

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2008

I would like to start this month's edition of the Newsletter with a few comments about the Newsletter. Back in September, 2005, during our Congress in Dalton, GA, the Board of Regimental Historians met and decided that we should have a monthly Newsletter. The position of President is involved with planning and conducting the next Congress, meeting and contacting people and organizations beyond our own association and in maintaining contact with our own members. With those responsibilities, it was logical that I would prepare the Newsletter. The thrust of the Newsletter would be to tie us all together between the last Congress and the next Congress.

A Congress does not just "drop out of the sky" and a number of things that interest us develop during the year. You know what is going on in your area. Just let me know and I will try to get it into the Newsletter so all can know what is happening.

I am not a professional writer. I do try to write as if I was talking to all members on the phone or in my den. There is a saying that communication is perishable, so some items are repeated from month to month. I jot down subjects that come up during the month and then I try to give you a summary of the main points. They are not listed in order of weight or importance. The items are included to try to keep us pointed in the same direction. Taken in total, the Newsletter editions are the "pulse" of our organization and at least a partial history. Our Webmaster Don Bulloch has developed a way for past issues to be read on the website.

I promise to do the best I can. It will not be fancy and it will not be perfect, but it will be written with the earnest attempt to keep you all informed, as we remember and honor our ancestors that served in Barton's and Stovall's brigade.

Thompson Station, TN Statue

Vice President Harris Griggs of Franklin, TN sent me a newspaper clipping of a new statue erected at Thompson Station. Recall that Thompson Station is where Stovall's brigade flopped down in the mud and slept after being relieved from three days of rear guard duty.

The statue is of a four legged soldier named Roderick. Roderick was the favorite horse of General Nathan Bedford Forrest. On March 5, 1863, General Forrest and his men were cut off in a fight near Thompson Station. Roderick was wounded by three gunshots. He was led away from the battle by Forrest's 17 year old son, William. The horse bolted away to return to Forrest and was killed after being shot for a fourth time. The chestnut gelding would follow Forrest around like a faithful dog.

General Forrest knelt down, overcome with grief, to say goodbye to his Roderick. Then, he remounted another horse and went back into the thick of the fight. When the fight was over the Yankee general surrendered more than a thousand troops and Roderick was buried that night.

A Roderick Award of Courage has been created and it will be presented every March 5 to an individual who, similar to Roderick, displays courage in the face of adversity.

The ceremony was attended by the county commissioners, Thompson Station, aldermen, Franklin's mayor and the historian of Carnton Plantation plus other invited guests. Roderick gazes again across the battlefield, ears pointed forward, and stands as a permanent reminder to his honor and valor.

Pontoon Bridge near Florence, AL

I am happy to report that I came across some additional details about the pontoon bridge that was placed upriver from Florence, AL. The bridge was used by Stovall's brigade and the rest of the army on December 25, 1864 as they crossed the Tennessee River to the south bank and went on to Tupelo, MS.

The details were found while researching about the retreat from Franklin. I came across the account of a colonel who formed the 4th Alabama Cavalry regiment from the area near Florence. He later became a brigadier general and led a cavalry brigade under General Forrest. The details concerning the bridge will be explained next year when the Congress is held in Tupelo, MS. I plan to visit the site of the bridge as close as possible. The river bank has changed since 1864 due to a dam on the river. What happened there and how the bridge got there lives on in history and some of that history was recorded under the general and not the location of the bridge. You will have to attend next year to get the full story.

Vernon , Texas, Wilbarger County, CSA Statue

The CSA statue in Vernon, Texas was erected in 1916. Chiseled into the stone base is : *“ In honor of those who fought and died, of those who fought and lived”*.

As I reread that inscription in my collection of CSA statue pictures, I thought that those words do describe what we try to do with our organization.

As an additional note : The county was named for Matthias Wilbarger, a surveyor, who lived 12 years after being scalped by Comanche in 1833 near Austin. He saved his life by putting a wool sock on his head and being rescued next day by neighbors. The wool sock slowed down the loss of blood and kept the wound clean.

2008 Commemorative Patch

The 2008 commemorative patch of the upcoming Congress has been ordered. This year's edition has four symbolic colors and one implied symbol. As soon as one has been produced I will get a copy to our Webmaster, Don Bulloch. He will put it on the website as he has done before. See if you can figure out what the colors stand for. I'm sure you will be able to.

