.A. soldier, Legislator, Governor and US Senator James H Benton who led the marking of graves for Confederate soldiers that died in Northern prison camps following the war.

The Key Camp was pleased to welcome **Compatriot Dickson** and thank him for his informative presentation.

Miscellaneous



April Camp meeting notes: **Commander Walt Schley** welcomed members and guests before holding a moment of silence in memory of **Compatriot John Poynter** and Ms Reba Scott, a real daughter of the Confederacy whose daughter is a friend of the Key Camp and member of the Ladies of the Plains, UDC.



Compatriot Rick McPherson helped kick off Confederate History Month with the reading of a Mississippi Confederate Veteran's obituary written in 1917 followed by a solemn music/video. Rick also recapped the Confederate Flag Day and Bleeding Kansas Series featuring **Compatriot Lane Smith**.



Reminder- NEW MEETING TIME!

The members present voted to change the start time of future Camp meeting to **6:30 p.m.**, from the previous 7:00 p.m. time slot.



Ladies of the Plain's **Monet Keitzman** featured several items from her collection of artifacts.
(more details can be read further down in this newsletter).



Compatriot Jim Edgington invited members to join him for a June "road trip" to Iowa where he will host a visit to several locals including a WWII POW museum, dirt track racing stops, ending with a cookout at his family farm. An itinerary is included in this newsletter.



Our feature presentation was given by **Compatriot Bennett Dickson**. (See article below)



Certificates of Appreciation were presented to **Compatriot's Smith, Edgington, Edwards, Allen, Schley, Foster, Peterson, McPherson, McKenzie** and friends **Monet, Betty and Mary**.



Key Camp Web Page Hits from Jan 1st 2023 to date 131. (April +36)

JOYS & CONCERNS

Too often, we get caught up with the production and presentation of our camp meetings and activities and fail to offer up our unified prayers of Joy or of Concern to those among us who have experienced or are experiencing one or the other, even though they are on our collective minds.

*I believe each one of us have voiced our prayers of encouragement to **Dan and Susan Peterson** and our congratulations to **Walt and Mary McKenzie**. We want you to feel both our friendship and prayers.*



Road Trip with “JP”



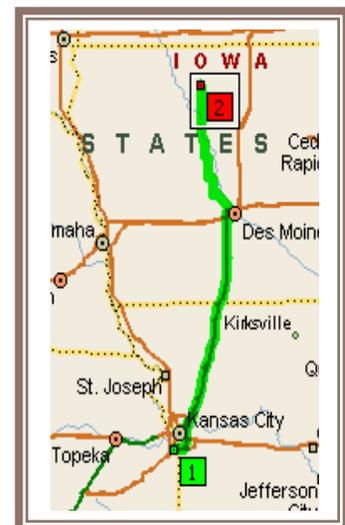
Proposed Itinerary

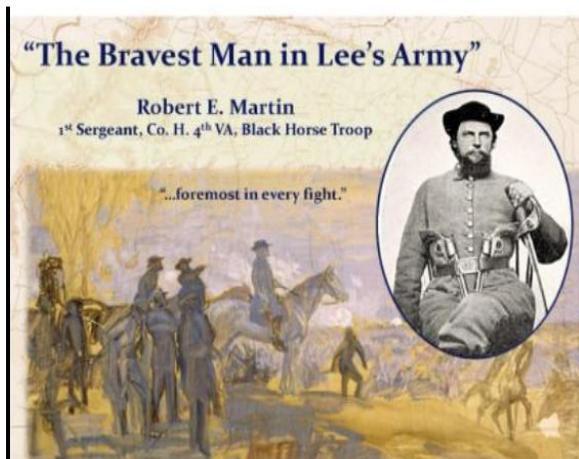
To: Algona, IA (approx 318 mi.) leaving at Noon. Attend the races at the Kossuth Co Raceway, and then spend the evening at Brookstone Lodge.

