

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2008

Correction on Rome , Georgia Statements

I think it is fair to say that no author knowingly makes statements that are incorrect. I certainly do not intend to, but I did in the last Newsletter. In this Newsletter I want to give you the full correction so there is no misinformation to our members or readers. I am sorry for the mistakes.

I've given a lot of thought about how it came about and I think much of it was a difference in definition of military terms, timing of actions, and level of command and perspective from that level of command. But, I don't want to get into a lawyer or President Clinton type defense on what a certain word means.

One of our readers, Greg Biggs of Clarksville, TN, pointed out that , " I have never heard of Rome being the second most fortified city in Georgia (after Atlanta)." In my defense, I did have a clause that excepted the coastal towns. Clauses can cause problems because the exceptions are not remembered or the subject becomes confused, and I'm sorry that happened.

Greg explained that, " I have studied the Atlanta Campaign for 25 years and lived in Georgia as well over time. Both Savannah and Augusta were more fortified and I would suspect that even Columbus was as well. Savannah had a number of forts, brick and earthen, plus miles of trenches with redoubts in the swamps west of the city. Augusta was enclosed with forts and trenches as well. I would definitely list both cities as being more fortified than Rome and both were larger cities that would have required more fortifications to protect them."

I also stated that Sherman bypassed Rome. This misstatement was corrected by Greg when he wrote, " Sherman did not bypass Rome at all- it was captured on May 17th by Union cavalry under Edward McCook. Assisting in the capture was the 14th Corps division of Gen. Jefferson C. Davis. All that was in Rome when Davis' division closed to the Oostenaula River across from the city was 150 Confederate cavalry with some help from two of CS Gen. Samuel French's division and one brigade of Gen. William Jackson's Cavalry Division and the Texans of Ross' cavalry brigade. The latter forces were moving east to join with Johnston in the Resaca/Cassville area and were the last of Gen. Polk's Corps coming over from Alabama."

Greg further explained, " This can be found in the ORs as well as on pages 196 and 198 of Albert Castel's book, *Decision in the West : The Atlanta Campaign of 1864*. Sherman did bypass Augusta and its massive powder works on his March to the Sea in November, 1864."

I do appreciate Greg taking the time to set the record straight and to provide additional details, in writing. I am sorry for the errors.

A Collection of Experts

Our organization has a collection of experts that can help the group as a whole. Of course, there are other WBTS experts but they are scattered in universities, the National Park Service, in their homes and are serving as tour guides or working in other historical organizations. These experts are not always readily available.

We have Daniel Crone, a 40th Georgia descendant from Dayton, OH, who has done extensive research on the burial location of the nearly 7,000 men of Barton and later Stovall's brigade. He has tracked down burial lists from various POW camps, searched cemeteries, gathered family information and searched numerous lists and records. We have Greg Land, a 43rd Georgia descendant from Jasper, GA, who has a collection of bios on all 425 CSA generals. He knows where they are buried and what they did and often how they died. Robert Elliott, a 42nd Georgia descendant from Grayson, GA is an expert on letters and orders written by officers of Stovall's brigade, as well as other artifacts associated with the brigade.

Our founder and first president, Gary Goodson, Sr, won the Bonnie Blue Flag Society award for his work in finding and publishing a number of diaries, newspaper accounts, official reports , letters and old publications of events and people associated with the brigade. Chip L. Bragg, MD is the biographer of General Stovall and has published *Distinction in Every Service Brigadier General Marcellus A. Stovall, CSA*. Another author is Dr. David N. Wiggins who has published at least three books covering CSA statues and monuments in Georgia and pictures of officers and soldiers from Georgia with descriptions of who they are and what units they served in.

This year those at the Congress in Marietta met Bob Price, a local historian and member of the Georgia Civil War Commission. Through him, we were introduced to a 42nd Georgia descendant, Professor Tommy Barber, who is an expert on historical Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta. These experts contributed greatly to our understanding and enjoyment. Then there are the local experts, like Kay Borden, 40th Georgia descendant, who led us to Ruff's Mill and the Concord Covered Bridge and explained what happened at those points with information she had learned since growing up as a girl in those locations. Ruff's Mill is talked about by other authors, and even shown on maps, but they don't tell how to actually get there in person.

There are more. This is just enough to explain that we have a collection of experts and they all help us understand what happened to our ancestors and bring into focus the events of so long ago. That is part of the power of this type of organization and we haven't even talked about their contacts with other organizations, the local community and other sources of information.

