

THE HOWLING DAWG

**16th Georgia Vol. Inf. Co. G
January 2011 Newsletter**

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

What lies ahead in 2011 ?



"Darkest Of All Decembers" by artist Rick Reeves

After Atlanta fell, General John Bell Hood correctly "reasoned that Sherman was as weak as he would be in the future and I as strong as I could expect to be." On this he based his plans ...

General John Bell Hood replaced Joseph E. Johnston as Commander of the Army of Tennessee in July of 1864 and by September Atlanta had fallen into Union hands. During October, Hood campaigned in northwest Georgia and northeast Alabama, harassing General William T. Sherman's weak single supply line and attempting to draw him out of Atlanta for a decisive battle. Sherman, however, remained in and around Atlanta before finally abandoning it and commencing his "March to the Sea" on November 16. Before Sherman could be lured away from Atlanta, Hood consulted with his immediate superior, General Beauregard, on October 20 in Gadsden, Alabama, and it was decided that an invasion of Tennessee should be immediately conducted.

Meanwhile, Lee's beleaguered Army of Northern Virginia remained under relentless pressure from General Ulysses S. Grant in Virginia. With Abraham Lincoln's reelection, all Confederate hopes for a negotiated peace with the United States were dashed. The Confederacy was desperate. In a letter dated Dec. 6, 1864, Beauregard wrote to President Jefferson Davis, explaining the rationale for the campaign into Tennessee:



"Opdycke's Tigers" at Franklin, by artist Don Troiani

Augusta, Georgia, Dec. 6, 1864

To His Excellency, Jefferson Davis,
President Confederate States

...I did not countermand the campaign in Tennessee to pursue Sherman with Hood's army for the following reasons:

1st. The Roads and creeks from the Tennessee to the Coosa River across Sand and Lookout Mountains had been, by the prevailing heavy rains, rendered almost impassable to artillery and the wagon trains.

2nd. General Sherman, with an army better appointed, had already the start about two hundred seventy five miles on comparatively good roads. The transfer of Hood's army into Georgia could not have been more expeditious by railway than by marching through the country, on account of the delays unavoidably resulting from the condition of the railroads.

3rd. To pursue Sherman, the passage of the Army of Tennessee would, necessarily, have been over roads with all the bridges destroyed, and through a devastated country, affording no subsistence or forage; and, moreover, it was feared that a retrograde movement on our part would seriously deplete the army by desertions.

4th. To have sent off the most or the whole of the Army of Tennessee in pursuit of Sherman, would have opened to Thomas's force the richest portion of the State of Alabama, and would have made nearly certain the capture of Montgomery, Selma, and Mobile, without insuring the defeat of Sherman.

...Under these circumstances, after consultation with General Hood, I concluded to allow him to prosecute with vigor his campaign into Tennessee and Kentucky, hoping that by defeating Thomas's army and such other forces as might hastily be sent against him, he would compel Sherman, should he reach the coast of Georgia or South Carolina, to repair at once to the defense of Kentucky and, perhaps, Ohio, and thus prevent him from reinforcing Grant. Meanwhile, supplies might be sent to Virginia from Middle and East Tennessee, thus relieving Georgia from the present constant drain upon its limited resources.

I remain very respectfully, your obedient servant.

P. G. T. Beauregard, General

In late October these preliminary movements for the invasion of Tennessee were under way. The commanders made their plans and set out on a course of action based on their expectations. Gone were the glories and defeats of the past three years. If any good was to come of the future, well, they were about to step into it.....so are we:

We have written a lot about how well things went for the 16th Georgia in 2010. Even now, the sweet taste lingers. Memories are good and to be cherished, but they are the past. By the time this newsletter reaches your hands the 16th will have already been involved in a memorial service and our winter muster. Olustee will be less than a month away. Even though we will be going to places and doing things very familiar to most of us, many questions come to mind ... will the weather be as coarse as it was last year down in Florida ... who will make it, and on it goes? Manassas will come and Confederate Memorial Day then we will head back to Old Clinton.