- Friday
- Visit the Camp Algona WW II POW Museum
- Visit the Kossuth Co Ag & Motorsports Museum/Hall of Fame
- Visit the West Bend Historical Society
- Visit Butter Braid Pastries
- Visit the World’s Largest, Grotto of Redemption
- BBQ Cookout
- Night at West Bend Motel

Saturday

- Bode Veterans Memorial Park, Bode, Iowa
- Humboldt, Iowa, Union Cemetery Monument
- Visit John Brown Park & Liberty fountain
- Frontier Village & Fort Dodge Museum
- National Sprint Car Museum & Hall of Fame in Knoxville, IA
- Attend World Famous Knoxville Sprint Car races
- Return home.... should arrive back home by 2:00 a.m.

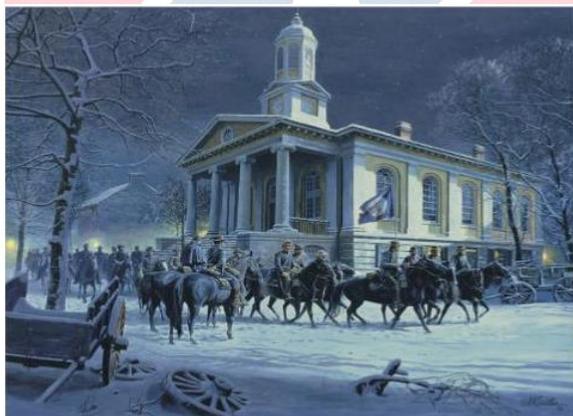




“The Bravest Man in Lee’s Army”

From the book by Lynn Hopewell

One of the advantages of putting together the newsletter for the **Major Thomas J Key Camp** is the opportunity to publish articles. In addition, while scouring sources, certain topics come up that have caught my attention. It’s even more interesting if, when combined with genealogy research, a familiar name presents itself attached to a unique story and that is where this article came about.



Sgt. Robert Edward Martin, above second rider from the right, is silhouetted against the light in the window of the Warrenton, Va. Courthouse. Turns out he was a 3rd cousin on my mother’s side of the family.

Martin was presented with a fine rifle, a gift of an admiring Englishman, as being the bravest man in Lee's Army. Martin thus became the "Bravest of the Brave," the title of Mr. Hopewell's book on the Black Horse Cavalry as well as the inspiration for the title to this painting.

The Black Horse Cavalry was arguably the most famous of Confederate Cavalry Company and within it were three Martin brothers, Robert, Josh and John Richard. Long before the War Between the States, the Martin family was prominent in Fauquier County, Virginia. Their father John Martin descended from the original settler of the Germantown Colony of Fauquier, John Joseph Martin, my 6th great grandfather.

Each of the brothers gave very distinguished service. George Washington “Josh” Martin was known for his skill and daring as a “scout.” He was involved in a famous incident, in which Lt. John Meiggs, an engineer on Gen. Philip Sheridan’s staff, and son of Union General Montgomery Meiggs, was killed.

During this campaign [Early’s Valley campaign, August, 1864]...Josh Martin and [F.M.] Campbell, of the Black Horse, with a member of the First Virginia Regiment, were returning from a scout late in the evening. It was raining, and the soldiers had their oilcloths thrown over their shoulders, which in a great measure concealed their uniform. On looking back, they saw three mounted men coming up behind them,

whom they inferred were Union soldiers as they were in the rear of Sheridan's forces. Drawing and cocking their pistols, they rode slowly, that they might be overtaken. The Federals -for such the party were - had had their suspicions aroused, and also prepared for the fight.

As soon as they came alongside of them, the scouts wheeled and demanded surrender, when they were fired upon by their opponents. They proved to be Lieutenant Meiggs, of Sheridan's staff and two orderlies. Lieutenant Meiggs' shot passed through Josh Martin's body, but he braced himself, returned the fire, and killed Meiggs. The other two scouts captured one of the orderlies. The other made his escape, and reported to Sheridan that his party had been bushwhacked, who, in retaliation, ordered the burning of every house in a radius of five miles.

