

# 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

---

VOL. 7, No. 11

November 2006

---

## DECEMBER CAMP MEETING 71<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 December 7<sup>th</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. I think you will find that this month's guest speaker will be one of the most interesting we have had. Mr. Richard Stitt (and possibly his brother) will be speaking to us about a diary/journal that he found that was written by his grandfather. Why is this so unique? His grandfather was a Union soldier who was captured and was imprisoned at Andersonville. He kept this journal the entire time he was in the army, even while in the prison camp. At the end of the war he mailed the journal home and began his journey back to Ohio. Guess what - he was on the steamboat *Sultana* and survived the explosion. What a great story and one you won't want to miss. Mr. Stitt will bring the journal to the meeting so we can see first hand what he is telling us about. It is awesome! 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.

<u>Officers:</u>	<u>Key Camp</u>	<u>Gregg Chapter</u>
Commander:	James L. Speicher	C. Heath Roland
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Roger Strout.	
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland	C. Heath Roland
Chaplain:	Steven Crutchfield	
Historian & Scrapbook:	Loren Lundy	
Web Master:	Steven Crutchfield	
Newsletter Editor:	James L. Speicher	
Event Coordinator	Gary Roland	

## SCV On The Web

SCV National: [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)  
SCV Battleflag Site: [www.battleflag.org](http://www.battleflag.org)  
Key Camp: [www.home.earthlink.net/~keycamp](http://www.home.earthlink.net/~keycamp)

---

New Member #65

This section intentionally left blank.

No new members.

Come on guys let's recruit!

## Wornall House Battle of Westport Event

Saturday morning October 28 saw members of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp hard at work at the Wornall House. The event was a living history campsite set up at the request of the Wornall House staff as part of their month long commemoration of the Battle of Westport. The Wornall House served as a field hospital treating the wounded of both sides after the battle. Key Camp members that participated were Lee Crutchfield, Tom Ellis, Craig and Angie Freeman, Merle Leech, Carl Linck, Jon Linn, Loren Lundy, Eric and Carrie Martinez, Jacob Mirocke, Dan Peterson, Sam Price, Gary Roland, Heath Roland, Jim Speicher, Gavin Weir, and John Weir. It was a great turnout for the camp and I want to again thank all the members that were there to make this another successful event. Our camp consisted of four types of tents with various boxes and accoutrements scattered around. We had a relic display table with numerous original items along with reproduction soldier items and weapons. We also had our recruiting table set up on the side as well. The 6-Pounder Field Piece and limber of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri were on display but we couldn't fire it due to the possibility of breaking windows in the residential area. We did however, have John and Gavin Weir doing musket-firing demonstrations. While the public turnout was rather light we still had a good time. A high point was when Fox 4 News came out and took video of the sight and interviewed Commander Speicher. A short clip did appear on the 5:00, 9:00, and 10:00 p.m. news so we did get some publicity out of it. We did have the unexpected surprise when Steve Wilson showed up with a reproduction tintype camera. He took a group picture in front of the house and several individual and couple photos of our members. The finished photos were done on aluminum plate rather than tin but they sure looked good. The staff at the Wornall House indicated they would like us to come back again next year so this may become an annual event for us.

## Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade

On Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>, our sixth appearance in the Leavenworth Veterans Day parade was one of our best yet. The Key Camp fielded 25 people for the event (Steve Crutchfield, Jim King and grandson Cameron, Merle Leech, Jon Linn, Eric Martinez with Carrie and three of their girls, Jacob Mirocke, Sam Price, Gary Roland Heath Roland, Spike Speicher Roger Strout, Charles Walthall and son Jordan, and John Weir and son Cameron. Guests that were with us were Commander Ed Kennedy of the BG William Steele Camp #1857 and Renee Hecke with her two daughters and a friend. What a force we were. Our "float" consisted of a five-man Color Guard of three flag bearers (U.S., Kansas, and CS Battle Flags) and two riflemen. They were followed by one man carrying the Camp Flag, two men carrying the recruiting banner, and two men carrying the Steele Camp SCV Banner. They were followed by Eric Martinez's truck and trailer with the cannon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri. Finally was the truck belonging to Charles Walthall with Jordan on the back. The ladies mentioned above all rode on the trailer with the cannon. It was quite impressive and I am told we took up almost a city block in length. We looked pretty darn good if I do say so myself. Everyone said they saw a lot of folks taking pictures of us. I heard more spectator applause for us this year than any other year. We all had a great time and are looking forward to next year's parade.

