



THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

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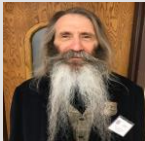
Major Thomas J Key Camp Officers



Commander - *Walt Schley*



1st Lt. Commander- *Dan Peterson*



2nd Lt. Commander- *Paul Allen*



Adjutant- *Lawson Renner*



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 October 2023 meeting was attended by 17 members.
and 6 guests. This was the 241st regular meeting of the
Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920



Compatriot Lynn
Langemeier
presented the
“Battle of Pittsburg
Landing” during the
October meeting.
Lynn’s numerous
slides and great
information
entertained the
camp.



Camp members finish their BBQ
and await the meeting’s start.
Meanwhile, **Compatriot Tim
Peterman** played his mandolin to
provide a bit of “mood music”.
Tim’s talent is enjoyed by all.



News from the Meeting



Commander Walt Schley opened the meeting with the opening prayer by **Chaplain Walt McKenzie**, 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 17 members and 6 guests. Guests included **Bill Stoker, Monet Kietzman, Lee Langemeier, Parker Van Sickle, Marilyn Tucker, and Donna Brooks.**



The Key Camp extend their condolences to the family of **Eric Martinez** and **Jacob Martinez** on the loss of Eric's mother.



Key Camp members set to tour the Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove Battlefields in Arkansas October 27th and 28th include **Compatriot's Lane, Bill, Rick, Gary, Lynn** and two members of the **Franklin Camp**.



Compatriot Chris Edwards presented a couple of brief videos he had produced aimed at promoting the Southern Cause with the intention of sourcing new funding to produce additional events.



Adjutant Lawson Rener reported the current treasury balance of \$6829.15. The Key Camp receives their income via camp dues and the auction held each year at the Lee-Jackson Banquet which in 2024 will be held on Saturday January 20th.



Commander Walt Schley recapped the Camp's September activities and gave an update on the upcoming Baxter Springs Encampment which featured re-enactors, vendors, and participation by the newest SCV Camp in Kansas, **the Pvt Riley Crawford Camp #2348.**



Several members spoke on the comments received by a representative of the **Shawnee Indian Festival**, that banned one member's portrayal of **Gen. Robert E. Lee** at their event. This resulted in several members declining to participate in this year's event. The **Franklin Camp** will still be represented at this year's event.



Key Camp Web Page hits to date: 450

Camp Activities

Baxter Springs Encampment



Rick, Jim, Walt, and Hoss welcomed the newest SCV Camp in the Kansas Division



Several members of the Crawford Camp were on hand for this event.



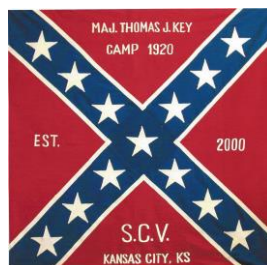
Hoss, Walt, and Jim rest while visiting the museum.

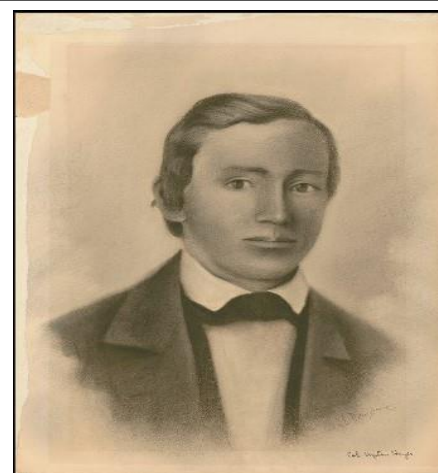


"Bad boy" Hoss Tucker sits in the caboose waiting to be released.

The percussion of volley's of musket cannon fire reverbed throughout the battlefield in Baxter Springs during the 160th Anniversary of that event. On hand were members of the Key Camp who traveled to Baxter Springs to welcome the members of the Pvt Riley Crawford Camp #2348, the newest camp in the Kansas Division. **Compatriots Hoss Tucker and Jim Edgington, Kansas Lt. Commander Rick McPherson and Key Camp Commander Walt Schley** enjoyed the events and visited the museum on the grounds of the old Fort Blair.

The new **Pvt. Riley Crawford Camp** is led by **Commander Michael Freund** (bottom left) and **Adjutant Cole Hagebusch** (right) with 12 members currently and welcomed several prospects during this event.





