

THE TELEGRAPH KEY



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



VOL. 13, No. 8

AUGUST 2012

SEPTEMBER CAMP MEETING 133rd 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, 2012. 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. We have a very qualified and interesting speaker lined up. Dr. Tim Westcott, PhD, is Chairman of the History Department at Park University. As our guest speaker, he will be discussing the life of Robert E. Lee in the last years of his life. The emphasis will be on the years that General Lee spent at Washington University in Lexington, Virginia. Today it is Washington and Lee University in the General's honor. So join us for an evening of historical education as we learn about a part of General Robert E. Lee's life that was extremely important to the post-war South and yet mostly ignored by historians. You really do not want to miss this presentation. It is sure to be awesome. So 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
Adjutant:	Steven Crawford
Chaplain:	Carl Linck
Communications Officer:	Steven 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.scvc.org

NEW MEMBER

Okay - I'm still waiting

Key Camp Family Picnic

The annual Key Camp Family Picnic was held at Shawnee Mission Park off Renner Road between Midland and 87th Street on Saturday 4 August. The weather was perfect, the setting was perfect, and the food was perfect. Best of all, the camaraderie was awesome. Members and their wives, along with children and grandchildren enjoyed all the activities. The playground was adjacent to the site and received rave reviews from the kids. We had between 45 folks attending and everyone thoroughly enjoyed them selves. I even heard several folks say that we had the best hamburger they had ever had. Thanks to our cooks Lee Crutchfield and Jim Thornton. We also appreciate all the goodies the families brought and Steve Crawford for hauling the grill. We are already making plans for next year's picnic.



The crowd enjoying home made ice cream compliments of 2nd Lieutenant Commander John Weir.



The chow line - there was plenty of food.

New Key Camp Adjutant

Effective July 31, 2012, the Executive Committee appointed Compatriot Steve Crawford as Adjutant for the camp. He replaces Heath Roland and will complete the last five months of the term of office of the previous Adjutant. For the upcoming officer elections, the Adjutant position will be permanently filled by whomever the camp elects. From this point forward, all administrative requests/questions/actions etc. should be directed to Adjutant Crawford.

National Reunion 2013

Now that the dust has settled from the Murfreesboro Reunion, plans are being made for Key Camp members to attend the 2013 National Reunion to be held in Vicksburg, Mississippi from July 18 to 21, 2013. I have heard a briefing from the host camps and it appears that this convention will be nothing but

spectacular. Commander Speicher has reservation forms that will be available at the next few meetings. Many Missouri units fought at Vicksburg and many camp members have ancestors that fought in some of those units. There is a lot to see and do both socially and historically in and around Vicksburg. The rooms at the host hotel will fill quickly so if you think you might attend, be sure to make reservations now. It appears that there is substantial interest from camp members wanting to attend this convention. With any luck, we could break the camp attendance record set at the Hot Springs Reunion with 12 members and 8 wives. Stay tuned for more information.

Key Camp National Awards

As a reminder, the September meeting is also our awards meeting. Several members of the camp received national recognition at the Murfreesboro Reunion. Commander Speicher, who brought the awards back from the reunion, will present them at the September meeting. The awards include the Superior Camp Member Awards from the camp. That is another good reason NOT to miss the September meeting.

Camp Officer Elections

The Key Camp Constitution stipulates that the election of officers will occur every two years on even numbered years. Since 2012 in an even number, it means that elections will be held to determine the leadership of the camp for 2013 and 2014. The positions to be filled are the Commander, 1st Lieutenant Commander, 2nd Lieutenant Commander, and Adjutant. Nomination forms will be distributed at the October meeting. Completed forms must be received by the November meeting. At the December meeting, we will announce the winners and they will take office on January 1, 2013. These positions are important and must be filled by individuals who are willing to put in the time to do the job. While

officership can be fun, it also comes with responsibilities so make your nominations thoughtfully, not based on friendship. If you would like to throw your hat in the ring, there is nothing that says you cannot nominate yourself.

Inspector-in-Chief

Recently Commander Speicher received a call from Commander-in-Chief Michael Givens. C-I-C Givens asked if Commander Speicher would serve at the national level as the Inspector-in-Chief for the SCV. Commander Speicher accepted the offer and now serves in that capacity. His duties will include conducting investigations of complaints of member misconduct filed with the General Executive Committee. As such, Commander Speicher will be a voting member of the Disciplinary Committee. The Key Camp continues to keep its footprint on the national scene.

2012 Dues Are Due

Just a reminder that dues notices went out August 5th to all members. The SCV runs on a fiscal year beginning August 1. That means that the dues you are paying now cover FY- 2012, which runs from August 1, 2011 through July 31, 2012. We have had a constant stream of dues payments so far but there are still many of you that have not paid. If you are one of those who have not paid, please get your check to me as soon as you can. It makes accounting much easier and guarantees no interruption of membership and no interruption of Confederate Veteran Magazine. Plus there is no reinstatement fee of \$5.00.

SCV Life Membership

There are currently 9 Life Members in the Key Camp. The question has been asked of me more than once - how much does it cost to become a life member. The cost is based on your age at the time of application:

Age 12-64 = \$750 Age 65-79 = \$375 Age 80+ = \$187.50

Payment can be a one-time submission of the full amount or there is a Conditional Life Membership payment plan. With the CLM, you pay an installment of \$150.00 upon application. You MUST continue to pay regular dues until the final CLM installment is paid. CLM must be paid in full within 48 months of the first installment. Applications can be found on the SCV website or contact either Commander Speicher or Adjutant Crawford for more information.

REMINDER!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 6th AT 6:30 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

The Telegraph Key

Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Sons of Confederate Veterans

7325 Oakview Street

Shawnee, Kansas 66216-5527