

NEWSLETTER AUGUST, 2007

New Members

Marcie Gunter Caudell joins our association from Blairsville, GA. She has extensive ancestors in the 42nd Georgia and 43rd Georgia plus relatives in the 52nd Georgia and 6th Georgia as well as 24th Georgia. She is the Gggranddaughter of 2nd Sergeant Allan Jefferson Gunter, 43rd Georgia ; Gggranddaughter of James H. Caudell, 43rd Georgia ; Gggrandniece of John D. Bagwell, 43rd Georgia. She brings with her experience as an author, local historian and genealogist. Additionally, she searches graveyards and takes pictures of Confederate soldiers headstones, especially in Hall, White and Union counties.

She found us through member Larry Crowe of Sumner, GA. Thank you Larry for your recruiting efforts. We hope to meet you in person very soon.

Mary-Elizabeth Ellard and her husband Bill are from Atlanta and have recently joined. Mary-Elizabeth descends from Private James Allen Couch, Co. D, 41st Georgia, who enlisted March 4, 1862. Like a number of soldiers in the 41st Georgia, he became sick and was evacuated to Lauderdale Springs, MS where he died on May 25, 1862. Lauderdale Springs, MS was the site of a large CSA hospital which supported the army that was positioned at Corinth and later Tupelo, MS. The 41st Georgia was dispatched to Corinth shortly after the battle of Shiloh. I hope you can join us in Kentucky this year but if not, perhaps you can meet with us at Marietta in 2008.

Thoughts on Museums and Speakers

When one has an ancestor that was killed or died early in the war, some think that there is no need to go see the battlefields or march routes that came after their ancestor's death. Of course that is a personal decision. I want to point out why going to future Congresses is beneficial. No museum has a good example of every War Between the States artifact, no speaker knows the details of every subject that bears on our ancestors.

By going to different Congress locations one can learn from what they have and apply that to the experience of their ancestor. The mint condition ammunition box at Rippivilla Plantation in Spring Hill, TN is just like the one our soldier ancestors unloaded off wagons and opened in other battles ; the preserved trench line at Pickett's Mill State Park is very much like what one would have seen at other battlefields ; the 3 inch rifled cannon and complete crew that served the gun, with their equipment in hand at Kennesaw Mountain is just like the ones that supported our ancestors at many battles. These are just three quick examples. By being exposed to these artifacts, the words start to mean something and a web of information starts to grow. Added to what is seen in books, quotes, personal letters and newspaper interviews and other sources -- one starts to "see" what happened.

Even though one's ancestor had an arm amputated at Resaca, the near perfect specimen of a surgeon's knife kit might exist in the museum at Vicksburg, for example.

Others, like Lee Cooper of Red Lodge, MT, have gone to reenactments and have learned just how long and how heavy an Enfield rifle and its bayonet plus 40 rounds of ammunition in a pouch weighs and what it must have been like to carry it for 15 miles. Then , when it was fired, she learned how much white smoke was produced from just one shot. Our memory stores those experiences and can call them up when standing on a hot , humid battlefield somewhere in the South.

We also learn from each other. For example, when Chip Barron pulls out his order with General Stovall's signature on it, that he found and bought, that is the real thing and one will not find it in a museum. You will see it because Chip is gracious to share it with us. And, one has to be at the Congress for that to happen. So, please plan to attend our Congresses and get the most out of our collective association.

Robert Elliott , 42nd Georgia Descendant

Robert Elliott and his wife Angelia plan to attend the Congress in Danville, KY. This is indeed good news because they both need a vacation after what they have been through. In Texas they call it "being drug through a knothole". Robert and Angie authorized me to tell their story in this Newsletter to help reduce the number of times they have to retell it in person.

After the Dalton Congress in 2005, Robert had a motorcycle accident that had major injuries. About a month after the accident he was in so much pain that brought tears to his eyes to lift a glass of tea or a fork. The pain was mostly in his neck. He was on strong pain medication so he knew something was seriously wrong. An orthopedic surgeon put him through MRIs, CAT scans, Body scans, blood work and found a staff infection in 2 bones in his neck and it had nothing to do with the accident. It was close to entering his spinal cord and that could be fatal.

