

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

VOL. 9, No. 8

August 2008

AUGUST CAMP MEETING 89th REGULAR MEETING

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday, September 4th, 2008. 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 this month is here for a return engagement. Lee Ward spoke to the camp about 18 months ago when he told us about embalming in the War for Southern Independence. That was an extremely interesting topic. Well, Mr. Ward has agreed to return as our keynote speaker. In keeping with the SCV decree that 2008 is "The Year of Davis", Mr. Ward's presentation will be "The Funeral of Jefferson Davis". This is an extremely interesting presentation about one of the largest funerals in history. You will be astounded at who the pallbearers were for Jefferson Davis. You will be amazed at the number of people that were part of or saw the funeral. And don't forget that the September meeting is also our awards meeting and we will be presenting both national and camp awards to various members. This will certainly be a meeting you don'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:

Key Camp

Gregg Chapter

Commander:	James L. Speicher	Scott Porter
1 st Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield	
2 nd Lieutenant Commander:	Roger Strout	
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland	
Chaplain:	Thomas Ellis	
Historian & Scrapbook:	Loren Lundy	
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.scv.org

New Member #73

This is awesome. I am again proud to announce that we have a new member joining our ranks making our membership 73. We continue to grow and that is the sign of a strong vibrant camp. Our newest member is Shane Eric Kastler who lives in Pleasanton, Kansas. He is right down there by Mine Creek. Shane's Confederate ancestor is Corporal William Robert Monroe Timmons of Company G, 31st Tennessee Infantry. Shane's paperwork has been submitted to IHQ and it should be back in plenty of time to be able to induct him at the September meeting. I hope the distance doesn't hinder his coming to meetings, especially the September induction meeting. Shane, it is great to have you in our ranks and hope you find your experience with the camp to be rewarding and worthwhile. This is a great bunch of guys (and gals) doing lots of great things. So, welcome aboard Shane.

Two Members Inducted at August Meeting



Photo by Tim Peterman

Pictured above is the induction ceremony for new Key Camp members Mike Cecil on Adjutant Roland's left and Jack Poynter on Commander Speicher's right. These two new compatriots brought our camp membership up to 72.

Awards Meeting

Everyone is reminded that the September meeting is our awards meeting. National awards are presented at the SCV Reunion every year. Several Key Camp members won awards this year and I will be presenting those awards at the September meeting. There is another great reason to be sure to attend our meeting on 4 September.

Annual Live Fire Event

The Fifth Annual Major Thomas J. Key Camp Live Fire event took place on Saturday August 9th. We had the Parma Woods Range from 8:00 until 10:00 a.m. The weather was great, nice and cool. The covered range kept us dry during a light rain shower that lasted a couple of minutes. Fifteen members and guests (Craig and Angie Freeman, Merle Leech and Kris Amaro, Eric and Carrie Martinez, Jacob Martinez, Gary Roland, Spike Speicher, Gavin and John Weir, Cameron Weir and two friends, and "Fireworks" Dave) attended and had a great time. We did burn up some ammunition. We are already planning for the Sixth Annual Live Fire event scheduled for Saturday August 8, 2009. Don't miss it!!

Pleasant Grove Cemetery Update

On July 13 the Pleasant Grove Cemetery was cut and it looked good. Unfortunately, due to a full schedule and a senior moment for Commander Speicher, a mowing was not scheduled. A month went by and no mowing was scheduled. The cemetery began to look like a miniature jungle. The good news in that the situation has been rectified. By the 16th of August the entire cemetery had been mowed thanks to Jim King, Scott Porter, Lane Smith, and Spike Speicher. It was not an easy cut but they got the job done and once again the cemetery looks clean and pristine. Our thanks to the four compatriots for a job well done!!!!

