

NEWSLETTER MAY, 2007

Lee Cooper

Those of you in attendance at the Vicksburg Congress in 2004 will remember Lee Cooper. She wrote me a letter to say she intends to be at the Danville Congress this year. She and her husband are moving from Seattle to Red Lodge, Montana. Between unpacking and shopping for a big coat and writing her Civil War book, she will find time to rejoin us over Labor Day Weekend.

She has been attending various re-enactments held in our area to get the feel of heavy rifles, black powder smoke and tramping feet of soldiers moving into position.

Georgia Pioneer Certificate

David Richardson has found that there is a Georgia Pioneer Certificate that can be awarded to descendants of Georgia Pioneers who arrived in the state prior to 1826. Many of you will meet that requirement. Many of the soldiers that fought in the WBTS were born in the 1830s and 1840s. The certificate honors the "deeds, customs, culture and history" of those pioneers.

One has to complete an application, provide proofs of descent and a \$10 fee. If you are interested please contact : Central Georgia Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 2024, Warner Robbins, GA 31099 - 2024.

Advance Registration Form

This year I will use an Advance Registration Form for our Congress in Danville. It is being developed now and is in Draft form. I have to confirm the meal prices and the bus price before it can be sent out. It will be sent by e-mail and posted on the website.

There are several perceived benefits to this procedure. We will know who has paid for what and the money will be in the bank account. I will pay the vendor for everyone. The vendors want to know ahead of time how many people they will be preparing meals for and if there are any special requirements. By knowing ahead of time we should be able to provide more accurate answers.

Nametags can be prepared in advance, for the most part, and that will help reduce late night work on name tags on the Registration day. Yes, there will be walkups but that should be the exception.

This procedure is by no means a new idea. It is used by any national convention organization and even for state level conventions. Rather than start from scratch, I used the Reserve Officers Association Convention form as a guide. Watch for it. I hope to have it ready in June.

Camp Van Dorn, Knoxville, Tennessee

Gary Goodson, Sr., Historian Emeritus and 40th Georgia descendant, has written a

thank you letter to Fred Brown, Senior Writer for the *Knoxville News Sentinel*. Gary thanked him for his help and friendship.

The sign is in good shape and has not been defaced or vandalized since it was installed. One can look at the photos of the sign at <http://reprints.knoxnews.com> Go to Section B "Local" on March 29, 2007 and the story is under "Plaque Finds Resting Place"

Bridgeport, Alabama

Bridgeport, Alabama was the site of a 1600foot long bridge over the Tennessee River. In early April, 1862 the 41st Georgia and 43rd Georgia were sent to protect the bridge as it was an important installation on the supply line. The 41st Georgia was soon sent on to Corinth, Mississippi, but the 43rd Georgia and the 39th Georgia remained to protect the bridge.

Our member Dan Crone began investigating some CSA graves that were found in the area. He wanted to identify them if possible. In his research he came across a letter from Captain Michael Mintz, Co. G., 43rd Georgia, who wrote a letter to a newspaper editor on May 11, 1862. He also found a letter from Captain Joseph M. Story, Co. G, 43rd Georgia, that was written to his wife.

On April 29, 1862 a detachment of the 39th Georgia and a detachment of the 43rd Georgia defended the bridge from a Yankee force of infantry and cavalry. In the fight 72 CSA were killed and wounded and 350 were captured. The letters describe the fight including how many men went with each officer, which direction they went, the fight and the names of those killed and captured. Of the 72 killed and wounded not all were from the 43rd Georgia, but some were. Some died in Chattanooga hospitals.

Please contact Dan at dan@dancrone.com and he can probably forward the letters. For those with access to the *Official Records* go to: OR, Series I, Volume X, Chapter XXII, page 655.

Recall that a Detachment is a smaller group of soldiers from the parent unit. If a whole Company was sent to do an assignment, it would be called by the Company designation. If less than a Company it was called a "detachment".

Louisville, Kentucky Museums

Our members continue to find information that helps all our members. David Richardson reports that those flying into Louisville or driving through there on the way to Danville might want to visit the Sons of the American Revolution Headquarters and Library. For more information go to : www.sar.org/library/library.html

Also in Louisville is the Filson Historical Society Library and Museum. The Filson group does battlefield tours and walks. More information is at : www.filsonhistorical.org/library.html

Potential Spreadsheet Project

In my mind I can envision a new project that could be in the form of a spreadsheet. Our organization has the raw material to produce the first version and if set up on a computer it could be added to and maintained.