At Clinton we will have the elections for 1st Sgt., 1st Corporal, and 2nd Corporal. These elections will have a great deal to do with the future of the unit. "WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS?" What kind of people do you EXPECT to elect and what do you anticipate their service to the unit to be. More importantly, perhaps, if you are running for a position what do you EXPECT from yourself? Are you a candidate in hope of feeding an monstrous ego or do you truly desire to look after the needs of those who have entrusted you with command? So, exactly "WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS" Those who vote have a right to know. That is why we require *letters of intent*.

We hope to have as many unit activities this year as we did in 2010 with field trips to new places, programs at historical sites like the Cannonball House and the Griswoldville Battlefield (just to name a few). Again, it is well to ask, "WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS ?" Now that the Sesquicentennial has begun, some events are anniversaries - which ones do you want to attend? We are hearing that Nash Farm might just be a reality in 2011. We have hopes that some members who have not been able to attend many events because of jobs may see some positive changes that will allow them to be in the ranks with us on a more regular basis. Some of the old Dawgs are coming back, at least now and then and that sure is a welcome sight! Do we expect anyone to leave the 16th or will we have another banner year of recruiting? Last year Corporal Kevin Sark encouraged us to get twenty rifles on the field. That is a good expectation for 2011 - maybe even more. To do this, we will all need to strive to get our attendance to events up to 100% or as close as we come to it. "WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS?" It has been well said, "when you show up, you are an encouragement - when you are absent, you are a discouragement - no neutral ground." And last but not least, let's get along. I do not mean to harp on it like it is a big problem - gratefully it is not. Just try to be more kind and understanding (no, wait, it may not much matter if you understand or not, just be good to folks) to everyone - even more than you need to be, because we never know what battles someone may be fighting inside and unseen. Always re-check the direction you are heading and the path you have come from. Hood expected to take Tennessee back, but the final day of November 1864, brought him to Franklin, and the darkest December of the War.

SOME NEW BOOKS

Confederate Alamo: Bloodbath at Petersburg's Fort Gregg on April 2, 1865 By John Fox / List Price: \$34.95
<http://astore.amazon.com/souhernewvie-20/detail/0971195005>

Stealing the General: The Great Locomotive Chase and the First Medal of Honor By Russell s. Bonds,
ISBN 1594160783

The Day Dixie Died: The Battle of Atlanta by Gary Ecelbarger, ISBN 9780312563998

The Rashness of that Hour: Politics, Gettysburg & The Downfall of General Iverson
ISBN-13:9781932714883 ISBN-10:978193271488X Barnes & Nobles \$22.28

Topsy-Turvy: How the Civil War Turned the World Upside Down for Southern Children By Anya Jabour. List Price: \$28.95 <http://astore.amazon.com/souhernewvie-20/detail/1566636329/180-7247311-4062621>," tells of how Union soldiers "wreaked havoc on the South. Some were cruel even to the children, destroying food, furniture, and possessions of families, threatening children with violence, even sexual assault, often in front of other family members, brandishing whips and pistols, tearing up school books, taking away blankets, spitting in preserves, pouring ketchup on paintings. Union depredations were also committed against slave children, with soldiers demanding that they sing and dance.

UNIT ELECTIONS

The officers of the 16th Georgia have announced that elections for the positions of 1st Sgt., 1st Corp. & 2nd Corp. will be held during the 2011 Old Clinton War Days event by the means of individual, written ballots. Those wishing to qualify for the ballot must have a letter of intent on file with the Adjutant by midnight of April 1, 2011. Nominations will also be taken from the floor on election day. Questions can be directed to Capt. Bradberry or Lt. Sprague. So far we have received letters of intent from Kevin Sark for 1st Sgt., Nathan Sprague 1st Corp., Alan Richards 2nd Corp. & Matthew Whitehead for 2nd Corp.

