

August 14, 2006

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST, 2006

New Members

David Hudgins has joined the march with us. He is the Fire Chief of the Waxahachie, Texas Fire Department. He descends from Private James J. Hudgins of Co. G, 40th Georgia Volunteer Infantry. David also has an ancestor in the 39th Georgia. Recall that the 39th Georgia was dispatched to assist Stovall's brigade in the defense of Overton Hill during the battle of Nashville.

We also welcome Jim and Donna Hopkins from Easley, SC. They were informed about this association by Larry and Janie Crowe and joined under the "interested persons" provision. Jim is a descendant of a South Carolina soldier and is interested in WBTS. They plan to attend the Congress in Franklin.

William Varnell and Nancy join us from El Dorado, AR. William descends from Captain M.J. Ragsdale, Co. D, 43rd Georgia Volunteer Infantry. He owns the Spud Nut shop in El Dorado.

William E. Watkins from Ashville, AL has joined. He descends from Captain John R. Russell, Co. I, 52nd Georgia Volunteer Infantry. Captain Russell was born in 1781 and was a veteran of the War of 1812. In 1862 he would have been an 81 year old infantry captain. He must have been tough as a boot. He died in 1873 in Talbotton, Georgia. William is a plumber and farmer.

Mr. E. Roger Johnson of Arden, NC had two grandfathers that were in Co. K, 52nd Georgia Volunteer Infantry. Private James L. Cary and Private John C. James are his ancestors. Roger was a previous member and we are glad he renewed for this year.

Another new member is Christopher Nolen from Tallapoosa, Georgia. His ancestor, Private James Carlisle Shackelford, was in Co. I, 41st Georgia Volunteer Infantry. He was captured and survived his POW status and died in 1915.

We look forward to meeting you in person soon. We welcome you into our "family".

Nashville Tour Route

Charles and Robbie Griggs of Nashville have completed a reconnaissance of the tour route in Nashville. They report that we will be able to safely park at all locations and that they have permission to park in the driveway of a neighbor at one stop. Additionally, they have determined the actual driving times between stops. This information will help keep us on schedule so that one stop does not infringe on the time of another stop. Thank you Charles and Robbie. These are the details that help us all relax.

41st Georgia Real Daughter

Sharp-eyed David Richardson has located a picture of 94-year-old real daughter Virgie Blackstock Wolf of Sampasas, Texas. She is the daughter of Private Thomas Newton Blackstock, Co. D, 41st Georgia Volunteer Infantry. She was pictured with two nephews and they have both been contacted by me. If you would like to see a picture, she is on page 38 of *Confederate Veteran* in the May/June 2006 issue. One of her nephews is the Camp Color Sergeant of Cross of Saint Andrew SCV Camp 2009 of Alto, Texas.

Soldier Pictures

Member Greg Land of Jasper, Georgia has sent me copies of pages in *Portraits of Conflict* by Anne J. Baily and Walter J. Fraser Jr. The book details the life and struggles of Georgia soldiers in WBTS. Greg found pictures and stories of Captain John Cornelius Curtright, commanding officer of Co. E, 41st Georgia, who was killed at Perryville ; an ambrotype of Captain Robert Flournoy Maddox , commanding officer of Co. K, 42nd Georgia, and his wife Nancy ; an ambrotype of Major Raleigh Spinks Camp, commanding officer of the 40th Georgia during the Atlanta campaign ; Second Lieutenant John Lane, Co. D, 43rd Georgia ; Private John Barnes of the 1st Infantry Regiment, Georgia State Line, who was attached to Stovall's brigade after New Hope Church and other details that did not have pictures.

The pictures are treasures but the stories connected to the men and women are really something. To get a flavor of the stories, consider the situation of Private Barnes and his wife Nancy. Private Barnes was on the picket line near New Hope Church on June 2, 1864 when he was sent to get rations. He was wounded in the leg by a sniper. He was sent to a hospital in Jonesboro, but his wound did not heal. Nancy left to nurse her husband in early July. She rode a mule to Atlanta where she caught a train for Jonesboro. On the way she met a family friend in a wagon. He was bringing his body home; John had died two days before on July 3. That night Nancy buried him in the family cemetery and read scriptures over his grave.

