

THE HOWLING DAWG

FEBRUARY 2014



SPECIAL: AFTER ACTION @ OLUSTEE ISSUE



"... shore did have a large time @ Ocean Pond..." - jc

After a colder than usual winter in Georgia, it seemed like spring had sprung at Olustee. We had good attendance, fine weather, and, well, ever thing just went smoothly and pleasant. We were glad to have Ricky "Col. Coon Possum" and Beverly Smith back with us this year as well as a share of new faces around camp. It was exciting to not only see how the ranks and overall 16th Georgia family had

grown. We had more musicians than the number we once fielded as riflemen! In all things we thank God. With nothing to add, we will let the pictures talk for us ...

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ONE MAN'S OBSERVATION: TOO BUSY TO HAVE FUN?

Olustee added a new event this year, the Desoto Skirmish at Lake City. This was one of the few new events I have seen at Olustee in years - maybe ever. I have always loved going to Olustee - there is *plenty* to do. This year, we were barely inside the gates and set up before we hastily threw on our uniforms and gear and jumped on the busses for Lake City at 3:30PM only to arrive to an interminable wait before actual action began. We were not back at camp until near dark; time for supper and to bed. Saturday, up and going early for COLORS and then back on the busses for the parade. Back around lunch time, a quick sandwich was swallowed then most everyone went off to the Saturday afternoon



fighting, exiting that foray to the 5pm Memorial Service at the Monument. We were pretty much dragging our tired feet as we got back to camp and started supper. Those going to the ball had to dutifully prepare for that. Sunday, we were up and going early with barely enough time to squeeze a church service in before time for battle formation. That done, and ready to go home, the camp was dismantled, gear packed and the weary trek home began in the growing darkness. And, last but not least there is no day like the Monday morning after a big event. If I have to explain that, well, never mind. Did we have fun - I guess so? Were there any new sutlers? Maybe. Most of us only had enough time to walk by them on the way to somewhere else and not enough money to even say "sutler." Now, this may not describe everyone's 150th Olustee experience but for the regular infantry man, devoted to duty, this sums it up pretty well. I am not picking on this event. Most re-enactments are anything but laid back. A myriad of activities are available and often too many are required by the powers that be. This might be okay for the young powder burners but those who have seen the whole herd of elephants, they have other ambitions than to march themselves into nausea, then go home. This routine gets old and despite complaints, nothing is ever done about it nor will it be. Aren't you glad Clinton is such an easy going event and truly concerned about what the average re-enactor considers a good time? This is not a complaint 'cause it would do no good anyway. Just one man's observation. jwd

Upcoming events

MARCH - 14-16 - MANASSAS, GA; POC Tommy Wallace 912-557-6649.

APRIL 12 - OLD CLINTON WORKDAY

APRIL 26 - CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY - attend a service near you.

MAY 2-4 - WAR DAYS- 150TH SUNSHINE CHURCH & GRISWOLDVILLE

MAY 16-18 - 150TH BATTLE OF RESACA, GA

MAY - OLD SOLDIER'S DAY AT ERVIN GARNTO'S (in 2012 it was May 26th)

JUNE - BATTLES AT ALMA - POC Is Lee Murdock @ 478-986-5290.

JULY 26 - OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT - Living History - By invitation of the Park ONLY !

SEPTEMBER - SCV SALUTE TO VETERANS IN DUBLIN,GA(In 2012, it was on the 15th)

SEPTEMBER 19-21- BATTLE OF ATLANTA AT NASH FARM

OCTOBER 3-5 - ANDERSONVILLE (1st weekend)

OCTOBER - BATTLE @ IRWINVILLE - POC LEE MURDOCK 478-986-5290.

NOVEMBER 7-9 - SHERMAN'S OCCUPATION OF SANDERSVILLE NOVEMBER 22- 150TH GRISWOLDVILLE MEMORIAL- **SPEAKER: PASTOR JOHN WEAVER**

NOVEMBER CANNONBALL HOUSE APPARITIONS (in 2013, it was on the 9th)

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER- CHRISTMAS@RICHLAND CHURCH (in 2013 it was on Dec. 6-7)

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS AT THE CANNONBALL HOUSE (in 2013 it was on Dec. 14).