Don Bulloch Donation

The website domain has been renewed for two years at the cost of \$30.00. Also, the Web host has been paid \$99.00 so that you , and others, can get to the website. Webmaster Don Bulloch paid the fees and refused to accept reimbursement. He said, *“ Consider the money a donation to help run the organization”*. Thank you Don.

42nd Georgia Infantry Re-enactors

The 42nd Georgia Infantry Re-enactors have a website and an organization that portrays the 42nd Georgia Infantry in it's rich military history. I have sent a letter to President Lamar McDougal and told him about our next Congress in Marietta this August. If he and his members want to meet some real descendants from their namesake, this would be a good time to do it. I sent him an Agenda to give more details of what we intend to do at the Congress.

So far, there has been no response.

Advance Registration

The Advance Registration form for this year has been developed. It will be sent out in May with details of the costs involved and the deadline to receive the money and the reserved spaces.

Vendors need to know the exact numbers, as close as possible, well in advance of our arrival in Marietta. I chose May to send the Advance Registration form to give about two and a half months for response time

and to not have it too much in advance and risk getting it lost in the swirl of your everyday lives. Watch for it in the May Newsletter.

There is a number of moving parts involved and I do need your desires and money ahead of time to make it all work out as smooth as we can.

Annual Membership Dues

2008 Membership dues are now due, and have been since January 1. The dues are \$40.00 per year per family unit. Please send your dues in if you have not done so. The second deposit on the hotel banquet and meeting rooms cost \$500.00 and that put a dent in our checking balance on April 1. We are OK, but we could use more membership dues.

New Members

Several new members are anticipated as a result of the March 3 meeting with The Friends of Civil War Paulding County. So far, their applications have not been received. I'm sure they are busy with IRS Tax Reports at this time of year. When new members join I will announce it in the Newsletter.

Harry Dellinger Scouting Mission

Harry Dellinger and his wife, Becky, of Huntsville, AL will make a scouting trip to Corinth and Tupelo, MS later this year in preparation for the Congress in 2009.

General George S. Patton, of World War II fame, once said that intelligence is like eggs. "The fresher the better". Harry and Becky will explore several specific places and restaurants and report back with their recommendations.

Harris Griggs will be conducting scouting in the Florence, AL area too. He already knows which places serve beer with their B-B-Q, as he went to college in Florence. Stovall's brigade was busy digging trenches 2 miles north of Florence right up until the time they started marching into Tennessee. We know this due to research done by founder and first president Gary Goodson, Sr.

4th Corporal William A. Horton Co. I, 41st Georgia Vol. Infantry Regiment

4th Corporal William A. Horton, Co. I, 41st Georgia, has two descendants in the General Barton and Stovall's History / Heritage Association. Bobby Horton, Dickerson, Maryland is a g g grandson and John T. Horton, Tyler, Texas, is a g grandson. They found each other in 2007 while doing Horton family research.

William was living in Franklin, Heard County, Georgia with his wife and three children when he enlisted on March 4, 1862. He was one of the many wounded during the battle of Perryville, Kentucky. He was taken prisoner and later exchanged at age 28. He rejoined his regiment and was taken prisoner and paroled after the siege of Vicksburg. The 41st Georgia was reorganized and William continued to fight with his regiment until surrendered on April 26, 1865 in North Carolina. He was one of the few survivors of the original roster.

John Horton sent copies of great grandfather's compiled service record. I noticed that the parole document at Vicksburg was signed by Major John C. Fry, 20th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. That is the same major that signed the parole documents for Company B, 41st Georgia. From that evidence, it is very likely that Major Fry signed the parole documents for the whole 41st Georgia.

The records also show that William was taken prisoner of war at Harrodsburg, Kentucky and then shipped to Vicksburg on November 12, 1862. During the Congress last year, we saw some of the original buildings in Harrodsburg that were used to house the wounded. He was probably wounded bad enough

that he could not continue with the army as they left Harrodsburg. The Yankees captured the town and the wounded that were left behind.

I will try to have the next edition out on May 15. Please read it for details on the coming Congress in Marietta, GA.

Mike Griggs
President