When each new member joins, a form is filled out and part of that form includes the details of their ancestors that served in the 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd or 52nd Georgia Volunteer Infantry regiments. Many times the new member adds details known to their family like, " Shot in left hip at Resaca " or " Captured while on leave and spent rest of war in POW camp at Blue Mountain, Alabama".

We are all proud of our ancestors and their service. Each has a special story and many enlisted along with brothers, fathers, cousins, nephews , uncles as well as fends from other farms.

Once the names, rank, unit, date of birth, date of death, place of burial was listed, a remarks section could include other details. Right now the details are buried in six years of new members forms on file and in the *Sons of Confederate Veterans Membership Directory 2006*. I think it would be interesting and would form a better record if the information was assembled so all could see it .

Any spreadsheet would take a considerable amount of effort, but it could be done. What do you think? Is this something that would at least be interesting? Would anyone like to take on this project? Please think about it and lets talk about it.

South Carolina Bridges

I am excited and happy to report that a Patrick Mc Cawley , Reference Archivist at the South Carolina Archives and History Center has responded to my request for information on two bridges in South Carolina.The bridges were defended by Stovall's brigade in 1865 along with a bridge in Orangeburg, whose location is known.

He sent modern day maps and a copy of an 1865 map showing locations of the bridges and additional information from *History of Bamberg County South Carolina Commemorating One Hundred Years (1897-1997)* published in 2003. One of the items was a letter from a Mrs. Henrietta Barnes who had fled Atlanta and was living with her sister-in-law as a refugee. She said in her letter, " The Confederate forces consisted of a part of a Georgia regiment a mere handful of men."

Binnaker's Bridge was burned in 1865 and was not rebuilt until 1957. When it was rebuilt on the same site as the original, it was named for Julius B. Ness, a local judge who was a force behind the modern bridge being built. Binnaker's Bridge was not labeled on many maps and that adds to the difficulty along with the new name. Another report that was sent tells how the Yankees went down river and were able to erect a pontoon bridge, cross a force to the north side and they were then able to "drive the Confederates from their positions on the east bank of the river at Binnicker's Bridge."

I think it is likely that Mrs. Barnes thought the soldiers were part of a regiment, but they were actually the depleted ranks of Stovall's brigade. She did identify them as a Georgia unit which is helpful. Another author states, " Stovall , stationed at the bridge, was reinforced by Clayton". Remember that Clayton with his Alabama regiments fought on Stovall's left at Missionary Ridge and at Nashville. Here they were in February, 1865 still fighting next to each other.

This information will of course be saved and will join other details found earlier and I think there is enough for a future Congress in Columbia , South Carolina. Earlier work has identified the names and units of 15 soldiers in Stovall's brigade that were killed, wounded or captured in South Carolina. There may have been more, but at least 15 are recorded and should be remembered at a future memorial ceremony.

Georgia Confederate History Month

Our member Fran Wagner of Canton, Georgia is also a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Through that organization she obtained a copy of a Proclamation signed by Governor Sonny Perdue making April, 2007 *Confederate History Month*. It was signed on March 28th.

The Proclamation points out that 90,000 brave men and women from Georgia served the Confederate States of America and that Georgia joined the Confederacy in January , 1861 . The Civil War started and ended in April and the Confederate Memorial Day is April 26. The last *Whereas* states, " It is important that Georgians reflect upon our State's past and honor and respect the devotion of her Confederate leaders, soldiers and citizens."

June Newsletter

The June Newsletter is scheduled to appear on June 15. I have to go to Texas to be involved in a trial, both as a witness and in my capacity as Guardian for an incapacitated aunt who is 89 years old. At this point I don't know how long the trial will last and exactly when I will return. Please send me news items and I will surely attempt to put a Newsletter together when I return. I'm not sure how much material I will have, but I should have the Advance Registration Form at least.

I'm glad that the trial date did not fall close to Labor Day Weekend. Judges have a way of keeping their court docket the way they want to hear the cases, and I don't blame them. I'm just glad the dates worked out to not be a conflict with the upcoming Congress.

Best regards,

Mike Griggs
President