We need alliances gentlemen. An alliance is a union or association formed for mutual benefit, especially between countries or organizations. It can also be described as a relationship based on an affinity in interests, nature, or qualities. The Sons of Confederate Veterans is currently in desperate need of forming alliances in the battle for preservation of Confederate history and the truth.

You may be asking, “Well who would we form alliances with for this war?” Logically, I would respond with The Military Order of the Stars and Bars (MOSB), the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), maybe the Order of the Confederate Rose.

Now I ask, where are these other organizations? Why have we not heard from them? Every time there is a transgression against a Confederate monument or historic site, the only pro-Confederate comments you see printed or hear belong to the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Shoot, they are tearing down UDC monuments faster than I can count, but I never see a UDC protest or presence. The SCV is always there however. It’s as if all the other Confederate heritage organizations have curled up and gone into hiding.

If you look at the “Who We Are” page on the UDC or MOSB or Confederate Rose websites, they clearly state their main purpose is to perpetuate and protect the memory and reputation of the Confederate soldier and citizen. I ask again, where are they? Why are they not living up to their stated purpose? Why are they leaving the SCV on the battle front without support and reinforcements?

An interesting point right here. The SCV has had some support from an unlikely ally – The Sons of Union Veterans. Not only here in our community from our brothers at the SUV Franklin Camp #5, but in other locations across the country. In fact, the SUV website even has a page dedicated to “Our Confederate Cousins” with this statement, “Several common interests transcend the differences of our Orders. These include a deep respect for all soldiers who fought during our AMERICAN Civil War, a strong desire to ensure that they and what they fought for are never forgotten, a need to ensure that their graves and memorials are maintained and a desire to ensure that the history of our United States is related to successive generations as it actually happened rather than in terms of what is currently in vogue or politically correct.”
I believe it is time for the SCV national leadership to reach out to the other Confederate heritage organizations and demand they get off the sidelines and enter the conflict. We cannot be expected to continue alone. We will exhaust our resources—which is exactly what our opposition hopes. Our national leadership must somehow make these other organizations see and realize the urgency. Alliances must be formed among these groups if we are to survive.

The SCV cannot survive alone. The UDC cannot survive alone. The MOSB cannot survive alone. Only by working **TOGETHER** and forming the Confederate Alliance can survival be achieved. And survival must be achieved if history is to be preserved, the truth preserved, and the Confederacy remembered.

*Deo Vindice!*

*Jim Thornton*

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**The Telegraph Key**

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

Key Camp: [www.MajorKey1920ksscv.org](http://www.MajorKey1920ksscv.org)
SCV National: [www.SCV.org](http://www.SCV.org)
Kansas Division: [http://www.ksscv.org/](http://www.ksscv.org/)

**Key Camp Officers**

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<tr>
<th>COMMANDER</th>
<th>1ST LT. COMMANDER</th>
<th>2ND LT. COMMANDER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Sewell</td>
<td>John Weir</td>
<td>Dan Peterson</td>
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<td>ADJUTANT</td>
<td>CHAPLAIN</td>
<td>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawson Rener</td>
<td>Walter Schley</td>
<td>Garrett Hayden</td>
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The Key Camp will meet on Thursday, December 7th, at Zarda Bar B-Q on the southwest corner of 87th and Quivira in Lenexa, Kansas at 6 p.m. for dinner and conversation, with the official meeting at 7 p.m.

Our featured speaker for the evening is Mr. Jim "Two Crows" Wallen presenting "Native Tales From The Lewis And Clark Trail: “I’ve Been Befuddled A Few Times But I Ain’t Never Been Lost”

Join us for camaraderie, dinner, and education. As always, your wife or significant other is welcome.

Don’t forget to bring a prospective recruit!
On Saturday, January 26, The Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 held their 18th Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet at the Abdallah Shrine Temple. With a turnout of 49 in total attendance, it was a festive evening with great food, an enlightening program, and a well-organized auction.

Following the opening ceremonies and opening remarks by Commander Jim Thornton on the relationship between General Robert E. Lee and General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, traditional toasts were made by several compatriots to the heroes of the Confederacy and to the ladies present.

A catered steak dinner was then served. By popular demand, Hy-Vee catered the dinner again this year, and as in years past, grilled the steaks on site for us! Also served were twice-baked potatoes, grilled corn on the cob, tossed salad, a variety of dinner rolls, and coffee. It was quite a feast! As they have done for us the last couple of years, the Abdallah Shrine provided us with an open bar and bartender, with the bar proceeds applied to our facility rental fee. The Key Camp compatriots consumed sufficient beverages to knock our rental fee down to $30!

