

June 1, 2015

Mr. William Haslett  
636 South Carolina Highway 213  
Winnsboro, South Carolina 29180

Dear Mr. Haslett:

I am sorry that I angered you so badly last week, but we continue to feel very strongly that the decision to engrave some names and not others on the World War II monument is very wrong—everyone who gave his life should, we believe, be equally recognized and appreciated. I could not get you to see that I do understand the difference in the government's classifications as to manner of death—KIA meaning dying immediately upon wounding, DOW applied if the soldier made it to a hospital—that is not the question for us: the question is why should that, or any, distinction have to be made in this matter, if at all (and arbitrarily by one person)—and does the fact that Ed Crowder lived some few hours and got to the hospital mean that he, or any other soldier, is less worthy of recognition from his community. We think not.

Please know, again, that we are very grateful for the work you have put into this project; we should have been glad to donate to it, if we had at all been contacted. We knew nothing of it until one of our neighbors told us about the ceremony. Bo, and our son and his family, all came to the unveiling, just most appreciative of the recognition—but, I am afraid, left somewhat in despair. We could not explain to our 14- and 10-year old grandsons why Ed's name was not included, or that there were other casualties who were not named as well.

One of the first things you asked me, as did other people to whom I spoke, was if Ed was truly a native of Fairfield County. He was born and raised in the Salem Crossroads area, right across the road from the old Monticello School. Both his mother and father had roots there going back generations—they are all buried in the Salem Presbyterian Cemetery, as is Ed, now, after his body was returned from Okinawa after the war. Mrs. Crowder was Martha Martin, and Mr. Crowder farmed and ran the little store at the crossroads—Ed never lived anywhere else, other than when he was in the military. He had been in the service since the war started, and was killed almost at its end—on Okinawa, wounded one day and dying the next. He was buried on Okinawa, and then Bo's mother had his body returned to Salem Presbyterian Church after the war.

Having reiterated my concern that this division was made at all, please let me add that we also believe there was factual error in the choosing of the names to be inscribed. We have gone through Sarah Sexton's pamphlet, including the newspaper articles, as well as some postings on the internet, and wish to note the differences in what they documented, and what you delineated, based on your criteria. We realize fully that you may have done further research and have genuine factual disagreement with those listings. However, please refer to the attached listing of errors we think may have occurred.

I list these differences not in any attempt to denigrate the work you have done, but that they point out further that perhaps the listing of some soldiers and not others was not the best way to approach this, and that further care might have been taken to ensure accuracy.

I did not know Ed Crowder—dead before I was old enough to know what was happening. I know him as the handsome man in pictures, eyes sparkling, always into mischief, I think. I did know well, of course, his mother, a fine, devout woman still grieving for him 45 years after his death; I knew his father, a reserved, quiet man, eaten by the regret that he could not do something Ed had asked of him before he shipped out; I knew his sister, Callie, who loved us more than normal, because we had belonged to Ed. I knew his widow, too reserved to talk about Ed and his loss, but dedicated to raising Bo as she thought Ed would have wished. I know his son—a fine man who grew up without a father, making his life anyway. And now I know and love his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, in whom we have tried to instill a respect for the sacrifice Ed made, and a pride in what he did. Should all that grief and sorrow not be acknowledged by Ed's community as much as for others who died for Fairfield County, and his country?

I would ask that you review this information and see if there is any way we could in some way resolve what we see as a base difficulty: for us, in fifty years, or even twenty, no one will know that there were any of these other soldiers who gave their lives, if we can't somehow fix this. Ed quite clearly cannot speak for himself—it is left to us to speak for him, and for the other men who gave their lives in World War II, but still go unmentioned. Are any of them any less deserving of being remembered?

Ann B. Crowder

## **FAIRFIELD COUNTY SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION, BUT WITH OTHER DESIGNATIONS LISTED BY THE MILITARY—THEY WERE ELIMINATED FROM THE MONUMENT BECAUSE THE CAUSE OF DEATH DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY KIA:**

James Douglas Boney, native of Blythewood, but listed as a Fairfield County native by military records, served overseas 14 months, sent back to the United States after contracting illness in New Guinea, and subsequently died at Camp Pickett, Virginia General Hospital

Jefferson D. Boulware, Died of wounds in France suffered in the Battle of Rhems

Marcus B. Boulware, Listed as dying as a prisoner of war in the Phillipines, but the military authorities could not determine if he had been a battle casualty or an actual prisoner