16TH GA Co. G. "Jackson Rifles"

Capt. William "Rebel" Bradberry - 404-242-7213
1 Lt. Noah Sprague - 706-491-9755
1st Sgt.. James "Cowpattie" Cleveland - 678-972-2318
1st Corp. Nathan Sprague - 478-320-8748
2nd Corp. Kevin Sark - 478-731-8796
3rd Corp. / Adj. John Wayne "Duke" Dobson - 478-731-5531
waynedobson51@yahoo.com or waynedobson@cox.net
4th Corp. (Brevet) Alan Richards - 478-308-9739
Chaplain Ronnie "Skin" Neal - 478-994-0958
Assistant Chaplain - Charles Hill - 770-845-6878
Treasurer Ricky "Coonpossum" Smith - 478-956-2840
Musician Cody Sprague - 478-320-8748

(copies of the 2011 roster are now available upon request by e-mail or regular mail)

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 5 - CANNONBALL HOUSE - 10am-2pm "Val Elliott Art Show", Macon, GA - POC is Brenda Dobson
brendadobson61@yahoo.com or 478-745-5982

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2011 - BATTLE OF OLUSTEE, FL

MARCH 18-20, 2011 - BATTLES AT MANASSAS, GA. POC is Tommy Wallace @ 912-557-6649.

MARCH 26, 2011 - WORK DAY IN CLINTON

APRIL 9, 2011 - WORK DAY IN CLINTON (alternate day in case of bad weather - April 23)

APRIL 16, 2011 - CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY - attend where you choose.

APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 2011 - CLINTON WAR DAYS

SEPTEMBER 2011 - TUNNEL HILL

SEPTEMBER 2011 - NASH FARM

OCTOBER 1-2, 2011 - ANDERSONVILLE

NOVEMBER 19, 2011 - GRISWOLDVILLE MEMORIAL SERVICE



*Memorial Service and Iron Cross Dedication for Major Richard Furman Lawton
Riverside Cemetery, Macon, GA January 9, 2011*

Southern Luck

THE BLACK EYED PEA being considered good luck relates directly back to Sherman's March to the Sea in late 1864. When the smoke cleared, the southerners who had survived the onslaught found that the aggressors had looted and stolen everything of value, and everything you could eat including all livestock. While in hiding, few had enough to eat and starvation was now upon the survivors. There was no international aid or Red Cross. The Northern army had taken everything they could carry and eaten everything they could but they couldn't take it all. The devastated people of the south found for some unknown reason Sherman's troops had left silos full of black eyed peas. In the north the black eyed pea was only used to feed stock. Yankees saw it as the thing of least value, taking grain for their horses, livestock and other crops to feed themselves they just couldn't take everything. So they left the black eyed peas in great quantities assuming it would be of no use to the survivors because all the stock that it could feed had either been taken or eaten. Southerners faced massive starvation if not for the Providence of having the black-eyed peas to eat.

<http://hubpages.com/hub/>

MEET THE REAL 51ST PVV

As advertised in our last issue, we are publishing a series on the 51st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry:

Christian Loch later known as James M. Johns

Private Company F. 51st Pennsylvania Volunteers May 19, 1864-May 27, 1865

Age at enlistment 18; Occupation farmer.

In 1900 J.M. Johns a physician and his wife Nannie resided in Garland Arkansas (Miller County) Nannie E. Johns applied for a widow's pension in Texas c. 1923 - Mary Loch

Bates Reference: Vol. II Page 30 Original Source: Andersonville Web Site

EDITOR'S NOTE

Some may misunderstand recent selections pertaining to the Union Army. The 16th Georgia willingly portrays a Federal company of the 51st PVV, as we detailed in our October 2010 issue. If further explanation is needed, I feel it is enough to say that we seek only to illustrate the opponent our Southern ancestors faced. *jwd*

MLK PARADE

Dixie Defenders SCV Camp 2086 was invited, once again, to march in the Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Cross City, Florida on January 17th with their camp flag, Confederate POW - MIA and camp banner leading the event.

The camp was very warmly received by all and felt that they have helped dispel

myths of the "anti-black" lies that our enemies on the "left" have tried to

convince people of. www.dixiedefenders2086.com

IN HONORED MEMORY

We learned, after the December 2010 issue was published that Mr. Emory Yarborough of Dublin, GA had passed away just before Christmas. Some knew him as a member of the Hardy Smith SCV Camp of Dublin and the father of Bryan Yarborough who often served with Ricky Smith at the genealogy tent during War Days. He was a real gentleman and as true a son of the South as I ever met. May he rest in peace with his Lord - jwd



IN THE NEWS

We were happy to get this photo from a newspaper article detailing a December 2010 living history at Ft. McAllister. On the left is own Ty Burnsed who often takes part in this event.

