

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY, 2008

Each month, I jot down topics as I come across them. Hopefully, most of them will be of interest to our members. They are in no particular order of importance. All of them are part of the pulse of what is going on as we approach our next Congress.

New Member John T. Horton

John T. Horton from Tyler, Texas joins our ranks. I haven't received the New Member Form yet so I am limited in details of his ancestor. That can come later. John, as a new member, has received a Membership Certificate, Membership Card, Brigade Strength Chart, *Suggested Reading List, Reference Guide*, 41st Georgia Counties Map, and a painting of two CSA soldiers. New members also receive two other gifts which are presented at the Congress. If unable to receive in person at the Congress, they get the items mailed to them.

New Member Dennis Donehoo

Dennis Donehoo, from California, MD, has found us and has joined. He writes that he plans to attend the Seventh Annual Congress in Marietta. His great, great grandfather was Private William Wilson Donehoo, Co. I, 42nd Georgia. He was 26 when he mustered in at Camp McDonald in March, 1862. He was surrendered at Vicksburg and was captured at Resaca. He was sent to Camp Douglas POW Camp, near Chicago. Records show that he unfortunately died of chronic diarrhea on November 19, 1864 while a POW.

Dennis sent a picture of his great, great grandfather's name on the bronze tablet which is positioned on the mass gravesite at Camp Douglas.

We were able to visit where the 42nd Georgia marched and fought at Champion Hill in 2004 and the positions they occupied at Vicksburg, also in 2004. In 2005 we saw the approximate location where the 42nd Georgia launched their attack at Resaca and the part of Missionary Ridge that they defended. We will return in the future and I hope you will be able to attend and see those locations for yourself.

Jack and June Bolen Medical Report

Jack Bolen of Brandon, Florida has reported the good news that wife June has completely healed, her radiation is finished and she is doing very well. He also reports that his neck and back surgeries went well and he has completely recovered from them. So, they are planning to attend the Congress in Marietta.

Jack has also offered to make a presentation on Friday night.

June Bolen

June Bolen has been elected President of the UDC Chapter in Tampa, Florida. We wish you well in your new responsibilities and we are proud of you. Save some time in your schedule for the Congress in late August.

Kay Borden Speaks

Kay Borden, 40th Georgia historian and sparkplug, has agreed to be a guest speaker for the

Friends of Civil War Paulding County at their meeting on March 3. She will speak at their 7 PM meeting. Armed with details of what our organization does, she will try to find descendants or interested persons that might like to join. She will have New Member Forms and will sign them up before they cool off.

Two companies of the 40th Georgia were recruited from Paulding County, as was one company from the 41st Georgia. The battle of New Hope Church was fought in Paulding County and Stovall's brigade was in the middle of that battle. Additionally, Stovall's brigade was under fire in skirmishes fought along the Dallas-Pickett's Mill line for many days in 1864. So, that is our tie to Paulding County.

Camp Douglas : Chicago's Civil War Prison

Camp Douglas : Chicago's Civil War Prison by Kelly Pucci was published in 2007. It is an illustrated history of the prison camp three miles from the Chicago Loop where thousands of Confederate soldiers died from battle wounds, disease, starvation, and torture. The book has 200 vintage illustrations and is 128 pages in softcover. The catalog I saw it listed in had a price of \$19.99.

Shrouds of Glory

Shrouds of Glory by Winston Green is a 1995 book about the Campaign between Atlanta to Nashville. Winston Green was the author of *Forrest Gump*, which found its way to the big screen starring Tom Hanks.

A copy of the book was loaned to me and I have not completely read it yet. It does contain a map of the route taken on the march from Palmetto Station to Nashville and of the retreat route to Bainbridge, Alabama, near Florence. Notations are made of the date they were at certain locations along the way. The book has a schematic Order of Battle down to brigade level. Period photos and detailed maps are also included. The text is easy to read and the author tells the events like he is telling a story.

Perspective on Losses

I was given a copy of *Team of Rivals* authored by the presidential historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin, for Christmas. The book tells in great detail how Lincoln worked with his cabinet and how and why the cabinet was selected. It also tells the political history of Lincoln and his rise to the presidency in 1860.

In among all this political detail I discovered a nugget of information. Goodwin points out that the Civil War produced over six hundred thousand military deaths- more than the cumulative total of all our other wars from the Revolution to Iraq. The nation at the time had a population of 31.5 million. "In proportion to today's population, the number of deaths would exceed five million".

I don't recall reading about the magnitude of losses within that framework.

