

# 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. 6

June 2007

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## JULY CAMP MEETING 77<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 July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Please note that 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. During the Vietnam War U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers (Green Berets) conducted a raid on the Son Tay Prison Camp located 17 miles north of Hanoi, North Vietnam, in an effort to free U.S. prisoners of war being held in that compound. Our speaker for the July meeting is Mr. Terry Buckler, who was the youngest member of the Son Tay Raiders. While his presentation, which includes Power Point slides, does not relate to the War Between the States, it is a superb example of American patriotism and courage in combat that I think all of you will find extremely interesting. Mr. Buckler will talk about the background, planning, practice and execution that made the Son Tay Raiders famous in military history. This promises to be one of the most fascinating presentations we have ever had. You don't want to miss this 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	
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.majorkey1920ksscvc.org](http://www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org)

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

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New Member #68

Who will be our 68<sup>th</sup> member?  
We didn't get him this month.

**\*\*\*\*\*NEW MEETING LOCATION\*\*\*\*\***

For the past several months the camp Executive Committee has been exploring possible new sites for our monthly meetings. Many members have indicated a displeasure with Chen's Super Buffet due to a number of reasons such as outside restaurant noise, slow and complicated payment process, luke-warm food, difficulty understanding waitresses, and, most recently, having failed to pass a recent health inspection. The committee visited about five possible restaurants but none of them met with our satisfaction. We did find one good possibility and that is Zarda's Barbecue Restaurant at 87<sup>th</sup> and Quivira. If you have been a member of the camp for awhile you will remember that we formed our camp in April of 2000 and used Zarda's as our meeting location for several years. We left in an effort to find a larger facility that would not charge a fee to use the room. Since then we have met at Old Shawnee Pizza, Fire Mountain, Smokehouse Barbecue, and Chen's Super Buffet. Now we have come full circle back at Zarda's. The membership at the June meeting voted and unanimously approved the change of location. Beginning with the July 5, 2007, meeting we will meet at Zarda's. When you arrive at the restaurant you order your meal and pay for it immediately. When your number is called you pick up your meal. No hassle no fuss. They have great BBQ sandwiches and meal platters as well as a finely stocked salad bar. The only disadvantage to going back to Zarda's is that they charge \$15.00 for the room. That comes to \$165.00 a year that the camp could use for other purposes. The solution accepted at the June meeting was to charge a surcharge of 50 cents per person. There will be a receptacle at the entrance to the room for donations to cover the cost of the room. Your donations will allow the camp to use its money in a more productive manner and your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Zarda's is located just west of the intersection of 87<sup>th</sup> Street and Quivira on the south side of the street. I think you will enjoy it.

## **Confederate Memorial Day Service at Higginsville, Missouri**

The state of Missouri celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is President Jefferson Davis' birthday. Each year on the Saturday closest to June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Missouri Division conducts a Memorial Ceremony at the Confederate Home State Historic Site in Higginsville, Missouri. For the past several years the Key Camp has minimally participated due to our recruiting event at Old Shawnee Days. We were terminated from Old Shawnee Days so we decided to support the Missouri Division ceremony. Compatriots Lee Crutchfield, Craig Freeman (and Angie), Merle Leech, Jon Linn, Eric Martinez (and Carrie, Aaron and Joan), Jacob Martinez, Jacob Mirocke, Spike Speicher, and John Weir attended. We participated as the Kansas Color Guard consisting of Spike, Merle, and Eric with the flags (U.S., Kansas, and CS Battle Flag respectively) and Jacob Mirocke and Craig Freeman as riflemen. Man did we look good!! The ceremony was followed by a picnic lunch in the shade of the trees by the chapel. It was another great day for the Major Thomas J. Key Camp!!!

