

# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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## THE OFFICIAL DISPATCH FOR THE MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920 SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS KANSAS DIVISION KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

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### MARCH CAMP MEETING 94<sup>th</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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We will be meeting at Zarda's Barbecue located on the southwest corner of 87<sup>th</sup> 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. About a year ago we had scheduled Dr. Jenny Weber from KU as our speaker. She had written a book about Copperheads and was going to discuss exactly who and what the Copperheads were. They were a strong segment of the population in the North that was opposed to Abraham Lincoln. That's right! Yankees opposed to Lincoln. Be still my heart. Regrettably, due to weather first and then a sickness in her family, we have been unable to reschedule her. . .UNTIL NOW! That's right, Dr. Jenny Weber has confirmed to be our speaker at the March meeting. Be advised she will probably have some copies of her book available and will probably be willing to personally autograph them. So come and learn about a portion of the period not very well known. As usual wives/significant others are always welcome. Dress is always casual. Don't forget to bring a guest or prospective member.

## 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:  
First Lieutenant Commander:  
Second Lieutenant Commander:  
Interim Second Lieutenant Commander  
Adjutant:  
Chaplain:  
Historian & Scrapbook:  
Web Master:  
Newsletter Editor:  
Media Coordinator  
Cadet Member Coordinator

### Key Camp

James L. Speicher  
Lee Crutchfield  
Roger Strout  
John Weir  
C. Heath Roland  
Rev. Thomas T. Ellis  
Loren Lundy  
John Weir  
James L. Speicher  
Lane Smith  
Lee Crutchfield

### Key Camp On The Web

Key Camp: [www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org](http://www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org)  
SCV National: [www.scvc.org](http://www.scvc.org)

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## Loss of Members

It is always a possibility that our camp will lose members and such is the case this month. Regrettably we have lost two. Compatriot Gary Roland, a charter member of our camp, passed away on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Please see the article on page 3 titled "A Tribute to Compatriot Gary Roland". From reading that you will see that the Key Camp not only lost one of her most active and superb members, but she lost a dear friend.

Our second loss was Compatriot Scott Porter. Scott lives in Weston, Missouri and he has elected to transfer his membership to the Brigadier General William Steele Camp in Leavenworth. He cites the fact that it is an hour drive to our meetings and a seven-minute drive to Steele Camp meetings. Both will be missed. Our membership now stands at 75.

## A Tribute To Compatriot Gary Roland



Gary Roland (right) receives the  
Commander's Award from Commander Speicher

On February 6, 2009, our camp suffered a loss that is irreplaceable. At approximately 10:15 a.m. that day Compatriot Gary L. Roland passed away at the age of 68. I have known Gary, and his son Heath (our camp Adjutant), for over ten years. It was the SCV that brought us together when the three of us were members of the newly formed Brigadier General William Steele Camp #1857 in Leavenworth, Kansas. Gary and I bonded

immediately as we were only a few years apart in age. Despite our totally different backgrounds, Gary was in education and I was in the military and law enforcement, we became very close friends. Gary and Heath and I left the Steele Camp to form the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 in April of 2000. Gary was a charter member of our camp as a Fellowship member. I clearly remember the day Gary scared the heck out me when, at one of our meetings, he stood up and said he had had enough of this Fellowship member stuff and was not going to be a Fellowship member anymore. The way he said I really thought he was going to resign from the camp and my heart skipped a beat at that thought. When he started laughing I realized he was joking as he announced that he had finally made the Confederate connection - he had found a Confederate ancestor and could become a regular member. Gary gave a lot to our camp. His dedication is apparent when you realize that he received the Superior Camp Member Award in 2001, in 2002 an SCV Commander-in-Chief's Certificate of Appreciation, the Superior Camp Member Award in 2003, the first ever Commander's Award in 2004, the Key's Battery Award in 2005, the second Commander's Award and the SCV Meritorious Service Medal in 2006, and finally the SCV Distinguished Service Medal in 2007. Gary set a standard of excellence in support of our camp activities. But I must say that one of the most amazing accomplishments that Gary achieved, and one that will be extremely hard to beat, is the fact that he never missed a camp meeting for the first 91 meetings. Let me say that again - he attended every camp meeting for 91 consecutive meetings. That is a record that will stand forever. So you can understand it when I say I cannot imagine the camp without him. But life goes on, and the camp and all of her members will go on, knowing that we are all better people because our lives were touched by Gary Roland.