Also, The North-South Skirmish Association, Inc. (N-SSA) is hosting a shoot in Putnam County on the grounds of the old tannery (intersection of GA44 and Tanyard Rd. northeast of town) the weekend of February 28 through March 2. Old Capital Museum Society will host a dinner theater event entitled "Dinner with Uncle Billy" in the restored Legislative Chamber of the Old Statehouse. Following a family-style dinner of old southern favorites, actors will portray historic events surrounding General Sherman's occupation of the capital, memories of which still live today. November 20, 21, 22, 6:30 PM. November 23, 1 PM matinee. Price: \$50 (\$25 of which is a tax-deductible donation to Georgia's Old Capital Museum).

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It was after we got to Olustee that we learned of the passing of the mother of Captain John Paul of the 10th Georgia. He writes that he "appreciates the expressions of sympathy extended by the 16th Georgia and plans to see us at Manassas."

When we returned from Florida, we learned that Brother James Boyd's & Lady Serena Blackwell's daughter Tasha Wayne passed just before Olustee. Tasha left 2 children, husband, Mother, and assorted extended family, including us. Expenses are an issue. Anyone who would like to help them, in any amount, the phone # is 706-344-7588 and the address is 9 Boblink Way, Murrayville, GA 30564.

Also, in Olustee we found out that 10th Georgia member Roger Lee Combs, Sr., 59, entered into rest February 5th. Funeral services were held at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, February 8th



in the chapel of Beggs Funeral Home in Thomson, GA with Jimmy Bohler officiating. Interment followed in the Adams Chapel Cemetery. Roger was born in Washington, Indiana and had lived in Harlem, Georgia for the past 15 years. He was a truck driver with K&D Trucking. Survivors include his wife, Jessie Combs; son Roger Lee Combs, Jr. (Mandy); daughters, Angelique Combs, Cassie Burgtorf; grandchildren, Rebekah, Dylan and Charles. Just before publication of this newsletter we also sadly heard of the passing of Jack Wilbanks and a member of the 12th Georgia, Compatriot Graham. Sorry we do not have more details.



The Funeral of Roger Lee Combs, Sr. - 10th GA Infantry

**We give
praise and
thanks to**

***You, O God, we praise and give
thanks*** Ps.75:1

On February 5th we heard from Bobby Duskin, 16th GA member and Commander of the Logan Bleckley SCV Camp. He is recovering from neck surgery, still having some problems and reports: *"I am getting much better but it takes a little longer the older you get. Thank you all so much for your prayers and support. Your brother, Bobby*

Another testimony for God's goodness and answer to prayer comes from our good friend Mike McAlpin of the 43rd GA. Many of you also know him from the many years he has faithfully supported the Griswoldville Battlefield Commemoration. We first learned of Mike's illness, at Chickamauga. On February 3rd, he wrote: *"The MRI done Friday shows that the cancer has been killed, and has turned to scar tissue. I am a bit overwhelmed at the joy of the moment, and humbled and thankful for all things. An inspirational moment occurred when the Dr. called. I opened my Bible with the thought of reading the first verse that I paged to. It was Acts 13:30. God raised him from the dead. Of course this is refers to Jesus, not me. The reading that God had raised Jesus from the dead gave such immediate assurance that all things are possible through Jesus. It was a great moment. I still have a few minor surgeries, and there will be some periodic scans, but by the healing power of Jesus and your prayers and kind considerations all is well. Thanks, Mike*



Continue your prayers and thanksgiving to God in behalf of Bobby, Mike (good to see him at Olustee) and all that you know of that need a healing touch. Some that we aware of are: C.L. GRAY - Editor, Stainless Banner; TIM PILGRIM - GA State SCV Adjutant, FRANK FOULKE - cherished friend; and 16th GA members STEVE SMITH, RICKY SMITH, TIM FOWLER . Also, please remember those who have lost loved this year ones and the unspoken requests, among the nearest to the heart.

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GOD KNOWS OUR TIMES

- Chaplain Joel Whitehead, Jr.

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a



*time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

Everyone has times in their lives that are difficult. It is in these times that the Lord watches us. He never leaves us, but waits to hear from us. When times are good he wants us to tell Him. Even in the lowest bad times he wants to know about it.

