



# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Vol. 22, No 11

November 2021

## 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 October 7, 2021 meeting.*



**Cmdr. Matt Sewell** spoke to a great crowd of members and guests assembled. We welcomed back Compatriot **Chris Edwards** and Past Commander **Jim Thornton**. **Donna Brooks** once again joined us as did guest Danny Phelps.

This was our camp's 219<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

**Commander Sewell** gave a brief recap of our September activities which included our annual camp picnic as well as Compatriot's **Lane Smith's** presentation to the UDC.

*It was proposed that the UDC be contacted to invite them to join with us at the Lee-Jackson Banquet.*

Compatriot's **Walt McKenzie** and **Larry Tatum** agreed to lead the "auction committee" for the upcoming **Lee-Jackson Banquet to be held January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022**.



Walt

Larry

### Major Thomas J. Key

#### Camp Officers

##### Commander

Matt Sewell

##### 1st Lt. Commander

Vacant

##### 2nd Lt. Commander

Dan Peterson

##### Adjutant

Lawson Rener

##### Chaplin

Walt Schley

##### Newsletter Editor

Rick McPherson

Compatriot **Rick McPherson** provided a humorous recap of his and **Walt Schley's** trip to Columbia, TN for Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's funeral, then followed it with a somber picture montage of the funeral services.



Rick

Walt

The Key Camp welcomed back Past Commander **Jim Thornton** who offered a heartfelt remembrance of the late **James L. "Spike" Speicher**.



Jim

"Spike"

**2022 Reunion link**  
[www.2022reunion.gascv.org/](http://www.2022reunion.gascv.org/)

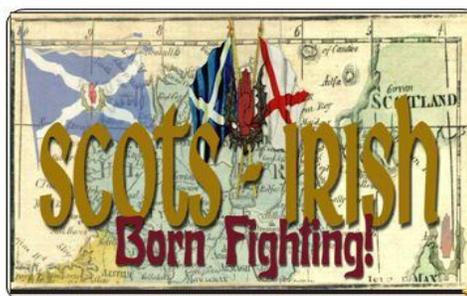
#### CADET MEMBERSHIP



Cadet membership is available to any male descendant of a Confederate soldier from the ages 0-11 years old.

### October Presentation

Making the case that the Scottish heritage and culture influenced many Southern soldiers in their fight for their independence and in protecting their homes and families, **Rick** presented the "**Scots ~ Irish Born Fighting**"



Following its conclusion, in a remarkable show of hands, most all of our members acknowledged they too shared a Scottish ancestor within their own heritage.

Coming January 22, 2022

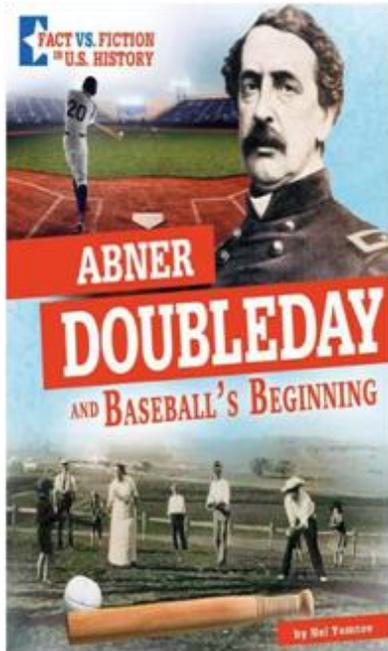
Celebrate  
**Lee-Jackson Day**

The only fundraiser for the Key Camp is the **Lee-Jackson Day Banquet** and Auction. Leading the effort to collect donations for the auction will be Compatriots **Walt McKenzie** and **Larry Tatum**. Please contact them to donate item to auction.

Walt -mouthaskins@icloud.com

Larry – larrytatum@aol.com

# Did You Know?



## In honor of our great American pastime

With the 2021 World Series nearing its conclusion, you may be interested in learning this baseball/civil war fact. Abner Doubleday was a career US Army officer and a Union Major General in the American Civil War. Most people will recognize his name as the inventor of the game of baseball, though Doubleday never made that claim himself. In fact, the game actually evolved from a European game called “rounders”.

