

THE TELEGRAPH KEY



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



VOL. 15, No. 7

JULY 2014

AUGUST CAMP MEETING THURSDAY 7 AUGUST 2014 154th REGULAR MEETING

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday August 7th, 2014. 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. Robbie Maupin. Robbie is from Lexington, Missouri. He is a long time War for Southern Independence historian, reenactor and collector. His topic for the evening will be the battle of Albany, Missouri, which took place in October 1864. He will tell us about the preparations for the 150th reenactment of the battle that will take place on October 25 and 26. Robbie is the main coordinator for the reenactment. He also plans to bring some of his relics and other paraphernalia for display. Please plan to attend this meeting and to learn about a battle that history has almost forgotten. 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 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.majorkey1920ksscv.org
SCV National: www.scv.org

NEW MEMBER #65

Gentlemen, we have become stagnant. We aren't recruiting new members as we should be. Our camp is in a metropolitan area of over one million people. Our camp has 64 members. It seems obvious that there has to be hundreds, even thousands, of men in the area that have Confederate ancestors. Why can we not find them? What do we need to do to let the world know we are there? I am certain that if people knew about us we would increase our membership. Recruiting at the national level has remained the same for a couple of years but other camps are growing. Other camps are finding recruits. Not only are they finding them but they are retaining them. Please, if you have any ideas let me know. There is strength in numbers and we need numbers!

2014 National Reunion Charleston, South Carolina

WOW!!! What a great time we had!! Charleston was as beautiful as ever. The convention was one of the largest I have attended with over 750 compatriots. The convention hall was packed. The Key Camp contingent consisted of John and Susan Bolton, Merle Leech and Kris Amaro, Carl and Linda Linck, Tim Peterman, Dan and Susan Peterson, Spike and Kaki Speicher, Jim Tucker, and John and Susan Weir with Susan's sister Amy. The other Kansas Division representatives were Commander Kevin Ivey and Lieutenant Commander Dick Croft. The activities were fun with the Oratory contest, the Hunley Tours, the awards luncheon, loads of vendors with all sorts of Confederate stuff, and even the Harbor Tour Meet and Greet. This was my 17th Reunion and it was good!



Left to Right: John Weir, Spike Speicher, Hoss Tucker, Tim Peterman, John Bolton, and Merle Leech. Missing: Carl Linck and Dan Peterson

This was an election year and that always draws more folks. Speaking of elections, our new Commander-in-Chief is Kelly Barrow. Kelly has been the Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief for the last four years. Many of you met him in November at the Leadership Workshop we sponsored at the Majors Home. I have known Kelly for many, many years and I feel that we are in good hands. He ran unopposed so we knew he would win. The race for Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief was a close one. The contenders were Frank Ernest (current commander of the Army of Northern Virginia Department) and Tom Strain (current commander of the Army of Tennessee Department). I have known both of them for many years and they are both good men and both will do a great job for us. The Key supported Frank but Tom won in a very close vote. Out of over 1,000 votes cast, there was less than a 100 vote spread between the two. For the Army of Trans-Mississippi Department, which the Key Camp is in, our new commander is Charles Lauret. I don't know Charles very well. I met him at the 2012 convention in Murfreesboro when he was an unknown elected to be our department's Executive Councilman. He ran unopposed. I've not had much interaction with him but he seems fairly sharp. He is a Louisiana Highway Patrol officer. Our new department commander is Paul Gramling. Paul is a great guy and I have known him for probably 10 or 12 years. He will do a super job as he is aggressive and has actually held a bunch of national and department positions. As a side note, many of you have met Randy Burbage, my best friend from Charleston. He was running for commander of the Army of Northern Virginia and won by a margin of four to one. By the way, the Key Camp voted against both of the constitutional amendments and both were defeated.

