

NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER, 2008

Greetings from Palm Desert, CA. Palm Desert is my new winter home until about the first of April. This is a long-awaited goal to get out of the rain and gloom of the Pacific Northwest in the winter months. I am working on a new laptop computer and I am not used to all its features and exactly how to do certain things. During the process of the move and getting settled in, I had to establish a new e-mail account with Time Warner as they service this area. That took 11 days to get it installed and another three hours to hook it up with the help of a computer expert.

I couldn't help but think about how this internet technology holds our organization together between yearly meetings on a battlefield and how this message can be sent and read from so many different places. During the time of our ancestors, they would march 20 miles in a day and then have to worry about building a cooking fire with wet wood and how to sleep in the rain without tents. Keeping paper cartridges dry during wet weather was another problem they faced. The technology changes have been vast between 1865 and now.

This move has put me into a new comfort zone that is not too comfortable yet. My reference books are in Washington as is the historical files of GBSHHA since its formation. I brought some files with me in order to operate, but I may not have what I will need. There have been some developments since mid-October and I will try to communicate the key elements.

National Infantry Museum Fort Benning, GA

In October I was able to attend an Army unit reunion at Fort Benning. During that time I was able to see the progress being made on the new National Infantry Museum. It is a \$150 million project and will be opened on March 20, 2009. Retired General Colin Powell will be the featured speaker.

It is located on the old entrance to Fort Benning along a serene parkway among tall pine trees. There is an extensive section that has displays for the 1861-1865 periods for both Union and Confederate armies.

If you go someday, just take I-185 off of I-85. Follow it to the end and that will take you to the Main Gate. There is a brick building where Visitors get a free pass for themselves and their car. Once a pass is issued, just follow the signs to the Museum. There is an extensive parking lot that has many sections and some are not very close to the museum building.

When I was a new Second Lieutenant in 1962 at Fort Benning, the Infantry Museum was in a World War II wooden barracks with peeling paint. It was not air-conditioned and I recall lots of dust in the building. It was more a collection of “stuff” than a museum of top quality exhibits and artifacts. Later, it was moved to the “Old Hospital”, a brick building built in 1932 and that building was air-conditioned but it was cramped. The new museum will be state of the art.

40th Georgia Historian Kay Borden is working with a client who will be building a hotel just off the entrance of the Old Entrance to Fort Benning. Earlier in the year she was given a guided tour of the museum and briefed on a number of details

For those of you who live in the

Atlanta area, you can figure about 1 ½ hours driving time to the museum.

Potential New Member Mike Moss

Mike Moss of Mineral Bluff, GA contacted us after he found our Website. He explained that General Stovall is his great, great, great grandfather. I sent him a letter, new member form, agenda for 2009, suggested reading list and a reference page. Hopefully, Mike will join our group of descendants. Because of new technology, he was able to learn about our organization.

Membership Dues for 2009

Annual dues for 2009 will be due on January 1, 2009. Annual dues are \$40.00 per family unit. Some of you have already paid early and that is appreciated. In a few instances you paid twice, so I just applied the last payment to 2009.

Please send your dues to me at either 4110 Holly Beach Court, Bremerton, WA 98312 or to 78892 Canyon Vista, Palm Desert, CA 92211. The mail is being forwarded from Bremerton and later will be forwarded from Palm Desert.

If your e-mail address has changed, please let me know the new address.

Suggested Books to Read

43rd Georgia descendant and new member, Lieutenant Colonel Harvey Stowe, USA (Ret), of Gig Harbor, WA kindly took the time and effort to send me two book reports on two books that have information on Stovall's Brigade during the Atlanta Campaign.

Rather than rewriting and missing some details, I want to share his report in total. Colonel Stowe writes:

“ First , there is a very good book, *The Campaign for Atlanta* by William Safe. The book has 24 excellent battle maps from Rocky Face Ridge to Dug Gap to the battle of Jonesboro. Eight of the maps show the battle location and position of Stovall's brigade. The book also has a complete Order of Battle for the Atlanta campaign; the map of the Battle of Atlanta on page 103 is somewhat misleading. The map shows Stovall's brigade north of the Decatur road and railroad attacking to the northeast. They did start to the north of the railroad but ended up fighting to the south of the railroad where they were , “assailed on both flanks, likewise scurries rearward”. “ Clayton's Division with Stovall's and Bushrod Jone's brigades, the only ones heavily engaged, lost 298 and 129 respectively.”

As I am sure you know, the Cyclorama in Atlanta depicts the 22 July, 1864 Battle of Atlanta. The attached link is part of that painting and shows, although it is hard to see, Stovall's brigade engaged in fighting with Martin's brigade just south of the Troup House, where some of the heaviest fighting occurred. This is the battle where my grandfather was wounded.

The second book of interest is *Decisions in the West, The Atlanta Campaign of 1864* by Albert Castel. There are several notations of Stovall's brigade and a very good description of their actions on 22 July. “

Colonel Stowe has suggested that these books be added to the Suggested Reading and I have done that. I have also ordered the first book. From experience I can comment that order of battle and battle maps to the brigade level are rather rare. These books will help us piece together what happened at each battle.

Thank you, Colonel Stowe, for sharing your reference information. Without this organization, we would not have found each other and without the Website run by Don Bulloch, we would not have found each other.

Battle Mug

As Christmas approaches, I want to remind all members about our Battle Mug that can be purchased online. See the Website for details. The mug lists the names and dates of the major battles that were fought by Barton's and later Stovall's brigade. Your ancestors were there. Those names and dates record where your ancestors were killed, wounded, captured, suffered and fought on. Those names and dates evoke memories of past Congresses we have attended and enjoyed as we retraced the steps as best we could do so.

Even if you do not drink coffee, please consider getting some mugs to hold your pens and to be a ready reference.



That is what I have for this month. I will try to have the next Newsletter out by December 15.

Mike Griggs
President

