

# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

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VOL. 8, No. 2

February 2007

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## MARCH CAMP MEETING

73<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. We will be meeting at Chen's Super Buffet located on the southeast corner of Shawnee Mission Parkway and Quivira in Shawnee, Kansas. We will meet between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. for dinner and start the official meeting at 7:00. Once again we have a really top-notch speaker for your enjoyment. Mr. William McKale is from Fort Riley where he is the Director of the U.S. Army Cavalry Museum. If you have never seen this museum it is worth the trip to Fort Riley, which is only about two and a half hours west of Kansas City. Many people don't realize that Fort Riley dates back to 1852 and was a training ground for soldiers and officers that would serve in the Confederate Army. Mr. McKale's presentation will be on Confederate officers that served at Fort Riley in the years preceding the War of Northern Aggression. For instance, JEB Stuart was stationed there and helped physically to build a church that is still standing. It has a historic plaque on it with that information. Don't miss this interesting meeting. 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 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Roger Strout.	
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland	C. Heath Roland
Chaplain:	Steven Crutchfield	
Historian & Scrapbook:	Loren Lundy	
Web Master:	John Weir	
Newsletter Editor:	James L. Speicher	
Event Coordinator	Gary Roland	

### Key Camp On The Web

Key Camp: [www.majorkey1920ksscvalg](http://www.majorkey1920ksscvalg)

SCV National: [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)

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New Member #64

Okay - see story at the top of  
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## Leavenworth Militaria Show

The Major Thomas J. Key Camp began its 2007 recruiting season with the Leavenworth Militaria Show on Saturday February 3. We have participated in this show for many years and have gotten several members from it. It was held in the Frontier Conference Center on Fort Leavenworth from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. We had a wonderful display of War Between the States relics and weapons as well as our recruiting material. We talked with a lot of folks and came away from the show with five new prospective members. I want to thank Compatriots Scott Porter, Merle Leech, John Weir, and Bob Webster for helping Commander Speicher man the display. Gentlemen, it was a job well done. Let's hope all five of our prospects decide to join us.

## Liberty Memorial Show

Next up will be a display/recruiting table at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri on Saturday March 3. This is actually an event sponsored by the Kansas City Military Collectors Club (KCMCC) and is free to the public. The show is in the lobby area and one of the side rooms of Liberty Memorial. Since Commander Speicher and Compatriot Scott Porter are members of the KCMCC, they have conspired to have a two-table display of both World War I and War Between the States memorabilia. In addition to display items there will be Key Camp recruiting paraphernalia available for all to see. This will be only the second year we have done this so we are hoping for good results. The show will run from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. All Key Camp members are invited to come and see our display as well as the displays of numerous other KCMCC members. While the displays are free, any members wishing to visit to the world-class Liberty Memorial WWI Museum will have to pay the regular admission fee. The museum store will be open at no charge for admission.

## Date Set For Spring Workday at Mine Creek Battlefield

I received confirmation from Dr. John Spencer, President of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation about our Spring Workday. He confirmed that Saturday March 24 was a good date. Again, as in the past, we will meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. and receive our marching orders for the day. We will break around 2:00 or 3:00 in the afternoon and head for home. One group I know will work on a spring cleanup of our monument and the grounds around it. It really needs to be spruced up after the winter. Since I'm not sure what others duties we will have I would suggest that we bring the usual implements of destruction such as rakes, saws, weed whackers, maybe a lawn mower, and other such items. Use your imagination on what to bring. Please plan to come out that day and help. This is the kind of activity that the SCV is all about. There will be a sign-up sheet passed around at the March meeting. Don't miss this chance to go out and help restore the battlefield to its 1864 appearance. It is a good chance to get the cobwebs out of our bodies from lying dormant all winter.

## Mahaffie Recruiting Event

Our first big recruiting event is coming up very quickly. It is the Civil War reenactment at the Mahaffie House and Stagecoach Stop State Historic Site in Olatha. The dates are Saturday and Sunday April 21 and 22, 2007. This year's event will be the biggest yet in the way of participating reenactors and visitors. We have always set up a top-notch display area and recruiting table and this year should be no different. We have gotten a number of new members from this event. We will be set up all day both days. The major problem we have is having enough men to man the tables. We get a tremendous number of people coming

through our display and talking with us. We need to have enough folks out there to answer everyone's questions. Please sign up to help man the tables, even if you can only come out for an hour or two. There will be a sign up sheet circulated at the March meeting so PLEASE help out. If you've never done this before, it's easy. Come out and listen to the rest of us and then jump in. If there is a question you can't answer someone will be with you that can. You'd be surprised how much fun we have. So look forward to the event. Since it is a reenactment our own 3<sup>rd</sup> battery Missouri Light Artillery, CSA, will be there firing their cannon. Be sure and stop by the camp area and check out their campsite. There is always coffee brewing.

