

**NEWSLETTER**  
AUGUST, 2009

**Board Meeting September 3, 2009**

Please plan to attend the Board Meeting if you are an Officer, Regimental Historian, Historian Emeritus or Archivist. We will meet at 1:00 PM in a meeting room assigned by the hotel. It is my intent to complete the business as soon as possible, yet have ample time to discuss.

I have two topics of the “show and tell “ type. Please come prepared to present your topics should you have those that needs to come before the group. Please see more comments in the May, 2009 Newsletter.

**Advance Registration Tupelo Congress**

If you wish to attend the Tupelo Congress, there is still time to register. Yes, I had asked for all Registrations to be made by August 8, in order to inform the vendors of the exact numbers. However, I knew that there will be some to register after that date and with the magic of e-mail I can inform the vendors with updates on the numbers .

If you are trying to decide, please attend if you can. We need to fill the bus as much as possible. I will be traveling on September 2, so I should receive your registration no later than September 1. Some members can only participate for part of the Congress, but they are coming anyway. I do appreciate that effort and we look forward to seeing you there.

**Tupelo Congress Revised Agenda**

Please note that the revised Tupelo Agenda has been posted on the Website. Please refer to it or make yourself a copy so you can have it with you. Detailed Coordination information will be handed out at Registration in the hotel lobby when you arrive. Part of a smooth Congress is to have everyone at the right place at the right time so we can stay on schedule to see what we came many miles to see.

**Flag Conservation Project**

H. David Richardson of Haworth, OK reports that the Museum of the Confederacy has completed their flag preservation project. The 1864 Johnston Pattern Army of Tennessee flag of the 41st Georgia is now on display as part of the “Confederate Years” display at the MOC in Richmond.

**Carnton Plantation Visitor’s Center**

The Carnton Plantation in Franklin, TN has a new Visitor’s Center. The \$1.2 Million facility has 7,000 square feet of space for exhibits, new restrooms, water fountains and office space. It replaces the doublewide trailer that we saw in 2006. The official dedication will be on September 12., The Visitor Center is open Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 5 :00 PM and Sundays 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

The Visitor Center will be used for Weddings and Receptions which is another way to raise funds for the operation of the house and the cemetery.

### **New Website**

David Wright, 41st Georgia descendant from Middleburg, FL, reports that he found a new website. The website posts letters and has discussions concerning the Civil War. The site is called Civil War Talk .

David took advantage of the opportunity and posted one of the letters that has been passed down in his family. The address is : <http://civilwartalk.com/forums/campfire-chat-general-discussions>

### **2010 Bentonville Congress Update**

In an earlier Newsletter I stated that I had to find a museum for us to visit on Saturday afternoon. The plan is to be under air conditioning in the afternoon. Well, I have found not only one but two museums that will fit on our route of travel. Additionally, a driving guide of the Kinston, NC battle ( Wyse Fork) on March 8-10, 1865 has been found. A County Tourism official has promised us a guide too. Even more exciting , to me, is that the location of the brigades in the battle are known on the ground.

More information is being sent to me. I am confident that this will be an informative Congress that will visit important sites of 1865 in North Carolina. Driving directions need to be printed, driving times estimated and admission prices determined -- but that can be done. I'm looking forward to developing the details, after Tupelo is completed.

Watch the website for a Draft Bentonville Agenda on September 15. I do not want to "count my chickens before they hatch ", but I do feel good about the planning so far. The major components of the Congress have come together and that is far better than wondering, " How am I going to do this ?" or worse yet-- looking at a blank sheet of paper.

### **Facts from the 43rd Georgia**

Greg Land has forwarded his latest installment of fun facts:

1. There were only two foreign born general officers in the Confederate Army that achieved the rank of Major General... General Camille Armand Jules Marie Prince de Polignac of France and General Patrick Cleburne of Ireland. We all visited the site at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee where General Cleburne died, and was laid on the porch of Carnton Plantation, which was the home of Mr. and Mrs. John McGavock. It is interesting to note that General Cleburne was an outstanding military tactician and was in the running to be the successor of General Joseph E. Johnston as Commander of the Army of Tennessee. President Jefferson Davis ultimately chose John Bell Hood and we all know the disastrous results of that flawed decision.