As any father wants to hear; longs to hear word from his children who are away from him. So does our Heavenly Father, He wants to hear from us. He tells us He knows the times we go through. He states the times in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. The times of our lives are not trivial to God. He Cares for us.

Proof that God cares is that He knew us before we were in our mother's wombs and that He would send his Son to die and be raised again to life everlasting so we could be in God's family. So remember that God KNOWS our times, good and bad, in all situations give God thanks and praise in every time and season. He is the Father of the family that we are a part of through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank You God For our many blessings Amen.

A QUOTE TO PONDER

"It is not enough that we do not delight in the sins of others, and that we have not fellowship with them, but we must mourn for them, and lay them to heart; we must grieve for that which we cannot help, as those that hate sin for its own sake, and have a tender concern for the souls of others, as David." - Matthew Henry's Commentary of Ezekiel 9

LETTERS

*"We have been busy helping care for Randall's step mother, Jeanne. When she goes, we will have lost a piece of history. Her Grandfather McNeil was still alive when she was a little girl." His unit was the McNeil Rangers. Jeanne's parents had her late in life and her family had Willow Wall Plantation during the war. Could you ask our wonderful group to **pray for us**. I could sure it. We will see y'all soon." Toni and Randall Buchannan*

OL' GRIZZLEY



Had he been a soldier, they might have called him bold. Now ... just old. As an explorer, he might have gone beyond all dare. Today, few even care. He's just an ol' grizzly and all he knows to do is look you in the eye and speak his mind to you.

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Camp # 2218 of Clinton, Jones County, Georgia, hosted their 1st regular meeting of 2014 on Monday, February, 24th at their new home location of Firefly's Restaurant, 4171 Gray Hwy., Gray, GA. Last month, the Camp held their first annual Lee-Jackson Banquet with 44 people in attendance!

At the February gathering, The Camp of the Unknown Soldier enjoyed excellent food and welcomed guest speaker Jim

Brittain, who is the great grandson of Wiley F. Jenkins (12th GA), for whom the SCV Camp in Eatonton is named. Compatriot Brittain presented an remarkable program on his great grandfather and a vast collection of letters and other documents that he inherited from him.

On March 24th, we will welcome our long-time friend and compatriot Johnny Mack Nickles, of Camp 18, whose program will deal with Confederate Cutlery. As usual we will eat at 6pm and meet at 7pm, trying to be out by 8-8:30pm. Wives, children, family members and visitors are always very, very welcome and essential to our Camp.

We have received the registration forms for the 117th GEORGIA DIVISION CONVENTION/REUNION JUNE 13th & 14th, 2014 in COLUMBUS, GEORGIA , if anyone is interested in going. Visit our website at scvcamp2218.com

150th CHICKAMAUGA DVD - The DVD covering the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga has been mailed out. If you have not received a copy of the DVD or you would like an additional copy, please let them know and they will get one on the way to you. Simply email: tina@panteaoproductions.com and give your mailing address and how many DVDs you need. You can also watch the full video at: <http://youtu.be/L7JqrWkDm8I>

As many of you already know, much of the footage shot during the reenactment was intended for an upcoming independent film called Alexander's Bridge. The film is an action/science fiction type movie about a team of US Army Delta Force Operators accidentally transported back to 1863 to the Battle of Chickamauga. They find themselves in the midst of over 120,000 troops from both the Federal and Confederate armies and they must decide what they will do not only to stay alive but to get back home. They team up with a small group of Federal soldiers from Wilder's Lightning Brigade and come up with a plan to try to save lives on both sides using a mix of technology and knowhow. The name "Alexander's Bridge" comes from the actual bridge at Chickamauga.



