

NEWSLETTER - JULY, 2009

2009 Congress Status

I am happy to report that the 2009 Congress planning is under control and ready to make it happen. Harry Dellinger of Huntsville, AL is working out the details of what to see, when and in what sequence. He has a place for us to eat our box lunches so we will manage just fine. Robbie Griggs will make the nametags. A speaker is yet to be confirmed, but there is a back-up program in mind if we can't get a speaker.

I am less happy to report that only seven people have sent in their registration so far. That are three couples and one single, for a total of seven. What worries me is that I have a big bus to fill, and pay for, and meeting rooms to fill, and pay for. Meal vendors are waiting to learn how many they will be serving. My estimate is that the same core group will attend that usually attend. A few new members will attend to see what we do and to enjoy a new experience. Some that we expect to attend will have a wedding to attend or another commitment that conflicts or will have to work at that time.

If you will be able to attend, please send me your Advance Registration Form and the money. Until I see your registration, I worry that you will not make it. Even if you have been to Corinth, Tupelo and Florence before, I think you will learn and see some new information this trip.

For all you members and contacts in Alabama, this is the time to travel a short distance to experience a Congress. We hope to meet you in Tupelo.

Hospital Gangrene

Many soldiers in the Civil War were wounded and survived their wound, only to die of gangrene. In the records found by Daniel Crone there is a reference by period doctors to "hospital gangrene". It is now understood that "hospital gangrene" is what is now known as "flesh eating bacteria". Little was known then about germs in general and many situations did not have names, muchless solutions. Even in Vietnam, American doctors encountered fevers that they didn't know how they were caused or how to stop them. They called them the "Two Day Fever". Most patients were dead in two days.

Lauderdale Springs CSA Graves

Lauderdale Springs, MS had a springs that had a spa on the site before the war. It was made into a hospital. It was close to the East-West railroad line and the North-South railroad line. Wounded and sick were brought to the hospital and as patients died , they were buried near the hospital. The cemetery grew with something like 375 graves.

Back in June I received a copy of the list of the graves. I went through the list and discovered some facts that tell a story about men from our regiments. The reference I noted was: www.geocities.com/wdcscv/lscemetery.htm

There were 78 total graves for men from our regiments. 11 were men of the 40th, 42nd, 43rd and 52nd Georgia. 67 were for men of the 41st Georgia. They were buried mostly in April, May and June of 1862. That was the time they were deployed to Corinth, MS. The 41st was hit hard by measles and typhoid. The sick were transported to Lauderdale Springs and some never returned.

By inspecting the dates of death of the 11 from the other regiments I discovered a pattern. Prior to the battle of Champion Hill, there were these deaths from men of these regiments : 52nd -13Apr 63 ; 43rd -23 Apr 63 ; 52nd - 1 May 63.

A Private Jackson Langley , Co. C, 42nd Georgia died on 17 May 63. That was at the time of Champion

Hill. Maybe he was sent to the hospital earlier and happened to die on the day of Champion Hill. Then, Private John Calvin Marks, Co. F, 42nd Georgia died on 30 Jun 63, during the siege of Vicksburg. Had he been admitted after the battle of Champion Hill ?

The rest died after the surrender of Vicksburg which was on July 4, 1863. These men may have been sent east to Lauderdale Springs as sick or wounded. Some could have died while trying to get back to Atlanta. At any rate we find : 52nd - 6Jul63 ; 52nd - 6 Jul63 ; 40th -15 Jul 63 ; 43rd - 30 Jul 63. Two died in August : 40th - 7 Aug 63 ; 42nd - 29 Aug 63.

The cause of death of the 11 were only partially listed. Typhoid, dysentery and bronchitis claimed one each., The other 8 had no notation as to cause of death. I have the names and companies in my notes that were made when looking at the list. I have omitted them here due to space and time limitations.

Lauderdale Springs is about 8 miles north of I-20 at Exit 169, very close to the Alabama border. Lauderdale itself is on US 45 which comes north out of Meridian, MS.

Union Soldier Grave at Franklin, TN

A Union soldier grave has been found in Franklin, TN recently. The remains were close to the main road into town from the south. The uniform buttons helped identify which army he was in. The final disposition of the remains has not been decided.

For more details see : www.tennessean.com/article/20090524

Inman Park Atlanta, GA

Near the intersection of Waverly Way and Edgewood Avenue in Atlanta is a densely wooded ravine referred to by residents as Inman Park. At the southwest corner of the park are ten cement steps leading into the ravine and at the base of the steps are two historic markers. One placed in 1956 is a bronze plaque mounted on a pole that shows a map of the units in that section of the fighting on July 22, 1864.

We are interested in this because Stovall's brigade is shown on the map making the attack as part of Clayton's division. Holtzclaw's brigade is right behind Stovall. We will hear more about Holtzclaws brigade this year at Florence. Stovall's brigade made the attack uphill.

The 42nd Georgia charged into the guns of Battery H, 1st Illinois Artillery, commanded by Captain Francis DeGress. DeGress Battery had four 20 pounder Parrott rifles that had been shelling Atlanta earlier in the day. the rest of Stovall's brigade was close by as they come up the slope.

Manigault's brigade, again next to Stovall as at Jonesboro, came at the battery from the side and was able to capture it briefly. Heavy fighting occurred at this section of the line.

