



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Volume 23, No. 9

September 2023

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 CONFEDERATE'S CORNER

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

The July 2023 meeting was attended by members and guests
This was the 239th regular meeting of the
Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920



Commander Schley presents the bullet plaque to **Mike Calvert**, President of the Civil War Roundtable of Western MO who presented *The Battle of Rock Creek* which was fought June `13th, 1861 near the Rock Creek school in present day Independence. It was a battle fought with the only casualties coming via friendly fire.



Rock Creek where present-day Westport Road crosses the creek.

News from the Meeting



Commander Walt Schley opened the meeting with the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by **1st Lt. Peterson**, The Salute by **2nd Lt. Paul Allen** and the Charge led by **Adjutant Lawson Rener**



The Key Camp welcomed 14 members and 7 guests. Guests **included Betty Allen, Monet Kietzman, Parker Vansickle, Donna Brooks, Debby Sumner, Sandy Wurth, and guest speaker Mike Calvert.** Welcome to all and thank you for your attendance.



Commander Schley called on the Camp's good thoughts of prayers for those dealing with health issues including **Susan Peterson, Rick McPherson, Jim Edgington and Chris Edwards.** We look forward to your full and complete return to health.



Business: **Adjutant Rener** gave a financial report and reported 37 paid members with 9 pending. **Commander Schley** passed out new name badges, **Compatriot Rick McPherson** reminded the camp of the Aug 12th *Disorder on the Border* symposium.



Sandy Wurth of the Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival extended to the Key Camp an invitation to participate in the event as well as the opening ceremony Color Guard. She also recollected her friendship with our founder **Spike Speicher** and wife **Kaki.**



Compatriots John Atherton and Larry Sumner were sworn in and recognized as new members of the Major Thomas J Key Camp, by **Commander Walt Schley** and **Division Commander Lawson Rener.** Congratulations fella's- you are official!



September 9th 3:00 Col. James "Spike" Speicher Camp Picnic in By Cyrus, Kansas. This will be held at **Past Commander Sewell's** home. BBQ will be provided.

Please make plans to join your fellow Camp members and bring your Spouse and family.

RSVP at the September meeting.

Please bring a lawn chair and a side to share.



Key Camp Web Page hits for August +55, 2023, YTD 455 visits

Camp Activities

Mine Creek Heritage Day

The Key Camp was well represented at the Mine Creek Heritage Day event where our weapons and field box items were on display. This is a great opportunity to visit with the public and talk about our Southern Heritage. In fact, because several members are also "SOB's", the Franklin Camp of the SUVCW was also represented. This is one of the most enjoyable events of the year as we share many stories and laughter with everybody. Thanks to the following: **Gary Foster, Rick McPherson, Dan Peterson, Jim Dick, Jim Thornton, Walt Schley, Bill Stoker, Debby** and **Lary Sumner** and **John Atherton**. You all represented our Camp wonderfully! Thanks for spending you day with us.



The Key Camp displayed our weapons and artifacts, weapon firing demonstrations were presented, both Yankee and Confederate troops fired upon each other and the cannons roared. Several hundred folks came out to enjoy the day where on October 25th, 1964, on the banks of Mine Creek, two Union brigades of approximately 2500 troops defeated an out gunned 7,000 Confederate troops under the command of General Sterling Price. Mine Creek was the largest Civil War battle fought in Kansas and one of the largest cavalry engagements of the War Between the States.

Welcome to our newest members



Compatriot Larry G. Sumner

My 2x grandfather **Private Robert Nelson Sumner, Sr.** was in Company L, 22nd Regt. NC Infantry was mustered in on March 12, 1862, along with his 3 brothers and 5 cousins.

