

Fifth Annual Congress Franklin, TN

The Fifth Annual Congress in Franklin, TN is now history but there are events that have occurred after our attendees departed. I want to share with all of you several subjects that may be of value to you on the next trip to Franklin and Nashville and I want to tell you what else has happened.

I have written 13 Thank You letters to all of the individuals and companies that had a part in the Congress. Each letter was a personal one and written to the best of my ability to convey our collective thoughts and the specific things they did to help us have an enriched experience.

An After Action Report will be written soon to capture and discuss what worked well and what didn't work so well. The idea is to leave some footprints so that future leaders will learn from our experiences and not have to start with a blank sheet of paper. It is important to complete this report from my rough notes, quickly, as the details tend to blur over time.

Welcome Packets have been sent to the six couples that could not attend for various reasons. Maybe they can visit what we saw at a later date and the maps and brochures should help them plan that trip.

David Richardson and I returned to the McGavock Confederate Cemetery on September 4th. We repositioned some flags to get a better coverage at the end down by the flagpole. David took more pictures to show the "after" scene of the flags. David also took special pictures for a family that had a fallen soldier from Texas. We found the exact grave and he took pictures for the family and he also placed a Texas flag by the Texas monument. The flags and grass sparkled in the morning sun. The cemetery looked like someone had remembered their sacrifices.

Vice President Harris Griggs and I arranged to meet Tom Cartwright, Curator of the Carter House Museum, in person on September 5. We presented the Hardee flag to him and gave him one of the commemorative patches made for the Congress. He appreciated both and was gracious in accepting. We pointed out that the Hardee flag might be used in the ceremonies surrounding the unveiling of the statue to General Cleburne. The statue is planned for placement near the spot where he died leading his troops.

Charles and Robbie Griggs took me to the Tennessee State Museum on September 6. The museum has a Civil War Section and it is of Smithsonian Museum quality. Admission is free. The displays focus on rifles, swords, pistols, cannons, flags, maps and an extensive collection of Confederate money. There were displays, audio features of the men speaking, samples of artillery ammunition and on and on. When you are in Nashville you should set aside some time to see this museum, in air conditioned comfort. Just go on the State Capitol and you will find the museum across the street.

Also in Nashville, I was taken to see the Belmont House. The house was the headquarters of Union General Thomas, who commanded the battle of Nashville for Union forces. The house is restored and is on the Belmont College campus. Belmont College shows up on most Nashville maps. Once on the campus, you will find the stately house on a hill in the center of the campus.

Some more personal notes may be of interest :

William P. Griggs of West Monroe, LA attended at age 82. His grandfather was captured on July 4, 1864 near Marietta. William can remember sleeping with his grandfather at age five. Since he does not drive for long distances anymore, his niece Kay Griggs Bishop did the driving to get them both to Franklin.

Speaking of driving, Jack and June Bolen from Brandon, FL, near Tampa, drove two days in each direction to attend the Congress. We are glad these new members could experience their first Congress.

Larry and Janie Crowe were stuck on an Interstate for one hour with no movement at all, enroute to Franklin. That is one of life's helpless feelings, highlighted by needing a bathroom and not knowing when the traffic jam would be

cleared.

Dan Crone came down from Dayton, OH to attend. He has recorded over 1000 graves of soldiers who served in the 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd and 52nd Georgia Volunteer Infantry regiments. If you have an ancestor that you know about, and he is not on Dan's list, please submit the grave information to him.

Chip Barron has agreed to fill a newly created position of Archivist for the Association. He will be looking into ways to gather and store the information we are acquiring. Once letters, photos, newspaper accounts, artifacts, reports and other information in articles and lists are found, we don't want to lose it. His wife is a whiz at organization so I'm sure she will be assisting in this effort. Thank you Chip for taking on this position. Chip is a lawyer by training and works as a real estate broker so he has a number of skills to use in this effort.

Membership

We now have **51** paid members for 2006. Someone asked me at the Congress what our membership number was and I gave them the wrong number. I think I did not include those that paid at the Congress. In addition, we have some 350 or so contacts. That number includes people we know about that have ancestors or an interest in the five regiments, but have not joined. David will get a more accurate update on that count when he has more time.

CWPT and Perryville

The Civil War Preservation Trust has a program to acquire more land at the Perryville battlefield near Perryville, Kentucky. For every \$1.00 that is donated, they have matching funds lined up that will expand that \$1.00 into \$12.00. That is significant and it makes the donated dollars more powerful.

Perryville, KY and Sixth Annual Congress

The draft agenda for the Sixth Annual Congress is posted on the Website. There may be changes but I am showing the basic structure a year in advance so you can plan to attend. The Perryville battlefield is one of the most pristine and well preserved. It looks much like it did on October 8, 1862. It does not yet have the commercial development like Marietta and Franklin, Nashville and Atlanta.

After Action Report Fifth Congress

I have completed an eight page report covering 17 major topics of the Franklin/Nashville Congress. The intent is to record what worked and what didn't work so well so that future planners can have our experiences as a guide and not have to start with a blank sheet of paper.

This report also discusses what should be done next year to improve our tours and the Congress in general.

Franklin Photos

Kay Borden has supplied the instructions on how to see a lot of photos made at Franklin. Please follow her instructions and if you have trouble, contact her at kay@franklin-sarrett.com

Using Microsoft Internet Explorer :

Type into the URL locator bar and press Enter.

When the Login panel appears, Login as follows : (If the Login panel does not come up, click on File in the pull-down menu and select "Login as")

Login or User Name : gbshha

Password : Guest

A window will appear containing folders and files.

To download files, drag them to your desktop or to folder where you want to store them.

To upload photos, create a folder, name it, and drag it into the GBSHHA ftp window.

*** It has been a busy and eventful month. Thank you for the attendance at Franklin and thank you for staying at

Marriott. For those that did not attend, thank you for your support and we hope to meet you next year. Research and reading is great, but to actually walk in the footsteps of our ancestors is a special experience..

Regards,

W. Michael Griggs
President