

NEWSLETTER JUNE, 2009

Once in awhile something comes along that is exciting. We have an exciting event to report this month and I'm going to open with it. It comes from our graves registration expert, Dan Crone of Dayton, OH. It is a follow-up to an inquiry.

The inquiry came to me back in July, 2006 from a new member who had been looking for his great great grandfather's grave for 33 years. Private Francis M. Mc Waters, Co. E, 41st Georgia was wounded at Jonesboro and died of his wound in Macon, GA. Efforts to find his grave in or near Macon were unsuccessful.

I forwarded the request to Dan and asked him to check his references. He did and the grave was not located.

Dan remembered this and he was able to apply newly found sources to the inquiry. He sent me this report on what he found :

NEWLY FOUND MEDICAL RECORDS

“ As you may or may not know, a couple of years ago Google launched upon an ambitious project to digitize Howard University's library. All books will be scanned in digital format (pictures of the pages) and then optical character recognition (OCR) is performed upon the digital images so that the text can be used in search engines.

I haven't found the gravesite of McWaters, per se, but I've found the rest of the story. For some of us, there is apparently to be little privacy in death. F.M. Mc Waters, Sergeant, (note the promotion), Co. E, 41st Georgia, Stovall's Brigade, Cleburne's Division, Army of Tennessee is Case XXXVIII (38) in Surgical Memoirs of the War of the Rebellion published for the United States Sanitary Commission by Hurd and Houghton, 1871 . “

Dan continues, “ This is an out - of- print and out-of-copyright book. As an aside, the granting of exclusive arrangement for Google for those seeking a hard copy version of these out-of-copyright works is the subject of judicial review as other publishers object to the arrangement. Watch the news for more as this progresses. “

“ He is described as having black hair, dark eyes, dark complexion; muscular, well -built man. Wounded August 31, by minie-ball; flesh wound, ball entering the inner portion of the lower third of the left thigh, two inches above the joint. Sent to division hospital the day he received the wound, and remained until next night; then sent to Fair Ground Hospital, No. 2, Vineville, Georgia, and transferred to Empire Hospital, September 15. Gangrene was present at the time of his entrance into the hospital, and the wound was about nine inches in circumference, with a black, hard crust....”

“ What follows is the course of his treatment, which was ultimately unsuccessful. The purpose of the medical account is to illustrate the fatal effects of gangrene when it reaches a major joint. In fact, the author at one point mentions that he was not present when the decision was made to try

and save the limb. He indicates that it would not have been his decision. “

“ The author is Joseph Jones, MD, professor of chemistry in the medical department of the University of Louisiana, New Orleans; formerly Surgeon in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States. His section of the book is titled, “ *Investigations Upon the Nature, Causes and Treatment of Hospital Gangrene, as It Prevailed in the Confederate Armies, 1861-1865.* “

“ I'd like to say I found pictures of F. M. Mc Waters, but instead I have found detailed color drawings of **another soldier's gangrenous leg** suitable for reproduction and framing. Imagine directing your friends to a picture over the mantle, ‘ And that, my friends, is a picture of what great grandpa's gangrenous leg looked like...not his actual leg but a wound just like it . ‘ It is rather unique. Also, the records showed that on October 4th, 1864 at 8 PM, your ancestor's pulse was 104 and his respiration 22. And who doesn't want to know the sulfuric acid content of Great Grandpa Mc Waters urine on October 7th at 8 AM ? (You have to keep your sense of twisted humor when reading / viewing such things.) “

“ The daily descriptions continue in varying degrees of grossness until on October 24th the patient is fading, and no appetite. The attending doctor reports that ‘ this patient retained his senses and intelligence to the last moment. I conversated with him only a few moments before death, and he spoke calmly and intelligently, and cried out in pain when his left leg was touched or moved in the least. He succumbed to his wound on October 26th in the evening. ‘ “

“ So, we know McWaters died at Empire Hospital. Another section of the book describes Empire.

