

October 13, 2006

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2006
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Like all of you, there is never a dull moment it seems. Shortly after getting home from the Franklin Congress, I had to go to Pearland, Texas for nine days to move my 89 year old aunt into a nursing home and to start on managing her affairs. After returning from that another four days were spent calling and writing on her behalf as Temporary Guardian. As a result, I have had less time to work on our association business.

There have been some events to report.

Camp Mc Donald

The Mayor and City Council of Kennesaw, site of historic Camp Mc Donald, have approved a Request for Variance to build between 50 and 80 town houses on the site where our regiments, and others, were formed and trained. This approval was made September 18.

A hearing on an appeal of this action has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 1 at 6 :30 PM. I don't know who will be there for the appeal but I am sure they would welcome reinforcements. If you can attend and make a statement, it will show that other local people care what happens. While you ponder that, let me tell you that the Mayor is a real estate broker and two of the City Councilmen work for developers. Isn't that handy for the applicant developer ?

The local contact for the anti-development position is Mr. Peter Popham. His e-mail is : peterpophamatlantausa@netzero.com and his phone is (770) 425-3400. This former paratrooper can use help. Please discuss and coordinate ideas with him. He is also a 52nd Georgia descendant.

Our Bylaws say that we can not participate in political activity. I think we are discussing the saving of a historical location, that is sacred to us, from development. That position is different from endorsing a particular political candidate that is running for office, or giving money to a particular campaign.

Letter to Officials

I have written letters to Governor Sonny Perdue and to Director Ray Luce. Director Ray Luce is also the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and heads the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources, a state agency. The Department of Natural Resources has a Heritage Trust Program which may be able to assist.

If you would like to write these officials their addresses are as follows :

Office of the Governor, Georgia State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334. Division Director Ray Luce, Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, 34 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1600, Atlanta, GA 30303

The phone numbers and other contact information can be obtained from www.georgia.gov/ The Governor's office phone is (404) 656-1776 and the Historic Preservation office is (404) 651-5061.

My letters called the situation to their attention and asked that other uses for the land be considered. I made the point that this land is more than a "city issue". The city has stated that the land is not historic because there "wasn't a battle fought on it". I pointed out that Mount Vernon never had a battle fought on it and the site of the first Army airplane flight in Washington , DC is now a park. Also, the Airborne field at Fort Benning, Georgia is where thousands and thousands of paratroopers since 1940 have been trained. It is a historic site and there has never been a battle fought on that piece of land. The Army now has grandsons of World War II paratroopers training on the same field before they go to Iraq. The Army will not allow barracks to be built there or anything else for that matter. The Army understands heritage and history.

The letter asks them to examine this action before it is covered over by more urban sprawl for the benefit of a few.

By the way, the first Army airplane flight was made by a pilot who had his license signed by Orville Wright. He had trained with the Wright brothers before the Army would let him use the newly purchased airplane.

Two Flags Over Tennessee

The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association has launched a program called "Two Flags over Tennessee". They will go to 50 battlefields in Tennessee and fly the 34 Star USA flag over Union positions and the First National over the CSA positions. They are doing this with the Tennessee Historical Commission and have been to some battlefields already.

The next battlefield to get the flags is the Battle of Wauhatchie, southwest of Chattanooga. This was a night battle where CSA forces tried to cut the supply line from Bridgeport, Alabama. The ceremony will be held on October 19 at 2:30 PM.

Directions : Exit I-24 west of Chattanooga at Brown's Ferry (Exit 175). Turn south toward Lookout Mountain, take the first left on to Parker Lane (just before Mc Donald's), bear left to the open gate and go to the parking lot at the top of the hill. For more information go to : contact@tewpa.org

Our regiments did not fight in this battle, but I include it here because this group will mark locations they did fight at in Tennessee and there could be interesting contacts to be made if you were in the area or had the interest to attend. Thank you Kay Borden for supplying this information.

Camp Van Dorn

There is an old saying that goes, "When there is lead in the air, there is danger". That means to keep shooting, as you can't hit anything unless you try. Charlie Monday and Bob Monday have come up with \$700 to pay for one day of testing with the University of Tennessee's ground penetrating radar. He is certain that they will be able to locate graves at locations he will point out. The plan is to locate belt buckles, buttons and coffin nails and if they are in a line, that would indicate military graves.

The price and the place to examine have been negotiated. The University is working up a proposal of what they will do for \$700. A date has not been established yet but that will be determined soon.

Sixth Annual Congress Danville, Kentucky

I have made some decisions and reservations for the Sixth Annual Congress in Danville, Kentucky. Advance reservations reduce the stress on the one responsible. I don't want to put it off and then find out the best place to eat has a wedding party on the day that we want it.

