

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

THE OFFICIAL DISPATCH FOR THE MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920 SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS KANSAS DIVISION KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

VOL. 10, No. 4

April 2009

MAY CAMP MEETING 96th REGULAR MEETING

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday, May 7th, 2009. We will be meeting at Zarda's Barbecue located on the southwest corner of 87th Street and Quivira in Lenexa, Kansas. We will meet between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. for dinner and start the official meeting at 7:00. Last February we scheduled Mr. Jim Feagins to be our speaker. However, he became ill just prior to the meeting and had to cancel. It appears that he is better now and is prepared to come talk to us about something interesting and local. His topic is "Archeology at the Lone Jack Battlefield". Lone Jack, as you know is just a bit east of Kansas City on the Missouri side so it is very local. In fact, the oldest Confederate monument (1869) west of the Mississippi River is located in the cemetery there. (Pleasant Grove monument is 1871, making it the second oldest). It should be a most interesting topic for all of us to enjoy. This is one presentation that I think all of us will find extremely informative. As usual wives/significant others are always welcome. Dress is always casual. Don't forget to bring a guest or prospective member.

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.

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First Lieutenant Commander:
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Chaplain:
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Loren Lundy
John Weir
James L. Speicher
Lane Smith
Lee Crutchfield

Key Camp On The Web

Key Camp: www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org
SCV National: www.scvc.org

New Member #76

WHO WILL BE OUR NEXT MEMBER?

Mine Creek Spring Workday

Saturday 9 May will be our spring workday at Mine Creek Battlefield. We got weathered out on our 28 March date so we have rescheduled. We will be doing some major landscaping around the Confederate monument so we can use lots of help. Eric Martinez has agreed to use his trailer to haul the landscape material down to the battlefield for us. Everyone should meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. Our main effort will be the Confederate Monument. If we have any extra time there are several trees that can be cut down, cut up, and stacked. We will plan to wrap things up by around 2:00 or 2:30. If you have a chainsaw please bring that down. Otherwise bring shovels, rakes, hoes, weed whackers, maybe even a lawn mower or two. Please let me know if you feel you can make it to Mine Creek to help.

Patriot's Day Parade

The Key Camp was scheduled to participate in the Patriots Day Parade on April 18, 2009, in Merriam but the hosts (Sons of the American Revolution) felt uncomfortable about the "Tea Party" scheduled about the same time so they cancelled the parade. It will be scheduled again next year and we will be invited to that also.

Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony

Saturday 25 April was Confederate Memorial Day in Kansas. To celebrate and honor the occasion the Key Camp conducted two headstone dedications at Oak Grove Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas. The two Confederates honored were Private John Buford Childers and Captain Thaddeus Fitzhugh. Compatriots Paul Allen and his wife Betty, Lee Crutchfield, Steve Crutchfield, Merle Leech, Jon Linn, Carl Linck, Greg Miller, Heath Roland, Spike Speicher, and John Weir and his son Cameron all



attended and participated in the ceremonies. What made the one ceremony honoring Private Childers so neat was that his grandson was there Saturday to participate in the ceremony. Mr. Jerry Childers is rather elderly but gets around very well. He said he was really moved by the ceremony honoring his grandfather and was very appreciative of the event. He told me that when he was growing up he lived about six blocks from the cemetery and he and his father used to walk to the cemetery to visit the gravesite. That alone made the entire day worthwhile. The second ceremony honored Captain Fitzhugh and when Adjutant Roland read the story about his service in the Confederate Army, it read like a novel. This guy was an awesome warrior. Overall, this was probably one of the best Confederate Memorial Day events the camp has ever had.

Johnson County Genealogical Society

Another important event took place at the same time as the ceremony above. The Johnson County Genealogical Society (JCGS) had a meeting at the Main Library on 87th Street and

Farley that highlighted numerous "lineal organizations". Groups like the Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Society, the Sons of Union Veterans are all lineal organizations that were represented and presenting at this event. Compatriot Tim Peterman was instrumental in getting the Key Camp invited to give a presentation at the meeting. Compatriot Dennis Garstang volunteered to do the presentation to the JCGS. He said the room was full with probably 75 people. It was mostly women but there were several men in attendance. Several of the men showed interest in the camp and were given handouts with the Key Camp website address, which they all said they would check out. Dennis said it was great exposure for the camp and that we need to partner up with the JCGS at future events. He signed up for their e-mail newsletter and will keep the camp apprised of upcoming events.

