

# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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THE OFFICIAL DISPATCH FOR THE  
MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920, SCV AND  
CAPTAIN WILLIAM GREGG CHAPTER #268, MOSB  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

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VOL. 7, No. 4

April 2006

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## MAY CAMP MEETING

64<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006. We will be meeting at Chen's Super Buffet located on the southeast corner of Shawnee Mission Parkway and Quivira in Shawnee, Kansas. We will meet between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. for dinner and start the official meeting at 7:00. Please plan to come for dinner and camaraderie before the meeting. In conjunction with the Cannon Dedication Ceremony that is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>, we have a special speaker for our May meeting. Mr. Dan Smith is the Chairman of the Board of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc., and was the driving force behind the ceremony. Mr. Smith will have an interesting Power Point presentation on the Battle of Big Blue or Byram's Ford. That is the battlefield where many of us will be camped and where the ceremony will be conducted. It is a little known battle that has been called the "Prelude to Westport". Efforts led by Mr. Smith

are underway to continue to preserve that battlefield. It will be an interesting program since it will be appropriate to one of our events. Don't miss this outstanding opportunity. Be sure to bring your wife or significant other, as they are ALWAYS welcome. Also don't forget to bring that prospective member along so he can meet us. Hope to see ya'll there.

## Editorial Byline and Stuff

"The Telegraph Key" is the newsletter for the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 and the Captain William H. Gregg Chapter, MOS&B, 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.

<u>Officers:</u>	<u>Key Camp</u>	<u>Gregg Chapter</u>
Commander:	James L. Speicher	C. Heath Roland
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Roger Strout.	
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland	C. Heath Roland
Chaplain:	Lee Crutchfield	
Historian & Scrapbook:	Loren Lundy	
Web Masters:	Steve Crutchfield	
Newsletter Editor:	James L. Speicher	
Event Coordinator	Gary Roland	

### SCV On The Web

SCV National: [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)  
 SCV Battleflag Site: [www.battleflag.org](http://www.battleflag.org)  
 Key Camp: [www.home.earthlink.net/~keycamp](http://www.home.earthlink.net/~keycamp)

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## Welcome New Members #63 & 64

For the fourth month in a row we are welcoming new members into the camp. This time we have our 9<sup>th</sup> father and son team joining our ranks (J & T Bolton, L & S Crutchfield, E, A & J Martinez, W & T Rogers, G & H Roland L & C Smith, R & J Strout, C & J Walthall). Edward Duda and his son Mark turned in their applications at the April meeting. We first me Ed a couple of years ago at the Ottawa Veterans Day Parade. Their ancestor is Captain Helton Rutherford Walker,

Companies B and G, 48<sup>th</sup> Regiment Tennessee Infantry. I have been informed that the good Captain had the misfortune of being captured at Fort Donelson on February 14, 1862. Ed and Mark will be inducted at our May meeting. Please introduce yourselves to our new members at the May meeting and let them know they are in good company. Welcome aboard Ed and Mark.

## Cannon Dedication Ceremony

The dedication ceremony for the 12-pounder Napolean cannon on the Big Blue/Byram's Ford battlefield will take place on Saturday 29 April. This will be a big event attended by Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes and lots of other dignitaries. The Key Camp has the honor of being the only Confederate representatives at the ceremony. The living history camp opens at 10:00 a.m. The actual dedication ceremony takes place at 11:30 followed by a catered lunch (cost \$12.00 but free to us). The camps will re-open to the public after lunch at 1:00 and will remain open until 4:00 p.m. We will do our usual musket and cannon firing demonstrations. We will also have three men in the uniformed Color Guard that will be a joint Confederate/Union Color Guard. We need a good turnout for this great opportunity for some good press coverage for us. There are supposed to be two KC Star reporters assigned to cover the event. If you can come out that day, whether to participate or just watch, please do so. So far the folks participating are Craig Freeman, Loren Lundy, Eric, Aaron and Jacob Martinez, Bill Morgan, Dan Peterson, Scott Porter, Gary Roland, Heath Roland, Spike Speicher, Roger Strout, Charles Walthall, Jordan Walthall, and John Weir. There is always room for more. In conjunction with this ceremony, our speaker for the May meeting is Dan Smith. He is the chairman of the Board for the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc, and is the man putting the entire dedication ceremony together. He will be presenting a briefing on the battle of Big Blue or Byram's Ford.

I had directions all printed up to hand out at the April meeting and then left them at home. So here is where the

event will be held. It will be at the Kansas City Missouri Water Services Building on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street. From I-435 on the Missouri side go west on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street approximately three miles. The Water Department Building will be on your right after you cross over the long viaduct. As you approach the building while going over the viaduct, the battlefield will be on your right. Parking will be on site and we can set up Friday night, with fire pits. See y'all there.

## Confederate Memorial Day

Saturday afternoon we will break camp at Byram's Ford and proceed with a tactical march to our next bivouac site, the field at Mine Creek. Sunday (30 April) we will celebrate Confederate Memorial Day in Kansas. By declaration of Past Division Commander Jesse Estes, Confederate Memorial Day in Kansas is recognized as April 26, the anniversary of the surrender of General Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate Army in North Carolina in 1865. We elect to celebrate the event on the Saturday closest to the 26<sup>th</sup>. This year, however, is the exception. The closest Saturday is the 29<sup>th</sup> but we have the Cannon Dedication Ceremony that day so for this year only we will celebrate on Sunday. Our event will consist of the same living history camp site and demos as we had at Byram's Ford. In addition to that, we will have historic displays inside the Visitor Center as well as a recruiting table. We will also plan to have a short memorial service, hopefully at the Confederate Monument. Normally our event runs from 10:00 a.m until 4:00 p.m. when the Center closes but since it is on Sunday this year our hours will be shorter. The Visitor Center does not open until noon on Sunday so that is when our event will begin. It will close at the regular 4:00 p.m. time. This works out well for those who want to wait until Sunday to come out. Again we need a lot of support for this event. A lot will be determined by how things go this year. If Mine Creek doesn't publicize the event and hence we don't get spectator turnout then we will probably not do our Confederate Memorial Day celebration at that location in the future. So

there is a lot riding on this and that's why we need a strong turnout. If the spectators don't show up it won't be our fault and we can depart with a clear conscience. So please plan to attend BOTH the Cannon Dedication Ceremony on the 29<sup>th</sup> and Confederate Memorial Day on the Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Key Camp Goes Electronic

