



# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Volume 25, No. 5

Our Silver Anniversary Year

May 2025

## Major Thomas J Key Camp Officers



Commander - *Rick McPherson*



1st Lt. Commander- *Dan Peterson*



2nd Lt. Commander- *Larry Sumner*



Adjutant- *Walt Schley*



Chaplin - *Walt McKenzie*

## Confederate's Corner By Rick McPherson

The January meeting was attended by 18 members and 9 guests. This was the 259<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920



Dr Dan Cudnek spoke to the Key Camp about the *Battle of Chosin Reservoir*, a Korean War fight.

It was a "different" topic than we usually offer but to some, the details about the makeup of those who led the US Forces into this bloody 1950 fight was very informative.

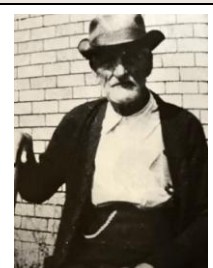
## Did You Know?

The last verified UCV Veteran to die was **Mr. Pleasant Riggs Crump**, who died on December 31, 1951 at the age of 104.

A native of Alabama, he enlisted in 1864, in the 10<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry, fought in Virginia and was at the Appomattox surrender.

The United Confederate Veterans awarded Crump the honorary title of colonel in their organization.

He is buried in Lincoln, Alabama



# News from the Meeting



The May meeting's attendance was 27 members and guests, which was greatly appreciated. We always welcome spouses, children, guests and especially prospective members. Thanks to all that joined with us!



Multiple Key Camp Compatriots were acknowledged for their achievements outside of camp activities. Thank you for all you are doing to support Southern Heritage.



It was great to welcome back, **Compatriot's Lee Crutchfield** and **Jim Dick**, to the May Key Camp meeting. We hope you'll both be back again soon.



Back after a 10 day stay in the hospital was **Compatriot Dale Walters**. We are happy you are back on your feet and are thankful that your daughter **Marci Barkley** was around to take good care of you. Thanks Marci!



In March the Key Camp's web page received 82 hits, the largest number in any month. To date we are averaging 48+ hits per month. Let's hope it pays off with more new memberships. In the last 12 months we added 4 new members. More to come?



The Key Camp welcomed **Chris Crowley** of Leawood, to the camp meeting. Chris was recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service in Vietnam.



Please make note on our calendar that the July meeting will be on **July 10<sup>th</sup>** rather than the 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the Fourth of July holiday.

Our speaker will be Brother **Bill Stoker**



**Div. Commander Lawson Rener** updated the Camp on June 21<sup>st</sup> Kansas Division Reunion in Topeka. He encouraged more of us to attend this year's event with the election of officers being an important part of the reunion.

