



# The Steele Edge



**The Official Dispatch for the  
BG William Steele Camp 1857  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Kansas Division, Army of the Trans-Mississippi**

**VOL 7, No 1**

**January 2006**

"He who feels no pride in his ancestors is unworthy to be remembered by his descendants."

*Major David F. Boyd, CSA*

## LTG Stephen D. Lee's charge of 1896

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. Remember it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.

## Bg William Steele camp 1857 namesake

**BG WILLIAM STEELE** (1820-1885). William Steele, army officer, son of Orlan Steele, was born in New York in 1820. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point on 1 July 1840, and was transferred to the Southwest, where he engaged for several years in Indian fighting, particularly in Texas. He participated in the Mexican War from 1846 to 1848, received a commendation for meritorious service, and was promoted to captain. He was the commander of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas when the War Between the States began. **Steele resigned his commission in the United States Army on 30 May 1861, and joined the Confederate forces in Texas.** He was immediately appointed commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry Regiment in the grade of colonel. He served in New Mexico in 1862 under General Henry H. Sibley and was promoted to brigadier general. Steele was assigned to command the defenses of Galveston in 1864 and later took part in the Red River Campaign. After the death of General Thomas Green, Steele commanded a division of artillery. After the War Between the States, Steele returned to Texas and from 1866 to 1873 engaged in the mercantile business in San Antonio. From January 20, 1874, to January 1879 he was Adjutant General of Texas and during this time brought about a reorganization of the Texas Rangers. Steele married Annie Du Val; they had one child. General Steele died on 12 January 1885, at San Antonio.

## January Meeting

**The regular monthly meeting will be the Lee-Jackson Banquet conducted in conjunction with the MAJOR Thomas Key Camp**

**LOCATION:** 1860 Grinter Place State Historic Site, 1420 South 78<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Kansas City, Kansas

**COST:** \$18 per person (meal / gratuity included)

**PROGRAM:** “The Civil War In Northeast Missouri”  
by Dr. Loren Humphrey, M.D.

**DATE:** Saturday, 21 January

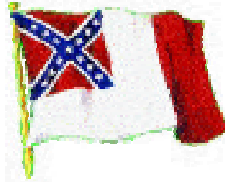
**TIME:** 6 p.m.

This is the fifth annual banquet celebrating General Lee’s and General Jackson’s birthdays. The Key Camp does a professional job of putting on a first-class event. Last year there were over 100 attendees. Payment: Must be made by **16 January!** Checks must be made payable to “**MAJ Thomas Key Camp 1920.**” I will send a map to anyone who wishes. Please mail payment to:

Adjutant Heath Roland  
2824 N. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66109-1739

We only do one formal event a year and this is it! Please plan to attend!

Last Month’s Program: “They Can’t Get There From Here” by Dr. Chris Gabel  
Dr. Gabel gave a fascinating presentation about travel in the western / TransMississippi theater. His presentation included travel by riverboats, rail, and the few roads.



### THE SALUTE

I salute the Confederate flag, with affection, reverence, and undying devotion to the Cause for which it stands.

## 2006 Steel e camp officer s

Commander - Ed Kennedy

Lieutenant Commander - **Currently Vacant**

Adjutant - Jack Stewart

Chaplain – Tyrone Williams

Bugler – Kurtis Kisker

## January - general Lee's and general Jackson's birthdays

19 January (Thursday) is the birthday of General Lee and 21 January (Saturday) is the birthday of General Jackson. These birthdays used to be celebrated around the South before PC. Now only folks like us remember these distinguished soldiers. Don't forget them!

## Trivia question of the month

What Confederate unit suffered the loss of fourteen color bearers in Pickett's charge?

ANSWER: In Commander's Notes

## MISSISSIPPI WEBSITE

Great website about Mississippi: <http://www.mississippibelievit.com/contact/index.php>

## 2006 MEMBERSHIP

### Adjutant's Report Losses

*\*\*\*None\*\*\*  
Hurray!*

### Gains (Dues Paying / Bona Fide Members)

[Brent Cooper](#), Leavenworth  
PVT George H. Hitt, Company E, 7th Virginia Infantry Regiment

**WELCOME COMPATRIOTS!**



## Division Commander 's notes:

Gentlemen,

I was just informed that Lyman Spencer will have to have surgery shortly after the first of the year. As you know, Lyman has serious health problems from an accident in 1975 (?). For someone in a wheelchair with his impaired mobility, Lyman is an amazing asset to the SCV and the Kansas Division.