## ATM Meeting

Commander Chuck Norred, Army of the Trans-Mississippi has called an official ATM meeting to be held on 14 April 2007 in Osceola, Missouri. It will begin at 8:00 a.m. Attendance by all compatriots of the ATM is encouraged. The meeting will be held the same day as the Colonel Coffee Camp's Confederate Heritage Dinner. After the meeting there will be a bus tour that will go to one of the caves used by the James and Youngers as a hide out. The tour will then proceed to the site where Pinkerton agents killed John Younger. Lunch will be in Roscoe close to where the gunfight occurred in which John Younger was killed. The bus will return to the meeting site where you can head home or stick around for the Confederate Heritage Dinner. The cost of the bus tour, including lunch, is only \$15.00 per person. Reservations for the tour and lunch should be sent to Gary Ayres, 3615 South 70<sup>th</sup> Road, Humansville, Missouri 65674. If you would like to attend the dinner you can obtain all the details by contacting Compatriot Ayers at [garyayres@centurytel.net](mailto:garyayres@centurytel.net). The dinner speaker is the well-known Southern author Donnie Kennedy (no relation to Ed Kennedy).

## Confederate Memorial Day

This year Confederate Memorial Day in Kansas will be celebrated on Saturday April 28. The actual day for Kansas compatriots is April 26, the date that General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered the last Confederate army of any significance. In the past we have set up a living history camp, civil war display, and recruiting table at the Mine Creek Battlefield. While in theory this is a good idea it has not panned out that well. We have gotten very little visitor traffic any of the years we have been there. I think about ten people were the most we have had. Last year's event was rained out. I'm looking for ideas on other options we can do to celebrate the day as well as perhaps do some recruiting. It could be a campsite at a more lucrative site, a memorial service someplace, or just about anything we want it to be. I am open to suggestions so if you have an idea please bring it to my attention so the camp can decide what to do. We WILL do something we just need to figure out what.

### The Captain William Gregg Chapter #268 of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars



Captain William Henry Gregg was in the Missouri State Guard and one of the original seven members of Quantrill's gang when he joined on or about Christmas day 1861. He served as an officer under Quantrill until early in 1864 when he felt that the gang had come apart at the seams (due to some bad men) while in Texas. Although Gregg still admired Quantrill (in Gregg's own words "I will ever hold his memory sacred"), he decided to depart the gang and join Colonel Shanks Brigade under Brig. Gen, J.O. Shelby in Arkansas. Shanks recognized Captain Gregg as a regular Confederate officer and gave him command of company "H" in Erwin's Regiment. Gregg fought bravely and honorably through the remainder of the war, including at Camden, Ashley's and Jones Stations and of course the great Missouri Raid of 64. Capt. Gregg even found time to marry Elizabeth Eleanor Hook of Odessa in November 1864 (they eventually had five children). Shelby and Gregg had a

mutual admiration, which lasted a lifetime, and upon Shelby's return from Mexico after the war, they were lawmen together in Jackson County. Rumor has it that more than a few carpetbaggers were dealt a swift justice! Gregg wrote manuscripts on Quantrill and Jesse James and served as one of the pallbearers for both John and Cole Younger. Capt. Gregg died April 22, 1916 and is buried near J.O. Shelby at Forest Hill Cemetery in Kansas City, MO.



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FYI, I have more copies of the Missouri Historical Review containing the story about the action at Camden Point (Bashi-Bazouks and Rebels Too) for \$5. For MOSB membership, it is open to direct *or collateral* male descendants of Confederate commissioned officers and of any elected or appointed member of the Executive Branch of the Confederate Government. I invite you to join this organization of honor and service. If interested, please contact me or visit the MOSB website at <http://www.mosbihq.org/index.htm>

Deo Vindice!

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**REMINDER!!**

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE  
MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920  
WILL BE ON THURSDAY**

**MARCH 1st 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*