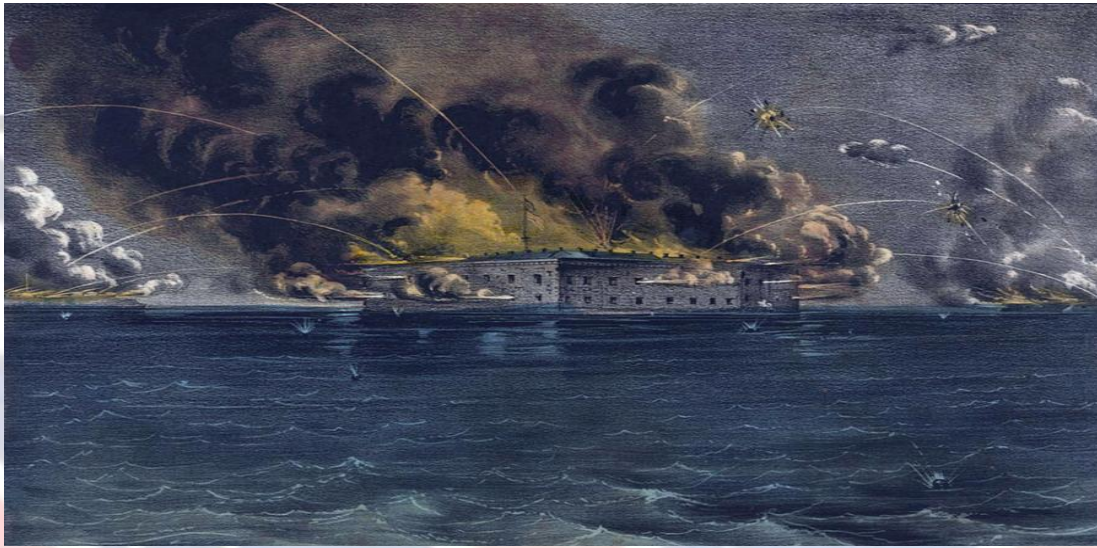


**Key Camp Web Page hits for last 30 days +29. Year to Date +242 total hits**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Cmdr Larry Sumner** will be bringing a guest who was also an early Key Camp Compatriot who remains an "at-large" member. We look fwd to welcoming back **Craig Freeman**. Please make sure everyone says hello to him and welcome him back. We'd like him back on the Key Camp roster.



# The Battle of Fort Sumter Ignites the Civil War



On April 12, 1861, the first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. This battle is often considered the official start of the war. Union forces, under the command of Major Robert Anderson, found themselves under siege by Confederate troops led by Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard.

Despite a spirited defense, the Union garrison was forced to surrender after 34 hours of bombardment. According to the American Battlefield Trust, the fall of Fort Sumter galvanized the North, leading to a surge of enlistments and a firm resolve to preserve the Union. Conversely, it emboldened the South, solidifying their determination to fight for independence.

The Battle of Fort Sumter had no casualties, but its significance cannot be overstated. It set the stage for the bloody conflict that would follow and underscored the deep divisions within the nation. The battle also demonstrated the strategic importance of controlling key fortifications and harbors.



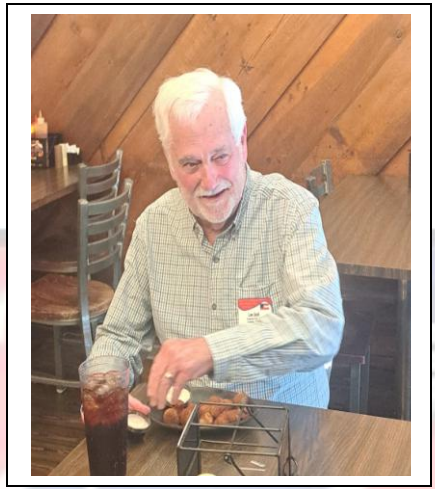
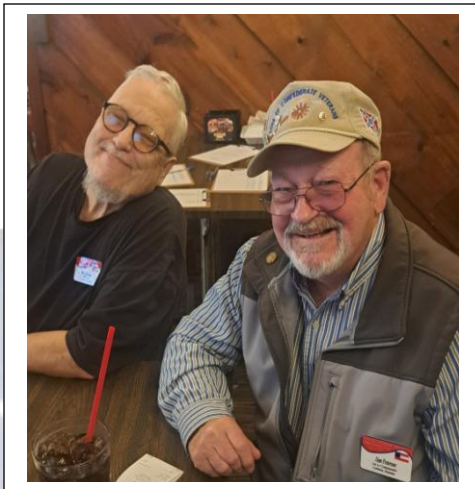


# May Camp Meeting

CAMP MEETING  
MAJ. THOMAS J. KEY







# Next Up - Division Reunion

**Sons of Confederate Veterans  
26<sup>th</sup> Annual Kansas Division Convention/Reunion**

**Saturday, June 21, 2025  
8:30 a.m. to 2:24 p.m.**

**Museum of Kansas National Guard (Meeting Room)  
125 SE Airport Dr. Topeka, KS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

SCV Camp Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be done by 2:30 p.m. Refreshments and lunch are included in registration.

If you wish to list a Confederate Ancestor in the reunion booklet, please submit their name, rank, company and unit as well as your relationship to them. Limit of 5 may be submitted.

Registration must be received by Saturday May 31, 2025. Please mail Registration Form along with your check to Adjutant Walt Schley.

