

## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2009

Everyone is busy during the Christmas season with travel, family, football bowl games, year end financial and tax decisions and special get-togethers. How will it all get done? Then, here comes a Newsletter. I do hope you have some time in the schedule to catch up on events which I'll try to describe.

### **New Member Reita Childers**

**Reita Childers** recently moved to Canton, Georgia and wanted to transfer her UDC membership to the Canton Chapter. In this process she met our member, **Fran Wagner, 42<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Regimental Historian**. Fran was alert and quickly noted that this transfer could be a recruit for our descendant's association.

It didn't take too long to determine that Reita Childers is the granddaughter of Lieutenant James Ernest Stallings, CSA. James was the brother of Captain Jared Edwards Stallings, who was the Company Commander of Co. A, 41<sup>st</sup> Georgia Infantry. Captain Stallings was quite a writer of letters during his service. Some of his letters were placed in the files of the Coweta County Historical Society, where they were found by **H. David Richardson** of Haworth, OK, a former and current 41<sup>st</sup> Georgia Regimental Historian. The details contained in these letters have been used in various Congress discussions as we retrace their steps.

It turns out that there are a total of 86 letters that have been found and Reita will soon have them collected into a book. Her interest is mostly learning about and preserving the day-to-day thoughts of an ancestor who was off to war, leading a company of about 100 men. Other research shows that he also led the 41<sup>st</sup> Georgia following Nashville in a temporary assignment of a job normally held by a Colonel. The details contained in letters and diaries help us piece together what was happening and under what conditions.

Thanks to the alertness of Fran, and her efforts of explaining what we do, Reita has said she will join our association. We hope to meet you in person next year, Reita. In the meantime, you can read our past Newsletters which are archived on the Website [www.generalbartonandstovall.com](http://www.generalbartonandstovall.com)

### **Suggestion Sent to SCV**

Founder and President Emeritus **Gary R. Goodson, Sr.** of Shawnee, CO has written to Michael Givens, Lieutenant Commander in Chief, Sons of Confederate Veterans. A suggestion was made that the SCV should establish an associate membership category for CSA descendants who live too far away to attend regular meetings and National Conventions. This associate membership was proposed to be \$20 per year.

### **Membership Dues 2010**

2010 Membership dues are due on January 1, 2010. I am pleased to note that some members have renewed already. They include **Pat and Jerry Morris**, Jekyll Island, GA; **John Horton**, Tyler, TX ; **Wayne and Gretta Reich** , Duncanville, TX; **Ed Combs**, Forest Park, GA. By the time you read this there will be more that have sent in their dues. Please put on your list of things to do.

#### **42<sup>nd</sup> Georgia at Battle of Atlanta**

**Lieutenant Colonel Harvey O. Stowe** , Gig Harbor, WA, is a 43<sup>rd</sup> Georgia descendant. He has also done extensive research on the actions of Stovall's brigade during the Battle of Atlanta on July 22, 1864 and other battles during the Atlanta Campaign.

He recently wrote me an e-mail which expanded on and clarified and corrected certain points about the assault on July 22, 1864 which was made by Stovall's brigade. In particular he has researched the actions of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Georgia. This message is in my e-mail in my Bremerton, WA computer. When I get back for Christmas, I will send the entire message as an attachment to this Newsletter. That should happen about December 19. Please watch for it and read the details.

In a rough summary, there is some confusion, caused by different accounts in various books, about which unit captured the DeGrasse Battery of four Parrott rifles. His research shows that Captain DeGrasse was a busy man that day. He was in command of five Union artillery batteries that were lined up on the same hill. Since he was in command of them, they all were referred to as " DeGrasse " batteries. Same name, but different units.

When the guns were charged by Georgia troops and South Carolina troops, they all participated in capturing the guns. You need to read all about it in the research that he has shared and explained. This is exactly the kind of detail we need.

This is an example of different history books having a different account of the same action. I was going by information I had found on a bronze tablet on the site which had a map explaining which unit was where. There was more to the story as any tablet is limited in space and some of that information was to be found elsewhere. Rather than attempt to retype the message, I would like for you to read it just as Colonel Stowe wrote it. Please watch for it.

