

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER, 2009

The Tupelo Congress has come and gone. Despite four rolls of exposed film and pictures, I wonder if it really happened. In some ways it seems like a dream, despite working on the details for over a year. But, it did happen and those in attendance seemed to have a good time.

Some of our members had to leave early. For those that had to leave early and those that were unable to attend, here are some additional details of the Congress. For those that did attend--thank you. We were able to fill enough of the bus to come out OK financially.

### **Board Meeting Results**

The officers, regimental historians and historian emeritus met while Registration was being conducted on Thursday afternoon. This once a year meeting was productive and we covered three main topics --- First Aid kit, Expanded Website and Silent Auction.

### **First Aid Kit**

Janie Crowe is a Emergency Medical Technician with over 10 years experience. Earlier in the year I asked her to look into the purchase of an off the shelf first aid kit from her medical catalogs and also to explore what it would take to develop a custom first aid kit. I felt there was a need for a first aid kit to take care of our members between injury and the arrival of help through 911 response.

In past years we have sustained a number of bee stings to several members, had a fall with a sprained ankle and a close encounter with a Copperhead snake. By luck, the snake did not bite anyone, but it could have. By luck, none of the bee stings produced an allergic reaction, which can be deadly. So, with that background, I thought we had to get better prepared.

Janie discussed this need with her boss and the possible contents of a custom kit to fit our potential needs. We are not likely to encounter chain saw injuries, crushing injuries or gunshot wounds. However, we are likely to have heat exhaustion, bee stings, sprains, dirt in eye, snake bites, and possibly strokes and heart attacks. Janie's boss responded with giving us a number of items from his stock of supplies including a professional nylon bag to carry everything.

Once this happened, the direction became one of filling the bag with supplies we would need. The expendable items were bought at Wal Mart and the cost was only about \$40.00. The items included were: Two cold packs, air way protectors, burn pads, a large box of various size band aids, bandages, eye wash, scissors, tape, Ace bandage, metallic blanket, Aspirin, a stethoscope, and blood pressure cuff. This is not a complete list of contents.

During our bus ride on Saturday, the members were shown what was in the bag. The bag will go with us and will be carried by various members. Janie and Larry Crowe will keep the kit with them between Congresses. The Board approved of this addition to the way in

which we operate.

### **Silent Auction**

Secretary David Richardson of Haworth, OK suggested that we have a Silent Auction in order to raise additional operational funds. The SCV has gone to this method of fund raising in some of their Camps. Members bring an item and display it. A sheet of paper is placed next to the item and a starting bid is listed. Bidders write their name on the page , if they wish to bid, and their bid prices. The highest bid price takes the item.

The items are donated by members and could include nearly anything of value. The Board agreed to give it a try.

### **Expanded Website Photo Section**

I started this discussion with showing a deck of cards developed by the Civil War Preservation Trust. On one side was a map and a red dot of where the action took place, and the name and date of the action. On the reverse side of the card was the text that described the action in more detail. Much like a baseball or football card. What if we developed a deck of cards with General Barton and Stovall's Brigade facts ?

40th Georgia Historian Kay Bordan, who is a professional printer, informed us that it would be too expensive to produce. However, the same basic idea of presenting facts to our members could be done through Internet technology and our photographers. The information could be accessed through our Website and what was needed could be extracted or read at any time.

One of our advantages is the photographer skills of Kay Borden, Janie Crowe, and Kay Bishop, and Larry Crowe, and other at times, who produce extraordinary pictures of where we visit. The very best of their work could be selected to illustrate the text of what happened at that location. The text and pictures could be displayed on an expanded photo section of the Website.

The way it might be presented is as follows: A map is displayed with red dots showing the location of the action. One clicks on a red dot.( Vicksburg, 1863)

Up comes a selection of photos of that location. Click on the photo and a text section comes up. If one wants to visit that spot, they would click on a Driving Instruction button and up would come the driving directions.

Using this format, a member could visit Perryville, for example, and get a good sense of what there was to see and how to get there, for example. A picture of Turner's Battery location would have directions on how to get there as well as details of what happened there. It would be both a preview of what to see and a record for those that had already been there, as we did in 2007.

