

May 12, 2006

NEWSLETTER - MAY, 2006

New Members

In April we had six new contacts and two of those have joined. We welcome Jennifer Thomas of Midlothian, Virginia, a descendant of a Co B, 41st Georgia soldier. She is a re-enactor, has all 128 volumes of the *Official Records* in her home, can do research, and has easy access to Museum of Confederacy Library and Archives in Richmond.

David Clay comes to us from Snellville, Georgia. He is the great great grandson of a soldier in Co A, 42nd Georgia. Private Sanford Davis was captured at Baker's Creek, was held in two prisons and exchanged. He was in two hospitals in Richmond until given a 30 day furlough to go home. He died in Lawrenceville, Georgia with five days left on his furlough. David is recently retired from AT & T and has been working on family history. We look forward to meeting you both in person.

Joining us in May from Bowdon, Georgia are Jim and Judy Rowell. Both are interested persons. Jim is a member of SCV McDaniel-Curtis Camp of Carrollton, Georgia. Those of you with ties to the 41st Georgia will recognize both McDaniel and Curtis as commanding officers of the 41st Georgia. Jim and Judy have backgrounds as authors, teachers and local historians. Welcome !

Newsletter Schedule

Some have wondered why the Newsletter is published at mid-month rather than the first of each month ? Two factors started the schedule. The first was the initial Newsletter which followed the Dalton Congress. After the thank you letters and after action report were written, it was time to make a general report of activities. The second factor was that mid-month came before the intense Christmas activities and football bowl games.

Use of "We"

Reading direct quotes from letters and diaries of soldiers can be very informative. After all, they were there and took the time to record what they experienced and saw. It is fortunate for us that these accounts do exist. However, they must be read carefully. Use of the word "we" can cause confusion and be misunderstood.

For example, sometimes the word "we" refers to the soldier's regiment. Other times it can refer to Barton's or Stovall's brigade to describe what they did as a larger formation. Yet other times "we" refers to the entire Army of Tennessee. When the soldier uses the word "we", we must pause and try to understand the way in which it was meant.

A specific example can be found on page 86 of *Georgia Confederate 7,000 Part II* by Gary Goodson Sr. Private Wiley J. Baggett, Co K, 42nd Georgia writes, "The beginning of the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee started when **we** overtook the retreating Yankees that evening at Franklin, Tennessee. They had two lines of works; and **we** charged them and took one line of Union works, and part of the second line but they held one portion. When **our** men got to the portion of the breastworks still held by the enemy...." (Bold added by me).

Private Baggett means the two corps commanded by Stewart and Cheatham that were committed to the attack. Stovall's Brigade was just arriving as one of the lead elements of Lee's corps when the attack started. Stovall's brigade was moved into position at night to be ready to attack the next morning. A quick reading of the diary entry could be understood that the 42nd Georgia was in the charge because he wrote, "we charged them". In this case the **we** was referring to the two corps of the Army of Tennessee that made the attack.

While in the Hands of the Enemy: Military Prisons of the Civil War

Many of our ancestors were captured and held as prisoners of war at Camp Chase, Ohio; Camp Morton, Indiana; Camp Douglas, Illinois; Fort Delaware, Delaware and Point Lookout, Maryland. There were others.

Kay Borden, 40th Georgia Historian and publisher, has received notice that the above book by Charles W. Sanders Jr has won the Jefferson Davis award from the Museum of the Confederacy. He is a history professor at Kansas

