

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2008

New Member Brian K. Gamble

I have the pleasure of announcing that Brian K. Gamble of Warrior, AL has joined our association. He descends from First Sergeant Robert H. Gamble of Co. H, 41st Georgia Volunteer Infantry. The Gamble family was well represented in the 41st Georgia. Co. H was recruited from Carroll County and they were called The Wool Hat Boys.

Private Samuel Houston Gamble, Private John Henry Lawrence Gamble and Sergeant Nathan G. Gamble all served in Co. I, 41st Georgia. Co. I was from Heard County and their nickname was the Heard County Rangers.

First Sergeant Gamble died in Columbus, MS on 3 May 1862 and Private Daniel Gamble died at Lauderdale Springs, MS sometime after July 16, 1863 but before July 24, 1863. Lauderdale Springs, MS was the site of a large CSA hospital.

Oakland Cemetery Atlanta, GA

Member Jack Bolen of Brandon, FL sent me some information on Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta. Oakland Cemetery will be visited on Sunday morning during the upcoming Congress to be held in Marietta.

In the Confederate section of Oakland, more than 6,500 Confederate soldiers are buried in rows with military headstones. Many other soldiers are buried in family plots throughout the cemetery.

The Confederate Obelisk was erected by the Ladies Memorial Association in 1874 to honor the Confederate Army. It is three stories high and once was the highest structure in Atlanta.

The famous "Sleeping Lion" monument honors about 3,000 unknown Confederate soldiers buried at Oakland. It was erected by the Ladies Memorial Association and unveiled on April 26, 1894 and was carved by T.M. Brady of Canton, GA. The monument was carved as a replica of the Lion of Lucerne, Switzerland. Oakland's monument features a dying lion, representing courage, with his head resting on a Confederate battle flag. On the base is chiseled, "Unknown Confederate Dead".

Another monument commemorates eight of the men known as "Andrews' Raiders" They were executed as spies by the Confederate Army in June 1862, James Andrews was executed in downtown Atlanta on June 7, 1862. Seven other raiders were hanged at Oakland Cemetery on June 18, 1862. In 1866-67 all of the Raiders remains were exhumed and reentered in the National Cemetery in Chattanooga. Eight members of the Andrews' Raiders were the first recipients of the Medal of Honor, which was the only medal for valor at the time, awarded by the Federal government.

On April 12, 1862 they stole *The General*, a tender and three boxcars from Big Shanty, now known as Kennesaw, while in disguise. They raced toward Chattanooga, trying to destroy bridges on the Western & Atlantic railroad. Captain Fuller and crew chased them for 90 miles and finally captured them near Ringgold, GA. Captain William Fuller is buried at Oakland and

the story of the Great Train Chase is carved into the side of his monument. We will learn more about this event during the Congress this year. The *Texas*, a locomotive that was used in the chase, is in Kennesaw, near Marietta. We will see it on Friday.

Thank you Jack for these details and pictures. Just a preview of what we will see.

Dr. Wiggins has a New Book

Dr. David Wiggins has published another pictorial book titled *Georgia's Confederate Sons Volume I*. He is also the author of *Remembering Georgia's Confederates* and *Georgia's Confederate Monuments and Cemeteries*. The new book tells the story of some of the 125,000 from Georgia who served their country. Of that number, 25,000 lost their lives to disease, exposure, and Yankee bullets and shells. The book contains wartime images of the men.

Dr. Wiggins notes that "These were real men, with desires, hopes and dreams. They chose to fight for their honor, beliefs, family, and way of life. Many of these men did not survive the war, and they and their families paid the ultimate sacrifice."

The book was reviewed by Cassie A. Barrow in the March/April, 2008 issue of *Confederate Veteran*. If you would like a copy, please contact Dr. David N. Wiggins, 1093 Oak Grove Road, Carrollton, GA 30117. Each paperback copy is \$25.00. He may be contacted at remgaconfed@aol.com.

Dr. Wiggins and his wife have attended past Congresses and I hope you can meet them this year in Marietta.

