

# THE TELEGRAPH KEY



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



VOL. 13, No. 10

OCTOBER 2012

## NOVEMBER CAMP MEETING 135<sup>TH</sup> Regular Meeting

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. 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. We are all familiar with the likes of Bloody Bill Anderson, William Clark Quantrill, Jesse James, Frank James, etc. We are familiar with many of their exploits both during and after the War of Northern Aggression. What you might not know is how these men, especially Frank James, began their brushes with the law. Our speaker for this meeting is Mr. Jay Jackson, a long time friend of the Key Camp. He will tell us the interesting story of how Frank James was first exposed to law enforcement personnel. It is the story of Frank's first criminal activity and it is quite a story. It should prove to be very interesting. You really do not want to miss this presentation. It is sure to be a good one. 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 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org)  
SCV National: [www.scvc.org](http://www.scvc.org)

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## NEW MEMBER

Well, no new members to report but our last two new members, L.J. Fanning and Gary Minsey, missed the October meeting so we were unable to welcome them into the ranks. I hope that both will attend the November meeting so we can introduce/welcome them aboard.

In addition, our new Life Member, Milton Wallace, missed the October meeting so we were unable to present his certificate. I hope that he too will be at the November meeting so we can present his certificate and Life Member lapel pin.

As I have said before, an active camp is a growing camp and the Major Thomas J. Key Camp is an ACTIVE camp. For our size, we do a heck of a lot of stuff. But we need members to participate and to bring in new

members. Word of mouth is our BEST recruiting tool. So tell your friends or anyone new that you meet. Start with a simple question: Do you have a Confederate ancestor? You would be surprised how many people will say yes.

## National Reunion 2013

Now that the dust has settled from the Murfreesboro Reunion, plans are being made for Key Camp members to attend the 2013 National Reunion to be held in Vicksburg, Mississippi from July 18 to 21, 2013. I have heard a briefing from the host camps and it appears that this convention will be nothing but spectacular. Commander Speicher has reservation forms that will be available at the next few meetings. Many Missouri units fought at Vicksburg and many camp members have ancestors that fought in some of those units. There is much to see and do both socially and historically in and around Vicksburg. The rooms at the host hotel will fill quickly so if you think you might attend, be sure to make reservations now. There is substantial interest already from our members wanting to attend this convention. With any luck, we could break the camp attendance record set at the Hot Springs Reunion with 12 members and 8 wives. Stay tuned for more information.

## Mine Creek Workday

Saturday 20 October 2012 was the Key Camp's fall workday at the Mine Creek Battlefield. Despite a low turnout we accomplished quite a bit. The boxwood plants around the Confederate monument were trimmed. The area was raked and trees were trimmed around the entry area. There is new signage going up on the walking trails to include one that points out the Confederate Memorial. The new signs look great. We then moved up to the Visitor Center and took out a bunch of saplings and Sumac trees that were obstructing

the view of the battlefield. With the perfect weather it was enjoyable to commune with nature. We put in a good four hours of work.



Left to right: Compatriots Merle Leech, Mike Smith, Spike Speicher, and John Weir.

We had the opportunity to meet the new Administrator of the site Adrian Zink, who is very enthusiastic about his new position. He has enhance the property by designing a new logo for the battlefield: a mounted cavalry soldier. A life size portrayal of the logo now stands guard at the entrance to the parking lot of the Visitor Center. Installation took place while we were there.



WELCOME TO MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD

## Mine Creek Battlefield End of Season Open House

This important news just in!!!! One of the events that Adrian, the new Administrator of the site, has scheduled is an end of season open house. I spoke with him for several minutes and it is going to be a good shindig. There will be several demonstrations on Civil War medicine, Civil War cooking, etc. I told him I would set up a recruiting table and relic display similar to the one I had at Swope Park last year. If any of you will be available to help that day it would be greatly appreciated. The display will be inside the Visitor Center. They will have a number of reenactors talking with people and it sure would be nice to have

some Confederate representation to mill about with folks. This would be a great chance for you to wear that Confederate uniform of yours. If you don't have a uniform it would be a great time to wear your camp shirt. The event is Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. I hope several of you will be willing to turn out for this and help me man the tables.