QTY

\_\_\_ SCV Member.....@ \$30 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Guests.....@\$20 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Donation to Kansas Division.....= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed.....= \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

THERE WILL BE A SILENT AUCTION HELD DURING SATURDAY'S MEETING.  
PLESAE BRING ITEMS TO DONATE TO THE AUCTION

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
KANSAS DIVISION SCV**

**MAIL REGISTRATION AND CHECK TO :  
KANSAS DIVISION ADJUTANT WALT SCHLEY, 13760 NW 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Parkville, MO. 64152**



# 2025 Key Camp Calendar

## 2025 SCV Key Camp Calendar

### June

- 5 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Chris Harris, Liberty Arsenal
- 7 Confederate Memorial Day - Higginsville, Missouri
- 7 Southern Women's Historical Association - Fayetteville, Arkansas
- 21 **Kansas Division SCV Reunion - Topeka, Kansas**

### July

- 10 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Bill Stoker
- 12 **Camden Point Memorial Service** - Camden Point, Missouri 4:30pm
- 16-20 SCV National Reunion - Houston, TX

### August

- 1 **Annual Camp Dues**
- 7 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Monet Keitzman

### September

- 4 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Parker Van Sickle
- 13 **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spike Speicher Picnic** - Celebrate Key Camp's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 20 Mine Creek Heritage Day

### October

- 2 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Todd Stetner
- 11-12 **Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival**

### November

- 6 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker Dick Titterington

### December

- 4 Camp Meeting 6:30 Speaker KS Division Commander Lawson Rener
- 14 Wreaths Across America, Ft Leavenworth, Higginsville

**\*Note July Camp Meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday due to July 3<sup>rd</sup> being the first Thursday and folks probably having family plans or other activities planned.**



# Lone Jack's Missouri Heritage Day

Photos courtesy of Compatriot Jerry Coffelt



See us on Facebook - Enter - Major Thomas J Key Camp





Thanks to **Bill Stoker, Larry Sumner, Dan Peterson, John Atherton, Rick McPherson and Jerry Coffelt** for spending your day at the Lone Jack History Day, presenting our civil war replicas and talking history with 250 8<sup>th</sup> graders from the Odessa, Missouri schools. A special thanks goes out to Jerry for your pictures and to John for your period music. It was a special opportunity for the Key Camp guys to share a bit of history with lots of great kids.





When Chris was shown this picture he told me, "here's a tip: Never have your photo taken standing next to a tall, handsome pilot. Jill would agree."

### Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Visits the Key Camp

Joining the Key Camp for our May meeting was **US Army Veteran Chris Crowley** of Leawood, KS who is a neighbor of **Commander McPherson**.

**Crowley** was among his group of a Vietnam "Dust-off" group that was honored this past fall with the Congressional Gold Medal for their service in evacuating wounded soldiers during the war.

As a Dust-off helicopter pilot, he would land his chopper in close range of the fighting, often clipping the rotary blades among the tree tops. With very no machine guns to defend them from enemy fire, nearly one-third of all Dust-off helicopters were shot down, many resulting in the crews deaths.

At the risk of his own life, **Crowley** flew over 1,000 missions resulting in the evacuation of more than 3,000 soldiers.

It was an honor to have **Chris** join us and is always the case, we thank and honor *all* of our Compatriots who also served our country. You are all **Hero's!**



Join **Kansas Division Commander Lawson Rener** for our Annual Division Reunion on Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> in Topeka, Kansas held at the Kansas National Guard Museum from 9:00 to 2:30 pm.

To Lawson-Thank you for your leadership!



# In Service to our Community



Being awarded Certificates of Appreciation at the May Camp meeting by **Commander Rick McPherson**, were **Compatriot's Lane Smith** (The Trial of Jefferson Davis), **Jerry Coffelt**, **Larry Sumner**, **Larry Meacham** (Mine Creek Battlefield Park Day).

Numerous Key Camp members are out and about in our community representing not only the Major Thomas J Key Camp but also various organizations they represent in addition to the SCV.

In addition to these men pictured above, **Compatriot Jim Thornton**, representing the Franklin Camp spoke at the Shawnee Indian Mission and along with **Compatriot Josh Gilliam-Young** are both serving as an officer with the Kansas Sons of Union Veterans. **Compatriot Tim Peterman** is now serving as President of the Kansas Society of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and **Compatriot Dan Peterson** is serving as an officer for his Veteran Post and **Adjutant Walt Schley** is doing his work with Purple Heart. I'm sure others are involved elsewhere within our community.

Congratulations to all and thank you for representing the Key Camp so admirably.



