

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

VOL. 8, No. 8 August 2007

SEPTEMBER CAMP MEETING 79th Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday September 6th, 2007. Please note that 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. This will be an important meeting as the September meeting is our annual Awards Presentation meeting. Several of our members will be receiving either national or camp awards for their outstanding service to the camp and to the SCV. There are about a dozen awards to give out. Since the awards will take some time we have scheduled a very short presentation.

Commander Ed Kennedy from the Brigadier General William Steele Camp #1857 will give a very short talk on SCV Media Relations. This falls directly in line with our new position of Media Coordinator (See page 6). As a camp, we have to get our name out there for people to see. How we interact with the media will become very important. This promises to be a very fascinating presentation that you won't want to miss. 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 y'all 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.

Officers:

Commander:
1st Lieutenant Commander:
2nd Lieutenant Commander:
Adjutant: Chaplain:
Historian & Scrapbook: Web
Master:
Newsletter Editor:
Event Coordinator
Media Coordinator

Key Camp

James L. Speicher
Lee Crutchfield
Roger Strout
C. Heath Roland
Steven Crutchfield
Loren Lundy John
Weir James L.
Speicher Gary
Roland Lane Smith

Gregg Chapter

Scott Porter

Key Camp On The Web

Key Camp: www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org

SCV National: www.scv.org

New Member #68

We have finally broken our recruiting deadlock. It seemed like months since we have gotten a new member but we finally do. Thanks to Compatriot Craig Freeman for recruiting his grandfather into the camp. Our 68th and newest member is Melvin L. Freeman, Sr. The elder Compatriot Freeman joined under Private John Prettyman, Company D, 14th Battalion Missouri Cavalry. That is the same ancestor that Craig joined under. This is a good example of family recruiting. If everyone recruited their father, brother, grandfather, cousin, son, or other male relative the camp would double in size. More proof is that we have nine father/son teams in the camp. One of those is a father/son/son team - the Dudas. Anyway, please be sure to welcome our newest member, Melvin Freeman, into the camp and introduce yourselves at the first opportunity.

Welcome aboard Melvin. We are honored to have you in our ranks.

3rd Annual Live Fire Event

On Saturday morning August 4th the Major Thomas J. Key Camp held the Third Annual Live Fire event. This was the biggest and best one yet. The following twenty compatriots and friends attended: George Hoffmann, Sr. and his son George Jr., Merle Leech, Jacob Martinez, Eric Martinez and his son Aaron, Dan Peterson, Heath Roland, Gary Roland and son Jason, Jim Speicher and friend David Rogers, Joey Strout, Roger Strout with Josh, Gavin Weir, John Weir with Cameron and two friends. The weather was

perfect and we went through some ammo. As a special surprise Commander Speicher brought out a previously unannounced weapon. So far the group had fired weapons that were used 140 years ago. This time the shooters got an opportunity to fire an M-16 carbine, like the ones being used in Iraq today. What a comparison!

All told the group had a wonderful experience and learned a lot about the weapons that their ancestors fought with. Stayed tuned for the 4th Annual Live Fire event in August 2008.

DeSoto Days Festival

This will be a maximum effort event for the Key Camp and the 3rd Missouri. It will be on Saturday and Sunday September 1 & 2, 2007. We will present our best program yet with the parade, the living history display, the relic display, the recruiting table, and firing demonstrations with the muskets and the cannon. Big, big event. We will start setting up Friday night and several of us will be spending the night out there Friday and Saturday.

The parade is Saturday morning and the other activities will take place over the rest of the weekend. This could very well be our premier event of the year but we need a really strong turnout from the members of the camp. You don't need a Confederate uniform to participate. We need guys in regular clothes to man the display table, relic table, and recruiting table. We need guys in uniform to fire the muskets and pistols. We need members of the 3rd Battery Missouri Light Artillery to fire the cannon demonstrations. We need everyone we can get. There needs to be a strong push for recruiting. It is not too late to attend. Even if you haven't previously signed up you can come out anyway and surprise us. We need people out there to make a good show.

Headstone Dedication

On Saturday morning August 25 the Key Camp conducted a very moving memorial service and headstone dedication at Highland Park Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas. There were four generations of the soldier's family present at the service. Members that participated or attended included Lee Crutchfield, Steve Crutchfield, Craig Freeman, Jackson Hedrick, Merle Leech, Jon Linn, Eric Martinez, Heath Roland, Gary Roland, Lane Smith, Spike Speicher, John Weir. Also in attendance were Carrie Martinez, Cameron Weir, David Weir and Andrew Kuehler. The soldier's family thanked us profusely for the ceremony.



