

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

• Vol. 24, No. 6

Major Thomas J. Key Officers



Commander –*Walt Schley*



1st Lt. Commander- Dan Peterson



2nd Lt. Commander- Paul Allen



Adjutant- Lawson Rener



Chaplin – Walt McKenzie



Editor- Rick McPherson

The Confederate's Corner By Rick M[®]Pherson

June 2023

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

The March 2023 meeting was attended by 17 members and 10 guests. This was the 236th regular meeting of the Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920

Our May Speaker was Geoffrey Jenista, Homeland Security



An expert in Cyber Security for the US Homeland Security, Geoffrey Jenista was our May speaker.

Jenista spoke of the various ways spyware and malware infiltrates our computers and services attached to our Wi-Fi to obtain personal and financial information and offered suggestions for protecting them. (probably too late for most of us)

The Key Camp was pleased to welcome **Mr. Jenista** and thank him for his informative presentation.





May Camp meeting notes: Commander Walt Schley welcomed members and guests, updated the members on the health of Dick Cole and the Go-Fund-Me efforts on behalf of the Jacob Mirocke family (\$4222 raised). Guests included Messrs Brooks, Allen, Edgington, Stoker as well as Ms. Elsa Sewell, Parker Vansickle and prospective member Clayton Campbell. We appreciate your attendance!



CAMP 1920

Compatriot Rick M^cPherson presented a brief video highlighting the past endeavors of **Compatriot Jim "JP" Edgington** as a Hall of Fame dirt track racing champion, which was followed by Jim detailing an upcoming "road trip" to various stops in Iowa which would include attending a race.



Compatriot Chris Edwards introduced the <u>Disorder on the Border</u> Symposium that would be held Aug 12th in Harrisonville, MO. The Key Camp voted to contribute \$100 to the Symposium to help in the promotion of the event.



The officers of the **Key Camp** approved the purchase of both a rifle and hand gun display rack that will be used at future Camp outings. They were necessary to protect camp "artifacts" that were being damaged by their constant handling during our outside events.



Compatriot Lane Smith was in Wichita at the old "Cow Town" village where he spoke as "General R.E. Lee" at the Trans-Mississippi to speak on "the importance of the cause". His presentation can be found in one of the pages of this newsletter. Thank you **Lane**, for all you do to represent the SCV.

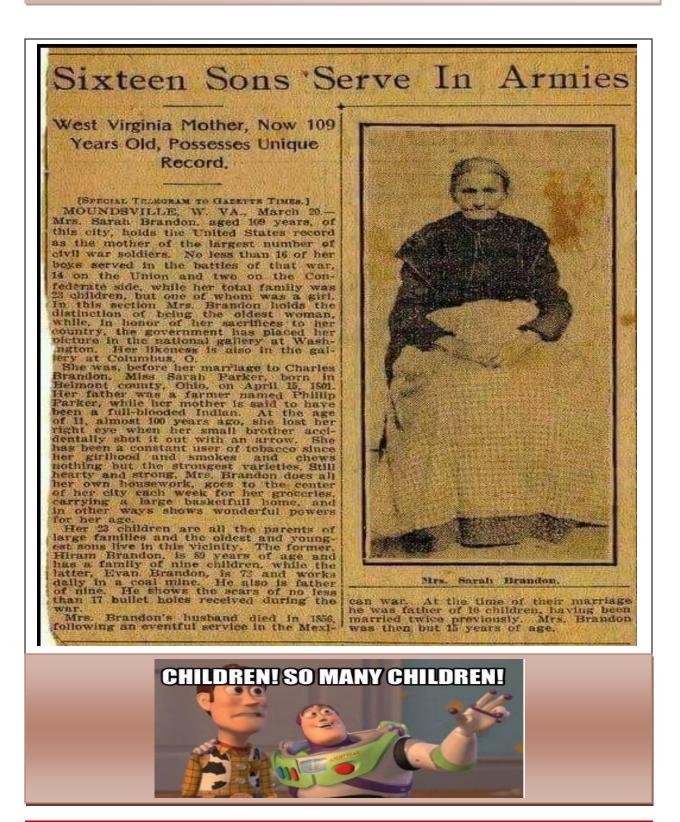
Adjutant Lawson Rener reports we have received membership applications from Larry Sumner, John Atherton and Lane Ryburn. We welcome all of you into the Key Camp and look forward to presenting your membership certificates and to your future participation within our group.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Compatriot's Edwards and Olson and Commander Schley presented past Commander Matt Sewell with his Past Commander medal.