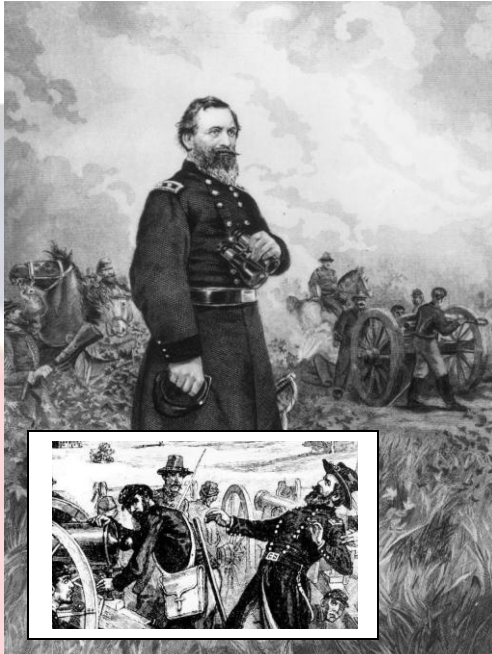
**Compatriot Lane Smith** of the Key Camp was at the Miami County Historical Society where he gave his presentation on the Trial of Jefferson Davis but with a twist. He did it as Robert E Lee defending Jefferson Davis. Lane asks the audience to be the jury and presents all the facts.

Then he asked the audience why they think not one Confederate was ever charged with Treason and explained the reason behind it.

He had a great crowd of open minded and respectful listeners.

Lane was joined by the **Ladies of the Plains- Monet Kietzman** and **Key Camp Compatriot Jim Thornton**.

**"They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance" Yankee General John Sedgwick spoke these words just moments before being shot dead by a Confederate sniper at Spotsylvania.**



With a bit of *levity*, I know my friend **Lane Smith** won't be surprised to know that **General John Sedgwick** is in *my* family tree. So, here it is Lane.... My 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather was Sgt. George Colton Kellogg 1737-1808 and a Revolutionary War Patriot. In fact, he was my ancestor for whom I joined the Sons of the American Revolution. His mother was Mary Sedgwick who was a great aunt of John Sedgwick. OK, we got that out of the way.

Sedgwick has a large equestrian monument of him on the Gettysburg battlefield and also at West Point. The Kansas county where Wichita is, was named after him. Sedgwick holds the distinction of being the highest ranking general officer to be killed in the war. Although my favorite Yankee, **Gen. James Birdsey McPherson** was actually in command of an army at the time of his death, Sedgwick had the most senior rank by all major generals killed. (However, McPherson was a brigadier general in the regular army and outranked Sedgwick, who was a colonel). Upon hearing of his death, Lt Gen Ulysses S Grant, flabbergasted by the news, repeatedly asked, "Is he really dead"?

His nickname was "Uncle John" and his death was met with sorrow, even by Robert E Lee. It seems Sedgwick was reportedly out in the open at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House chiding his men, who were ducking for cover from Confederate sharpshooters. He was quoted as saying, "*What? Men dodging single bullets? What will they do when they open fire along the whole line?*" Although ashamed, his men continue to flinch and he said, "*Why are you dodging like this? They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance.*"

These were Sedgwick's last words as a bullet hit him under the left eye and he fell mortally wounded.

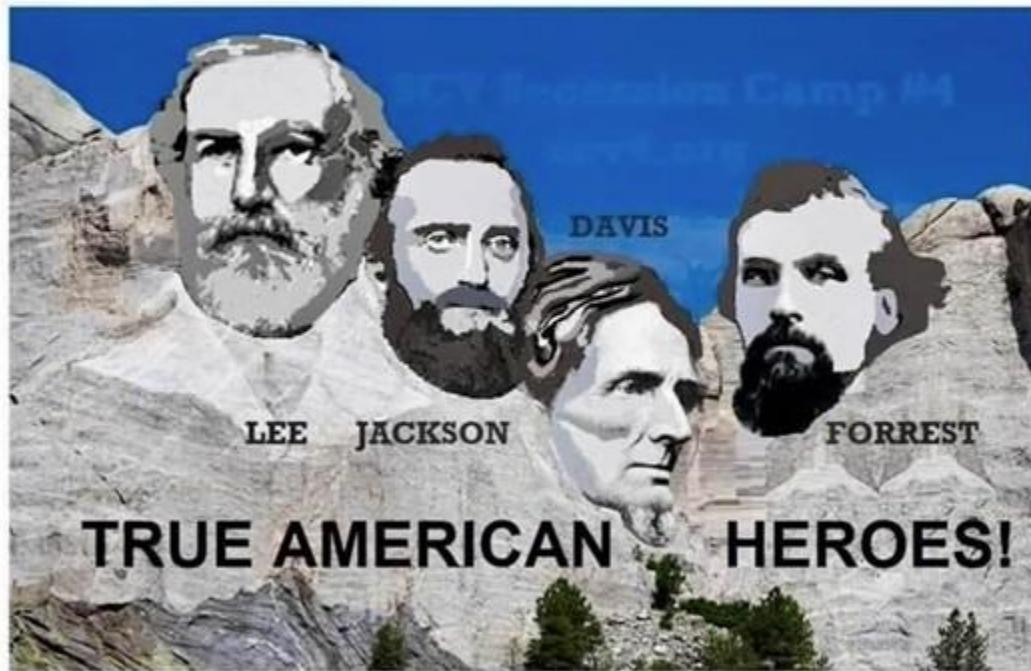
So, with McPherson and Sedgwick, I have the dubious honor of having not only *two* Kansas County's named for my kin but also the two highest ranking soldiers killed in the war. Eat your heart out Lane!