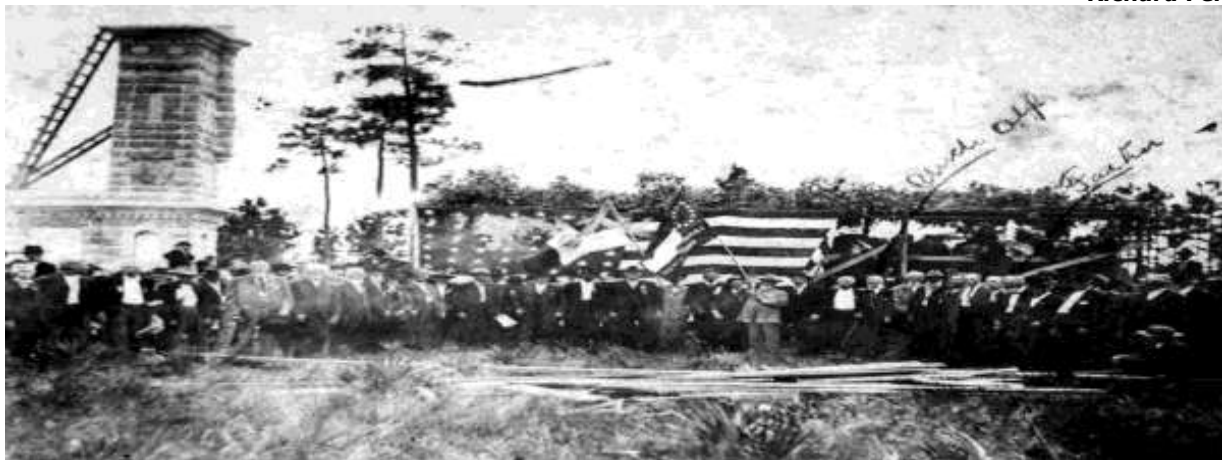
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After The Battle of Olustee: 1866 to 1949

After the smoke had cleared and the dead were buried, the armies marched away to fight in other battles, the battle scared trees were all that remained in silent testimony of the fury and carnage of the battle of Olustee. In May of 1866, Lt. Frederick E. Grossman of the 7th U.S. infantry was ordered to proceed to the Olustee battlefield and determine the whereabouts and condition of the Union graves on the battlefield. He found that the Union dead had been buried in shallow graves near where they had fallen, sometimes several in one grave. Within a few weeks after the battle the graves had been disinterred by the wild hogs in the area and the bones scattered all over the battlefield. Lieutenant Grossman and his command covered almost 2 square miles of the battlefield collecting all the bones of the fallen Yankees that he could find. Two wagons were filled with the remains and buried in a mass grave near the railroad. There he erected a wooden monument which eventually fell into a state of disrepair. In the fall of 1873, Olustee veteran Loomis Langdon of the 1st U.S. Artillery reported that all that could be seen was a weather stained and broken down fence. After 1870, John Brown, and his wife Eliza, moved to the area and began to farm the battle torn ground and raise a family. John had served in the 7th Florida infantry during the War and was wounded in the right thigh during the battle of Missionary Ridge. Family lore states

that John Brown would toss all the relics from the battle over the fence when they were plowed up in his fields. One family member, years later, told about rolling the old cannon balls around in the yard while playing as a young girl. As the years progressed the timber industry grew in the area and some of the battlefield was logged. The idea of building a monument at Olustee came from Mrs. J.N. Whitner, a member of the Martha Reid Chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy in Jacksonville, Florida. Mrs. Whitner's husband Joseph had fought at Olustee with Gamble's Artillery. She had spent time with her husband touring the battlefield and realized the need to mark the site of the battle while there were still veterans alive to point out the place. Accordingly, on January 27th, 1897, at the second convention of the State Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy held at Ocala, Florida, "Mrs. J.N. Whitner made an interesting address upon the claims of Olustee, and it was resolved that the U.D.C. of Florida, pledge themselves to raise a funds for the purpose of erecting a shaft to mark the battlefield of Olustee. Later Mrs. Whitner had the idea of asking for aid from the State and 2 years later, in 1899, the State appropriated \$2,500 for the purpose of building a monument at the battlefield. Sometime later, the construction was begun and the unveiling was set for the anniversary of the battle on February 20th, 1912. For reasons unknown, the deadline was not met and it was rescheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 1912. Over 4,000 people gathered to witness the ceremony. In following years, the U.D.C. administered the park and raised money to construct the stone fence now enclosing the monument area. In 1949, the administration of the memorial was turned over to the Florida Board of Parks. Today the monument is administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks.

- Richard Ferry



Survivors of the Battle of Olustee at the Dedication of the Battlefield Monument

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS ...