Hotel Reservations for Marietta Congress

It is not too early to make reservations for the Marietta Congress. We will use the Marietta

Conference Center and Resort as our base. A block of rooms has been contracted for in order to get group rates.

A deluxe room rate is \$99 per night. With all state and local taxes the group rate comes to \$112.86 per night. Marietta is within the marketing area of Atlanta and we will have to pay more than in Danville, Kentucky. That is just the way it is for that area.

Guest room reservations are made on an individual call in basis. The phone number is (770) 427-2500. Our group is listed as “ General Barton and Stovall Heritage Association”.

We are responsible for a total of 60 room nights in order to get that rate and the conference room we need. If you are going to stay in a hotel or motel during the Congress, I ask that you please stay with us at the Marietta Conference Center and Resort.

Once again I would like to explain the logistics situation that comes with any Congress. Each location is different because what we have to select from is different at each location.

Since we meet over a three day holiday, we are in competition with other conventions, weddings, and tourists that are in the area. To get reduced group rates at a place that has enough rooms, we have to estimate how many rooms we can fill. The price is based on the estimate and that estimate goes into the contract as a number that must be filled. We also need a conference room for two nights that will accept the number in our group. Places with conference rooms want to rent both conference rooms and guest rooms.

Another consideration is the ease of using the facilities. I think it is easier and more restful to walk down a hall to the conference room, rather than to gather up and drive to another location in order to use their conference room. Driving and parking takes time and coordination.

Conference rooms get booked one year in advance. Conventions get booked one year in advance. Because of that, I have booked us one year in advance to get what we need. It is reckless , in my opinion, to wait until the start of the summer and then try to pull everything together. If one item does not “come together”, there is a big problem that has to be solved with a short fuze before it blows up in your face. No organizer wants to be in that position.

Marietta Congress Status Report

Group rates and rooms has been contracted for with the Marietta Conference Center and Resort as described above. The banquet meal has been arranged. Lunches for two days of tours has been contracted for from a caterer that is three blocks from our hotel. A bus for the Saturday tour has been contracted for and deposit paid to hold it.

Group rates of the Southern History Museum have been requested and granted and they know when we will descend upon them. Contact with a guest speaker has been established. It turns out that he has several topics he could speak on, and all would be interesting. That is a “Golden Problem”. Finding an interesting guest speaker is probably my largest worry each year. More discussions will be held and I suspect that I will go with the one he is most excited about delivering.

For our Friday night Historian's Presentations, we are in good shape. Since we are not having a guest speaker that night, as has happened in the past at times, I have filled that time with some outstanding presentations from members. The number of presentations has grown to the point that I must discuss the details with the Regimental Historians. I do not want to agree to a number of presentations and cut into the Regimental Historian's time.

I'll be writing to the Regimental Historians to explain what is on the table and will ask for how much time they will need. None of us wants to waste any time and all of us want time to present what they expect to have presented in August. Regimental Historians, please be thinking about what you will be needing and I will tell you what we have so far, for Friday night. This allocation of time can be worked out. I just don't want to try to work it out on the fly right before the presentations are made.

40th Georgia descendant Jon Perryman of Marietta has graciously arranged to invite members to his farm for a cook out on Sunday afternoon. Details will follow as they develop. Basically, there are a number of members from the general Atlanta area that do not have to travel far to get home. The cook out would extend our time and good fellowship together. For those that have to travel home, maybe they can delay their departure and get in on the cook out too. So, this is advance notice for the Sunday afternoon invitation.

Corinth, MS Earthworks

Civil War Times magazine reports that some 1,000 acres of untouched Confederate and Union earthworks will be saved. The land is owned by the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission, which is a city and county appointed entity. The land will be transferred to the National Park Service.

Boardwalks will be made at the base of the earthworks so that visitors can walk the site.

The 41st Georgia was deployed in trenches to protect the city in April and May of 1862. It is unclear exactly which trenches will be saved, as there were 17 miles of trenches around the town. A description of the location and a map of the trenches has been found. Member Harry Dellinger of Huntsville, AL will scout the location with the clues to determine what exists today. The railroad and road location shown next to the 41st Georgia position has probably not changed over time and they will be clues to use.

Harry is a 43rd Georgia descendant that helps our association in a number of ways.

Speaking of trenches, when the Union army advanced on Corinth from Shiloh, they didn't want to be surprised in the open. The commanding general had the troops dig in every night. They covered 24 miles in 22 days and the men were worn out from digging and marching. March a little in the day and dig all night. This cautious advance was a result of a surprise attack by Confederate forces at Shiloh that nearly won the battle.

That is what I have for now. Expect the next Newsletter about March 15.

Mike Griggs
President