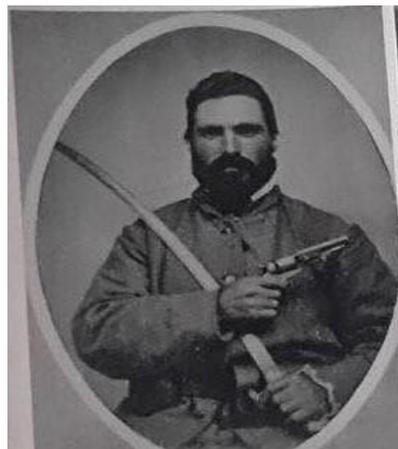
On April 2, 1865, he was captured at Hatcher's Run, Virginia. He was then confined to Hart's Island NY Harbor, On June 20th, 1865, he took the Oath of Allegiances. After he returned home, he married the girl in the next holler over and raised 13 more kids besides my great grandfather and his little brother. He went back to becoming a dirt farmer again. He was from Trinity, NC in Randolph County. He is buried at the Mt. Gilead Cemetery.

I have been to his gravesite and his home in which it still stands on Sumner Rd. I am very proud to be from the same blood of this true Confederate, He never owned any slaves. He was fighting against the Northern Aggression for his own family land and the wellbeing of his family.



Compatriot John Atherton

My ancestor **Pvt. John Henry Fisher**, Kanawha Artillery (battery). He enlisted July 27, 1861, in Mercer, W.V. at age 28 and while under the command of Captain Thomas E Jackson, was captured at Ft Donnelson Feb 16, 1862, and sent to Camp Douglas. He died of pneumonia on March 12, 1862, and is buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois.



A HOUSE DIVIDED

The Lincolns' Confederate Relatives

Did you know ... While Abraham Lincoln was President, several of his wife's brothers served in the **Confederate Army**?

FIVE LINCOLN BROTHERS-IN-LAW SERVED IN THE CONFEDERATE STATES ARMY, THREE DIED OPPOSING HIS INVASION OF THEIR HOMELAND...

David Todd, the black sheep of the family ran away from home to fight in the Mexican war at age 14. Confederate officer and briefly commandant of Libby Prison in Richmond...

Samuel Todd was killed at the battle of Shiloh in April 1862. Four other brothers were present at the battle also.

George R.C. Todd served as a surgeon in the Army of Northern Virginia and was at Gettysburg with General Lee.

Alexander "Aleck" Todd was the youngest and served in Kentucky's famed Orphan Brigade. He was at Shiloh and Vicksburg as aide de camp to his brother Benjamin much of the time. He was killed by friendly fire near Baton Rouge, Louisiana in August 1862.

General Benjamin Hardin Helm was killed at the battle of Chickamauga Ga. in 1863, where within an hour of the order to advance, a third of the men of the Orphan Brigade were lost. It is said Lincoln mourned his death, but Mary Todd Lincoln did not; her niece recalling: "She knew that a single tear shed for a dead enemy would bring torrents of scorn and bitter abuse on both her husband and herself.



David Todd



Samuel Todd



George Todd



Gen. B H Helm



Aleck Todd

Awards!



Tim Peterman
Leadership Award



Dan Peterson
Meritorious Service Award



Paul Allen
Commendation Award



Rick McPherson
Meritorious Service Award



Lawson Rener
Distinguished Service Award



Jim Thornton
Past Commander Award

Key Camp members represent



Compatriot Lane Smith presented the Trial of Jefferson Davis to the Ladies of the Plains of the UDC at the Shawnee, KS Library on Thursday August 10th at the invitation of Monet Bellinger-Kietzman.

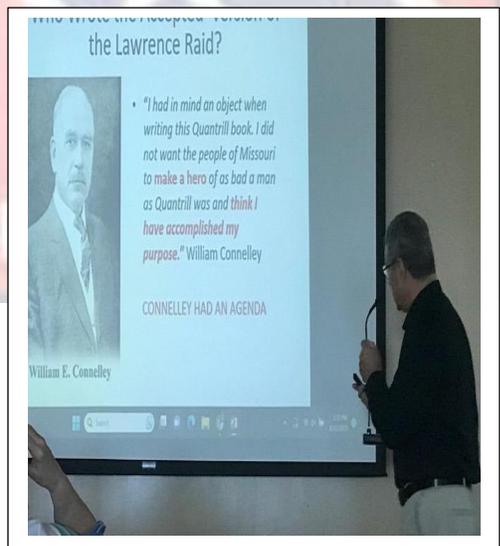
Attending were **Key Camp** compatriots **Walt Schley, Paul and Betty Allen, Jim Edgington and Rick McPherson.**