Doubleday himself also holds the distinction of being credited with firing the first shot in defense of Fort Sumter in the opening battle of the Civil War aiming the cannon that fired the first return shot in answer to the Confederate bombardment on April 12, 1861.

**One More Thing:** *At the time of General Robert Edward Lee's death, the town of Lexington, Virginia was besieged by heavy rains flooding the area. Roads were impassable and the availability of a suitable casket to place the General's body in was not available. A warehouse that had recently received a shipment of caskets had been flooded and many boxes containing caskets had floated away downstream. However, a young boy reported a box containing a casket, while floating away had been washed into a bank of tree limbs and was within reach. Upon recovering the box, the casket was determined to be fit for the General and his body was placed within it before burial in the Lee tomb.*

Source: **Confederate Veteran Nov. 1910**



## The Story of Henry "Tobe" McPherson



From the Battle of Manassas  
August 1862 as written by J.H. Strain  
Lt., 2<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi Infantry

*While the 2nd Mississippi had driven back the first line of Federals and had halted to reform its lines after the serious troubles at railroad cut, there, some distance from their front, this stand of colors (the Yankee's regiment flag) apparently alone, stood planted in a pile of fence rails, and the Federals were trying to reform their lines along the line of this flag. Col. J.M. Stone sent out Lt. Roberts with four men to bring in that flag. When this squad approached this rail pile, they made a dash, each wishing to get the flag.*

*In that race Lt. Roberts, a fine, athletic young man, and more lightly encumbered, neared the rail pile first, and, to the surprise of the squad, the Federal color guard rose up around the colors and killed the lieutenant. In the ensuing contest, the gun of one of Robert's men failed to fire. Being a big, brave young man, he clubbed his gun and struck the antagonist, and in doing*

*so he stumbled and fell among the rails. When he recovered, two of the color guard were retreating double-quick with one of Robert's men a prisoner, while the color bearer was retreating leisurely with the flag.*

*Recapping his gun, he fired on the color bearer and broke his leg. He then rushed forward and wrenched the colors from this unyielding man and amid a hail of bullets from the Federal line, brought in the flag. This man was 18 year old Henry "Tobe" McPherson whom we called "Mc P".*

Strain writes, *"He was my close friend; we ate and slept together, and he described to me fully every detail of this affair, emphasizing the awful apprehension of sudden death when his gun had failed to fire. When McPherson was offered a lieutenancy vacated by Robert's death, he declined but accepted a furlough stating that "in his heart he felt no goading of ambition for duty done." No braver or better soldier ever shot a gun",* Strain wrote.

Strain had not included in his story that Henry "Tobe" had been wounded in that fighting and later hospitalized. (The flag he captured was from the 149th Pennsylvania Infantry.)

Henry "Tobe" would go on to serve at the Battle of Seven Pines in May/June 1862 during one of General Lee's most successful engagements and where more than 10,000 were killed. He fought at Gaines Farm in July 1862 with Maj-General George McClellan and Stonewall Jackson leading their respective armies and again at Malvern Hill where General Lee would be in command against McClellan. He fought

at the 2nd Manassas in August 1862 alongside Stonewall Jackson and Longstreet and at South Mountain and Sharpsburg with Lee and McClelland again facing off in September of 1862. More than 23,000 would perish there.

Henry "Tobe" survived through the Battle of Gettysburg in early July of 1863 and later the same month at Falling Water during the Army of General Lee's escape over the Potomac River near Williamsport. There, their escape was blocked by the flooded Potomac creating a defensive line with their backs to the river as the Union cavalry attacked them. More than 700 Confederate soldiers were captured and Major-General Pettigrew was killed. Henry "Tobe" was able to escape and would later be led by General A.P. Hill at the Battle of Bristoe Station, Virginia in October of 1863 only to suffer a defeat to the stronger Union forces resulting in the deaths of more than 1400 Confederate forces. But Henry "Tobe" once again was lucky and made it to the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1864.