Josh Martin was carried to the house of a farmer, where he was tenderly nursed until sufficiently recovered to return to his home in Fauquier. After the war closed, General Meiggs, believing that his son had been assassinated, sought to have Martin arrested and tried by a court-martial for murder; but when the facts, as above stated, were certified to him by Captain A. Payne, the matter was dropped, for Lieutenant Meiggs had been slain in the open and a legitimate war death. As a result of Meiggs' death, which the Yankees called murder by guerillas, the Martin Brothers had a price on their heads.

Robert Martin was the first sergeant, and in that capacity had displayed the highest qualities of a soldier, and had, in consequence, won the esteem and respect of both men and officers. Robert Martin, too, was foremost in every fight. He appeared to

court danger for itself, and it seemed there was nothing he so little valued as life. *"Bob Martin ought to have lived in the days of the Crusades. He would have made an ideal Spartacus, or a Jack Cade, for he was a born gladiator: six feet one inch in height, weighing about 180 pounds, with not an ounce of superfluous flesh, it was no wonder he was the acknowledged leader among the daring men of the Black Horse.*

In personal strength he was a phenomenon, and he was as quick and active as a panther. He had a good, honest countenance; his eyes were gray, and his firm mouth and chin showed the character of the man. In action he had the sternest face I ever saw, and his eyes had within them a baleful glitter that was terrifying. As a partisan he was at his best."



"In the charge at Brandy Station, in June, 1864, Sergeant Martin rode a couple of lengths in advance and literally hewed his way with his saber through the opposing force. It was for a time a surging, intermingled mass of men, who feared to use their pistols unless the muzzles were jammed against the enemy's body, and it was in that mob that Bob Martin so distinguished himself that his deeds were talked of around every camp-fire in the cavalry."

“He was not only fearless, but his nerve never failed, and in moments of deadliest peril he kept his wits about him; his mind and body moved in unison, with the quickness of the lightning’s flash, and it was this intuitive action that saved him time and time again. A man madly, blindly brave, placed in position of deadly menace and peril where Martin escaped, would have met death many times. It was not Bob’s luck, but his doing the right thing at the right time that saved him.”



He was the only trooper in the Black Horse who, when in close quarter, preferred the saber to the pistol; and come to think of it, I never met or heard of any cavalryman except the German Colonel von Borcke, Stuart’s personal friend, who did.”

To him, by general consent, therefore, the rifle was awarded as “the bravest of the brave.”

The Terrible Black Horse Cavalry, initially formed as a volunteer company in 1859, was first acknowledged after escorting John Brown to the gallows in December of 1859.

Their fame spread as they fought alongside the Army of Northern Virginia in every battle of the Civil War. They were held in high esteem by a number of generals, including Joseph Johnston, Stonewall Jackson and JEB Stuart. Stuart, commander in charge of all Confederate cavalry, considered them to be his best troop.

The superiority of Confederate cavalry troops over Union cavalry troops was evident during the beginning of the Civil War. Horseback riding was much more common in the south due to a lack of roads, requiring more families to own and ride horses. There was little competition between the Confederate and Union cavalries until the March 17, 1863 Kelly’s Ford Cavalry engagement, when Union cavalry gained the experience, training and equipment necessary to stand their ground. Until that point Confederate cavalry troops like the Black Horse Cavalry were difficult to defeat.

The troops first captain, Colonel John Scott, characterized Black Horse members as “young gentlemen of the first respectability, either themselves planters or sons of planters.” Three brigadier generals as well as many post-war elected officials launched their careers as Black Horse Cavalry members. On February 28, 1863, General Lee officially cited them for their efforts and sacrifices. The “bravest of the brave” - the **Black Horse Cavalry.**





The Southern Rights flag pictured above was shown to the Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920 by Ladies of the Plains member, Monet Belinger Kietzman during the April meeting. The Palmetto Guard was her GG Grandfather's unit before he left to form Bellinger's Company, Company E aka The Colleton Guard.

