

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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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May 2007

JUNE CAMP MEETING 76th Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday June 7th, 2007. 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. The guest speaker for this meeting has a presentation on a very unique and interesting topic. Mrs. Ann Raab is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Kansas and she is doing her research paper on "Archaeology in the Burned District". She is just beginning what could possibly evolve into a historical archaeology study of Missouri homesteads that were destroyed as a result of the Federal's General Order Number 11 in 1863. The Burned District consisted of the four Missouri counties of Jackson, Cass, Bates, and Vernon. I'm sure she would be interested in talking with any of you who had family affected by Order #11. This promises to be one of the most interesting presentations we have had. Don't miss this interesting 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.

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Key Camp On The Web

Key Camp: www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org

SCV National: www.scv.org

New Member #67

That's right, we have picked up another new member. The new member is **Anthony Rogers**. Does that last name ring a bell? It should. His father is Compatriot Tom Rogers and these Anthony joins his brother TJ as members of the camp. Anthony has joined under the same Confederate ancestor as his father - Sergeant Sampson Coonrad Dahmer of Company K, 25th Virginia Infantry. This is a very significant event as Tom/TJ/Anthony become the only father/son/son team in the Key Camp. Regrettably, Anthony lives in Clive, Iowa (a suburb of Des Moines) so we may not ever have a chance to meet him or induct him but he is still very much a member of this camp. Congratulations go out to the Rogers clan and our thanks to Tom for "enlisting" another of his boys. Please be sure to thank Tom personally at the next meeting. Welcome aboard Anthony.

Confederate Memorial Day Service

On Sunday April 29th the Key Camp and The Brigadier General William Steele Camp of Leavenworth conducted a joint Confederate Memorial Day ceremony. The ceremony honored the seven Confederate soldiers buried in the National Cemetery on Fort Leavenworth:

- 1) JOHN BURLAND - Co D 7th Mo Cav
- 2) BENJAMIN H. MOULTON - Co H 5th MO Cav
- 3) J. W. BAYNE - Co B 12th Mo Cav
- 4) M. K. JONES - Co. E 2nd Ar Cav
- 5) JOHN A. HALSTON - Co H Fristoes's Regt MO Cav
- 6) GEORGE W. BRASHEAR - Chorn's Company, Searcy's Bn MO
Sharp Shooters
- 7) JESSIE GREGG - Searcy's Bn MO Sharp Shooters

The seven men were wounded and captured at the battle of Westport and taken to the military hospital at Fort Leavenworth where they eventually died. The ceremony was set up on rather short notice so the turnout was light. I want to thank Compatriots Lee Crutchfield, Jon Linn, and John Weir for helping me represent the Key Camp at the ceremony. The weather was grand while Commander Kennedy of the Steele Camp did a roll call for the seven Confederates buried there and followed up with a short description of how Confederate Memorial Day came to be established. After the ceremony the group had their picture taken next to a 3-inch Ordnance Rifle. The picture will be sent to Confederate Veteran magazine. The day closed as we went to Commander Kennedy's home for a hamburger cookout, compliments of the two camps. Bubba Burgers and RC Cola - it doesn't get any better than that.

Kansas Division Convention

The 9th Annual Kansas Division Reunion will be held on Saturday June 16th, 2007, at the Best Western Hotel in Emporia, Kansas, where it has been held for at least the last four years if not longer. This is an excellent time to meet and get to know other members our division. In addition to the business meeting there will be lunch, a speaker and several vendors. I have missed only one of the last eight conventions and you can believe that they are fun and productive. One of the highlights of the convention is when the camp commanders give their reports. This gives us the opportunity to see what's happening with other camps' projects and events. There is a very high likelihood that our national SCV Commander, Chris Sullivan, will attend this year's convention. This would be an ideal time for you to meet and talk with Commander Sullivan. The Key Camp will be having a book sale at the convention with the unsold books from our sale. We still have nine or ten boxes of books plus the 40 volume hardbound set of Confederate Veteran magazine. I would like to have some help manning that table so if you'd like to assist please do. This will be an especially exciting convention and I would really like to see a strong turnout from the Key Camp.