He was put in the hospital on November 1 for more tests and on November 6th went into 8 hours of surgery. The surgeon went into the front side of his neck and found two bones were pure mush. He replaced them with two cadaver bones. He then turned him on his backside and put titanium rods and braces about 6-8 inches long for support , then took bone out of his hip for fusion purposes. A hard collar went on and he was in the hospital for 10 days. the hardware in his neck alone cost \$35,000.

Robert had to take antibiotic treatments by IV three times a day for 8 weeks. He was out of work for three months and has had to endure all sorts of painful physical therapy. Normal recovery time is 18 months. He is back at work now but on limited duty. He still has to struggle with physical therapy every day.

Not only will they attend, Robert will display and explain some memorabilia he has acquired that is connected with our units. So, that is the background as to why they had to miss the 2006 Congress at Franklin/Nashville.

Sixth Annual Congress Danville, KY

As of August 13, a total of 34 have registered. If you have not registered yet and want to attend, please do so. It is not too late. I need to know which meals you will be eating and we have a charter bus already paid for in order to reserve it. Name tags are being printed in advance so we need to know who will be attending.

There are 49 seats on the bus. Let's fill them. If we have overflow we will take the extras in vans or perhaps another smaller bus.

Bring a hat or cap, walking shoes, sunscreen and your camera. Water will be provided by Harris Griggs. There will be some walking involved for those who see where the 41st Georgia charged up Parson's Hill and down into the cornfield. It may be hot and humid for even short forays from the bus along the retreat route.

For lunch on September 1, we will stop at a CSA campground along the Wilderness Road just south of London. This campsite was used by General Kirby Smith's forces as they marched north into Kentucky and by all who retreated out of Kentucky. The campground was used as an assembly area as all of the units could not be on the road at the same time. After lunch we will travel the exact route of the Wilderness Road. By carrying a box lunch we will have the flexibility to do this and also not have to wait in line for food.

Franklin, TN 1/2 Acre

The Civil War Preservation Trust has announced that the Carter House Association has purchased one-half acre of the two-acre Carter Garden property adjacent to the bullet pocked Carter House for \$210,000. The plan is to reclaim the battle site and restore it to the way it looked in 1864. The breastworks, entrenchments and other features would be recreated.

The current house, mobile home and accessory buildings will be removed as well as modern fences. This action will open up the land and make it an integral part of the Carter House property.

The Carter House Association, under the direction of Tom Cartwright, has already raised \$75,000. The Civil War Preservation Trust has pledged to donate \$100,000 if the Carter House can raise another \$35,000. *The Save the Franklin Battlefield* and *Franklin's Charge* has already pledged \$35,000 toward CWPT's \$100,000 commitment.

If you would like to donate to this purchase you may do so directly to The Carter House, P.O. Box 555, Franklin, TN 37065 OR Civil War Preservation Trust, 1331 H Street, NW, Suite 1001, Washington, DC 20005. I sent a donation to The Carter House and got a handwritten Thank You note back from Tom Cartwright, Executive Director. You will recall that he led our group on the tour of Carter House and the surrounding area last year.

Stovall's brigade arrived on the field at about 4:00 PM and deployed at night on the left side of the CSA line, to be ready for an early morning attack. As it turned out, the attack was called off but Stovall's brigade entered the town to secure it before the rest of the

army marched through it on the way to Nashville.

Nominations

Nominations for officers for the period 2008 - 2010 have been slow to come in. We only have two as I write this report. I have announced to run for the position of President and Greg Land has been nominated for 43rd Georgia Regimental Historian.