## VETS CAN NOW SALUTE THE FLAG

For years, Veterans have wanted to salute the U.S. flag during the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem instead of placing their hand over their heart. Now they can.

A Congressional Amendment sponsored by Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 specifically states that "members of the Armed Forces and Veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute." Veterans can salute the flag during the National Anthem as well as during "the hoisting, lowering and passing of the flag."

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," said Inhofe. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. The U.S. Code is now consistent for Veterans and all service members in regards to the symbolic gesture of the military salute." Courtesy of the winter 2009 Freedom Team Salute newsletter.

## **Kansas Day at Eisenhower School**

On Friday January 30<sup>th</sup> the Major Thomas J. Key Camp participated, for the fourth year in a row, in the Kansas Day celebration. Held at Eisenhower Elementary School on Fort Leavenworth, the event consisted of an entire gymnasium of historical displays and hands-on activities for the 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Displays and activities included such things as butter churning, corn shucking, knitting, cornhusk doll making, quilting, basket weaving, lace tatting, broom making, rope making, wheat weaving, and wood-carving, plus a whole lot more. Of course the best display of the show was the Confederate soldier display set up by the Key Camp. The Yankees next to us also had a display, as did the Buffalo Soldiers. The continental breakfast and hot lunch provided made it an awesome day. Representing the Key Camp were Commander Speicher and Compatriot Merle Leech. I also want to thank Commander Ed Kennedy of the Brigadier General William Steele Camp

#1857, Leavenworth, Kansas, for coming out to help man the display tables.

## Two Members Inducted

At the February 5 meeting the Major Thomas J. Key Camp had the honor of inducting two new members. Commander Speicher and Chaplain, the Reverend Thomas T. Ellis conducted the ceremony that brought Compatriots Leonard Jackson and Wendell Williams officially into the ranks of the Key Camp and the SCV.



Leonard Jackson (center) and Wendell Williams (right) take the SCV oath administered by Chaplain Tom Ellis (left). Photo by Tim Peterman

## Leavenworth Militaria Show and Sale

The Key Camp was out in force on Saturday 7 February 2009 at Fort Leavenworth. The camp had a recruiting table set up at the annual Militaria Show. The table was manned all day by Merle Leech, Dan Peterson and Spike Speicher. Chaplain Tom Ellis spent the later part of the day there and helped with the take down of the table. This was a well-attended show and we spoke to a lot of people. I believe it was worth our time as we talked with several prospective members. Compatriots Eric Martinez, Jacob Martinez, and Scott Lalumondier stopped by the table as well. I want to thank all the members who helped make the recruiting table a success.



The Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 Recruiting Table

## **Military Display at WWI Museum**

For those of you that are interested, the Kansas City Military Collectors Club (KCMCC) will be having a one-day display at the World War I Museum on Saturday March 21. It is free and open to the public. Items from all wars will be on display in the area outside the theater. No charge to see it. You would still have to pay to go in the museum but this display is free. Several compatriots have attended in the past and agree that it is well worth the time to see it. It runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Give Me A Break!!!**

The Kansas City Star ran the following article on February 11, 2009:

"Civil War reference brings an apology"

"Webb City legislator uses 'War of Northern Aggression' in a debate on federal abortion proposal."

"JEFFERSON CIY | An unexpected turn of phrase on Tuesday upended a debate over abortion in the Missouri House."

"While attempting to criticize the extent of federal authority exercised in the Freedom of Choice Act suggested by some Congressional Democrats, Rep Bryan Stevenson, a Webb City Republican, referred to the Civil War as the 'War of Northern Aggression.'"

"What we are dealing with today is the greatest power grab by the federal government since the War of Northern Aggression," Stevenson said."