... The doubtful if not dangerous and disastrous policy of collecting the cases of hospital gangrene into one hospital devoted exclusively to its treatment, was inaugurated among the general hospitals of the Army of Tennessee located in and around Macon, and three hundred and eighty - five cases of hospital gangrene were treated at the Empire Hospital, in Vineville, near Macon, during the months of August, September and October. “

“ Sixty-five cases of gangrene terminated fatally during these months at the Empire Hospital; that is , during this short space, one six of all the cases proved mortal.

The gangrene hospital was located **in a depression covered with small scrub oaks, just where the Vineville Road meets the railroad, and directly opposite to the Confederate States Laboratory. (bold added).**

“ The effects of location, and change of climate, and the crowding of the gangrene patients into hospitals devoted specially to its treatment, was examined; and numerous examinations and analyses of the blood and excretions were made and life-like drawings executed of the gangrenous parts, illustrating not only the appearances presented by the wounds at the different stages of the disease, but also the permanent disability which gangrene produces by the contraction of the injured muscles. The origin and causes of this disease in the Army of Tennessee were investigated, the hospital records examined and consolidated, and numerous inquiries relating to hospital addressed to the various medical officers. “

Dan found that, “ There is a letter from S.P. Moore, Surgeon - General C.S. Army directing Surgeon Joseph Jones to investigate the causes of fevers, etc dated August 6th, 1864.”

“ So, my conclusion is that Mc Waters died October 26th, 1864 at 8 PM in Empire Hospital, Macon , Georgia. And we know exactly where Empire Hospital was from a contemporary description.

Not his gravesite, but certainly more information than many of us have. “

“ NO,BUT HE HAD A NICE LEG ...”

Now, the rest of the story. Dan contacted Donald A. Mc Waters of St. Simons Island, GA by e-mail. He found the e-mail address had been changed. More detective work produced a phone number and then a phone call . Dan shortened the conversation for the Newsletter, but it went like this :

Dan : I have some news about your ancestor.

McW : Did you find my ancestor’s grave ?

Dan: No, I found a picture.

McW: You found a picture of my great grandfather?

Dan: Well, not exactly.

McW: What then?

Dan : I found a picture of a part of your great grandfather.

McW: What part, his face ?

Dan: Well not exactly. And its not a picture, its a drawing.

McW: Tell me more.

Dan: Its a drawing, actually a series of them, in a medical text. Did you know he was shot in the thigh with a mini-ball? It follows the progression of the gangrene in the leg that killed him.

McW: What?

Dan: The drawing is really a drawing of another soldier’s thigh that had a wound of the same kind as your great grandfather. Did I mention it s in color. Might make a nice display over the mantle. Large thigh wound showing muscle underneath. Kind of like a 1864 version of *Grey’s Anatomy*. Mc Water’s Thigh, 1864.

McW: Oh, did you find anything else ?

Dan: Are you interested in his respiration rate, heart rate, potassium level ?

McW: Not really, I just wanted to know where he is buried.

Dan: How about the color and quantity of his urine for any of the 20 days prior to his death? They were feeding him some strange things and making his urine dark amber.

McW: I'm really not interested.

Dan: I guess exudates and granulations are out of the question ?

McW: You are making me sick.

Dan: You should know that the doctor writing the account said he would have amputated, but he wasn't in charge.

McW: Can I sue for malpractice?

Dan: I think there is a statute of limitations, and the Confederacy isn't around anymore.

McW: Anything more?

Dan: You should know he was of fine mental capabilities except for any attempt to fool with his leg. He stopped eating the 24th, and died on October 27th at 8 PM at Empire Hospital, Macon, GA in 1864. The doctor reports conversing with him an hour before his death.

McW: Do you know where he is buried ?

Dan: No, but he had a nice leg.

What now? Dan is working on locating the list or ledger of the Rose Hill Cemetery in Macon. It is something like the Bethel Cemetery in Knoxville where soldiers from various hospitals were brought there for burial. Rose Hill is known to have a large number of CSA soldiers buried there.

At Bethel Cemetery, the names are listed on bronze tablets, but the bodies are in a common grave without headstones.