2. There were two very prominent Confederate Officers that supported Ulysses S. Grant for President of the United States after the War James Longstreet was a solid supporter of Grant and

he was later assigned to the post of Ambassador of The Ottoman Empire which is present day Turkey. and John Singleton Mosby was assigned as Ambassador to Hong Kong..... Both men became members of the Republican party which was still widely despised by the majority of Southerners after the War.

3. There was, at the Battle of Gettysburg, a North Carolina Regiment ( The 26th North Carolina) that suffered the largest battlefield losses of any Confederate regiment of the entire war in one single day of battle... Of the 903 men that entered the battle, only 79 men lived to recount the terrible ordeal in which they suffered so great a loss.

Greg read on the weekly internet *Southern Heritage News and Views* the following which he thought was very appropriate for our GBSHHA members....

#### HOW GOD CREATED THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIER

When the Lord was creating the Confederate Soldier, he had worked into the tenth day of overtime when a curious Angel appeared to the Lord ... “ Lord, you certainly are putting a lot of extra effort into this Confederate Soldier model “, the Angel remarked.

And God said, “ Have you seen the specifications on this order? A Confederate Soldier has to be able to march thirty miles thru rough terrain without shoes if required, endure with barely any sleep for several days, enter into battle without any rest from the march, and keep his musket clean and in good operating condition”.... “ He has to be able to sit on a forward picket line all night and often during a massive attack, hold his buddies as they die in his arms, retreat or advance at a moments notice, and somehow keep his senses alert for change “...” He has to be in top physical condition, existing on a mere handful of parched corn and perhaps a small portion of bacon each day with very little rest... and he has to have six pairs of hands”....

The Angel shook his head slowly and said, “: Six pairs of hands, that’s impossible.” The Lord said, “ It’s not the six pairs of hands that’s causing me problems... It’s the three pairs of eyes that a Confederate soldier must posses.” “ That’s on the standard model?” the Angel asked . The Lord nodded Yes... “ One pair that sees thru wilderness brush, another pair here in the side of his head for his buddies safety, and another pair here that can look reassuringly at his bleeding fellow soldier and say to him, “ You’ll make it and you are going to live” when he knows that he won’t...

The Angel said to the Lord, “ Lord, rest and work on this tomorrow”... “ I can’t “said the Lord. “ I already have a model that can carry a wounded soldier 1000 yards during a frontal assault, calm the fears of the latest new recruit and feed a squad of 10 men on a handful of cornbread and water for three days”.

The Angel walked around the Confederate model and remarked, “Can it think?” “ It sure can” replied the Lord.. It can quote most of the Bible line by line, and recite his weapons drill manual and his Company Commands by heart, and engage in a Division size attack maneuver in less time than it takes for his fellow Confederates back home to read the latest causality lists, and still keep his sense of patriotism”...” The Confederate Soldier must also have phenomenal personal control. He can deal with 75 % causalities, comfort a fallen soldiers Family and then read in a

Yankee newspaper how all Confederate Soldiers are cowards, slave abusers, traitors and men of low morals”...

At that point the Lord gazed into the future and said, “ He will also have his name vilified and his character disrespected, and he will be rejected and forgotten by some of the very Southerners that he fought and died for”...

Finally, the Angel ran his finger across the Confederate Soldiers cheek and said, “ Here’s a leak from his eyes.. I told you Lord that you were trying to put too much into this model”... “ That is not a leak”, said the Lord... “That’s a tear”... “What’s the tear for “? Asked the Angel. “ Its for bottled up emotions for holding fallen soldiers as they die, and for a heartfelt commitment to that funny little piece of cloth they refer to as the Confederate Battle Flag.” “ You’re a genius”, said the Angel while casting a glance at the lonely tear in the Confederate Soldier’s eye. The Lord looked very somber, as if seeing down eternity’s distant shores... “ I didn’t put it there”, he said.

I look forward to seeing you in Tupelo. For those that can’t make it this year, I look forward to you joining us in Raleigh next year. Please focus on a safe trip and we will see you soon.

Mike Griggs  
President