The Southern Rights Flag

PRESENTED BY MONET BELINGER KIETZMAN



The flag of the Palmetto Guards is a reminder that southerners came to settle Kansas as a slave state.

Kansas Territory quickly became the center of attention when it opened for settlement in 1854. The whole nation knew that when Kansas became a state it would alter the balance of power between North and South. To gain statehood, though, Kansas needed a constitution, one that would either prohibit or allow slavery. Only those who lived in the territory could cast a legal ballot, therefore, people on all sides of the slavery issue flocked here.

As organizations like the New England Emigrant Aid

Society encouraged antislavery northerners to settle Kansas, southern organizations worked to accomplish the opposite. One group of South Carolinians formed an armed force in Kansas named the Palmetto Guards after the tree that symbolized their native state. They brought along a red flag with a single white star featuring the words "South Carolina" on one side and "Southern Rights" on the other. These men settled in Atchison, then very much a proslavery town. Their leader, Captain F.G. Phillips, was a graduate of the South Carolina Military Academy (now known as The Citadel).

The Palmetto Guards carried this flag into battle on Kansas soil.

When a proslavery force attacked the town of Lawrence on May 21, 1856, the flag briefly flew over both the *Herald of Freedom* newspaper office and the Free State Hotel (now the Eldridge House), signaling they were in control of the city. Both buildings were then destroyed.

That same day in Lawrence, another proslavery group--the South Carolina Minute Men--carried a dark green flag. It features a snake and the mottoes "Sic Semper Tiranis" (death ever to tyrants) and "Don't Tread on Me," Revolutionary War symbols that had remained popular in the South.

After the attack on Lawrence, the red "Southern Rights" flag was seen at a banquet in Atchison where it was reported that "the most ultra pro-slavery toasts were given, and the subjugation of Kansas by the victors of Lawrence, was spoken of by the Southerners as a thing achieved."

But the luck of the Guards was running out. On September 11, 1856, a company of free-state men led by Captain James Harvey surprised the Palmetto Guards as they camped along Slough Creek, near Oskaloosa in Jefferson County. With little effort the Guards were captured, and the flag was taken as a trophy.

Harvey presented the flag to Colonel E.B. Whitman of Lawrence. In 1879 Whitman presented it to

Franklin Adams of the Kansas Historical Society (Adams had been with Harvey's company when the flag was captured). The flag is now in the collections of the Society's Kansas Museum of History.

Monet's Show and Tell

Monet Belinger Kietzman spoke about and displayed two items she including a Southern Rights flag, a rare complete set of Confederate Bonds and an even rarer Southern Cross of Honor.



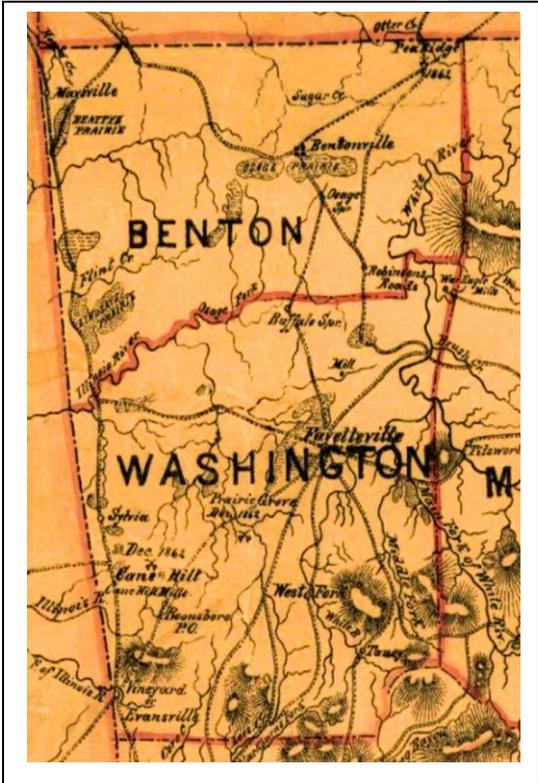
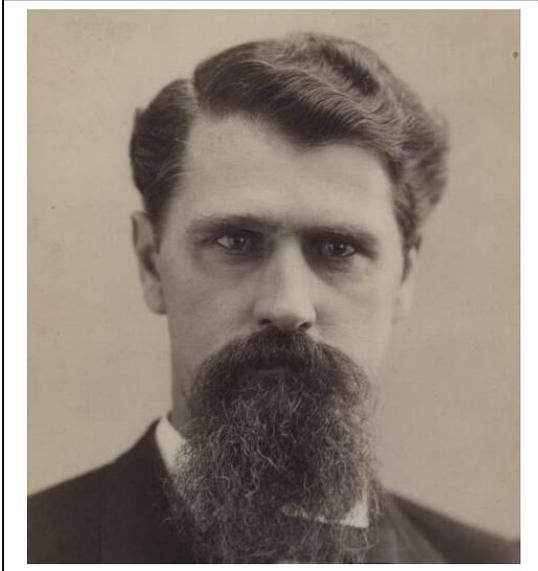
The Confederate government turned to issuing bonds to generate revenue to run government affairs and accounted for 32% of their total revenues.



