

# 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. 9, No. 3

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## APRIL CAMP MEETING 84<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, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. 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. Our program that evening will be rather unique. Have you ever wondered about the "wounds" you see on Civil War soldiers and how real they look? Have you ever wondered just how those wounds are made? Well our speaker for the April meeting will tell you. Jerry Vest is the owner of Have Guns Will Rent and he supplies all sorts of movie props and supplies for many major motion pictures. (He has worked with Patrick Swayze and Nichole Kidman, to name a couple of them.) Jerry will tell some fascinating tales and have some awesome pictures of some of his handy work. He even has a trench, complete with head logs, built in his backyard that has been used in several movies. How neat is that? He will also have some "props" to pass around. It will be an extremely interesting presentation that you definitely won't want to miss. 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	
Media Coordinator	Lane Smith	
Cadet Member Coordinator	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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New Member #67?

## **Mahaffie Reenactment**

The Mahaffie reenactment is set for April 19, and 20. This year's event is going to be bigger than any previous one they have done. There will be thousands of spectators. How many of those spectators have Confederate ancestors? I'll bet a lot of them do and I'll bet most of those don't know the SCV even exists. Well, this is our chance to change all that. The Key Camp will have a display table/recruiting table set up in the vendor's area. This is our chance to show the public who we are and what we do. This is our time to convince those folks with Confederate ancestors to join the camp. This is when we ask, "Do you have a Confederate ancestor?" But to do this we need people to man the tables. We will set the tables up around 9:00 a.m. and take them down around 5:00 p.m. We had a sign up sheet at the last meeting and had several guys sign up for duty but we need more. Ideally we need three people on the tables at all times. I need two men manning the display table to answer questions and make sure the items are secure, and one to run the adjacent recruiting table. What I am requesting is that guys volunteer to work two-hour shifts on Saturday and Sunday. If we all pitch in we can do this easily. There will be another sign-up sheet at the April meeting. When it comes around please sign up for one or more of the two-hour blocks. We need your help.

## **Battle of Westport Reenactment**

This reenactment will be on May 17, and 18, 2008. This will be the largest reenactment in Missouri/Kansas and it will be at the Jerry Smith Farm Park at Holmes Road and 135<sup>th</sup> Street. Again they are predicting thousands of spectators. Between this and Mahaffie we have the potential to recruit several new members but it will take support from the camp members. The schedule will be similar to that of the Mahaffie event for both Saturday and Sunday. We have some reaction time on this one so it will be discussed in more detail at the April and May meetings. Go ahead and mark your calendars now though.

## **SCV National Convention**

The National Convention this year will be in Concord, North Carolina from July 16 through 19, 2008. This is an important convention because it is an election year and we will be voting on two very critical and important positions relative to the Key Camp: a new Commander-in-Chief of the SCV and a new Army of Trans-Mississippi Commander. More on that later.

## Kansas Division Convention

The 2008 Kansas Division Convention will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> this year. It is always the third Saturday of June but this year the location has changed. For the last five years it has been in Emporia, Kansas. However, this year it will be held at the Watkins Museum in Lawrence, Kansas. With it being that close to home I would urge all of you to attend. We should show up with the largest number of people from any camp in the state. There will be the business meeting, followed by lunch. There will be a guest speaker but I don't have that information yet. This convention has always been fun and this year will not be an exception. I will put out more information as it becomes available but for right now just mark your calendar and plan to attend.

## Fascinating Quote on Reenacting

As most of you know the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 sponsors a reenactment unit - the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battery Missouri Light Artillery. Some of you may wonder why we don't wear wool uniforms in the summer heat to "fight" in a reenactment. Are those guys nuts??? Maybe yes but then again perhaps we were destined to do it. I found an interesting quote in Barry Benson's Civil War Book: Memoirs of a Confederate Scout and Sharpshooter. **This quote from a Confederate soldier shows that maybe the reason we do reenacting is because we are the Confederate soldiers that he foresaw. Read what Barry Benson said 140 years ago about reenacting:**

*"Who knows but again the old flags, ragged and torn, snapping in the wind, may face each other and flutter, pursuing and pursued, while the cries of victory fill a summer day? And after the battle, then the slain and wounded will arise, and all will meet together under the two flags, all*

*sound and well, and there will be talking  
and laughter and cheers, and all will say,  
Did it not seem real? Was it not as in the  
old days?"*

Spooky! Maybe you should consider reenacting as a hobby and experience what it was like to be a Confederate soldier.