Wonderful photos that caught the light just right and were composed just right are buried in the photo files of Janie Crowe, Kay Bishop and Kay Borden and Robbie Griggs. Some

have found their way into the albums of Janie and Larry Crowe, but it takes time to see them all, and they are not there when one is planning a trip.

This method would be easier to edit or to add information. Driving instructions may have to be updated. If the information is in a booklet, the booklets are scattered about and it is hard to get new information to the booklets once they are printed.

That is what was envisioned by the group. It will take work to accomplish. The work will have to be done by those that understand the technology of digital pictures, websites and so on. I can supply text and driving instructions but need lots of help on the other parts.

At this point I am thinking of asking for a volunteer team to work on this project. More on this later as you digest what is proposed. With a number of people working on it, it can become a reality.

### **Special Awards**

There were two Special Awards presented this year. The first went to **Mr. Richard A. Hill**, a former President of the Tupelo City Council and local historian with a focus on Civil War camping locations around Tupelo. He spent an entire morning with Harry Dellinger at various camping sites and confirmed the camping site of Stovall's brigade in January, 1865. Using diary clues and his local knowledge, a definite location was confirmed.

Mr. Hill received a Certificate and a presentation grade flag that was used by Mississippi regiments. This special flag pattern featured a white field with a red vertical stripe on the fly end. In the upper left corner was a blue canton with a five pointed white star. The center of the flag had a magnolia tree depicted with scattered white flower blossoms on the green leaves. The regiment number was added to the white flag. This special flag was donated by Battery Hill Flag Company owner, and 42nd Georgia descendant, Rick Tucker. The flag measured 3 X 5 feet.

The second Special Award was made to **Mr. William P. Griggs** of West Monroe, LA. William was planning to attend and at the last moment his doctors told him he could not make the trip due to his medical condition and back pain. He called me and insisted that his money that was submitted for meals and entrance fees and bus seat be used "where it could help someone" and that if I returned it to him, he would send it back. His instructions were followed and this 85 year old Louisiana gentleman and grandson of a 41st Georgia soldier had to remain at home. He hopes to be with us next year. The Special Award of a 3 foot X 5 foot Johnston Pattern Battle Flag was accepted on his behalf by his niece, Kay Griggs Bishop of West Monroe, LA. She also delivered a get well card signed by all members that were in attendance.

The flag itself was donated by Rick Tucker and it was of the highest quality embroidery of stars and stitching. It will surely be treasured by this 41st Georgia descendant who signs his letters, "Your Louisiana Rebel Cousin ..."

### **Special Announcement**

43rd Georgia Historian Greg Land was able to insert an announcement of the Tupelo Congress into the latest issue of *Southern Heritage News and Views*. Thank you Greg for handling that.

This year our attendance at the annual Congress was down for a variety of reasons. Some were related to the down economy, there were some wedding anniversaries, and some situations concerning duties at work that had to be attended to. All in all, about fifteen people, counting husbands and wives, just couldn't be there. Because of the number, I thought they would like to learn about the Commendations and Memorable Awards that were presented this year, for what happened in 2008, which they were able to attend.

### **Facts From the 43<sup>rd</sup>**

While it is true that the South was not victorious in the War of Northern Aggression, it can also be stated with a fair amount of accuracy that the Southern Confederate Generals were in far greater demand after the War than were their Yankee counterparts. At various times after the War, 42% of Southern Generals were elected as State Senators and State Representatives; 38% of Southern Generals were elected to the United States Congress as Senators and/or Congressmen; and a good percentage were appointed as ambassadors to foreign countries.

The Southern States did not create Slavery. Slavery was a right of all 13 original Colonies of the United States and all 13 original Colonies had Slaves..... 5,000,000 Black People were taken from Africa by the Country of Great Britain and sold into Slavery. There was NEVER a Slave brought into the Confederacy under the Confederate Flag. All slaves brought into the South were brought here under the U.S.A. American Flag. Many thousands of Black People were sold into Slavery by their Tribal Chiefs in Africa. Abraham Lincoln and his cabinet as well as many of his Secretaries were of the opinion that all Black People should be colonized back to Africa to the Country of Liberia.....