Recreation of Battle of Chickamauga

Greg Land sent a report on his trip to the recreation of the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19 and 21. He also sent a copy of his report to some 20 of our members. I want to include some of his report in this Newsletter for those who did not get a direct copy.

Stovall's brigade was reorganizing at Decatur, GA during the Battle of Chickamauga, following their surrender at Vicksburg and later exchange. So, they missed that big battle. General Barton had been reassigned to Virginia and General Stovall would not take command until after Chickamauga. The recreation is still important to our members because it brings to life what the marching, uniforms, firing, camping, commands and movement of vast numbers of men and horses would have looked like. Seeing and hearing it brings a whole new level of understanding of what it must have been like. Sweaty men in wool uniforms in 2008 are very much like the sweaty men in wool uniforms in 1863, in hot and humid Georgia.

Greg reported, " This was by far the finest Civil War Battle re-creation I have ever seen. Every single detail from the homespun material used on the uniforms to the tin cups the soldiers drank their water from was of the same quality and type that was used during the actual battle back in /September, 1863. The campsites were identical in nature as was the actual war time dates, as well. Young Confederate soldiers within the Southern camps had only one duty and that was to keep the fires within the camps going all the time : 24 hours a day. they cut the wood, split it, and distributed it to all the tents so the fighting soldiers could have a warm fire at night after the day's terrible death and destruction."

" I wish that all of you had been there as a great time was realized by everyone in attendance. The learning tents were scattered over the entrance area to further educate anyone that had a desire for the knowledge of the Battle, and men and women were all dressed in period costumes and clothing to assist everyone who may have become lost or straggled behind the moving informational lines ... You could purchase anything that was used in the times of the Civil War. Craftsmen and women were on site to make for you or place an order for you, for any type of weapon, any article of clothing, even the horses and saddles and leather equipment including the eating spoons and forks of that age in history...."

" I can highly recommend this re-enactment at Chickamauga to anyone that desires to attend one of these type events in the future. " " A true feeling of PRIDE was felt by myself as well as all the thousands of participants and re-enactors and a real Love of the Confederacy and everything Southern filled the air in the North Georgia Mountains for the entire weekend."

Thanks to you Greg for your report and the time you took to make it.

Potential New Member

Mr. Harvey Stowe, 43rd Georgia descendant, contacted me by e-mail after finding our website on the Internet. Harvey lives in Gig Harbor, Washington, about 30 road miles from where I live.

I think it is fair to observe that it is highly unlikely that we would have ever met without the power of the Internet. He may join and he may not, but we are in contact now . He knows that to attend a Congress he will have to travel.

He knows that he can be in contact with other 43rd Georgia descendants through our organization. Gig Harbor is close to Tacoma , Washington and it has a boat harbor that has been featured in *Coastal Living* magazine.

Gettysburg Foundation

Secretary H. David Richardson of Haworth, OK reports that he has been contacted by the Gettysburg Foundation for a cash donation. From what he can tell, the foundation seems to have exhibits from the Union point of view and a distinct Union emphasis. Please keep that in mind if you are contacted by this group. Stovall's brigade was not engaged at Gettysburg, however, a number of Georgia units were in the three days of fighting there. General Benning's brigade is one that comes to mind. Fort Benning, Georgia is named for General Benning, CSA and the fort is located on land that was once owned by the Benning family.

Tupelo , MS Congress 2009

Just wanted you to know that I have been enjoying talking to various vendors in Corinth, Tupelo and Florence, AL in preparation for the Congress in 2009. In arranging for the meeting rooms, lunches, bus , museum entrance and points to visit-- I talk with real people who are helpful in explaining what they do. They get excited that a group of descendants want to come to their town to see the history --and to spend money.

As I have written before, I think it is crucial to plan early in order to beat out family reunions, weddings, fraternity parties, other conventions and whoever that might want to be in that restaurant at that time or in that meeting room.

Harris Griggs and Harry Dellinger have been helping with scouting trips to talk with vendors and to compare what one has to offer and what another has to offer. For example, I just booked the caterer in Corinth that has a dining room with Civil War artifacts on the walls. That was suggested by the lady in the Tourism office when she learned what kind of group we are bringing to town. I also learned that the dining room holds 90, but they will not bring another group into that room. We will have it all to our group for the time we are there.

