



THE TELEGRAPH KEY



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

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The Commander's Corner

Thomas J. Key Camp Commander, Jim Thornton

Do you believe in fate or destiny? Fate or destiny defines events as ordered or "inevitable" and unavoidable. Destiny, sometimes referred to as fate, is a predetermined course of events. It may be conceived as a predetermined future, whether in general or of an individual.

I believe it was fate or destiny that led me to join the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Alamo Defenders Descendants Association. It was my love of history that led me to research my heritage and ancestry, which then led me to join these groups. When I sit back and think about my actions over the last ten years or so, it really was like a predetermined course of action.



Now that I am a member of these groups and listen to the programs and presentations given at the monthly meetings, as well as discussions with other members, I have come to the conclusion that the course of history regarding the War of Northern Aggression was fate and destiny. It was inevitable. The series of events that transpired could not be altered and the path could not be changed.

There were two very different philosophies existing in the United States after the Revolutionary War. It wasn't just a matter of geography, North and South. The differences involved the interpretation of what the U.S. Constitution was intended to convey, as far as the governing of the nation. These differences in opinion were based on many things and continued to grow with the dawn of the Industrial Revolution as the nation continued to segregate into the industrial and business empires versus the agrarian and agricultural environments.

The two sides were on a collision course. It was inevitable and unavoidable that conflict would escalate. Prior to the Industrial Revolution and the growth of business and corporate empires, the states oversaw their own internal affairs. But once the rich and elite corporate magnates gained power, they forced the hand of the Federal Government to assume more and more control in order to protect their "business interests". Tariffs were instituted and escalated (see the Morrill Tariff). The states could no longer protect the little guy, especially in the Southern agricultural economies. The arguments over Constitutional interpretation exploded. Just how much power and authority was allowed and delegated to the Federal Government?

The boiling point was reached with the secession of South Carolina and the situation escalated as other states followed South Carolina. When you carefully study the chain of events and all the accompanying details, it was fate (or destiny) that the war occurred. There was no other recourse. It could not be avoided. Big business and industry (corporate America?) was not about to let their gravy train of raw materials secede and escape. The use of force would be employed to keep the seceding states in line and in their place.

It was indeed fate that led this nation into an ugly period of war and reconstruction. The chain of events that occurred between 1776 and about 1845 or so dictated what would happen in the 1860's. The 1860's were inevitable, unavoidable, and predetermined. Destiny.

Deo Vindice!

Your Commander, Jim Thornton

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.MajorKey1920ksscvc.org

SCV National: www.SCV.org

Kansas Division: <http://www.ksscvc.org/>

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2ND LT. COMMANDER

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ADJUTANT

Steve Crawford

CHAPLAIN

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Garrett Hayden

The Key Camp will meet on Thursday, April 5th, 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. Steve Maddox. He will be giving us a presentation on his ancestors who were Confederate Guerilla fighters in the area, entitled "*My Partisan Guerilla Relatives*".

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

Don't forget to bring a prospective recruit!

**KEY CAMP TO HOST CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL
DAY CEREMONY**

By Jim Thornton

In the majority of the former Confederate States, the month of April is designated “Confederate History Month” and the fourth Monday of April is celebrated as Confederate Memorial Day.



Kansas does not recognize April as Confederate History month, nor does Kansas have a Confederate Memorial Day. It is understood that Confederate Veterans can be honored at any National Cemetery if the state in which they are interred does not have a recognized Confederate Memorial Day.

It was proposed by Compatriot Carl Jowers that some type of Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony be held at a National Cemetery where Confederate Veterans have been interred. As there are no Confederates buried at Leavenworth National Cemetery, and logistics would make it difficult to hold such a ceremony for the 7 Confederates interred at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery, the logical choice to make the attempt was Fort Scott National Cemetery. There are 14 Confederate soldiers buried at Fort Scott.

Compatriot Jowers took the reins on this project, and after consulting with Commander Jim Thornton, has pitched the proposal to the Veterans Administration Director of National Cemeteries for our area. He completed the governmental paperwork, wrote up the proposal, and outlined an agenda for the ceremony; all required to be submitted for approval. Commander Thornton signed off on the application as the supervising officer of the sponsoring organization.

Now, I hope you are all sitting down as what follows will leave you in shock and possibly numb. WE RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemeteries Administration) to host a Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony at Fort Scott National Cemetery. The event will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, April 21 around the location of the 14 Confederate graves.

As far as is known, nothing like this has ever been attempted anywhere within the Kansas Division of the SCV.

Compatriot Jowers is also attempting to coordinate a location for fellowship and refreshments after the ceremony. Commander Thornton has forwarded the news and details to the Kansas Division in the hope of other camps being able to join us. He has also extended an invitation the Sons of Union Veterans to join us and has received a positive response. Compatriot Bennie Hamilton has invited the local UDC Chapter and the Crawford County Historical Society to join us, as well as attempting to arrange a local reenactor unit to provide a firearm salute (permission was given in our letter of approval).

Please mark the day and time on your calendars and pray for beautiful weather. Let’s have a great turnout of SCV members and their families to honor our fallen ancestors. Let us insure the Confederate Veteran (who is legally recognized as a U.S. Military Veteran) is not forgotten.



