

Georgia's Confederate Sons, Volume I

Our member, Dr. David N. Wiggins of Carrollton, Georgia, has released his new book, *Georgia's Confederate Sons, Volume I* after three years of effort. The book features over 300 images of Georgia Confederates. Many are previously unpublished and some are quite rare. Featured in the work are images of all Confederate branches and a section of color plates. The first edition is limited to 500 copies.

The Bowdon Historical Society and the University of West Georgia Press have made it possible for this book to be published. The books can not be purchased online or in your local bookstore. If you want a copy, please contact David at remgaconfed@aol.com or at 1093 Oak Grove Road, Carrollton, GA 30117. Each copy is \$25.00 and shipping is \$5.00 for 1 to 10 books.

Remembering Georgia's Confederates and *Georgia's Confederate Monuments and Cemeteries* can also be purchased at \$20.00 each.

Kolb's Farm Research

Jennifer Thomas of Hopewell, VA, a 41st Georgia descendant, has graciously accepted a research request regarding details of the battle of Kolb's Farm. Kolb's Farm will be a stop on the 2008 Congress and the battle will be discussed.

Jennifer has been asked to search the *Official Records* to determine exactly how the brigades under the command of division commander General Stewart were positioned. Over the years I have found several maps showing where "Stewart" was positioned, but not in detail. I believe this is because they were protecting the corps left flank and were not heavily engaged in the fighting of the attack.

In contrast, right across the road, where two divisions attacked, one can find maps showing the four brigade commanders in each division and how they were aligned. The maps show which brigades were in the first wave and which direction they attacked. The National Park Service sign at the battlefield has a map which also shows "Stewart", but not in detail.

I believe General Stewart recorded the positions of his brigades in his report. His report has to be found and read carefully. That is what Jennifer will do for us.

When Jennifer became a member she wrote that she had the 128 volume set of the *Official Records* and that she could do research. I remembered that and asked if she could help find the missing details. She said she would do that.

Speaking of reports, I recall that there was a brigadier general from Mississippi, I believe, that was being pressed to turn in his report of a certain battle. He replied that, "I signed up to fight Yankees, not to write letters!" Therefore, some of the details he knew were lost forever.

Future Congress Planning

I have spent some time getting what is in my head onto paper for future congress agendas. I now have a draft Agenda for Tupelo/Corinth in 2009, Bentonville in 2010 and Columbia in 2011.

There are several reasons to do this. The first is that if something happens to me, the Vice President will have something more than a blank sheet of paper and a looming date to work with. Another reason is that others will be able to work on some details ahead of time and will help make the future congress run smoother or be more complete. There is no substitute for local knowledge on driving times, where to park, where to turn, when a certain house opens to the public, where to eat and a host of other details. Some can be found in brochures and maps, but often it takes someone on the ground to find the answers.

By having agendas prepared ahead of time, others can take the agenda and help fill in the gaps when

they are in the area. If they know what I am seeking, they can work as a teammate to find the information.

In the Army and Marines this is called "intelligence". Commanders ask their intelligence officers to provide certain answers they need to know. The intelligence officers send out patrols, send out the cavalry, consult maps and aerial photos, send out spys and other methods to find the required information, hopefully. Intelligence has to process raw information and come up with forecasts and details that can be used in planning. The other services do it too, but the Army and Marines do more like what we do.

Volunteer Scouts

The intelligence gathering people are generally called "scouts". They go out and find the information and report back what they found, heard or saw.

I'm pleased to report that Harris Griggs and Harry Dellinger have volunteered to work as scouts on the Tupelo/Corinth Congress. Harry lives in Huntsville, AL which is not too far away. Harris went to college at what is now North Alabama University in Florence. Very quickly Harris reported to me that one of his classmates is now the Mayor of Tuscumbia, AL. Tuscumbia was the location of General Hood's army before they crossed the river into Florence. We will go through Tuscumbia and the Mayor may know which old house was used by General Hood for a headquarters. Or, he may know a perfect after dinner speaker for our Congress.

Lee Ivester of Mooresville, NC has already put boots on the ground at the Binnaker's Bridge battle site, which will be part of the Columbia Congress. He will assist in other details when his work takes him into that area. Also, Jim Hopkins of Easley, SC will help us on this Congress.

As for Bentonville, Lee Ivester will be on the lookout for details involving that Congress. His work takes him around the state and that could give him the opportunity to find out certain details we would like to know.

The willingness to help is very valuable and others are doing just that. Fran Wagner of Canton, GA and Kay Borden of Marietta continue to supply various forms of help and details. Jon Perryman of Marietta is working on several things concerning the Marietta Congress. His job takes him into various parts of the South, so he can help in areas other than Marietta.

Ben Tidwell gets around in his job and he has assisted in past Congress details. David Richardson looked into details concerning this year's congress in Danville, KY some years before we actually got there. Charles and Robbie Griggs of Nashville provided helpful information on the Franklin Congress in 2006 as did Harris Griggs with his local contacts in the Franklin and Nashville area.