Under the Command of General Robert E Lee, and against the Union Army led by General U.S. Grant and Gen. George Meade, the 2nd Mississippi would again do battle alongside the Army of Northern Virginia at the Wilderness just outside of Richmond where more than 180,000 soldiers fought and over 28,000 would die. This is when the life of Henry "Tobe" McPherson would end.

On May 6, 1864, not 10 feet from the Federal lines he miraculously dodged the bullets that rained down upon them. While awaiting their own charge the anxiety weighed on every heart and,

while they laying in wait for the impending storm, where a feat requiring extraordinary coolness and courage was to be performed, young Henry "Tobe" McPherson rose like a specter from the ground, ready to obey his commanders behest.

It was reported that on this day, McPherson could be seen as the smoke from the battle rolled away, standing in proud defiance as he prepared his charge. Upon that charge as he ran toward the Union breastworks until a Minnie ball struck him in the head and young Henry "Tobe" McPherson fell dead upon the bloody battlefield.

Henry's heroism was recognized posthumously on *The Confederate Roll of Honor* recognizing his bravery and courage on the field of battle.



**Origin of the game, Capture the Flag**

**The fun neighborhood backyard game known as 'Capture the Flag' can trace its roots back to the Civil War. It is believed that the game has roots to the battle field itself when the capture of the opposing flag was heralded as a major victory. Soldiers knew that the battle was over when the enemy's flag was captured.**

## Who Was Sam Davis? What Made Him A Boy Hero?

Born on October 6, 1842 in Rutherford County, Tennessee, Samuel Davis grew up in an upper-middle class family. The oldest son of Charles Lewis Davis and Jane Simmons Davis, he attended the local Smyrna schools until leaving home in 1860 to attend Western Military Academy in Nashville.

Sam remained in school only a short time before the Civil War began in 1861. Like many other young men, Sam joined the army before Tennessee had officially seceded from the Union. He enlisted in Co. I of the 1st Tennessee Infantry Regiment in April 1861. In 1862, they moved west and took part in the battles of Shiloh, Perryville, and Stones River.

Early in 1863, Sam became a member of "Coleman's Scouts." By 1863, the Union Army occupied much of Middle Tennessee. Sam and his fellow scouts worked behind enemy lines disrupting communications and collecting information on the troop movements of the Union forces for the Confederate Army. Even though they wore Confederate uniforms and traveled with passes signed by Confederate General Braxton Bragg, the Union army considered them spies if captured.

Around November 20, 1863 as Sam traveled toward Chattanooga, he was captured by Federal troops near Minor Hill, Tennessee. Sam carried papers that contained critical information on troop movements near Nashville and Pulaski, as well as eleven newspapers and various personal items for General Bragg. Among the papers found concealed on Sam was information that could have only come from the desk of Union General Grenville Dodge. Convinced that one of his own officers was supplying information to the Confederates, Dodge decided to put pressure on Sam to identify his spy. He offered Sam his freedom in exchange for this information. Sam refused, so General Dodge ordered a court martial.

The court charged Sam with being a courier of mails and of being a spy. Sam admitted to being a courier, but pleaded "Not Guilty" to the charge of spying. The military court convicted Sam Davis on both charges and sentenced him to hang. When preparing him for the gallows, General Dodge offered Sam one last chance to save his life by revealing the source of the papers he carried. Sam stated with his last words: "I would rather die a thousand deaths than betray a friend." He was hanged on November 27, 1863.



“I would rather die a thousand deaths than betray a friend”



## On the Road Again with Walt and Rick

*On Monday October 18<sup>th</sup>, Compatriots Walt Schley and Rick McPherson headed north to Gallatin, Missouri and attended the meeting of the Surgeon John Cravens SCV Camp #2276. Their Camp Commander is Larry Dixon. Attending was the Lt. Cmdr of the Missouri Division, Jeff Futhey out of Warrenton, MO., along with approximately 20 of their camp members.*