WINTER MUSTER 2011



On the 20 degree Saturday morning of January 15th, the 16th Georgia gathered at the home and grounds of Ricky (Coonpossum) and Beverly Smith for one of the finest winter drills we have had in a long time. As you can see from the photo above, the military exercise was well-attended. It was a fine tune-up for the coming campaigns and a tremendous time of fellowship which included former Commanders Steve Smith, Hunter Poythress and Steven Smith who dropped by. General Poythress, of the Department of the Gulf, is now 2nd in Command to General Tom Jessee and in charge of all infantry. He requested an opportunity to talk to the 16th GA about Sesquicentennial events being planned for the next several years. This was very useful information, enabling us to make more informed decisions about what events we would like to attend. Inducted into the unit as full members were Earl Colvin and Kellie Banks as well as Mike Burch, Rev. Gary Berrier and Joel Whitehead who joined as associate members. We were glad to have Kaitlyn Groce of the 53rd Georgia visit with us. The unit certainly appreciates the hospitality and delicious food the Smiths graciously provided and we thank all who came.



A Portion of the Skirmish Drill at Winter Muster 2011

LETTERS:

Near Camp Byron

January 15, 2011

Dear Mama,

My hope is that you are well. Tell my sisters and acquaintances back in ol' Bibb that joining the army seems to be as good a thing I have ever done. More ought to sign up before all the places are filled. I am with what is called the 16th Georgia - I guess there must be 15 more of them somewhere, but I ain't seen them yet. We are in a Camp of Instruction, where they show us stuff about being a soldier. At first I was restless because they let you sleep to near about sun up, but I am adjusting to the late start. All you have to do when you get up in the morning, is to get your gear together and be all set for drill. There are few chores to speak of but occasionally they get some of us to cut, split and haul several cords of firewood or fetch some water. Sometimes we are on guard duty but I am not yet certain what we are guarding. They never make you wash up but some do every now and then, anyway. I may even try it one day if enough warm water is left in tub when others are done. Breakfast is often skillogalley which goes well with slab bacon and corn bread, eggs, butter, gallberry honey, sweet tater coffee and soft bread but sometimes we have something out of the ordinary like salt pork, or blue beef, gruel and hardtack. I am friends with two city boys, Adel and Ahren, who live mostly on coffee, so I eat their share of vittles, too, and it generally tides me over 'til noon, when they feed us again. Speaking of them two city boys, they is twins, like my sisters, except these two look alike. It is right hard for them when we march as they are all-in after the first ten miles. Reckon that is 'cause they don't eat much. Marching is good for it gives us something to do all day. A fella by the name of Sergeant says it is to harden us but I figure it is not my place to tell him different. Shoot, Mama we stroll that far just to Aunt Estefania's fer Sunday dinner. After a while of marching, all those what has complaints with their feet crawls in the two-horse wagon and rides back to camp. That Sergeant fella is sorta like a school teacher as he nags a lot. They have what they call officers, too, but they don't bother nobody much - just walk around and frown. We had target practice but it was not much to it for what we shot at was big as a squirrel head and it was not even moving. In the evenings when we are done with our day we wrestle for fun. I have to be real careful, though, for them city boys break real easy. I beat most all of them every time, except for Eben. He is a right stout young Creek that is nigh on 300 pounds, dry. I only thrashed him a time or two. Guess I will close. Tell Roscoe, Woody, Bodean, Trigger, Cleavon and all my other relations to hurry and join up before everybody else gets word and comes stampeding in.

Your devoted daughter,

Sapphire Rose Kellie

BLACKWATER MILITARY SALES
Big Peach Antique Mall - Booth 547 - Byron, GA
Civil War, WW II - Buy, Sell, Trade

A boy who was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon.

"How do you know what to say?" the little boy asked.

"Why, God tells me," the father answered. The boy replied,

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

There is a great life lesson here, why don't we just listen to God and take His advice without trying to add to His will?