One big piece of news!!! Y'all know that Ben Sewell, the SCV's Executive Director for the last 13 years is retiring. Ben has done a phenomenal job to say the least. During the convention the General Executive Committee (GEC) interviewed the two finalists to the

position. As luck would have it, I had the opportunity to meet both men just before their interviews. Spoke with one briefly and was impressed. The other fellow showed up and had to wait about 15 or 20 minutes while the first interview finished. He and I were the only ones in the Hunley Lab office and we spoke extensively. His name is Mike Larabee and he was chosen as our new Executive Director. Mike is an active duty Marine (we all have some flaw) Lieutenant Colonel stationed at Parris Island, South Carolina. He has 28 years of service with tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is branched Artillery and seem like a fine gentlemen. We hit it off very well. He is retiring from service and will move his family (I think he said five or six children) to Tennessee so he will probably start in about two months. There will be about a month overlap with Ben so Mike can learn the ropes. Again, I think our beloved organization is in good hands.

Camden Point Remembrance

On Sunday 13 July 2014, several Key Camp members and friends met at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Camden Point, Missouri. It was the 150th anniversary of the battle at Camden Point. We (Carl Linck, Joan Mainey, Eric and Carrie Martinez, Jacob Martinez, Jacob Mirocke, Spike and Kaki Speicher, and John Weir) met to commemorate the battle and to honor the six Confederate soldiers killed in the battle that are buried in the cemetery. We raised the Camden Point flag on the flag pole. The flag had been made by the ladies of Camden Point and has been presented to the Confederate troops under LTC Thornton at the picnic. It was captured by the 2nd Colorado Cavalry a few hours later during the battle. At 1700 (5:00 p.m.), the time the actual battle began, we stood in front of the graves and rendered a hand salute. We then drank a toast of Rebel Yell whiskey in their honor. Every year members and friends meet at the cemetery on 13 July to salute and honor those six Confederates. Come on out next year.



Left to right: Joan Maniey, Kaki Speicher, Carl Linck, John Weir, Spike Speicher, Jacob Martinez, Eric Martinez, Jacob Mirocke. Phot by Carrie Martinez

Key Camp Family Picnic

NOTE DATE CHANGE

Mark your calendar!! The annual Key Camp Family Picnic will be held on Saturday **23 AUGUST**. We will be at Shelter #1 in Shawnee Mission Park. When you enter the park turn right at the "T" intersection and it is the first shelter you come to. It is a very nice shelter with lots of shade. The reason for the change is that we were requested, very nicely, if we would be willing to change our date to accommodate a wedding that wanted to use Shelter #10. Being the Southern Gentlemen that we are, I said we would. Shelter 10 was taken on the 23rd so we booked Shelter #1. It sure does feel good to do something nice. Anyway, the camp will supply the brats, burgers and hot dogs, condiments, plates, utensils, and drinks. The cost to participate is free

but each family is requested to bring a dish to share such as salads, desserts, fruit, etc. This is always a fun time and gives everyone a chance to talk while not in a "meeting mode." Please plan to attend.

Plan Ahead Dates

We have a couple of our annual events coming up and want to give you notice so you can mark your calendars. First is the annual Ottawa Veterans Day Parade. That will be held on Saturday 8 November in Ottawa, Kansas. The second event is the annual Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade. That will be held on Tuesday 11 November in Leavenworth, Kansas. I know the Leavenworth parade is on a week day so many of you have to work but if you can make either parade, PLEASE plan to do so. I will have more details as we get closer to the dates. And probably the most important is that the annual Lee-Jackson Banquet is planned for Saturday January 31, 2015. Remember we are always looking for auction items so keep your eyes out for appropriate items.

National Reunions

Again, just for planning purposes, here are the dates and locations for the next three reunions:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 120 th | Annual | Richmond, Virginia | 15-18 July 2015 |
| 121 st | Annual | Richardson, Texas | 14-17 July 2016 |
| 122 nd | Annual | Memphis, Tennessee | 17-20 July 2017 |

What's neat is that Richardson (Dallas), Texas is only an eight or nine hour drive. So is Memphis if I remember correctly. Both of those are within striking distance from the Key Camp. Let's get a really big turnout for both of those. Wouldn't it be awesome to say that the Key Camp had 20 compatriots in attendance at a national reunion. Many of our national officers were impressed this year when I told them we had 8 that came all the way from Kansas to Charleston.

REMINDER!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

AUGUST 7th AT 7:00 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

The Telegraph Key

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Sons of Confederate Veterans
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