#### ***Battle for Salkehatchie* by John C. Rigdon**

A new book is out that is titled *Battle for Salkehatchie* by John C. Rigdon. It is a paperback that costs \$19.95. It covers the battles in South Carolina during the January – February, 1865 period. One of the battles discussed is Orangeburg and Stovall's brigade was at Orangeburg. I am going to buy the book to see if there is more information on the other two bridge battles that we know Stovall's brigade was engaged in.

Hopefully, this book will provide more details that we can use during the 2011 Congress when we go to Columbia, SC and the three bridge locations.

### **South Carolina Contact Chris Crabb**

**Rev. Chris Crabb** was using the Internet and he came upon our Website. He got to reading some of the past Newsletters that are on file, and he noticed one where I was asking for information on the three bridges that Stovall's brigade helped defend. This subject is one he has done extensive research on. He lives about one hour drive from the bridges and is a living history participant. He likes to portray CSA troops from the Western Theater.

Without being asked, Rev. Crabb sent me a message with details of how to get to the bridges, what is there now and other details including the above introduction. Wahoo ! With the power of the Internet and his actions, we are now in contact.

I have responded to his message and have already indicated that we would like to have a local guide accompany us in 2011. He may be able to do this with us. In the meantime, I will send him a proposed Agenda, more information about General Barton and Stovall History/Heritage Association and copies of some paintings he might like to have.

Without **Webmaster Don Bulloch** designing our Website to include old Newsletters, *this contact would not have been made*. Don's design and diligence in saving them has paid off for us. Thank you Don. Thank you Rev. Crabb, for contacting me.

### **Marietta CSA Cemetery Monument Dedication**

Members that were able to attend the 2008 Congress in Marietta, GA will recall that we visited the Marietta CSA Cemetery. Our 40<sup>th</sup> Georgia Regimental Historian **Kay Borden** lives in Marietta and she supplied the following information.

A Confederate Wall of Honor has been dedicated recently. It consists of 32 tons of smooth granite blocks at the base of the hill. Names of 1,000 soldiers have been carved into the granite. A semicircle of flags from the Confederate states frame the monument. A gazebo and bronzed boots, representing the Confederate Unknown are also included.

Original numbered wooden grave markers were destroyed in a grass fire. A house fire destroyed the list of names. The UDC had a partial list of names. Using that list, the UDC members confirmed names of the dead through regimental rosters. About 3,000 are buried in the cemetery and the UDC confirmed about 1,000 names. Most of the men were killed in fighting around Marietta and other outlying battles.

\$100,000 was raised for the monument and the State of Georgia added a \$75,000 grant.

### **Outreach to Haralson Invincibles Scheduled**

**Kay Borden and Jonathan Perryman**, both of Marietta, will speak to the Haralson Invincibles SCV Camp 673 in Waco, Georgia on January 12. Jonathan's great great grandfather was First Sergeant Marcus Perryman of the Haralson Invincibles

They will be on the alert to find descendants of our regiments while they explain what we do and how we do it. Kay will include “show and tell” items to include photos of past Congresses..

### **Facts from the 43<sup>rd</sup> Georgia**

43<sup>rd</sup> Georgia Regimental Historian **Greg Land** has sent his latest edition on time. It will be forwarded to you via attachment when I get back to Bremerton, WA. His report is in my Bremerton computer in the e-mail received .Please watch for it.

### **Another Descendant Organization**

I was looking through the latest issue of *Civil War Times* and I saw an ad for the Camp Ford Historical Association. It is based in Tyler, Texas.

Camp Ford was a major POW camp with over 5,000 Union prisoners. They are looking for descendants of the guards or a prisoner at Camp Ford, or anyone interested in Civil War history.

### **Closing Comment**

I think this edition of the Newsletter is a good example showing that a number of things are in motion between our annual Congress. I am especially grateful to all who have supported our association, even if you could not attend the Congress. Hopefully, you can attend next year and meet members of this special family.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !

Mike Griggs  
President