Key Camp Web Page Hits from Jan 1st 2023 to date 190. +61 in last 30 days.

Article submitted by **Commander Walt Schley**

The "*Mother of the Civil War*", whose children fought on both sides: A teenage bride, she got a divorce, outlived husbands, and *loved* to smoke.



See us on Facebook – Enter Major Thomas J Key Camp



Members of the Major Thomas J Key Camp were present on May 5th and 17th to speak to more than 240 area 8th graders at the annual Lone Jack Battlefield History Day, in Lone Jack, Missouri. Compatriots Paul Allen, John Atherton, Rick M^ePherson, Walt McKenzie, Bill Stoker and Commander Walt Schley, described the various weapons used during battle, demonstrating the rifles, pistols and artillery ammunition including different cannon balls.

The Key Camp's involvement in this type of event enables us the opportunity to be visible to the community and to give an opportunity to young people to learn a part of history that might not be presented in their curriculum.



Compatriot Paul Allen

tells this group of 8th graders from the Odessa, Missouri school district, how the State of Missouri was brought into the War for Southern Independence, becoming the 12th state to secede.

The look on the student's faces tells of the authenticity that **Compatriot Allen** brings with his portrayal of a citizen soldier in the Confederacy.

The **Key Camp** is grateful to our members for their devotion to telling the living history of this period of time.



Franklin Camp Commander Bill Stoker spoke to a group of students.



Compatriot Rick M^ePherson and Cdr Stoker spoke about cannon balls.



Compatriot John Atherton entertained with period music with both his harmonica and fiddle.



Compatriot Walt McKenzie spoke about what the battlefield was like when the Battle of Lone Jack began.



Paul, Walt, Walt, John, Bill, Rick



One of the most amusing reactions to what she heard was by this young lady after hearing **Compatriot McKenzie** spin one of his "yarns".

The story of how Missouri became embroiled in the Civil War conflict and why



Source: Missouri-Vacations.com

Since 1857, the nation had been deeply divided by the Dred Scott decision, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the Lecompton Constitution, and John Brown's 1859 raid on Harper's Ferry. When it came time for the 1860 presidential election, the pro-slavery Southern states knew the Republican Party was against the expansion of slavery into US territories, and Southern Democrats believed Lincoln's stand against slavery would ruin the South. So, although it was regarded as rebellion, seven Southern states—South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas—declared their secession from the Union, as soon as Lincoln's victory was announced. These seven states formed the Confederate States of America and elected Jefferson Davis President. Davis took his oath of office in Alabama just before Lincoln's inauguration.

Both sides began to build their armies. The first battle of the war was in April 1861 when the CSA gained control of Fort Sumter, causing four more states to secede from the Union—Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee. The five slave-holding border states—Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, West Virginia and Delaware—belonged to the Union, but their citizens were divided in allegiance. *Missouri was a friend to both sides, sending men and supplies to both the Confederate and Union forces, it had a star on both flags and state governments on each side as well.*

When the Union Army under Nathaniel Lyon seized the arsenal at St. Louis and moved its supplies to Illinois, pro-Southern Democratic Governor Claiborne F. Jackson called out the Missouri State Militia, under Brig. Gen. Daniel M. Frost. Lyon perceived their maneuvers as

an attempt to seize the arsenal and attacked the Militia, parading them as captives through the streets of St. Louis.

The next day, on May 11, 1861, the Missouri General Assembly authorized the formation of a Missouri State Guard commanded by Sterling Price. Exactly two months later, Lyon met with Jackson and demanded that Missouri honor Lincoln's call for troops. Jackson refused and was escorted (and eventually evicted) from office. The State Guard endured attacks by federal forces and ultimately, Claiborne Jackson and his State Guard troops were chased to southwest Missouri. The Battle of Wilson's Creek, near Springfield, was the first battle in which Missourians sought formal help from the CSA. With more than 2,300 Union casualties, one of whom was Lyon, the Confederate Army won the battle. But they were too disorganized and ill-equipped to pursue the retreating Union regiments, and Price soon began a withdrawal of State Guard units from Missouri.

