

NEWSLETTER JULY, 2008

History In Danger

"Parade" magazine had an article on June 22 that reported a recent survey found that fewer than half of American high school students know when the Civil War occurred.

Parade interviewed Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough about this ignorance in history. They asked, "How important is history in the United States?" He answered, "For at least 25 years, we've been raising young Americans who are, by and large, historically illiterate. The founding of our nation, the Civil War, World War II --- they all should be common knowledge, but they are not. History has not just been pushed to the back burner, it's been pushed off the stove."

The editors asked, "Why does history matter?" McCullough answered, "Amnesia is as detrimental to society as to an individual. The historian Daniel Boorstein put it very well: "Trying to plan for the future without a sense of the past is like trying to plant cut flowers."

Bentonville Nugget of Information

A few days ago I received my Summer issue of *Hallowed Ground*, the magazine of The Civil War Preservation Trust. The magazine had a cover on the outside that showed a color map of the first day at Bentonville. The map was part of a request for donations to save more of the Bentonville battlefield.

Right there in the center of the page was a symbol showing the location of Stovall's brigade at the end of the first day. So what? For years I have seen maps of the Bentonville battlefield that shows the *start position and direction of attack* on the first day. None of the maps shows where they wound up on the first day. This map finally records that location and it is one that we can go to see. Stovall is shown lined up at the junction of County Road 1190 and County Road 1008, aligned along County Road 1190, approximately East to West.

Another map enclosed with a request for money shows the location of Stovall's brigade at the end of day three. This is new information, at least to me. They are lined up in an East-West orientation, west of County Road 1194. The map shows their withdrawal route north on County Road 1194. The withdrawal started at about 10:00 PM on March 21, 1865. We can't drive to their position but we can trace where they hit the road (Junction County Road 1136 and County Road 1194) during the night and their route

to Smithfield.

This is exciting, valuable information that will help us connect the dots at Bentonville and trace Stovall's movements and walk the ground of our ancestors. The 2010 Congress is scheduled for Bentonville. We will try to make those three days come alive as we visit the battlefield.

Bentonville Preservation

The Civil War Preservation Trust is trying to buy another 173 additional acres of core battlefield at Bentonville. They have acquired grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund to help pay the \$772,600 purchase price. With the grants they are \$100,000 short of the goal.

This situation figures out that a \$1.00 donation will be matched with \$7.72 from the grants. Put another way, a \$36.00 donation will become \$278 .00 in value. If you want to donate any amount, call 1-888-606-1400.

Confederate Military History

Confederate Military History was first published in 1899 by the Confederate Publishing Company of Atlanta, Georgia. H. David Richardson has found the details concerning the reprinting of the series of books.

The books contain 485 illustrations and portraits, 52 maps , eight appendices and a General Index.. The books themselves are 6 " X 9 " format, red with gold foil stamping on the spine, silver foil stamping of the Great Seal of the Confederacy, Smyth - sewn pages, high quality paper and linen cover. They are made in the USA.

Each volume is \$19.95 + \$3.95 shipping and handling and they come to you every 4 to 6 weeks. It is my understanding that the series is also in CD-ROM format. If you are interested, call 1-800-282-0319 or write Welder History Group, P.O Box 664, Holmes, PA 19043-9956.

The text is written by the participants themselves, from their reports. 7,000 pages in what appears to be 14 volumes.

Gary Goodson's Letter

Founder and first president Gary Goodson has written a letter to Jim Bentley, a Sons of Confederate Veterans official in Texas. The letter comments on a University of Texas newspaper , the *Daily Texan*, that ran a hit piece on the Confederate Battle Flag.

Gary's letter follows :

Jim Bentley,

It is unfortunate when "half truths" and "taken out of context" information is placed into Texas print "it only increases the problem they ramble on about ! A brief truthful précis of the Confederate flag history would include discussing the three beautiful designs of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd National Flags and the Stars & Bars Battle flag itself. The three national Confederate flags merely represent a people of the south and their " War For Southern Independence" and with the Stars & Bars battle flag being designed to help prevent C.S, vs. U.S, "friendly fire " deaths in the dense, smoky forest battlefields. Thankfully the terrible "man's inhumanity to man" practice of slavery was a ever decreasing practice in the United States with less than 6 % of it's citizens holding slaves ... and would have ceased within a few short years anyway.

