

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

VOL. 7, No. 6

June 2006

JULY CAMP MEETING

66th Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday July 6th, 2006. 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. Please plan to come for dinner and camaraderie before the meeting. Our program that evening is one that is very applicable to our camp. Compatriot Scott Porter has completed very extensive research on the Battle of Camden Point, July 13, 1864. He has an outstanding Power Point presentation on the battle that explains exactly what happened that fateful day. As you know we care for the graves of six Confederate soldiers killed/executed in that battle that are buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Until I heard Compatriot Porter's detailed explanation of the battle I had no idea how those men died or even exactly where the

battle actually took place. If you want to know also then this is a must see presentation. It will answer all your questions. Don't miss this exciting opportunity. Be sure to bring your wife or significant other, as they are ALWAYS welcome, especially at this one. Also don't forget to bring that prospective member along so he can meet us. Hope to see ya'll 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	C. Heath Roland
1 st Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield	
2 nd Lieutenant Commander:	Roger Strout.	
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland	C. Heath Roland
Chaplain:	Lee Crutchfield	
Historian & Scrapbook:	Loren Lundy	
Web Masters:	Steve Crutchfield	
Newsletter Editor:	James L. Speicher	
Event Coordinator	Gary Roland	

SCV On The Web

SCV National: www.scv.org

SCV Battleflag Site: www.battleflag.org

Key Camp: www.home.earthlink.net/~keycamp

New Member Number 64

I am pleased, very pleased, to announce that our 64th member has joined the camp. This is an individual that was referred to us by Kansas Division Commander Walthall. Our newest member is Compatriot Carl James Linck. He has a rather unique Confederate ancestor. Sergeant William Patton Tate Scott was only 14 years old when he enlisted in Company G of the 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves. This unit formed part of the North Carolina Junior Reserves Brigade

that fought at the Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina on March 10-21, 1865. I believe this is probably the youngest Confederate ancestor in our camp. We should have Compatriot Linck's paperwork back from Headquarters so we may induct him at the July 6 meeting. At any rate, please introduce yourselves to Compatriot Linck at our next meeting and make him feel welcome. Welcome aboard Carl.

Kim McWilliam Presentation

At the June meeting Mrs. Kim McWilliam, wife of our late Compatriot John McWilliam, made a presentation to the Key Camp. As a token of her appreciation for all that the camp did during the ordeal surrounding the lose of her husband, Kim presented us with a hard bound copy of the SCV Chaplains Handbook. The inside cover was memorialized by her. Accepting the Chaplains Handbook was camp Chaplain Lee Crutchfield along with Commander Speicher. Commander Speicher then presented Mrs. McWilliam with an SCV Resolution recognizing and mourning the lose of Compatriot John McWilliam and his dedication to the organization. The exchange was extremely emotional for all involved and all who witnessed. Compatriot McWilliam will be dearly missed by all of us. However, we may still get to see Mrs. McWilliam as she indicated she would like to attend future meetings as a guest. That is okay with us because once you are a part of the Key Camp family you remain a member forever. Copies of The Telegraph Key will be sent regularly to Mrs. McWilliam. See you at the next meeting Kim.

12-Pound Napoleon Dedication

We have received official notification from the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc., that the cannon dedication ceremony at the Byram's Ford Battlefield originally scheduled for April 29 has been rescheduled. A tentative date of Saturday 22 July was set and when Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor Barnes has indicated she is available for that date, it was confirmed. The schedule of events remains exactly as it was for the April date. Again we will be the only Confederate representation at the ceremony. This will

be a very big event and a fantastic opportunity for publicity for the both the Camp and the SCV. So please mark your calendars and reserve that date to participate in the ceremony. For the first attempt we had 22 people signed up to participate. Let's see if we can do better than 22.

First Annual Key Camp Family Picnic

That's right. Our first ever family picnic is set for Saturday 15 July from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Shawnee Mission Park on Renner Road. This is near where I-435 crosses Midland Road in Shawnee. We will be at Shelter Number 10. This is a really large shelter with lots of picnic tables. There is a large kid's play structure adjacent to the shelter as well as many, many trees and lots of shade. This is an ideal location for our picnic. The camp will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, buns and condiments, and soft drinks. Everyone is asked to bring some kind of salad, chips or dessert to share. Bring the entire family for a great lunch-time picnic. The picnic will end by 2:00 p.m. so you still have plenty of day left for other activities. We have to be out by 2:00 p.m., as the shelter has been rented by another group starting at that time. There will be a sign up sheet at the July 6th meeting so we can get a headcount for food and drinks. If you can't make the meeting but want to attend the picnic please contact either Commander Speicher or Adjutant Roland with your body count. If you have picnic type games bring them along. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet and talk with other members of the camp. With the busy schedule of our meetings that is sometimes hard to do. So now is your chance. Guests and prospective members are welcome to attend also. Don't forget that we need a body count so please sign up or contact us.