Colonel Upton Hays [Hayes]

Hays, a great grandson of Daniel Boone, lived in Westport. He enlisted in the Second Missouri Calvary in 1861 and fought in the early battles of Carthage, Missouri, July 5, 1861; Wilson's Creek, Missouri, August 10, 1861; Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 9, 1862; and others. Hays was killed in the battle of Newtonia, Missouri, on September 30, 1862. "In 1898, the United Daughters of the Confederacy exhumed his body and reburied it in the Confederate Cemetery at Westport, now known as the **Forest Hills Cemetery**."

Hays was associated with the Border Ruffians, including the future guerrilla leader William Quantrill during the Bleeding Kansas era of cross-border warfare. He voted for John C. Breckinridge for president and Claiborne Fox Jackson for governor in the election of 1860.

Upton Hays was born in Caldwell County, Kentucky. His father was Boone Hays, and his great-grandfather was famed explorer Daniel Boone. Boone Hays settled in Jackson County, Missouri in 1837, later taking his sons to California in 1850 during the gold rush. However, he died of pneumonia during the trip. Upton Hays never received any formal education, though he was taught to read and write.

After Boone Hays died, his sons returned to Missouri, and Upton Hays married Margaret Jane Watts on February 4, 1852, in Jackson County near Westport. He farmed there and served as a wagon master and freight hauler. Hays owned one slave, and managed he six others for his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Watts. Hays was associated with the Border Ruffians, including the future guerrilla leader William Quantrill during the Bleeding Kansas era of cross-border warfare. He voted for John C. Breckinridge for president and Claiborne Fox Jackson for governor in the election of 1860.

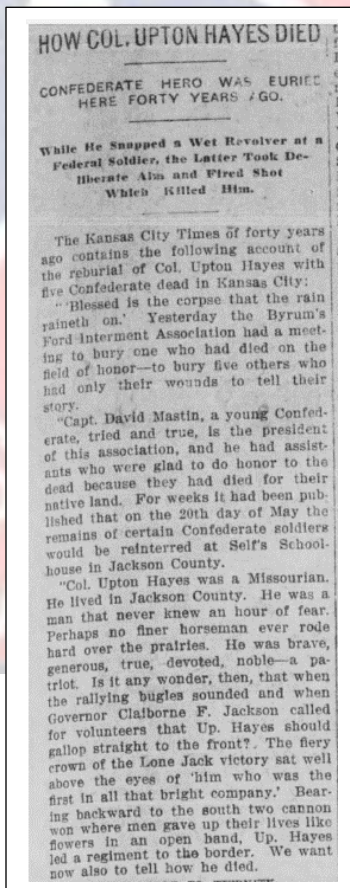
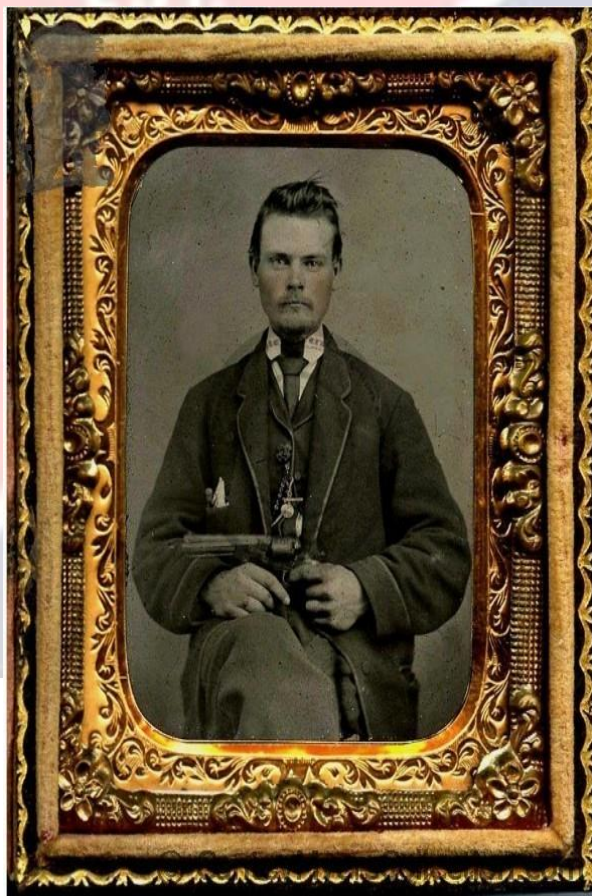
When the Civil War began, Hays enlisted the Missouri State Guard as the captain of a cavalry company. He commanded his men at the 1861 Battle of Carthage. Hays and noted guerrilla Dick Yager conducted a raid against Gardner, Kansas, on October 2, 1861, as part of the cycle of cross-border raids by the pro-Union Jayhawkers and the pro-Confederate Border Ruffians. By December 1861, the Jayhawkers had burned Hays' home to the ground. That same month he was elected lieutenant colonel of the 1st Cavalry Regiment, VIII Division, Missouri State Guard.

