

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

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MARCH 2010

APRIL CAMP MEETING 106TH Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday April 1st, 2010.

We will be meeting at Zarda's Barbecue located on the southwest corner of 87th 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 speaker for the meeting is Mr. Ken Leonard. Ken is a member of the Johnson County Genealogical Society and has a very interesting program on the battle of Westport. What makes his program unique is that he has all the troop positions superimposed on current road maps of the city so we can actually see where the troops were located in today's Kansas City. It is pretty interesting to see. Ken does a very good job of explaining the movements and the actions that took place. It is a very interesting presentation indeed and one you will not want to miss. So come and enjoy the camaraderie and fun and hear a great story at the same time.

Be sure to bring your wife or significant other as they are always welcome. Also 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
1st Lieutenant Commander: Lee Crutchfield
2nd Lieutenant Commander: John Weir
Adjutant: C. Heath Roland
Chaplain: Reverend Thomas T. Ellis
Historian & Scrapbook:
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.wcv.org

New Member #75?

For several months now our membership number has been at 75. We do have two pending losses from members who moved away from Kansas City but they have not yet transferred. With the death of Compatriot Loren Lundy (See page 3) we have dropped to 74 members. Let's get out there and recruit to make up our numbers. Remember the best recruiting tool is YOU! Word of mouth brings more members into the SCV than any other method. So tell your friends about the SCV and see if they have a Confederate ancestor. Talk to your folks at work, at church, and in the bars. Prospective members are out there and they don't know that we are here. Let's get the word out and make ourselves known.

Eulogy for Compatriot Loren Lundy

Saint Patrick's Day 2010, a most memorable day for a variety of reasons. It was the first time that the Major Thomas J. Key Camp participated in the annual Kansas City St. Patrick's Day parade. It was also the day we lost a dearly loved member of the camp.

Loren Lundy was born on August 31, 1909. In September 2009 the camp had a 100th birthday party for Loren. Even at 100 years old there was unbelievable life in him. He spoke extemporaneously for 15 minutes at his party. On the day of the parade Loren was picked up by Compatriot Carl Linck in his 1983 Johnson Motors Presidential Rumble-seat Roadster. He rode in the car during the parade. He was resplendent in his Confederate uniform decked out with all his SCV medals. He had the time fo

his life during that parade. Compatriot Merle Leech had made signs for the side of the car that read "Loren Lundy, 100 years old, Major Thomas J. Key Camp". He was waving to the thousands of spectators, and was laughing and smiling. The crowd loved him. People were cheering for him and waving back to him. He was so happy and having fun. Alana Smith said she spoke to Loren when the parade ended and said he was so happy.

After the parade the entire contingent moved back to the Harris-Kearney House. Lorne said he needed to use the restroom so I helped him out of the car and supported him as we walked to the house. When we got inside the house Loren collapsed. As he collapsed I held him in my arms. 911 was called and the first responders were there in less than 3 minutes. Loren had already passed by the time they got there but they did their best to resuscitate him. Loren died in my arms.

Compatriot Linck and I went to St. Luke's Hospital and were advised that Loren had not made it. The doctor told us that Loren's heart simply stopped. Fortunately we were allowed in to see him and say goodbye. We remained at the hospital until Loren's daughter Sharon arrived. We told her what transpired that day and she was pleased that his last hours had been spent doing something he loved and believed in.

Loren has been a Fellowship member of the Key Camp for probably nine years. His regular membership was in his son Sherman's SCV Camp in Iowa. But despite that fact, Loren was a full-fledged member of our camp. He was our camp historian and our camp photographer. He produced four scrapbooks that tell the history of our camp in word and picture. He was dearly loved by every member of the camp and will be missed by everyone who ever knew the fine gentleman.

Compatriot Lundy will be cremated. There will be a memorial service at Newcomer's Funeral Home on Saturday April 17th at 2:00 p.m. Newcomer's is located at 112th and Metcalf. The family has requested that the Key Camp Color Guard participate in the service by posting the colors. If anyone with a uniform would like to be in the Color Guard please let me know. If you don't have a uniform and would like to be in the Color Guard let me know and I can outfit you for the



occasion.

Loren Lundy (r) with Joey Strout at Mine Creek several years ago.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

What a great day March 17 was, at least in one respect. It was the first ever appearance of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp in the annual Kansas City Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

Despite the fact that the parade was on a Wednesday and it was cold, windy, and rainy, the Key Camp was surprisingly well represented by Compatriots Lee Crutchfield, Merle Leech, Carl Linck, Loren Lundy, Lane Smith, Mike Smith, Spike Speicher, Cameron Weir, Gavin Weir, and John Weir. We were registered with the Westport Historical Society so we march with some fellow Yankees from Murphy's Irish Brigade. eW were directly behind them with Lane carrying a First National with the Irish Harp embroidered on it. I was carrying a replica of the flag of the all-Irish 10th Tennessee Infantry Regiment. There were

literally thousands of spectators along the 1.3 mile parade route and we received tremendous applause all along the way. A special thank you goes to Alana Smith from the Harris-Kearney House who had hot soup waiting for us at the after the parade. It was a great first appearance and we are already looking forward to next year.



Mine Creek Spring Workday

Our Spring workday at Mine Creek this year will coincide with the National Battlefield Clean-Up Day that is sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust. It will be Saturday April 10th and we will meet at Mine Creek at 10:00 a.m. That means there will be a lot of people besides us. That is okay though because we spend our time really cleaning up around the Confederate monument. Any time left over we can help some of the other groups on other parts of the battlefield. As usual bring your regular implements of destruction like rakes, chain saws, hand saws, weed whackers, etc. We'll spend at least a couple of hours there making the monument look sharp and doing whatever else we can get into. There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting for those interested.

History Day at Lone Jack

I want to thank our new member Steve Crawford for volunteering to help out with a display at the Lone Jack Battlefield History Day on May 5th. Steve made contact with the folks putting on the event and they are excited to have our camp do a display. Steve will be talking to a large number of school kids and will be telling them about WBTS weapons and equipment. If anyone would like to assist Steve I'm sure he would be happy to have the help.

REMINDER!!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

APRIL 1st AT 6:30 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

The Telegraph Key

Major Thomas J. Key Camp

#1920 Sons of Confederate

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