Ira Dalton Byrd, no specific information provided, but died in Guatamala

Thomas L. Crim, Died of Wounds in Europe, April 12, 1945

James Edward Crowder, Jr., Died of wounds on Okinawa, approximately 8 – 10 hours after wounding

James Mitchell Dickerson, Died of wounds suffered on D-Day, hospitalized until death in England

Carl Jeffers, Died at home in Winnsboro after the war of wounds suffered in service

William Moore, Died Prisoner of war in the Phillipines from pneumonia

John Woodward, Died in the Phillipines in August, 1945

Again, while Weldon Lemon's cause of death was unknown; Melvin Kelly died of wounds on Okinawa, passing away an hour and a half after the wounding (not designated KIA); and Jennings Hatchell died in a training accident in Florida, they were included on the monument.

While the arbitrary decision was made to not include these soldiers in the listing on the monument, it seems to us that they are true casualties of the war.

## POSSIBLE ERRORS IN MONUMENT DATA

**The following soldiers were listed as KIA by Sarah Sexton, and in some government listings, but were not included on the monument. While we were told that if a soldier was not from Fairfield County, they were eliminated, as far as we can tell (from the obituaries reprinted in Mrs. Sexton's pamphlet) they had ties to Fairfield County.**

David Edgar Aiken (grew up in Strother)

Sydney Kelly (we believe he was confused on the monument with Melvin Kelly, who is listed, but was designated DOW, almost exactly as was Ed—wounded on Okinawa, and died upon reaching the hospital ship)

Claude D. McSwain, a native of Ridgeway

Charles Lewis Richardson, a native of Simpson

Larry Wilson Sanders, a Winnsboro native designated KIA, but again, dying the day after he was wounded, but designated KIA

Arthur T. Simpson, grew up in Blaney, wife lived in Winnsboro

Leslie T. Banks, was from Rion

Furman A. Boone, listed by Mrs. Sexton, but obituary gives no ties to Fairfield County

Eldridge Hutto, born, grew up, and worked in Winnsboro before going overseas

Hedge Arrowsmith (Stanley) was not a Fairfield resident, but is listed on the monument—he was born and raised in Pennsylvania, and came to South Carolina to play football at the University. He was drafted in his junior year, and went overseas. He was married just before he left to Bo's aunt, Margaret, and we are delighted to see him honored—**however, he was not a native or resident of Fairfield County.**

**The following soldiers were not designated KIA, but are listed on the monument:**

Harold Jones, whose place and cause of death were never determined

Melvin Leroy Kelly, who, again, we believe was confused with Sidney Kelly, who was designated KIA, but not listed: Melvin Kelly's circumstances of death are almost identical to those of Ed