The following is an excerpt from a letter dated March 20, 1864 by Sgt. Major Rufus S. 8th U.S. Colored Troops: ***"The 8th and 7th Connecticut and 7th New Hampshire Volunteers were brigaded together. 3 o'clock P.M. musket firing was heard in front, having driven in the Rebel pickets. Heavy firing was soon heard, and the troops were moved forward rapidly. The 8h U.S.C.T., having been on the railroad for a short distance, was ordered to change direction to the right, and received orders to go into the fight without unslinging knapsacks, or the sergeants taking off their sashes, which caused nearly all the first sergeants to be killed or wounded. Only half the regiment was loaded, so harmless had been the estimate placed upon the enemy, that he was not looked for short of Lake City. No expectation of***



meeting the enemy was apparent, when not sufficient ammunition was brought along to fire over 60 rounds."

Robert J. Jones (right) was a private in Co. I, 54th Massachusetts. He was a single, 20 year-old farmer from Hamilton, Ohio when he joined the regiment on April 28, 1863. Reported missing on February 20, 1864 at the Battle of Olustee, it is supposed that he died a prisoner.

The 8th U.S. Colored Troops remained for a time in Jacksonville after the battle. 1st Lt. Oliver Willcox Norton of Company K wrote a letter to his father describing the area, giving comments on the battle as well in his letter dated March 1, 1864:

"On the 20th we fought our first battle at Olustee, or Ocean Pond, as some call it. They might as well call any other place in these pine woods some high sounding name, for this country is all alike. Since leaving Jacksonville I have not seen 500 acres of cleared land in a journey of 45 miles to the west. The country is covered with scattered pines, most of them blazed for turpentine. The ground between the trees is covered with a dense growth of coarse grass and palmetto shrubs. At intervals there are swamps, not deep, but broad and wet.... I think no battle was ever more wretchedly fought. I was going to say planned, but there was no plan. No new regiment ever went into their first fight in more unfavorable circumstances."



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Ocean Pond, 1934

Corporal Henry Shackelford was a member of the 19th Georgia and served at Olustee as a musician in the regimental band. On February 20th he wrote a letter home to his mother, from near Lake City: ***"Our brigade was camped***

on the R.R., about 12 miles from Lake City, yesterday, when we received orders to prepare to move at a moment's warning and it was not long before we moved off, but did not go more than 1/4 mile before we were halted and formed into a line of battle. We rested there about 2 hours when a scout came in and reported the enemy advancing and were within four miles, tearing up the railroad track as they came. We moved on down the railroad, which was as straight as an arrow, keeping in the edge of the woods until we got within about one mile of the Yankee skirmishers. We filed off to the right in the woods and formed a line, shucked off knapsacks and all heavy baggage, and threw out skirmishers about 200 yards in advance. They were not out long before the enemy made their appearance, advancing slowly. We could see them a 1/2 mile, as the country is quite level, and no undergrowth. They soon drove in our skirmishers and firing commenced. One could plainly see the blue coat's army in fine order. The order was given to up and at them, which was no quicker said than done, and then what an awful roar of cannon and musketry, men falling and groaning, officers giving commands, the balls flying as thick as sleet. Cheer after cheer went up, as onward we pushed firing and yelling. The Yanks couldn't stand before "Georgia Boys" and finally gave way and ran, with us pursuing. We got all their artillery, 8 pieces, took about 400 prisoners and killed about the same number. We drove them about 5 miles when a halt was ordered, we built big fires and enjoyed captured coffee, sugar, hams, bread and everything else. The "Band" was detailed to bear the wounded from the field and we did a good deal of it too. Our regiment supplied themselves with oil cloths, blankets, knapsacks, haversacks, and a number of gold & silver watches. Your son, H. "

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This letter of Sunday, February 21 is from Private James Matt Jordan of Company A, 27th Georgia, near Lake City. Captured at Petersburg on June 16, 1864, he died of chronic diarrhea January 26, 1865. at Elmira.

