

# 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. 8, No. 9

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## OCTOBER CAMP MEETING 80<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 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Please note that 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. Our speaker for the evening is Commander Scott Porter of the Captain William Gregg Chapter #268 of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. Commander Porter will be giving a presentation titled "Thunder Across the Arkansas Prairie" about his favorite Confederate officer, General Joseph Orville "JO" Shelby. Shelby is a local hero from Waverly, Missouri, and fought under General Sterling Price during the 1864 campaign into Missouri. Shelby played a major role in that campaign and in the battle of Mine Creek. Commander Porter has studied Shelby in depth and is our local expert-in-residence. As an accomplished speaker Commander Porter will be putting on a top-notch presentation, rivaled only by his presentation on the Battle of Camden Point. This promises to be a very fascinating presentation 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 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
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Roger Strout
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland
Chaplain:	Steven Crutchfield
Historian & Scrapbook:	Loren Lundy
Web Master:	John Weir
Newsletter Editor:	James L. Speicher
Event Coordinator	Gary Roland
Media Coordinator	Lane Smith
Cadet Member Coordinator	

Scott Porter

## Key Camp On The Web

Key Camp: [www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org](http://www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org)  
SCV National: [www.wcv.org](http://www.wcv.org)

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## New Member #67



It is with sad heart that we must move our membership counter back one from 67 to 66. That is due to the untimely loss of Compatriot George Hoffmann, a Fellowship Member of the camp since March 2001. George passed away on September 10, 2007. George's name has been transferred to our Memorial Roster. See the article on page three about George.

George F. Hoffmann, Jr. 1934-2007

## IN MEMORIUM

Compatriot George F. Hoffmann, Jr.

November 17, 1934 to September 10, 2007

On February 3, 2001 I was at the Leavenworth Militaria Show at Fort Leavenworth. That is when I first met George Hoffmann. George was very interested in the SCV but wasn't really familiar with us and conceded that he didn't think he had a Confederate ancestor. We talked for quite awhile and he was genuinely interested in what we did and felt it was a good cause. That was good enough for us because we signed George up as (if memory serves me correctly) our second Fellowship Member, only Sam Price beating him the honor of first. George became a permanent fixture at camp meetings for the next several years. He always came out to participate in the parades in Ottawa and Leavenworth, often bringing a few of his grandchildren to join us on the float. He and Edith attended a couple of our Lee-Jackson Banquets as well as several Kansas Division Conventions. A few years ago George moved away from Kansas City but he never lost his connection to the camp. At least once a month he would call me to see how things were going. It was not uncommon for him to drive several hours back to Kansas City for some of our events. His favorite event, one that he always came back for was the Live Fire Range day. He was at the three that we have held. He came over this year (August 4<sup>th</sup>) at Parma Woods Range and looked as good as ever. Little did any of us know that it would be the last time we would see George. Just over a month later George passed away due to respiratory failure following surgery for cancer of the lung. George was 72 years old. We buried George on September 17<sup>th</sup>. George, we will miss you terribly. Good bye my friend. Deo Vindice!

## De Soto Days Festival AAR

I am proud to report that our participation in the 2007 De Soto Days Festival was a smashing success. We had a good turnout with Compatriots Lee Crutchfield, Scott Lalumondier, Merle Leech, Jon Linn, Eric Martinez (with Carrie), Jacob Mirocke, Dan Peterson, Gary Roland, Heath Roland, Spike Speicher, Joe Strout, Roger Strout, Gavin Weir and John Weir representing the camp. At first we thought the event was for the entire weekend but it turned out it was only scheduled for Friday night and Saturday. The camp set up a seven tent living history campsite. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battery Missouri Light Artillery brought out their cannon and limber and we fired the cannon numerous times for groups of spectators. We also demonstrated musket firing. Our display table of relics and weapons drew many curious spectators and our recruiting table was set up adjacent to the display table. Our float for the parade consisted of a six man uniformed Color Guard, followed by the camp flag and the banner. The truck and trailer with the cannon brought up the rear. I guess we must have looked pretty impressive because we won SECOND PLACE in the parade and won \$200.00!!! Therefore, I want to thank each and every one of you that came out for the event for helping the camp win that prize. That was a job well done. We are also following up on two prospective members that we met at our recruiting table.



