

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 2013

MARCH CAMP MEETING 139TH Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday April 4th, 2013. 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 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. for dinner and start the official meeting at 6:30. Note the new start time of 6:30. Our speaker for the evening is Mr. Mike Calvert, president of the Civil War Round Table of Western Missouri. Mike is a familiar figure in the historical circles in the metropolitan area. Mike will be telling us the fascinating story of Jabez Smith. So I can hear you saying "who the heck is Jabez Smith?" He was the largest slaveholder in Jackson County, possibly in all of Missouri and even in the country west of the Mississippi River. This guy was very prominent and interesting. It will be a very enjoyable evening and I am told that the story has some interesting quirks. As with all of our meetings, be sure to bring your wife or significant other (but not both at the same time), 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
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.majorkey1920ksscvc.org
SCV National: www.scvc.org

NEW MEMBER #63

I am extremely pleased to announce that we have a new member for the camp. Most of you know Walt McKenzie as he has been attending meetings for several months now. Well, he finally decided to jump in with both feet and join our ranks. Walt joins under his Confederate ancestor: Captain Fountain S. McKenzie, Captain McKenzie was in Company B, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 6th Division, Missouri State Guard. Unfortunately, Walt is in a baseball league that plays on Thursdays during the summer so we won't be seeing a lot of him until fall. But, he will be at the April meeting where he will be inducted. Please make Walt feel welcome and at home as he joins our ranks. Welcome aboard Walt. It's great to have you with us!!!

NEW MEMBER #64

That's right folks! We have a second new member joining our ranks. Please welcome Compatriot Thomas Hill. Tom is a member of the Monticello Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and that is where he met us. Not only does he have a Revolutionary War ancestor, but also a Confederate ancestor. Tom joins us under Private Spotswood Critzer, Company G (also spent time in Company I), 46th Virginia Infantry. Hopefully, we will get Tom's paperwork back from Headquarters in time to induct him at the April meeting. Let's welcome Tom and make him feel at home. Welcome aboard, Tom! It's great to have you in the ranks.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CHANGE IN MEETING START TIME NOW 6:30 P.M.

Be advised that the management at Zarda's has changed the closing time for the restaurant. They were closing at 9:00 p.m. Now closing is at 8:00 p.m. They will probably return to the 9:00 closing time during the summer but that leaves us in a dilemma for spring. We start our meetings at 7:00 and generally go until about 8:30. To offset this change in closing time, and still allow us enough time for our meeting and speaker, we will be starting our next few meetings at 6:30 p.m. I hope this will not cause any problems on your ability to attend meetings.

Alexander Majors' Home Event

We have a great one-day event coming up on April 6th. You could call this our Spring Muster/Display/Recruiting Event. April 6th is the opening

weekend for the Majors Historic House Museum and we are the keynote event. The Key Camp has been invited to set up a Civil War campsite with tents and other paraphernalia for a living history display. We will have a display of weapons and equipment as well as our recruiting material. We will be doing musket-firing demonstrations for the spectators while answering any questions they may have. The 3rd Battery Missouri Light Artillery (our camp sponsored reenactment unit) will be on site with their full-scale 6-pounder field piece and limber. The artillerymen plan to go to the Majors House late Friday afternoon to set up camp, spend the night so they can be ready to go bright and early on Saturday. We are trying to get permission to fire the cannon during the event. This promises to be a big day that should draw many spectators. It is posted on the museum's website and will be publicized locally. We are going to need help to pull this off in a professional manner. This is a great time to wear a Confederate uniform if you have one. However, I also need a bunch of volunteers in civilian attire to man tables, answer questions, and recruit. Please, please plan to attend and help. You are truly needed for this one-day affair. If you cannot stay all day (say from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) come out for a few hours because we will need the help. If you have never done this type of thing before, do not worry. On-site training is available and easy.



The Brookside Saint Patrick's Day Warm-Up Parade



Back row left to right: Anna Marie Tutera (Director at the Wornall/Majors House Museums), Eric Martinez, Merle Leech, Carl Linck, Paul Allen, Mike Smith, and Louie McDowell (Carrie Martinez's dad).