The book has a picture of Nancy Barnes smoking her corn cob pipe after the war.

I plan to consult with Webmaster Don Bulloch to see if the pictures can be scanned into our collection of pictures. Also, the stories of the individuals are interesting and bring the pictures to life. Maybe we can summarize the stories and have them on the Website too. Thank you Greg for doing that research and letting us know.

Soldiering In The Army of Tennessee

Our acting secretary, David Richardson of Hayworth, Oklahoma, has been doing more research and found some interesting information in *Soldiering In The Army of Tennessee* by Larry J. Daniel. This book published by the University of North Carolina Press has details of marches, battles and incidents that were recorded by the soldiers in letters and diaries.

One account said that as the Army of Tennessee marched from Tupelo to Chattanooga, they went through La Grange, Georgia. In La Grange there were a "number of ladies looking for the 41st Georgia Regiment, as they had a number of friends and relatives in that regiment". One infantryman said that all along the railroad track groups of young girls threw Confederate flags, peaches, and apples (to the men).

Another soldier, B.P. Weaver of the 42nd Georgia wrote about the march to Florence , Alabama from Georgia. On November 3, 1864 he wrote, " This march has nearly worn out my shoes. Do not know what I will do if I get barefooted for I could not march at all then". We know that on November 20 he had to start marching to Franklin, Tennessee in the snow and mud.

Another account talks about picking up clothing and blankets on the Franklin battlefield.

Thank you David for sharing this find. These efforts help piece together what our ancestors encountered in their service. Even the accounts of other officers and men from other regiments give us insights into what was happening in Stovall's brigade, as they were in the same army.

Our association becomes richer when members share their finds. Never assume that everyone has already seen what you have found. David and Greg have taken the time to share with all of

us.

Old Shell Explodes

40th Georgia Historian Kay Borden sent me a story by the Associated Press datelined Dalton, Georgia, July 26, 2006. A collector of Civil War relics was hospitalized after being injured while trying to defuze an old artillery shell at his home. He was trying to remove the gunpowder from a Parrott shell at an outbuilding, when it exploded. He sustained serious injuries to his head, chest and eyes. His grandson was also injured.

An ordnance team from Fort Benning destroyed dozens of other shells found at the collector's home after determining they were unsafe. Gordon Jones, chief historian at the Atlanta History Center, which houses about 700 similar shells and cannonballs, all defuzed, said, " This stuff is rare and valuable". The story did not describe who determined that the collection was a danger to the community or who called in the Army ordnance team. My guess is the Sherriff's Office.

Franklin - Nashville Agenda

The Franklin - Nashville Congress Agenda is posted on the Website. Please copy the agenda from the Website before coming to Franklin. That will save on copying costs and the weight of carrying lots of paper. The actual room assignments may change, even after we get to the hotel, so don't worry about the blanks concerning the room names. For those that do not have access to a computer, I'll have some agendas on hand.

Recruiting Update

The mailing to descendants using the Sons of Confederate Veterans 2006 Directory went to 224 individuals. Out of those contacts , 13 have joined so far. Some of them will be attending the Congress in Franklin. Additional new memberships are in the mail so the number will go up. I think others will join as they receive and read the Newsletter ,which is sent to them by e-mail, and when they read the report on the Franklin Congress. Some already had commitments for this year that prevented them from attending.

Camp Van Dorn Update

Founder Gary Goodson Sr. had planned to travel to Knoxville after the Congress to do further testing for graves with ground penetrating radar that would be operated by University of Tennessee officials. Sadly, the latest report is that no one at the University of Tennessee really wants to use ground penetrating radar or any other means. At one time they wanted money from us to use their gear and that was not possible. Gary is looking into possibly using other means such as a backhoe or some Mexican draglines. I wonder if the Police Department has ground penetrating radar and wants to practice ?

In the meantime, Gary has completed work on getting both State and National recognition for the site and has submitted text for the wording on a metal sign to be placed on the site by the State of Tennessee. At one time the sign placement was estimated for October. Gary continues to monitor and follow up on that phase of the Camp Van Dorn location. Good work Gary. We can expect a further update at Franklin in two weeks.

Marriott Hotel Location

The Marriott Cool Springs is located 15 miles south of downtown Nashville and 20 miles southwest of Nashville International Airport.. It is accessable using Interstate 65.