More Champion Hill Preservation

The Civil War Preservation Trust has announced plans to purchase three acres of hallowed ground at the southeastern quadrant of the famous "Crossroads" which was at the center of the battle on May 16, 1863.

This key intersection was formed by the Jackson, Middle and Ratliff Plantation Roads. Barton's brigade marched past this point early in the morning and later the crossroads changed hands three times. The three acres are where Captain James Waddell's six-gun Alabama Battery was captured and then retaken in fierce fighting.

If you recall listening to Sid Champion at the Crossroads in 2004, these three acres would be to your right and behind you as we stood in the Crossroads that humid, hot day. The Civil War Reservation Trust points out that by protecting three of the four quadrants of the Crossroads, they are in the best position to eventually get the fourth quadrant, and complete the historic resource for future generations. These three acres will cost \$40,000 and the National Park Service has no money for land preservation this year, no money next year, and probably no money for the year after that. If you can help, the CWPT will welcome any gift amount.

Sherman Wages Total War Tour October 22-30, 2008

History America will conduct a nine-day, eight night tour of Sherman's Campaign between Chattanooga and Atlanta and then the Atlanta to Savannah "March to the Sea".

The tour convenes at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta and will be led by Civil War historian and tour guide Ed Bearss. The tour includes a professional tour director, motor-coach transportation, all admissions, eight-night accommodations, eight breakfasts, four lunches, five dinners, baggage handling, a welcome briefing, a reading list and all taxes and gratuities. The announcement in *Hallowed Ground* was silent on the cost of this tour.

The tour will visit Ringgold Gap, Tunnel Hill, Rocky Face Ridge, Dug Gap, Resaca and Cassville. In the Atlanta area the tour will visit Kennesaw Mountain, Pickett's Mill and Grant Park in Atlanta. The tour will go on to Griswoldville, Milledgeville, and Louisville and on to Savannah. Several historic sites will be visited in Savannah and Beaufort, SC.

If you are interested in this tour, please contact CWPT or History America Tours for the price and other details.

Stovall's brigade, as part of Hood's corps, was active in all the battles between Rocky Face Ridge and Atlanta. They also retreated through Ringgold Gap, which we visited in 2005. During the "March to the Sea", the Army of Tennessee marched into Alabama and on to Nashville, Tennessee.

Perryman Picnic Invitation

40th Georgia descendant Jonathan Perryman, of Marietta, has graciously invited y'all to a picnic on his farm, following the official events on August 31. He will have a cookout featuring hamburgers, hot dogs and cold drinks, plus other good eats. It will be a nice time to gather and discuss the events of the past Congress and enjoy each other's company a little longer.

He and I know that some of you will have to put some miles behind you on Sunday afternoon in order to get home on September 1. But, for those who can delay the trip home and for those who live in the area, this is advance notice of his invitation. His farm is near Marietta. Details on how to get there will be provided later.

Please notice that the picnic is listed on the Advance Registration Form. That is so an estimate can be made as to how many may be able to attend. Please see if it can be worked into your schedule. Jonathan came up with this proposal last Fall and is anxious to make it happen.

Advance Registration 2008 Congress Marietta, GA

Experience of our group, and other groups, has shown that an Advance Registration is the way to keep control of a large group descending on one point for a few set days. By control, I mean in terms of how many will eat what, who has paid, how many will be on the bus, how many will enter each museum and how many field notes to prepare.

There are requirements of the different vendors to meet too. For example, by July 1 I have to make the third deposit payment to the hotel to hold our block of rooms and meeting rooms and banquet room. The deposit is \$1,000, so the money has to be in the bank beforehand.

the vendor for the lunches and the banquet need to know how many will be eating **two weeks**

before we get there. If we exceed the big bus capacity, the bus company needs to know in advance how many smaller busses will be needed ahead of time so they can plan for the bus and driver. Everyone wants advance notice and they want it as accurate as possible on the count.

Museum managers will give us a group rate, but they want the money to be paid for all people entering the museum in one check. That can be done, of course, but I need the money in the checking account. Gathering the money on the fly can be done, but there are problems in doing it that way and it takes time.