General Nathan Bedford Forrest had 29 Horses shot out from underneath him but he also killed 30 Yankees in personal combat.....

The (10) costliest Battles of the War, in Human lives were as follows: Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania, Antietam (Sharpsburg), The Wilderness, 2nd Manassas, Stones River, Shiloh, and Fort Donelson.

### **Memorable Moment of 2008**

Awarded to the Dellinger Family : Harry, Becky, Jeff, Pepper, Robby Huntsville, Alabama, who on August 30, 2008 while in a single file formation approaching the "Hell Hole" at the New Hope Church battleground, were suddenly attacked by a swarm of yellow jackets, flying from camouflaged positions. Jeff and Robby suffered multiple hits while gallantly protecting their mother. Harry was stung while organizing the retreat. Becky managed to escape the ambush with only one hit. Pepper escaped injury because

the attacking squadron leader thought she was a former Homecoming Queen at Georgia Tech.

### **Memorable Moment of 2008**

Awarded to Jack Bolen, Brandon, Florida, who on August 29, 2008, while preparing to describe a Confederate railroad movement in September, 1864, found that the fanciest hotel in Marietta did not have a map of Georgia. In the tradition of infantrymen from the Roman Legions to the present, who have drawn maps in sand, mud and snow-- he improvised. Using a black rope hanging from a rolled up movie screen and a wave of his hands, he perfectly described railroad routes and long-gone depots. He awed the waiters peeking through the door -- and left 45 people staring at a blank wall and thoroughly enjoying it.

### **Memorable Moment of 2008**

Awarded to Jonathan Perryman, Marietta, Georgia, who on August 30, 2008, portrayed the ghost of First Sergeant Marcus Perryman, Co. K, 40th Georgia at the Ruff's Mill battleground. Jonathan heard a passing Yankee jogger, from New York, humming "Marching Through Georgia". Springing into action, he responded with a Rebel Yell and charged down the hill from his sentry position. Seeing the Bowie knife in one hand and Griswold revolver in the other, the Yankee jogger fled the field with fear on his face and his white running shorts were changing to brown. Finding a group of descendants from Barton's and Stovall's brigade, he explained his sacrifice and service and what his men did until they were surrendered on April 26, 1865.

### **Commendation Awards**

Bob Price , Alpharetta, Georgia Commendation for invaluable planning assistance which contributed directly to the ability to see a maximum amount in two and a half days during the Seventh Annual Congress, despite pain from knee replacement surgery less than six weeks before. By sharing his deep knowledge our understanding and experience was greatly enhanced at Kennesaw Mountain, Cheatham Hill, Kolb's Farm, The Southern Museum, Concord Covered Bridge and woolen mill ruins in Smyrna, the Shoupades at Oakdale, Dallas, Orphan Brigade cemetery, New Hope Church, the Hell Hole, Pickett's Mill, Oakland Cemetery and Marietta Confederate Cemetery.

Charles and Robbie Griggs, Knoxville, Tennessee. Commendation for Outstanding support and enhancement of the General Barton and Stovall's History/Heritage Association by sustained and timely efforts including route reconnaissance at Nashville, reference books on Missionary Ridge and the Atlanta Campaign ; classy nametags that were on time and spelled correctly ; distribution of lunches and collection of entry fees in an efficient and swift manner and a host of other details which help make the operation successful.

Kay Borden , Marietta, Georgia. Commendation for "Outstanding staff work in preparation for the Seventh Annual Congress where she led the effort and set the standard for route reconnaissance, detailed travel instructions and time allocation in a complex urban environment with heavy traffic and numerous planned stops. She chose to go over

and review the entire route three times in order to achieve the best course of action. Her planning efforts included selection of restroom and lunch facilities. Additionally, she implemented the plan by giving timely and accurate instructions to the charter bus driver, which enhanced the experience of the Congress attendees. "

Harry and Becky Dellinger, Huntsville, Alabama Commendation for " Outstanding service as scouts for both the Congresses held in Dalton in 2005 and Tupelo in 2009. Using historical maps and diary entries he located the exact position of Stovall's brigade in Tupelo, MS. They met with local vendors and local contacts to help determine the best places to stay, eat and visit in Corinth, Tupelo and Florence during the Eighth Annual Congress. Their detailed scouting reports contributed greatly to the success of the tours and the enjoyment of the members."