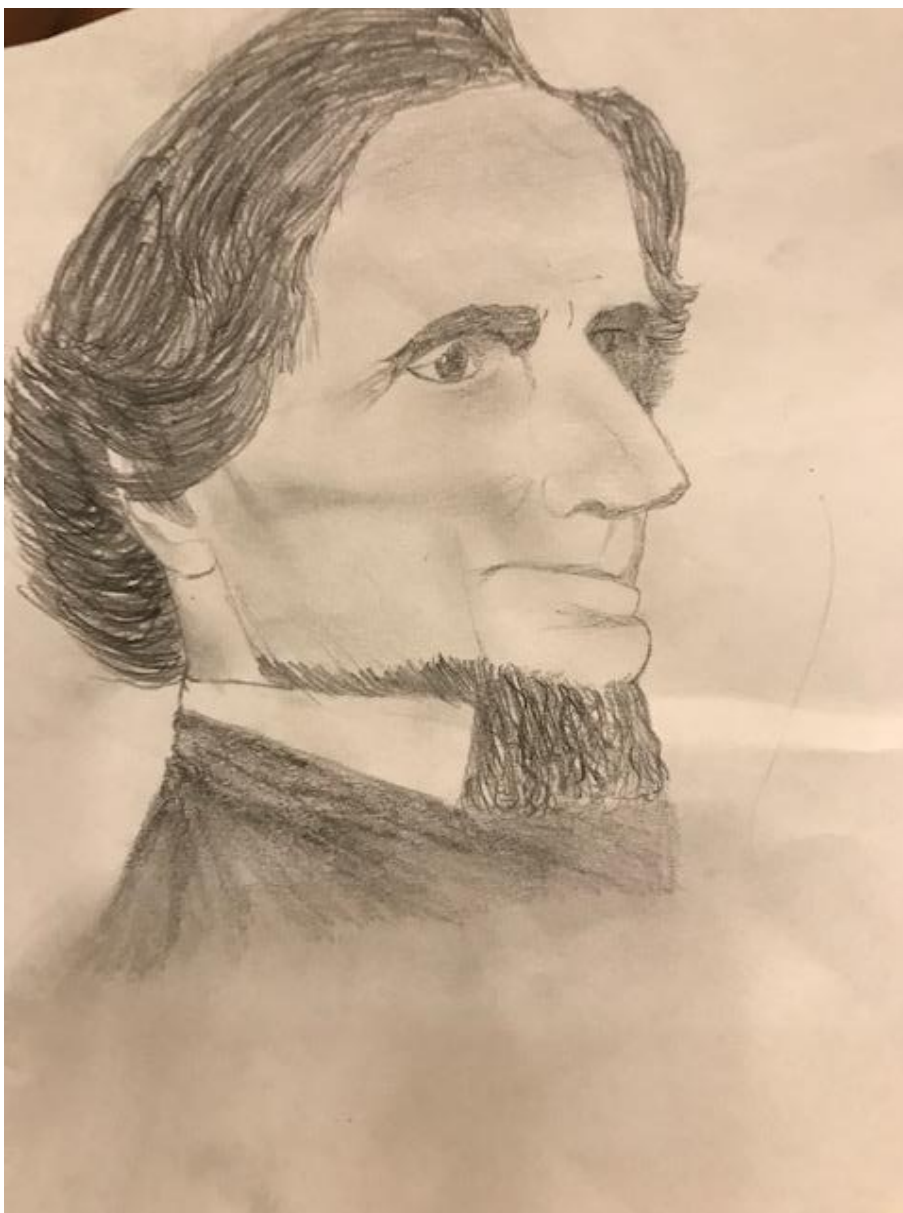
In June 1862, Hays led a recruiting detail from Arkansas into Western Missouri. He skirmished with pursuing Federals and dislocated his shoulder, forcing him to disperse his command for a time.[6] On July 30, Hays, with bushwhacker Dick Yager and several others, went to Westport seeking several Northern informers. They killed a discharged German-American soldier and seized a large United States flag from a local resident.

