

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

VOL. 10, No. 11

NOVEMBER 2009

NOVEMBER CAMP MEETING 103rd Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday December 3rd, 2009. 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. Our speaker for the evening is Mr. Bob Dorian. Bob is a member of the Kansas City Military Collectors Club and that is where I first met him. His presentation will be on "Military Medicine In The Civil War". He has a great collection of original medical instruments that he will bring in and share with us and explain their use. You will be surprised at how primitive some of these instruments are and yet they were considered state of the art back then. He will also talk about sanitation, or the lack thereof, and how it killed so many soldiers. You will be amazed at his presentation and I'm sure you will find this educational presentation will be informative and interesting and it promises to make for an enjoyable evening 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 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 st Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield
2 nd Lieutenant Commander:	John Weir
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland
Chaplain:	Reverend Thomas T. 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.wcv.org

New Member #71 and 72

I am pleased to announce that we have gained two new members in the last week or so. This will move our membership number to 72 compatriots. First is Jim Tucker, who is descended of Private Columbus Americus Turpin, Company A, 12th Missouri Cavalry. Jim was introduced to us when Compatriot Dennis Garstang brought Jim to one of our meetings. The second new member is Steve Crawford. I met Steve at an SAR meeting and he decided to join. His Confederate ancestor is Private Richard E. Lee, Company K, 16th Missouri Infantry. Steve mentioned that his ancestor is related to Robert E. Lee. We will plan to induct Steve at the December meeting. Jim will not be able to make the December meeting so we will probably induct him at the Lee-Jackson Banquet. Please introduce yourselves to our new members. Welcome aboard Jim and Steve. We are honored to have you in our ranks.

Remembering Bobby Lee Webster



Charter Member Bobby Lee Webster

On Wednesday October 29, 2009 the Key Camp lost one of its charter members when Compatriot Bobby Lee Webster passed away at age 77. Bob was very active in the camp by attending meetings, parades, and helped with several Mine Creek workdays before his health began to wane. He was retired from TWA after serving 31 years as a pilot. For his military service in the Air Force during the Korean War he was awarded the SCV War Service Medal, one of the highest awards given by the SCV. His other SCV award was the SCV Commendation Medal presented to him in 2002. In addition to the SCV, Bob was also a member of the Delaware Crossing Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Bob was one of the ten founders of the camp and he will be greatly missed. Rest in peace Bobby.

Where Have All The Members Gone?

I know what you are saying. Last month we had 80 members and now, all of a sudden we are at 71 and 72? What's going on? Here is what happened. Each year on November 1st the SCV removes from the membership roles anyone who has not paid their current dues.

Unfortunately, every year we lose some members, who for one reason or another, who fail to renew their membership. Some move away and join a different camp closer to where they live. For some it is a monetary thing, especially in light of our current economic situation. Sometimes family commitments take priority. Sometimes death takes our members. It is inevitable that we lose some members. I don't know of any camps our size that don't lose members. It hurts but we move on. This year was no different. In fact this year we have been hit especially hard. We lost six members. Charter member Bobby Webster passed away. Compatriot Robert Lee Hodge moved to Virginia. We also lost Mike Adams, Steve Crutchfield, and Ed Duda and his son Ethan. That is six members lost. If that isn't bad enough we have recently learned that we are losing three more members. Compatriot Shane Kastler is moving to Oklahoma but plans to join a camp there. Mike Cecil is moving to Maryland, where he too plans to join a camp. Finally, Jackson Hedrick is moving to Colorado. Therefore, we have lost, or are about to lose, nine members. That is a BIG hit for a camp our size to take. When all the dust has settled, it will drop our camp membership to 70. Our two new members brought us back up to 72. That means that we need to make up our losses with reinforcements. So, we need to get out and recruit new members. The potential members are out there - we just need to locate them and let them know that we exist. In closing, I would say that while we lost five members to non-renewal, we sincerely wish them luck in all their endeavors and hope that perhaps they may rejoin us in the future. Deo Vindice.

