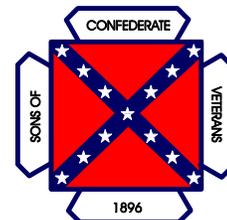


THE TELEGRAPH KEY



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



VOL. 13, No. 12

DECEMBER 2012

REMEMBER

THERE IS

NO

CAMP MEETING

IN

JANUARY

THE LEE-JACKSON BANQUET IS IN LIEU
OF OUR REGULAR CAMP MEETING

Editorial Byline and Stuff

"The Telegraph Key" is the newsletter for the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). The SCV is a non-profit organization with a patriotic, historical and genealogical orientation and is not affiliated with any other organization. Opinions in this newsletter reflect the views of the writers 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.

Officers:

Key Camp

Commander:	James L. Speicher
1 st Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield
2 nd Lieutenant Commander:	John Weir
Adjutant:	Steven Crawford
Chaplain:	Carl Linck
Communications Officer:	Steven Crawford
Historian & Scrapbook:	Dan Peterson
Web Master:	John Weir
Newsletter Editor:	James L. Speicher
Media Coordinator:	Lane Smith
Cadet Member Coordinator:	Lee Crutchfield

Key Camp On The Web

Key Camp: www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org
SCV National: www.scvc.org

NEW MEMBER

STILL WAITING TO SEE WHO IT WILL BE

Lee-Jackson Banquet

The 13th annual banquet honoring these two great generals will take place on Saturday January 19, 2013. As last year, it will be held at the historic Alexander Majors Home on State Line Road at about 63rd Street. Official invitations and reservation forms should have been received by everyone. This is our major fundraiser for the year so please plan to attend and support YOUR camp. We have a great speaker lined up. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Edward L. "Bud" Bowie from the Department of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College will be discussing the working relationship between Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. There will be another great meal and of course our live auction. We have a number of awesome items that include original Confederate currency, vintage Rebel Yell Whiskey decanters, original clothing record for two soldiers from the 139th Pennsylvania Infantry, an 1851 U.S. Large Cent, the signed, numbered and professionally framed limited edition print "We Still Love You General Lee" by artist Mort Kunstler, a set of four tumblers with the SCV logo and our camp name etched on them, a Pleasant Grove Cemetery Confederate Missouri Battle Flag, a Confederate officer's reproduction saber, and more. We can always use more items so please think about what you can donate to the auction. Please contact either Adjutant Steve Crawford or Commander Spike Speicher if you have not received your invitation.

The True Spirit of Christmas

The following article is copied from the December 2012 issue of the Palmetto Partisan, the newsletter of the South Carolina Division.

In the early 1900s the old soldier's home in Atlanta, Georgia was filled with broken and impoverished men who had fought so bravely for the Confederacy. They were

now just thankful to have a roof over their heads and hot meals to eat. These soldiers had been relegated to spend their last days in this institution penniless. It would be nearly twenty years before the Confederate Pension System would be established. These old soldiers, tired and feeble with only their memories and the company of their old comrades, owed their Christmas cheer to one man - "10 Cent Bill".

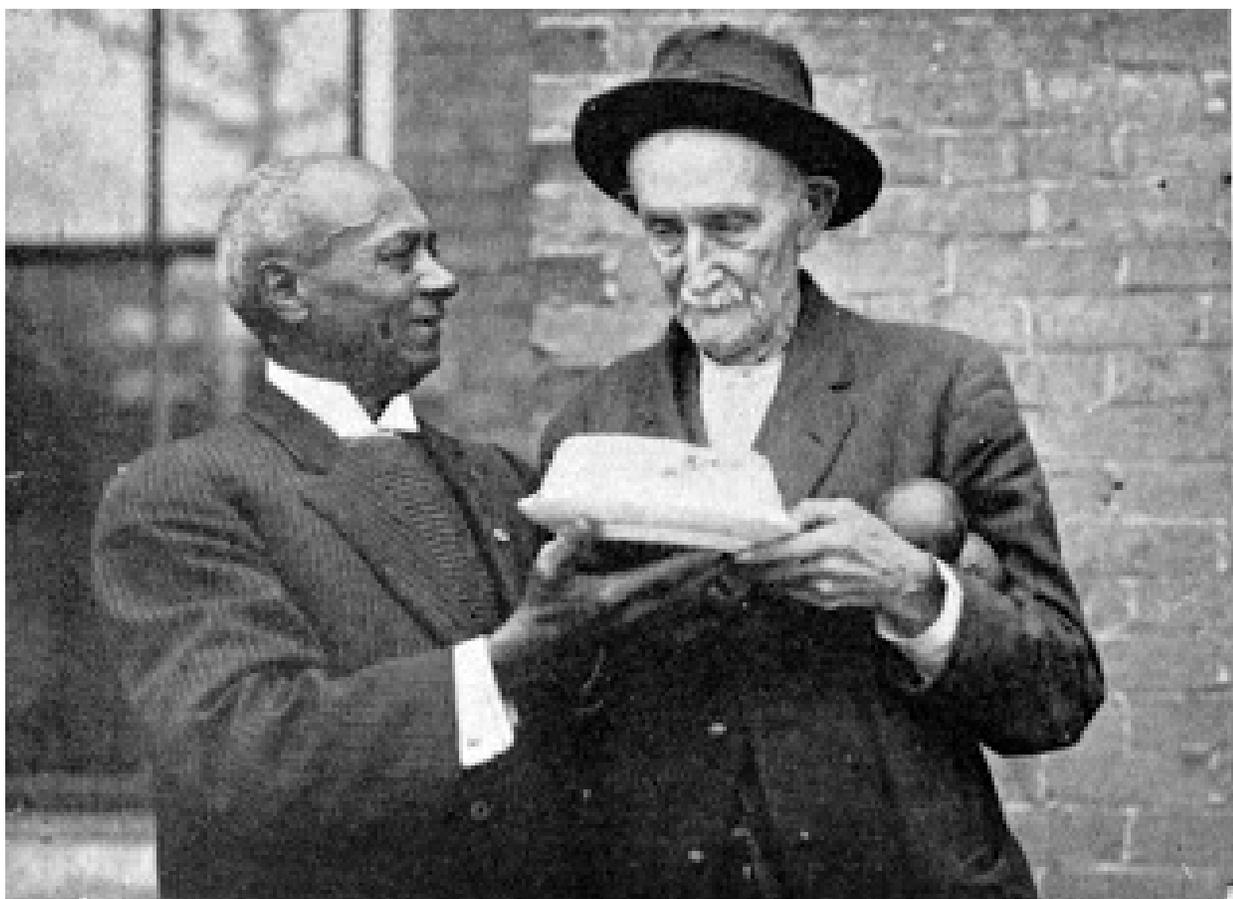
Bill did not believe it enough for these old sons of Dixie to receive just an extra sweet roll or maybe a piece of hard candy or whatever some Confederate widow had baked and donated to the home. Because the old soldier's home was supported only by a small amount of state funds and relied mostly on public charity to operate, usually there was nothing left in the budget for special occasions such as Christmas.

