



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Vol. 23, No. 11

November 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 gathering of October 6, 2022, our 230th meeting.



The October meeting became a social hour with members and guests enjoying a casual BBQ dinner and conversation. No business was conducted.

The Key Camp welcomed 11 members and 2 guests. Thanks to those that attended. We hope to see you all again at our November meeting.

Compatriots are reminded that spouses, guests and especially prospective members, are always welcome to our meetings.

Elections of new officers will be held at this coming Thursday's meeting. Please attend!

Meeting Recap



No meeting was held though members did gather for BBQ and conversation



Those nominated for officer positions in the November elections are: Compatriot's **Schley**- Commander, **Peterson**-1st Lieutenant, **Allen**- 2nd Lieutenant, **Renner**-Adjutant and **McKenzie**-Chaplain.



Compatriot Dennis Garstang was presented a certificate in recognition of his 26 years as a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.



Hits to the **Key Camp Web Page** from 10/1 to 10/27 were +25. YTD total hits are **540**.



Congratulations

Compatriot Dennis Garstang became a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in February of 1996.

At left, Dennis is being presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his 26 years of membership by Compatriot Rick McPherson at the October gathering.

The shirts are here!



If you ordered a Key Camp shirt, they will be at Thursday's meeting to be passed out. Please check your emails for a notification from Rick on your order and bring a check on Thursday to pay for your purchase.

Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival

Members of the SCV and the SUV shared a tent at the Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival to promote the history of the Civil War in Kansas and Missouri. The pistols and rifles on display were a hit with those stopping by to visit.



Pictured above are: Rick McPherson, Jim Thornton, Paul Allen, Parker Van Sickle, Carl Linck and Bill Stoker. These fellas represented both the Sons of Confederate and Union Veterans at the Fall Festival. (The shadow is unidentified)



The opening of the Fall Festival began with the presentation of the Flag bearing 31 stars, representing Kansas as the 31st state, entering the Union on January 29th, 1861.

Bill, Paul, Jim and Parker formed the Honor Guard to present and to raise the flag before those attending the Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival.



Paul explains how the state of Missouri was drawn into the Civil War while Jim waits to interject his thoughts. On display were various rifles, muskets, pistols and sabers which drew visitors to our booth.





Among the many youngsters that visited our tent were these young fellas. The opportunity to put on a uniform and hold onto a rifle was a great draw during the Fall Festival. It was very refreshing to learn that each one of these boys had some knowledge and interest in Civil War studies. Some knew the names of these weapons and had done school reports on various battles during the war.



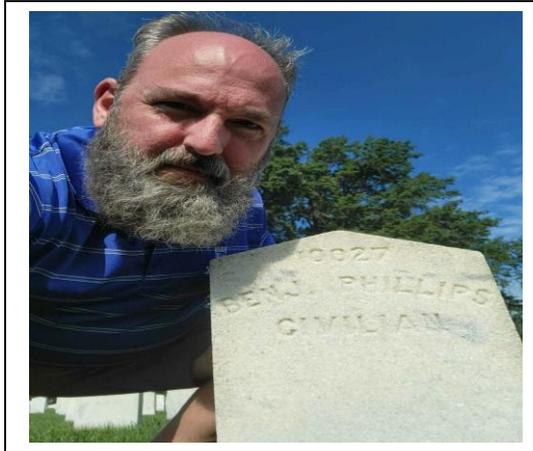
Bill gives instruction on the loading and firing of his musket to kids of all ages.



The Confederate Battle Flag was not allowed so our tent was adorned with many other flags that represented the Confederacy.

A Doctor, a medical college, a Union POW camp and St. Louis.

By **Compatriot Lawson Rener**



Prior to the Civil War, St. Louis served as the site of the McDowell Medical College. Located at the corner of Gratiot Street and 8th Street, the college was founded by Dr. Joseph Nash McDowell (1805-1868).

Having studied at Transylvania University in Kentucky and teaching medicine in Kentucky, Philadelphia and Ohio, McDowell moved to St. Louis in 1839. In 1840, he founded the Missouri Medical College, the first medical school west of the Mississippi River and would later evolve into the Washington University School of Medicine that exists today.

Depending on which history one reads, McDowell was seen as a pioneer and genius to a madman and grim man of macabre. Most notably, when McDowell came to St. Louis, he had a reputation for the study of medicine using cadavers. At the time, the use of cadavers was considered sacrilegious and not performed with the exception of a few states that allowed dissection of felons. Therefore, Dr. McDowell would personally and with the assistance of students, rob graves to supply cadavers for teaching.

Historians discuss the eccentric nature of Dr. McDowell who wore a breast plate of armor, bought 1,400-1,500 rifles and trained students to use them, outfitted the upper turret with 6 cannon, some of which he made himself. He was paranoid that someone would attack him.

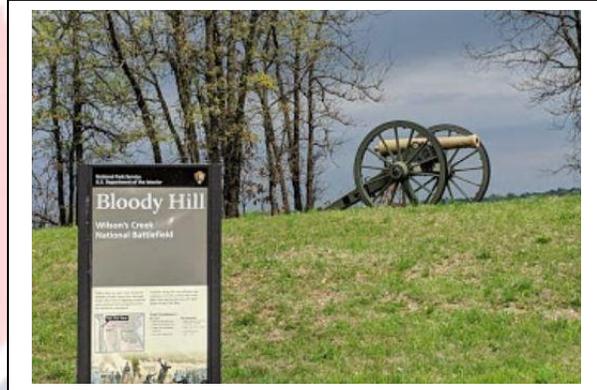
At the onset of the war, Dr. McDowell left immediately for Vicksburg where he would become a surgeon and medical director for the Trans Army of the Mississippi. Upset with his disloyalty, the Union Army decided to use the fortress-like facility of the McDowell Medical College and refit it for use as the Gratiot Street Prison.