The Cross of Honor pin belonged to Pvt. Benton Joseph Springston who served with the 19th Virginia Cavalry.

The Confederacy in NW Arkansas

The following images are a supplement to **Compatriot Bennett Dickson's** April presentation



THE WAR CRIPPLE WHO BECAME GOVERNOR,



JAS. H. BERRY

JAMES HENDERSON BERRY WAS BORN 1841 IN ALABAMA... CAME TO CARROLL COUNTY, ARK.. WITH HIS PARENTS IN 1848 ... JOINED THE 16TH ARK. INF., CONFEDERATE SERVICE... FOUGHT AT SHILOH. LOST A LEG AT BATTLE OF CORINTH, MISS., OCT. 4, 1862..

AFTER THE WAR TAUGHT SCHOOL AT OZARK AND STUDIED LAW... MOVED TO BENTONVILLE AND FORMED LAW PARTNERSHIP WITH HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, SAM W. PEEL.. BERRY WAS ELECTED TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1872 AND JUDGE OF FOURTH CIRCUIT 1878..



ELECTED GOVERNOR 1888 WHEN A.H. GARLAND WAS APPOINTED U.S. ATTY-GENERAL. BERRY WAS ELECTED SENATOR FOR THE UNEXPIRE TERM.. RE-ELECTED 1889, 189 AND 1901 BUT WAS DEFEAT BY JEFF DAVIS IN 1907..

DURING J.H. BERRY'S TERM AS GOVERNOR THE FISHBAC AMENDMENT WAS SUBMITTED AND ADOPTED... SEN. BERRY DIED AT BENTONVILLE JAN. 30, 1913.



May Speaker

Geoffrey Jenista

Cyber Security Advisor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security



Join us for our May, Key Camp meeting as we welcome Mr. Geoffrey Jenista.

Mr. Jenista serves as the Regional Cyber Security Advisor for Region VII (IA, KS, MO, and NE) for the Cyber Security & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Integrated Operations Division. Based in Kansas City, KS, he supports the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) mission of strengthening the security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure.

His programs coordinate cyber preparedness, risk mitigation, and incident response. He provides Cyber Security resource briefings, Cyber Security assessments, and Incident Response planning to the nation's sixteen critical infrastructure sectors and state, local, tribal, and territorial government entities.

Prior to joining the Department of Homeland Security Mr. Jenista worked for 12 years with U.S. Army as an Army Enterprise Systems Branch Chief and Information Systems Security Manager with responsibility for all aspects of Technical support, Service Delivery, Risk Management, Project Management, Enterprise Architecture, and Information Security. Prior to joining the U.S. Army, he served 22 years in the U.S. Navy as a Senior Chief Petty Officer, holding duties as an Executive Officer, Weapons Officer, and AEGIS Maintenance Supervisor.

