

# 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. 7, No. 9

September 2006

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## OCTOBER CAMP MEETING

69<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 October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006. We will be meeting at Chen's Super Buffet located on the southeast corner of Shawnee Mission Parkway and Quivira in Shawnee, Kansas. We will meet between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. for dinner and start the official meeting at 7:00. Our program for the evening is kind of an interesting one that I feel everyone will enjoy. Commander Speicher will be our speaker and will have a presentation titled "A Tale of Two Soldiers". During his talk he will compare and contrast two soldiers, one Confederate and one Union. In order to compare them he utilizes letters written by the two soldiers during the war. Three Confederate letters written in August 1861 are compared to twelve Union letters written between September 1861 and July 1862. The original letters, many of them on patriotic stationary, will be on display for you to look at first hand. You will definitely enjoy viewing the Confederate portion because of the very unique items, besides the letters, that make up the collection. You have to see it to believe it and you will want to see this. Don't miss this exciting meeting. 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.

<u>Officers:</u>	<u>Key Camp</u>	<u>Gregg Chapter</u>
Commander:	James L. Speicher	C. Heath Roland
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Roger Strout.	
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland	C. Heath Roland
Chaplain:	Steven Crutchfield	
Historian & Scrapbook:	Loren Lundy	
Web Master:	Steven Crutchfield	
Newsletter Editor:	James L. Speicher	
Event Coordinator	Gary Roland	

## SCV On The Web

SCV National: [www.scv.org](http://www.scv.org)  
SCV Battleflag Site: [www.battleflag.org](http://www.battleflag.org)  
Key Camp: [www.home.earthlink.net/~keycamp](http://www.home.earthlink.net/~keycamp)

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## New Member #67

That's right! We now have our 67<sup>th</sup> member. In fact as a result of this member joining we now have another father and son team to add to our list of eight already in the Key Camp (Bolton, Crutchfield, Duda, Martinez, Rogers, Roland, Smith, Strout). Our newest member is Gavin Weir, son of Compatriot John Weir. Gavin is joining under a different Confederate ancestor than his father did. Gavin is joining under Private James Adam Weir, Company G, 45<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Infantry. Most of you probably already know Gavin because he has already been to several camp meetings and has also attended the Family Picnic in July, the first Wornall House workday in July, the Live Fire Event in August, and has even been up to the Pleasant Grove Cemetery a couple of times to help out up there. Welcome aboard, Gavin!!

## Key Camp Members Win Awards

Our September meeting is historically our Awards Presentation meeting. This year was no exception as Key Camp members were recognized for their outstanding support of the camp by both national level and camp level awards. This was a particularly hard year to pick the winners because so many of you did so much. Here are the awards that were presented at the September meeting.

SCV Distinguished Service Medal	Heath Roland
SCV Meritorious Service Medal	Gary Roland
SCV Commendation Medal	Lee Crutchfield
SCV Commendation Medal	Scott Porter
SCV Leadership Award	Eric Martinez
SCV Graves Award - ATM 2006	Heath Roland
Superior Camp Member Award	Jon Linn
Superior Camp Member Award	Lane Smith
Superior Camp Member Award	Roger Strout

Congratulations to all the compatriots that received awards.

I would like to make special note about one of the awards. The Graves Award is given to the compatriot who has done the best work in the area of Confederate graves. That includes identifying graves, marking unmarked graves, caring for Confederate graves, and reporting Confederate graves to the national register kept by SCV International Headquarters. This is not an easy award to earn. There are only three of them awarded each year. Each SCV department (Army of Northern Virginia, Army of Tennessee, and Army of Trans-Mississippi) can select one individual to submit for the award. It is very noteworthy that our own Adjutant Heath Roland was selected from the entire Army of Trans-Mississippi Department to receive the award. Congratulation to Adjutant Roland on this outstanding achievement and recognition. Way to go Heath.

## DeSoto Days Festival Parade

In case you weren't at the September meeting, it gives me great pleasure to announce that the float of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp won third place and received a monetary prize of \$100. I want to thank the following Key Camp members and guests for participating in this parade and helping us win that prize. Thank you Lee Crutchfield, Merle Leech, the Martinez family (Eric, Carrie, Jacob and the four girls), Dan Peterson, Sam Price, Gary and Heath Roland, Spike and Cindy Speicher, Roger, Joe and Josh Strout, and John Weir. Special thanks to Commander Ed Kennedy of the Brigadier General William Steele Camp in Leavenworth for coming out to join us for the festivities. I think everyone will agree we had a good time for our fourth year participating in this parade. How about next year!!

