

# THE TELEGRAPH KEY



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



VOL. 14, No. 5

MAY 2013

## MARCH CAMP MEETING 141<sup>st</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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. 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 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. for dinner and start the official meeting at 7:00. Our speaker for the evening is Mr. Sam Gill. Sam is a noted historian and has had numerous articles published in such magazines as Civil War Times Illustrated and Military History. He taught at Johnson County Community College for 15 years. He even had the honor of being the keynote speaker in New Ulm, Minnesota, in September 2009 for the 2000<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the massacre of the Roman Legions in the Teutoburg Forest. His topics cover a wide range of events from the War of 1812 to Pearl Harbor. His topic for our meeting is "JO Shelby Raids Missouri, 1863". It will be a very enjoyable evening and I am sure you will find it extremely interesting. 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 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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.majorkey1920ksscv.org](http://www.majorkey1920ksscv.org)  
SCV National: [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)

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## NEW MEMBER #65

It gives me great pleasure to announce that one of our former members has rejoined the camp. Compatriot Jacob Mirocke has returned. Jacob was in college and gave precedent to his studies and extra curricular activities associated with college. However, he has now graduated and has his full time job so he can now devote his free time (and money) to the camp. Jacob is also a member of the camp sponsored reenactment unit, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battery Missouri Light Artillery. Jacob was very active before and it appears that he will continue that tradition and be a great asset to the camp. Many of you probably remember him from before. If not please take time to introduce yourself and welcome him back. Jacob, it is great to have you back!! Welcome aboard.

## Confederate Memorial Day

Every year our friends in the Missouri Division celebrate Confederate Memorial Day on the Saturday closest to President Jefferson Davis' birthday. Our president's birthday is June 3<sup>rd</sup>, which means this year's event will be held on Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>. The 2013 celebration is the 114<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Missouri Division event. The ceremony honors the 800 souls buried in the Confederate Cemetery at the Confederate Memorial State Historic Site at Higginsville, Missouri. This was the site of the original Confederate Veterans home for the state. The cemetery, the chapel, and one of the cottages are all that remain of the home. The grounds that the veterans used to walk have been preserved and are incorporated in the beautiful site. The Key Camp has been involved in this event for about eleven years. Members wear their camp shirts or Confederate uniforms. In the past, we have contributed men to the Color Guard for the Posting and Retiring of our flags. We also set up a shelter tent in case of extreme heat/sun or rain so bring folding chairs to sit on. Also, bring your lunch as family picnics are a common occurrence at this event. For those that would like to attend, we need to arrive by 10:00 a.m. The Higginsville exit off I-70 is Exit 49 or Highway 13. Go north on 13 through Higginsville and turn right on Highway AA. The entrance to the state historic site is just past the Missouri Veterans Cemetery on AA. One of the most moving portions of the event is the Ancestor Recognition Ceremony. Anyone who wants to recognize their Confederate ancestor (or any veteran) is given a rose and is allowed to give the soldier's name, rank, and unit. The person then proceeds to the Lion of Lucerne Confederate monument and places the rose on the monument. What a beautiful site to see all the roses on that monument. This year the Key Camp is listed as an official sponsor for the event. I had mentioned in last month's newsletter that I was going to make a

motion that the camp pays the fee to become an official sponsor of the event so our camp would be listed in the program. I would like to thank Compatriot James Harris for his contribution of the fee needed for the camp to become an official sponsor. After reading the story, he sent a check for the payment stating that he lives far enough away that he cannot participate in meetings and activities and that this was his way of showing support. Thank you James.

## H. L. Hunley JROTC Medal

The SCV has developed a new medal that is to be awarded to cadets in high school Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) programs. This award has gone over BIG in the Southern states but struggles here in the Midwest. Every year the Monticello Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, to which ten Key Camp members belong, presents an award to a cadet at Shawnee Mission West. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War also presents an award at the school each year. This year I approached the ROTC director, Commander Sheldon Vazquez, USN Ret, about the Key Camp presenting the Hunley medal. On 16 May, I received an answer from Sheldon and he has agreed to have the Key Camp present the H. L. Hunley Medal to a cadet at next year's awards ceremony. This is a first for the Kansas Division and another accomplishment for the Key Camp. I do want to mention that the Brigadier General Hughes Camp #614 in Independence does award two Hunley Medals to cadets in two Blue Valley, Missouri, Schools.