"My Dear Louisa, The Feds. advanced on our pickets yesterday and drove them back until about 5 o'clock P.M. at which time our brigade and 32 Ga. and 6th Ga. and some Florida troops was sent to reinforce the picket line, and from then until night some desperate slaughtering by both Rebel and Fed. Our casualties are very heavy. Of our Regt some 5 or 6 killed dead on the ground and several badly wounded but I don't know how many. The Talbot County Company lost 2 killed dead. It was the two Carlisle boys. The Yankee prisoners say they had no idea of meeting with such a force here. They said they did not expect to meet nothing but cavalry here..."



A Letter from 2nd Lt. Hugh W. Barclay Co. B 23rd GA ; Feb. 25, 1864, near Baldwin, "Colquitt's brigade to which I belong, was in camp at the time near Olustee Station, 12 miles east of Lake City. At about 8 o'clock on the morning of the 20th, we were informed that the Yankees were advancing. A part of the brigade was immediately ordered to some rifle pits hastily constructed near at hand;

the remainder forming line of battle in the open field. In this position we patiently awaited the coming of the foe for an hour, when our General, who is a fair man, concluded to meet them halfway, and 2 regiments the 13th and 28th Ga. were sent forward; the 23rd Ga. following soon after. These soon opened the fight, when all the troops were brought forward. The enemy's first line in which all the known tribes were represented, negroes included, after some resistance was broken. The fight was now conducted in Indian style, both sides availing themselves of the protection of pine trees of which kind there was plenty. Our men continued to advance, never halting, making in the meantime the woods ring with the terrible rebel yell, and as a negro or a Yankee run from tree to tree muskets enough were generally leveled at them to stop their career. On the following morning I rode over the field and was surprised to find so many killed, as the fighting had been most altogether a running one. At least 200 negroes and Yankees lay dead on the field, and as to the captured I have no reliable information, I suppose about 300.



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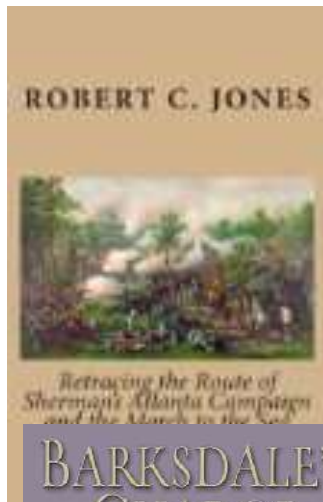
"Company C of the 2nd Florida Cavalry was camped at Palatka. As the entire Regiment was scattered at different places over the State, our Captain W.E. Chambers, received orders to report at once at Lake City as Yankees had landed at Jacksonville and was marching to Tallahassee; was going to capture and coerce Florida and whip back into the Union the State. At that time we had in

Florida only ten companies, and only about 800 strong, and Major Bird's Battalion of Infantry, which was only 400 strong. That was all the Military forces in Florida at that time. Bird's Battalion with about 3 companies of 2nd Florida Cavalry, skirmished all the way from Jacksonville to Olustee, until re-enforcements could be brought from Georgia. General Colquitt had a large cannon mounted on two flat cars. The mouth looked to me to be as large as a flour barrel, and they moved and shot that big gun about every five minutes. They shot chain and pot shot both from that big gun. The chain shot would cut pine trees down like broom straws, killing and wounding many every time it was fired. At Baldwin we had found that little town burned – every little shanty was a pile of smoking ashes. A.J. Decosta

had an old warehouse full of bales of Sea Island cotton. Every bale had been cut open and set afire. We found that a large number of wagons and teams had just left Baldwin for Jacksonville only about 30 minutes before our arrival at Baldwin. As we had nothing there to eat, we started for those wagons that were ahead. I saw a chunk of meat – it was raw pickled pork – on the side of the road. I stuck my sword in it, picked it up, cut off a small piece; passed it back down the line. Just a little ways ahead we came to a large pile of boxes of hardtack which were broken open, and almost every cracker was bloody or had signs of blood on them, as wounded soldiers had been riding in the wagon on the boxes. Every one of our men that passed near enough to those crackers grabbed a hand full. They would scrape the blood off of those crackers and eat them, and that raw pickled pork was good. Then and there we had breakfast on February 21st, 1863. Thus ended the fight as I remember..." Lawrence Jackson

