

# 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. 7, No. 5

May 2006

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## JUNE CAMP MEETING

### 65<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 June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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. This month we have a special treat for the

ladies. This one is for them (and us guys). Our guest speaker is Ms. Belinda Canaday, a civilian reenactor for about five years. She is a member of the Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association, as well as Friends of the Anderson House and Friends of the Pharis House. The title for Ms. Canaday's presentation is "As God Is My Witness I'll Never Look Like Scarlett Again: What Real Women Wore in the Early 1860's". So many people feel that what Scarlett wore almost daily in "Gone With The Wind" is what those folks really wore all the time. Not so, as you will see from this outstanding presentation by an experienced and knowledgeable reenactor. 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

### Officers:

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 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander:  
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### Key Camp

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 Steve Crutch  
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### Chapter

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### SCV On

SCV National: [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)  
 SCV Battleflag Site: [www.batt](http://www.batt)  
 Key Camp: [www.home.earthlink](http://www.home.earthlink).

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## Tragic Death of Camp Member

John Paul McWilliam  
 1977-2006

On Friday morning May 12, 2006, Compatriot John McWilliam was on his way to work. He was driving south on Highway 69 from his home in Pleasanton, Kansas. Just north of Fort Scott, another driver going northbound crossed the centerline and hit John head-on. John was killed instantly. A promising young life was taken and the Sons of Confederate Veterans will suffer as a result. John is survived by his wife Kim, their four small children, and two stepchildren. Compatriot McWilliam joined the Major Thomas J. Key Camp in November 2003. Despite the distance, John and Kim attended almost every camp meeting. They even brought C.J. to his first SCV meeting when he was only two weeks old. John lived directly across the street from the Mine Creek Battlefield Visitor Center and played a major role in each of our Mine Creek Workdays. John was an inspiration to all of us. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the "John McWilliam Memorial Fund". Checks can be sent to Coffel Schneider Funeral Home, P.O. Box 525, Pleasanton, Kansas 66075. John, you will be missed. You have crossed over the river so may you rest in peace. Deo Vindice!

## Old Shawnee Days

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 2, 3, and 4, are the dates for Old Shawnee Days 2006. This will be our third year for participating and it has always been an extremely fun event. Last year literally hundreds of people visited our display and spoke with us about the items, the Key Camp, the SCV, and the South. We were very well received and everyone seemed to enjoy our show. Since this is such a busy show we really need help from as many members as possible who can come and man the table. I am planning to be at the site by about 4:00 p.m. Friday afternoon to start setting up. The

actual start time on Friday for the event is 6:00 p.m. and it goes until 9:00. On Saturday and Sunday it is open from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. We will have a relic display and recruiting table, small campsite and probably the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri Artillery's cannon for display. Initially we were told that we could do musket firing demonstrations but that still needs final confirmation. Anyone that can come out and help, even for an hour or two, would really be appreciated. If you have a uniform this would be a great time to wear it.

## 12-Pounder Napoleon Dedication

As everyone is now aware the Dedication Ceremony for the 12-Pounder Napoleon cannon on the Byram's Ford Battlefield scheduled for Saturday April 29, was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. While that was a tremendous disappointment for us it does have a bright side. Our speaker at the May meeting, Mr. Dan Smith, gave a very good account of the battle that took place at Byram's Ford. This now gives us a better understanding of the sacred ground we will be set up on for the rescheduled ceremony. Mr. Smith, Chairman of the Board of the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc., indicated that the tentative date for the ceremony is now Saturday July 22. He is checking on the availability of the mayor of Kansas City to attend the event before making the final announcement. Once it is final we will be notified.

## Confederate Memorial Day 2006

The same inclement weather that caused the cancellation of the cannon ceremony also caused cancellation of the Confederate Memorial Day event at Mine Creek Battlefield. Since Confederate Memorial Day only comes around once a year that event for 2006 has NOT been rescheduled. Now this brings up another point. The drive to Mine Creek is long and the publicity support we get from the site has become almost non-existent. Last year all of about ten people visited our display because the publicity "got out late".

This year I was told on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> (four days before our event) that they didn't "realize the date was so close" and thus had not gotten any information out to the public. So, it has been decided by the Key Camp Executive Committee that we need to find a more conducive location for our Confederate Memorial Day event. Ideally the site should be in Kansas, as Missouri celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on June 3. At any rate we are open to suggestions.

## Memorial Day Service

At the May meeting it was suggested that since our Confederate Memorial Day event at Mine Creek was cancelled that we ought to schedule a ceremony for U.S. Memorial Day that could be held on Sunday 28 May. The suggestion was made to hold a memorial service at Forest Hill Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri to honor the Confederates buried there. While the idea was a good one, the timing was just not conducive for me to be able to put together any kind of decent memorial service that was more than ten minutes long.

