

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

VOL. 12, No. 8

AUGUST 2011

SEPTEMBER CAMP MEETING 122nd Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday September 1st, 2011. 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 is always a special meeting as September is when we recognize those compatriots in the camp for the outstanding work they have done over the past year. Both National Awards and the Camp Superior Member Awards will be given to deserving members. Commander Speicher will also give a presentation on the vision and goal of the SCV. This topic was discussed in length by the General Executive Committee (GEC) and was presented to the general membership at the National Convention in Montgomery, Alabama last month. You will see that our Commander-in-Chief Michael Givens is a forwarding thinking individual. I think you will find this to be a very interesting and fun evening. 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

Commander:	James L. Speicher
1 st Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield
2 nd Lieutenant Commander:	John Weir (TDY) Acting - Steve Crawford
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland
Chaplain:	Carl Linck
Communications Officer:	Steve Crawford
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.scv.org

Dues Are Due

My thanks to all of you that have already paid your dues for the next year. For those who haven't paid yet, I sincerely hope you will renew; we need your support. The SCV operates on a fiscal year that runs from August 1 to July 31 each year; therefore our annual dues are due the end of July. Dues notices have been sent out to everyone. The dues for one year in the SCV and the Key Camp are very reasonable compared to other similar organizations. Of course your dues include your subscription to *Confederate Veteran* magazine, which costs the general public \$25.00 a year.

Your membership is extremely important. Why? Because our Southern heritage, especially now during the sesquicentennial, is being viciously attacked by our detractors. Our flags are being pulled down, our monuments are being destroyed, and our ancestors are

being denigrated and called traitors for doing the same thing our Revolutionary War heroes did. They wanted their independence. The SCV has almost 30,000 members and there is strength in numbers. Just being a member helps support the fight to save our heritage.

The Key Camp has 74 members, the largest camp in the Kansas Division. We should be setting the example for the other camps. However, as of this date, we have 23 members that have not submitted their dues. That is almost a third of our members. Please, if you have not yet sent in your dues please do so right away. Send them to Adjutant Heath Roland in the envelope provided with your dues notice. If you lost the envelope you may send your dues to Adjutant Roland at 2827 North 73rd Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66109-1714. Don't delay-mail today!!

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board of the Key Camp had a meeting on Tuesday 16 August at Commander Speicher's residence. The meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m., had present Executive Board members Commander Spike Speicher, First Lieutenant Commander Lee Crutchfield, and Communications Officer Steve Crawford. With three out of the five board members present we did have a majority and could conduct votes. Also attending the meeting were Compatriots Merle Leech and Lane Smith. Several important issues were discussed and voted on.

FY-2012 Dues. There are still a number of members who have not paid their dues. We will wait a couple of weeks and then each non-paying member will be contacted by a board member.

2012 Lee-Jackson Banquet. It will be held on Saturday January 21, 2012. We discussed and voted on having the banquet this year at the Alexander Majors Historic House on State Line Road. The cost

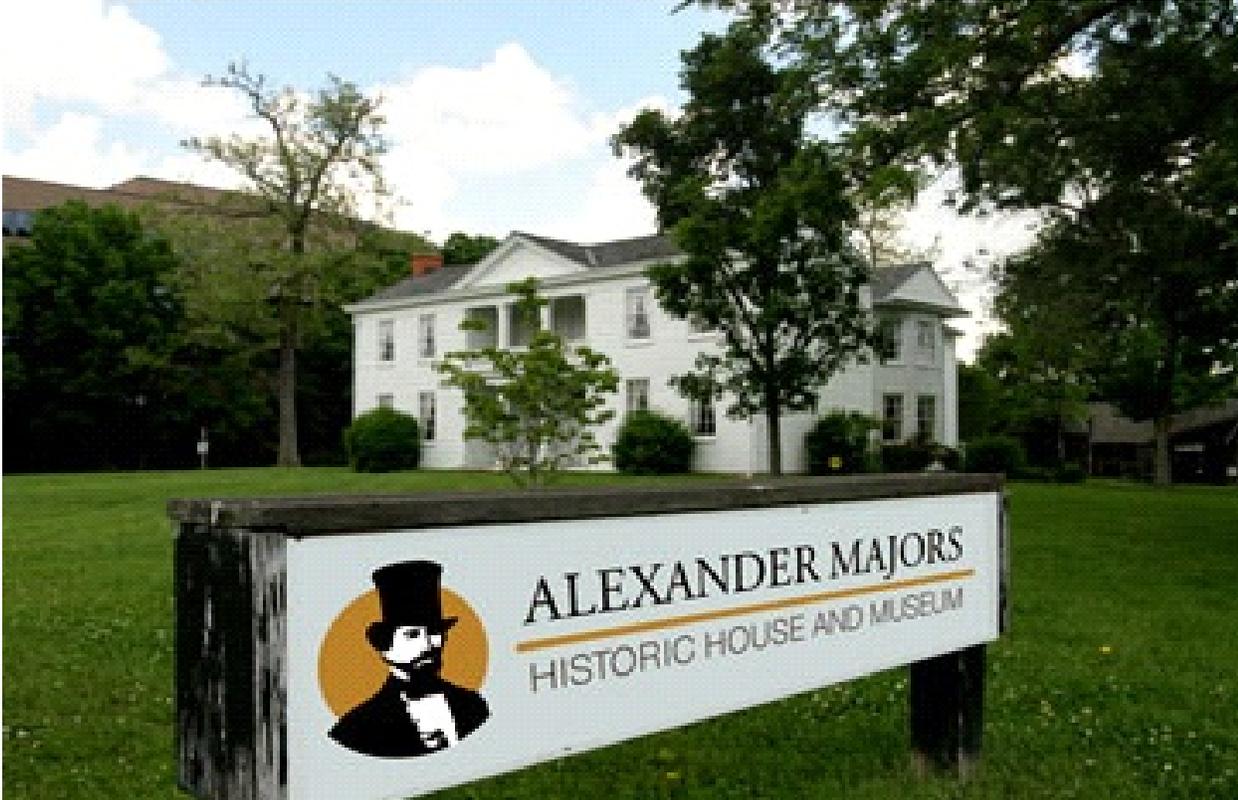
is less than Grinter Place and it is larger. The cost is \$150. We have not yet confirmed a key note speaker for the banquet.

