

# 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. 8, No. 11

November 2007

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## DECEMBER CAMP MEETING 82<sup>nd</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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Please note that 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 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. for dinner and start the official meeting at 7:00. What do you think of when I say "Copperheads"? For most people their first thought is a slithery poisonous snake. For those of us that have an interest in the Second American Revolution, we immediately think of the people known by the Copperhead name who resided in the North. Most of us know little if any about them. Our speaker for the December meeting, Dr. Jenny Weber PhD, from KU, has written a book about the Copperheads and will be telling us about that little remembered part of the war. The Copperheads were Northerners who sympathized with the Southern Confederacy. They were definitely a "snake" in the eyes of a certain Union president and his efforts to crush the South. This promises to be one of our most fascinating presentations and one that you won't want to miss. 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.

## Officers:

## Key Camp

## Gregg Chapter

Commander:	James L. Speicher	Scott Porter
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Roger Strout	
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland	
Chaplain:	Steven Crutchfield	
Historian & Scrapbook:	Loren Lundy	
Web Master:	John Weir	
Newsletter Editor:	James L. Speicher	
Media Coordinator	Lane Smith	
Cadet Member Coordinator		

## Key Camp On The Web

Key Camp: [www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org](http://www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org)

SCV National: [www.scvc.org](http://www.scvc.org)

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## New Member #65

As you all are aware, the camp lost six members this year to non-payment of dues. The good news is that two of those have since come back into the fold. Last month Ron Lucas joined us bringing our total membership back up to 64. Now I am proud to announce that we have our new 65<sup>th</sup> member. He is David M. Harris and he is the son of our current member James Harris. This makes our 10<sup>th</sup> father/son team in the camp joining the Boltens, Crutchfields, Dudas (father/2 sons), Freemans, Martinez, Rogers, Rolands, Smiths, Strouts, and Weirs. David is joining under the same ancestor as his father: Private Henry Claiborne Harris, Company K, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Alabama Infantry. We should have the membership material back from International Headquarters in time to induct David at the December meeting. So please introduce yourselves and make David feel at home. Welcome aboard, David.

## Ottawa Veterans Day parade

The Ottawa Veterans Day Parade was held on Saturday 10 November 2007. The Key Camp had a good turnout for the event with Lee Crutchfield, Craig & Angie Freeman, Merle Leech, Eric & Carrie Martinez with Aaron, Jacob Martinez, Jacob Mirocke, Dan Peterson, Gary Roland, Heath Roland, Spike Speicher, Joe Strout, Roger Strout, and John Weir. As usual we were made to feel very welcome. This was our debut with our new camp shirts and boy did we look sharp. The Color Guard was composed of the three flag bearers in camp shirts and khaki trousers on line with the guide centered behind calling cadence. That was followed by four members in Confederate uniform in the same configuration as the Color Guard. At the last minute the parade organizers called all the Color Guards to the front of the parade. Color Guards, in order of appearance, were U.S. Marine Corps followed by the Knights of Columbus, the Key Camp, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Union Veterans, and the Sea Cadets. The Color Guards all participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial and it was impressive to say the least. However, we were not allowed to fall back in with the other Key Camp group as they told all the Color Guards to continue to lead the parade. So while I did not see the other part of our contingent I did hear that they looked extremely good. After the parade many of us proceeded to Forest Park where a relic display was set up and manned by members of the camp. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battery Missouri Light Artillery (the reenactment unit sponsored by the Key Camp) set up their cannon and fired numerous times throughout the afternoon. My thanks to all of you who came out for the parade and helped make it a success. A special thank you to Compatriot Eric Martinez for bringing out the cannon and using it in the parade. I spoke with the parade organizers that afternoon and they definitely have invited us back for next year's parade. They said we really add a lot to the parade. Deo Vindice!

## **Camp Officer Elections**

The Key Camp Constitution calls for election of officers every two years. The current officers have all agreed to run for re-election. That slate will be presented at the December meeting. At that time there will be a call for nominations from the floor. Any Life or Regular members of the camp are eligible to hold those offices. Any member can nominate any other member. That nomination must be seconded and the nominated individual must accept the nomination. If there are no nominations from the floor we will vote on the presented slate by voice. If there are nominations from the floor we will vote by secret ballot. Terms will take effect January 1, 2008. Please attend the December meeting and vote for the future of your camp.

## **Pleasant Grove Cemetery Update**

This year we completed our EIGHTH year of caring for the Confederate graves in Pleasant Grove Cemetery. This has been our most sacred perpetual project as we clean, cut, and care for the cemetery grounds and protect and revere the Confederate monument and graves located there. This is a prime example of the mission of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. SCV Commander-in-Chief Christopher Sullivan has even recognized and praised our efforts at the cemetery. I am pleased to report that on Saturday November 3 the cemetery was mowed for the last time in 2007. Compatriots Lee & Steve Crutchfield, Eric & Jacob Martinez and Spike Speicher did an outstanding job of making the cemetery ready to confront winter. I want to thank Lee & Steve Crutchfield, Ed Kennedy from the Steele Camp, Jim King, Eric & Carrie Martinez, Jacob Martinez, Aaron Martinez, Scott Porter, Lane Smith, Spike Speicher, and John & Cameron Weir for volunteering their time to come out during the year to help with this project. Without the support of members like you we could not accomplish all that we do.