CSA GRAVES IN TEXAS

A member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has located 11,000 graves of CSA soldiers buried in Texas. This work is now in a form that it can be researched.

Dan Crone has been alerted to this development and he is already in contact with the list. Initial estimates are that he may locate as many as 50 graves of soldiers from our regiments. Maybe more.

This effort is especially rewarding when he can take Henderson Roster entries such as “ No further record “, “ Missing “ or “ Left behind at Vicksburg” and find where that person is buried.

41st Georgia Historian David Richardson has located an area in East Texas where there is quite a colony of Georgia descendants. Many of those from Georgia were CSA vets who came there in the years following the WBTS. Surely, some of them died in that area and their graves are now on a list.

The quest goes on. I'll keep you informed of developments and Dan can supply the details of what he has found. Through these efforts and others, they will not be forgotten.

Battle of Sailor's Creek, Virginia

On April 6, 1865 swarming Union cavalry and some infantry elements surrounded about one fourth of the Army of Northern Virginia. Most of the Confederates engaged surrendered. Eight Confederate general officers were among those surrendered. One Lieutenant General, two Major Generals and five Brigadier Generals including **Seth M. Barton**.

Brigadier General Seth M. Barton, who had the 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd and 52nd Georgia regiments assigned to his brigade, was reassigned to Virginia following the fall of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863. He was from Virginia and is buried in Fredericksburg, VA. So, now you know where he was surrendered. Brigadier General Stovall took command of the above five Georgia regiments in September 1863.

TUPELO CONGRESS REPORT

I'm happy to report that the arrangements for the Tupelo Congress are under control and on schedule. Comments have been selected and typed, maps selected, meal menus selected and scheduled, patch is in production, presentations for Friday being assembled, Advance Registration produced and posted, and the gift painting ready to be copied. I still need a guest speaker, but that is being worked on. The bus is under contract.

Driving details and sequence of stops are being worked on. I will soon write letters to the museums and Visitor Centers that we will visit so that the staff will know when we will descend upon them, as a head's up.

As the Advance Registrations come in I will develop the exact numbers for each meal and give that information to the vendors, ahead of our arrival. Nametags will be printed from the Advance Registration.

Watch the Website, produced by Don Bulloch; watch the e-mails that come from David Richardson; and read the Newsletter for more developments. Please get your registration information and checks to me, sooner, rather than later.

Jack and June Bolen of Brandon, FL have told me they will attend. So, please join them. We have a 55-passenger bus to fill up! We also have some interesting new information, stories, examples and scenes to enjoy as we retrace the steps of our ancestors.

WHAT TO WEAR?

Hopefully, there will be new members attending, or members who will be attending for the first time. Women often want to know, “What to wear?”

Our daytime tours are casual and one should be prepared for hot summer weather in the South. Wear comfortable shoes for walking and standing. Sunscreen, hats, caps, and sunglasses are pretty standard.

For the Saturday evening meal and awards ceremony, I wear a coat and tie. Most of the men do too. Everyone should be comfortable. For the ladies, I would describe what they wear as “church clothes “ or “ going on a dinner date with their husband “ attire. Somewhere between shower thongs and a tank top and Scarlett O’Hara’s full hoop skirt party dress. This is our one time each year to be together as a group and on our “big dinner” we sort of celebrate and dress up for the occasion. It is amazing how well the ladies “clean up “, as they say in Texas.

C & D JARNAGIN CORINTH, MS

Dr. David Wiggins has informed me that the C & D Jernigan Company is located in Corinth, MS. They are the supplier of re-enactor uniforms and equipment. He thinks they have a small museum too. David Richardson tells me that they have a reputation as the “ Wal- Mart “ of Civil War re-enactor gear. If that is of interest to you, consider working it into your driving schedule.

CIVIL WAR TIMES GRAPHIC AUGUST, 2009 ISSUE

The August 2009 issue of *Civil War Times* magazine should be on the news stands now. I am including this item in a busy Newsletter this month, because it will be gone from the newsstands in another month. On page 17 is a rather unusual “ War Graph”. It is in color and shows the route of travel, in very general terms, of Hood’s Tennessee Campaign.