Weldon Lemon—case of death unknown

Harvey John McDonald—not listed on any other list at all; no circumstances known

Jennings Hatchell—killed in a training accident in Florida, never saw action

**Names are misspelled:**

Albert Hagood's name is listed as Hagwood

Walter Cathcart is listed as Walker Cathcart

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<u>NAMES AND COD (CAUSE OF DEATH) ON US GOVERNMENT LIST*</u>		<u>NAMES AND COD (CAUSE OF DEATH) ON SARA SEXTON LIST</u>		<u>NAMES AND COD (CAUSE OF DEATH) ON "?Billie's?" MONUMENT **</u>	
<u>NAMES</u>	<u>COD</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>COD</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>COD**</u>
		AIKEN DAVID EDGAR	KIA		
ARROWSMITH STANLEY D	KIA	ARROWSMITH STANLEY DeWITT	KIA	ARROWSMITH, STANLEY D.	KIA
		BANKS LESLIE T.	KIA		
BITTLE THERON F	KIA	BITTLE THERON F.	KIA	BITTLE, THERON	KIA
BONEY JAMES D	DNB	BONEY JAMES DOUGLAS	DNB		
BOONE FURMAN A	FOD	BOONE FURMAN A.	KIA		
		BOULWARE JEFFERSON D.	DOW		
BOULWARE MARCUS B (2 times)	DNB	BOULWARE MARCUS B.	DPOW		
BRICE WILLIAM B	KIA	BRICE WILLIAM B.	KIA	BRICE, WILLIAM	KIA
BYRD IRA D	DNB	BYRD IRA DALTON	DNB		
CATHCART JOHN W	KIA	CATHCART JOHN WALACE	KIA	CATHCART, JOHN	KIA
CATHCART MOSES L	KIA	CATHCART MOSES LEE	KIA	CATHCART, MOSES	KIA
CATHCART WALTER G	KIA	CATHCART WALTER GREEN	KIA		
				CATHCART, WALKER (spelling?)	KIA
CLARK WILLIAM J	KIA	CLARK WILLIAM J.	KIA	CLARK, WILLIAM	KIA
CODE HERBERT N	KIA	CODE HERBERT N.	KIA	CODE, HERBERT	KIA
CRAWFORD DAVID A JR	KIA	CRAWFORD DAVID AIKEN, JR.	KIA	CRAWFORD, DAVID	KIA
CRIM THOMAS L	DOW	CRIM THOMAS L.	DOW		
CROWDER JAMES E JR (2 times)	DOW	CROWDER JAMES EDW., JR.	DOW		
DAVIS CURTIS C	KIA	DAVIS CURTIS C.	KIA	DAVIS, CURTIS	KIA
DICKERSON JAMES M	DOW	DICKERSON JAMES MITCHELL	DOW		
ELLENBURG HENRY E	KIA	ELLENBURG HENRY E.	KIA	ELLENBURG, HENRY	KIA
GLENN ROBERT	KIA	GLENN ROBERT	KIA	GLENN, ROBERT	KIA
		HAGOOD ALBERT LEE	KIA	HAGWOOD (spelling?), ALBERT LEE	KIA
HAIGLER WALLING H	KIA	HAIGLER WALLING H.	KIA	HAIGLER, WALLING	KIA
		HATCHELL JENNINDS F.	DNB	HATCHELL, JENNINGS F.	KIA
HEFNER WILLIAM C	KIA	HEFNER WILLIAM C.	KIA	HEFNER, WILLIAM	KIA
HEUSTESS JOSEPH A JR	KIA	HUESTESS (spelling?) JOSEPH A., JR.	KIA	HEUSTESS, JOSEPH	KIA
		HUTTO ELDRIDGE L.	KIA		
JEFFERS CARL	DNB	JEFFERS CARL	DNB		



		JONES HAROLD W.	FOD	JONES, HAROLD W.	KIA
		KELLY MELVIN LEROY	DOW	KELLY MELVIN LEROY	KIA
KELLY SYDNEY P	FOD	KELLY SYDNEY P.	KIA		
		LEMON WELDON	UNK	LEMON, WELDON	KIA
		MCCARLEY TURNER EDWARD	KIA		
MC CLINTOCK J A JR	KIA	MC CLINTOCK JAMES AIKEN	KIA	MCCLINTOCK J. A.	KIA
				MCDONALD, HARVEY JOHN	KIA
MC KEOWN ARTHUR L	KIA	MC KEOWN ARTHUR L.	KIA	MC KEOWN ARTHUR	KIA
		MCSWAIN CLAUDE D.	KIA		
MONTGOMERY ROBERT L	KIA	MONTGOMERY ROBERT LEX	KIA	MONTGOMERY ROBERT	KIA
MOORE WILLIAM L	DNB	MOORE WILLIAM L.	DPOW		
		RICHARDSON CHARLES LEWIS	KIA		
SANDERS LARRY W	DOW	SANDERS LARRY WILSON	KIA		
		SIMPSON ARTHUR T.	KIA		
		TRUESDALE FRANK L.	KIA	TRUESDALE, FRANK	KIA
TURKETT JONATHAN L	KIA	TURKETT JONATHAN I. (spelling?)	KIA	TURKETT JONATHAN	KIA
WATSON CHARLIE L	DNB				
WILLIAMS PAUL L	DNB				
WOOD RALPH V	KIA	WOOD RALPH V.	KIA	WOOD RALPH	KIA
WOODWARD JOSEPH J	KIA	WOODWARD JOSEPH JR.	KIA	WOODWARD JOSEPH	KIA
WOODWARD JOHN	DNB	WOODWARD JOHN	DNB		
YARBOROUGH THOMAS W	KIA	YARBOROUGH THOMAS WHATLEY	KIA	YARBOROUGH THOMAS	KIA
* LIST OBTAINED FROM WWII HONOR LIST OF DEAD & MISSING OF SOUTH CAROLINA- COMPILED BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT JUNE 1946. ----- TRANSCRIBED BY DENA WHITESELL.				** MR. HASLETT STATED HE PUT ALL KIA ON MONUMENT.	