## Missouri History Day

Regrettably, the 2013 iteration of Missouri History Day on the Lone Jack Battlefield on May 8<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to bad weather. We are looking forward to participating next year

## Gardner Civil War Expo

I want to remind everyone of the big event coming up on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Gardner Historical Museum in Gardner. It will run from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Key Camp will have a large display that will include two original Confederate Flags and an original United Confederate Veterans uniform. We will also be doing some recruiting as Gardner is only about 30 minutes away. There will be reenactors and a Civil War campsite for the spectators. The Key Camp sponsored reenactment unit, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battery Missouri Light Artillery, CSA, will have their full-scale 6-pounder field piece (cannon) at the event and will demonstrate how it is loaded and fired. This is a really big event for Gardner and they are expecting an extremely large turnout. They have been publicizing the event for well over two months. While the cannon will be located outside, the display will be inside the museum so I really need some help manning the tables. If any of you can volunteer to assist me, I would greatly appreciate it. I'll have a sign-up sheet and more information at the meeting.

## Kansas Division Elections

The 2013 Kansas Division Convention will be held in Emporia, Kansas on Friday night and Saturday June 21 and 22. I know several folks have already registered. If you have not registered yet there is still time. I will have some registration forms at the meeting. The most important part this year will be division elections. The ballot to vote for commander and lieutenant commander was printed in the February Kansas Division newsletter. If you filled out the ballot and mailed it in - thank you!! If you did not yet vote, you can print off a ballot by going to the Kansas Division website, clicking on newsletters, and then clicking on the February 2013 issue. I will also have ballots at the meeting. I will collect any ballots

from the meeting and hand-carry them to the convention. The convention should be a lot of fun. Friday night they will be showing the movie The Outlaw Josie Wales starring John Wayne. Saturday you will hear the camp reports and have lunch. They have requested that I give my presentation on the H. L. Hunley Confederate submarine. If you haven't heard it before, this is your chance. There will also be an auction, which is always fun. So, if you have not registered yet, please do so quickly. See you at the convention

## 118<sup>th</sup> National Reunion

Vicksburg, Mississippi here we come. The 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans/ Sons of Confederate Veterans have held annual reunions. The 2013 Reunion will be in historic Vicksburg from 18 to 20 July. I know several Key Camp members are registered to attend. These events are a tremendous amount of fun. There are, of course, the business meetings, but there are also tours, banquets, dances, bunches of neat vendors selling everything Confederate, and great camaraderie. One night all the Key Camp folks go out to dinner at some local establishment. This will be my 16<sup>th</sup> Reunion and I'm looking forward to it as much as I did my very first one. If you have never been to one, this is your chance. We do not get very many this close to home so go for it. I promise you will have a great time and will remember it for years to come.

## Southern Legal Resource Center

Many of you are already familiar with the SLRC. There are a non-profit legal organization dedicated to fighting bigotry against all things Southern. They have been around for many, many years and have prevailed in a number of court cases involving Southern Rights. Several years ago, a young high school student designed her formal prom dress. The dress was done in

red, white and blue sequins in a pattern of a flowing Confederate Battle Flag. The principle of the school met her at the door to the prom and forbade her from entering because of her offensive dress. She missed her senior prom because of this excessive political correctness and discrimination. The case has gone through several different levels of our court system. Ladies and Gentlemen, there is a very good possibility that this case, *Hardwick v. Heyward* could go before the United States Supreme Court. You read that right!!! It could go before the Supreme Court. SLRC's expenses for this case are staggering. However, donations from across the country have kept them going. At the June meeting I would like to discuss this situation and formulate a plan for the Key Camp to help the SLRC with a monetary donation. Please think about it before the meeting. Please visit the SLRC website at [www.slrc-csa.org](http://www.slrc-csa.org) and read about the good work they do.

## This Just In

It seems that our Adjutant Steve Crawford had family in Jackson County prior to and during the Late Unpleasantness. It seems that one Jephtha Crawford and his family were murdered by Yankees, most probably by Jennison's Jayhawkers, simply because the Feds felt the family were "Southern sympathizers". This is a perfect example of the war in Kansas/Missouri and the tactics used by Jennison. Anyway, back to our story. There is a couple in Jackson County, not sure if they are related, who are putting up a memorial headstone for Jephtha. On June 29th, there will be a small ceremony dedicating the memorial and the family would really like to have some uniformed Confederates and others at the ceremony. I think this is very doable and a wonderful project for the camp. I will have more details at the meeting as well as a sign-up sheet for those interested in attending.

**REMINDER!**

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

**WILL BE ON THURSDAY**

**JUNE 6<sup>th</sup> AT 7:00 P.M.**

**BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER**

*The Telegraph Key*

*Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920*

*Sons of Confederate Veterans*

*7325 Oakview Street*

*Shawnee, Kansas 66216-5527*