

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. 9, No. 11

November 2008

DECEMBER CAMP MEETING 92nd REGULAR MEETING

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday, December 4th, 2008. We will be meeting at Zarda's Barbecue located on the southwest corner of 87th 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. The battle of Westport was the largest battle fought west of the Mississippi River. It has often been called the Gettysburg of the West because the ramifications of that battle had similar effects on General Price's army as Gettysburg had on General Lee's army. Today almost all of it is gone. So basically the battlefield visitor does not get much of an idea of the magnitude nor complexity of the battle. However, that is changing due to the establishment of the Battle of Westport Visitor Center. Our speaker this month is Dan Smith who headed up the drive to establish the center. Dan will tell us about the history of the site, where it is now, and future plans for the center. At this meeting the Key Camp will be donating a Missouri Battle Flag to the center. I think this will be a program you won't want to miss. Be sure and attend. 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 st Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield	
2 nd Lieutenant Commander:	Roger Strout	
Interim 2 nd Lt Commander	John Weir	
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland	
Chaplain:	Thomas Ellis	
Historian & Scrapbook:	Loren Lundy	
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.majorkey1920ksscvc.org

SCV National: www.scvc.org

Welcome New Members #72, 73 and 74

I mentioned in the last issue that two of our newest members were Rick Bullock and his son Travis, who are joining our camp to become the 12th father/son team. At press time I did not yet have the information about them so I simply gave their names. I have since found out that their Confederate ancestor was Private Robert Bullock, Company H, 61st North Carolina Infantry. Rick and Travis, along with Paul Allen, were inducted at the October meeting. It's great to have you two in our ranks. Welcome aboard.

Our other new, and 74th, member is Leonard Jackson. He was in attendance at the October meeting but we had just received his application so he will be inducted at the November meeting. Leonard's Confederate ancestor

was Private Len Sanders Jackson, Company C, 13th Tennessee Infantry. So Leonard we are honored to have you in our ranks and we look forward to a long and rewarding relationship. Welcome aboard.

Pleasant Grove Cemetery Update

The official word is that the cemetery DOES NOT need to be mowed any more this year. That is great news. I am very proud to say that this completes our 9th year of caring for the Confederate soldiers and the monument in that cemetery. I want to thank everyone who, over the last nine years, has ever gone out there to help. This is a massive but extremely worthwhile project and my heart-felt thanks goes to all of you that have helped with that project. This is what the SCV is all about - honoring the memory and sacrifices made by our fore fathers. The six Confederate soldiers buried in that cemetery represent every Confederate soldier who fought for their freedom. They represent OUR ancestors. Deo Vindice.

Ottawa Veterans Day Parade

On Saturday November 8th it was a cold and blustery day as Winnie the Pooh would say. But that didn't stop the parade. Yes it was a cold day but at least there was no rain. On the other hand there was a substantial wind that made the flags rather hard to control. Even when the American Flag came unhooked at the top of the pole and slid all the way down to the bottom of the flag the parade did not stop. That was embarrassing! It was one of their largest parades yet but this year seemed to be a bit disorganized. But we still had a blast. Representing the Major Thomas J. Key Camp were Compatriots Rick Bullock, Travis Bullock, Lee Crutchfield, Merle Leech, Eric Martinez (with Carrie and Aaron), Jacob Martinez, Spike Speicher, and John Weir. My thanks goes to each of you for your support of the camp for this event. I truly appreciate it.

Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade

Then on Tuesday November 11, the actual Veterans Day, members of the Key Camp participated in the Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade. The weather was much more conducive, in fact it was downright nice out. Since the parade was on a weekday we knew we would have a small turnout so we elected to do a joint Color Guard with the Franklin Camp #5 of the Sons of Union Veterans. Compatriot Lane Smith just happens to be the commander of that camp. He is one of those SOBs (Son of Both). Our forecast of a low turnout became true as two Confederates and three Yankees showed up. So we had a four person Color Guard with Yankees carrying the US and Kansas flags while Merle Leech carried the Price Flag and Spike Speicher carried the Battle flag. Also attending were Carl Linck and Loren Lundy. Carl drove his car that was all decorated while 99-year old Loren, resplendent in his Confederate uniform, sat in the front seat and waved to the crowd. It was a wonderful time and we got a lot of applause from the crowd of spectators all along the route of march. Again I sincerely appreciate the compatriots that showed up to support the camp. Thank you.