Graves of Confederate soldiers at Fort Scott National Cemetery.

KANSAS CITY UDC MONUMENT REMEMBERED WITH ANONYMOUS FLORAL ARRANGEMENT

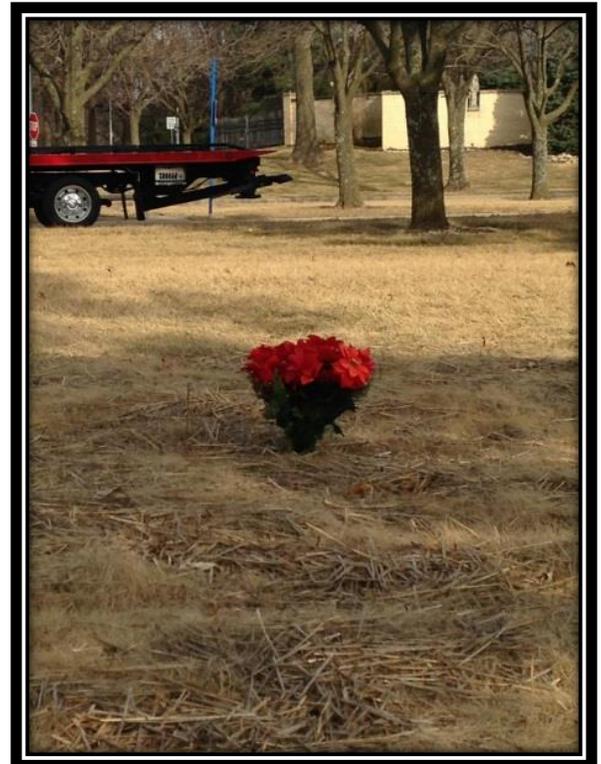
By Jim Thornton

As you all remember, the United Daughters of the Confederacy Monument and Memorial that stood and honored “the Loyal Women of The Old South” since 1934 was unceremoniously boxed up and removed last August by the UDC under political pressure from the government of Kansas City. The monument was first located on the northeast corner of 47th and J.C. Nichols Parkway at the main entrance to the Plaza. In 1958 it was relocated to 55th & Ward Parkway.

Recently, a bright red floral bouquet appeared on the former sight of the UDC Memorial. It has been reported that the flowers were placed in early March by an anonymous compatriot of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The Key Camp wishes to offer its gratitude to the donor of the floral arrangement and give a big “Way to go!!” shout out.

Anonymous Key Camp compatriot placed flowers in early March at site where UDC monument honoring Loyal Women of the Old South was vandalized and then removed in 2017, 55th & Ward Parkway, KCMO.



**PORT HUDSON: LAST CONFEDERATE
STRONGHOLD ON THE MISSISSIPPI**

By Compatriot Paul Allen

At our Camp meeting in March, when the scheduled speaker was unable to attend due to exigent circumstances, our own Commander Jim Thornton presented a fascinating educational program on the siege of Port Hudson, the last Southern stronghold on the Mississippi. Despite being compiled on short notice, Jim's presentation was quite good and even included a slideshow. Coincidentally, he has a Confederate ancestor who participated in this battle. (It is intriguing that whenever we discuss an important battle, he always has an ancestor in the thick of it. But I digress.)



Battle of Port Hudson by J.O. Davidson
Courtesy of L. Prang & Co.

Port Hudson was on the Mississippi below Vicksburg. Confederate General Gardner, a West Point graduate, was an expert tactician. The Confederate fortifications included giant Columbiad artillery that held off Admiral Farragut's Union boats as well as the Union infantry assaults. It is interesting to note that the Federals used black troops at one point in a diversionary suicide attack across 600 yards of open ground in which half were cut down. In another incident a regiment of New York Zouaves in their bright red uniforms were easy targets and were made short work of by the Confederate defenders.

The siege lasted 48 days and upon receiving word of the fall of Vicksburg, the starving Confederates surrendered on July 9, 1863, when they realized their position was untenable. According to historian Bell I. Wiley, Confederate soldiers at Port Hudson suffered more deprivation than those at Vicksburg.

A CORRECTION TO THE MARCH MEETING TRIVIA QUESTION

By Jim Thornton

At the March meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp, our trivia question asked “Besides the well-known Lawrence raid, what other Kansas towns were raided by Quantrill and his band?” As the gathering discussed and threw out answers, our newest member, Compatriot Justin Hoffman, volunteered Brooklyn. Some of those gathered wondered if Brooklyn is now known by another name as most did not recognize it as a Kansas community.

The answer as researched and given by Commander Thornton at the end of the debate was “Gardner (10/22/1861), Aubry (twice 3/7/1862 and August 1863), Olathe (9/7/1862), Shawnee (twice -10/17/1862 and August 1863), Spring Hill (August 1863), Baxter Springs (10/6/1863)”.

Well guess what? That answer is incomplete. There WAS a Brooklyn, KS. Compatriot Hoffman has provided information detailing the tiny community and how it was basically wiped off the Kansas map by Quantrill’s band on the same day Lawrence was raided, August 21, 1863.