Missouri endured a trying period of bushwhacking guerrilla warfare from 1862 to 1864, which often pitted neighbor-against-neighbor. During this time, small regiments of troops from both sides were stationed throughout the state, including Fort Davidson at Pilot Knob, a Union fort, and nearby Fort Barnesville, which is believed to have been built and occupied in 1863. It is believed that the Union 13th Cavalry was camped at the village of Barnesville. This was known as a picket, meaning their main camp was elsewhere other than the fort. A small group of soldiers would have been placed at the fort for guard duty while the others were busy carrying out raids to keep control of this area and the extremely crucial military trail to Pilot Knob. The Confederates desperately wanted to regain control of this area and the trail to Pilot Knob.

Although, or perhaps because, the Confederacy was clearly losing the war, in 1864 Price renewed his attempt to put Missouri under Confederate control by reassembling the Missouri Guard. Unfortunately for the Confederacy, and for Price, he was unable to repeat the victorious streak he had in 1861. Price's Raid began in the southeastern portion of the state where he advanced northward to the end of the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad at Pilot Knob, in the Arcadia Valley.

There he attempted to defeat the army at Fort Davidson in the Battle of Pilot Knob, He lost nearly 1200 men who were killed, wounded or missing, and ultimately, the battle. From there he struck northward where he found St. Louis to be too heavily fortified with Union troops and set out westward, parallel with the Missouri River. The Federal soldiers attempted to stop his advance—resulting in some minor and major skirmishes—The advance culminated in the Battle of Westport (in present-day Kansas City) and the defeat of the Southern army.

Since Missouri never actually seceded from the Union, it wasn't forced to suffer the worst aspects of Reconstruction, and Democrats, who had been pro-slavery prior to the war, returned to being the dominant power in the state by 1873.



Reprinted from THE FRANKLIN CAMP MONTHLY BULLETIN by Jim Thornton

Sons of Union Veterans & Sons of Confederate Veterans Stand Together for <u>Education</u>

Each year in May, the Lone Jack Historical Society and Battlefield Museum plays host to Missouri History Day for area junior high school students. This event has grown each year in attendance to the point where the activities are now held on two separate days to accommodate all the schools participating. Stations are set up in a circular pattern around the battlefield grounds with each station representing a point in time of Missouri history. Volunteers from area historical groups and societies man each station and are usually attired in period dress to give a ten-tofifteen-minute presentation on the time period they represent.

For the last fifteen years, the Sons of Confederate Veterans Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 have given the presentation on the Civil War time period. The Key Camp takes this event very seriously and goes all out in their presentation to the students. They are dressed out in the proper attire for the war as it happened in the area, which means usually in the style of the partisan ranger or border ruffian. They also bring along their fine collection of replica weapons for display to the students. The Key Camp has received very positive reviews for their participation and has frequently been informed by the Lone Jack Historical Society that their station was the students' favorite stop.

Over the last five years or so, the SCV Key Camp and the Sons of Union Veterans Franklin Camp #5 have been partnering and working together in several community events and activities. The leaders of both groups came together and determined it was time for a united front to be put forth in the community, especially considering all the recent public discord regarding the Civil War. It was deemed important to show there is no animosity between the two groups, that both groups have the same goal – to honor the ancestors who fought and sacrificed so much during those years. It became a goal of both camps to display friendship and cooperation, beginning with the Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival of 2018.

This year, the **Key Camp** upped the ante. They invited the **Franklin Camp** to join them at the Lone Jack Battlefield Missouri History Days. Maybe the tide of public opinion could be impacted by showing students a display of cooperation between Confederate and Union. Maybe if both sides teamed up in the spirit of education the youth of today will take pause and see that descendants of both sides respect each other and support each other with the goal of historical preservation and education.

Thank you, **Key Camp**, for your invitation to take part in the historical education of our youth. Through the cooperation of both organizations, just maybe a positive impact will be made on today's youth regarding Civil War history. And maybe they will realize both sides get along today, and it is about preservation of our ancestors' sacrifices. It's all about education.





In 2004, Members of the Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920 and the Kansas Division of the SCV dedicated the Battle of Mine Creek Memorial marker at the south end of the battlefield south of Pleasanton, Kansas.