Our current 43rd Georgia Historian Hoyt Larry Crowe nominated Greg Lee Land for the position of 43rd Georgia Historian. He wrote me on January 16 that "I have enjoyed being the 43rd Historian, however, getting some "new blood" in does good sometimes so I would like to give others the opportunity". He had discussed this at last year's Congress and Greg would like to work in the position. Somehow, I did not get the original January 16 message, but Larry was able to find it in his files and send to me.

Please write, call, send or FAX your nominations to me. Might be good to check with the one nominated, first, to be sure there is a desire or willingness to serve.

Confederate Cemetery in Marietta

40th Georgia Historian Kay Borden, also a resident of Marietta, has supplied an article that appeared in *The Atlanta Journal - Constitution* on August 3. A \$ 1 million sprucing up and expansion of Marietta's Confederate Cemetery is planned. The parking lot will be expanded. A Wall of Heroes will be erected with the names of 856 Confederates known to be buried in unmarked graves among thousands of unknown soldiers. Cracked walkways will be repaired.

Six life-sized statues will be placed along an educational trail. One will be a Confederate soldier kneeling by a fresh grave. Another will be a woman and her son mourning a husband and father. Three statues will depict the women of Marietta who were most responsible for finding and digging up thousands of bodies from shallow graves in the area so they could be buried at the cemetery.

Jane Glover, wife of Marietta's first mayor, donated part of the property for the cemetery in 1863 when 20 Confederate soldiers were killed in a train wreck north of Marietta. Her statue will be made using old family photos. A second statue will be of Mary Green who appeared before the Legislature in 1866 to plead for money. The third statue will represent all the women of Marietta who were involved.

Additionally, 12 concrete educational benches will be erected and they will describe who is buried in the cemetery.

The Confederate Cemetery was deeded to the state in 1906. The last resident of the Confederate Soldiers Home in Atlanta was buried there in 1936. This cemetery is the second largest Confederate Cemetery south of Richmond.

I first visited this cemetery in August, 2005 and immediately recognized it as a place we had to visit as part of a future Congress in the Atlanta area.

Recruiting Area Maps

Each of our five regiments recruited in certain counties in northern Georgia. There were some overlaps. Rather than list a long list of counties, I made some maps showing the counties that were recruited in by coloring them. These maps have been cleaned up by Kay Borden and printed.

She has also uploaded them so anyone can access via FTP for downloading at any time to print more copies.

To make your own copies, here are the GBSHHA FTP access instructions :

Using Microsoft Internet Explorer, type ftp://franklin-sarrett.com into the URL locator bar and press Enter. When the Login panel appears, Login as follows (if the Login panel does not come up, click on File in the pull-down menu and select "Login as") :

Login or User Name : gbsaha
Password : guest

A window will appear containing folders and files. Maps are in the Recruit Maps folder. Click to open the folder. Right click on map file to open/save/etc. it.

Thank you for the instructions Kay to get to your work. We all appreciate your work to make this possible.

Pre Congress Comments

This will be my first trip to Perryville where my great grandfather was wounded on October 8, 1862. I want to share with you the family story handed down on the details of his wounding. The details were clear in his mind until he died in 1921. I didn't discover the exact battle that he was wounded in until 1963. So, I have been waiting 44 years to do this trip. My father would have loved to have made this trip, but he died in 1991. Other relatives will make the trip with me and we will learn and enjoy the experience together --with you.

To use a football analogy, I feel like the two-a-day drills are over, the one-a-day drills are completed, the game plan has been developed and studied, the specific plays have been studied and practiced (at least mentally), and it is nearly game day. It is time to put on the game uniforms, buckle the chin strap on the helmet, run out onto the field and DO IT ! The preparation and work involved with this game is completed. It is now time to play the game !

The game will probably not unfold exactly as planned, but I think it will be successful in the end.

I look forward to see y'all very soon. If the plane connections and flights work out without interruption , I'll see you in the Hampton Inn lobby at Danville at Noon on August 30th. If I'm delayed in the travel, Vice President Harris Griggs will get you registered and

ready for the Congress.

Please copy the Agenda off the Website.

Have a safe trip and I'll see you soon.

Mike Griggs
President