Some Neat Stuff Coming Up

On Friday and Saturday nights, November 27 and 28, the historic Harris-Kearney House in Westport will be presenting their Christmas Eve 1860 tours from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. Tours will begin at 6:00 and will

start every 15 minutes. Adults are \$7.00; students \$4.00; children under five are free (with an adult).

Park University is hosting "Letters From the Front" on December 3 thru 6. From their posting - "Ninety-five years ago, soldiers from the British and German armies shared one of history's memorable occurrences. Park University's history program cordially invites you to attend a dramatic reading of letters associated with the 'Christmas Truce of 1914'". Times are 7:00 p.m. on December 3, 4, and 5; 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on December 6. Adults \$10.00; students and under 18 are \$5.00.

Both of these events sound like fun.

9th Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet

We are about to embark on our 9th Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet, which will be held on Saturday 16 January 2010. We have an exciting evening planned for your entertainment. Our keynote speaker is none other than the Sons of Confederate Veterans Commander-In-Chief Chuck McMichael. Aside from a fantastic dinner, an even more fantastic speaker, and awesome camaraderie, we will be having door prizes, the presentation of the 2009 Key's Battery Award, and our fund raising live auction. Remember this is our only fund raiser for the year. We have some wonderful items up for bid this year and we take cash, check, and IOUs. The banquet will be at Grinter Place and we are limited in our seating capacity. Therefore, attendance is limited to 75; first come, first served. So far more than half of the tickets have already been sold. The cost of the tickets remains \$20.00 per person. The cost has not gone up since the first banquet so this is a real deal! If you want to get advance tickets please notify Adjutant Heath Roland. You won't soon forget L-J 2010.

Ottawa Veterans Day Parade

Our 9th appearance in the Ottawa, Kansas, Veterans Day parade was a smashing success. The weather was perfect. It could not have been any better. We had a good turnout and I want to thank Kris Amaro, Rick Bullock, Travis Bullock, Scott Lalumondier, Vinny Lalumondier, Merle Leech, Eric Martinez, Jacob Martinez, Carrie Martinez and three of the girls, and Spike Speicher for their support of this event. This year was the largest turnout of spectators that I think I have ever seen at this parade. It was awesome. After the parade the cannon of the 3rd Battery Missouri Light Artillery set up in Forest Park along with the other military displays. Several firing demonstrations were performed to the delight of the audience. Everyone had an enjoyable time, especially when we received applause all along the parade route.

Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade

It was an awesome day for a parade on Wednesday 11 November. It was Veterans Day. The sun was shining and the sky was clear. The temperature was about 60 degrees and there was a slight wind. It could not have been more perfect. The Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Franklin Camp #5, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War had a joint entry in the official Mid-western Veterans Day Parade in Leavenworth, Kansas. It is the largest Veterans Day parade in the mid-west and one of the largest in the country. Our line number was 123, the 123rd entry in the parade. They were a whole bunch more behind us. The parade started at 10:30 a.m. but it was 11:00 before number 123 stepped off. The Key Camp was represented by Compatriots Paul Allen, Merle Leech, Carl Linck, Loren Lundy, Lane Smith (in Yankee blue) and Spike Speicher. The entry consisted of Carl's 1983 Johnson Motors Presidential Rumble Seat Roadster with Carl driving and Loren (100 years old last August) in

the passenger seat. Loren was a great hit in his Confederate uniform waving to all the people. Every time the parade stopped, which was very often with a parade that large, Carl would announce the Loren was our oldest camp member at 100 years old and the spectators would go wild. The Color Guard was lead by Merle, resplendent in his Confederate officer's uniform. The Color Guard consisted of Paul carrying the Confederate battle flag and Spike as the Confederate guard. Dave Tollefson in Union uniform carried the U.S. flag with Lane as the Union guard. It was a long parade and there were literally thousands of spectators. We received tremendous applause all along the parade route. I want to thank all of you that participated in this parade. We got our flag out before the people and that's what it's all about.



**The Joint Color Guard
At the Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade**

REMINDER!!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

DECEMBER 3rd 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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