So, it is taking shape and further detail will be worked on during the coming year. While I am thinking of it, I was also able to arrange for a block of guest rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn **without having to guarantee a number of room nights**. This must be because they do things differently in Tupelo, MS than the policy of the Hilton in Marietta. More on this later.

I have also noted that in smaller towns, the vendors do not require a deposit. Just telling them we will be there is enough. Of course, I tell them that we do an Advance Registration and that we will be able to tell exactly what the number will be in advance and that I will be contacting them prior to our arrival.

News Flash ! New Member Announced

Lieutenant Colonel Harvey O. Stowe, USA (RET) from Gig Harbor, Washington has joined our association. He descends from Private Andrew Jackson Stow, Co. K, 43rd Georgia Infantry. Private Stow enlisted on May 12, 1862 and served with the 55th Georgia. On February 20, 1863 he transferred to the 43rd Georgia.

The 55th Georgia was dispatched to the Cumberland Gap area of Tennessee. By February 20, 1863 the 43rd Georgia was in the Vicksburg area. It would be interesting to me to know more about how and why the transfer came about. Private Stow survived the future battles and died on February 20, 1911.

Some of the companies of the 55th Georgia were raised in Hall County. Company K, 43rd Georgia came from Hall County. There may be some connection in the Hall County origin of both regiments. Perhaps, men were allowed to transfer into another unit from the same county. That is just a guess but it is interesting that Hall County had men in both the 55th Georgia and the 43rd Georgia.

On behalf of the members, I welcome Colonel Stowe and his wife Suzan into our ranks. We look forward to meeting you personally.

Greg Lee Land's Research on General Officers

Greg Land, 43rd Georgia descendant, has done extensive research on every known general of the Confederacy and the Union. He has compiled all the information he could locate regarding each of these generals and coupled the

information with known portraits or photographs of each of these generals. He duplicated all of the information and alphabetized it by last name and contained it all within loose leaf note books and separated them by the Southern Army generals and by the Union Army generals.

The Southern Army had generals with the ranks of Brigadier General, Major General, Lieutenant General and General. (There were no 5 Star Generals within the Southern Army or the Union Army. That rank would be established in World War II). Of course, the full Generals were men such as Robert E. Lee ; Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard ; Braxton Bragg ; John Bell Hood ; Joseph Eggleston Johnston and Samuel Cooper etc..... All of these Full Generals were ranked by "Time in Grade" : a military term describing the date the individual was awarded that rank. The oldest date would be senior to the next oldest date.

Greg reports that General Cooper was the top ranking "Full General" of the Confederacy at the beginning of the war, however, his health did not allow him to continue in this capacity and he had to resign his commission.

Each Southern general's information was categorized by the rank he held at the time of surrender of The Army of Tennessee and the Army of Northern Virginia. (There was substantial conflict regarding the rank of a few of the Southern generals.) Some of the upper ranking Generals were promoted within the last few weeks to Corps Commander or Division Commander, however, these promotions did not become finalized and President Jefferson Davis and his Confederate Cabinet signed off on these promotions themselves. Consequently, some of the generals, like John Brown Gordon, who was promoted to Lieutenant General from the rank of Major General by Robert E. Lee, did not ever materialize because President Davis never finalized the promotion.

The Yankee Army generals were much higher in the numbers of generals they had within their respective armies. However, only one of these generals ever achieved the rank of Lieutenant General. That was Ulysses S. Grant. He was the top ranking general officer within all the various Union Armies. All of his subordinate generals were the (2 Star) rank of Major General or (1 Star) Brigadier Generals. The Yankee Armies did not have any "Full Generals".

Grant, later after the war, became President of the United States but history records his Presidency as one of the most corrupt, embattled presidencies of all time. He was a very decent man, however, he lacked the good judgment to garner quality cabinet members and embassy appointments as his diplomats. His presidency was constantly embroiled in controversial decisions and he was always being accused of cronyism with his appointments.

Thank you Greg for supplying this summary of your information on general officers.

On this subject, I can add that there were 425 CSA general officers and of that total, 76 % were Brigadier Generals. Brigadier Generals usually commanded brigades, which were composed of four or five regiments.

Between now and the next Newsletter, I have a trip to an Army Reunion at Fort Benning, Georgia ; a trip to a new winter home in Palm Desert, California, near Palm Springs ; the set up and learning how to use a new laptop computer for use in California. At this point I don't know how much there will be to report in November, but there will be some, as there always is something going on.

Mike Griggs
President