



# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

Volume 24, No. 4

April 2024

## 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 Compatriots Corner

*By Rick McPherson*

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

The April 2024 meeting was attended by 15 members,  
and 2 guests. This was the 243rd regular meeting of the  
**Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920**



**Rob Lofthouse** was our guest speaker, presenting "Honor through Sacrifice", focusing on Gordon Lippman, who fought in more than 20 battles in 11 campaigns in a 22-year military career extending from World War II to the Vietnam War.

**Lofthouse** presented a great amount of historical detail in addition to telling the story of his first cousin's life. After describing the turmoil of the pivotal Battle of the Bulge, for example, he analyzes events twenty-one miles north of Bastogne that Lippman took part in. For his leadership and daring under fire during the Battle of the Bulge, Gordon Lippman earned a battlefield commission to second lieutenant at the age of twenty.

In his account of cousin's actions in the Korean War Lofthouse follows the same historical pattern but told more about the man who led the all-Black 24th Infantry Regiment platoon. Although Lippman unhesitatingly risked his own life, he always kept his men's survival in mind. In Korea, he received a Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart, and a promotion to captain. Following the war, Lippman advanced through the ranks. As a lieutenant colonel, he joined the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division at Lai Khe inside the Iron Triangle in 1965.

# News from the Meeting



The meeting with the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, The Salute, and the Charge. **The Key Camp** welcomed 14 members and 2 guests.



**Compatriots Walt McKenzie** and **Lawson Rener** as well as **Susan Peterson** were remembered in our Prayers and Concerns.



**Adjutant Lawson Rener** reported on the Camp's treasury and in his role of **Division Commander, Rener** reminded members of the upcoming **Division Reunion** to be held in Topeka on June 15<sup>th</sup> and to send in their registrations by June 10<sup>th</sup>.



**Commander Schley** reminded members of the upcoming **Mine Creek Park Day** and encouraged participation for sprucing up the Confederate monument area, that is our camp maintains. This year marks its 20th anniversary since being placed.



May 17th, **Key Camp** members will be participating in the **Lone Jack Battlefield History Days**, as area 8<sup>th</sup> graders join us to learn about the **Battle of Lone Jack**. The **Key Camp** will display our artifacts and speak to the kids at the booth we'll have.



**Compatriots Lane Smith** and former Key Camp member, **Chris Edwards** have agreed to share the speaker duties at the upcoming Division Reunion. A lasagna lunch will be provided as part of the \$30 registration.



Numerous Compatriots were recognized for their help in cleaning the Shelby Monument in Forrest Hill Cemetery in March as well as participating in a Flag Day Ceremony. Thank you to **Dan, Walt, Rick, Monett, Paul, Gary, Lane** for your help.



**Trivia:** On July 4, 1863, after 48 days of siege, Confederate General John C. Pemberton surrendered Vicksburg, Mississippi, to Union General Ulysses S. Grant. For the next 81 years, Vicksburg, Mississippi, did not celebrate the Fourth of July.

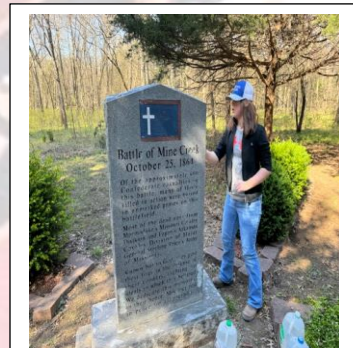


**Key Camp Web Page hits YTD 107, 19 in last 30 days**

# Camp Activities

## Mine Creek Park Day

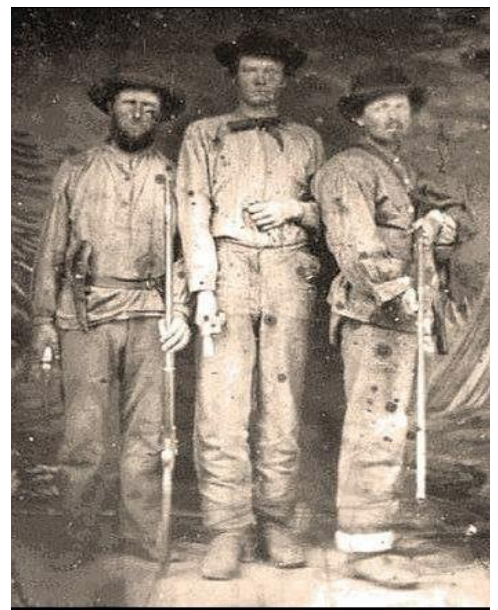
Members of the **Key Camp** were joined by several from the **Riley Crawford Camp** in Baxter Springs to spruce up the Mine Creek monument area as part of the Park Day event. Everyone, including **Ms. Elsa Sewell**, worked for several hours raking, trimming shrubs, and cutting branches, helping make the park like setting clean and welcoming. Unfortunately, some vandalism was also found on the monument, which was reported to the local Sheriff's Department.