Now you have for the most part "the rest of the story" of a beautiful flag representing the loving and caring Southern people that were seeking their Southern Independence.

Jim, please feel free to send this onto the Daily Texan for all of us.

*Gary R. Goodson, Sr. - Historian Emeritus
General Barton & Stovall History & Heritage Association*

Special Mailing for Congress Information

There are a number of our contacts who do not have e-mail addresses. These descendants of the five regiments of Barton's and Stovall's brigade just can't be reached by e-mail and it is expensive and time consuming to make mailings of the news letter to them each month.

This month I have produced a special mailing to contacts who might attend the Congress if they knew about it. The mailing consisted of an Agenda and an Advance Registration form. The information went to 20 who had paid for membership in the past, and lived in the area. Another 21 letters went to those who lived in the area or had expressed some interest. The local area was considered to be GA, AL, SC, TN. I did not send letters to our contacts in WI, MI, AZ, CA and other states where I thought they would be unlikely to attend.

As I went through the roster I found that five lived in Marietta, in addition to Kay Borden and Jon Perryman. A couple live in Canton , GA, in addition to Fran and Louis Wagner. There were contacts in and around the Atlanta area as well as northeast Alabama and northeast Georgia. This Congress will be

the closest one to them and a good time for them to experience what we do.

I felt that I had to try to get the word out so that they could join us. If 5% favorably respond, we will have two new participants. I hope more will give it a try.

Congress Registration

I have not been overrun with Congress registrations, so far. If you are reading this and you intend to go to the Marietta Congress, please get the Advance Registration filled out and sent to me.

The hotel will hold the blocked rooms at the reduced rate until **July 29, 2008**. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel and tell them **you are with the General Barton and Stovall group**. Last week I was talking with the Director of Marketing and she said that only three had registered so far. I told her that number did not match what had been sent to me. After a search of the system more names were found. The members had registered, but the hotel didn't have them listed as being with the General Barton and Stovall group. (I gave her the specific names to look for.) Call **1-888-685-2500 for reservations**.

For those who live on the Internet, the hotel has produced a webpage address they call a "personalized group web page ". Go to the following to register :

<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/AZMAHF-BSH-200808281/index.jhtml>

The name of the hotel is now Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Conference Center. Hilton has bought out the hotel we started with last fall. If they answer "Hilton" don't panic. Tell them you are with the General Barton & Stovall group and you need a reservation.

If you plan to attend, **please get your money and registration in to me and reservations with Hilton**. When August is here in a few weeks, I need to be telling our vendors exactly what we need in food, bus seats and head count for the museums.

Directions to Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Conference Center

Take Exit 263 from I -75. LEFT turn indicates " Southern Tech"--take it. Follow this road about two miles and five traffic lights. Turn LEFT on Powder Springs Street. (On left corner will be Confederate Cemetery). Go 500 to 600 feet to entrance on the RIGHT. Thanks to local guide Fran Wagner of Canton, GA for this information.

General Comments

There has been a lot of preparation for the past 11 months by a number of people. It all comes together next month and we get to do the fun part. We actually get to see five battlefields our ancestors fought on and learn more about various subjects connected with the Marietta area.

There will be lots to see and feel during this Congress. My great grandfather's two nephews were captured within 6 miles of their home farms. I want to stand on that ground and tell you that fact, which is an example that our ancestors were fighting for their homes. They were not in Mississippi, Tennessee or Kentucky or Alabama. They were HOME. They were firing from trenches dug into Georgia red dirt. They were leading a whole corps on a black night in pouring rain, because they knew the roads. They were home. They were concerned about their families and what the Yankees were doing to them, because they were home.

Please join me and the others you have met before and enjoy exploring this important part of the Atlanta Campaign . Come march in the footsteps of the 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, and 52nd Georgia Volunteer Infantry regiments -- and your ancestors.

Hope to see you in August.

Mike Griggs
President