To see the map and read more of the action here please refer to www.inmanpark.org/cwar.htm

We saw this slope and ravine at a distance in 2008 from the crest of the ridge in the cemetery where Hood had his headquarters. The steepness of the slope has helped protect the area from development over the years since the battle.

Potential New Member

On July 9 I got a phone call from a Mr. David Wright of Middleburg, FL. He had stumbled into our website which is produced by Don Bulloch. After reading some of it he gave me a call to discuss more. It turns out he is a descendant of his great great grandfather Private Abner Nixon , Co. H " Wool Hat Boys", 41st Georgia from Carroll County.

Private Nixon 's name appears on page 106 of *Georgia Confederate 7,000 Part I*. Private Nixon was wounded in the foot at Perryville and was captured. He was put in a Union hospital and later had part of his foot amputated. That surgery saved his life. He was released and when he got back he signed up again. He spent the rest of the war as a soldier in the Macon area on guard duty. Macon had hospitals, a railroad, warehouses, factories and other installations that were targets of Yankee cavalry.

David is a biology teacher and he plans to visit Perryville next summer. He asked, " Do you have anything on the 41st Georgia ?" We happen to have quite a lot and I am in the process of getting copies to him after finding out that my e-mail attachments could not be opened by his computer.

David has original letters that were written from Private Nixon to his wife and some of the responses by his wife. These letters will probably yield more details of places, dates, conditions and equipment concerning the 41st Georgia.

David Richardson has sent an e-mail letter to David and between us we will try to convince him to sign up and join us at Tupelo.

Planning Efforts

Advance planning has been going on for future Congress events. Greg Land, 43rd Georgia Historian, and Kay Borden , 40th Georgia Historian, are working on details of the Cassville area. Greg has relatives near there and he is knowledgeable about places and roads in the area. Kay knows the area too. Cassville is the location of a trap that was set, but was not sprung. It is on the route of withdrawal from Resaca to the Marietta area, now referred to as the Atlanta Campaign.

Vice President Harris Griggs is working on specific stops to visit along the retreat route from Nashville to the Tennessee River. There are two rear guard fight locations that have been located. The Tennessee History people have erected new signs there that will contain additional details.

Jim and Donna Hopkins of Easley, SC are looking into specific locations in and around Columbia, SC. These sites would be part of the Congress where we visit the three bridges defended south of Columbia in February, 1865 after Stovall's brigade arrived from Tupelo, Mississippi. Some sites are historic, some are modern "need to know" information regarding potential meeting sites, lunch locations and where to eat in Columbia.

Jim and Judy Rowell are developing things to show us in Bowdon, Georgia concerning one of the commanders of the 41st Georgia, Colonel Charles McDaniel who died of wounds while leading his regiment at Perryville.

I am in particular need of some specific information in the Raleigh, NC area prior to our Congress there in 2010. Where is a good CSA Museum ? There must be one in Raleigh, or at Duke Univ, or University of North Carolina. What are the hours ? If there are more than one, which one is the one to see if we only have time for one ?

Lee Ivester of Mooresville, NC has already visited one of the bridge battle locations. Maybe he can recommend a museum . I know that the Internet is wonderful for looking up items, but I like first hand knowledge if I can get it and then fill in the details using the Internet.

If any of you are going to be in the Raleigh area, please let me know if you would have time to check into

some details. I have a list of items, but the main one is, “ Where is a CSA Museum ?”

Additionally, Janie Crowe of Sumner, Georgia is working on a special assignment for me. When she has finished her work I will make an announcement to all.

All of these efforts are appreciated and they are very important in developing a quality Congress for all of us to enjoy.

What I propose and am planning for is as follows : Bentonville 2010 ; Columbia, SC 2011 ; Cassville area 2012 ; Florence, Al (Retreat from Nashville) 2013.

FACTS FROM THE 43RD GEORGIA

43rd Georgia Historian Greg Land sends more facts from his files

On August 2, 1861 the Federal government started a new system that still exists to this day and it is something that most of all dread...INCOME TAX... and it was started by them Damn Yankees...wouldn't you know it !

The Confederate flag was LAST officially lowered on November 6, 1865 on a Confederate ship named the CSS Shenandoah and it was docked in Liverpool, England.

The last Confederate ARMY in the field to officially surrender was the 43,000 man Trans-Mississippi Department under the command of General Edmund Kirby Smith. This occurred on June 2, 1865 and it took place in Galveston, Texas ; months after Lee had surrendered in Appomattox and Johnston had surrendered in North Carolina.

Note to all GBSHHA members ... If your Confederate Georgia ancestor was an early volunteer into the Southern Army, it was possible that he may have served under the legendary General Robert E. Lee.... General Lee was appointed as a Commanding General of The Department of Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida on November 5, 1861 and he served in that capacity until re-appointed on March 5, 1862, into what we now refer to as The Army of Northern Virginia... We normally think of our Georgia soldiers as being under the command of Braxton Bragg, John Bell Hood, and Joseph E. Johnston in the Army of Tennessee, however an early soldier in the Southern war effort could have served under General Lee for that short four (4) month period. General Robert E. Lee also had an early duty assignment in Georgia when he graduated from the Military Academy at West Point. He was posted to Fort Pulaski on the Savannah , Georgia coast line as a young Corps of Engineers Lieutenant.

That is all I have for this month. Expect the next Newsletter about August 15.

Mike Griggs
President