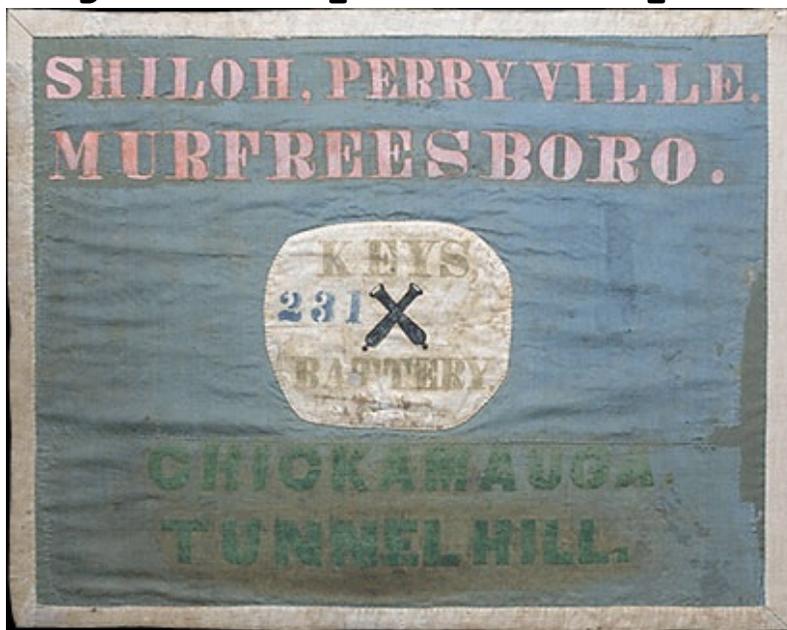
"The statement drew an audible gasp from the chamber. Rep Don Calloway, a St. Louis Democrat who is African-American, demanded an apology."

"Stevenson immediately retracted his statement, assuring he meant no ill will toward anyone and raising his own Cherokee Indian heritage as proof of his sensitivity to slavery."

"I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely apologize for any offense that my earlier comment made," he said."

Comments by Spike - What ever happened to freedom of speech in this country that we can't even talk about history without "offending" someone? World War I has been called "The Great War". Doesn't that offend all military people who fought in all wars before and after World War I? Wasn't their war a "great war"? The Korean War has been called the "Forgotten War", which I'm sure offends all Korean War veterans. So what gives Don Calloway the right to force someone to apologize for using the term War of Northern Aggression to describe the War Between the States? It doesn't have a tinkers darn to do with slavery. Give me a break!!!

### Original Key's Battery Flag



Picture will be available at the meeting

This picture is of the original flag of Key's Battery that was captured on September 1, 1864 during the battle of Jonesboro, Georgia. The number 231 in the center was the U.S. War Department Capture number and was not part of the original flag. The flag is preserved at the Old State House Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas.

## Camden Point Cover

How many people knew that there was a postal cover (envelop) issued on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Camden Point? I don't think any of us knew that. Because of the sharp eyes of Compatriot Keith Phillips, one of our Key Camp SCV Life Members, we now know that it exists. Compatriot Phillips recently obtained a box of "old stamps" and while going through it he found the

Picture would not print  
Cover available to see at meeting

cover. Inside the cover was a small fact sheet telling about the battle. While not completely correct historically, it was obviously written from a Southern viewpoint. What is really interesting is that at the bottom of the fact sheet is "SITE IS BEING RESTORED". Could they see to June 3, 2000 when the Key Camp actually began to work on "restoring the site"? The picture above shows the front of the cover with the fact sheet directly below. Thank you Compatriot Phillips for this wonderful find.

## Division Election Coming Up

All compatriots of the Key Camp should have received a copy of the Kansas Division newsletter dated February 2009. If you did not receive it contact me immediately and I will forward you a copy. Included in the newsletter is the official ballot for voting for Division leadership positions. All four people running for office are running unopposed and are incumbents in the position. I personally know all four individuals and feel that all of them are doing a fine job and I strongly endorse each of them, although we are not voting for the office of Indian Brigade Commander since we are not part of that brigade. Also included are proposed changes to the Kansas Division Constitution. The first amendment would establish rules for a new Project Locate Committee. This is good and I endorse passing proposed amendment #1. Amendment #3 does away with a Code of Conduct that applies to the Division staff and Division Executive Committee. This applies only to those two elements of the division and I recommend voting against Amendment #3. Proposed Amendments #2 and #4 basically do away with the popular vote and establish voting by delegates. One delegate represents ten camp members. While this is how voting is done at the national level with hundreds of camps and hundreds of delegates I don't feel it is

appropriate for a division our size. I support the idea that each member has a vote. If our division had 700 or 800 members then I would consider this amendment but not now. I recommend voting against Amendments #2 and #4.

## REMINDER!

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE  
MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920  
WILL BE HELD  
ON SATURDAY 5 MARCH 2009

### *The Telegraph Key*

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