I'd like to ask each of you to send him a Good Luck e-mail to let him know we are thinking about him and have high hopes for his quick recovery. His e-mail is: [lymanspencer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lymanspencer@sbcglobal.net)

In addition, the Division will be needing someone to assist Lyman in maintaining the website and newsletter for about six months. This time of the year will be critical since the Kansas Division Constitution requires that we publicize Convention business at pre-designated times. This is not an election year so elections won't be a problem for us. There may be proposed amendments. I'd like to revisit one from last convention that was really close.

I'd also like for us to consider a residency requirement for whomever is Division Commander. I was elected with the understanding that I would be returning to live with my family in Missouri upon my retirement. You elected me anyway and I sincerely appreciate your vote of confidence. I will serve out my two year term for you as I agreed to do. Although I do own property in Kansas, am the Camp Commander of the Lawrence camp, pay income taxes in Kansas, have a Kansas Drivers License, and have several vehicles licensed in Kansas, I still feel somewhat awkward about having a Missouri mailing address.

Publishing the Division business for us to consider will require help for Lyman. If any of us have the ability to assist, please let me know. If you have any proposed amendments please send them to me. I'd like to see them and get a feel for what we need to consider next June.

And finally, I'd like to ask each Camp Commander to send Lyman a Camp News article for each camp detailing the accomplishments this calendar year. You can close the article with whatever December program or event you may have had. If you have goals for next year, please include them also. Lyman can get the 1st Qtr 2006 issue started and have most of the meat ready when the time comes.

If I missed any of the Camp Commanders e-mail in the To: line, Adjutants please get the information to them.

With kindest regard,  
Charles Walthall  
KS Div Cmdr

## M i n e c r e e k , K a n s a s

Spring work day is approaching!! We will be announcing the date (Saturday) in March. We work for food and the lunch is provided. You will need work gloves, work boots (rubber boots for water and mud is good), and a hat. We have extra tools but chain saws, bow saws, heavy duty pliers, and hammers are good. Normally we clear old fence lines and brush.

## n e w b o o k s

Sherman's Carolina's Campaign: From Fayetteville to Averasboro by Mark A. Smith and Wade Sokolosky. It's a part of a set called "The Discovering Civil War [sic] America Series"

Wade is a former Steele Camp member.

## T o p e k a S C V i n v i t e - c o l o n e l s l e w i s a n d H a r r i s o n c a m p 1854

Gentlemen,

Commander Erikson has kindly invited us to attend their meetings. Here's what Commander Erikson says:

We meet at **West Side Christian Church, 432 SW Lindenwood**, Topeka, Kansas every **third Saturday at 10:00 am**. I have tried and have succeeded in getting different speakers each month so far. You can always call me at **785-234-8313** Home, or **785-221-9316 (cell)** for directions or information. If you come in on I-70, get off on the McVicar exit and go to the first stop light south (it will be 6th street). Then turn east on 6th Street to Lindenwood. West Side Christian Church is about four blocks down on the north side of the street. We enter at the back.

Commander Denver Erikson

### **History Douglas Daily International (old newspaper in Douglas, AZ) March 17, 1911**

Forth Worth, Texas, March 16th-----"The Confederate Grays, a troop of civil war veterans, have tendered their services to President Taft in the event of trouble with Mexico. Even if there is no fighting, the veterans express a desire for patrol duty on the border." Story provided by: Silas Griffin Edited by: Ed Kennedy

BACKGROUND: The Mexican Revolution began in November 1910 with Francisco Madero and other Mexican "Insurrectos" that included foreign mercenaries, etc. Senor Madero initially hired or solicited the services of foreign soldiers / veterans to fight against the tyranny of Porfirio Diaz. The Mexican Revolution turned-into an excuse by many to commit banditry and depredations against Mexicans and Americans living near the border. In March 1916, Pancho Villa, using the Revolution as a cover, crossed the border and raided Columbus, New Mexico where he murdered U.S. citizens. This act prompted the U.S. to send the "Punitive Expedition" into Mexico to root Villa out. The "Confederate Grays" were obviously a very patriotic group of old men. Assuming that they were 25 when the War Between the States ended, they would have been in their 70s when Poncho Villa raided Columbus.

## Heritage issues

*“If you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything!”*

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

Heritage Dinner in Stockton, Missouri on **15 April 2006**. This year's speaker will be Walter Kennedy, co-author of "**The South Was Right!**".