After dinner, Army of Trans-Mississippi Commander Darrell Maples spoke briefly to the gathering. He provided an update to the ongoing efforts to improve efficiency at National Headquarters, the search for a new Executive Director, and the progress being made on the museum construction.

Following Commander Maples address, the Key Camp recognized and honored Compatriot Matt Sewell for his contributions to the camp by presenting him the Key’s Battery Award for 2018. Matt was recognized and honored for tireless efforts in organizing, supervising, and taking part in numerous Key Camp activities and programs during the past year.

The change-of-command then took place as Jim Thornton handed off command of the Key Camp to Matt Sewell. On behalf of the camp, Commander Sewell presented Jim with a gift in recognition of his four years of service to the camp as commander. The camp presented Jim with a fully functional reproduction of the 1851 Navy Black Powder Cap & Ball Revolver

The evening’s program was a presentation by author Larry Wood who spoke on "Bushwhacker Belles: The Sisters, Wives, and Girlfriends of the Missouri Guerillas". It was a truly educational program, making the listener realize just how brave and influential the women of Missouri were during the war years.

As is camp custom at the banquet, following the program was the live auction. Thanks to the amazing efforts of our auction committee (Matt Sewell, Larry Tatum, and Jim Thornton), we were blessed with a wonderful collection of items for sale. A handmade Confederate themed quilt, coordinated by Compatriot Walt Schley and sewn by Ms. Lynn Humphreys, which was raffled off was the highlight of this year’s auction. According to Adjutant Lawson Rener, the auction resulted in nearly $1500 ($585 from quilt chances) being collected for the camp!

The evening’s events came to a close with the Ancestor Memorial Candlelight Ceremony, with the memorial service address delivered by Compatriot Walt McKenzie (Welcome back Walt!!). All those present offered a remembrance of a family member or loved one who served in the military of the Confederate States or the United States in any conflict.

For those interested, Jim Thornton has created an online photo album of the evening. All photos are provided courtesy of Jim’s wife, Ann. You can access the photos at https://photos.app.goo.gl/PFLAfjdxAM5qXjIS9
KEY CAMP RECEIVES COMMUNITY EVENT INVITATION

The doors are finally beginning to open back up again for the Key Camp to participate in community events around the Johnson County area. It started last fall with the apology and invitation from the Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival program. And now we have received another invitation to join in and participate in a community event and bring visibility & publicity to The Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The Key Camp has been invited by the Johnson County Genealogical Society to set up an information and recruiting table at the National Genealogy Day Open House and Resource Fair to be held Saturday, March 9, at the Johnson County Central Resource Library, 9875 W. 87th St., Overland Park. The time will be from 10:00am to 3:00pm. We will be sharing a booth with the Sons of Union Veterans Franklin Camp #5.

The Key Camp wishes to thanks SUV Franklin Camp Compatriot Verle Olson for this opportunity. Verle is a member of the Johnson County Genealogical Society and passed along information on both the SUV and SCV during planning of the Genealogy Day Open House. Marsha Bennett, Vice-President in Charge of Programs for the society, took the information provided by Verle and reached out to Past-Commander Jim Thornton with an invitation to participate in the Open House.

As we made such a huge impact on the community perception of the Sons of Confederate Veterans during our shared booth and display with the SUV at the Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival, it is hoped that goodwill will continue and be strengthened by our shared appearance and side-by-side participation at this event.

Jim Thornton will be there with SCV brochures, photo album of Key Camp activities, and recruitment/contact me sign-up sheets. He will also have his computer there with wi-fi internet access to quickly access military records through Fold-3.com and ancestry.com for visitors with interest. Commander Bill Stoker will be there for the Franklin Camp with information on the SUV.

Volunteers to assist in manning our information table and promoting the SCV are encouraged. The more members we have there, the stronger we look to the community. It also shows enthusiasm for our organization by having a strong contingent to speak about our activities and efforts to preserve history. Having a few men there will also give others needed breaks during the event.

This is an awesome opportunity that has been dropped in our lap. We are being invited and welcomed by the community after several years of animosity towards us. Let’s not squander it. Let’s take advantage and show the community what we are all about. Let’s start spreading the truth again, and along with that, let’s take advantage of this day to grow our numbers.
LOST CONFEDERATE IN KANSAS CITY
by Lawson Rener

Located near the heart of Kansas City, Missouri is one of the oldest historical cemeteries in the area. At 227 E. 28th Terrace, sits the Union Cemetery of Kansas City. It sits just south of the present Hallmark complex and bounded on its south and east side by apartments and townhomes of Union Hill and east of Main Street.