Burnt District Monument Dedication

On Sunday 26 April the Cass County Historical Society held a dedication ceremony for the newly completed Burnt District Monument. It is designed to honor all the women, children and elderly who were persecuted by Yankee General Ewing's Order Number 11. It is a single standing chimney that represented the thousands of homes burned by the Yankees in August 1863 in Johnson, Cass, Bates and Vernon Counties. This was a scorched earth policy worse than Sherman's march through our beloved Georgia. Several Key Camp members attended this event: Paul Allen and his wife Betty, Merle Leech, Jon Linn, and Spike Speicher. It was a very nice ceremony that was held in the Cass County Criminal Justice Center because of the uncooperative weather. It was a standing room only crowd of about 200 people. The only objection was that at two hours, it was a bit long. If you want something to do on a Saturday or Sunday you should drive down and see the monument. Take Highway 71 south to Harrisonville. Take the Highway 2 exit (second Harrisonville exit) and turn left and the monument is right there in front of the Criminal Justice Center.

Waverly Statue Dedication

On Saturday June 27th and 28th, Waverly, Missouri will be holding its annual Civil War event with reenactments, scenarios, and vendors. The big event for the weekend is the dedication of the General Joseph O. Shelby statue. The statue cost \$20,000 and it took almost 20 years to collect the money needed. But it has come to fruition and the dedication will be that Saturday the 27th of June. The 3rd Battery Missouri Light Artillery, the Key Camp reenactment unit, will be out there for the event. Waverly is not that far away so you ought to try to make there for the dedication. While you are there take part in some of the other activities.

Kansas Division Convention

The 11th Annual Kansas Division Convention will be held at the Best Western Hotel in Emporia, Kansas on Saturday 20 June. This is an important convention, as we will be electing officers for the division. Everyone should have received a ballot in the mail that you need to fill out and return to Adjutant Heath Roland. The results will be announced at the convention. There will be a lunch included with the registration fee and a guest speaker. The speaker will be our friend Debra Goodrich and her presentation will be "Sisters of Sorrow". No it is not about an order of Catholic nuns. It is a comparison of the lives of Varina Davis and Mary Lincoln. It should be a very interesting presentation and Deb ALWAYS does a good job of presenting. A copy of the registration form for the convention is attached. Let's have a really strong turnout from the Key Camp.

**11th Annual Kansas Division Convention
Sons of Confederate Veterans
June 20, 2009**

Best Western Motel
3021 W. Highway 50 Emporia, KS 66801
620-342-7587

REGISTRATION FORM:

(Required *)

*NAME _____ *TITLE/POSITION _____
*SCV CAMP NAME _____ *Number _____
*PERSONAL ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
*HOME PHONE (_____) _____ WORK PHONE (_____) _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ CELL PHONE (_____) _____
SPOUSE NAME (For Badge) _____
GUEST NAME _____ GUEST NAME _____

COST FOR CONVENTION IS \$10.00 PER PERSON

Included in the Registration: Convention book, lunch, lots of camaraderie, and excellent presentation from our guest speaker.

Ancestor Memorials: Have your ancestors name listed in the convention booklet. Cost is \$10.00 and must be submitted no later than July 30, 2009. (Up to 16 names for \$10.00. Please include rank, Name, company, and unit on separate sheet of paper).

Registration: Qty. ____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

Ancestor Memorials: Qty. ____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Featured convention presenter will be. Author Historian Debra Goodrich. Her topic called “ Sisters of Sorrow” is an excellent comparison of Verena Davis first Lady of the Confederacy and Mary Todd Lincoln First lady of the Union. Deb promises to give an extraordinary presentation to the members of the Kansas Division. Lunch will be provided by the Motel

**DEADLINE TO MAIL IN REGISTRATION FORMS
Is Saturday May 31, 2009!!!**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

KANSAS DIVISION SCV
Kansas Division Adjutant
Paul Honaker
4109 SW 29th
Topeka Kansas 66614

REMINDER!

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE

MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920

WILL BE HELD

ON THURSDAY 7 MAY 2009

The Telegraph Key

Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Sons of Confederate Veterans

7325 Oakview Street

Shawnee, Kansas 66216-5527