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

The Westport Historical Society have again requested out assistance. The final Harris-Kearney House event for the year is the 1856 dinner tour. This is their biggest fund raising event for the year and several Key Camp members participated last year. This year the event took place on November 14, 16, and 17 (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday). Key Camp members who took part this year were Merle Leech, Eric & Carrie Martinez with Aaron, Jacob Martinez, and Spike Speicher. Alana Smith, coordinator of the event, asked me to pass on her thanks to everyone who dressed out and made the event a tremendous success. They had a better turnout of visitors this year than last so she was very excited. We'll do it again next year.

## **2008 Lee-Jackson Banquet**

The Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 proudly announces that the Seventh Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet will be held on Saturday 26 January 2008. Last year we had 79 reservations. This year let's see how close we can get to 100 reservations!! We certainly have a great attraction this year, as our speaker is the world-renowned author, battlefield preservationist, and hard-core reenactor Robert Lee Hodge. This is a great opportunity to hear a very much in demand speaker. As Rob told me "I will make it worth their while." Not only do we have a great speaker lined up but we also have lots of other attractions. As you all know this is our one big fund raising event each year. We do this in lieu of car washes and bake sales. There will be door prizes. There will be good food. There will be the cash bar. And there will be our auction. We have some great items to be auctioned off so you won't want to miss that. Saturday January 26, 2008 is the date so mark your calendar NOW!!! Come and see Robert Lee Hodge in person.

## Auction Items Solicited

Each year at the Lee-Jackson Banquet, the Key Camp has the only real fund raising event we conduct: the live auction. This event has placed anywhere from \$500 to \$800 in our treasury each year. The success of that auction, however, depends on donations from our members and friends. Therefore this is the official notification that I am accepting donations of pertinent items that are suitable for auction (and/or door prizes). If you have something to donate please get it to me at the next meeting or I will come pick it up. Remember the success of the auction, thus the financial survival of the camp depends on your donations.



The William H. Gregg Chapter #268,  
Military Order of the Stars and Bars

**In the Military Order of the Stars and Bars (MOSB), our main focus as descendants of Confederate officers and the civilian Confederate government is to emphasize faith in Christ, family and tradition, and to preserve Confederate history for posterity.**

**CONFEDERATE HISTORY: DID YOU KNOW... General Patrick Cleburne's steed's name was "Dixie"? Unfortunately, this fine charger was KIA at Perryville!**

New Jo Shelby book a hit! It is *Jo Shelby's Iron Brigade*. By Deryl P. Sellmeyer. (Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing, 2007. Pp. 381. Preface, acknowledgements, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95). Mr. Sellmeyer is a direct descendant of one of Shelby's cavalrymen. He spent decades researching Shelby and has now told the "true story" about Jo Shelby during the war for Southern Independence. It is a fantastic read, and I now have even more respect for Gen. Shelby than I had before (if that is possible!). The book also discusses a little about his prewar life and post war time as a US Marshal for Western Missouri. What a great American!

New Lee Portrait Found! It is true...a beautiful and previously unknown original painting of Gen. Robert E. Lee has been found at an estate sale. The artist is Thomas B. Welch, a native Southerner (Charleston, SC) born in 1814. He was very famous worldwide at the time, and even painted "Stonewall" Jackson. Better yet, this painting was not done from a photo of Gen. Lee, but from him posing for the artist. This is a big find, and the AP ran the story in hundreds of newspapers around the world. The Museum of the Confederacy now owns the painting because the man that bought it at the estate sale called the museum.

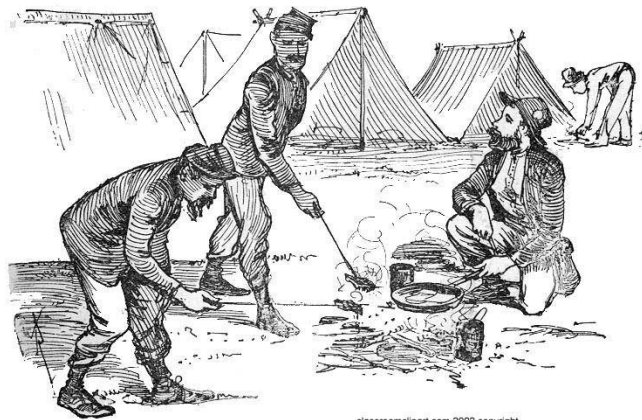
For MOSB membership, it is open to direct *or collateral* male descendants of Confederate commissioned officers and of any elected or appointed member of the Executive Branch of the Confederate Government. I invite you to join this organization of honor and service. If interested, please contact me or visit the MOSB website at <http://www.mosbihq.org/index.htm>

Deo Vindice!

Scott A. Porter

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Caterers preparing the meal for the 2008 Lee-Jackson Banquet

**REMINDER!!**

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE

MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup> AT 6:30 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

## *The Telegraph Key*

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*Sons of Confederate Veterans*

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