## **Union Cemetery 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

On Friday and Saturday, June 8 and 9, the Union Cemetery in downtown Kansas City, Missouri, celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For those of you that were unaware of it there are at least 120 Confederate soldiers buried in Union Cemetery. There are 100 Confederates in one mass grave with only 15 of those identified by name as being somewhere in that mass grave. Another interesting grave is Josephine Anderson's, the 14 year-old girl who was killed when the jail collapsed in Kansas City and the sister of Bill Anderson. Bill declared vengeance against the Yankees for her death and henceforth earned the

sobriquet "Bloody" Bill Anderson. Friday night from 8:00 until 10:00 there was a candle light tour of the cemetery with about 8 stops on the tour. This was the first time that the cemetery has conducted such an event and they were expecting 100 to 125 people that could form into groups of 20 to 25. WRONG! Cindy and I went there Friday evening about 9:00 and were amazed to see a crowd of several hundred people. There was one girl trying to control the crowd and keep two groups separated so we stepped in to help. Neither of us were dressed out but that didn't matter. We even ended up taking a group of 127 out for the tour. All told there were over 850 at the cemetery that evening. The Saturday portion was much smaller with perhaps 100 attendees. Compatriots Merle Leech, Jacob Mirocke, Gary Roland, Heath Roland, and Spike Speicher represented the Key Camp. Those members fell in with four or five other Confederates and formed one side of the Honor Guard during the ceremony. The Yankees were on the other side. We did locate and put a small Missouri Battle Flag on several of the Confederate graves.

## **Camp Wornall a Success**

Thursday June 14, five members of the Key Camp were guest speakers at the Camp Wornall event. Camp Wornall is a one-week adventure camp for elementary age school children and it is held at the Wornall House. The kids do various historically oriented activities. For the second year the Key Camp was invited to set up a small historic campsite and spend two hours talking to the 13 students about the War for Southern Independence. This year Compatriots Lee Crutchfield, Steve Crutchfield, Merle Leech, Gary Roland, and Heath Roland ably represented the camp. We have been invited back next year and have been advised that next year there may be two iterations of Camp Wornall. My thanks to those five for a job well done!!

## **Key Camp Family Picnic**

Our First Annual Key Camp Family Picnic in 2006 was a tremendous success so we are doing it again. The date for this year's event is Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>. It will start at 10:30 a.m. with lunch being served at 11:30. We will close down at 1:00 for clean up as we have the pavilion until 2:00. The event is free with the camp supplying burgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, and drinks. It will again be at the Shawnee Mission Park on Renner Road between Midland and Lackman. We have the same pavilion as last year with plenty of shade and a large children's play area adjacent to the pavilion. Everyone is requested to bring a dish to share: a dessert, a salad, a veggie tray, or chips. There will be a sign-up sheet at the July meeting count. 30 people have already committed to this fun event.

## **Kansas Division Convention**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Kansas Division Reunion was held on Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at the Best Western Hotel in Emporia, Kansas. SCV Commander-in-Chief Christopher Sullivan was in attendance. This was an important convention and there will be a separate report published and will be available at the July meeting. It will also be e-mailed to all members.

**The Captain William H. Gregg**  
Chapter (#268) of the Military  
Order of the Stars and Bars



*Breaking News:* The Missouri State Museum in Jefferson City (part of State of Missouri Department of Natural Resources) is contacting the Colorado Historical Society to ask for Thornton's Cavalry Regiment flag back (sometimes referred to as the "Camden Point" or the "Protect Missouri" flag). After the article "Bashi-Bazouks and Rebels Too: Action at Camden Point 13 July 1864" (and followed by

a letter from me recommending the return of the flag), the state of Missouri now has an interest in the flag. The Missouri State Museum is where all of Missouri's Civil War battle flags are stored. The museum is also putting together a book of their flags and desires to have this flag contained in their book. Mr. Kurt Senn, director of the Missouri State Museum, does not know how Colorado will react, and told me that Virginia is trying to get a flag back from Minnesota since 1960 with no luck. So, we will see. Even if Colorado does not relinquish the flag, the Missouri State Museum will make a trip to Colorado to photograph the flag for inclusion in their book of flags. More to follow!

New Article! In the tradition of the MOS&B to publish the *truth* about the war, I have another article. This time it is in the current edition of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly. Ever wonder how General Price on his 1864 invasion of Missouri made it out of Arkansas unmolested by Federal Major General Steele? Thank J.O. Shelby and his action at Ashley's and Jones Stations to cut Steele's supply line. The amazing Shelby managed to capture virtually the entire 54<sup>th</sup> Illinois guarding the rail line between Little Rock and Du Vall's Bluff, including the commander and his colors! Huzza! And yes, Captain William H. Gregg (of whom our camp is so nobly named after) fought in this battle. I will bring free copies of the article to the next meeting.

If interested in the MOS&B, 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

JULY 5<sup>th</sup> AT 6:30 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

## *The Telegraph Key*

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