

THE TELEGRAPH KEY



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



VOL. 15, No. 9

SEPTEMBER 2014

OCTOBER CAMP MEETING THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 2014 156th REGULAR MEETING

All compatriots are reminded that the next regular meeting of the Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920 will be on Thursday October 2nd, 2014. We will be meeting at Zarda's Barbecue located on the southwest corner of 87th Street and Quivira in Lenexa, Kansas. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and start the official meeting at 7:00. Our speaker for the evening is Compatriot Kevin Makel. Kevin promises a fun time as he tells us about "Guns and Gangsters of the Prohibition Era". This presentation received rave reviews from audiences from other organizations. Of course any talk about guns is always fun. Kevin last spoke to the camp about "The Guns of Jesse James" and we know how good that one was. So come on out for the October and hear about the guns of an era most don't know much about. Bring your wife or significant other, as they are always welcome. 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 st Lieutenant Commander:	Lee Crutchfield
2 nd 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
SCV National: www.scvc.org

NEW MEMBER #65

If our camp is to remain viable we need to keep membership growing. I know that times are hard for folks right now so they may not want to join organizations; but, we must keep trying. With a metropolitan area as large as Kansas City, our camp should easily have 100+ members. The people having Confederate ancestors are out there - we just need to find them. Talk to your friends, co-workers, family, anyone you come in contact with and just mention the SCV. See if there is any interest. If there is, then pounce on them by giving them one of our camp business cards. Get a name and phone number, that's even better. Our 2nd Lieutenant Commander can follow up and invite them to one of our meetings. Recruiting is not that difficult. It only takes a couple of words.

Recruiting Event

Speaking of recruiting!!! (How was that for a great lead-in?) We have a tremendous opportunity next month. The Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway is hosting a history festival on the weekend of October 11 and 12. There will be vendors, crafts, exhibits, AND an organization recruiting area. Folks that attend this event are going to be history minded people. There will be booths for the Sons of the American Revolution, the Civil War Round Table, the Sons of Union Veterans, and of course, the Sons of Confederate Veterans and other historical groups. These are the type of folks that make a good target audience for our groups. The event is from 9:00 to 4:00m both days. We must make a good showing at this event. We won't be wearing any uniforms but camp shirts and khakis would be perfect. Now, I REALLY DO need help with this one. I can't be there on Saturday until probably 11:00 because I was committed months ago to give a presentation that morning. So not only do I need help manning our booth both days but need one or two good men to set everything up Saturday morning. I will be discussing this event at the meeting and will have a sign-up sheet so start figuring out when you can be there to help. Key Camp Teamwork!!!

Plan Ahead Dates

We have a couple of annual events coming up and want to give you notice so you can mark your calendars. First is the annual Ottawa Veterans Day Parade. That will be held on Saturday 8 November in Ottawa, Kansas. The second event is the annual Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade. That will be held on Tuesday 11 November in Leavenworth, Kansas. I know the Leavenworth parade is on a week day so many of you have to work, but if you can make either parade, PLEASE plan to do so. I will have more details as we get closer to the dates.

Election 2014

Ballots for our camp election will be handed out (or mailed) at the October meeting. Here is the slate of candidates that you will be voting on:

Commander: Jim Thornton (unopposed)
1st Lt Commander: John Weir (unopposed)
2nd Lt Commander: Jack Poynter
Mike Smith
Jim Speicher
Adjutant: Steve Crawford (unopposed)

Make your decisions on who you want to vote for and then vote quickly and vote often. Oops, I meant vote quickly and vote early. Results will be announced at the November meeting with the officers being sworn in at the December meeting. Deadline is 31 October 2014.

Son Tay Raid Reunion

In November 1970, during the Vietnam War, 56 Green Berets raided the Son Tay Prison Camp 30 miles west of the enemy capital of Hanoi to free U.S. POWs. On Friday October 3rd, several of the raiders will be giving a presentation on the Son Tay raid at Fort Leavenworth. That will be followed by a presentation by two current majors on U.S. raids conducted in Afghanistan. This is an open briefing. I plan to attend. It starts at 1:00 in the afternoon. If anyone would like to join me for this event I would be happy to take you along. Get with me at the meeting so we can make plans on time and place to meet. This is a once in a life-time opportunity as this is most likely the last reunion for these guys. This is an historic opportunity meet the men that made history.

Obituary

Some of you may remember Marv Blevins who was with the camp in the early years. While he was not a charter member, he joined the camp shortly after it was formed. In 2002 Marv moved to Perryville, Missouri, south of St. Louis. He transferred his membership to the Sterling Price Camp #45 in St. Louis. Marv was also active in the Sons of the American Revolution. Regrettably, Marv passed away on September 15th. He did show up at our Key Camp Picnic in 2006 when he was visiting in Kansas City. That was the last time I saw Marv. Many of you won't remember him but I certainly do. He left us too soon as he was a year younger than I. See his obituary on page 7.

2015 Lee-Jackson Banquet

I dug into the camp archives and was able to find the below picture. What, pray tell, is it a picture of? This was taken in January 2002, at our very first Lee-Jackson Banquet. It was held at the Holiday Inn. What a memory! I mentioned earlier that the 2015 banquet will be on Saturday 24 January at the Abdullah Shrine on Metcalf south of I-35 (same place as last year). Mark your calendars NOW to reserve that date for our premier fund raising event. Details and invitations to follow. We do need auction items so please dig around and find something awesome to donate. It is for a good cause and it is tax deductible since we are a non-profit organization. Some of the items already collected are original Civil War musket caps, Confederate money, an 1894 post card extending the furlough of a Union veteran from his veterans home, an 1864 two cent coin, a 2nd National Flag that flew over Fort Sumter, a Gone With the Wind puzzle, and much more. Please not bring any donations to a camp meeting or call me and I will pick it up. The more we have to auction off the more we will put in our treasury. Thanks!!



2002



2014

REMINDER!

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

WILL BE ON THURSDAY

OCTOBER 2nd AT 7:00 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND/PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

The Telegraph Key

Major Thomas J. Key Camp #1920

Sons of Confederate Veterans

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