Thank you again to all of you. If you would like to help, please let me know. I have a list of items that need to be looked into. If you have been there before and have some information that will help the larger group, please let me know. The above is not a complete list. It is just an example of what has been done.

By working together, I am convinced that we can pull together agendas that will be fun as well as informative. Remember, we have to pull these off without a rehearsal and make all the parts fit together from a distance. Your help can make that happen. Be a scout. We can always use more scouts.

Family Ties

Jonathan Perryman and I were talking on the phone about the MariettaCongress this past month. In the conversation he told me he was related to the Green family and that the Green family was an old family in that area. The light went on in my mind when he mentioned the Green family.

One of the Griggs soldiers in Co. B, 41st Georgia Infantry was William Green Berry Griggs. He was called Green and the name Green was a family name and not a nickname. His grandmother 's maiden name was Green and his mother gave him that name in honor of her mother. Green Griggs had a brother Benjamin in the same company and regiment. His brother was from Cobb County Georgia too and in 1894 he married a second time. His second wife was a Green.

So, there may be a connection between the Perryman family and the Griggs family by way of the Green family. I have supplied the family information we have to Jonathan and he will use that with his family information to see what connection there might be. Another member, Julius Griggs of North Little Rock, AR, has done extensive work on the Griggs family and through his research we know about marriage of a Green into the family. He has produced his findings in a book *Griggs Aplenty* which makes his research useful to others.

Another recent development is that Ed Combs has found a picture, previously unknown, of two of my cousins in a school picture taken in rural East Texas in the 1931-35 era. His relative had the picture in her files and made him aware of it. They will get a copy to me. How about that ?

I had previously reported that the Combs family and the Griggs family went from Georgia to the Winston, Alabama area after the Civil War and then they went to the same county in East Texas, Hopkins County. I found a picture of my grandmother sitting next to a Combs woman in a group photo taken in 1908. So, we figure that they must have known each other. Not only that, Ed found out that his relatives are buried in the same country graveyard as my grandfather and grandmother and other relatives. Without our association together in the General Barton and Stovall History/Heritage Association, we would have never been able to piece together these facts.

I am convinced that there are other family connections between our members. We just have not discovered them yet.

Gary Goodson has ancestors from Dallas in Paulding County. My great grandfather moved from Cobb County to Paulding county after 1865. Several sons, including my grandfather, were born in Paulding County, near Dallas. Since most of the people of Paulding County were farmers in the 1870s, it is likely that they went to Dallas to shop and trade on Saturdays. They also attended church as a social event as well as a religious worship. It is very possible that the two families knew each other then. Gary and I have not been able to confirm that yet, but it is a possibility.

Our members Harris and Charles Griggs descend from their grandfather who was born and raised in Paulding County. Their grandfather and my grandfather were brothers. A family story handed down is that they picked up Minie balls on their farm "like acorns". Their farm was not far from the New Hope Church battlefield where their father fought, along with others in Stovall's brigade, in May of 1864.

A Special Thanks

I wish to extend a special thanks to all members who paid their membership fee, to support our organization, even though they were unable to attend the Annual Congress. Those membership fees help us operate. They pay for postage, bank fees, copies, bus deposits, meeting room deposits, website fees, banquet deposits and other fees and charges associated with the Congress.

To me, the core of what we do is the interaction as we retrace the locations where our ancestors camped, marched, fought and suffered. To get the full emotional impact, one must be there to feel the events, names, stories, book accounts and old newspaper articles come alive. When it is done with others how have the same interest, and have studied it for years, it is a special experience.

For those who have not attended yet, I ask that you seriously consider doing it at least once. There are a lot of people working to make that experience positive and fun. You will be accepted and included as family, because you are family. For those who have attended and were not able to attend last year, please come again. Each Congress is different.

Each Congress is different because of the event that happened at that location. It is also different because we strive to do better in putting on the event and we have more experience. Each Congress is different because we have different artifacts and items to work with as the story of "What happened ?" unfolds.

There is an energy or a buzz that is generated when a bus load of descendants talk among themselves, and see a location for perhaps the first time. Yes, the humidity of Mississippi feels very much like the humidity of Georgia, but that humidity is very much like that experienced in 1862 that our ancestors felt and they were carrying about 40 pounds of equipment.

A special thanks also goes to those that take the time, money and schedule arrangements in order to attend the Annual Congress. If no one came there would be less interaction or no interaction. Your presence is special .

Helping Each Other

I want to tell you about an example of how we help each other. There are a number of examples, but this is just the latest that I know about.

Kay Borden has ancestors that were in Turner's Battery. This year we stood on the ground where Turner's Battery was in action at Perryville. A cannon had been placed on the exact spot on the hill and pointed in the direction that they fired at a range of 350 yards.

The other day I was looking up information on Kolb's Farm and I came across a map showing part of the line at nearby Kennesaw Mountain. The map showed two locations where Turner's Battery was emplaced. I told Kay about this by e-mail and sent her a copy of the map for her files.