And now you know, *the rest of the story*. Good day! (P.S. There is also a *Rick's College* ! )

*Rick*



**My Fellow Southerners — When you're travelling this summer, please visit the revised Mount Rushmore:**



## **Trump Order: RESTORING TRUTH AND SANITY TO AMERICAN HISTORY**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

It is the policy of my Administration to restore Federal sites dedicated to history, including parks and museums, to solemn and uplifting public monuments that remind Americans of our extraordinary heritage, consistent progress toward becoming a more perfect Union, and unmatched record of advancing liberty, prosperity, and human flourishing. Museums in our Nation's capital should be places where individuals go to learn — not to be subjected to ideological indoctrination or divisive narratives that distort our shared history.

To advance this policy, we will restore the Smithsonian Institution to its rightful place as a symbol of inspiration and American greatness — igniting the imagination of young minds, honoring the richness of American history and innovation, and instilling pride in the hearts of all Americans.

Further:

(ii) take action to reinstate the pre-existing monuments, memorials, statues, markers, or similar properties, as appropriate and consistent with 43 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*, 54 U.S.C. 100101 *et seq.*, and other applicable law; and

(iii) take action, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to ensure that all public monuments, memorials, statues, markers, or similar properties within the Department of the Interior's jurisdiction do not contain descriptions, depictions, or other content that inappropriately disparage Americans past or living (including persons living in colonial times), and instead focus on the greatness of the achievements and progress of the American people or, with respect to natural features, the beauty, abundance, and grandeur of the American landscape.

Note: this order, however, DOES NOT apply to Arlington Cemetery, which is under the control of the Dept of Defense. There's undoubtedly more to come.

# Restore our Monuments

See us on Facebook - Enter - Major Thomas J Key Camp



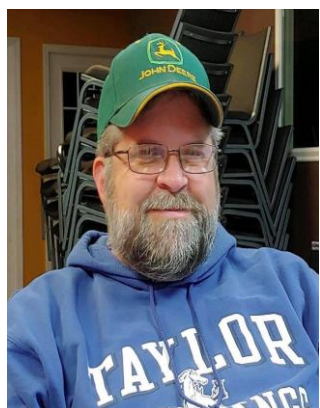
# Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Johnson County, Kansas  
Camp Activities



## \*\*\*\*\*NEXT CAMP MEETING\*\*\*\*\*

The Key Camp will meet on Thursday June 5th 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 (5:30 p.m.) for BBQ, conversation, and camaraderie.



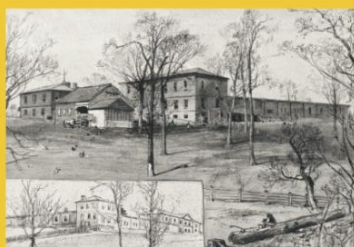
Our guest speaker will be **Chris Harris** who will be presenting the Liberty Arsenal, a topic not brought before the Key Camp before.

The Liberty Arsenal was the site of the first military action of the Civil War in Missouri and possibly the second military action of the war when it was raided in 1861 just eight days after the firing on Fort Sumter, South Carolina. Located near Liberty, Missouri, from 1839-1869 the Arsenal was a Military Ordnance Depot.

We will learn about the key role the Arsenal played in the community, which at the time was the western frontier. Join us on Thursday to hear Chris's presentation and enjoy some BBQ and Key Camp comradery.