*Walt and I had met Jeff in Tennessee at the Forrest re-internment and made arrangements to purchase some grave flags which Jeff was providing. So Walt and I decided to visit Gallatin where Jeff would be speaking and the flags could be collected. We were enthusiastically welcomed by all and enjoyed wonderful and often humorous conversations but what we both came away with was the hearty enthusiasm shown for their Confederate ancestry and a real passion for continuing the call to preserve their legacy for future generations.*



Gallatin Camp Commander Larry Dixon



MO. Div. Lt. Cmdr Futhey

*Some of their fundraising activities were quite impressive which included selling 75 SCA Cross markers at \$38 each, \$1300 in raffle tickets for a period pistol or rifle, \$1000 in various flags including three like the one pictured above. They also did well selling hats at events in which they participated in and voted to add up to \$1000 in new POP literature. This group was also responsible for the authentic cannon placed on their Town Square Courthouse lawn, has been involved in the Liberty Marker litigation, held a Veteran Casket Flag display honoring former SCV members and participates in numerous small town events across northern Missouri. Plus they had over \$5700 in their treasury. All in all, it was a wonderful experience to visit another camp and see how involved their members were in their camp, in their community and in their region.*

# National Guardian Program



Sons of Confederate Veterans

## Attention Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920 Compatriots:

Do you wish to participate in the Guardian Program? It is a minimum of a two year commitment which at the end will earn you a Guardian Pin and a Certificate. Below is a brief explanation. This can be done on your own or as part of a partnership between a few of you.

1. *PURPOSE: The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) has instituted this program to honor the memory of Confederate Soldiers and to help ensure the preservation of their final resting place. All compatriots are encouraged to participate in this program to honor our ancestors and to protect their final resting places.*

In short, you will visit the graves of those under your responsibility at minimum of three times per year, clean and maintain the grave area and ensure any repairs are made if necessary. The placement of a flag or wreath celebrating certain events will be required as well. For full requirements visit the following web site. [NationalGuardianProgramRules-1.pdf \(scv.org\)](#)

Upon completion of the fulfillment of these duties for two or more years, one can apply for a pin and certificate designating him as a GUARDIAN.



# Attention:

The following is a message from Compatriot Walt McKenzie



To Our Friends and Members of Camp #1920.

*Greetings!*

*The annual Jackson- Lee banquet will be held in just over two months. This event is our only fundraiser that we hold. The proceeds go toward our goals of preserving our heritage. We have had tremendous response through the years of donated items for auction. Please continue to be so generous & gracious. Donations can be brought to our next meeting and we will prepare them for the January banquet. Arrangements can also be made for pickup at your location.*

*We have had a varied assortment of items to auction in past years. Please check your closets, garages, basement & other places for auction items. This is so very vital to the health of our organization. The auction committee consists of Walt McKenzie, Larry Tatum & Dan Petersen. Please contact Walt at 913-888-0666 for pickups & or any questions you might have.*

*Thank you for continued support of our cause.*

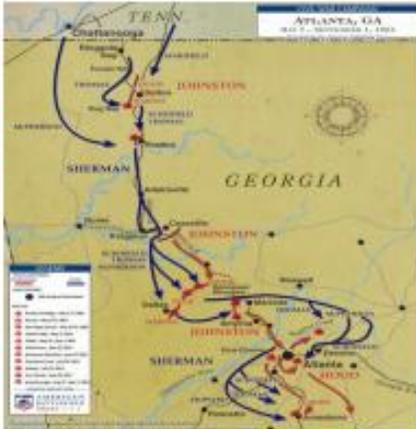
*Walt*



# GEORGIA 2022



## SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS 127<sup>th</sup> National Annual Reunion



### The Atlanta Campaign Battlefield Tour Reunion July 19 to 23, 2022

Clarence Brown Conference Center  
Cartersville, Georgia

Hosted by: William J. Hardee Camp #1397  
and Kennesaw Battlefield Camp# 700

THREE DAYS OF BATTLEFIELD TOURS FOLLOWING THE 1864 ATLANTA CAMPAIGN WITH SOME OF THE MOST INTACT TRENCHES AND FORTIFICATIONS IN THE COUNTRY. FOURTH DAY CLIMAX SEE THE 1886 CYCLORAMA THE BATTLE OF ATLANTA.