At the First Battle of Independence in August 1862, Upton assumed command after the death of Brigadier General John T. Hughes and the wounding of Colonel Gideon W. Thompson. The battle was a Confederate victory, but they were unable to follow up in any major way.

Colonel Hays led the main attack at the Battle of Lone Jack. However, other Confederate commanders complained that his attack was unnecessarily delayed, and thus lost the element of surprise. Nevertheless, the battle was another Confederate victory.

After winning at Lone Jack, the Confederates withdrew closer to Arkansas for supplies. On September 12, 1862, Near Newtonia, Missouri, or 15, Colonel Hays attempted to personally drive in some Union pickets and was killed by a bullet to the head. According to a participant, he had been elected colonel of his consolidated regiment the previous day





DRAWING BY PARKER VANSICKLE

Parker Vansickle, 14, grandson of Compatriot Carl Linck, brought this sketch he drew, to the October meeting.

This drawing of President Jefferson Davis was passed around the camp for all to see. Parker did a great job capturing this famous figure in Confederate history and is another example of the keen interest Parker has in learning about the true history of the South and the Cause.

Thank you, Parker, for your continued interest in being a part of the Key Camp where we look forward to your becoming a member.



At left is Parker in his Confederate soldier uniform with his grandpa and Compatriot Carl Linck at the 2022 picnic.

Parker donated his uniform at the Lee-Jackson banquet this past January to benefit the Major Thomas J Key Camp.



1st Lt Commander Dan Peterson presents a Certificate of Appreciation to **Compatriot Larry Sumner** for his participation at the Mince Creek Battlefield event in August.



Compatriot Jim Edgington requests a withdrawal from **Commander Walt Schley** who was behind the teller window inside the Baxter Springs Museum. (*Jim didn't get any money*)



Compatriot Lane Smith recently traveled with his brother across several historic sites during October including visits to Appomattox, Fort McHenry, and Manassas, Williamsport & Yorktown.

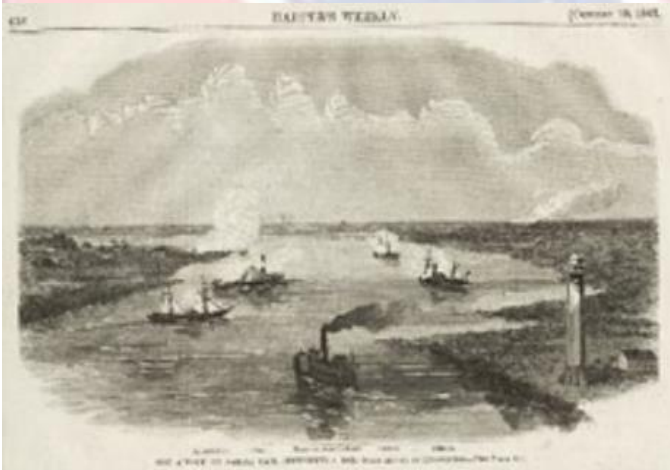
Lane is one of the most beloved members of our SCV Camp and has made numerous presentations on the Trial of Jefferson Davis and a 1st person portrayal of General Robert E. Lee. A knowledgeable historian and Patriot himself, Lane brings a wealth of knowledge and entertainment both within our camp and wherever he makes his presentations.

Thank you, Lane, for all you do, and we look forward to hearing more about this fabulous trip!

The insane victory that inspired the Confederate army's only Medal

The Confederate Army had better things to do than decide how it would award medals to its fighting men. In that era, Americans weren't really into medals and ribbons, as it was considered a very European military tradition. The Civil War changed all that. The brutality of the war, combined with the feats of heroics performed by those who fought it inspired the need for such awards.

That being said, the Confederacy had its heroes as well, but aside from a Confederate Congressional "Roll of Honor," nothing much was ever done in terms of awards and decorations -until the Second Battle of Sabine Pass.



Sabine Pass is a small outlet from Lake Sabine that pours into the Gulf of Mexico, bordering both Texas and Louisiana. During the Civil War, it was a lightly defended Western outpost, far from the central fighting of the war. As a result, the shoddy earthwork fortifications at the pass had mostly old smoothbore cannon to defend it, eight guns in total. But then the French installed a pro-French Emperor in Mexico, opening the possibility for Confederate supplies to reach Mexico by rail, then onto Europe under French-flagged ships, completely circumventing the Union blockade and providing the South with crucial money, arms, and supplies.