## **2008/2009 Officers**

At the March meeting the delayed election of camp officers was held. The camp executive committee felt that if a constitutional amendment changing the way officers were elected were to pass, it would not take effect until the 2010 election. Therefore the election of 2008/2009 officers was conducted in accordance with the current Key Camp Constitution. The incumbent officers were unanimously re-elected. The proposed constitutional amendment concerning written ballots for officer elections will still be considered. Copies of the proposed amendment will be sent to each camp member and a vote will be taken at a later date.

## Mine Creek Spring Workday

Mother Nature strikes again. Our spring workday at the battlefield was originally scheduled for Saturday March 15 but it was cold, rainy/snowy, and windy so we cancelled it. It was a good call on our part. The event was rescheduled for one week later, Saturday 22 March. Unfortunately that falls between Good Friday and Easter Sunday so unfortunately we had a number of people that had other plans for that day so we had less than half the original number of people signed up for the 22<sup>nd</sup>. However, that certainly didn't stop us from making a great contribution of work at the battlefield. At 10:00 a.m. Lee Crutchfield, Merle Leech, Heath Roland, Spike Speicher, Cameron Weir, and John Weir met at the Visitor Center and enjoyed some coffee and donuts. We were very pleased to see Kim McWilliam and the four kids when they came over to say hello. We moved first to the Confederate monument. The area around the monument had weathered the winter much better than we anticipated. We put down six bags of new red mulch and replaced one of the boxwood plants that had not survived the winter. Kim and the kids helped out at the monument but then had to leave to go to an Easter egg hunt. It sure was good to see them and they all looked wonderful. Dr. Spencer had requested that we take out two cedar trees on the Hamilton property east of Visitor Center. They were very good sized trees and they were a challenge. But our small band of warriors got the better of them and by 2:30, when we finished, there were three large piles of branches to burn, a nice sized pile of fireplace-sized logs and two very big tree trunks. We did not cut up the trunks because the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation was going to give the trunks to some Amish folks so they could make them into furniture. All in all we had a very good time, got some good exercise, and did our part to help return the battlefield to its 1864 appearance. Thanks to everyone that showed up and worked your butts off. It was a job well done!



## WILLIAM H. GREGG CHAPTER (#268) OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS

In the Military Order of the Stars and Bars (MOSB), our main focus as descendants of Confederate officers and the civilian Confederate government is to emphasize faith in Christ, family and tradition, and to preserve Confederate history for posterity.

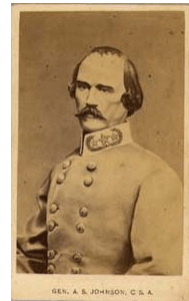
CONFEDERATE HISTORY: DO YOU KNOW WHO SAID THIS AT THE BATTLE OF SHILOH?

*“Men, they are stubborn; we must use the bayonet. I will lead you!”*

See bottom of the page for the answer!

**Action at Camden Point:** The State Historical Society of Missouri is sponsoring, through its speaker’s bureau, the presentation “Action at Camden Point, 13 July 1864”. I gave the presentation to the Fort Leavenworth Historical Society on 20 March and a battlefield and Pleasant Grove tour on 22 March 08. It included a fantastic weapons presentation by LTC (Ret) Ed Kennedy (in Confederate uniform, of course). It was a great turnout for both! The presentation is scheduled for the Clay County Historical Society on 1 June and the Chariton County Historical Society on 20 July.

**For MOSB membership:** It is open to direct *or collateral* male descendants of Confederate commissioned officers and of any elected or appointed member of the Executive Branch of the Confederate Government. I invite you to join this organization of honor and service. If interested, please contact me or visit the MOSB website at <http://www.mosbihq.org/index.htm>



**Deo Vindice!**

**Scott A. Porter**  
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It was Confederate hero General Albert Sidney Johnston (photo above) the day he was killed (6 Apr 1862) at Shiloh, Tennessee.

**REMINDER!!**

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE  
MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920  
WILL BE ON THURSDAY  
APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup> AT 6:30 P.M.  
BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER**

*The Telegraph Key*

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