Mine Creek Moonlight Tour

I heard from Dr. Spencer the other day and there are several events he wanted us to be aware of. First and foremost is the Moonlight Tour. It is scheduled earlier this year, being held Saturday night October 13. As in the past there will be several stations that we will "man" for the tours. This has always been a fun event with a very strong Key Camp turnout. Last year it was rained and frozen out. Not so this year. There is room for everyone including wives and girlfriends. If you don't have a uniform we got ya covered. Just let me know what you need. This is a great opportunity for those of you who have some thespian (not lesbian) interests. Plan on attending.

Blue Gray Banquet

Every year the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation sponsors a Blue Gray Banquet as a fund-raiser. These are generally a lot of fun. This year's banquet will be on Friday November 9 and it will be in Fort Scott. Tickets in advance are \$20.00. The speaker this year should be of interest to all of us as he is an honorary member of the camp. It is Bill Kurtis from A&E and the History Channel and who did the documentary on Mine Creek that some of the members "starred" in. If you are interested in attending let Commander Speicher know so a car pool can be arranged.

Harris-Kearney House

The folks that run the Harris-Kearney House have again requested out assistance with several of their upcoming events. First is the Fall Open House, which is from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday October 14. They need a couple of uniformed soldiers to mix and mingle. Civilian reenactors are also needed to portray historic figures from Westport. Then on two consecutive Saturdays (October 20 and 27) they are sponsoring their Battle of Westport 143rd Anniversary Exhibit and they need both soldiers and civilian reenactors. They would also like tents and camps set up on the grounds. The final H-K House event is the 1858 dinner tour that several Key Camp members participated in last year. That will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on three nights: Wednesday November 14, Friday November 16, and Saturday November 17. If you are interested in attending any or all of the H-K House events there will be sign-up sheets at the September and October meetings.

Media Coordinator

I am pleased to announce that a new position has been created within the camp. The position is Media Coordinator. Compatriot Lane Smith has accepted the position. His primary duties will be to get pictures of camp events and submit them to Confederate Veteran magazine. When you look at the pictures that get published they are of camp's doing things that we do all the time. Why not get our pictures and camp name in there instead. Compatriot Smith will also be charged with

getting information about our camp meetings into several of the local newspapers under the "community activities" section in hopes that we might draw some prospective recruits to our meetings. Our thanks to Compatriot Smith for his acceptance.

Another New Position

In addition to the Media Coordinator the camp is also going to have a Cadet Member Coordinator. We currently have three Cadet members. There is potential for numerous others to join the ranks. We need a volunteer to help the members get the Cadets into the SCV and the camp. If you would be interested in helping the camp by volunteering for this position please contact Commander Speicher or Adjutant Roland. Thank you.

The William H. Gregg Chapter (#268) of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars



Did you know: The Camden Point women who made Thornton's Cavalry Regiment flag ("Protect Missouri") were: Mrs. Vina Whitlaw, Mrs. Doctor Hollingsworth, Mrs. Polly Marsh, Mrs. Sallie Calvert, Miss Jennie Spratt and Mrs. Eliza A. Kuykendall (Source of names: Major Kuykendall in his postwar memoirs). Maybe we can find and honorably adorn their graves at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

Joining the MOSB: *The War Between the States produced some of the most outstanding civil and military leaders in the history of mankind. To perpetuate the idealism that animated the Confederate Cause and to honor the courage, devotion and endurance of those who dedicated their lives and services during four years of devastating war, and who, throughout the dreadful decade of reconstruction, labored heroically for the restoration of self-government as the most precious heritage of the American Revolution, male descendants of the officers who honorably served in the Army, Navy and other commands of the Confederate States of America and male descendants of the elected and appointed officials of the Confederate Executive and Legislative branches of government unite to establish The Military Order of the Stars and Bars, a patriotic Society. If you are a male descendant, either directly or indirectly, who served as an officer or official in the Confederacy, then you*

are eligible!

If interested in the MOS&B, please contact me or visit the MOSB website at <http://www.mosbihq.org/index.htm>

Deo Vindice!

Scott A. Porter

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REMINDER!!

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920
WILL BE ON THURSDAY
AUGUST 2nd AT 6:30 P.M.**

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

The Telegraph Key

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