

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

VOL. 11, No. 4

APRIL 2010

MAY CAMP MEETING 107TH Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday May 6th, 2010. 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. Our speaker for this month has a program that really should be of great interest to everyone and it is one we haven't heard anything about before. Mr. John Rotterman from Saint Joseph will be doing a presentation on "M. Jeff Thompson: Swamp Fox of the Confederacy". See why this great Missouri warrior was compared with Francis Marian, the highly acclaimed Revolutionary War guerilla fighter known as the Swamp Fox. We have never had a presentation on M. Jeff Thompson so this should be a lot of fun and be educational as well. Mr. Rotterman also has a power point program to go along with the presentation. It should be a very interesting presentation indeed and one you will not want to miss. So come and enjoy the camaraderie and fun and hear a great story at the same time. Be sure to bring your wife or significant other as they are always welcome. Also don't forget to bring that prospective recruit. See y'all there!!!

Editorial Byline and Stuff

"The Telegraph Key" is the newsletter for the Major Thomas J. 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.

Officers:

Key Camp

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Commander: | James L. Speicher |
| 1 st Lieutenant Commander: | Lee Crutchfield |
| 2 nd Lieutenant Commander: | John Weir |
| Adjutant: | C. Heath Roland |
| Chaplain: | Reverend Thomas T. Ellis |
| Historian & Scrapbook: | Dan Peterson |
| Web Master: | John Weir |
| Newsletter Editor: | James L. Speicher |
| Media Coordinator: | Lane Smith |
| Cadet Member Coordinator: | Lee Crutchfield |

Key Camp On The Web

Key Camp: www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org

SCV National: www.wcv.org

New Member #75!

I am pleased to announce that we have gained our 75th member. We have 2nd Lt Cmdr John Weir to thank for this one. David Peterie learned about our camp from our website that was put together by Webmaster Weir. By the time David contacted Adjutant Roland his paperwork was completed and ready to go. All we had to do was mail it in. Compatriot Peterie will be inducted at the May meeting. David's Confederate ancestor is Private Enoch Thornberry, Company E, 13th Kentucky Cavalry. David is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) as are about 7 or 8 other Key Camp members. It is neat his Revolutionary War ancestor was one of the signers of the Constitution. Please take time at the May meeting to introduce yourself and make him feel at home. Welcome aboard David, we are proud to have you in our ranks.

What a Day!

April 10, 2010. What a day - for me at least. That was our Spring Workday at Mine Creek Battlefield. Let me tell you about that day. I got to sleep in until 7:30 a.m. What a joy. Then Paul Allen came by the house and together we drove down to Mine Creek. What a wonderful surprise to find that Highway 69 is now four lanes wide all the way to Pleasanton. That knocks off about 10 to 15 minutes of driving time. Then I got to spend the morning with 15 of my favorite friends. Those that participated at the battlefield were Paul Allen, Rick Bullock, Travis Bullock, Craig Freeman and Angie, Jim King, Merle Leech, Eric Martinez and Carrie, Jacob Martinez, Greg Miller, Dan Peterson, Lane Smith, Mike Smith, and John Weir. We spruced up around the Confederate monument so it looks really nice. We also took down four large trees. With three chainsaws going and a horde of guys hauling and stacking the cut up trees we made good time. I think it took us about half an hour to cut down, cut up, pile and stack each tree. In fact, we had been requested to take down two trees and did four instead. Arnold Schofield was amazed. But the day was not done!! We invaded Cookee's Drive Inn in Pleasanton completely filling the inside seating area while we ate lunch. Thus ended the SCV portion of a great day. As for me, Cindy and I went to see the Kansas City Saint Andrew Pipes and Drums and Emmy Award-winning singer Connie Dover in concert at Unity Temple. What an awesome time. But it didn't end there. We moved to The GAF Irish Pub in Waldo where the after concert party was being held for the musicians and friends. The after-concert concert was almost better than the concert itself. It was a true Irish jam session with Connie and the others sitting around several tables playing Irish and Scottish tunes with all the instruments but the bagpipes (they are a little loud to play in a public restaurant). By about midnight we finally departed the area. What a great ending to a great day.

History Day at Lone Jack

I want to thank our new member Steve Crawford for volunteering to help out with a display at the Lone Jack Battlefield History Day on May 5th. Steve made contact with the folks putting on the event and they are excited to have our camp do a display. The students will be divided into groups and will rotate through 16 stations. Steve will be talking to a large number of school kids that day and will be telling them about WBTS weapons and equipment. With that many students and presentations starting at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until 3:00 p.m. Steve has his work cut out for him. If anyone would like to assist Steve I'm sure he would be happy to have the help. Contact Steve directly or get word to Adjutant Roland or Commander Speicher that you would like to help out.

