

# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

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

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VOL. 12, No. 9

SEPTEMBER 2011

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### OCTOBER CAMP MEETING 123<sup>rd</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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011. 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 have a very special treat in store for this meeting. Newtonia, Missouri is located in southwest Missouri near where the states of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas come together. This made it fairly strategic area and resulted in two battles being fought there. The first, and better known, battle was fought September 30, 1862. This engagement was the first time American Indians fought against each other on opposing sides. The Newtonia Battlefield is well preserved and will probably become a part of the National Park Service. Our speaker, Mr. Wes Franklin, is the Director of the Newton County Historical Park and Museum in Neosho and will discuss in detail the first battle of Newtonia. Don't miss this awesome 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 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander:	John Weir (TDY) Acting - Steve Crawford
Adjutant:	C. Heath Roland
Chaplain:	Carl Linck
Communications Officer:	Steve 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 #75

At the 2011 National Convention in July in Montgomery, Alabama, Commander-in-Chief Michael Givens announced his vision for the SCV. By 2016 the SCV should be 50,000 strong and the preeminent source for War Between the States history and Southern heritage. The SCV currently has about 30,000 members. To attain the goal C-I-C Givens has set the organization needs to grow by 14% each year for five years. For the Key Camp that means we need to grow by 10 members per year. More importantly we need to RETAIN our current members. This is a goal we can reach if everyone becomes a recruiter and cheerleader for the Key Camp and the SCV. Where is our 75<sup>th</sup> member?

## Mine Creek Fall Workday

Please don't forget that our fall Workday at Mine Creek Battlefield is scheduled for Saturday October 1, 2011. We need a couple of volunteers to arrive early to set the bases for the two benches we are putting near the Confederate monument. They will install the frames and pour the concrete. They need to be at Mine Creek by about 8:30 to start working. The other can arrive at the usual 10:00 start time. There is a section of land that they would like us to clear so bring chainsaws, regular saws, etc. I plan to have us out of there by 2:00 p.m. Since the workday will take place before our October meeting I'll send an e-mail around asking for volunteers for the 8:30 and the 10:00 a.m. crews.

## Veteran's Day Parades

Every year for at least the past eight or nine years, our camp has participated in two Veteran's Day Parades, one in Ottawa and one in Leavenworth. This year appears to be no different. True to form, the Ottawa Parade is always held the Saturday before the real Veteran's Day, while Leavenworth holds theirs on the actual day of the holiday, regardless of the day of the week. We always have a great turnout and a lot of fun at the Ottawa Parade. We always set up the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battery Missouri Light Artillery's 6-pounder field piece in the park after the parade and do demonstration firing. There are all sorts of military weapon and equipment displays in the park as well. This year the Ottawa Parade is on Saturday November 5. More details will be forthcoming but please mark your calendar now!

For the past several years the Leavenworth Parade has fallen on a week day when most people have to work. As a result we have had a low turnout. What we have done during those years is have a joint Color Guard with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Franklin Post

#5. With two or three folks from each camp we can put together a nice Color Guard with both flags. Regrettably, again this year the Leavenworth Parade falls on a weekday. It will be on Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>. What I am hoping is that maybe we can get a few more guys to turn out on a Friday so we can have our own Color Guard. The good news is that in 2012 and 2013 the Leavenworth Parades will be on the weekend so we can really show them our strength.

Please mark both dates on your calendar and plan to attend. As the events get closer we will get more details, which I will pass on to y'all.

## Holiday Candlelight Tour

Have you ever wanted to be an actor or play a small role in a play? If so now is your chance. Every year in November the Harris-Kearney House presents their Holiday Candlelight Tour. The tour is held the Friday and Saturday evening directly after Thanksgiving. It runs from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. each day. Folks buy tickets for a tour group (one group leaves every fifteen minutes) and they are greeted by the Harris' who take the group on a tour of the house. The stage is set for a particular year at Christmas time. One year it was 1858 and then one year it was 1856. This year it will be 1861 and the war has begun back east. In each room there are actors who "talk" about current events such as the coming of the war, local business, etc. Each actor portrays a specific individual and talks as if he/she were that person. No script to memorize just free talking. They need folks in period civilian attire to portray the people for the tour. I have done this now three or four times and it is fun. I plan to be in it again this year. If you are interested in participating (no experience necessary) please let me know so I can advise the people at the H-K House how many of us they can count on. If you are interested there will be a walk through rehearsal at

the H-K House (4000 Baltimore in Westport) on Sunday November 6 at 3:00 p.m. It will last 30 minutes. You will find out who you will portray and information on who he was so you can talk like him. I do have enough clothing that I can outfit two people if you don't have any period attire. They do not want uniforms. There will be Yankees camped in the yard but no uniforms in the house, although one of the Harris sons fought in the Confederate Army. This really is fun and several Key Camp members have participated in the past tours.

## Key Camp on Craigslist

That's right, we are on Craigslist. No we are not for sale. Our Second Lieutenant Commander and Webmaster John Weir has taken us into the era of electronics and has posted us on Craigslist. It's FREE!! It's publicity!! It's good!!! Here is what Commander Weir had to say about it:

For future reference, I have found a couple of interesting things about the craigslist ads. Since placing them the traffic to the web site is up. This month the average daily visits is 50. It is the highest so far for 2011. It was 39 last month. Usually the visit count starts going down this time of year. The other thing is a craigslist ad will appear in a Google search. So, if someone is searching for something related to something in the ad it gets returned in the results. That should increase our web visibility. If it turns into members, we will have to wait and see. My sister talked me into joining facebook, and I mentioned the camp website there a couple of times and that increased traffic to it as well.

Congratulations to Commander Weir for advancing our recruiting efforts by getting us into the computer age. If you haven't seen our revised website the address is on page 2. You've got to see it!!

*April 19, 1775* AN ENGLISH ATTEMPT  
TO CONFISCATE GUNS FROM AMERICANS  
TRIGGERED A SUCCESSFUL REVOLUTION



*Dear Congress, that's a hint.*

## The Sumter Flying Artillery

Officially designated as the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Georgia Light Artillery, the Sumter Flying Artillery was a rather obscure unit in the Army of Northern Virginia. With a majority of the men coming from Sumter County, Georgia and its county seat Americus, one can see where the name came from. But did you know they fought in every major engagement from the Seven Days to Appomattox? Did you they lost 34 killed in action yet lost 108 that died of disease? Did you know that Littleberry Walker Carter, the great grandfather of former president Jimmy Carter, served in this unit? Did you know that Commander Speicher's great, great uncle Nathan Raleigh Ensign served in this unit? That is what prompted Commander Speicher to write this book. If you don't have a copy contact him to get your own personalized copy.



The Confederate Monument  
Rees Park, Americus, Georgia

**REMINDER!!**

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

**WILL BE ON THURSDAY**

**OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup> AT 6:30 P.M.**

**BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER**

*The Telegraph Key*

*Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920  
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