Compatriot Chris Edwards (below) spoke at the *Disorder on the Border* Symposium held in Harrisonville, Missouri on August 12th, about the truths regarding William Quantrill and the raid on Lawrence. The symposium received a donation from the **Key Camp** as a co-sponsor and was attended by **Commander Schley** and **Compatriots Garstang and McPherson.**



A good crowd was on hand to hear the speakers.



Stone Mountain

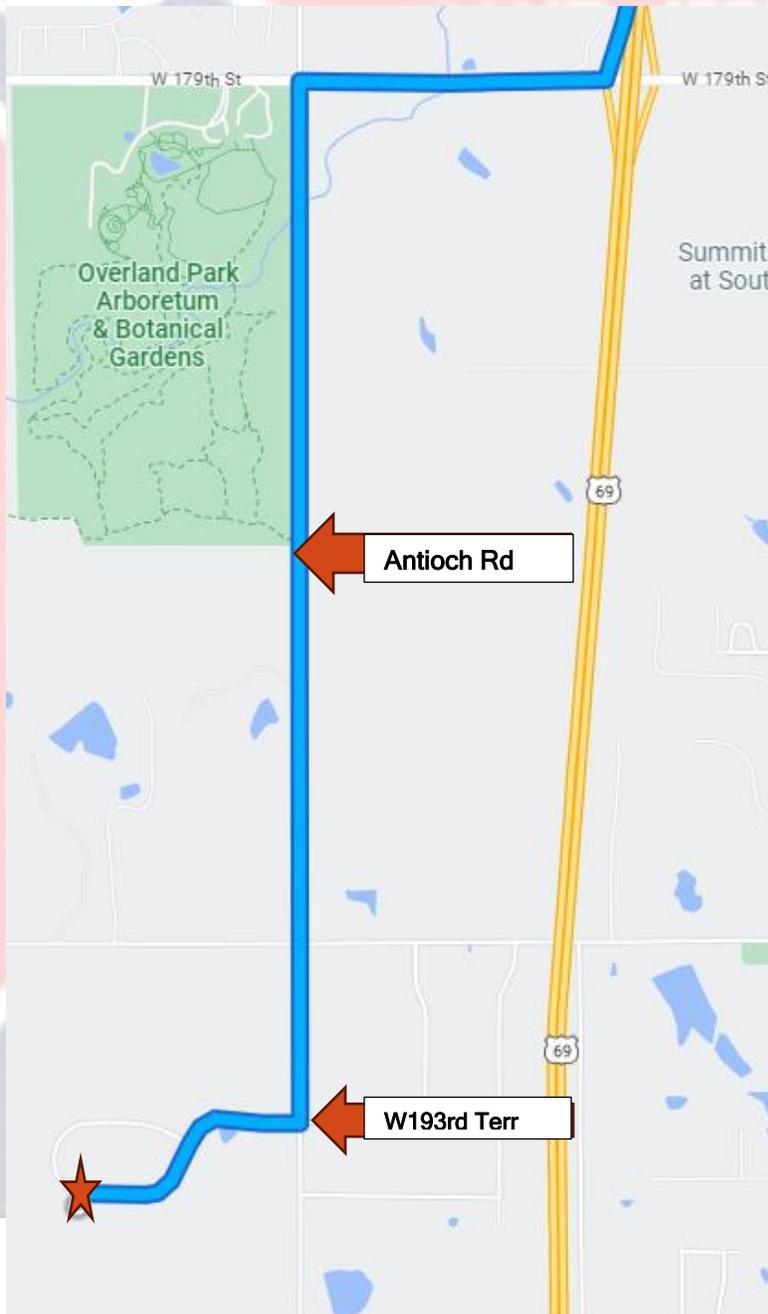


Stone Mountain, the largest bas-relief sculpture in the world, much larger than Mount Rushmore, and the most popular tourist spot in Georgia. It is 90 by 190 feet, recessed 42 feet into the mountain. In 1916, it was conceived by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and officially completed in 1972. Since it is carved in granite, it will last longer than any other achievement by human beings. In other words, when all the buildings, bridges, dams and engineering feats of the human race fall into ruin and dust, the granite carvings of Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, and Stonewall Jackson will endure. It is fitting, I think, that the greatest ideas and the noblest heroism should be remembered in the most enduring monuments.