## Ottawa Veteran's Day Parade

This parade is a great one!! We have been in it for probably 8 or 9 years. It is a wonderful parade and a great time after the parade. In Forrest Park there are military displays from past wars plus cannon firing displays, a World War II reenactment, a free lunch, and lots more. The parade is going to be on Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>. We are planning to have a uniformed Color Guard and the Civil War cannon on the trailer. Those that don't want to walk can ride with the cannon. We will have lots of 12 X 18 flags you can wave while on the trailer. We have always had a great turnout for this and I expect to repeat it again this year. Uniforms and civilian attire are welcome. It will be a great time to wear your camp shirt. If you don't have a camp shirt or uniform than wear whatever you like, as long as it isn't obscene or against the law. There will be more details as I receive them. Look for a sign up sheet at the October meeting.

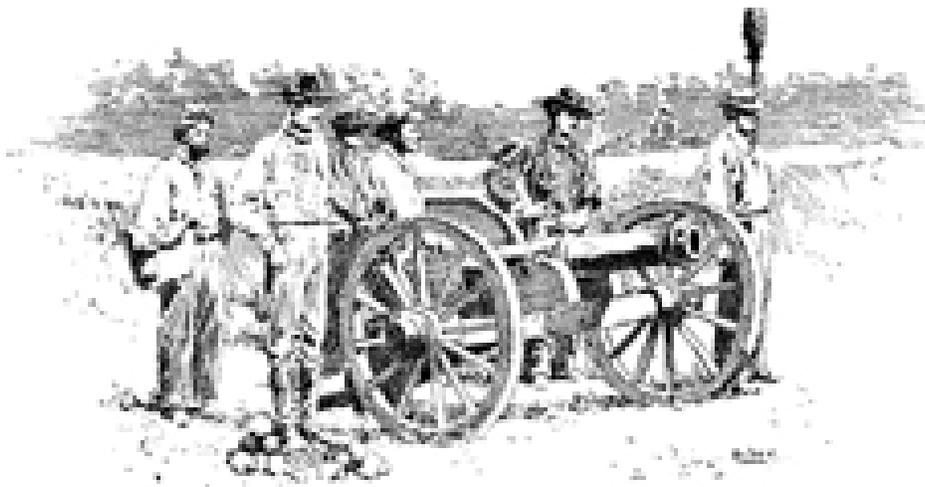
## Leavenworth Veteran's Day Parade

I was really looking forward to a large turnout this year because the parade would be on the weekend as opposed to on a weekday. However, much to my chagrin, they have decided to hold the parade on Monday November 12 rather than on the 11<sup>th</sup> as it historically has done. We are registered to be in the parade again this year. We need as many as possible to form a complete Color Guard. In the past, we have had a joint Color Guard

with the Franklin #3 Sons of Union Veterans Camp. I'd like to see us have enough to form our own Guard. More details on time and location will be forthcoming as I receive them. I'll also have a sign up sheet for this parade at the meeting.

## Urgent Call for Auction Items

In just a bit over three months we will be celebrating the birthdays of Generals Lee and Jackson. It will be our annual Lee-Jackson Banquet. That is our major, and only real, fund-raiser for the camp. We were wonderfully successful last year with our auction and we can definitely use a repeat performance again this year. In order to accomplish that goal, we need donated items for the auction. Items donated for the auction are tax deductible. They do not have to be Civil War related or even military related. We have a fair start so far but more are needed. Please support your camp by donating items. If we do not make enough money to sustain the camp, our next option is a car wash in which all members will be required to wear Speedo swimwear. So please protect the general public from having to witness that sight - donate today!!



**REMINDER!**

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

**WILL BE ON THURSDAY**

**NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</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*