Old Shawnee Days

The first weekend in June the Key Camp out in force for our fourth consecutive year at Old Shawnee Days. We had a great set up for our display and recruiting table. Several hundred people came through our area even though we did not

set up on Sunday due to inclement weather. We got 10 prospective members from our effort, which is the most we have ever gotten for an event lasting one evening and a day. Our thanks to the members of the 3rd Battery Missouri light Artillery, who brought out their cannon and limber on Saturday. That particular item drew a lot of attention. We still need to work on the committee that runs it to let us do musket firing demonstrations but other than that it went extremely well. We even had a power hookup and had a video movie as part of our recruiting table. It was pretty awesome to see. On top of that, on Saturday Second Lieutenant Commander Lee Crutchfield and Compatriots Steve Crutchfield and Merle Leech drove to the Confederate Home at Higginsville, Missouri to help the Missouri Division with their Confederate Memorial Day ceremony. All told it was an awesome day for all of us that were there. In addition to Compatriots Crutchfield (Lee and Steve) and Leech I also want to thank Craig and Angie Freeman, George Hoffmann, Loren Lundy, all four Martinez folks (Eric, Carrie, Aaron and Jacob), Bob Matthews, Tim Peterman, Dan Peterson, Gary and Heath Roland, Joe and Roger Strout, Bob Webster. If I left anyone off the list I apologize. Senior moment if I did. We are already looking forward to our table for next year, which will be bigger and better than this year.

June Meeting Smashes Record

I am extremely pleased to announce that one of our camp records was beaten at our June 1st meeting. At that meeting our speaker was Ms. Belinda Canaday talking about what women in the early 1860's wore. In fact the title of her presentation was "As God Is My Witness I'll Never Look Like Scarlett Again". I knew this would be a popular topic for the ladies especially and felt that the meeting would be well attended. Boy was it. Prior to the June meeting our most highly attended meeting was June of last year with 45 members and guests. Our speaker at that meeting was Compatriot Chip Buckner and his topic was "The Mint Julep". Attendance at our June 1st meeting was officially counted as 52. WOW! Well I guess that just proves that the two

favorite vices of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 are WOMEN and ALCOHOL. Who'd of thunk it?

Who/What is the 3rd Battery Missouri Light Artillery

Several of you have indicated that you don't fully understand the relationship between the Key Camp and this unit called the 3rd Battery Missouri Light Artillery, CSA. First and foremost, the Sons of Confederate Veterans is NOT a War Between the States reenactment organization. It is true that many members of the national organization, as well as the Key Camp, have Confederate uniforms that they wear for parades, ceremonies, living histories, and other events. Over and above all that there are those SCV members who ALSO do War Between the States reenacting. There are a large number of SCV camps around the confederation that sponsor reenactment units and that is the relationship between the Key Camp and the 3rd Missouri. As such the unit is a compliment and benefit to the camp. In the case of the 3rd Missouri there are twelve members on the roster and ten of those are members of the Key Camp. The battery is a tremendous asset to the camp because the reproduction full-scale 6-pounder field piece and limber really draws people to it at our recruiting events. People flock to it to look at it. It isn't everyday that you can see a real cannon up close. When the cannon is set up at events like Old Shawnee Days, Kill Creek Farm, Confederate Memorial Day, etc, it draws people over to our display. When the battery goes to reenactments they recruit for the SCV. They are proud to tell people that every member on the crew has a Confederate ancestor (well all but two but who is counting). I don't think there are any other units in this part of the country that can make that boast. So when you hear us talk about the 3rd Battery Missouri Light Artillery you will know that, while they are a reenactment unit, they are fully affiliated with the Key Camp. If you would like to learn more about the hobby of War Between then States reenacting or about the 3rd Missouri in particular please contact Key Camp members

Compatriot Eric Martinez, or First Lieutenant Commander Lee Crutchfield or Commander Spike Speicher.

Kansas State Historical Society Recognizes Key Camp Efforts

On 23 May 2006, the Major Thomas J. Key Camp was formally recognized for the efforts of the camp in our Mine Creek Battlefield project. At the monthly meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, Mine Creek Battlefield Park superintendent Arnold Schofield recognized the efforts of six members of the Round Table for the support they have given to the Mine Creek Battlefield over the past number of years. The seventh recognition went to the Key Camp. Commander Speicher (who also happens to be the 2006 president of the Round Table) was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for the Key Camp on behalf of the Kansas State Historical Society thanking us for the hundreds of man hours we have put in at Mine Creek. This is the first time in six years that the KSHS has formally thanked us. The Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation, headed by Dr. John Spencer, is a non-profit friend's organization that is not a part of the KSHS. Dr. Spencer has always been a tremendous supporter of our efforts and tells me quite often how much he appreciates what we do. The KSHS certificate will be on display at future meetings.

2006 Dues

Yes it is that time again. As you know the SCV runs on a fiscal year that goes from August 1 to July 31. Right now everyone is paid for their 2005 dues that run from August 1, 2005 to July 31, 2006 or for fiscal year 2005. But those are about to expire. We need to start collecting 2006 dues right away. We are in the process of preparing dues notices for all the members that need to renew. For most everyone that amounts to \$35.00 (\$20 for SCV, \$10 for Key Camp, \$5 for Kansas Division). Each statement will specify the amount needed to renew. We will hand deliver as many

notices as we can at the July meeting and rest will be mailed out. Please pay your dues promptly as it makes our job (commander and adjutant) a lot easier. Thanks.

REMINDER!!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

JULY 6th AT 6:30 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

The Telegraph Key

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