DeSoto Days Festival Event

This will be our fifth appearance in this parade. Our float has won a prize in at least three of those times. This is a fun parade and we have always been treated extremely well. This year's theme is "Into The Future" and we have a great entry planned. We will have uniformed Color Guard, followed by a 1930's scenario, followed by SCV today, and ended with SCV Into The Future. In order to really make this an impressive entry, and hopefully win another cash prize, we need people. As of this writing I have ten folks signed up and to do this right I need about five more. I need at least four guys in khaki trousers and camp shirts or regular civilian attire. For the guys in uniform I need five and I currently have four (Lee Crutchfield, Jacob Miroke, Dan Peterson, and Heath Roland). I really need one more uniformed volunteer. For the "SCV Into the Future" portion we need youngsters, lots of youngsters. They will be able to ride during the parade. Please consider coming out to support the camp on this. On Saturday morning 30 August we meet in the parking lot of DeSoto High School at K-10 and the Lexington Road exit at 8:30 a.m. The parade starts at 10:00 and we are done by 11:00 or 11:15. It's a great way to spend a Saturday morning, especially if we win one of the prizes. Bring the family along so they too can watch this wonderful parade.

Some October Events to Anticipate

Two big fun events are scheduled for October. The first is a memorial service and headstone dedication ceremony at Forest Hills Cemetery. The Quantrill Society will be the main sponsor. It will be on Sunday afternoon 12 October from 2:00 until 3:00. They have requested our Color Guard as well as any one else who would like to attend. Attendees can be in camp shirts, civies, or Confederate uniforms.

The second event is the Grand Opening of the Battle of Westport Visitor Center near Starlight Theater. This is shaping up to be very big. We can set up our CW relic display and our recruiting table. It is both days, Saturday and Sunday, 18 and 19 October. They want uniformed people for living histories. We can set up tents. They have invited our reenactment unit (3rd Battery Missouri Light Artillery) to attend and to do firing demonstrations. There will be music, arts and crafts, other types of displays, and food vendors.

Both of these are worthwhile events to support. There will be sign-up sheets at the September and October meetings. Please, if at all possible, support these events by participating and helping the camp.

Major Key's Grave

Thomas Jefferson Key is our camp's namesake. We are extremely proud of his pre-war activities, his record of military service, and his service to his community after the war. Major Key died in 1908 and is buried in Spring Hill Cemetery near Nashville, Tennessee. Our astute adjutant Heath Roland did some research and made a startling discovery. There is a family marker over the plot but Major Key does not have a headstone. Neither does Mrs. Key. Adjutant Roland volunteered to order a headstone for Major Key from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and have it delivered to the cemetery. He contacted the cemetery staff and they said that for \$69.00 they will place the headstone on Major Key's Grave. At the July meeting the camp voted to spend the \$69.00 to have the headstone erected. Major Key's grave will now be properly marked. His grave is marked by the small red flag in the photo below.



Photo courtesy of Spring Hill Cemetery

Missouri's Civil War Heritage Foundation (MCWHF)

MCWHF was founded in 2005 as a non-for-profit organization. The goal of the MCWHF is to develop War Between the States driving trails throughout the state of Missouri. This will be similar to Virginia's Civil War Trails, North Carolina's Civil War Trails, and those of several other states. This is the perfect time to do this because of the approaching sesquicentennial in 2011. The series of trails will go all over the state with the primary trail being The Gray Ghosts Trail. This trail begins in St. Louis and basically follows the I-70 corridor west to Kansas City. Other trails will be the U.S. Grant trail running along the eastern border of Missouri and the J.O. Shelby Trail running from Waverly south of the Missouri River and then going south from the Battle of Westport site. The trails will consist of stops at historic sites marked by MCWHF historical markers.

It was in September 2006 that the SCV got involved when Commander Speicher volunteered to become the district director for the northwestern portion of Missouri. There are a large number of historic sites that need to be marked and they need to tell the real truth about what happened in this area, not the revisionist history so prevalent today. Currently the Gray Ghosts Trail ends at Lexington, Missouri. The mission is to bring the trail west into Kansas City, and then both north into St. Joseph and south to Nevada. Funding has been received to cover the first five markers in this area and they will document "The Struggle for Platte County - 1864". The markers will trace the events of July 1864 that terminated with the battle of Camden Point. Markers will be set at Parkville, Platte City, Weston, and Camden Point. Key Camp members Eric Martinez, Scott Porter and Lane Smith have been extensively involved, as has Jerry Smith from the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City.

REMINDER!!

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE

MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 4th 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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