Each year, volunteers from our camp spruce up the area by cleaning the marker, trimming bushes and adding mulch. This year, these four, **Rick M^cPherson, Clayton Campbell, Lynn Langemeir** and **Dan Peterson** took on those responsibilities. Thanks to these Compatriots for giving their time on a beautiful Saturday morning. As the only Confederate marker in Kansas representing the largest cavalry battle west of the Mississippi, the **Key Camp** continues to help preserve and honor the heritage of those that fought on this hallowed ground.



Member Recognition



Past Commander Matt Sewell receives his medal of service to the Key Camp.



Compatriot Chris Edwards is recognized for his participation in Camp activities.



Compatriot Floyd Olson is recognized for his years of membership in the SCV.



Ms. Elsa Sewell blessed the meeting with a song and her attendance.

pid you know?

- More Civil War battles or engagements were fought in Missouri than in any other state besides Virginia and Tennessee?
- In 1861, the year the war started 45 percent of all battles and all casualties were in Missouri?
- More Civil War generals are buried in St. Louis than at Arlington or West Point?

My 3rd Great Grandpa rode with Quantrill!



From Compatriot Steve Crawford

My 3rd Great Grandfather, **William Jesse George,** rode with **Quantrill** after the Yankees stole his 40 Missouri Mules. Later he joined **JO Shelby**.

When this **Wild West Show** came near, he took his grandsons to see it. Cole Younger recognized him and came over and talked with him for quite a while.

The boys were small. All they remembered was the excitement that "grandpa knew **Cole Younger**". My biggest regret is that neither boy could remember what they talked about. I sure wish I could have listened in.



May 4th, 1903 Frank James and Cole Younger began touring the country with their Wild West Show when 30 railroad cars left Chicago for the company's first performance in Galesburg, Illinois. "The Great Cole Younger and Frank James Historical Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World" was painted on one of the cars with portraits of the two men. There were circus cars, stock & baggage cars, three sleepers and an elaborate car for the managerial staff. Because of the restrictions on his pardon from the Minnesota penitentiary, Cole could not actually perform, but sat in the audience & chatted with those around him. Frank participated in skits and rode in the grand finale.

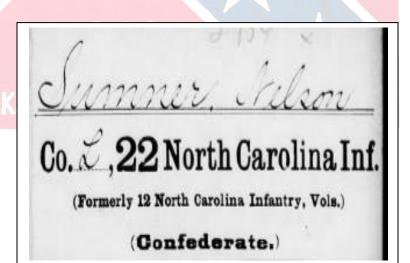
Welcome Compatriot Larry Sumner



23 ne N.V. Col 22 Real rs on a Register of Prisoners of War at Hart's Island, New York Harbor Where captured Hatch Run When captured apr 2 , 1863. When received at Post Ofpen 7-1165 From what place received Oit, Por NO. To what Company sesigned 13 Reparks: Randolph r pine 19.1865 Hart's Island, N. Y., Register No. 1; page #5 Ver fremen

Above: **Compatriot Larry Sumner** with his family during the Marais De Cygnese Massacre reenactment. Pictured below: Robert Nelson Sumner, 2X Great Grandfather of Compatriot Larry Sumner, who entered service with the NC 22 Regiment on March 12, 1862 and captured on April 3, 1865.







What follows is a partial text of General Lee's speech to the Army of the Trans-Mississippi, as presented by Compatriot Lane Smith, in Wichita at the "Cow Town" village this past May.



We of the South believe in limited government. The US Constitution is the greatest document ever created by man. However, that document still has flaws.

States Rights is the only instrument to diffuse runaway centralization of power in government. True control of political power is when states delegate power to the centyral government. The state is sovereign, not the central government. The central government derives its power fro the states, The central government is only an agent for the states.

We of the South are a voluntary confederation of states, not a forced. I was opposed to secession, however ultimately we of the South believed we had no choice but to secede. The Constitution does not forbid secession and there is nothing within the constitution that allows the central government to coerce a state to remain in the Union.

A voluntary constitutional republic is the ideal form of governance. States Rights is the only availing check upon the absolutism of sovereign will and secession is the redemption of Democracy.