Numerous veterans from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War are also buried in the cemetery, as are many prominent 19th century Kansas City residents. Even though the name of the cemetery is Union, it is not a direct relation to the Union Army or the Civil War. Rather, it is a combination of the Kansas City Cemetery and Westport Cemetery. In 1849, a cholera epidemic hit the Missouri towns of Westport and Kansas (now Kansas City). When both respective cemeteries found they were near capacity, a “union” was formed and a new cemetery was established. The remains from both cemeteries were moved to a 49-acre location situated between both towns. The thought at the time was that there was so much land that there would never be a shortage of space to bury the dead. In recent times, acreage was sold for solvency and 27 acres remain today.

Westport, located south of Kansas City, became an important disembarkation point for travelers heading west along the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails. Its location and trail status also made the town a target during the Civil War. Because Missouri was a border state, the Confederacy considered the capture of Missouri a critical goal. In October 1864, Confederate forces raided several towns in Kansas and Missouri. Confederate and Union forces met in Westport on October 23, 1864. More than 30,000 soldiers and cavalrymen fought in the battle, making it one of the largest confrontations west of the Mississippi River. Union troops forced the Confederate raiders into retreat, preventing Confederate control over Missouri.

Somewhere among the present 27 acres of Kansas City’s Union Cemetery lie the remains of 15 Confederate soldiers. The men died while held as prisoners of war in Kansas City after the Battle of Westport.

**From the historical marker:** “The Battle of Westport. In August 1864, Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price led an expedition from Arkansas into Missouri. The raid had several objectives: to capture St. Louis, divert Union manpower from the East, recruit Missourians for the Confederates, and obtain military supplies. The raid went badly. St Louis and Jefferson City were well defended, so Price decided to capture Kansas City. On October 23, Price’s troops assaulted a strong Union defensive position held by Maj. Gen. Samuel Curtis at Westport, across the river from Kansas City. The Confederates retreated after a four-hour battle, leaving some 1,500 dead and wounded on the field.”

Caring for the Wounded: “After the battle, Westport buildings were pressed into service as hospitals, including Curtis’ headquarters, the Harris House Hotel (Westport Road and Pennsylvania). A local newspaper praised Kansas City women for their tireless efforts in caring for the wounded. A Westport hospital reported eighteen wounded Confederates; four had died and it was feared more would follow. The number of Confederates who died following the Battle of Westport is unknown. A number of wounded were captured, treated, and died in area hospitals. Fifteen were reportedly buried in the Kansas City cemetery.”
The Confederate Monument: “In 1908, the Commission for Marking Graves of Confederate Dead began documenting the burials in Kansas City Cemetery no longer existed. The Confederate remains had been moved to Union Cemetery in the 1870’s and the cemetery records possible to determine where the dead might have been reinterred. Congressman from Missouri, cemetery officials to have a plot placement of a memorial to the died in Kansas City. In 1911, the obelisk with a bronze dedication of Kansas City presided over the and Confederate dignitaries. Judge Confederate soldier, praised the are proud to honor a government as this to their defeated enemies.”

The obelisk is called the Union Unknown Confederate Gravesite of marble and created by the Survey. It is interesting to consider US government to recognize 15

Toward Reconciliation: “On May Republic decorated Union and National Cemetery. Thirty years later President William McKinley proclaimed: “The Union is once more the common altar of our love and loyalty, our devotion and sacrifice…Every soldier’s grave made during our unfortunate Civil War is a tribute to American valor…in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers.”

The War Department created the Confederate section at Arlington in 1901, and marked the graves with distinctive pointed-top marble headstones. Five years later, Congress created the Commission for Marking Graves of the Confederate Dead to identify and mark the graves of Confederates who died in Northern prisons. Its mission was later expanded to encompass all national cemeteries that contained Confederate burials.

Four former Confederate officers headed the Commission over its lifetime. By 1916, it had marked in excess of 25,5000 graves and erected monuments in locations where individual graves could not be identified. In 1930, the War Department authorized the addition of the Southern Cross of Honor to the Confederate headstone.”

In 1897, Kansas City annexed Westport. By the early 20th century, conditions in Union Cemetery declined, forcing the cemetery’s management association to sell off 18 undeveloped acres of the property. In 1937, the association transferred ownership to the municipal government of Kansas City. Today, the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department manages the cemetery.

Because individual grave markers could not be erected, the obelisk to the 15 men was installed on the cemetery’s grounds. The dedication ceremony on October 22, 1911, featured an invocation by a local reverend and a speech by the Kansas City mayor, Darius A. Brown. The bronze panels on the obelisk carry inscriptions that list the soldiers and explain the unknown whereabouts of their graves.
From the site plaques: “Erected by the United States to mark the burial place of fifteen Confederate soldiers who died at Kansas City, Missouri, while prisoners of war and whose remains were buried in the city cemetery and subsequently removed to this cemetery where the individual graves cannot now be identified.”