## **Mine Creek Moonlight Tour**

The time is quickly approaching for the annual Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation Moonlight Tour. It is scheduled earlier this year on Saturday night October 13. As in the past there will be several stations that we will "man" for the tours. This has always been a fun event with a very strong Key Camp turnout. Last year it was rained and frozen out. Not so this year. There is room for everyone including wives and girlfriends. If you don't have a uniform we got ya covered. Just let me know what you need. There is a possibility that a stipend could be paid to the camp for our participation. That is NOT firm yet but is being discussed. That would definitely help our treasury. We can use both military and civilian reenactors as well as a few Yankees if any of you want to galvanize. There will be a sign up sheet at the September meeting.

## **Blue Gray Banquet**

Every year the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation sponsors a Blue Gray Banquet as a fund-raiser. These are generally a lot of fun. This year's banquet will be on Friday November 9 and it will be in Fort Scott. Tickets in advance are \$20.00. The speaker this year should be of interest to all of us as he is an honorary member of the camp. He is Bill Kurtis from the A&E channel and the History Channel and who did the documentary on Mine Creek that some of the members "starred" in. If you are interested in attending let Commander Speicher know so a car pool can be arranged.

## **Harris-Kearney House**

The folks that run the Harris-Kearney House have again requested out assistance with several of their upcoming events. First is the Fall Open House which is from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday October 14. They need a couple of uniformed soldiers to mix and mingle. Civilian reenactors are also needed to portray historic figures from Westport. Then, on two consecutive Saturdays (October 20 and 27), they are sponsoring their Battle of Westport 143<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Exhibit and they need both soldiers and civilian reenactors. They would also like tents and camps set up on the grounds. The final H-K House event is the 1858 dinner tour that several Key Camp members participated in last year. This event requires only civilian reenactors. That will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on three nights: Wednesday November 14, Friday November 16, and Saturday November 17. If you are interested in attending any or all of the H-K House events there will be sign-up sheets at the October meeting.

## **This Just In - Wornall House Event**

This came as a total surprise recently. We received the Wornall House newsletter and found out they has us scheduled to do a living history in the front yard on Saturday October 20. They had not contacted us earlier so we knew nothing about it. As a result we scheduled participation at the Harris-Kearney House the same day. To make matters worst the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri Artillery had committed to a reenactment that same weekend. Even though they did not communicate with us first about the event, I hate to leave the Wornall House in a lurch. What I would suggest is that we drop the Harris-Kearney House event since we will have participated in two other Saturdays that month for them. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri will be absent but we can still do a small living history for Wornall House. We will need anyone who can help that day, especially if you have a uniform. I can provide muskets and some display items for those that can be there. Gary and Heath Roland said they could attend but only if we can get at least two or three more folks to show up. I would really like to support Wornall House so if you can be there from about 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. I would really appreciate it. We will discuss this at the October meeting.

## **Sterling Price's Dresser Certificate**

Several years ago Cindy and I were able to purchase a dresser that had belonged to General Sterling Price. If you have a piece of clothing you want us to store in the dresser overnight we will return it along with a certificate stating that it spent the night in Sterling Price's Dresser. There is no charge for this service.

# The William H. Gregg Chapter (#268) of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars



The Gregg Chapter of the MOS&B will make the October presentation at the Key Camp! Ever wonder how Gen. Sterling Price, on his way to reclaim Missouri, managed to maneuver his twelve thousand man army out of Arkansas without being engaged by Federals? And, to make it even more interesting, if you are a Jo Shelby fan, you'll love this one. Learn about one of the most brilliant events of the war: How Brig. Gen. Jo Shelby captured the 54<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, including the commander and his colors! The presentation is *Thunder Across the Arkansas Prairie: Shelby's Opening Salvo in the 1864 Invasion of Missouri*. This factual presentation is based upon the story of the same title in the Arkansas Historical Quarterly (Spring 2007). Free copies will be available.

If interested in the MOS&B, please contact me or visit the MOSB website at <http://www.mosbihq.org/index.htm>

Deo Vindice!

Scott

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**REMINDER!!**

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

**WILL BE ON THURSDAY**

**OCTOBER 4<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*