Today, May 15, 1863, I am here to make a quick trip to the Trans-Mississippi to encourage the forces of the Trans-Mississippi and to remind you of the importance of our cause. We of the South are on the verge of achieving our rightful separation and joining the powers to be of this Earth as an equal partner on the world stage as an independent and sovereign nation. I believe in the next two months we will achieve that ultimate end.



Generals' Grant (Randy Durbin) and Lee (Lane Smith) sat down together at Wichita's "Cow Town".

General Grant has made a major, strategic error. He has crossed the Mississippi River below Vicksburg and is moving onto that city. If General Pemberton acts promptly and decisively, he will destroy Grants supply line and ultimately defeat Grant's forces in Mississippi. By achieving Grant's defeat, we will continue to keep that corridor of the Mississippi River open between Vicksburg and Port Hudson thereby continuing the flow of troops and supplies from Mexico, Texas and Louisiana to Bragg's army in Tennessee and to our Northern Army of Virginia.

Keep the faith here in the Tr<mark>ans-Mississippi. Our cause is a rightful cause. May God bless you here in the Trans-Mississippi and may God grant us ultimate victory to our cause.</mark>



See us on Facebook – Enter Major Thomas J Key Camp

24th Annual Kansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Reunion Army of Trans Mississippi



Brigadier General William Steele Camp #1857 Leavenworth, KS

Topeka, KS Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920

Colonels Lewis & Harrison Camp #1854

Lenexa, KS

South Kansas Camp #2064 Wichita, KS

Brigadier Generals Buckner & Chilton Camp #2227 Dodge City, KS



Kansas State Commander Rener says,

"Don't forget to register by June 13th!"

Sons of Confederate Veterans 24th Annual Kansas Division Convention/Reunion

> Saturday, June 17th, 2023 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Museum of Kansas National Guard 125 SE Airport Dr. Topeka, Ks.

REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged for adequate planning

| Name | Title/Position |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| SCV Camp Name | |
| Personal Address | |
| City | _StateZip |
| Home Phone () | Cell Phone () |
| E-mail | |
| Guest Name/s for Badge/s | |

<u>Registration includes</u>: Reunion on-site registration/check-in at 08:30 until 09:00 at the Kansas National Guard Museum Meeting Room. Festivities start at 09:00 am to approx. 2:25 pm on Saturday June 17, refreshments will be provided, a reunion booklet, a Convention Ribbon, lots of camaraderie, an excellent presentation, and a <u>Lunch will</u> be provided on premises by a local caterer for Members & Guests.

Confederate Ancestor Memorials: Have your Confederate ancestor's name/s listed in the reunion booklet. Cost is free for up to 5 names and must be submitted no later than <u>June 10, 2023.</u> Please include relationship, rank, name, company, and unit on separate sheet of paper.

DEADLINE TO MAIL IN REGISTRATION FORMS IS SATURDAY JUNE 13, 2023

Reunion registration cost is \$30 per SCV Member, \$20 per guest.

QTY.

| <u> </u> | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| in the | SCV Members@ | \$30ea. = \$ | |
| | Member's Guests@ | \$20 ea. = \$ | |
| | Donation to Kansas Division | \$ | |
| | TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED | <u></u> s <u>CITY. K</u> S | |
| | | | |

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "KANSAS DIVISION SCV"

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM W/PAYMENT TO: Kansas Division Adjutant, Dick Croft 11017 S. 151st St. West Clearwater, KS 67026

Make Plans to Attend

MAJ. THOMAS J. KEY

Camden Point Memorial Service July 13th 5:00 p.m.

