

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **January 2008**

#### **Membership Dues**

Membership Dues for 2008 are now due. The dues have been raised to \$40.00 beginning this year. This is the first raise since the formation of this association in 2002. Please make your checks payable to General Barton and Stovall Association and mail to me at 4110 Holly Beach Curt, Bremerton, WA 98312.

The \$40.00 covers both husband and wife or a family unit. To help put this figure in perspective, I notice that a one-day tour of the Battle of Nashville, put on by the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society cost \$60.00 per person.

#### **Nashville Update**

Charles and Robbie Griggs of Nashville have forwarded to me a report published by the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society. Our 2006 Congress was held in Franklin/Nashville and those of you who were able to attend will recall these sites that we visited.

Shy's Hill - The Shy's Hill debt has been retired. Interpretive signage has begun on Shy's Hill. The summit has been cleared of brush.

Stewart's Stone Wall - Much of Stewart's Stone Wall that parallels Battery Lane is about to be put into a preservation easement.

A new Visitor's Center was opened at Fort Negley on December 15, 2007. It has museum space, office space, a theater and a patio and covers over 4,000 square feet and cost over \$1 million. Fort Negley was a Union artillery fort that was part of a series of forts protecting occupied Nashville.

#### **Champion Hill (Baker's Creek) Update**

The February, 2008 issue of *Civil War Times* has a short article on page 14 with the headline "Core of Champion Hill Battlefield Finally Protected".

The report said that the Coker House on the Champion Hill battleground would be restored. A color picture of the house was shown. No other details on timing, amount of money or who would do the restoration was reported. Those of you that were at the 2004 Congress will recall that we stopped at this house on the Raymond Road. It was used as a hospital by both Union and CSA forces.

The same article reported that Sid Champion V had signed an agreement with the Civil War Preservation Trust that would give the CWPT the first right of refusal if the family ever sold their land on Champion Hill. This is good news. The details are murky, at least to me, but I believe there is a plan for the National Park Service to extend their management of preserved land in the Vicksburg area. This would include the land preserved at Champion Hill.

The family retains the land, but it is now permanently protected from future development. The land had been in the Champion family since 1853, except for a twenty year period in the early 20th century when crop failure forced the owners to sell it. It was repurchased after World War II. Sometime in the 1930s, part of Champion Hill was removed as part of a quarry operation for road building material.

#### **Ringgold Gap Update**

Ringgold Gap was one of our tour stops during the 2005 Congress at Dalton, GA. Stovall's brigade retreated through this narrow gap to Dalton after the battle of Missionary Ridge. The rest of the Army of Tennessee also retreated through this gap in the mountains for the safety of Dalton. General Cleburne commanded the rear guard that defended this gap and saved the Army of Tennessee from destruction.

A statue of General Cleburne has now been erected on the site. In 2005, the SCV and others were collecting donations for the statue. On your next trip to Chattanooga, please stop by to see the statue. A picture and details of

the statue would be appreciated.

### **Retreat Route from Nashville**

Vice President Harris Griggs of Franklin, TN has found details concerning the retreat from Franklin to Tupelo, Mississippi in December, 1864. The details are on 31 8 1/2 X 11 pages when printed ! They come from reports made by officers of the Union Fourth Army Corps who were tasked to capture the Army of Tennessee , if they could. They did pursue to the north bank of the Tennessee River in the vicinity of Florence, Alabama before giving up the chase.

The reports are contained in the *Official Records - Series I - Volume XLV / 1 [ S #93]*

I have not read or studied all of this material yet. In skim reading it , I believe there is enough detail recorded to furnish the basis of a future Congress where we retrace the route taken by the Army of Tennessee, and Stovall's brigade, following the battle of Nashville. Advance work would require a detailed reading of the reports, selecting the key points along the way and identifying the route taken by using modern maps that have details including county and other secondary roads.

The reports tell how deep the mud was on the roads, where they camped, where rivers and streams were crossed and the difficulty in hauling food and forage for all the horses and mules. The Union forces had to encounter ambushes and other rear guard actions. All of this was done in cold weather, in rain and snow and the CSA forces were without shoes in many cases and without coats. Food was in short supply too.

In 2006 our Congress took us to the rear guard locations following the battle of Nashville. In 2009 we will see the other end of the retreat at Tupelo, MS and the crossing location near Florence, AL. It seems to me that a future Congress that explores the route in between these two points would be in order to more fully appreciate what our ancestors endured. When Barton's and Stovall's brigade marched over 5,000 miles during the course of the Civil War, there are a number of miles to retrace. To me, a retreat route is just as historically important as a battlefield.

The conduct of a retreat is a very difficult military operation and the history books do not seem to record the details to any extent. There are exceptions , of course, such as the French retreat from Moscow in 1812 and the retreat from the Yalu River in Korea in 1950 by American forces.

The retreating army has already been defeated in battle, they are tired, they are disorganized to an extent because of battle losses to men and officers, they are usually outnumbered , their options are limited and their resupply is disrupted or non-existent. In short, everything is a mess at every level.

The retreating army is moving to a location that they can defend or reequip and they are not certain that they will get there. The fact that the Army of Tennessee did get to Tupelo, MS, under the circumstances, is a tribute to the officers and men who did not give up. they did not do the easy thing of just packing it in. They kept going, kept fighting, kept struggling despite all hardships and did live to fight another day in South Carolina and North Carolina. Their struggle should not be forgotten and should not be dismissed.

The **31 pages** will be put into my Future file and I will work on it as I have the time. Harris will spend time and energy in scouting some of the locations described in the reports. He personally knows some of the locations and roads as he grew up in the Lawrenceburg, TN area.

### **Paulding County CSA Graves**

Connie Tibbitts, former President of Friends of Civil War Paulding County, has a list of 80 soldiers of Stovall's brigade buried in Paulding County. Most are of the 40th Georgia, a few in the 41st and 43rd Georgia and a couple in the 52nd Georgia. There are over 600 CSA veterans listed in the Paulding County Cemetery Book.

This information came to Connie from Wayne Willingham, Commander of the William Hardee Camp, SCV. Wayne Willingham is on the Paulding County Cemetery and Graveyard Committee. Wayne's camp has been active in identifying and maintaining graves in Paulding County as well as recording them and their location.

I hope that Dan Crone can cross check this list against his list of over 1,000 known graves to determine if new information has been found. I submit that there are probably some graves on the list that are not on Dan's list. With the speed of e-mail , this may be able to be done rather quickly.

Thank you Connie for letting us know about this list. This is yet another example of how we can help each other and expand our total knowledge of the 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, and 52nd Georgia Volunteer Infantry regiments. Someday, a person will ask if we know where their great, great grandfather is buried and that information may be able to be supplied because of work done in collecting information now.

That is what I have for now. The next issue will be out on February 15.

Mike Griggs  
President