

### **Camp Mc Donald Update**

On November 1 the Mayor and City Council of Kennesaw voted unanimously to deny Peter Popham's appeal for lack of standing to bring the action.

There are 30 days to appeal the action. Peter Popham plans to appeal as any citizen has the right and required standing to bring a lawsuit against fraud and corruption in their local government. If you want more details or think you can help, please contact Peter Popham at peterpophamatlantausa@netzero.net

In a related matter, I received a letter from the Governor's Office, signed by Governor Sonny Perdue, dated October 24. He referred my letter to Noel Holcomb, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, with the request that the inquiry be responded to specifically. The address of that office is : Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Suite 1252, East Tower, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1703 The phone is (404) 656-3500.

Having been in state government in the State of Washington for 32 years , I can offer these observations. A governor has to initially send a letter to the appropriate member of his staff for action or additional information. That is why he has a staff. Once a governor's letter lands on a desk, it will get some attention. It may take awhile, but it will not be ignored. The inquiry will bounce along the chain of command until someone has to look into it and answer back.

Polite phone call inquiries and written inquiries can keep the pressure on the office that has the responsibility to respond. Governors have a way of rearranging one's priorities if that person is in the state government system.

### **Camp Van Dorn Sign**

Founder and first President Gary Goodson has obtained agreement on the wording and placement of a metal sign at the site of 1862 Camp Van Dorn in Knoxville. It turns out that the sign can not be produced until \$1,400 is produced by a certain deadline.

Gary sprang into action and sent out a message to our members which explained the situation. The response was swift and powerful. Initially it was estimated that 14 members would have to donate \$100 each in order to reach the needed \$1,400. Chip Barron stepped forward with a substantial donation and it was soon followed by generous donations by three individuals and one organization to bring the total donations to the required \$1,400.

Ed Combs, Kay Borden and Paige Goodson all stepped forward, quickly. Kay Borden is the 40th Georgia Historian ; Paige Goodson is Gary's daughter and attended the 2003 Congress in Morristown; Ed Combs is a stalwart supporter and 40th Georgia descendent. Thank you. I will see to it that you receive other public recognition for your timely and gracious donations.

The organization that donated was the Sons of Confederate Veterans General William J. Hardee Camp # 1397 of Dallas, Georgia. They were represented by Camp Commander Wayne Willingham. You will recall that many of the men of the 40th Georgia Volunteer Infantry regiment came from the Dallas and Paulding County area.

Linda T. Wynn, Assistant Director for State Programs, Tennessee Historical Commission,

Nashville , will receive the \$1,400 check from Gary. Nothing just falls out of the sky. All of you made this happen.

### **Camp Van Dorn Testing**

The University of Tennessee has submitted a proposal for \$6,985 to explore the site with ground penetrating radar for a five day week. Another proposal for one day will be submitted. It is believed that four 10 foot X 10 foot sites can be investigated in one day. The weather has been too wet for backhoes to enter the site, so far.

### **Smyrna Line Marker**

Speaking of metal markers, Kay Borden reports from Marietta that a Smyrna Line marker has been placed and that some fragments of the line have been preserved. Johnston's River Line was a seven mile long defensive system of trenches and forts on the Chattahoochee River that were constructed in early July, 1864. Only a few dozen fragments remain.

The sign was installed in a new River Line Hill development on the west of Oakdale Road, about 1/2 miles north of Veteran's Memorial Highway. The \$1,460 cost of the sign was paid by the developer.

This sign was the results of efforts made by the Georgia Battlefields Association led by President Charlie Crawford.

This sign has a special interest to me because two of my great grandfather's nephews were captured after the Yankees blew up part of the line held by the 41st Georgia. In the confusion after the charge blew up part of the line, they were captured. That happened on July 4, 1864 in the Nickajack Creek area.

### **National Infantry Museum**

The National Infantry Museum in Fort Benning, Georgia is open to the public and is free of charge. While at an Army Reunion in October I was able to visit it again. The displays are on three floors and are of Smithsonian quality.

In the Civil War section they have a complete 3 inch rifled cannon and it's cassion, in mint condition. Displays explain the infantry formations and organization of the period. They have paintings, firearms, swords, uniforms, pictures and other artifacts. You must see it if you are in the area.

From Atlanta it only takes about 1 1/2 hours driving time to get to Columbus, Georgia. Take I-185 until it ends at Fort Benning. Proceed to the main gate office and obtain a Visitor's Pass. To get the Visitor's Pass one must show proof of insurance and your driver's license. The office is air conditioned and they will process it quickly. Just follow the brown and white signs that say "National Infantry Museum".

Fort Benning is named for General Benning, CSA who led a Georgia brigade in many battles. He once owned the land Fort Benning is now on and during World War I his descendants transferred it to the Army so that a training camp could be established. The Commanding General lives in General Benning's former home.

### **42nd Georgia Website**

David Richardson has brought to my attention a website concerning the 42nd Georgia. The address is: [www.42ndgeorgia.com.html](http://www.42ndgeorgia.com.html)

### **Georgia Graves in Alvin , Texas**

While I was in Alvin, Texas , where my 89 year old aunt is now in a nursing home, I saw a notation on a local map about a "Confederate Cemetery". I drove to it and found that it had 37 CSA veteran graves. I looked for members of Stovall's brigade and found none from Georgia. I did find graves of soldiers from Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Tennessee.

The point is that we don't know where some of the members of our five regiments are buried and we must take every opportunity to see if we can find additional grave locations. Please look if you have a chance. Many were buried near the hospital that they died in. These hospitals were often homes or churches in towns that were not in the direct combat operations. If you find a historic building that was used as a hospital in the War Between the States, there is a good possibility that an old cemetery is close by.

### **Jonesboro, Georgia CSA Cemetery**

On the way back to the Atlanta airport from my Army Reunion ,I found the Patrick Cleburne CSA Cemetery in Jonesboro, Georgia. It is near the railroad at the corner of Johnston Street and the Old Mc Donough Highway. Most of the graves are of unknown CSA soldiers who were killed in the battle of Jonesboro. However, I did find two soldiers from the 43rd Georgia. That was a thrill to me.

I will forward a picture of their tombstones and the names and information to our member Daniel Crone of Dayton, OH. He has recorded over 1,000 graves of members of Barton's and Stovall's brigade. The one you find may be a previously unknown and unrecorded grave.

This cemetery has a large flagpole with Battle Flag and the cemetery walkways are laid out in the pattern of the Battle Flag and are surfaced in crushed white rock. The railroad that was a landmark in the battle can still be seen from the cemetery.

In this battle Stovall's brigade attacked entrenched Yankee positions in an attempt to drive them away from the railroad. Once again, attacking a dug in enemy proved to be very costly to the attacking forces. The area of the attack is now covered in houses and other development.

Expect the next report in mid-December.

Mike Griggs  
President