

NEWSLETTER JULY, 2007

Sixth Annual Congress Danville, Kentucky

The Sixth Annual Congress will be held at Danville, KY from August 30 (Registration and Orientation) to September 2 (Last of three days of tours). For the complete Agenda please refer to the Agenda posted on the website.

The headquarters for this Congress will be at the Hampton Inn at 100 Montgomery Way in Danville. It is located south of town off the US150-US127 Bypass. Other motels are located in that general area. Their contact numbers are on a list on the website. Hampton Inn phone number is (859) 236-6200.

The Hampton Inn has a block of rooms reserved for our group until **July 30**. These rooms have a rate of \$79.00 per night. Tell them you are with the General Barton and Stovall group. Included in that rate is a free breakfast served from 6 AM to 10 AM and it includes one hot menu item daily...it may consist of a combination of sausage, ham, eggs, biscuits, gravy, French toast or waffles. The start time should allow us time to eat and be ready for our 8 AM departures.

If we fill all of our blocked rooms, we will get the meeting room free for Thursday and Friday night.

Advance Registration Forms are posted on the website. Please use them if you plan to attend. This form allows us to have your nametag ready, lets us know how many busses of what type will be needed, how many people will eat what meal and the money for all that will be in the bank. Walkups can be accepted, but those people may not have a bus seat at the last moment.

The minute I hit town, the food vendors want to know how many meals they will be serving. Everyone wants lead time. By using the Advance Registration forms I can give them a more accurate number. The number is important because we pay for what is not eaten, and I want everyone fed so I have to be sure enough is ordered. That is the Why ?

As of today, I have ten registrations. I'm sure more are on the way but please send them in and don't wait to the last day. These ten registrations total 14 people.

Charter Bus

For Saturday, September 1, when we retrace the retreat route out of Kentucky, we have a 49 Passenger Motor Coach to transport us in air conditioned comfort. The bus has a restroom on board. They have been in business for over 17 years and have a fleet of busses to meet our needs. They also have 27 Passenger Mini Coaches. To see a picture and get more information please see www.womblescharters.com

Roster

Our roster of members and known contacts continues to increase. A known contact is someone who is a descendant of one of the five regiments or is interested in their history --and has not sent in their membership fee. We know their address and hope that they will someday actively join us.

There are 18 names and address per page on the roster and we now have 12 pages. That is at least 216 contacts. The actual number is more because spouses add to the total number of people involved.

Thank you all for your support. Encourage your other relatives and interested parties to get in on the fun.

Attendance

Lee Cooper (Vicksburg 2004) has moved to Red Lodge, Montana from Seattle. She plans to attend the Danville Congress. Founder Gary R. Goodson, Sr will attend from Shawnee, Colorado. I have bought my plane tickets and plan to attend from Bremerton, Washington. William Griggs, at age 83, plans to attend from his home in West Monroe, Louisiana. For those of you that are fortunate to live closer to the battlefields our ancestors fought on, please consider attending.

I have a map of the USA in my den with a white pin stuck in the hometown of each contact or member. There is a mass of white pins around Atlanta, a cluster in NE Alabama, some in Florida down to about Tampa, 13 in NE Texas and the rest are scattered but mostly in the southeast part of the country. All are important. Hopefully, you can attend this year.

For those of us who live far away, it is a big deal to be able to visit a battlefield. We can't drive to one on a weekend. We can't stop by one while on a business trip. It is harder to pick up a local county map to see if a road goes close to a railroad bridge that Stovall's brigade defended in February, 1865. By visiting these historic sites together, with other descendants and researchers, we can enrich the experience and learn more about what we are seeing. We have a lot to see and experience.

Champion Hill Purchase

The Civil War Preservation Trust has announced the arrangement of a *conservation easement* on 145 acres of core battlefield at Champion Hill. The terms will allow the land to be protected in perpetuity. The preserved land is the site of the key geographic feature and focus of the battle. This parcel connects the large portion of the preserved battlefield to the east with the even larger portion of preserved battlefield to the west.

Terrance Winschel, Historian of Vicksburg National Military Park, has described the easement as "...the Champion tract is the single most important parcel of the battlefield." The tract lies north of the Jackson Road and west of the road leading north from "The Crossroads". For those of you that were on the tour in 2004, you will recall we stood in the Crossroads and then walked on the dirt road, in the heat and humidity, north toward Champion Hill.

The purchase price for the easement is \$240,000. They expect to receive a federal matching grant from the Civil War Battlefield Protection Program for one-half that amount or \$120,000, in 2007 or 2008. So , every dollar donated will be doubled.

