The Commander’s Corner
Thomas J. Key Camp Commander, Jim Thornton

We are soon to reach a critical point in the defense of our Southern Confederate Heritage. In fact, we are now experiencing the fringes of this critical point. And it involves our children and grandchildren. This critical point can be summarized in one question, “How do we, as proud descendants of the valiant Confederate Veteran, instill that same pride in our children and grandchildren? Especially in these times of political correctness, erasure of our history, and the destruction of our memorials & monuments?”

Our children and grandchildren are being taught and brainwashed to equate the word “Confederate” with the word “racism”. They are being instilled with the belief that any and all things related to The Confederate States of America involves bigotry, racial hatred, segregation, and slavery. This is what schools and the educational system now teach. I know because I hear it from my brother who has two young children (an eighth grade daughter and fifth grade son).

I fear our children and grandchildren will become ashamed of their heritage. They will ignore and hide the fact that their ancestors fought for the Confederacy or they will claim ignorance of that branch of the family tree. They will not want to face the criticism of others or the ostracism of society for being “part of that culture”. Our children and grandchildren will suffer guilt by association with a society and culture totally distorted, repainted, and redrawn by today’s political correctness.

How do we, as the parents and grandparents, combat this and maintain the family pride? All we can do is engage our precious youth in calm, educational dialog and conversation. We must not get angry with those people as that is what they want. We must educate our youth utilizing truthful, non-biased sources that are available to us through the SCV, the UDC, MOS&B and other organizations dedicated to the preservation of Confederate heritage and culture.

We must insure that our children and grandchildren understand that there is no need to apologize for their ancestry and heritage. They must be assured there is no need to feel ashamed of their ancestors. No one should ever feel disgraced by their heritage or ancestors. It is our ancestors and their genetics that make us who we are. We must emphasize to our children that if they feel ashamed of their ancestors, then they are showing shame in themselves. We must tell our children and grandchildren to hold their heads high with pride in their heritage.
We, our children, and our grandchildren WILL NOT APOLOGIZE for who we are or where we come from. We are not ashamed. WE ARE PROUD.

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.MajorKey1920ksscv.org
SCV National: www.SCV.org
Kansas Division: http://www.ksscv.org/

Key Camp Officers

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<th>COMMANDER</th>
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<th>CHAPLAIN</th>
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<td>Steve Crawford</td>
<td>Walter Schley</td>
<td>Garrett Hayden</td>
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The Key Camp will meet on Thursday, June 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 Adjutant Steve Crawford presenting the "History of Northern Aggression in Missouri”.

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

Don’t forget to bring a prospective recruit!
In May 10, representatives of the Key Camp joined other living history presenters at the Lone Jack Battlefield Museum to participate in Missouri History Day. This is a biannual event scheduled in both early summer and early fall and organized by Alinda Miller, president of the Lone Jack Historical Society and the Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield Site Administrator. The twice-a-year event is designed to educate area middle schoolers and fourth graders with hands-on lessons about the impact of historical events and time periods on Missourians.

Compatriots Justin Hoffman and Paul Allen set up the Key Camp Civil War weapons display, a collection of non-firing replica firearms (Enfield musket, musketoon, Henry rifle, 1851 Colt revolver, Confederate Griswold & Gunnison Revolver, and LeMat revolver) with working mechanisms and unsharpened edged weapons (sword and cavalry saber). They also displayed other accessories of the common soldier like a cartridge pouch, percussion cap pouch, haversack, canteen, brogans and actual dug artillery shrapnel and bullets.

The Key Camp was one of 12 hands-on history stations staged around the battlefield park. Other stations included a Fort Osage station with a soldier circa the War of 1812, a Lone Jack Battlefield Museum tour, a working blacksmith, a station about wild food and coffee during the Civil War among soldiers and civilians (would you believe ground and boiled acorns?), a Civil War military drill station, and a General Order #11 station.

Approximately 276 middle school students from Oak Grove and Grain Valley arrived about 9:00am. They were divided into 12 groups and at 9:30 the fun began as each group took up a position at one station for a hands-on living history lesson. Presenters were given 20 minutes to work with the students, then the students would rotate to the next station until all groups had completed the circuit with an intervening lunch break. The well-regimented routine was quite impressive to behold and functioned flawlessly. The students were on their best behavior and seemed very attentive during the presentations.