After exiting Lawrence, Quantrill and his men rode into the tiny village of Brooklyn, 15 miles southeast of Lawrence, torching most of the settlement before continuing on their way back to Missouri. Nowadays, all that’s left of the town of 81 are the remains of a few foundations and a Historic Marker that reads: “Brooklyn. Early trading center on Santa Fe Trail. Destroyed by Quantrill August 21, 1863.” Brooklyn, KS stood for only eight years before it was wiped off the map forever.

For a more detailed information on Brooklyn and the research archaeology taking place at its former location, please see the Lawrence Journal-World article “Not Far Away, a Town that Never Recovered” in the August 18, 2013 issue. You may find the article at this link: <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2013/aug/18/not-far-away-town-never-recovered/>

Thank you for this information Justin!



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR KEY CAMP

By Jim Thornton

There are several upcoming community events in the area which the Key Camp is scheduled to take part in. It is by taking part in these community events that the Key Camp upholds the charge given to us by General Stephen Dill Lee in 1906. By taking part in these activities and supporting our community, we protect and promote the good name of the Confederate Veteran and his descendants – us. It is sincerely hoped that many of you will be able to join in and take part in one or more of these community events:

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

The Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has been invited to take part in the Civil War Trust 2018 Park Day on April 7. This is a day for organizations and volunteers to come to the Battlefields for a clean-up and maintenance work day. The Key Camp has received an invitation to join in with other groups and volunteers at Mine Creek Battlefield.

Our assignment at Mine Creek Battlefield will be to walk the trails, checking for obstacles such as fallen tree limbs and to clean up any litter along the paths. Opportunities will also exist at the Visitor Center for any volunteers unable to hike the trails. Tami Neal, site director, will be attempting to arrange for a couple of ATV's or Gators to assist those working the trails. While there, we will also check on and tidy up the Confederate Memorial Site and Monument. The day will begin at 9:00am at the Battlefield Visitor Center. Please feel free to bring along any gardening tools, weed trimmers, or other tools you feel will be helpful. Come on down to Mine Creek Battlefield on Saturday, April 7, at 9:00am and join with others working to preserve our battlefield. Have fun interacting with other groups and individuals interested in preserving our history. And while we're at it, we can do some good work and help maintain our part of the story.

THURSDAY, MAY 3 (MAYBE MORE DAYS)

Next up, is a very rare chance for us to impart the truth about the War of Northern Aggression and educate the youth of the area. On Thursday, May 3, the Lone Jack Historical Society will be hosting their annual Missouri History Days for Kansas City Metro area 4th and 8th graders. Each year, Adjutant Steve Crawford has coordinated with the Lone Jack Staff for the Major Thomas J. Key Camp to give the presentation on the war and its impact on the State of Missouri and the local area. During our presentations, we will give a short talk on the secession of Missouri and how the officially elected state government was forced into exile by Lincoln and General Nathaniel Lyons. We will also be displaying and demonstrating our replica weapons collection and other artifacts.

We are to be set up by 9:00am, with the tours and programs beginning at 9:30. It is suggested those taking part plan on being at the battlefield by 8:30am. Lunch is provided for the volunteers by the Lone Jack Historical Society. Please consider joining us on one of those three days. If you do not desire to actually take part in giving the presentation, we can always use extra sets of eyes to watch over the artifacts display as the students pass through.

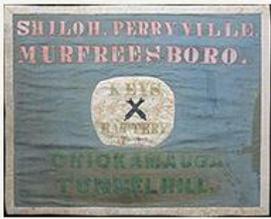
SATURDAY, JUNE 2 (TENTATIVE)

On the first Saturday of June each year, Confederate Memorial Day is recognized on the grounds of the chapel and cemetery within The Confederate Memorial State Historic Site, located on Missouri Highway 13, just north of the Highway 13 and I-70 interchange. The event is sponsored by Confederate Memorial Friends Association. This annual event is held in memory of Confederate veterans of the War of Northern Aggression. Activities include historical presentations, living history, tours of the Confederate Home chapel and cemetery, a parade and a memorial service at the Confederate Home Cemetery.

The memorial service is very moving and emotional. Those present with a Confederate ancestor are invited to take part. Each person is invited to the podium to state the name, rank, and unit of their Confederate ancestor and is then given a red carnation to place at the foot of the Lion of Lucerne memorial. For the last several

years, men of the Key Camp in uniform have provided the memorial service honor guard and stand at attention during the flower laying ceremony.

So, what do you say? Come on! Get involved! Join us for camaraderie, friendship, truthful education of our youth, and historical preservation for our community! And while we're at it, uphold the charge given to us by our forefathers.



Major

Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Johnson County, Kansas
Camp Activities



The Key Camp is proud to take part in many perpetual service projects throughout the year.

Upcoming 2018 Events

Spring Work Day 2018 with The Civil War Trust; Mine Creek Battlefield

Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 9:00am

Mine Creek Battlefield

SCV Kansas Division Reunion and Convention

June 15-16

Topeka

SCV National Reunion

July 18-21

Franklin, Tennessee

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

— George Orwell