FROM AIRPORT :

Travel WEST on Interstate 40, then MERGE LEFT onto I-24 East, MERGE RIGHT IMMEDIATELY onto I-440 West, EXIT I-65 South, travel 10 miles. EXIT at COOL SPRINGS

BLVD , EAST #68 A Hotel is on the left.

FROM NORTH :

Take I-65 South until EXIT at COOL SPRINGS BLVD, EAST #68 A Hotel is on the left.

FROM SOUTH :

Take I-65 North until EXIT at COOL SPRINGS BLVD, EAST #68 A Hotel is on the left.

Room Reservation Update

As described earlier, reservations at the Marriott with the special group rates had to be received by Wednesday, August 9, 2006. At that time the hotel reviewed the reservations for the event, and released the unreserved rooms for general sale, and determined **whether or not it can accept reservations based on a space and rate -available basis at the group rate after August 9.**

So, if you want to stay at the Marriott and have missed the August 9 cut off date, contact Marriott and ask for the group rates for the "Barton and Stovall Reunion". They will determine if they have room and if the rates can be granted. They do not have to grant group rates, but it doesn't hurt to ask. Call 888-403-6772 or 615-261-6100.

For those of you who made reservations at the Marriott prior to August 9, **Thank You !** As of today the hotel reports that 57 room nights have been reserved. We have to pay for a net of 45 room nights no matter what. Those of you who made reservations at Marriott have helped us save money on meeting rooms and banquet room. You have also booked a hotel room that normally rents for \$176 per night. I do hope you enjoy the accommodations and the Congress.

Tour Bus Update

We will use a bus for our tour on Saturday when we visit various sites in Nashville. The numerous stops and turns, in heavy traffic, with traffic lights makes convoy travel difficult. The bus will keep us all together and will allow us to park in limited parking places. Originally, the plan was to rent a bus for two days and supply drivers with CDLs. We had the drivers but the insurance requirements made that plan too expensive.

On Friday and Sunday we will use car convoys to get around. On Friday we will be on stops along one highway. The highway is now a secondary route and it is straight and it will be doable.

On Sunday we will be going a short distance to Carnton Plantation, on a Sunday morning, and both Harris and I think the convoy travel will not be a problem. Once there, plenty of parking places exist. So, we will hire a bus where needed and use our cars where we don't need a bus.

Grave Locations

Member Greg Land has discovered the graves of four soldiers of Stovall's brigade in his area and recorded the information from the gravestones. This information has been forwarded to Daniel Crone who has over 1,000 brigade members graves recorded.

Greg Land has led the way in going to small, remote or lesser known cemeteries in his county and looked about to see who might be buried there. Another soldier from our regiments may be buried three rows over from where your great grandfather is buried. Always be alert to the names and regiments of CSA soldiers that are buried. You know where your ancestor is buried. Are others close by ?

Fifth Annual Congress Franklin/Nashville, Tennessee

An old saying in the Infantry is that, "No battle plan survives the first five minutes of combat action". That is not always true. Adjustments usually have to be made and something else always comes up. But, we have a plan and we intend to use it to remember the history and heritage, and the sacrifices of our ancestors.

The tangible planning for this Congress started in June, 2005 when the Traveller's Rest Plantation was alerted and reserved. They should be ready for us. The phone calls, the questions to be answered, the options to consider, the tradeoffs have been carefully considered. The two highly qualified speakers have been confirmed. The hotel rooms have thankfully been filled. My notes are ready and the handouts printed---plus a number of other details. I think we are ready.

Regimental Historians and some officers will meet in a conference room between Noon and 5 :00 P.M. on Thursday, August 31, at the Marriott.

Now is the time to set that planning aside and enjoy the Congress. Let's enjoy the tour stops, enjoy each other and make new friends. Let's savor the time together and learn from each other. To the new members, I ask that you be on time and if you need a restroom, tell someone where you are. We are trying to fit as much as we can in a limited amount of time and we don't want to waste any time waiting or looking for members. We don't want to leave someone behind.

I look forward to seeing you at Registration and at the Welcome/Orientation on Thursday, August 31. I hope you have a safe trip and --Let's do it !

Mike Griggs
President