# Lone Jack History Day May 17th

Last year, several hundred eighth graders from schools around Lone Jack, Missouri visited the Lone Jack Battlefield to learn about what took place there in August of 1862.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the **Key Camp** will once again set up our tent and displays as well as speak to those gathered. If you would like to be part of this experience, join us for a wonderful day of representing your Southern heritage to the next generation. Lunch will be provided.



**Come, Join us!**



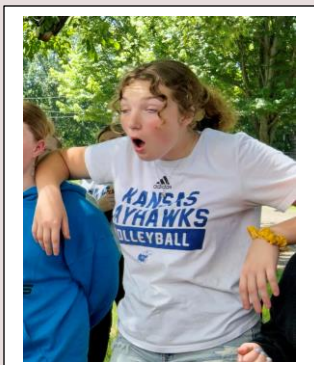
For several decades the small community of **Lone Jack, Missouri** hosted an annual picnic commemorating the turbulent Civil War battle fought there on August 16, 1862. Families drove wagons or rode horses for miles, arriving early to spread their blankets in the best location, under shade trees near the speaker's platform. Following lunch, a succession of speakers would address the crowd and recall, between pitches made by aspiring politicians, the dramatic events of the Battle of Lone Jack.

One year, the keynote speaker was a local office seeker, "Colonel" Crisp, who was renowned for his vivid descriptions of the town's historical event. The Colonel awed the crowd with his recounting of the glorious charges, snapping banners, and dashing uniforms. At his feverish climax, however, an aged veteran struggled to his feet and interrupted the mesmerizing oration. *"Colonel, that didn't happen that way" he announced. "I was there, and I know what took place. You've misrepresented the facts."* Without a moment's hesitation Colonel Crisp declared, *"God Damn and eyewitness anyway! He always spoils a good story!"*

In that same spirit, of spinning a good yarn about the Battle of Lone Jack, we remember the one that our friend and **Compatriot, Walt McKenzie** told at last year's event to a group of eighth graders.

In fact, the story even had those of us listening in to Walt's masterful story that we too, were mesmerized by his "tall tale".

The best reaction was that of a young girl, (below right) to Walt's story that will be forever remembered, and to which led to Walt's receiving of [the "Doctor of Bull S-it Award"](#), at the following camp meeting.



## THE CONQUERED BANNER

Furl that banner, for 'tis weary,  
Round its staff 'tis drooping dreary;

Furl it, fold it, it is best:

For there's not a man to wave it,  
And there's not a sword to save it,  
And there's not one left to lave it, In  
the blood which heroes gave it, And  
it's foes now scorn and brave it- Furl  
it, hide it, let it rest.

Take the banner down-'tis tattered,  
Broken is its staff and shattered, And  
the valiant hosts are scattered Over  
whom it floated high.

Oh! 'tis hard for us to fold it, Hard to  
think there's none to hold it, Hard  
that those that unrolled it, Now must  
unfold it with a sigh.

Furl that banner, furl it sadly- Once  
ten thousand hailed it gladly, And ten  
thousand wildly, madly, Swore it  
should ever wave, Swore that  
foreman's sword could never, Hearts  
like their entwined dis sever, O'er  
their freedom or their grave.

Furl it, for their hands that grasped it,  
And the hearts that fondly clasped it,  
Cold and dead are lying low; And the  
banner, it is trailing, While around it  
sounds the wailing, Of its people in  
their woe.

For, though conquered, they adore it,  
Love the cold, dead hands that bore it,  
Weep for those who fell before it,  
Pardon those who trailed and tore it,  
An oh! Wildly they deplore it, Now  
furl and fold it so.

Furl that banner! True 'tis glory, Yet  
'tis wreathed around with glory, And  
'twill live in song and story.

Furl its folds though now we must,  
Furl that banner soft and slowly,  
Treat it gently-it is holy- For it drops  
above the dead. Let it drop there,  
furl forever, For its people's *hopes*  
are dead.