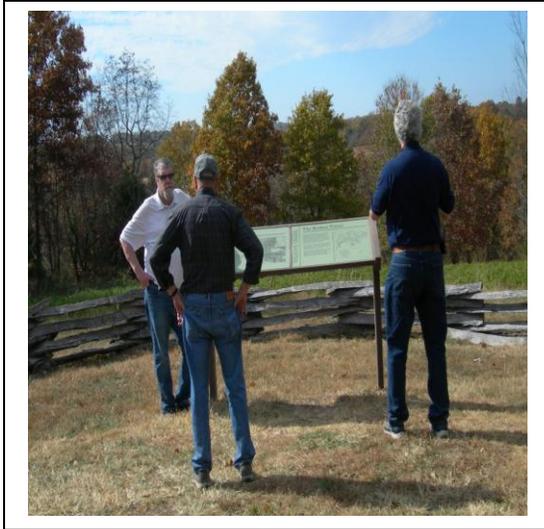
Missouri was under martial law and operated by the Provost Marshall General who operated with free reign to arrest and execute as he felt appropriate for a myriad of charges.

On a personal note, while tracing my father's family history, I am taken to Chariton County, Missouri. I discovered that my great great grandmother's brother, Benjamin Phillips was a citizen prisoner of war in the Union-operated Gratiot Street Prison. He died on September 30, 1862 as a prisoner of war and is buried in the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in the Confederate section, grave marker 10027.

Wilson's Creek

On Saturday, October 22nd, Bill Stoker, Jim Thornton, Ronny Thompson and Rick McPherson traveled to Springfield, Missouri to visit the Wilson's Creek Battlefield. The following pictures are a few taken to document their trip.





"Count the flags, Sir"



"During the lull in the battle [Sharpsburg] General Jackson, with General J.E.B. Stuart, visited our lines, which were in the famous 'West Woods.' General Jackson had on an old worn uniform, his slouch hat was pulled down over his eyes, and he was riding a mighty sorry-looking claybank horse. He rode up to where Colonel Ransom was standing and said he wanted him to advance and take a battery that was in sight. Colonel Ransom replied he would do so if he ordered it, but was afraid he would fail. Jackson replied he had just witnessed his charge upon that battery and he thought if he would try again he could take it.

Colonel Ransom replied he had tried it and when he got to the hill he saw what he thought was the greater part of McClellan's army behind it. Jackson asked: 'Have you a good climber in your command?' Colonel Ransom called for volunteers, and Private Wm. S. Hood, Company H, jumped up and said he could climb. Jackson picked out a tall hickory tree and told him to go up it. Hood pulled off his shoes in a jiffy and went up like a squirrel. When he got near the top Jackson, sitting on his horse, under the tree, asked him: 'How many troops are over there.' Hood uttering an exclamation of amazement replied: 'Oceans of them.'

Jackson sternly said: 'Count the flags, sir!' Hood began: 'One, two, three, four, etc., etc.' General Jackson repeating after him the numbers until he had counted thirty-nine, when Jackson said: 'That will do, come down, sir.' All this time the enemy's sharpshooters were firing at Hood.

General Jackson then turned to Colonel Ransom and asked him what made him charge that battery with all those troops defending it. Colonel Ransom answered that he saw a very large body of troops preparing to charge him, which he could not resist, and he determined to charge them first as the best means of preventing their attack; but he did not know the strength of the enemy until in the charge he reached the hill where the battery was and saw the force of the enemy behind it.

As he was leaving General Jackson gave orders to renew the attack when 'the rattle of his small arms should be heard,' as he expected to attack the enemy on his left flank. This attack was never made. In recognition of his daring, Private Hood was made orderly to General Ransom immediately after the battle, and faithfully discharged his duties as orderly for the brigade, until at the assault on Fort Stedman, 25 March, 1865, he was killed charging the enemy's works.





Major

Thomas J. Key Camp

#1920

Johnson County, Kansas
Camp Activities



**Elections of Officers – November 3rd Meeting
Lee- Jackson Banquet – January (TBA)**

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 3rd

*****ELECTION of Camp Officers*****

Our Presentation by Arnold Scholfield

“Confederate Guerillas and their Network”

The Key Camp will meet on Thursday October 6th 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.

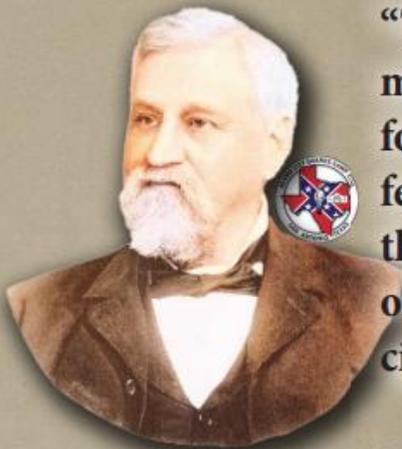


CAMP 1920

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



“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we 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.”

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1906