Mr. Jenista holds an MBA and an MA in Information Technology Management from Webster University. He has a BS in Computer Information Systems from Park University and he holds the Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP) certification.

May 20th

CIVIL WAR I PARK DAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Park Day @ Mine Creek Battlefield

UPCOMING EVENT

Saturday, May 20, 2023 @ 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM CDT
20485 KS Highway 52
Pleasanton, KS 66075

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tamara Neal
KSHS.minecreek@ks.gov
816-809-7767



Meeting place

Volunteers should meet at the museum at 9:00 am.

Planned Activities

We plan on clearing trails, finishing sealing benches, and washing windows. We will provide lunch to volunteers.

History or Educational Activities

A historian will be on hand to answer questions. The Battle of Mine Creek Video will be available for anyone to watch.

Should I bring any tools or supplies?

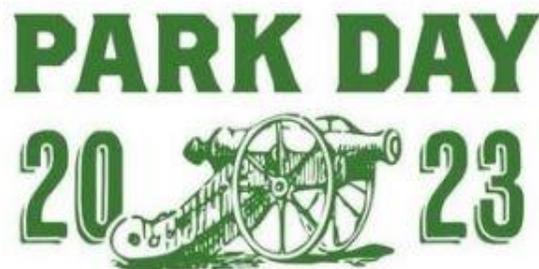
Please bring chainsaws, loppers, and pull saws. If you have a side-by-side available to bring it would be handy.

Is there a rain date?

In the instance of inclement weather, Park Day will continue as planned.

Please note

Please wear appropriate clothing. Gloves closed-toed shoes, long sleeve shirts.



27 Years of Inspiring
Volunteers for History



AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ***

See us on Facebook – Enter Major Thomas J Key Camp

24th Annual Kansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Reunion Army of Trans Mississippi



Saturday June 17th, 2023
Kansas Museum of the National Guard
8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Guest Speaker



Mr. Jim Dick
Co-Site Administrator
Mine Creek Battlefield
State Historical Site

State Commander **Lawson Rener** and officers; invite you to the 24th Annual, Kansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Reunion on June 17th, 2023 at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka, Kansas.
125 SE Airport Drive Topeka, KS 66619

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Jim Dick of the Mine Creek Battlefield in Pleasanton, KS. Elections, presentations of awards and auction will follow.
A catered lunch is included. \$30 per reservation due by June 15th

Send your reservations/checks to Dick Croft
11017 S 151st St. West, Clearwater, KS 67206

Kansas Division Camps

Colonels Lewis & Harrison Camp #1854
Topeka, KS

Brigadier General William Steele Camp #1857
Leavenworth, KS

Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920
Lenexa, KS

South Kansas Camp #2064
Wichita, KS

Brigadier Generals Buckner & Chilton Camp #2227
Dodge City, KS

See us on Facebook – Enter Major Thomas J Key Camp

Sons of Confederate Veterans
24th Annual Kansas Division Convention/Reunion

Saturday, June 17th, 2023
8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Museum of Kansas National Guard
125 SE Airport Dr. Topeka, Ks.

REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged for adequate planning

Name _____ Title/Position _____
SCV Camp Name _____
Personal Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone () _____ Cell Phone () _____
E-mail _____
Guest Name/s for Badge/s _____

Registration 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. 2:25 pm on Saturday June 17, refreshments will be provided, 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 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 10, 2023. Please include relationship, rank, name, company, and unit on separate sheet of paper.