She got back to me that a National Park Service ranger had told her that the cannons near a certain parking lot were where Turner's Battery were employed. There was no sign at the location. She described the parking lot to me and I had been there two years ago and could remember the parking lot and the cannons-- but I did not know that the cannons marked where Turner's Battery fought in that battle.

She put a label on a mental picture of mine and I found a map that showed a bigger picture of how and where Turner's Battery was positioned. Now she knows where Turner's Battery was located in two battles. Inbetween, the horses were fed and watered, the cannons were stuck in the mud and unstuck by the artillerymen that served the guns, officers decided where to position the guns to best advantage and they carefully crossed pontoon bridges. We don't know exactly where those everyday actions happened, but we have seen some of the routes and places and we will see more.

The exchange of information between members is very powerful. I have a picture of an artillery statue that I must copy and get to her. It could be any artillery crew, but they happen to be in Yankee uniforms. the wind blowing the manes of the horses, the men leaning into the wind with the wind blowing the capes of their coats, the bouncing cassion, and the flying mud can be "seen". Also, the faces look concerned because of the cold wind and because they are either going into battle or they are coming from a battle. They are certainly not on a parade ground.

Perhaps some of you have seen the same statue. It is located in Washington, D.C., below the Capitol , by the reflecting pool where General Grant sits on his horse looking down Capitol. Hill. The artillery statue is on one side of Grant and a group of charging cavalrymen is on the other side.

At Perryville, Turner's Battery was assigned to support the 41st Georgia in Maney's brigade. That is the connection to our association. During Kennesaw Mountain Turner's Battery was assigned to support a different brigade, but of course that location is still of interest for Kay to know where her ancestors were fighting.

Recruiting for 2008 Outreach Idea

The Friends of Civil War Paulding County invited members to send in items for their Newsletter. I asked Kay Borden to work up a press release about our organization and how we will be meeting in Marietta in 2008. She graciously did this and sent the items to Friends of Civil War Paulding County.

From that effort, Jon Perryman of Marietta and Kay and I extended the concept to make an effort to

outreach to other organizations in the area. The main idea is to find other descendants of the five regiments by announcing what we are planning through their groups. First we needed a list of organizations.

Kay took up this work requirement and developed a list. The plan is to contact these organizations as our Congress in Marietta grows closer. That timing is projected to be about the time our advance registration goes out.

The list is pretty impressive. The list includes the following : Friends of Civil War Paulding County ; First Independent Brigade of Reenactment Groups (East Central Georgia) ; Prater's Mill Foundation ; Friends of the Resaca Battlefield ; The Longstreet Society ; Georgia Civil War Commissioner ; The Jefferson Davis Society ; Sons of Confederate Veterans Camps (34 Camps). The Commander and the Adjutant of each camp will receive the message.

There are others that could be contacted like the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Already there is one new potential recruit. Connie Langston of Roswell, GA is the new President of The Friends of Civil War Paulding County. She is also a descendant of a 40th Georgia soldier and her mother's great grandfather was Lindsey Elsberry, patriarch and founder of the family farm on Elsberry Mountain. His home was used as a CSA Headquarters and Elsberry Mountain was fortified during the battle of Dallas. The lines on the mountain were so strong the Yankees didn't want any part in attacking it in force. Connie has been sent additional information on GBSHHA and I hope she joins our ranks.

This is one indication that the outreach will bring in new members once they learn about our activities. I hope so anyway.

Camp Van Dorn Scouting Report

Ben Tidwell reports that the plaque is nice and shiny looking. He visited the site of Camp Van Dorn in September.

Directions to the Camp Van Dorn Plaque :

From I-40 take Exit 387. Go West about one mile on Western Avenue (Tennessee Highway 62). Camp Van Dorn plaque is on the left at entrance to the *Knoxville News Sentinel* building. The building can be seen from the Interstate. It is on the north side of I-40. It is a large building and well advertised.

Election Results

Founder and Historian Emeritus Gary Goodson has announced the results of the election of officers for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2010.

He received a letter from me containing the slate of officer nominations that had been made. He moved that nominations be closed. He also moved that since no office was being contested, that the nominations stand as elected for the 2008-2010 Historian Board three year period. Lastly, he moved that the nominations for G.B.S.H.H.A. Historians Board stand as elected.

Seconds were received for all motions.

Therefore, the new 2008-2010 G.B.S.H.H.A. Historian Board is :

President - Mike Griggs
Vice President - Harris Griggs
Secretary- H. David Richardson
40th Georgia - Kay Borden
41st Georgia - David Richardson
42nd Georgia - Fran Wagner
43rd Georgia - Greg Land
52nd Georgia - Ben Tidwell

Thank you Gary for conducting the election. I look forward to working with all of you during the next three years.

Another Book Announced

Gary Goodson Sr. and Kay Borden have announced that they will be co-authors of a book which will be a re-write of *Georgia Confederate 7000, Parts I, II and III*. The new book will take the "day/date outline" format and re-write it into one or two non-fiction "narrative" books. Kay Borden will be the narrative writer. Completion date has not been projected.

That is what I have for this month. Please stay safe on fog, ice storms and other hazards.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All !

Mike Griggs
President