## Mine Creek Moonlight Tour

Dr. John Spencer, President of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation, has invited us to participate in the Mine Creek Moonlight Tour that will take place on Saturday October 21. This is the MCBF big fund raising event that they conduct about once every three years. We participated in the Tour three years ago and had a blast. We had about 28 people that time. The Tour consists of eight or ten stations scattered around the battlefield. At each station there is a vignette that has to do with some event during the battle. One station might be captured Confederate soldiers talking to their guards, one station might be a burial detail, another station may be a medical scenario, etc. People buy tickets for the tour and are placed in groups of about ten or twelve. Guides lead the groups around from station to station. Each time a group arrives at a station, the participants at the station go through their scenario. It really is fun and educational. Based on our experience three years ago we will arrive at the Visitor Center around 5:00 p.m. and we will get

our station assignments and briefings. We will then have time to check out the station and set up any props we need. I would also recommend a rehearsal or two. Once it gets dark, around 8:00, the tours begin. If memory serves me correctly we were done by about 9:30 or 10:00 last time. Dr. Spencer did say that he may need some of us to galvanize and play Yankees because he doesn't have enough Yankee support. He can supply some blue uniforms for those willing to galvanize. Ladies are welcome to participate in the scenarios. There will be more details available at the October meeting along with a sign-up sheet. This is a fun event so please plan to participate. I would really like to have a strong turnout from the camp to show our support for Dr. Spencer and the MCBF. Please mark your calendar and plan to participate.

## Mine Creek Fall Workday

In conjunction with the Moonlight Tour, Dr. Spencer has asked that we please have our fall workday on Saturday 14 October. He says there are several things that need to be done prior to the Moonlight Tours that we can accomplish on that Saturday. Originally I had said that the Moonlight Tour event would be in lieu of our workday but based on Dr. Spencer's request I am reinstating the October 14 workday. This is not a lengthy event. We meet at the battlefield Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>. We spend no more than about three or four hours on the ground and then call it a day. As usual bring your implements of destruction such as rakes, axes, gas powered weed whackers, a lawn mower or two, a chain saw if anyone has one, etc. I know the landscaping at the Confederate Monument needs some sprucing up in addition to whatever Doc Spencer wants us to do. I'll have more details at the October meeting but in the meantime please mark your calendar to be at the Mine Creek Battlefield fall workday. This is important and we can use everyone's help. Thanks again for your support.

## Kill Creek Farm Living History

The Key Camp has been invited back to participate in the Harvest Festival held at Zimmerman's Kill Creek Farm on October 7 and 8. That is located at the intersection of Highway 10 and Kill Creek Road. It is the first DeSoto exit on Highway 10 going towards Lawrence. We did this for the first time last year and it was quite successful. We will set up the Confederate camp site for tours. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri will have firing demonstrations with their cannon. There will be musket firing demonstrations as well. We will have our recruiting table and historic display also. This is a two day event and those wanting to camp out are welcome to do so. Those wanting to set up Friday and spend the night are also welcome to do so. Fire pits are authorized but wood will be scarce so we may need to bring our own. This is the weekend immediately after our October meeting so any additional details will be put out then. We need people in uniform and people in civilian attire. If you can help out for only a couple of hours, that would be fine. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

## Wornall House Battle of Westport Event

There is one last item that we need to cover and it is probably our last event for the year (except for the Veterans Day parade in Leavenworth). On Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup> the Wornall House will be having their Battle of Westport commemoration. To celebrate that event the staff at the Wornall House has requested that the Key Camp set up a living history camp in the front yard of the house. The Wornall House is advertising the event so there should be a good turnout of spectators. The plan is to set up the living history camp site with seven or eight tents, have the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri's cannon on display (can't fire it in a residential area because of the potential for broken windows), and have musket firing demonstrations. We

need folks in uniform for the living history camp. We need ladies in period attire to be visiting the camp. We need folks in civilian attire to man the recruiting table and historic display. Basically we need everyone we can get. This is only a one day event and it will go from about 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. If you have never been to one of these events this would be a good one for you to attend. The Wornall House itself will be open in case you have never been through that museum. So please come and help make this last event of the year a good one. Sign-up sheet at the meeting.

## Anderson House Tour Event

Anderson House Event has been cancelled!!!

## Military Order of the Stars and Bars

There is an organization within the SCV that is called the Military Order of the Stars and bars or MOSB. His organization is open for membership to any SCV member who has a Confederate ancestor who served as an officer. If you have ever noticed in the banner of this newsletter it says that "The Telegraph Key" is the newsletter for the Key Camp and for the Captain William Gregg Chapter #268 of the MOSB. Our camp does have an MOSB chapter affiliated with it. I believe the current membership includes six Key Camp members and three members from other camps in the Kansas Division that don't have an MOSB Chapter. If you have a Confederate ancestor that served in the officer corps you are eligible for membership. Those interested should contact Heath Roland, who is the commander of the chapter, for more information.

MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920  
THE KEY CAMP IN THE KANSAS DIVISION

REMINDER!!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

OCTOBER 5<sup>th</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*