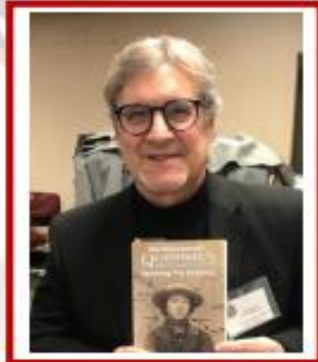
**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Kansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Reunion  
Army of Trans Mississippi**



**Division Commander Lawson Rener and officers; invite you to  
the 25th Annual Kansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Reunion on June 15th, 2024 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the  
Museum of the Kansas National Guard.  
125 SE Airport Drive, Topeka, Kansas 66619**



**Our Guest Speakers will be  
Compatriot Lane Smith who  
presenting, "The Trial of  
Jefferson Davis", and  
Compatriot Chris Edwards,  
"What really happened?  
Quantrill's Raid on  
Lawrence: Revisiting the  
Evidence."**



**A catered lunch will be served. Reservations of \$30 are due by Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Send your reservations/checks to Dick Croft, 11017 S 151<sup>st</sup> St. West  
Clearwater, Kansas 67206**

**Kansas Division Camps**

**Colonels Lewis & Harrison Camp #1854  
Topeka, KS**

**Brigadier General William Steele Camp # 1857  
Leavenworth, KS**

**Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920  
Johnson County, KS**

**South Wichita Camp # 2064  
Wichita, KS**

**Pvt. Riley Crawford Camp # 2348  
Baxter Springs, KS**

**Please send in your Registration to this years Kansas Division Reunion. For those that  
wish to carpool to Topeka, we will plan on a "meet up" location and provide a signup  
sheet at out June Meeting.**

# Gettysburg Anyone?

Worth repeating

If you've never been to Gettysburg or really want to see it again, now is your opportunity.

In late September, members of the Key Camp as well as those from the Franklin Camp are joining together to spend three days in Gettysburg. Compatriot Lane Smith will be presenting the battle as it happened in various locations during this campaign.

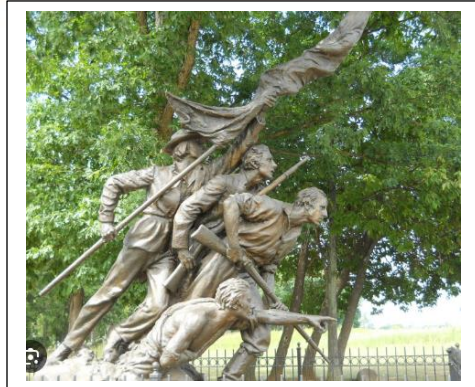
Never again will you have this unique opportunity to visit Little Round Top, the Railroad Cut, Devil's Den, the Peach Orchard, Cemetery Hill, Cemetery Ridge, and Seminary Ridge and where Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address, and so much more, especially with your Civil War buddies!

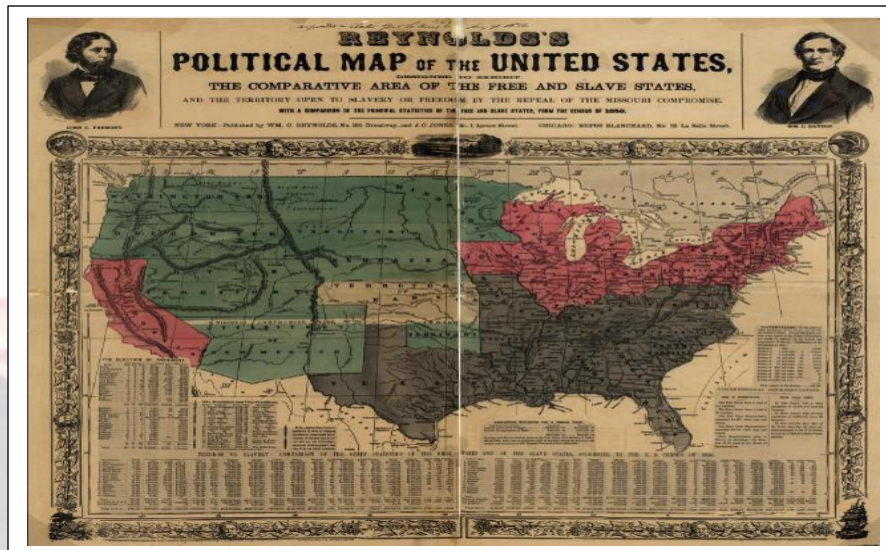
Learn the story behind the battle, what Gen Lee's battle plan was and how it was carried out. Visit the Gettysburg Heritage Center and Museum, view the field on which Pickett's Charge was made.

Those participating will meet in Gettysburg, transportation is to be made by each attendee. Want to share a car and your lodging? Make plans now.

Want to bring a friend, a son, a grandson or even your spouse.....well, I guess that's possible.

In order to secure a block of rooms, Lane needs your decision by June 1<sup>st</sup>.