Those soldiers who are recognized by this monument are:

**Jacob W. Blankenship, Co A, Love’s MO Reg.**

**Alexander Cates, Co L, Love’s MO Reg.**

**Wm K. McConnell, Co H, McGehee’s Ark Reg.**

**Francis Mitchell, Co Unk, Mo Reg.**

**Alexander Rodgers, Co Unk, Nichol’s Mo Reg.**

**Josiah Smith, Co E, Nichol’s Mo Reg.**

**Seward Taylor, Co C, McGehee’s Ark Reg.**

**Abram W. Blythe, Co A, Smith’s Ark Reg.**

**Jos. G. Hopkins, Co G, Nichol's MO Reg.**

**Andrew S. Medley, Co I, Green’s Mo Reg.**

**Daniel F. Pitts, Co Unk, Ark Reg.**

**Jefferson Self, Co Unk, Coleman’s Mo Reg.**

**Walter Smotherman, Co H, McGehee’s Ark Reg.**

**John A. Turner, Co E, Wood’s Battn Mo Cav.**

**Charles Yarbough, Co C, Nichol’s Mo Reg.**

It is well worth a trip to walk the gentle hills and enjoy the shaded areas of Union Cemetery to see many other gravesites of early, founding citizens of Kansas City and patriots of our nation’s military. There is a visitor’s office and tour guide pamphlet provided to help assist on the journey.

Deo Vindice.
OMG!! WOW!! THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
From Jim Thornton

At the Lee-Jackson Banquet held on January 26, I handed off command of the Key Camp to Matt Sewell. But before I could get away from the podium, Matt held me back and said the camp had a gift for me in recognition of my four years as commander.

I was a little worried as he handed me the gift bag, as it was stuffed with this ungodly BLUE gift wrapping paper. We must instruct our new commander on the proper color scheme for Confederates – it is definitely not BLUE.

Those in attendance witnessed a rare sight as I lifted the box from the bag and opened it. I was left absolutely speechless. The gift was a beautiful, fully functional reproduction of the 1851 Navy Black Powder Cap and Ball Revolver. It is an absolutely magnificent sidearm of legendary historical significance – from the Civil War to the lawlessness of the western frontier (Wild Bill Hickok carried 2 of these with pearl grips **thanks to Hoss Tucker for this information**). Seriously, I could not find the words to express my feelings and my gratitude. The men (and ladies) of the Key Camp are such an amazing group of people. I am honored to be a part of this group. I am humbled by your generosity. The revolver is appreciated beyond belief and will be treasured. Now I must purchase the belt and holster so I can wear it with my uniform!
THE LONELY LITTLE BUCKET AT THE DOOR

At each meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp, there is a small wooden bucket emblazoned with the letters “CSA” placed at the door to the meeting room. The bucket is on the left as we enter the room. The purpose of the bucket is to collect funds for our rental fee of the room which we pay to Zarda’s at the conclusion of each meeting.

Zarda’s very graciously gives us an extremely discounted rate of $15 for our use of the Rib Room each month, providing us with a private, enclosed setting for our meetings. It cannot be stressed how appreciated this is by our camp, in light of the current public attitude toward all things Confederate related. We are able to hold our meetings and programs in privacy without intruding upon other patrons or being intruded on or accosted by other patrons.

However, sometime we have not been collected sufficient funds in the bucket to cover the meager $15 fee. The Adjutant or the Commander have been making up the difference. At a recent meeting, only $6 was collected in the bucket.

If each compatriot in attendance at the meeting were to simply toss in $1, we would more than cover our room rental fee as we usually have more than 20 men attend. Any funds over $15 are deposited in our bank account. So, please show your support for and gratitude for our nice, private meeting environment and toss a buck into the wooden bucket at the door as you enter.
The Key Camp is proud to take part in many perpetual service projects throughout the year.

**Upcoming 2018 Events**

**18th Annual National Confederate Memorial Day Service**
Saturday, April 6\(^{th}\) Noon to 2:00 PM.
Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial State Park
Stone Mountain, Georgia

**2019 Kansas Division Sons of Confederate Veterans Annual Reunion**
June 14\(^{th}\) - 15\(^{th}\)
Topeka

**2019 Sons of Confederate Veterans Annual Reunion**
July 10\(^{th}\) - 13\(^{th}\)
Mobile, Alabama

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The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.
— George Orwell