I'm well aware that some of you favor having a hotel in Frankfort to use as a base. There is no doubt that a four star hotel has its advantages --and disadvantages. A big disadvantage to that location is the travel time needed to get to where we want to visit. I feel that travel time to a certain point is down time that should be reduced if possible. I'd rather have the time spent on site seeing what we came to see.

Another disadvantage is hidden costs. In Franklin the Marriott talked about the free meeting rooms we would get and the reduced price on other meeting rooms . What was less obvious was the cost of the microphone, and the sound mixer, and the loudspeaker, and the service fee, and the state tax and the gratuity- yes, the gratuity. I always thought tips were for servers. The microphone for three nights cost us an extra \$594.87.

It was all legal and in the fine print, and at the time I had to commit I didn't know if the guest speaker would be soft voiced or not. I do recall asking what a microphone would cost and it was \$35 per night. I didn't think to ask what else was required and they didn't volunteer the add ons.

Had I known the complete price I might have had you sit closer and had the male speakers go without a mic in order to save \$594.87.

But what about next year ?

Lodging

Hampton Inn has been selected for the headquarters. They do not require a guarantee on a block of rooms. They will hold 20 rooms for us until July 30. The rooms will be queen beds for 1,2,3 or 4 people at \$79 per night. 18 non-smoking and 2 smoking rooms will be held for us. If 16 rooms are rented the meeting room will be free for the two nights we need it. The room rate includes a hot breakfast. They have a meeting room large enough to hold our expected attendees. Hampton Inn is part of the Hilton family of accommodations. The phone number is (859) 236-6200.

For those wanting other lodging at less cost or bed and breakfast, I'll get you a list of them and their phones.

Saturday Evening Meal

A catering firm has been located that has a private dining room in a 160 year old building that they occupy. That means the building was in use during the battle of Perryville. The owner will do a buffet with two entrees or a sit down dinner. The firm was recommended by the Danville Tourist Bureau because they could handle our size group and they had "a nice dining room". The time has been reserved for Saturday night, Our early reservation beat out potential wedding parties, private parties or other groups that might be in town.

Other Details

David Richardson has scouted another location for a lunch. I need to find a bus for Saturday and a speaker for Saturday. The lunch has been arranged for Friday, August 31 at the Old Talbott Tavern in Bardstown. This tavern has been serving food and drink since 1779. The bus and speaker may take some time to secure but there are some ideas to follow up on. Stay tuned to the Newsletter as the details will be announced here.

There will most likely be a form to complete for meals you will eat and the advance payment. This step is necessary to give the vendors a more precise number of meals to prepare and to be sure we get the money to cover them. More on that later too.

Battle of Franklin 142nd Anniversary Ceremony

The Mayor of Franklin announced that he does not want the Confederate flag to fly at the ceremony to mark the 142nd Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin. Additionally, the Police Chief does not want the re-enactors to have their rifles in the ceremony. The City has the power to grant or deny the permit to conduct the ceremony at the town square in Franklin.

The Mayor cites possible objections by some and the Police Chief cites safety as a concern with the rifles. A few days after the announcement the Mayor issued another statement and it appears that something can be worked out after all. The Police Chief will work out an inspection procedure to determine if all rifles are unloaded and the Mayor may modify his stance on the flag.

10,000 candles lit by Boy Scouts, two bands, one Union and one CSA, playing period songs as well as American songs will be played and the Mayor will make a speech in the planned ceremony.

Webmaster and 41st Georgia Historian Don Bulloch found the newspaper coverage on this story and forwarded it. Thanks Don.

142 years ago Stovall's brigade was assigned the security of the town a few hours after the Yankee forces had withdrawn on the night of November 30 and early morning of December 1, 1864. Later that morning, Stovall's brigade resumed the march toward Nashville. They marched past the town square that will be the site of the 2006 ceremony.

Perryville : Battle for Kentucky

If you want to begin reading about the battle of Perryville, I can suggest *Perryville : Battle for Kentucky* by Kenneth Hafendorfer. He spent 14 years researching and writing the book which was first published in 1981. The second printing had additional information and was published in 1991.

The maps show the situation about every 30 minutes and contain details of the regiments, fences, types of fields and woods and movement of the units. It also has an Order of Battle with killed, wounded and missing by regiment. His note section and index are extensive.

In addition, the retreat out of Kentucky is covered. The retreat was conducted between October 9 and October 22, 1862.

Comments

Please stay in touch. Help Peter Popham if you can by writing letters and appearing in person and making calls. Talk to your relatives and friends and find out if they would like to participate in our activities or support us. Start planning now for the Congress in Danville, Kentucky next year. The 2007 agenda will be posted on the Website when Don Bulloch returns from his trip. Check the Website for updates and new information.

I'll send another report in mid-November.

Mike Griggs
President