

Donald Raborn thanks members of the 23rd Tennessee CSA regiment for their participation in a memorial ceremony honoring his ancestor who was killed at the Battle of Stones River.

(Hudson Alexander Photo)

## Tennessee Service Honors Soldier From South Carolina

By Hudson Alexander

MURFREESBORO, Tenn.--A South Carolina soldier, believed to be one of about 2,000 buried in a mass grave here, was recently honored during a special ceremony in Confederate Circle at the Evergreen Cemetery.

Pvt. William Martin Raborn, Co. D, 19th South Carolina Infantry, was honored with a marker during a Memorial Day weekend celebration attended by members of Murfreesboro Camp 33, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and Raborn family members from South Carolina.

"This marker is placed here to honor my great-granddaddy," said Lewis Raborn of York, S.C. "We're pretty sure he was buried here at Confederate Circle. But until my son got into Civil War reenacting and the SCV, we didn't know where he was at."

Donald Raborn, a great-great-grandson of Private Raborn and a reenactor with the 13th South Carolina, was one of a detail of six Confederate reenactors who formed the honor guard at the service.

"I feel very honored to find the spot where he was buried," said Donald Raborn. "I've been trying to find him since I was 15 years old. I'm 23 now. Through a lot of research and help from local SCV members, I've just found his burial spot within the past year."

According to military records, Private Raborn was wounded during

the opening charge made by Confederate forces during the Battle of Stone's River on Dec. 31, 1862. He died one week later, Jan. 7, 1863, behind enemy lines, following Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's retreat from Murfreesboro to nearby Tullahoma. Raborn said his ancestor died from a bullet wound which entered through the stomach and exited from his back.

"You've got to remember how things would have been back in 1862," Raborn said. "He was a long, long way from home when he died in an area he was not familiar with and around people who were not his family."

"He left behind a wife and four sons in South Carolina to go fight for the country he loved," Raborn added, during the eulogy at the service.

The reenactors who joined Donald Raborn in the honor guard were all members of the 23rd Tennessee Regiment, a local Confederate reenacting group.

"These men are doing this out of their love for the South," said Capt. Tim Anderson, commander of the 23rd CSA Regiment. "They are just working men, who do this out of their own time and their own pocket."

Anderson, a resident of Waynesboro, Tenn., said he feels that most people have a misconception about the motives that caused Southerners to fight for the Confederacy.

"I don't think these men, like the one we honor today, were motivated by any desire to preserve slavery," said Anderson. "I think, instead, they were like most other soldiers in most other wars. They fought

out of their love for the land what they considered to be their country."

Anderson said people should have the time to study what their ancestors, both North and South, did during the War Between The States.

"I think it speaks highly of the Raborn family that they care enough to find out about their

## New Exhibit Mourning

RICHMOND, Va.--Postmortem photos of children, jewelry removed from the hair of dead people and widows' weeds are a sampling of the artifacts in the Museum of the Confederacy's new exhibition "The Shadow of Ruins: Mourning the Civil War South."

The exhibition which opens May 26, explores the elaborate mourning rituals American women practiced in the mid-19th century. "In the Shadow of Ruins" focuses specifically on the response of Southern women to the overwhelming loss of life during the Civil War. Most men between the ages of 18 and 45 went to war; approximately one-fifth did not return. The war's vast casualties affected mourning rites and intensified the mourning experience.

Featured in the exhibit is a mourning dress worn by V. Davis in 1864 to mourn her deceased father and son. Appropriate clothing was an essential element of 19th-century mourning, and the dress code was much stricter and more elaborate than what we

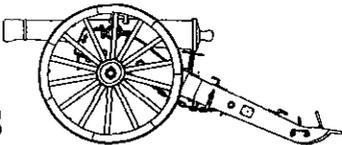
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