DEADLINE TO MAIL IN REGISTRATION FORMS IS SATURDAY JUNE 13, 2023

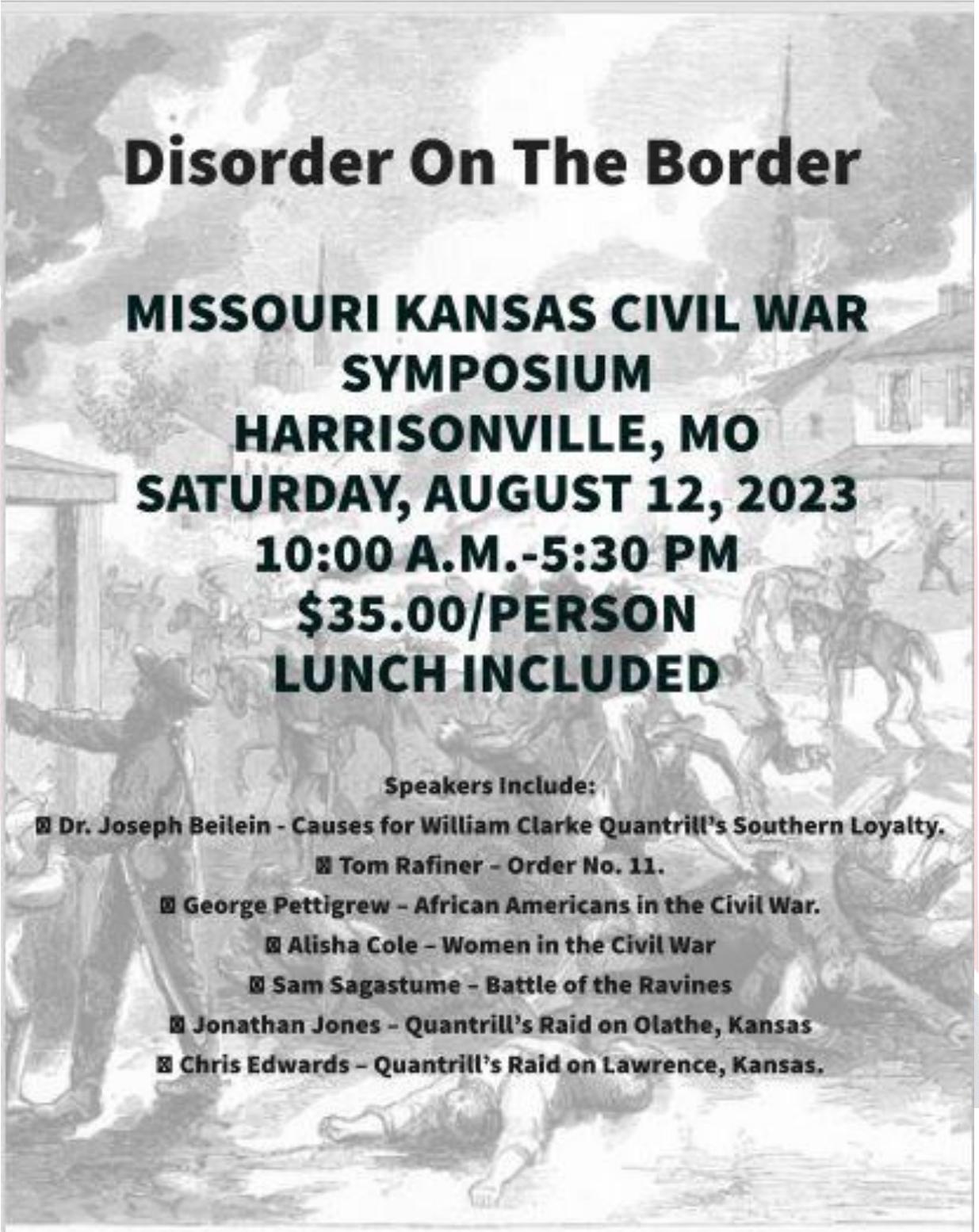
Reunion registration cost is \$30 per SCV Member, \$20 per guest.

QTY.