Each year before Christmas, Bill would set out soliciting donations for these tired old men who had defended the South when they were needed. Then on Christmas Eve, Bill would distribute what he had collected and would always see that each man had a few dollars which was indeed a blessing to the old soldiers. One year, Georgia's governor Hugh Dorsey helped Bill pass out the goodies. The smile on their faces and the sparkle in their eyes, even if only for a moment was the only reward "10 Cent Bill" said he ever wanted.

Who was Bill? Bill Yopp was born on one of the largest cotton plantations in Laurens County, Georgia, owned by Jeremiah Yopp. Bill was the personal servant to Thomas Yopp and followed his childhood friend and master into battle when the war broke out. Yes, Bill was one of the 70,000-plus black Southerners who fought for the Confederacy. He was a member of Company H of the 14th Georgia Infantry Regiment and served as a drummer. He got his odd name - 10 Cent Bill - during the war by cleaning and shinning the shoes of his fellow soldiers

for ten cents, which, by the way, made him the richest soldier in the unit. They were kind to him during the war and Bill was kind to them when they needed help. This is a great example of camaraderie and the true spirit of the Christmas season.

The photo below was taken of Bill and Captain Thomas Yopp at the soldier's home just shortly before his lifelong friend and former master died in 1920. Although now in his eighties, Bill was honored to give the funeral address, at the family's request, for his old friend and fellow Confederate soldier.



As the years went by, eventually Bill himself became a resident of the old soldier's home; the first black admitted and was actually voted in. The men of the home proudly presented Bill with a medal for his devotion and his acts of kindness through the years.

"10 Cent Bill" never forgot his friends and he truly lived the Christmas Spirit of giving without an expectation of reward or personal gain. Private Bill Yopp died on June 3, 1936, and is appropriately buried with his old friends and former comrades in the Confederate Cemetery in Macon, Georgia.

Original Confederate Veteran Magazines

I just want to remind everyone that I have the set of Confederate Veteran Magazine Broadfoot Publishing Company reprints from 1893 to 1932. This is a tremendous research tool so if anyone is researching their ancestor and needs to find a copy of one of the original magazines let me know.

Commander's Health

I have received a number of inquires recently from compatriots concerned about my health. I do sincerely appreciate the concern. As most of you know, in December 2011, I was advised by doctors that they found a Carcinoid tumor on my liver. Carcinoid Syndrome is a type of cancer that approximately 15 out of every one million Americans is born with. In 1993, a tumor was found in my intestines. After major surgery, I lost the tumor along with 18 inches of my intestines. Fast forward to 2011. The tumor on the liver was small and the doctors could not justify surgery since the tumor was located adjacent to the lung and diaphragm. They were worried about collateral damage. I started having a chemotherapy shot every month since then. In June 2012, an MRI showed that the tumor had doubled in size but was still very small. It has grown to 1.8 centimeters in size but is still too small for surgery. Another MRI in this month revealed that the tumor had not grown at all, which indicates that the chemo is holding it in check. Prognosis is that I will be receiving chemo every month indefinitely. The chemo is

by injection and the side effects are relatively mild compared to other types of treatment.

Then to throw a monkey wrench into an already tough situation, I discovered a lump on my rectum. In November, a GI doctor (that's gastro-intestinal not government issue) examined it and said she (yes it was a lady doctor - embarrassing!) was concerned that it could be cancerous and it should be biopsied. On December 20th I had surgery at the Kansas University Hospital and a doctor removed the lump. I have a very sore bottom but other than that, I'm doing fine. I have another appointment on January 2 and will find out if the lump is benign or malignant. If it is benign, that's good. If it is malignant, the doctors say it was caught early and it can probably be treated by radiation. Again, radiation is no big deal.

Bottom line (no pun intended) is that I am fine and doing well. I plan to be around for a whole lot longer just so I can pester all you guys (and gals). Besides Cindy said she would kill me if I go and die on her.

Again thanks for all your concern. I would ask for a few prayers about the biopsy but other than that, all is well. God bless each and every one of you.

Happy New Year

From the Speicher family to all of you and your families, we wish you a most wonderful and prosperous 2013.



REMINDER!

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920**

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 7th AT 6:30 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

The Telegraph Key

Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Sons of Confederate Veterans

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Shawnee, Kansas 66216-5527