Hotel reservations will be done by each party with the hotel. Please stay at the Marietta Resort and Conference if at all possible because we are committed for a specific number of room nights. That means the room nights have to be paid for by someone and that someone is the association if the rooms are left empty. That situation is also called "Pressure", but if we are to stay together and get those advantages, the "pressure" is part of the commitment.

As for timing, this message is going out in mid May. That gives 1.5 months before I have to pay the \$1,000 to the hotel. We get another month to receive entries in July and then by the first of August I have to be talking specific numbers with the vendors. Therefore, I need your response and money as soon as possible. Please don't wait until the last minute.

I understand that there may be problems getting days off from work and that other things come up and that you may not know how things will work out. Go ahead and do the Advance Registration and I will refund and adjust if you can not attend.

Comment: I noticed in the Sons of Confederate Veterans National Convention that Registration is \$80.00, the Awards Luncheon is \$30.00 per person, the Supper/Concert is \$30.00 per person and the bus tour \$25.00 per person. There are other planned events that I have not listed. Conventions cost and there is no way around it. I have tried to keep the costs as reasonable as possible and still get what we need.

Advance Registration Form

The Advance Registration Form is being attached to this message and will be posted on the Website. If you are unable to open the attachment, try getting it off the Website. If that doesn't work, call me at (360) 792-1271 and I will send you one by mail or FAX it to you.

The Advance Registration Form is the result of work that started in September, 2007 so that we could get ahead of weddings, other conventions and vacation visitors during the Labor Day Weekend. We are cocked and ready to go. We need you to attend and your money so that as much as possible is set before you get there.

Donations

Each year our members continue to donate extra money to help defray expenses. Sometimes the amounts have been extensive for special projects or expenses. Other times the donations have been for routine expenses. In either case, they are very much appreciated.

The donors for this year have been Lee Cooper, Wil Haugen and Mary Elizabeth Ellard. Thank

you all so very much.

There is another category of donors that pay for goods and services and donate in that way. Rick Tucker of Loganville, GA donates flags each year and allows us to buy others at a discounted rate. Don Bulloch of Riverdale, GA pays for the website registration and domain registration and will not take reimbursement. Founder Gary Goodson , Shawnee, CO, allows us to buy his books for presentation at cost. Kay Borden, Marietta, GA, supplies quality stationary, charts, certificates and business cards for our operations from her publishing company at no charge. On behalf of the membership I extend a heartfelt Thank You ! David Richardson brings his display flags every year from Oklahoma and quietly sets them up in our meeting room. More Thank Yous here.

There is yet another category of donations that come in the form of time and effort willingly given. This type of donation is often not seen , but is very valuable to the organization. Examples would include Fran and Louis Wagner, Canton, GA, checking out conference , transportation and food vendors for the 2008 Congress ; Charles and Robbie Griggs , Nashville, TN, conducting detailed route reconnaissance for the 2006 Congress and nametags for the 2007 Congress ; Harry and Becky Dellinger, Huntsville, AL, conducting scouting duties for the 2009 Congress in Tupelo, MS. These are just examples. There are more that could be listed. Some have been recognized and thanked earlier. To all of you, Thank You for your efforts. That is what makes an organization become more than a list of names on a roster. All of you make it happen.

While the juices are flowing on donations, I want to discuss yet another type of donation , in my mind , that exists. These are the “donations” that are made by members that project themselves into another’s shoes and they provide what is needed at the time. What do I mean by that ? I’ll try to explain by examples again. This type of donation would include Janie Crowe handing me a cup of water while I was speaking and starting to croak, without being asked. Or Charles Griggs quietly giving me a book on the campaign between Dalton and Atlanta to help prepare for this year’s Congress. It also includes any member who suppresses criticism or complaining, probably justified, and goes with the flow and makes suggestions later. That donation in “good will” can be very helpful when things aren’t going as hoped for or planned. All that contribute donations in that manner are very much appreciated and not always thanked enough at the time. I do Thank You too.

More good deeds by our members will be formally recognized this year during the awards portion of Saturday night. I hope you can be there to help me thank them in person.

I look forward to seeing everyone again in August and in welcoming new members or members attending their first Congress.

Mike Griggs
President