

THE TELEGRAPH KEY



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



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NOVEMBER 2012

DECEMBER CAMP MEETING 136TH Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday December 6th, 2012. 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. We have a unique speaker this month. January 22, 2013, is the 114th anniversary of the Battle of Isandlwana and of the Defense of Rorke's Drift during the Zulu War of 1879. Those two events mark one of the worst British military defeats ever recorded as well as a classic defense that saw the most Victoria Crosses awarded for one battle. Our speaker is Mr. Toby Giese, an expert on the Zulu War and he will be speaking about those two battles. While the Zulu War in South Africa didn't have any tangible connection with our War Between the States, I think you will find this a most interesting topic. This is the stuff that movies are made of. In fact, two movies have been made about these very battles. You really do not want to miss this presentation. Be sure to bring your wife or significant other, 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 st Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield
2 nd 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.majorkey1920ksscvc.org
SCV National: www.scvc.org

NEW MEMBER

Every year camps lose members because they don't renew their membership. There are many valid reasons given for not renewing. But remember, just being a member and paying your dues helps tremendously. When you pay your dues you receive Confederate Veteran magazine, but more importantly, your money supports the activities of the camp and honors your Confederate ancestor. This year we lost four members that did not re-new. While this is less than in the past several years, it still hurts the camp. Unfortunately, one reason members don't renew is because they say, "I don't feel welcome or a part of the group." That hurts. We need to make every effort to introduce ourselves to new members. We need to sit with them and talk. That is one reason that no one should have for leaving the SCV. Remember, recruiting and retention are key to camp survival.

A Busy November Winds Downs

WOW! What a month. First we had a wonderful camp meeting on November 1st. This was followed by the Mine Creek Battlefield End-of-Season Open House on the 3rd. It was an exciting day as the Major Thomas J. Key Camp set up a display of original relics and weapons from the War of Northern Aggression. The open house from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. had Compatriots Merle Leech, Spike Speicher, and Jim Thornton talking to visitors and explaining items on display.



Compatriot Jim Thornton answers questions about the display at the Mine Creek Battlefield End-of-Season Open House

One week later, on Saturday 10 November, the Key Camp participated in the annual Ottawa Veterans Day Parade. There was a good turnout from the camp with Compatriots

Rick Bullock, Scott Lalumondier, Vinny Lalumondier, Merle Leech, Eric Martinez (with Carrie as photographer), Jacob Martinez, Spike Speicher, and John Weir attending.



The Color Guard left to right: Merle Leech, Rick Bullock, Vinny Lalumondier John Weir, Spike Speicher, Scott Lalumondier

Following the Color Guard was the Martinezmobile pulling the cannon on the trailer (in background of picture above). The weather was perfect but the wind was a bit stiff. The flag bearers had their hands full during a couple of particularly hard gusts of wind. After the parade, we went to Forrest Park where we set up the cannon and took part in a very small reenactment for a large group of spectators. We all enjoyed a free lunch from the parade committee and had a great time. I believe this was our 10th or 11th time in this parade.

Two days later, on Monday the 12th, the Key Camp was again active. Four stalwart members of the camp went to Leavenworth for the Veterans Day Parade there. Our entry in the parade (we were #129 out of over 150) was a three man Color Guard composed of Compatriots Paul Allenm, Mike Smith, and Spike Speicher with Chaplain Linck bringing up the rear in his 1983 Johnson Motor Car Company Presidential Rumble Seat Roadster. The parade route, packed with spectators, had lots of folks taking our picture as we passed by. We received lots of applause. It was a bit cooler than the Ottawa parade but the wind wasn't nearly as strong.

That closed out our busy month of November. Now all that is left is to celebrate Thanksgiving and my hope is that all of you had a WONDERFUL TURKEY DAY!!!

Wornall House Christmas Tour

The annual Christmas Candlelight Tour for the Wornall House will be on Friday and Saturday evening, December 7th and 8th. Tours enter the house every 15 minutes starting at 6:30 p.m. The last tour starts at 8:30 p.m. Each tour lasts about 30 minutes. This is an interactive tour. I have talked to the new director, Anna Marie Tuter, and told her the Key Camp would like to be involved in the tours. She was extremely excited about having us join in the fun. If you would like to be a part of the Key Camp group please contact Commander Speicher at (913) 962-9986 before 1 December.

Lee-Jackson Banquet

The 13th annual banquet honoring these two great generals will take place on Saturday January 19, 2013. As last year, it will be held at the historic Alexander Majors Home on State Line Road at about 63rd Street. Official invitations and reservation forms will be sent out in about two weeks. This is our major fund-raiser for the year so please plan to attend and support YOUR

camp. We have a great speaker lined up. There will be another great meal and of course our live auction. We have a number of awesome items that include original Confederate currency, vintage Rebel Yell Whiskey decanters, original clothing record for two soldiers from the 139th Pennsylvania Infantry, an 1851 U.S. Large Cent, the signed, numbered and professionally framed limited edition print "We Still Love You General Lee" by artist Mort Kunstler, and more. We can always use more items so please think about what you can donate to the auction.

Local Hero is Key Camp Member

An article that appeared in the Kansas City Star addition of 15 November 2012 had the title of "Workers lift vehicle off boy, 12". The articles stated that a 12-year old boy had tried to cross a busy four-lane road during rush hour traffic. Unfortunately, the boy did not make it across the road. He was hit by a minivan. The boy rolled up onto the windshield and then fell under the vehicle where he was pinned. Enter our hero. Four construction workers saw the accident and rushed over to help. Seeing the boy pinned under the van, the men knew the boy was in serious danger. Together they were able to lift the front of the van enough that the boy could be freed, thus saving his life or at least preventing a more serious injury. One of the men that helped lift that minivan was Key Camp member L. J. Fanning. LJ was quoted as saying, "We kind of lifted up the front of the minivan and then told the driver to put the vehicle in reverse". He went on to say, "After we got him free of the vehicle, he was unresponsive, and I thought he might be dead. But then he came to". Congratulations LJ on a job well done. This is a perfect example of a member displaying the traits of his Confederate ancestor by displaying courage and devotion to duty in a serious situation. LJ brings great honor and distinction to the Key Camp by his life saving efforts.

Quote of the Month

"Any people, anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up and shake off existing government, and form a new one that suits them better. This is a most valuable, a most sacred right, a right which we hope and believe is to liberate the world."



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln, on the floor of Congress, 1847

Some More About Our Speaker

Mr. Giese is a renowned historian on the Zulu War and the author of the book The Men of the 24th. He has done phenomenal research on the topic, including travelling to England and South Africa in search of ancestors of the soldiers. The disaster that befell the British Army at Isandlwana resulted in 1,300 British Soldiers killed. There were only a handful of survivors. The Rorke's Drift fight pitted 100 Brits against about 4,000 Zulu warriors. Eleven Victoria Crosses were awarded to soldiers at Rorke's Drift, more than any other battle in British military history. Two movies have come out of Hollywood about the Zulu War. "Zulu Dawn" chronicles the prelude and the battle of Isandlwana. "Zulu", starring Michael Caine, tells the story of the defense of the mission station at Rorke's Drift. The stories are amazing and Mr. Giese will provide an exciting presentation on that fateful January day in 1879. Mr. Giese is the author of the book The Men of the 24th, the British unit involved that day and he will have copies with him. The cost is \$20.00 and he will autograph them at no extra cost.

REMINDER!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

DECEMBER 6th 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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