Front row left to right: Henry Tutera (one of Anna Marie's sons), Ava LNU, Spike Speicher, and Jacob Martinez plus assorted puppy dogs.

Saturday March 16 was a cloudy and somewhat cold day, but that did not stop the seven stalwart members of the Key Camp from participating in the annual Brookside St. Patrick's Day Parade. We also had a number of guests who joined us for the jaunt down Main Street. The crowd was large and happy and seemed to enjoy, not only the Key Camp folks, but the entire parade. Out thanks to Anna Marie Tutera, Director of the Wornall House Museum, for getting everything set up for us to

participate. Regrettably, on 98.1 talk radio, a woman called and complained that we had a Confederate Battle Flag showing. There were two small 12 x 18 inch battle flags on the bumper of the car. She said it had no place in that parade as it reminded people of slavery. I did not find out about it until the show was over but I did send the radio station an e-mail stating that the lady was spitting on the graves of an estimated 40,000 Irish-Americans that fought for the South. I stated that the flag was displayed in correct historical context. I also stated that one of the flags we marched under was the flag of the 20th Regiment Tennessee Infantry, an all-Irish unit in the Confederate Army. That flag was three foot by five foot and that obviously did not upset the lady. We had a three foot by five foot Confederate 1st National Flag that did not seem to bother her either. I have yet to hear from the radio station. I sincerely hope that the organizers of the parade are not so short sighted that they prohibit us from future participation because one person out of several thousand spectators complained.

Kansas City Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Round two of our Saint Patrick's Day weekend began at 8:30 a.m. when five Key Camp members arrived at the Harris-Kearney House on Sunday morning March 17. The Kansas City parade is always held on the actual Saint Patrick's Day. Regrettably, the weather did not cooperate. It was much colder than the day before in Brookside. It was windier and just a tad above freezing. Nevertheless, the spirits of those involved were not dampened. Key Camp was represented by Compatriots Paul Allen, Merle Leech, Carl Linck, Mike Smith, and Spike Speicher. We had the honor of Mr. Edward Browne (of Browne's Irish Market) ride with our group. What an awesome gentleman he is. Despite the cold there were a large number of spectators on hand, albeit a noticeably small number than last year when it was warmer. We were part of the Harris-Kearney House

entry. Besides Compatriot Linck's 1983 Johnson Motor Company Presidential Rumble Seat Roadster, we had a small color guard carrying the 1st National flag and the flag of the 20th Tennessee, an all-Irish unit in the Confederate Army. Behind us were four mounted Federal cavalry. They were followed by a good-sized contingent of Confederate reenactors from Elliot's Scouts and then a smaller contingent of Federals from the Missouri Irish Brigade. We formed a very impressive group that collectively honored those Irish-Americans that fought on both sides during the war.

Wornall House Project

Our first major effort to support the Wornall/Majors Home Museum will begin in April. Our project will be to renovate the carriage house at the Wornall House. The plan is to paint the interior and exterior of the building. We are looking at two consecutive Saturday workdays, April 13 and April 20. Even though this makes 3 Saturdays in a row supporting Key Camp activities, Anna Marie needs the work completed prior to April 27. The annual herb sale, which brings many visitors is on Saturday the 27th. Compatriot Eric Martinez has coordinated with Overhead Door to donate two new garage doors. We also need to work on a side door that is not secure, perhaps even replacing the door with a new one that actually fits the opening. This will not be an easy project but one that is extremely worthwhile. This deserves our best effort. The Wornall House will provide the materials we need and we will supply the labor. If you can come out and assist in the project, it would be greatly appreciated. Bring ladders and tools that you feel will be of value. There will be a sign-up sheet at the April meeting. Please check your calendar and if you can spare the time, sign up to come and work on the carriage house. We are helping preserve a house that witnessed the battle of Westport, often called the Gettysburg of the West. Please be a part of it!!

REMINDER!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

APRIL 4th AT 6:30 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

The Telegraph Key

Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Sons of Confederate Veterans

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