New Camp Historian

My sincere thanks goes to Compatriot, and Past Lieutenant Commander, Dan Peterson for volunteering for the position of Camp Historian. This position was left vacant when Compatriot Loren Lundy passed away last month. Dan will take over the making of the camp's scrapbook history. If you have any photos taken at any of the events that camp is involved in please forward them to Dan for inclusion in the scrapbook. Also he can use any newspaper articles, etc. The history of our camp is important. We need to preserve that history for future generations of SCVers so they can recognize the work we have done for the last ten years. Loren did our history in four large scrapbooks with each book covering about two years. They are fabulous to look through and see our members and past members doing what we do best. Again, thanks to Dan for accepting this important mission. This newsletter will self-destruct in ten seconds.

Loren's Memorial Service

Saturday April 17, 2010, the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 said good-bye to our departed member Compatriot Loren F. Lundy. Loren had been cremated so the family held a memorial service. The Key Camp was represented by about 22 members and friends. The family had requested our Color Guard post the colors for the memorial service. It was a tremendous honor for the six of us to be directly involved in the service in that manner. Thank you gentlemen; you did an outstanding job. The family told me they really appreciated it and it added tremendously to the service. I was asked to publish my comments from the service in the newsletter so here is what I said:



Photo by Cindy Speicher

Color Guard members Lee Crutchfield, Mike Smith, Jim Tucker, Merle Leech, Dan Peterson and Spike Speicher

Loren Lundy was 100 years old. That means I have only known Loren for one tenth of his life but no single person that I have known for that kind of extended time has had the positive effect on my life that Loren did. Loren was a friend, a confidant, and an inspiration. Had it not been for our mutual love of history, especially the era known as the Civil War, I never would have met Loren.

Many of you may not know why Loren has a Confederate flag at his memorial service. It is because Loren loved his family and his Southern heritage. Loren has been a long time member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the oldest genealogical, historical, and educational organization for men in the United States. The SCV, with about 30,000 members, honors our Southern heritage by caring for veteran's grave, placing and maintaining Southern monuments, giving presentations to schools, providing historical displays, participating in parades and much, much more. The ancestor that Loren joined the SCV under was Captain William Lundy, Company E, 45th Regiment Virginia Infantry. Loren's son and daughter both honor the same heritage, Sherman by being in the SCV and Sharon by being in the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Loren was a proud member of the SCV and that is why our flag is here today.

Loren was an inspiration to me. I can honestly say I never heard him utter a mean word. I never saw him in a bad mood. He was always happy and smiling, right to the end. One of his most enjoyable activities was participating with other SCV camp members in parades. He had participated in many parades over the last decade in cities like DeSoto, Ottawa, Leavenworth, and Kansas City. I have such a fond memory of Loren in our first parade on Veterans Day in Leavenworth in 2002. He was wearing his Confederate uniform and was riding

on our float. He was laughing and smiling. He had his kepi in his hand waving to the crowd. He looked like he was having the time of his life. A photographer from the Leavenworth Times took a picture of Loren that appeared in the newspaper the next day. That is how I will always remember Loren.

On the 17th of March ten members of our SCV camp participated in the Kansas City Saint Patrick's Day parade. Loren was one of that ten. As usual, he was resplendent in his Confederate uniform. Loren rode in a car during the parade and there was a sign on each side of the car that proclaimed "Loren Lundy, 100 years old". Thousands of people lined the streets and saw Loren, in all his glory, waving and talking to them. They yelled hello to him, they yelled congratulations to him, they yelled happy birthday to him, even though it wasn't his birthday. It was the biggest parade we had ever been in and he was having so much fun. After the parade we all went back to the Harris-Kearney House. What a great time everyone had had.

Loren asked to use the restroom so I helped him from the car. As he stood up we gave each other a big hug and then we slowly walked to the house. When we got inside Loren collapsed. I held on to him as he went down and continued holding him and yelled for someone to call 911. Loren passed away in my arms before the first responders arrived. The doctor told me later that there was nothing anyone could have done. As he stated "You can't jump start a hundred year old heart".

Loren is gone and I miss him dearly. I miss his smile, his voice, his presence, and most of all his hugs. But what a way to go. With his Irish ancestry he passed away on Saint Patrick's Day. He had just done one of the things he enjoyed most, being in a parade. He passed away wearing his Confederate uniform. He didn't suffer and he died in the arms of someone who loved him. God bless you Loren, you will never be forgotten.

REMINDER!!

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920**

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

MAY 6th 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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