Not Welcome at Old Shawnee Days

Kelly Ross, the lady in charge of living history for Old Shawnee Days, has advised us that the Major Thomas J. Key Camp is not invited back for the 2007 festival. Despite the fact that we have participated in that event for the last five years, we are not welcome this year. It seems that, even though we never signed any kind of contract, we are REQUIRED to set up all three days in order to participate. We were never advised verbally or in writing of that requirement. Last year I elected not to set up on Sunday due to the rain. Thus, we are not allowed back for 2007 because we did not meet the requirement. I have been in contact with Donna Sawyer, the main person in charge of the entire festival, and advised her that we have been there for five years and the reason we did not set up on Sunday last year was my decision. The display is primarily from my collection of weapons and relics and is worth several thousand dollars. I was not going to expose it to damage by inclement weather so I did not set up. She stated that she understood my position and that she would talk to Ms. Ross and get back with me. That was on Thursday April 28th. At press time I have not heard back from either lady. I can only assume that Ms. Sawyer agrees with the decision made by Ms. Ross and therefore we will not be participating in the 2007 festival. Their decision is their loss because our display was extremely popular and we had hundreds of visitors each day. What a shame.

Missouri Confederate Memorial Day Saturday June 2, 2007

The great state of Missouri recognizes June 3rd as Confederate Memorial Day and celebrates it on the closest Saturday. June 3rd is President Jefferson Davis' birthday. The Missouri Division has a tradition of celebrating the event with a ceremony and memorial service at the cemetery at the Confederate Soldiers Home in Higginsville, Missouri. This at one time was a sprawling home for old Confederate soldiers with a barracks building for the unattached soldiers and cottages for married soldiers to live in. Today all that is left is the chapel, one cottage, and the famous Confederate cemetery. Before we started going to Old Shawnee Days we had a large contingent from the Key Camp that would attend the event. Once Old Shawnee Days came along all we could afford to send was our uniformed Color Guard.

BUT--- with no Old Shawnee Days this year we can concentrate on helping out with the Confederate Memorial Day event. This is a one-day event and is great for a family gathering. Bring a picnic and spread a blanket under one of the many shade trees in the park. This is a great event to wear your uniform but you don't need a uniform to attend the ceremony. Plan to be there by 10:00 a.m. Higginsville is about an hour east of Kansas City off I-70 exit 49.

Union Cemetery 150th Anniversary

On Saturday June 9th the Major Thomas J. Key Camp has been invited to participate in the above ceremony. We will set up a Civil War encampment and talk to folks as they come through the camp. The camps will open at 9:00 a.m. and remain open until about 1:30 p.m. We are the only Confederates invited. If any of you would like to set up Friday night and spend the night in the cemetery, that's okay. There is a part of the event that night with a lantern tour of the cemetery with actors portraying some of the famous people buried there. This is being sponsored by some of the really significant organizations in our area to include the SUVCW and the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry. More details on this at the June 7 meeting as well as a sign-up sheet for those interested in helping out.

Key Camp Family Picnic

Our First Annual Key Camp Family Picnic last year was a tremendous success so we are doing it again. The date for this year's event is Saturday July 14th. 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 and hot dogs and buns. 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 of a large children's play area adjacent to the pavilion. The camp will provide condiments and drinks and everyone is requested to bring a dish to share. It can be a dessert, a salad, a veggie tray, or chips. I know this is still two months out but I want to get the word out early so everyone can mark their calendars and plan to attend. This is a great time to bring the family out to have a good time and to socialize with fellow camp members and their families. There will be a sign-up sheet at the June and July meetings so we can get a food head count.

REMINDER!!

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE

MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

JUNE 7th 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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