The Champion family will receive \$240,000 now, and the land will be protected for now and the future. There are plans to include Champion Hill into an expanded Vicksburg Military Park,

which

would put it under the administration of the National Park Service.

The CWPT has produced a color map of the Battle of Champion Hill which shows the land previously protected and this new easement. It also shows unit deployments down to the regiment level with the name of the regiment and the commanding general. The map is on a topographic base which shows the shape of the land and features such as roads, houses, woods and fields.

This map is a must have addition to your files. I am sure that with a donation of some amount, CWPT would send you a map. By color coding and arrows, the map shows positions of the regiments as the battle unfolded. A black and white copy of the map does not do it justice. The colors are what makes the map so understandable, whether it is the land or the regiments.

The map would have been great to refer to in 2004 but it had not been produced. We will have one for the next trip to Champion Hill.

One other note-- this sacred rural Mississippi land has had 20 homes built in the last two years due to a Nissan car plant in nearby Madison, MS. In 2004 we saw new homes being built along the Raymond Road in the southern part of the battlefield near the Baker Creek Bridge. When you have farmland near an Interstate highway and a car factory close by, the land use will change. That is why this easement is so important.

For more details see the Summer, 2007 issue of *Hallowed Ground*, published by CWPT.

**Coming Election of Officers and Regimental Historians
During the Sixth Congress in Danville, we will conduct an election of Officers and
Regimental Historians for the next three year term beginning on January 1, 2008.**

Rather than retype and rehash all the details, I am going to refer you to the issue of the Newsletter that has the details. Our webmaster, Don Bulloch, has archived past issues of the Newsletter on the website. All one has to do is click on the Newsletter month you want to read. Up it pops.

The official announcement of request for nominations was made on March 12, 2007. Current or past members can place names into nomination. Nominations can be made by phone, mail or e-mail. It doesn't get more simple. Please see the March, 2007 issue for more details.

The Officer and Historian election was announced in the January, 2007 issue. Please see that for an overview.

The descriptions of each officer position appears in the February, 2007 issue.

The April, 2007 issue has more on officer and historian nominations.

So, all the announcements and descriptions have been made. So far, there is only one nomination

received and that is me for the position of President. It has been my honor and pleasure to have served in that position and I would like to do so for the next three years.

If nominees would like to make a statement, we have time to run those in the August Newsletter. It will go out about August 15. I would need your copy before that time.

Please send me your nominations.

Archives in Atlanta

The National Archives - Southeast Region is located at 5780 Jonesboro Road in Atlanta. This facility is adjacent to the Georgia Archives building. The National Archives have announced a "Family History Fair" which will run from Wednesday, July 25 to Friday, July 27. During this time people can work with archives staff to research their family trees.

The National Archives are open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

Additionally, there are other displays and exhibits. One of them is the Great Depression between 1935 and 1942. Exhibits include extensive photos of the time.

This special period to help people is rather rare and I hope you can take advantage of it.

A Story Behind Every Stone

This is a new book that is out in paperback. It is about the Confederate Section of Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh, North Carolina. I read a review of it and decided to buy a copy sight unseen.

The book came a few days ago and I was delighted to find five graves of soldiers from Stovall's brigade listed in the book. Most of the graves are of North Carolina soldiers, some from the Gettysburg battle that were relocated to Raleigh.

Our regiments were not the only ones from Georgia to have soldiers buried here. From an inspection of the death dates, it appears that many died after the battle of Bentonville. They most likely died in hospitals or along the retreat route.

Here are the soldiers that were listed :

Private David M. Anthony Co. G, 43rd Georgia Died 4/7/1865 in Jackson County

Private Harrison Craig Co. H , 42nd Georgia Died 9/23/1862

Private John W. James Co. B, 41st Georgia Died 4/9/1865

Corporal John Clark Pope Co. E, 42nd Georgia Died 4/1/1865 in Jasper County

Private William R. Teague Co. H, 52nd Georgia Died 6/1/1919

These men were a long way from home and their families. I think we have an element of a Sunday during a future Congress where we visit the Bentonville, NC battlefield.. We could visit the cemetery, find the graves (the book has a map and the graves are numbered) and then say some words of recognition and decorate their graves with flags. To locate them after this many years and remember them, would be powerful. They are not forgotten.

I have notified Dan Crone of our association of this find. He will add to his list.

Information Sites

I came across a couple of Civil War sources that may be new to you. www.civilwarhome.com is well-organized and has orders of battle and strategic and tactical overviews.

The second is www.cr.nps.gov/hps/abpp/civil.htm This one has battle summaries by state and campaign.

The next Newsletter is planned for mid-August. Please stay in touch via the website or call , write, or e-mail any of the officers any time. I look forward to our next adventure together in a few weeks.

Mike Griggs
President