



The Wiregrass Telegraph

Treeless Edition
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GA Council of Social Studies

The annual GCSS Conference was held in Athens OCT 21-22. Featured speakers included Dr Bill Cranshaw, former middle



school history Athens' Famous Dbl-Barrel cannon teacher in Ware County and now GA DOE's new director of the Social Studies curriculum. The new curriculum was approved on OCT 14 by the state board after several drafts and a great deal of discussion by many different groups of concerned people. The original draft started secondary US history at 1877 but the approved draft goes back to the time-honored curriculum that teaches all of US history in one course. Because of the delay in approving the new curriculum, DOE has extended implementation to the 2007-2008 school year. Dr Cranshaw promises that there is still a great deal of work to be done on the curriculum in terms of providing essential questions, examples of student work and other teacher aids. More guidance and the formal introduction of the curriculum will happen next year when the smoke has cleared from the current curriculum rollouts.

Coastal Plains Textbook Fair

There will be a social studies textbook fair at Coastal Plains RESA Jan 18-19, 2005. The CP-

RESA folks decided to wait until there was a final determination on the curriculum. We would encourage everyone who can get to this fair to attend since it is within the narrow time window you need to make a wise decision about what your texts will look like for the next few years.

Road Trip!

Last week Rolla Hendrickson took the Echols County US history classes to the



Andersonville National Historic Site to see what's left of the infamous Civil War prison and to tour

the National POW Museum. In 1970, Congress decreed that all matters pertaining to POWs of all wars in which the US has engaged would be the purview of the Andersonville site and staff.



Andersonville no longer exists as a prison but one can easily see where the walls were because large white wooden posts mark the perimeter. There's a second line of wooden posts about 10 feet





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inside the fence perimeter marking the so-called "dead line" - a line across which prisoners would be shot before they got to the wall.

From the pictures one can also see the small creek that served as a source of water, a place



to wash clothes and a way to flush sewage away from the camp. Of course, the stream never flowed very well and was the chief cause of disease in the camp. The prison population reached 33,000 - a place that was designed to house 12,000! - in the summer of 1864. When GEN Sherman took Atlanta, most prisoners were dispersed throughout the South to prevent their liberation.

The prison wall has been rebuilt to give visitors an idea of what the stockade must have looked like. In front of the wall, one can see the difficult situation that prisoners lived in and a small line of waist high boards marking the "dead line". Of course, prisoners were totally exposed to the weather with very little fuel or food. About 12,000 prisoners died of the 45,000 that were at the prison at one time or the other.



The infamous Commandant of Andersonville, Henry Wirz, was the only man tried and executed for war crimes after the Civil War.

This monument was erected by the UDC in the small town of Andersonville. In fact, Wirz - a Swiss citizen - is buried in Washington DC where he was executed.



And of course, Andersonville is a national military cemetery. In fact, it's one of the few national military cemeteries that has not been filled and is open for burial of veterans. The normally talkative students became very quiet when we traveled through the cemetery.

Griswoldville

The largest battle on the March to the Sea was in a little known industrial town named Griswoldville. Griswoldville is on the railroad



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between Macon and Milledgeville, about 10 miles east of Macon. On a cold November day in 1864, Federal troops withstood several assaults by two Confederate regiments made up of old men and boys. Federal losses were fairly light but the Confederates lost over 600 men. Today the site is undisturbed fields and forest and one has to search for the few markers that exist. The picture you see is of Matthew Jacobs, a senior at FSU (finally!!!) on a recent trip to the site to do research.

Fort Frederica



Several weeks ago, SGHP had its annual planning conference at St Simons. Of course, it was a golden opportunity to visit Fort Frederica, the scene of GA's first permanent settlement and the site of Ogelthorpe's victory at the Battle of Bloody Marsh.

Hands-On History

SGHP encourages all our member teachers to get out to the many places we have in Georgia and show students first hand where history happened. We also pledge to you that we will continue to afford you the opportunity over the next 2 years to do the same for your own development.