Camp Picnic

Coming September 9th, at 3:00 p.m., the 1st annual *Jim "Spike" Speicher Camp Picnic* will be held at the home of Past Commander Matt Sewell's home located at: 9341 W 194th Terr in Bycyrus, KS.



South on 69 Highway to 179th Street Exit
Continue to Antioch RD
Turn Left (South) onto Antioch Rd
Go 1.8 miles to 193rd Terr
Turn Right onto 193rd Terr approximately 0.2 mi. to W 194th Terrace.
Destination will be on the left.
Park on the street and join us in the back yard.
Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share.



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



September Meeting - September 7th - Zarda's BBQ - 6:30 pm

Compatriot John Atherton will be presenting "Civil War Music"

Spike Speicher Camp Picnic - September 9th - Sewell Family Compound, Bucyrus, KS

Note: New time will be beginning at 3:00 pm

October 7th We are Invited to the Baxter Springs encampment, potential new Kansas SCV Camp

Fall Festival - October 14th 10: 00 am - 5:00 pm Shawnee Indian Mission

The Key Camp will be sharing a tent with our SUV friends from the Franklin 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.*

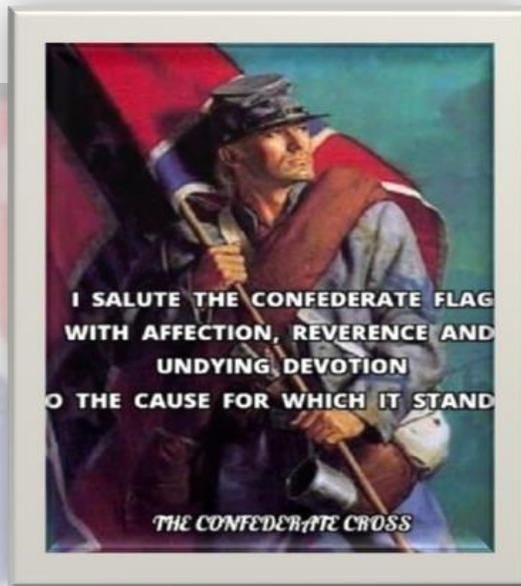
*******NEXT CAMP MEETING*******

The **Key Camp** will meet on **Thursday September 7th** 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.



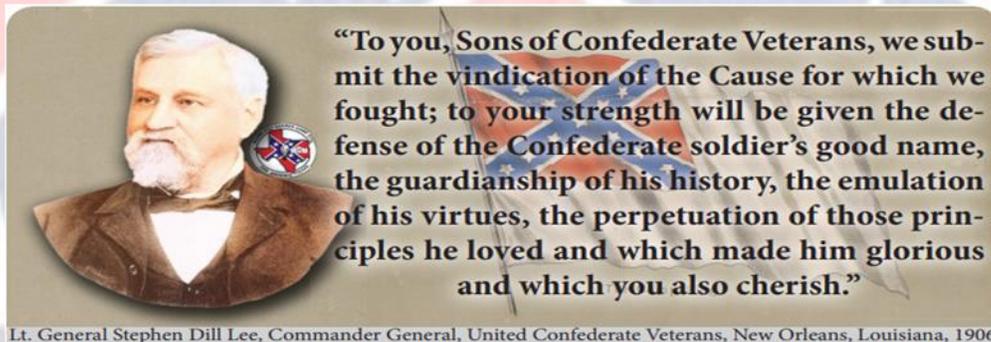


Key Camp Web Page: www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com

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.