Much to my delight, it turns out that the Kansas City Camp #634 in Kansas City, Missouri, is holding a Memorial Service at Forest Hills Cemetery at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday 28 May and they have graciously invited the members of the Key Camp to participate. Therefore I will strongly endorse that event and request that any members available that day attend the service. My thanks to Commander Jerry Blain for the invitation to participate.

## Gift to the Key Camp

The Key Camp received a very appropriate gift at the May meeting. The Captain William Gregg Chapter of the MOSB (Military Order of the Stars and Bars) is affiliated with our camp. Adjutant Heath Roland is also the commander of the Gregg Chapter. For several years when Adjutant Roland would give the camp's financial report he would report that within the Key Camp account was a sum of eighty something dollars belonging to the Gregg Chapter. Since the money had

been sitting for at least a couple of years the chapter decided to use the money to purchase some items to present to the camp. At the May meeting Commander Roland presented the Key Camp with three flag harnesses for use by the Key Camp Color Guard for parades and other ceremonies. The harnesses go around the neck with the holder at about waist level. These will make carrying the flags much easier on the flag bearers, especially during long parades such as Leavenworth. The harnesses are white but will be worn under the coats of the Color Guard members so the harnesses will not be very visible to the spectators. Our thanks to the Gregg chapter for this wonderful gift.

## Book Sale Fund Raiser

I am extremely pleased to announce the fantastic success of the first iteration of our Key Camp Book Sale Fund Raiser. No car washes or bake sales are going to be needed this year. At the May meeting there were fourteen boxes of books available for sale. I would estimate that about four boxes worth, maybe more, sold. The total sales exceeded \$500 with half of those proceeds going to the camp. There are still many, many great books at even greater prices that will be available at the June meeting. As a special added attraction, there are over two boxes of vintage books (written before 1900) that will be priced and ready for sale at the June meeting. These vintage books were not at the May meeting and again it is first come - first gets the deals basis. We accept cash, checks, and IOUs. What doesn't sell at the June meeting will go to the Kansas Division Convention on June 17 in Emporia to be sold there. So please plan to attend the June meeting, not only for a great presentation, but to buy some great books for your personal library.

## Key Camp Family Picnic

The first annual Key Camp Family Picnic is scheduled for Saturday July 15 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Shawnee Mission Park about a mile from the Midland Drive exit at I-435. Bring the wife/girlfriend and kids and come on down. The camp will supply burgers dogs and sodas. Each family is requested to bring a side dish of some kind (chips, salad, cookies, etc) to share. There will be a sign up sheet at the June and July meetings so we can get a body count and know what food is being brought. There will be maps available at both meetings to show you where in the park we will be. We can start setting up at 8:00 a.m. and we will start at 10:00 with lunch at noon or so. We have to be out by 2:00 p.m. as some other group has the shelter reserved after we are done.

### Gift to SUV

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is our sister organization representing the other side. Just as the SCV was born from the original United Confederate Veterans, so the SUVCW was born of the original Grand Army of the Republic. Recently (May 3<sup>rd</sup>) I had the opportunity to attend the meeting of the Westport Post #64 of the SUVCW, which met in Independence, Missouri. Why, you ask, would I attend an SUVCW meeting? The answer is to make a gift presentation to that Post. The same benevolent individual who gave us his library as a fund raiser also gave me something else. He asked me to find a good home for the item and I could think of no more appropriate home for it. The item was the original charter for the Harry P. Harding Post #107, Department of Missouri, Grand Army of the Republic. The charter had the names of the sixteen charter members of the Post and was signed in Kansas City, Missouri on August 13, 1883. I believe that the frame it was in was original to the document. Now remember, the SUV guys had no idea what I had to give them. The reason I decided to give it to the Westport Post was because the

commander of the Post, John Martin, is someone I have known for six or seven years. More importantly he is the Department of Missouri Commander for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. I explained that the charter I had rightfully belonged to the heirs of the Grand Army Republic and it should be in their possession. I unwrapped the document and presented it to Commander Martin. Needless to say everyone in the room was in awe. Commander Martin stated he "was flabbergasted" and that he was "holding history in his hands." It was so very gratifying to see something as historically important as that charter go back to its rightful owners. The SCV did the right thing and we now have a friend for life.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO  
HONOR YOUR  
CONFEDERATE ANCESTOR?

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO  
BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR  
CONFEDERATE ANCESTOR DID?

THEN THIS COULD BE FOR YOU!

*THE 3<sup>RD</sup> BATTERY MISSOURI LIGHT  
ARTILLERY, CSA*

IS LOOKING FOR A COUPLE OF GOOD  
MEN TO HELP CREW THE GUN.

IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN  
JOINING PLEASE CONTACT EITHER  
ERIC MARTINEZ OR LEE CRUTCHFIELD  
AT THE JUNE MEETING.

THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MISSOURI IS A FAMILY  
FRIENDLY UNIT

REMINDER!!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> 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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