LIKE A BAND OF GYPSIES

Re-enactment units camp all kinds of ways. Take the 16th at Olustee, for example: some are in the authentic camp, others in the back of their pick up, several in modern tents, some just "dawging it out on the ground." I thought it would be interesting to hear our reader's take on this subject. Why do you camp the way that you do? does it vary from event to event and do plans change depending on weather or who is in your immediate group, etc. Come on, let's see what you have to say. Contact the editor well before the next issue. jwd

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SUFFERING

That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death." - Philippians 3:10

No one likes to suffer. It is a subject that we would just as soon not talk about or think on in any way - or is it? Often we have a conversations and the subject quickly turns to talk of physical ailments. We discuss allergies in the spring, flu in the winter and heat in summer. Complaints come when it rains too much or not enough, when it is windy, the humidity is high. We grumble about the stock market, the price of gasoline or groceries or because our spouse parks in the lower 40 at Wal-Mart. We seem so full of afflictions that we must talk about them or bust. Possibly, just possibly, we even like talking about them - could it be? Let me give some examples: I have been re-enacting for about 20 years and camped all over the place. Once, I thought of getting a t-shirt with the outline of a Georgia map on it and putting a red dot at every place we camped - until someone suggested we just color the whole shirt red ... and that was just Georgia! One of the coldest trips I recall was to Central Florida and one of the hottest to Pennsylvania - and I cannot even mention western Tennessee without getting a chill - the wind comes right off the great plains just like a door was opened. The eastern side of that beautiful State, come to think of it, is not much warmer - ever hear of Moshier, Tennessee? I have been there and did not care to get the t-shirt. I recall being camped in a small valley the first evening we arrived. This trip was what we call campaign-style, which means we used no tents, just oil cloths and blankets to sleep on. Dusk brought the heaviest dew I have ever experienced - then it froze, so that it felt like we slept under sheets of ice. There was another trip when it rained so hard that the campfire floated away - man, that was a forlorn sight! Now, I tell you these stories to make a point. Even today when we re-enactors get together and sit around the campfires telling stories, these events come up over and over again as if they were some of the best times we ever had (and they were). You can tell from my descriptions these were under somewhat miserable conditions. We, in modern society, are so used to our air conditioned/heated cars, and climate-controlled work environments and home has the same comforts. It is, therefore, a real shock, to lay our 21st century bodies down on frozen ground without shelter and try to sleep! Again, I point out, we recite these stories over and over again like they were some of the most cherished episodes of our lives (and they really were). Why? I have thought about that a lot and I believe there is a fellowship in sufferings. There is nothing quite like talking to someone who really knows how you feel - who really understands where you are coming from. That is roughly the foundation of Alcoholics Anonymous - people who are suffering are able to talk to someone who really knows what that particular brand of anguish is like. There are support groups of all kinds: for parents who have lost children, widow's and for people who have loved ones with a dread disease - the list goes on forever. There is, as our text says, "fellowship" in sufferings. Paul realized this as he wrote Philippians 3:10. We cannot really share in the sufferings of Paul, much less what our Lord endured on that cross, Amen! It is likely that we never come close to the particular perils Paul wrote of during his ministry: "three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep." (II Corinthians 11:25). Paul knew something about suffering and I know you do, too! YOU have been lonely, YOU have had physical pain - some YOU never get relief from it! YOU have stood by the grave of a loved one and felt like YOU would never know a joyous moment again. No person on earth may understand your sufferings and have fellowship with you in that way, but you can bet God does! He knows exactly how YOU feel and He cares. To me, one of the main points of Christ coming to earth to live, suffer and die as a man was to identify with our mortal self. No one will get to Heaven and be able to tell the Lord, "well, Jesus, you just don't realize what I had to put up with down there on earth - I am in pain every day, my friends forsook me, I was not wealthy, you didn't buy me a Mercedes Benz ..." No sir, you will not ever be able to tell the Lord, that He doesn't know how you feel. He understands it all better than YOU ever will. Don't try that excuse with Him. Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." He knows how we feel. One more verse that I like over in Hebrews 12:3 is, "For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Consider who Christ was and what He had to put up with - He still has to put up with ME.....and YOU. Paul understood that God desired the fellowship of sufferings with us every day. He wrote in I Corinthians 12:31, "I die daily." In good times and especially in tough ones, there is always sweet fellowship with our Lord who truly understands.

jwd

