

THE TELEGRAPH KEY



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



VOL. 16, No. 1 _____ JANUARY 2015

FEBRUARY CAMP MEETING THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2015 159th REGULAR MEETING

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday February 5th, 2015. We will be meeting at Zarda's Barbecue located on the southwest corner of 87th Street and Quivira in Lenexa, Kansas. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and start the official meeting at 7:00. Our guest speaker for the evening is Mr. Richard Wright, a friend I have known for many years. His topic for is "A Visit To Historic Fort Leavenworth". His slide show presentation looks at the many historic buildings, the sites, and some of the people at a fort that played a crucial role in the War of Northern Aggression in the local area. I think this will be a most interesting presentation that will enlighten all of us. For those of you who have never been on the post, this will be extremely interesting. So come on out for the February meeting and hear about the little known Mormon War of 1838. Bring your wife or significant other, as they are always welcome. 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 D. Thornton
1 st Lieutenant Commander:	John Weir
2 nd Lieutenant Commander:	James L. Speicher
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.scv.org

Recruiting Report

We had a very good response on our dues that were collected beginning in August 2014. We had six members that failed to renew. We lost Ricky Bullock, Josh Crutchfield, Arnold Graham, and Gavin Weir. There were two other members who paid their dues late but are back on the roster. Over all that equates to a 6% loss in our membership. Our roster went from 64 to 60 members. That is regrettable. However, the good news is that we picked up two past members (Michael and Garrett Tucker), as well as a reinstatement of Jordan Walthall. At the Lee-Jackson Banquet we had a new member turn in his application. John David Coney is our 64th member so we are back where we were. Hopefully we will do better on our dues this year.

2015 Lee-Jackson Banquet

I am pleased to announce that this year's Lee-Jackson Banquet was a great success. We had 53 attendees this year which is good. Our guest speaker, Cassie Gray, gave an awesome presentation on Stonewall Jackson and about his relationship with General Robert E. Lee. Shane Smith did an excellent job on the live auction as some very nice items sold. Compatriot Scott Lalumondier was the MC for the Candlelight Memorial Service and did a great job. This year's catered meal was the best we have had in many years as the steaks were grilled on site so they were fresh and hot. All told it was a fun evening for who were there. It really was one of the best banquets we have had.

New Officers Sworn In

At the 2015 Lee-Jackson Banquet the newly elected officers for the camp were sworn. They will serve for two years (2015-2016). Those sworn in were:

Commander -----Jim Thornton
1st Lieutenant Commander----John Weir
2nd Lieutenant Commander----Spike Speicher
Adjutant-----Steve Crawford
Chaplain-----Carl Linck

An Open Letter to the Camp

Gentlemen:

I cannot find words to demonstrate the honor I have had for the last 14 plus years serving as your commander. It has been one of the most rewarding and enjoyable elements in my life. I have been in the SCV for over 25 years and have been a member of numerous camps throughout the country and I can honestly say that the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 is probably the most

ambitious and active camp of any of them. Some of you say the camp won't be the same without me as commander and I say this camp will thrive because of men like you, the members of the camp, regardless of who is commander. Jim Thornton will lead you for the next two years (at least) and he will do an exceptional job with your continued support. As you know I have accepted the position of 2nd Lieutenant Commander with the responsibility for recruiting and retention so I will still be at all our activities. The only difference now is that I can sit in the audience and heckle the guy at the podium. Let's see if this year we can break the 70 mark for members - we only need six new members.

I want to thank every member of the camp for the beautiful wood engraved plaque presented to me at the banquet. It is gorgeous and will have a place of honor in my office at home. Many of you know of my genealogical efforts to trace my ancestry. I have gotten my family to Ireland and am working on the Stewart line to get back to Scotland. Well, in addition to the plaque I was presented with a deed for one square foot of land in Glencoe Wood, Scotland. Now I really have to make that Scottish connection. Of course by owning land in Scotland I am now officially titled Laird James Speicher.

Finally, some of the best news yet. Most of you are aware that I have a malignant tumor on my liver that is inoperable. For the last several years I have been receiving chemotherapy shots every three weeks. After a sudden growth spurt last September (the tumor almost doubled in size in six months) they performed a procedure called an embolisation. The doctors ran a tube from my femoral artery in the leg and located the blood vessel that was feeding the tumor. When they finally found the correct artery they put microscopic particles in the block that artery. If everything worked right it would kill the tumor within a few months. Well yesterday I got the results of the MRI I

had on the previous Monday. The doctor told us that it appeared that the tumor was, in fact, dead. I will continue the chemo a few more months, just in case but at this point all indications are that I have won!!

Again, thank you for the honor of having been your commander and thank you for all the support you have provided over the years. The Key Camp is great because of you - its members. May God bless all of you.

Spike

Leavenworth Militaria Show

The first recruiting event for 2015 is coming up. It is the Leavenworth Militaria Show and Sale. The date is Saturday 14 February at the Riverside Community Center in Leavenworth. We have participated in this show for many years now. We have a table reserved against a wall so that we have access to an electrical outlet. This show is military collectibles only for all wars, all periods. It is a very large show filling the entire gymnasium. It runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with set-up starting at 7:30

Brookside St. Pat's Parade

Our registration packet has been sent in for the 2015 Brookside St. Patrick's 35 Annual Warm-Up Parade. It is scheduled for Saturday 14 March. There is a pre-parade meeting in March a few days before the event that will give us our information on our position. This year they have limited to entries to 100. Our application was submitted the same day the notification was received. I did register us as having the cannon in the parade so I hope that is okay with Eric. This is a great place to wear your Confederate uniforms. It is also a great place to wear your camp shirts. If need be you can ride on the trailer rather than march.

REMINDER!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 5th AT 7:00 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

The Telegraph Key

Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Sons of Confederate Veterans

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