After six years of snail mail delivery of the Key Camp newsletter, "The Telegraph Key" will go electronic. In an on-going effort to conserve our monetary assets for projects of historic significance and importance, "The Telegraph Key" will now be delivered by e-mail to those compatriots who have e-mail addresses and have agreed to such a delivery method. It is anticipated that this change will save the camp approximately \$20.00 per month or \$240 a year in postage fees. Hard copy newsletters will still be sent to any member who desires one and to all members who do not have e-mail access. Additionally, hard copies will be sent to prospective members and certain guest recipients. The Editor would like to thank everyone who responded to the poll and provided feedback concerning this issue. This change lightens his load considerably. If you desire to continue to receive the newsletter by snail mail simply notify Commander Speicher.

## An Invitation

The Kansas City Camp #634 of the Missouri Division has cordially invited any of our members to attend a commemorative service in honor of John Nolan, Captain Quantrill's Chief Scout, and Frank Smith, Jr., one of Quantrill's men. The ceremony is scheduled for Sunday June 25 at 3:00 p.m. It will be held the Blue Springs City Cemetery in Blue Springs, Missouri. For additional information you can call camp commander Jerry Blain at 816-256-0710 or e-mail him at [scv634@aol.com](mailto:scv634@aol.com).

## Big Fund Raiser for Key Camp

That's right - a fund raiser! I've always said that the Key Camp doesn't do bake sales or car washes to make money to cover operating costs. Well, that is still true but this is a once in a life time opportunity for the Key Camp. The best part is that it won't take anyone's time, just their money. Here's the deal - I have a very good friend from St. Louis who is moving and down-sizing at the same time. He has a fantastic library of Southern oriented books that he is willing to donate to our camp. Therefore our fund raiser is a gigantic book sale. Here is how it will work: I will pick up sixteen boxes of books - that's right I said 16 - and bring them to the May meeting. The books will go on a first come, first served basis. The books will be priced substantially below retail by at least half or better. All money from the sales will be split between the camp and my friend. If a book sells for \$10.00 the camp gets \$5.00 and my friend gets \$5.00. Easy money. Like I said, his library is fantastic. I will have the books available on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> and will have them at the May 4<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> meetings. What doesn't sell at our meetings, I will take to the Division Convention in Emporia on June 17<sup>th</sup> and sell there. But Key Camp members get FIRST choice on the books. Don't pass up this unbelievable chance to purchase some awesome books and to help your camp at the same time.

## 2006 Kansas Division Convention

The time is drawing near for the division convention. It will be held on Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> in Emporia, Kansas. That is about 90 minutes southwest of Kansas City straight down I-35. This will be a very important convention. As you are all aware there are some malcontents in our division who all hail from the Wichita area. They have declared war on our Division Commander Charles Walthall. Why? Because he tried to do his job and it wasn't how they wanted it done. It is as simple as that. There was a big hullabaloo as they attempted to get Commander Walthall voted out of office early. The Commander-in-Chief of the SCV intervened and ruled against the conspirators. So now, in a very childish

manner, they are trying to "hurt" Commander Walthall any way they can. That is why this convention is going to be so important. We will vote on about 16 constitutional amendments. Most of them are simple house-cleaning changes to our Constitution as recommended by Kansas Division Judge Advocate Chip Buckner. There are two amendments, however, that we MUST defeat simply because they are childish actions on the part of the conspirators and they are nothing but vindictive. The first is to abolish the Cadet Membership in the division. This was voted on and approved last year and Commander Walthall's son Jordon became the first cadet member of the division. If the amendment passes it would kick Jordan out of the division. This amendment is simply to hurt Commander Walthall and in so doing will hurt a ten year old boy who has been a tremendous supporter of Key Camp activities. I can't tell you the number of parades and workdays that Jordan has been there with us.

The second amendment that we must defeat would disallow any member of the Kansas Division who does not live in Kansas from holding any division office. Again, this is aimed directly at Commander Walthall who lives on the Missouri side. If the conspirators can get this amendment passed that is their way of getting Commander Walthall fired. Again this amendment is nothing but vindictive and meant to hurt Commander Walthall. What those conspirators don't realize is that if that amendment is passed it will make almost 20% of the members of the Key Camp second class citizens because they live on the Missouri side. Excuse me gentlemen, but that's bullshit. I don't care if the guy lives in California. If he attends everything he can, is active in the division, can be counted on to participate 100% in activities of the division, and is ALWAYS there when needed, it shouldn't matter where he lives.

These two amendments DO NOT belong in our division. This is why we need a strong turnout for the convention. We need to show our support for Commander Walthall and tell those malcontents to get the heck out of Dodge. So when we receive our registration forms for the convention we need to

fill them out and get them turned in. I would love to see the Key Camp have the largest turnout of any Kansas Camp. We can do it. We can carpool. "Let's roll" as they said over that Pennsylvania field on September 11, 2001.

REMINDER!!

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE

MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

APRIL 6<sup>th</sup> AT 6:30 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

## *The Telegraph Key*

*Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920*

*Sons of Confederate Veterans*

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