The Union sent 5,000 troops, 18 transports, and four armed gunboats to capture the pass and cut the South off from French Mexico. Defending the fort were the Jeff Davis Guards, named for the Confederate President, 47 Irish immigrants from bigger cities in Texas, and well-trained and drilled artillerymen. This was the largest amphibious assault ever taken by the United States until this point so you'd think the Union would have come prepared. You'd be wrong. So wrong.



Only the lightest of the Union ships could enter the river, due to the shallow nature of the entryway. Four steamers and 150 Union sharpshooters were to cross the sandbars then take out the fort and its guns so the rest of the Union force could take the town and then move on to Houston. That never happened. Instead, accurate cannon fire from the fort hit one of the steamers in her boiler, disabling another and grounding the USS Arizona. The two ships surrendered, and the rest of the invasion force ended up running back to New Orleans.

In all, the battle last 45 minutes. The Davis Guards fired 137 rounds from their eight guns, dwarfing the Union's rate of fire and ensuring those guns couldn't be used for weeks after the battle. The handful of Confederates then went to capture the Union troops on the disabled ships, taking 315 Union troops prisoner.

The Union forces suffered a further 19 killed and nine wounded at the cost of zero casualties to the Confederates. It was the most lopsided victory of the war.



Richard Dowling, commander of the Davis Guards, wearing his medal. Grateful Texans decided to reward the men for not only staying at their posts in the face of overwhelming odds, but for actually winning.

They cast medals from Mexican silver coins, engraving "DG" on one side with a Malta Cross and the date of the battle on the other. It was hung on the uniform by a green ribbon, representing the Irish heritage of the fort's defenders. In all, 47 were awarded to the men, with two more awarded to their officers, and one struck just for their namesake, Jefferson Davis. Davis ensured the Confederate Congress authorized the medal for wear, the only medal so authorized.

The President had his on him when he was captured after the war's end

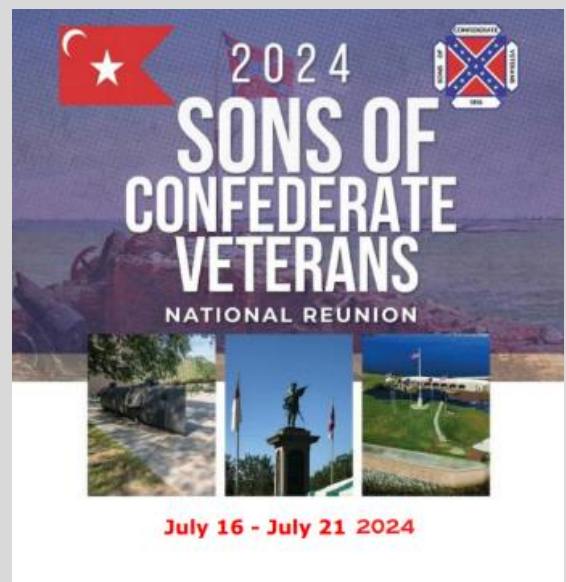


SCV 2024 Reunion Medal

The 2024 Reunion will be at The Embassy Suites in North Charleston, S.C.

Charleston, S.C. is one of the most beautiful cities on Earth. Featured Tours include touring Fort Sumter, Warren Lasch Conservation Center (Hunley Museum) St. Michael's Church, White Point Garden, Museum at Market Hall, Historic Downtown Charleston, and Much more.

Register NOW as tickets are limited.



We honor our Veterans

Chief Warrant Officer, Ret.

Walt Schley



I dropped out of High School in 1966 and joined the Marine Corps in Atlanta, Georgia. I retired in 1998 as a Chief Warrant Officer-5 serving 32 years. My specialties were Personnel, Infantry, and Public Affairs. My combat tours were 22 months in Vietnam and 3 months in the Gulf War. In 2003 I volunteered to be called out of retirement for Iraqi Freedom. I was wounded in Vietnam during a Mortar and Rocket Attack at Quang Tri Combat Base, August 31, 1969.

*I received the Purple Heart, two Meritorious Service Medals, Navy Commendation Medal, four Navy Achievement Medals with a Combat "V", the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm among others. After the Marine Corps I became a Marine Corps JROTC Senior Instructor for 13 years. I received my GED, BS Degree (Georgia State University) and a master's degree (University of St. Mary). Also, I am a graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. I married **Kathleen Schley** from New Orleans in 1996.*

Sgt. Steve Crawford

USMC

4th LAAM Battalion (Light Anti-Aircraft Missile) HAWK Missiles

1968 - 1972

Missile site in the Mojave Desert 29 Palms

I oversaw the Pulse Acquisition Radar and the Fire Control Center which made me Senior Sergeant of the battery since all other radars and launchers tie into the Fire Control Center.