What is unusual is the width of the route on the map varies by how many men are on the march. A wide line showing the initial march is noted as 40,000 men. When the number falls to 38,500 the width the line showing the march route gets smaller. It gets less wide at 30,500 and less wide again at the start of the retreat with 24,000 troops. The final width that Tupelo shows 20,000 men and is half the width of the starting route location. The effect is to “see” the forces shrink as you look at the graphic. The advance is shown in red and the retreat in black.

It also shows the brief attack by 3,000 men at Altoona, GA on October 5, 1864 and the return of 2,000 men to the main column following the battle.

NEWS FROM THE 43RD GEORGIA

Greg Land supplies more details from his files.

It was often said , both during and after the War of Northern Aggression, that the Southern Generals as well as the Southern political movement were far more efficient than their Yankee counterparts in regard to the amount of money it required to prosecute their respective war

efforts. At one point during the War, the Southern Treasury officials concluded that approximately \$600,000.00 per day was often utilized to fight the Northern invasion. On the other hand, the U.S. Congress reported in 1863 that the Northern Armies were spending in excess of \$2,400,000.00 each day in order to fund their war against sovereign Southern States and its people.

It is also the subject of great debate that the South had much finer battlefield Generals than the Yankee Armies had within their ranks. Although this can always be a matter of personal opinion and preference, it can never be denied that the South's Generals were far more efficient with their defense of the overwhelming landmass that they were assigned to safeguard from the invading Yankees. As was often said after the Civil War, "Never was so much accomplished with so little. "... This adage applies to so many of our grand ole Confederate Generals as well as our fighting men.

Two future United States Presidents were present at the same battle in Sharpsburg, Maryland at the Battle of Antietam in September, 1862. Lieutenant Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes and Sergeant William McKinley. Although the two men did not know each other personally they would later become acquaintances within the Washington political scene. It has been reported that both men crossed the famous ' Burnside Bridge' where so many Yankee soldiers were killed by Southern sharpshooters.

The true name of the 'Burnside Bridge' was the Rohrbach Bridge.... It was identified as the 'Burnside Bridge' during the battle because the Northern General Ambrose E. Burnside was the commanding general of the Army of the Potomac. General Burnside insisted that his soldiers cross the bridge in mostly single file alignment and in no instance more than two abreast. That was why so many Northern soldiers were so easily shot and killed.... After the battle it was learned that the creek below the bridge was so shallow that his men could have waded across in water that was below the knee.

Another interesting note is that the term we now-a-days apply to the growth of hair on both sides of men's faces known as " sideburns" was actually so named in reference to the long growth of the side facial hair that General Ambrose E. Burnside had on his own face.

A couple of years ago our own GBSHHA visited the Battlefield site of Perryville, Kentucky. Within the Yankee Army that fought in this battle was a young Wisconsin regimental commander by the name of Colonel Benjamin J. Sweet. Colonel Sweet was wounded at the Battle of Perryville. After recuperating from the wounds he was sent to the infamous Camp Douglas Prisoner of War Compound. He remained at Camp Douglas for much of the War.

Colonel Sweet became very embittered with his assignment and soon took on a cruel and harsh personality. His atrocious treatment of Southern officers and men was the subject of great concern for Northern citizens as well as the Southern family members of the captured

Confederate troops. Colonel Sweet's conduct and his terrible treatment of Southern soldiers was a direct result of the war prisoner policies of Abraham Lincoln, in concert with his Secretaries of War and State, William Stanton and William Seward., and with their full knowledge.

Camp Douglas was far worse than Andersonville ever was. The bad conditions at Andersonville were due to lack of food and medical supplies. The Southern War Effort was sending what little supplies they had to their troops on the front lines. Camp Douglas had ample supplies, both food and medical.; therefore they were purposefully mistreating the Confederate soldiers as a form of retaliation against what was happening at Andersonville. It has often been said "War is hell". We can only imagine what a terrible ordeal both Armies captured soldiers must have had to endure.

That is it for this month. Next issue will be out about July 15.

Mike Griggs
President