During the antebellum period, the United States fell into political and social turmoil; the nation was divided over the issue of slavery. The representatives of Southern and Northern states sought to protect their interests by pursuing policies that would expand or prohibit slavery as new Western states joined the Union. The resulting series of compromises attempted to ensure stability by maintaining a balance of free and slave states. **The Missouri Compromise of 1820**, for instance, allowed Missouri to enter the Union as a slave state, but prohibited slavery in western territories north of the latitude line of  $36^{\circ}30'$ .

In 1854, the debate over slavery reached new heights and resulted in a new compromise, the **Kansas-Nebraska Act**. Senator Stephen Douglas, from Illinois, proposed that slavery could extend into territories above the Missouri Compromise line of  $36^{\circ}30'$ . Douglas's legislation organized the Kansas and Nebraska territories and included a provision for "popular sovereignty," which allowed the elected representatives of the residents of those territories to decide whether to permit slavery. Douglas touted that this agreement would "triumph & impart peace to the country and stability to the Union."

For Douglas, popular sovereignty gave the people the power to democratically determine their states' internal affairs. Douglas maneuvered the **Kansas-Nebraska Act** through Congress. However, this legislation did not provide any stability. In reality, it further polarized the nation. Northerners were outraged that the  $36^{\circ}30'$  line had been repealed and believed the "slave power" (referring to the political influence of Southern slaveholders) could now extend into free territories. Southerners saw an opportunity to extend slavery into the future state of Kansas, and both sides encouraged settlers to move to Kansas and vote to protect their interests. As a result, hostile ideological differences led to a civil war in Kansas, predating the national Civil War by several years.

Proslavery Missourians, called "**border ruffians**," and antislavery Kansans, called "**jayhawkers**," engaged in violence, intimidation, and murder to control voting and political authority in Kansas; this gave rise to the region's name, "**Bleeding Kansas**." In the end, irregular voting patterns and electoral fraud halted attempts by Congress to recognize Kansas as a state until 1861, when the outbreak of the Civil War finally allowed Kansas to be admitted to the Union as a free state.

Numerous historians have argued that the Kansas-Nebraska Act led to the Civil War and that the Civil War began with the violence on the Missouri-Kansas border.



## May

- 2 Camp Meeting - Matt Archambault, speaker, (Shiloh)
- 11 Lane to Baxter Springs
- 12 Mother's Day
- 17 Lone Jack Battlefield - Missouri History Day w/8th Graders

## June

- 1 Southern Women's Historical Association - Fayetteville, Arkansas
- 1 Confederate Memorial Day - Higginsville, Missouri
- 6 Camp Meeting - Hugh Mills, speaker
- 8-9 Group travel to Iowa Sprint Car Race w/ Jim Edgington Host
- 14, 15, 16 Battle of Carthage Re-enactment
- 15 Kansas Division SCV Reunion - Topeka, Kansas

## July

- 11 **Camp Meeting -Date Changed to July 11th**) Lane Smith speaker.
- 13 Camden Point Memorial Service - Camden Point, Missouri
- 16-21 SCV National Reunion - Charleston, South Carolina

## August

- 1 Camp Meeting - Jonathan James, speaker (Moonlit Mayhem)
- 1 Annual Dues
- 7 Mine Creek Historical Day - 10 AM to 3 PM

## September

- 5 Camp Meeting - Robt Jones (Failed attempt to steal the General)  
2nd Annual *Spike Speicher* Camp Picnic
- 30 - Oct 4 Gettysburg Battlefield visit

## October

- 3 Camp Meeting  
Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival  
Baxter Springs Encampment

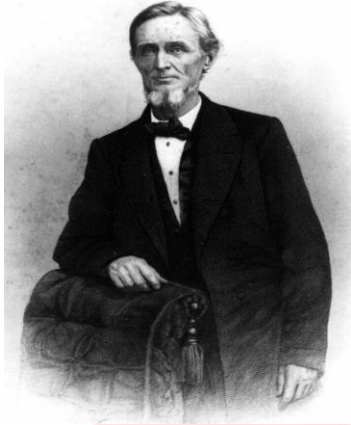
## November

- 7 Meeting/Key Camp Election of Officers  
Leavenworth Parade

## December

- 5 Camp Meeting  
Wreaths Across America, Ft Leavenworth, Higginsville

**In early May 1865** the Confederate States of America was greatly disorganized, largely because of the frenetic events of the previous month. General Robert E. Lee had surrendered the Confederate armies at the Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia, and most Americans believed the Civil War (1861-65) was over. The assassination of U.S. president Abraham Lincoln in Washington, D.C., by John Wilkes Booth and other sympathizers with the Southern cause, cast suspicion over many in the Confederate government. Though still intact, the government was largely ineffective.