## The Liberty Arsenal

An Ordnance Depot on the Missouri Frontier



by: Christopher Harris



United States Arsenal—Liberty Landing

*As always, we encourage your participation in your Camp's activities.*

*Email **Commander McPherson** for more information on any events you are interested in assisting.*

**Key Camp Web Page:** [www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com](http://www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com)

**Email:** Commander McPherson @ [mcphersonsales@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mcphersonsales@sbcglobal.net)

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

**National SCV Web Page**

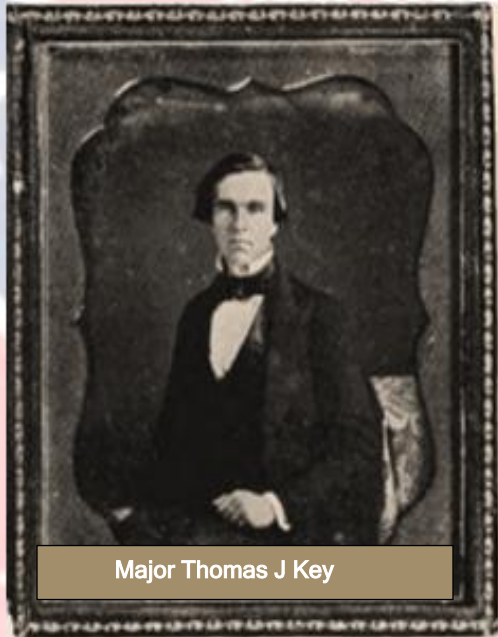
[www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)

**See us on Facebook - Enter - Major Thomas J Key Camp**

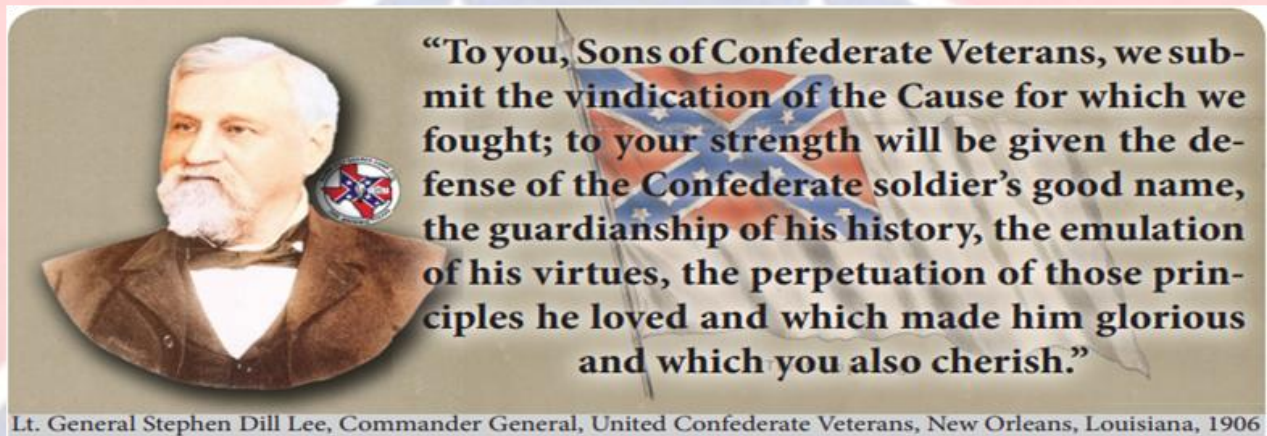
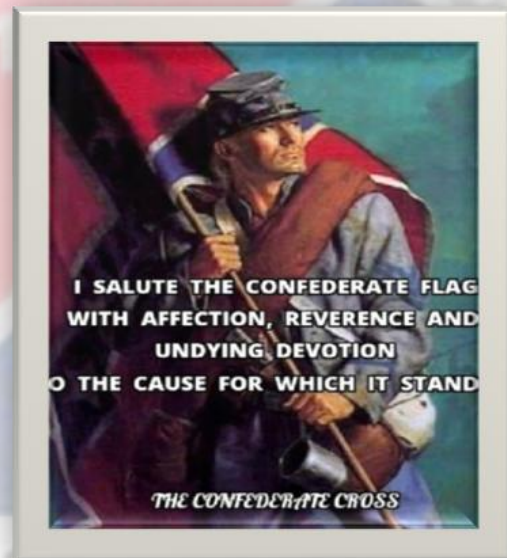


### The Telegraph Key

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.



Major Thomas J Key



"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

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.