As each student group arrived they were handed a copy of an SCV published replica Missouri 1862 dollar bill containing on the reverse side a brief history of what led to Missouri's decision to secede. Justin gave a smooth and professional, informative preliminary briefing on the events leading up to Missouri's eventual act of secession from the Union. This historical review was based on Adjutant Steve Crawford's talking points which he has developed during his years participating in Missouri History Day. Following Justin's presentation, Paul explained the various weapons and other items. The most exciting time for the students was clearly the final few minutes of the 20-minute engagement when they were allowed with supervision to safely handle the non-lethal arms.

In approximately 2010, Adjutant Steve Crawford and Camp Commander (Emeritus) "Spike" Speicher pioneered the Key Camp weapons and history presentation at Lone Jack. Steve, whose ancestor fought the Yankees at Lone Jack in 1862, realized that the students knew very little about Missouri's Confederate history. (Students are generally taught that Missouri was a "border state"--the same thing this writer was taught--which is a bit of
disinformation because Missouri actually voted to secede and was recognized by the Confederate States Congress as the 12th Confederate state. However, Lincoln sent enough troops to hold the state nominally in the Union at the point of a bayonet and to prevent the duly elected state government from effectively governing.) So Steve began providing students with historical facts about Missouri’s path to secession which blended perfectly with the Camp’s weapons presentation, because Missouri’s Confederates obtained their combat arms from Yankee casualties and captured Union supplies. Missouri wasn’t on the supply pipeline from the Confederate government in Richmond, VA.

In a self-satisfied aside, the Lone Jack Battlefield Museum sometimes sells used history books they have acquired. This writer was able to pick up a biography of P.G.T. Beauregard, a book on Morgan’s Raiders and a book on Britain’s involvement on both sides of the American Civil War.
**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUES PAYMENT TIME**

By Jim Thornton

It’s that time of year again. Time for all members to submit their membership renewal dues to the camp. Membership dues are required to be submitted by August 1 to headquarters.

If dues are not paid by September 1, members are considered delinquent. An additional fee of $5.00 will be required to be reinstated. Additionally, for those whose dues are not paid, their subscription to “The Confederate Veteran” magazine will be discontinued September 1.

The Major Thomas J. Key Camp will again send electronic dues notification. This will result in a cost savings of over $75 for the camp. A generalized dues payment form has been or will be published in the camp newsletter, The Telegraph Key, 3 times (May, June, & July). An individualized dues statement will be sent by e-mail to each member by Commander Thornton in mid-June. For the 8 members without e-mail, a printed individual dues statement will be sent by postal mail.

At the mid-point of July, Commander Thornton and Adjutant Crawford will review the dues reconciliation paperwork. For those members who have not paid by then, a second notice will be sent, both by e-mail and postal mail. Let us hope that will be a very small number. Not needing to send any late notices would be wonderful!

**DUES AMOUNT BREAKDOWN:**

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It is vital for each member to review the personal information on the dues statement and document any corrections needed to the information before returning. Completed/corrected forms and payment are to be submitted to:
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

**Reunion**
Franklin,

**SCV National**
July 18-21
Tennessee

_The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history._
—George Orwell
**DATE:** June 1, 2018  
**FROM:** Jim Thornton, Camp Commander

Compatriot:

Our annual membership dues are due and payable to SCV International Headquarters August 1. Please remit to the camp adjutant your dues as indicated and outlined below so we may forward the funds to International Headquarters in a timely fashion. An individualized dues invoice will also be e-mailed to each member.

If dues are not paid by September 1, members are considered delinquent. An additional fee of $5.00 will be required to be reinstated. Additionally, for those whose dues are not paid, their subscription to “The Confederate Veteran” magazine will be discontinued September 1.

Please provide your requested information below. Enclose this form and your payment in an envelope and mail to our camp adjutant, Steve Crawford, at the address below.

**COMPATRIOT INFORMATION:**

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DUES STATEMENT

NATIONAL DUES: $_____

DIVISION DUES: $_____

CAMP DUES: $_____

TOTAL DUE: $_____

Please send this form and payment to:
Adjutant Steven Crawford
5943 Catalina
Fairway, KS 66205-3110