Davis was named after a Founding Father, Thomas Jefferson, who was a political hero to Davis's father.

Confederate president Jefferson Davis still retained hopes for the future of the Confederacy. Privately, he harbored a desire to reinforce the armies and move the fighting to the western part of the Confederacy. Publicly, he was forced to flee the Confederate capital in Richmond, Virginia, with a cadre of trusted advisors, which in effect became a government in exile. Upon departing Richmond, Davis and his retinue established a temporary center of government at Danville, Virginia. They soon moved farther south, however, because Virginia was heavily saturated with Union troops.

Among Davis's advisors were John H. Reagan, Judah P. Benjamin, John Breckinridge, and Burton Harrison. A small but elite military escort was also in tow, and they all arrived in Washington, in Wilkes County, on May 3. The next day Davis held a final meeting with his cabinet, and the members dispersed after the president authorized their belated compensation from the remaining Confederate treasury, including gold. Davis proceeded south to Sandersville, where on May 6 he entrusted the remaining Confederate treasury to Captain Micajah Clark, the acting treasurer of the Confederacy, and on May 7 he was reunited with his wife, Varina, and their children. Together they moved on through Abbeville, in Wilcox County, on May 8, keenly aware that Union forces were close behind. The pursuit of Davis resulted largely from the U.S. War Department's false assumption that he was complicit in the assassination of Lincoln. A \$100,000 reward was promised for anyone who could bring in the president and his aides.

Reaching the farming community of Irwinville, in Irwin County, on the evening of May 9, the remaining hopefuls, still assuming that they were a step ahead of their pursuers, set up camp near a creek bed. Early the next morning the camp was awakened by a pop of gunfire and within minutes was surrounded by members of the First Wisconsin and Fourth Michigan cavalries. Not one shot was fired by the Confederates. Through some confusion Davis made a quick dash toward the creek. He had thrown his wife's raglan, or overcoat, on his shoulders. This led to the persistent rumor that he attempted to flee in women's clothes. A popular song of the era was "Jeff in Petticoats," and the major tabloids featured artists' renderings of the fallen leader dressed in everything from a wig to a hoop skirt.

A zealous member of the Michigan detail quickly apprehended Davis, and he was transported to Fortress Monroe, Virginia, where he remained a prisoner for more than two years. His poor treatment and its subsequent exposure in the press helped strengthen the cause of Southern nationalism.



Confederate president Jefferson Davis tried to flee as Union soldiers surrounded his camp in Irwinville on May 10, 1865. He had thrown his wife's raglan, or overcoat, on his shoulders, which led to the persistent rumor that he attempted to flee in women's clothes.

A historic marker indicates the spot where he was arrested, and the surrounding area is now the Jefferson Davis Memorial Historic Site, a thirteen-acre park that features a museum, hiking trail, and picnic facilities. Jeff Davis County, in central Georgia, is named in the Confederate president's honor.





# Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Johnson County, Kansas  
Camp Activities



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



During his long career, **Col. Matt Archambault** has commanded infantry units in both Iraq and Afghanistan and has more recently served as an instructor at the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Please join us as we welcome Matt 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 in.*

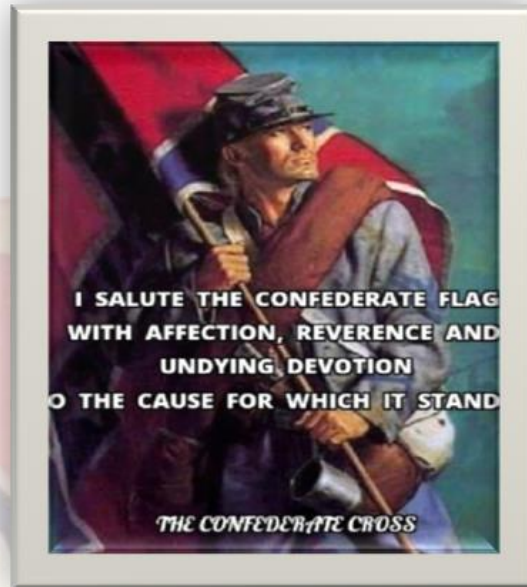
## \*\*\*\*\*NEXT CAMP MEETING\*\*\*\*\*

The **Key Camp** will meet on **Thursday May 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.





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

Email: Commander Walt Schley: [gunnerschley@gmail.com](mailto:gunnerschley@gmail.com)

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

National SCV Web Page  
[www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)



“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.

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