Look, HAWK Missiles were secret. *The school was secret. The site was secret. There were no cameras allowed. Having a camera anywhere near was a court martial offense punishable with jail time.*



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Master Gunnery Sgt. Dan Peterson

USMC MGgtSgt 71-99

Okinawa 4 times, Philippines, South Korea, mainland Japan, Taiwan, and 3 years in Hawaii. Did recruiting in Pittsburgh PA, 3 years, Seattle for 6 years. Retirement was in San Diego at MCRD where I started bootcamp.

Married to Susan Peterson

**Paul Allen
USMC**

**Gary Foster
ARMY**

**Jim "Hoss" Tucker
USAF**

**Larry Brooks
USMC**



**Lynn Langemeier
Army**

**Jim Dick
Army**

**Lane Smith
Army**



Lane's service was with the Army from Aug 15, 1968, to March 17, 1970. His MOS was Combat Engr. He served in Vietnam Jan 10, 1969, to March 16, 1970, with the 20th Engr Brigade, 500th Engr Co. running convoys of supplies to base camps throughout III Corp in Vietnam.



Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Johnson County, Kansas
Camp Activities



Next Meeting - November 2nd - Zarda's BBQ - 6:30 pm

Mr. Mel Carney will be speaking on behalf of Veterans Day and telling his story about his service in Vietnam. We hope you'll join us as we welcome Mel to the Key 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*****

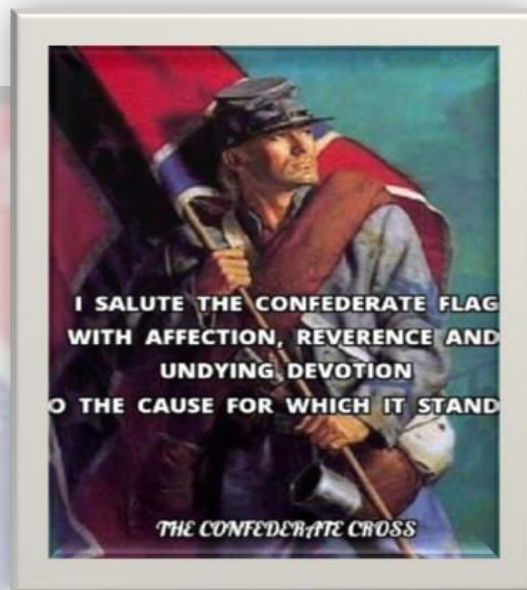
The **Key Camp** will meet on **Thursday November 2nd** at Zarda's Bar B-Q on the southwest corner of 87th and Quivira in Lenexa, Kansas with the official meeting starting at **6:30 p.m.** You are invited to arrive early (6:00 p.m.) for BBQ, conversation, and camaraderie.

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.



KANSAS CITY, KS

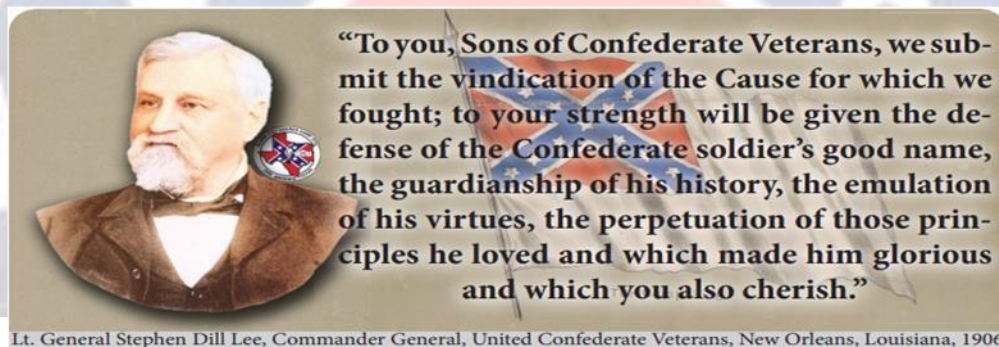


Key Camp Web Page: www.majorthomasjkeycamp1920.com

Email: Commander Walt Schley: gunnerschley@gmail.com

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

National SCV Web Page
www.scv.org



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