We discussed nominations for the Key's Battery Award that will be presented at the Lee-Jackson banquet.

Pleasant Grove Cemetery. We decided that even though the church group cleared the back portion of the cemetery we would only care for the portion we have always taken care of. We are not responsible for the area they cleared. It was decided that a schedule for mowing should be established rather than the "let's go mow tomorrow" method. Compatriot Lane Smith volunteered to set up a schedule and run the program.

Mine Creek Workday. We scheduled the Fall Workday for Saturday October 1st. See the article below for details on the workday.

2012 Lee-Jackson Banquet



The Alexander Majors House will be the site of the 2012 Lee-Jackson Banquet. Scheduled for Saturday January 21st, 2012, the 11th Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet will be held in the banquet facility directly behind this historic house. You can see that facility in the right rear in the above photo. Constructed in 1856, Majors' 3,400 square foot ante-bellum home in Kansas City is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Restored in 1984, the home features original hardwood floors and millwork, as well as furnishings of the era.

Mine Creek Fall Workday

As y'all know our two attempts at a Spring Workday were weathered out. So we are going to try again, for a Fall Workday, Saturday 1 October 2011. Our goal is to place two concrete benches at the monument and have it completed in one day. Therefore, one group will have to go down early (arrive 0830) to dig the base, place the forms, and pour the concrete. We'll wait for the concrete to set up a bit, then put the benches in place. There will be rebar in the legs of the bench. The rest of the group can come in around 10:00 a.m. There will be coffee and donuts at the Visitor Center. There are some trees that we need to take down so please bring any chainsaws you have and other cutting implements. Hopefully we can be done by around 2:00 p.m. At the August and/or September meeting we will get volunteers for the advance party and the later party.

150th Anniversary of Wilson's Creek

The reenactment of the battle of Wilson's Creek, commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the battle, was held on August 12 through 14, 2011. Fortunately the weather cooperated so it was not stifflingly hot. Some 3,000 reenactors conducted two battles on Saturday and one battle on Sunday. Spectators were estimated at 15,000 to 20,000 total for the event. The Key Camp's reenactment unit, the 3rd Battery Missouri Light Artillery, represented the camp well. Members Rick Bullock, Travis Bullock, Lee Crutchfield, Craig Freeman, Merle Leech, Eric Martinez, Jacob Martinez, and Spike Speicher manned the 6-pounder field piece with dazzling accuracy. Next up for the battery is Lemoni, Iowa September 2-4; and the Battle of Lexington, Missouri September 16-18.

Veteran's Day Parades

Every year for at least the past eight or nine years, our camp has participated in two Veteran's Day Parades, one in Ottawa and one in Leavenworth. This year appears to be no different. True to form, the Ottawa Parade is always held the Saturday before the real Veteran's Day, while Leavenworth holds theirs on the actual day of the holiday, regardless of the day of the week. We always have a great turnout and a lot of fun at the Ottawa Parade. We always set up the 3rd Battery Missouri Light Artillery's 6-pounder field piece in the park after the parade and do demonstration firing. There are all sorts of military weapon and equipment displays in the park as well. This year the Ottawa Parade is on Saturday November 5. More details will be forthcoming but please mark your calendar now!

For the past several years the Leavenworth Parade has fallen on a week day when most people have to work. As a result we have had a low turnout. What we have done during those years is have a joint Color Guard with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Franklin Post #5. With two or three folks from each camp we can put together a nice Color Guard with both flags. Regrettably, again this year the Leavenworth Parade falls on a weekday. It will be on Friday November 11th. What I am hoping is that maybe we can get a few more guys to turn out on a Friday so we can have our own Color Guard. The good news is that in 2012 and 2013 the Leavenworth Parades will be on the weekend so we can really show them our strength.

Please mark both dates on your calendar and plan to attend. As the events get closer we will get more details, which I will pass on to y'all.

REMINDER!!

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE

MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 1st AT 6:30 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

The Telegraph Key

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