## Headstone Dedication

Upon conclusion of the Parade on November 11<sup>th</sup>, a large contingent of us proceeded to Prairie Cemetery, located near I-435 and Leavenworth Road. If you didn't know it was there you'd never see it. It is a fairly large plot of land but not that many headstones. It was obvious that vandals had been at work in the cemetery due to pushed over or broken headstones. But at the top of the hill there was a brand new Confederate headstone that read "Private William J. Hutton, Company K, 10<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry". Adjutant Heath Roland and Compatriot Jon Linn had recently placed the headstone. The ceremony began with the posting of the Colors carried by Gary Roland, Heath Roland, and Merle Leech and two riflemen, Lee Crutchfield and Jacob Mirocke. Key Camp Chaplain Steve Crutchfield gave the invocation, read a passage from the Bible followed by a poem. Commander Speicher read an account written by a Confederate Veteran titled "A Typical Confederate Soldier" that he likened to private Hutton. We were honored to have Compatriot Bill Mann from the South Kansas Camp in attendance as Private Hutton was his second great grandfather. Accompanying Bill were his wife, and his daughter and her husband and three children for a total of seven descendants. Compatriot Mann gave a brief history of Private Hutton's life. The final portion of the ceremony consisted of the riflemen firing a volley and the benediction given by Chaplain Crutchfield. Compatriots Jackson Hedrick and his wife, Jon Linn, Eric and Carrie Martinez, and John Weir also attended the ceremony making a total of 13 Key Camp members/Key Camp guests.

## New Banner Presented to Camp

At our November 2 meeting the Major Thomas J. Key Camp received a new banner. It is a beautiful sign that is three feet high and 12 feet long and made with the same material and design as our recruiting banner. The

banner was presented to the camp at the meeting by Commander Speicher on behalf of Compatriot Carl Linck. Compatriot Linck was unable to make the meeting due to work but he did tell Commander Speicher that an "anonymous donor" paid for the banner. It is designed to be used whenever the members of the camp are doing volunteer work such as at the Wornall House or at Mine Creek Battlefield. Our thanks to Compatriot Linck for procuring this wonderful banner from that anonymous donor.

## **Harris-Kearney House 1856 Christmas**

Several members of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp helped the Westport Historical Society by participating in their 1856 Christmas Tour of the house. The tours, held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 15, 17, and 18 November, were designed to show life in the home at Christmas time in 1856. There were living history reenactors in three different scenarios in the house. One scenario was a party in the parlor while decorating the Christmas tree and singing carols. A second scenario was in the second floor children's bedroom at bedtime. The third one was Christmas dinner of roast prairie chicken, mashed potatoes, bread, oysters, orange slices, green beans, and sweet potato pie. Commander Speicher was in the dinner scenario all three nights while Compatriot Merle Leech was in the same scenario on Friday and Saturday nights. On Saturday night Compatriot Craig Freeman and his wife Angie were partygoers in the parlor, even though Compatriot Freeman stated he could not sing worth a darn. On Saturday night Compatriot Eric Martinez and his wife Carrie joined the troupe and were assigned to the dinner scenario after the original couple, who had been there Wednesday and Friday nights, cancelled out because the wife was ill. Compatriot Martinez' son Aaron helped out as a partygoer Saturday night as well. Everyone spoke in first person to the guests touring the house and it made for a very enjoyable time. Of course the wine and the Cherry Bounce simply added to

the reality of the dinner scenario. The Kentucky bourbon supplied by Mr. John Wornall (aptly portrayed by Compatriot Leech) made a fine finishing touch. This was the first time the Westport Historical Society had tried this as a fundraiser. There were probably 100 people through the house over the three evenings so I would classify it as a success. We have already been invited back for next year's event. My special thanks goes out to those compatriots and guests who helped make it a success.

## **2007 Lee-Jackson Banquet**

The annual Lee-Jackson Banquet is scheduled for Saturday January 20 at Grinter Place Historic Site in Kansas City, Kansas. This is the same as last year's banquet location. There will be a catered meal, cash bar, and a birthday cake honoring Generals Lee and Jackson. Our guest speaker will be Don Gilmore with a great presentation based on his acclaimed book Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border. By the way Don will have copies of his book available for signing and purchase for \$25.00. There will also be our live auction, which is our big fundraiser for the year. Invitation will be going out shortly so watch for them and get your reservation forms in early. This promises to be a sell out crowd so make your reservations early. Cost of the tickets is \$20.00 per person. Such a deal!

## L-J Banquet Special Auction Item

Every year at our Lee-Jackson Banquet the Major Thomas J. Key Camp holds a live auction as our big fundraiser for the year. For this auction the camp relies in a big way for donations from camp members. This year is no exception as a call for donations was put out at the October meeting. We still need donations. I must tell you though that there will be one very special item on the auction block. That item is an original key wind pocket watch that was manufactured in 1863. Again, this is an original watch from the year 1863 and it is in working condition. This is a very rare find and is worth several hundred Yankee greenbacks. The watch will be on display at the December meeting so you can see just how exquisite the watch is. In addition to the watch there will be books, Gone With The Wind Christmas ornaments, mug sets, and two original pieces of CSA paper currency. Be sure to bring your checkbook to the auction as we don't take credit cards.

**REMINDER!!**

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE**

**MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920**

**WILL BE ON THURSDAY**

**DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> AT 6:30 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*