### **Ninth Annual Congress Raleigh, NC Labor Day Weekend 2010**

Planning and details of the Ninth Annual Congress have been developed over the past several months. Please see the Draft Agenda that is posted on the Website. Please plan to attend if at all possible.

For those of you that have already been to the Bentonville battlefield, there are new items to see. A new tour has been established at the battle of Wyse Fork near Kingston, NC. All the regiments of Stovall's brigade fought in this battle which delayed the arrival of Schofield's force coming toward Bentonville from the east.

We will visit and explain those battlefields and other camping locations of Stovall's brigade, as well as routes of march for the survivors. I think it will be another good Congress.

### **Developing Story and Initial Planning**

While our members were touring the site of the Tupelo camp location, discussion evolved that we should try to place a metal sign at or near the location, much like what was done in Knoxville. There was general agreement that an effort of that sort should be initiated. Where to start ?

We have the experience and knowledge of Gary Goodson, who was able to erect a metal sign, paid for by GBSHHA donors, in Knoxville to explain and mark the site of Camp Van Dorn. We have the diary records of where the Tupelo campsite was located. It turns out that our local expert, Richard Hill, is also involved in a larger effort of locating and marking all known camp locations around Tupelo. Since an effort is already underway, there is some momentum established.

Any undertaking like this involves local historians, State officials, local organizations such as SCV and UDC, City officials. The event has to be approved after proving what happened where, text approved, sign location approved and a number of other details all worked out between the parties.

Founder and Historian Emeritus Gary Goodson has already made e-mail contact with a Tupelo contact and has started working on this project. More on this as it develops.

The Tupelo site is easy to get to and has been preserved so far by a ballfield/park complex. The hill with the spring is still there at one edge of the park, the railroad is still there and the hill they camped on is not covered in houses. Up on the hill where the springs are is "Spring Street". The swamp caused by the springs has been filled for the ball park. The railroad trestle used to cross the swamp area but has later had rock fill brought in for the railroad. For the number of years that has gone by since 1865, it is in surprisingly good preservation.

The ballfield would be a location for the sign that could be seen by many people as they learn about the history and heritage of their towns. It might have less vandalism too.,

I'll keep you posted on this as it develops.

### **Thank You**

I want to thank all of you who attended this Congress and helped in various ways. We have to have your attendance to make it all come together. I know it was a stretch for some to do it this year.

A special thank you goes out to **Ron and Sue Maynard** who attended the first time from Marietta, Georgia. Another first time attendee was **Gretta and Wayne Reich** of Duncanville, Texas. It takes a leap of faith to pack up and travel, commit the time and spend the money and to be with strangers. But, we hope you feel like family now and will return to see more places where your ancestors fought, marched and camped. We want to share that experience, and your research, with you.

### **Simply Amazing**

I just received word from David Richardson that he stopped by the Greenwood Cemetery in Hopkins County, Texas. This is the cemetery that has various Griggs and Combs family members that were described in my after dinner remarks this year. Well, David found that there are eight graves of his ancestors that were from North Carolina originally, the **Turrentine** family. One of them was J.D. Turrentine Born 16 Nov 1845 Died 23 July 1930. He could have been a CSA veteran. I checked the rosters of Barton and Stovall's brigade and did not find him listed. He could have served in some other Georgia regiment or in a regiment from another state. Interesting that yet another connection has been made to this small rural Texas cemetery. The families must have known each other.

I will send him a copy of the inventory list I have of this cemetery for his records and research.

Since I have a number of "Thank You" letters to send to vendors and others who helped us this year, I am going to end this Newsletter here. The next Newsletter is planned for mid October.

Mike Griggs  
President