Wornall House 150th Anniversary

It was an even colder and more blustery day on Saturday November 15th when the Key Camp participated in the 150th anniversary celebration of the Wornall House. We had agreed to set up a display table of relics and equipment. We had a nice display set up and even had some recruiting brochures set out. As cold and windy as it was there were a lot of spectators throughout the day. Probably the most I have seen at a Wornall House event. It was really fun talking to them and telling them about the equipment and firing the muskets. Spike Speicher provided the display and Carl Linck and Dan Peterson came out to help set up. Carl had to leave early because he had a family funeral to go to. That's

dedication to come out and help before going to a funeral. Thank you Carl. Dan stayed for quite a while before Lee Crutchfield showed up. About the time Dan left John Weir showed up. It is a good thing we had three or four people there because at one point we were all talking to various groups of people at the same time. Later in the afternoon Compatriot Paul Allen showed up and stayed until the end along with Lee Crutchfield. They both helped me take down and pack everything up. All in all it was a good time and we talked to a lot of people. We even handed out five applications for membership. Again my thanks goes to all five of our compatriots that came out to help man the display.

Lee-Jackson Banquet

Ladies and gentlemen I am pleased to announce that the Eighth Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet will be held on Saturday evening January 24, 2009. That's right - this is our eighth celebration of the birthdays of those two great Southern chieftains. This will also be the best L-J Banquet EVER!! Individual invitations will go out next month but go ahead and mark your calendar NOW!! Some of the details are still being worked but the date, January 24, 2009, and the location, Grinter Place, are confirmed. Again this year we will be having our live auction. Remember this is our major fund raising event for the year. We don't do car washes or bake sales. This is it. Along those lines I would like to solicit any donations of items, preferably War For Southern Independence related, that you would like to donate. If you have any items you would like to donate please bring them to the December meeting or contact Commander Speicher to arrange for pickup. We do need donations so please see what you can find to donate. At any rate this is shaping up to be class event. Cost is still only \$20.00 per person and you can't do better than that for what you get by attending the 8th Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet.

2008 - The Year in Review

What a year we have had. And what a great year it has been. This camp has accomplished a lot. Everything we do is done to honor our Confederate ancestors and preserve our Southern heritage. Let's look at some of the accomplishments of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp in 2008:

7th Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet with 79 attendees
11 camp meetings with an average of 33 attendees
Kansas Day Display at Fort Leavenworth
Mine Creek Battlefield Spring Workday
Display/recruiting table at Mahaffie reenactment
Confederate Memorial Day ceremony at Fort Leavenworth
Bushwhacker Days Parade in Nevada
Kansas Division Convention
Key Camp Family Picnic
SCV National Convention
Live Fire Event at Parma Woods Range
Wornall House display
DeSoto Days Parade
Quantrill Society Memorial Ceremony
Ridgely MO, Headstone Dedication Ceremony
Westport Visitor Center Grand Opening
Mine Creek Battlefield Fall Workday
Ottawa Veterans Day Parade
Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade
150th Anniversary of the Wornall House display table
Mowed the cemetery six times

I'm sure there some events I missed but I think this gives you a good indication of just how active your camp is. You have a lot to be proud of. There are camps in the confederation that have a lot more members than we do and do much less than we do. The camp could not do all these good things without the support of you, our members. You make it possible for us to be the "Key Camp of the Kansas Division". To all of you

that played a part in any of the activities above, my hat is off to you. You have my most heartfelt thanks. The William H. Gregg Chapter (#268) of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars



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

CONFEDERATE HISTORY: REMEMBERING THE VICTORY AT FREDERICKSBURG, 13 DECEMBER 1862.

Confederate Victory. 17,929 casualties of which 13,353 were Union soldiers.

Overview of the Battle : On November 14, Gen. Burnside (US), now in command of the Army of the Potomac, sent a corps to occupy the vicinity of Falmouth near Fredericksburg, VA. The rest of the army soon followed. Gen. Lee reacted by entrenching his army on the heights behind the town. On December 11, Union engineers laid five pontoon bridges across the Rappahannock under fire. On the 12th, the Federal army crossed over, and on December 13, Burnside mounted a series of futile frontal assaults on Prospect Hill and Marye's Heights that resulted in staggering casualties. Meade's division (US), on the Union left flank, briefly penetrated Gen. Jackson's line but was driven back by a gallant counterattack. Union generals C. Feger Jackson and George Bayard, and Confederate generals Thomas R.R. Cobb and Maxey Gregg were killed. On December 15, Burnside called off the offensive and recrossed the river, ending the campaign. Burnside initiated a new offensive in January 1863, which quickly bogged down in the winter mud. The defeat caused profound depression throughout the North.

Significance of the Battle of Fredericksburg: Gen. Burnside's unsuccessful attempt to move South to launch an attack against the Southern Capital at Richmond resulted in overwhelming defeat. This combined with his abortive "Mud March" in January and other failures led to Burnside's replacement by Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker in January 1863.

(Source: CWSAC Battle Summaries)

Confederate Generals Thomas R. R. Cobb (left) of Cobb's Georgia Brigade and Maxey Gregg (right) of the 1st SC Infantry both were killed in action leading their troops.



Deo Vindice!

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HOPING Y'ALL HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING WITH FRIENDS AND
FAMILY AND MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU.

REMINDER!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

DECEMBER 4th 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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