SCV Members.....@ \$30ea. = \$ _____
Member's Guests.....@ \$20 ea. = \$ _____
Donation to Kansas Division \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED..... \$ _____

**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**



Disorder On The Border

MISSOURI KANSAS CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

HARRISONVILLE, MO

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023

10:00 A.M.-5:30 PM

\$35.00/PERSON

LUNCH INCLUDED

Speakers Include:

▣ **Dr. Joseph Beilein - Causes for William Clarke Quantrill's Southern Loyalty.**

▣ **Tom Rafiner - Order No. 11.**

▣ **George Pettigrew - African Americans in the Civil War.**

▣ **Alisha Cole - Women in the Civil War**

▣ **Sam Sagastume - Battle of the Ravines**

▣ **Jonathan Jones - Quantrill's Raid on Olathe, Kansas**

▣ **Chris Edwards - Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence, Kansas.**

2023 Sons of Confederate Veterans National Reunion

www.2023scvreunion.org

Hosted By The James M Keller Camp #648

Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas

July 19, 20, 21, 22nd 2023



The Arlington Hotel is the Official Hotel of the 2023 SCV National Reunion

**The Arlington Hotel is located at 239 Central Avenue in
Hot Springs, Arkansas**

Tel: (501) 623-7771 (800) 643-1502

Website: www.arlingtonhotel.com

Room Rates: Single/One Adult: \$109.00 Double/Two Adults: \$109

Mineral Water Room: \$149.00

***** Make sure to mention 2023 SCV Reunion to receive the special Reunion Rate!*****

For Registration and other forms go to:

www.scv2023reunion.org



Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Johnson County, Kansas
Camp Activities



Lone Jack Battlefield History Days May 5th & 17th
Park Day at Mine Creek Battlefield – May 20th
Fayetteville Cemetery Memorial Service – June 3rd
Kansas Division SCV Reunion – June 17th – Topeka, KS
National SCV Reunion July 19-22 – Hot Springs, Ark

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*****

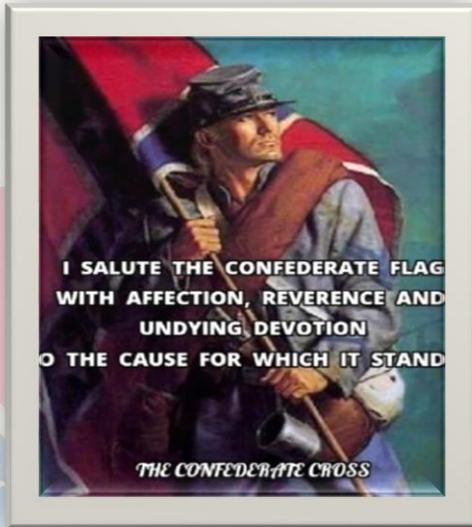
The Key Camp will meet on **Thursday May 4th** at Zarda's Bar B-Q on the southwest corner of 87th and Quivera in Lenexa, Kansas with the official meeting starting at **6:30 p.m.** You are invited to arrive early (6:00 p.m.) for BBQ, conversation and camaraderie.

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.



**Major
Thomas J Key**

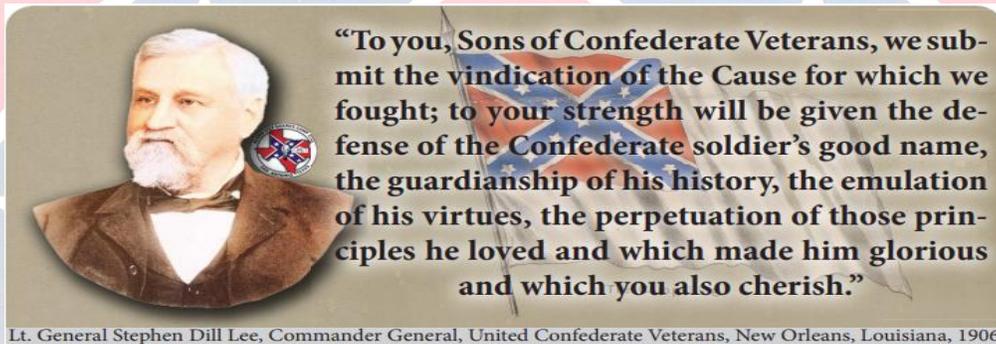


Key Camp Web Page: www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com

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