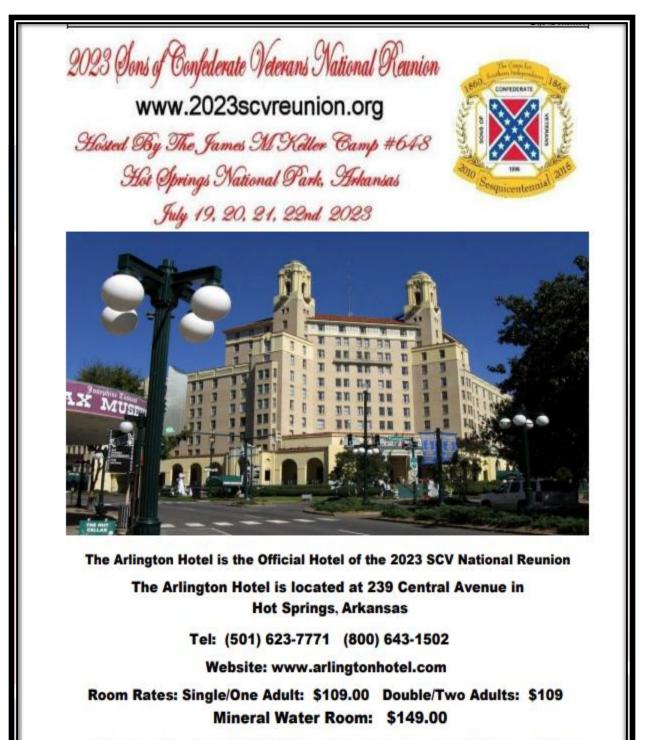


Join us Wednesday July 13th, 2023 at Camden Point (MO), for our memorial service and picnic. Festivities <u>starts</u> at 5:00 pm with the memorial service followed by a BBQ and fellowship.

Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share. (Maybe arrive by 4:30?)







*** Make sure to mention 2023 SCV Reunion to receive the special Reunion Rate!***

For Registration and other forms go to: www.scv2023reunion.org

| Mine Creek Battlefie | |
|---|---|
| Herita | ge Day |
| | |
| 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Satu | rday, August 5 th , 2023 |
| | |
| 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Satu See how life was lived at the time of the Civil War. / • Blacksmith | |
| See how life was lived at the time of the Civil War. / • Blacksmith | artisans will demonstrate period skills. |
| See how life was lived at the time of the Civil War. / • Blacksmith • Artifact displays | Artisans will demonstrate period skills.Leather making |
| See how life was lived at the time of the Civil War. A • Blacksmith • Artifact displays • Civil War cavalry and cannon demonstrations Activities for children will be available. Experts will be on hand to identify objects at an object identific | artisans will demonstrate period skills. • Leather making • Outdoor Dutch oven cooking |
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Disorder On The Border

MISSOURI KANSAS CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM HARRISONVILLE, MO SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023 10:00 A.M.-5:30 PM \$35.00/PERSON LUNCH INCLUDED

Speakers Include:

Dr. Joseph Beilein - Causes for William Clarke Quantrill's Southern Loyalty.
 Tom Rafiner - Order No. 11.
 George Pettigrew - African Americans in the Civil War.
 Alisha Cole - Women in the Civil War

Ø Sam Sagastume - Battle of the Ravines

Donathan Jones - Quantrill's Raid on Olathe, Kansas

E Chris Edwards - Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence, Kansas.

The Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920 is a contributing sponsor



Fayetteville (Ark) Cemetery Memorial Service – June 3rd Kansas Division SCV Reunion – June 17th – Topeka, KS Camden Point Memorial Service – July 13th 5:00 National SCV Reunion- July 19-22 – Hot Springs, Ark Mine Creek Heritage Days- August 5th Disorder on the Border Symposium- August 12th – Harrisonville, MO

As always, <u>we encourage your participation</u> in your Camp's activities. Email Commander Schley for more information on any events you are interested in assisting

**********NEXT CAMP MEETING*********

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The Key Camp will meet on Thursday June 1st at Zarda's Bar B-Q on the southwest corner of 87th and Quivera in Lenexa, Kansas with the official meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. <u>Kansas State Commander Lawson Rener</u> will be our program speaker. You are invited to arrive early (6:00 p.m.) for BBQ, conversation and camaraderie.

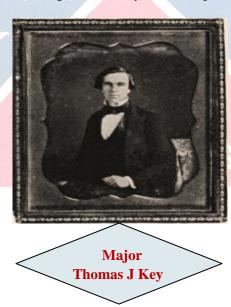
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The Telegraph Key

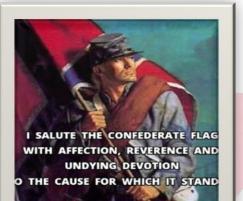
The Telegraph Key is a newsletter published for the Major Thomas J Key Camp #1920 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). The SCV is a non-profit organization with a patriotism historical and genealogical orientation and is not affiliated with any other organization. Opinions in this newsletter reflect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





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THE CONFEDERATE CROSS

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



"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.