## **Grave Markings in Military Cemeteries**

Two years ago, I published the VA guidelines for Confederate flags placed on Confederate soldier graves. Below is the extract from Department of the Army Pamphlet 290-5, dated 1 May 1991 regarding Confederate grave marking.

Chapter 2, Para 2-7. Flags used on Memorial Day.

- c. A small Confederate flag of a size not exceeding that of the U.S. flag may be placed on graves of Confederates at private expense either on Memorial Day or the day when Confederate Memorial Day is observed. Those desiring to place such flags must agree in writing to absolve the Government from any responsibility for loss or damage to such flags, and agree to remove the flags as required by g. below.
- d. The U.S. flags will be placed on the graves in an upright position 1 foot to the front of, and centered with , the headstone or marker.
- e. Confederate flags will be placed on the grave in the same position as U.S. flags except when displayed simultaneously with the U.S. flag. On such occasions, the Confederate flag will be placed 3 feet from the headstone or maker, and the height of the flag above ground will not exceed the height of the U.S. flag.
- f. In the case of group burials which are marked by one headstone, monument or marker, only one U.S. flag will be used to decorate the grave. This restriction also applies to a Confederate flag.
- g. Except as provided herein, U.S. flags will be used to decorate the graves on the first workday after Memorial Day. Confederate flags will be removed at private expense on the first workday following Memorial Day or the day observed as Confederate Memorial Day. If the flags are wet, they may be allowed to remain on the graves until dry.

*“If you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything!”*

## Jesse James' grave

This photo is of Jesse James' grave in Kearney, Clay County, Missouri, due east of Leavenworth on Highway 92. Compatriot Scott Porter of the Key Camp kindly provided this shot taken on Christmas Day, 2005. Jesse James was a partisan guerilla during the war and tried to surrender at Lexington under a grant of pardon. Instead of letting Jesse surrender, the Federals shot him. Jesse carried the caliber .36 ball in his body until his death. The bullet was found during the disinterment in the 1990s when they did DNA testing on the remains. The DNA test proved conclusively that they were Jesse's remains.



Courtesy Combat Photographer: Compatriot Scott Porter

### ***Rutherford Institute Defends Our Heritage!***

Have a Confederate ancestor? Proud of it? You're a *de facto* racist! My educated and enlightened former boss, Jim VanMaanen said so and tried to fire me for it at the local high school where I taught Army JROTC. He claims he is a professional historian!! I checked his records. He has no history degree and taught two years of social studies. Professional? Hardly? Outrageous? You bet! Rutherford backed us! *Our Federal lawsuit against the school district won! Anti-Southern bigotry lost!* The taxpayers footed the bill.

Rutherford Institute (non-profit organization) protects the rights of common people to express their First Amendment rights! It could be you. It happened to my son and me and Rutherford was there to help. Don't wait until it happens to you. ***Please support the Rutherford Institute! This is a income tax deduction!!***

Go to: <http://www.rutherford.org/contrib/> if you have questions about the Rutherford Institute.

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## Rental - SCV condo IN SAVANNAH, Georgia

If you're heading to the coast, consider staying in this beautiful condo in Savannah, Georgia. It's owned by an outstanding fellow SCV member and Army veteran who flies the real Georgia flag over the property! See detailed information and photos at:

<http://www.savannahgetaways.net/detail.cfm?VarPropID=79> The listing is #1023.

Please ask Joe Grasela "The Elder" for his endorsements --- they're very positive!

## Support our camp 1857 compatriots!

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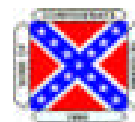
**4601 Brewer Place**

**Leavenworth, Kansas 66048 – 5068**

**913.727.2941**

**Mobile 816.918.5557**

**Fax 913.727.2965**



### ***Commander's Notes***

January 2006

"One of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go around repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the struggle for independences." Charles A. Beard, American Historian

I'm soliciting articles for the monthly newsletter. If you have something of interest, please let me know.

We're going to try something different. With the help of Compatriot Lyman Spencer, we will post the newsletter to a site. I will then send information on how to access the site. This will prevent those with small computer file capabilities from not receiving the newsletter.

Happy birthdays to Generals Lee and Jackson! Hope to see you at the annual Key Camp sponsored banquet!

Trivia Answer: 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina lost fourteen color bearers in Pickett's Charge. This regiment also suffered the most casualties with almost 80% of the regiment lost in action.

Deo Vindice!

Ed Kennedy