

# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

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VOL. 10, No. 9

SEPTEMBER 2009

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### OCTOBER CAMP MEETING 101<sup>st</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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. 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 Mr. Kirk Doan. The U.S. Postal Service has been around for well over 200 years. I won't go so far as to say that it is broken but it certainly isn't a prime example of government efficiency. What you probably don't realize is that in four years the Confederate States of America formed its own postal service, ran it more efficiently than our current service, and did it all during a time of war. That is a pretty outstanding accomplishment. Our speaker's presentation is about the Confederate Postal Service. It should be very informative because it is not your typical well known topic. This educational presentation will be informative and interesting. This promises to be an interesting and 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 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.majorkey1920ksscvc.org)

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

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### New Member #77 and 78

We are currently working on four prospective members for the Key Camp. If all four join we will move to a new record high membership of 80. How awesome is that?! At the last meeting Kansas Division Commander Denver Ercikson made the announcement that the Key Camp is officially the largest camp in the division. Way to go guys - keep on recruiting. We live in a metropolitan area with close to 2,000,000 people. With that many prospects we should easily have over 100 members. Let's set that as our goal for 2010. Our current prospects for numbers 77, 78, 79, and 80 are Joshua Crutchfield, Mike Smith, Jim Tucker, and Milton Wallace. If you know any of these gentlemen please let them know how much we would like to have them in our camp.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lee-Jackson Banquet

We are about to embark on our 9<sup>th</sup> 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 close to 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.

## DeSoto Days Festival Parade

Saturday September 5, 2009, saw the Major Thomas J. Key Camp march in the DeSoto Days Festival Parade for the seventh consecutive year. The theme for the parade this year was "Imagine All The People..." Our entry theme was "Imagine All The People...Honoring ALL American Veterans". Our entry consisted of the SCV Banner leading the way followed by the joint Confederate/Union Color Guard. Behind the color guard we had marchers in uniform representing the Revolutionary War, the War Between the States both Confederate and Union, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and Vietnam. We had 14 Key Camp members and permanent guests (Paul Allen, Kris Amaro, Lee Crutchfield, Merle Leech, Aaron Martinez, Carrie Martinez, Eric Martinez,

Jacob Martinez, Dan Peterson, Lane Smith, Cindy Speicher, Spike Speicher, John Weir, and Lesia Winter) come out to support the camp. We also had some guests marching with us that I would like to acknowledge: Fred Kaffenberger from the Delaware Crossing Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution; Charlie Smith and Jim Wood with their kilts and broad swords (kilted units fought in the Revolutionary War and on the Southern side during the WBTS); Ed Kennedy, commander of the Brigadier General William Steele Camp in Leavenworth, who supplied uniforms for folks representing the Spanish-American War, WWI, and WWII; and Dave Tolefson as a Union member of the joint Color Guard. We had an outstanding entry but alas we won no recognition. All five of the prizes went to floats from DeSoto. We may have to re-evaluate our participation in future DeSoto Days parades.



## Leavenworth Living History

The Major Thomas J. Key Camp completed another successful living history event on Saturday September 12 in the city of Leavenworth, Kansas. It was the

dedication of the pavilion at New Market Square and the city managers requested living history displays for Civil War Confederate, Civil War Union, Indian Wars, World War I, and World War II. The turnout was one man for WWI, one man for WWII (their displays were excellent however), one man for Indian Wars, no one for Civil War Union, and 10 folks (8 uniformed and 2 camp shirts) for Confederate Civil War. I want to thank Paul Allen, Rick Bullock, Travis Bullock, Reverend Tom Ellis, Scott Lalumondier, Merle Leech, Carrie Martinez, Eric Martinez, Jacob Martinez, and Spike Speicher for coming out to support the camp. The uniformed guys were all from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battery Missouri Light Artillery, which is the camp sponsored re-enactment unit. The city requested that they fire the cannon to start all four of the foot races. I can tell you all the runners definitely heard the starting gun. It was much fun. Then they fired the cannon on the hour for the next three hours. That did draw sort of a crowd. All in all a good time was had by everyone even though there weren't very many spectators visiting the displays.

## Kill Creek Farm

Next on the horizon is the Kill Creek Farm display. Every October there is an event called the Kaw Valley Farm Tour. Farms are open to the public to tour, see and feed farm animals, purchase pumpkins for Halloween, and buy fresh produce. Kill Creek Farm is one of the stops on the tour. For the past several years, going along with the "see and fed the animals" theme, the Key Camp and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri have been invited to set up a display area and to fire the cannon for demonstration purposes. We have a large pasture that we use to set up tents, displays, and fire the cannon and muskets. The display area is shaded by large trees so it is very comfortable to man. There is a food vendor on site that makes fresh grilled burgers and hot dogs while you wait. Everyone is invited to come out for an hour, a couple of hours or a day to help us man the displays

and chat with folks that come by. We can ALWAYS use the help. We do get a lot of spectators at this event. In the past we have had eight and ten people at a time looking at the displays and asking questions. You can even buy a neat pumpkin for your kids or grandkids. The date for this year's event is the weekend of October 10 and 11. Kill Creek Farm is located at the intersection of K-10 and Kill Creek Road, which is the first DeSoto exit going west toward Lawrence.

## Upcoming Events for Your Calendars

Ottawa Veterans Day Parade, Saturday November 7, 2009  
Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade, Wednesday November 11

Need volunteers for both parades.

REMINDER!!

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE

MAJOR THOMAS J. KEY CAMP #1920

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

OCTOBER 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*