#### July 20, Battlefield Tour of Chickamauga.



#### July 21, Battlefield Tour of Ringgold Gap, Resaca & Dalton.



#### July 22, Battlefield Tour of Kennesaw Mountain & Cheatham Hill.



#### July 23, Personal Tour of the 1886 Cyclorama of the Battle of Atlanta.



# Sons of Confederate Veterans

127th National Annual Reunion, July 2022

Official Registration Form

Cartersville, Georgia \* July 19 - 23, 2022 \*

[www.2022reunion.gascv.org](http://www.2022reunion.gascv.org)

NAME (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

SCV CAMP NAME & NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE/POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

~ Tickets Purchased ~			
Event / Date	Price	Qty	Total
Reunion Registration (After July 1, 2022 = \$75) includes Reunion Medal	\$65		
Chickamauga Dinner & Presentation at the Clearance Brown Conference Center Tuesday, July 19, 2022 @ 6:00 pm	\$50		
Chickamauga Battlefield Tour (lunch included) / Wednesday, July 20, 2022 @ 10:00 am	\$68		
UDC Tour - "A Southern Tea Outing" Historic Woodstock / Wednesday, July 20, 2022 @ 1:00 pm	\$65		
Resaca Dinner & Presentation at the Savoy Antique Automobile Museum. (Admission included) / Wednesday, July 20, 2022 @ 6:30 pm	\$55		
UDC Tour- "A Day in 1850 Cartersville" / Thursday, July 21, 2022 @ 9:30 am.	\$35		
Battlefield Tours of Resaca, Ringgold Gap, & Dalton (lunch included) Thursday, July 21, @12:15 pm	\$68		
SCV Heritage Luncheon / Thursday, July 21, 2022 @ 12:30 pm	\$40		
Kennesaw Mountain Dinner & Presentation at the Booth WBTS / Cowboy Museum. (Admission included) / Thursday, July 21, 2022 @ 6:30 pm	\$55		
Prayer Breakfast / Friday, July 22, 2022 @ 7:00 am	\$30		
Battlefield Tours of Kennesaw Mountain, Cheatham Hill & Marietta Confederate Cemetery (lunch included) / Friday, July 22, 2022 @ 12:15 pm	\$68		
SCV Awards Luncheon / Friday, July 22, 2022 @ 12:30 pm	\$40		
UDC Tour - "Gone with the Wind Tour" / Friday, July 22, 2022 @ 1:00 pm	\$45		
Mechanized Cavalry Breakfast / Saturday, July 23, 2022 @ 7:00 am	\$30		
Personalized Tour of the Cyclorama of the Battle of Atlanta and Atlanta History Center Museum. (Admission & Chick-fil-A lunch included)/Saturday, July 23, 2022 @ 12:30 pm	\$68		
SCV Banquet, Debutante Ceremony & Grand Ball / Saturday, July 23, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m. <i>Note: Dress/Attire is Coat &amp; Tie or Period Uniform/Civilian</i>	\$70		
Honor your Confederate Ancestor by including his name in a special Remembrance section of the official program book; two lines of 45 characters. Write on back of this form.	\$10		
<b>Final Total - total of Registration, Tours and Meals</b>			

Make Checks Payable to: **Georgia Division, SCV**

Mail Form & Check to: **Georgia Division, SCV, P.O. Box 1081, Macon Ga. 31202**



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



**Leavenworth County Veterans Day Parade**

**November 11<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am**

**Lee – Jackson Banquet**

**January 2022**

**Abdullah Shrine Temple**

**5300 Metcalf Avenue Overland Park, Kansas 66202**

*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 November 4th**

The Key Camp will meet on Thursday November 4th 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* 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:** [www.MajorKey1920ksscvc.org](http://www.MajorKey1920ksscvc.org)

**SCV National:** [www.SCV.org](http://www.SCV.org)

**Kansas Division:** [www.ksscvc.org](http://www.ksscvc.org)

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





— ★ —  
DEO VINDICE  
— ★ —