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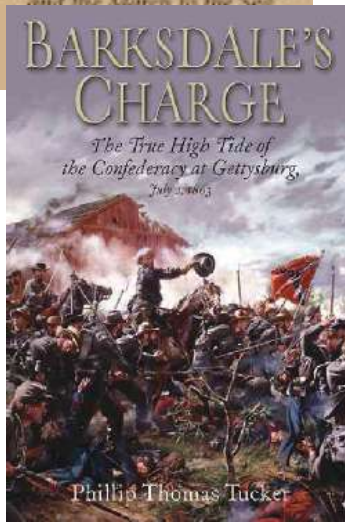
USEFUL READING



RETRACING THE ROUTE OF SHERMAN'S ATLANTA CAMPAIGN AND THE MARCH TO THE SEA

- Robert C. Jones

William Tecumseh Sherman in Georgia in 1864 is not exactly my favorite reading but books like this help us to research what and where the wanton destruction of our ancestor's lives happened. In many ways the War was ultimately decided here - in our beloved Georgia. This book tells the story of both Sherman's Atlanta Campaign and his March to the Sea, through the mechanism of looking at what remains today (monuments, buildings, trenches, etc.) at sites associated with those events. This edition contains over 90 black and white photos, historical maps and engravings.



BARKSDALE'S CHARGE: THE TRUE HIGH TIDE OF THE CONFEDERACY AT GETTYSBURG, July 2, 1863

- Phillip Thomas Tucker

On the third day of Gettysburg, Robert E. Lee launched a magnificent attack. For pure pageantry it was unsurpassed, and it also marked the centerpiece of the war, both time-wise and in

terms of how the conflict had turned a corner—from persistent Confederate hopes to impending Rebel despair. But Pickett's Charge was crushed by the Union defenders that day, having never had a chance in the first place. The Confederacy's real "high tide" at Gettysburg had come the afternoon before, during the swirling conflagration when Longstreet's Corps first entered the battle, when the Federals just barely held on. The foremost Rebel spearhead on that second day of the battle was Barksdale's Mississippi Brigade, which launched what one (Union) observer called the "grandest charge that was ever seen by mortal man." Barksdale's Brigade was already renowned in the Army of Northern Virginia for its stand-alone fights at Fredericksburg. On the second day of Gettysburg it was just champing at the bit to go in. The Federal left was not as vulnerable as Lee had envisioned, but had cooperated with Rebel wishes by extending its Third Corps into a salient. Hood's crack division was launched first, seizing Devil's Den, climbing Little Round Top, and hammering in the Wheat Field. Then Longstreet began to launch McLaws' division, and finally gave Barksdale the go-ahead. The Mississippians, with their white-haired commander on horseback at their head, utterly crushed the Peach Orchard salient and continued marauding up to Cemetery Ridge. Hancock, Meade, and other Union generals desperately struggled to find units to stem the Rebel tide. One of Barksdale's regiments, the 21st Mississippi, veered off from the Brigade in the chaos, rampaging across the field, overrunning Union battery after battery. The collapsing Federals had to gather men from four different corps to try to stem the onslaught. Barksdale himself was killed at the apex of his advance. Darkness, as well as Confederate exhaustion, finally ended the day's fight as the shaken, depleted Federal units on their heights took stock. They had barely held on against the full ferocity of the Rebels, on a day that decided the fate of the nation. Barksdale's Charge describes the exact moment when the Confederacy reached its zenith, and the soldiers of the Northern states just barely succeeded in retaining their "perfect Union."

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Lawmakers Seek Fort Hawkins Shake-Up

By Maggie Lee mlee@macon.com February 7, 2014

ATLANTA -- Area lawmakers are looking at closing down the group that runs Fort Hawkins and putting the historic site under the direct control of Macon-Bibb government. At the Fort Hawkins Commission, "some recent activities have come into question," said State Rep. James Beverly, D-Macon. He said he has heard allegations of the commission letting or promising key contracts without bidding. The Macon legislative delegation actually voted to abolish the commission during a Thursday afternoon vote, but the legislators have yet to write or publish any draft legislation or propose any replacement. They were working on reviewing boards and authorities with an eye toward paring any of them that seem superfluous since the Macon-Bibb County government marriage last month. The 11-member, volunteer Fort county appropriation, but it is slated to be spent on a visitors center, site works chairman Mike Cranford could not be passage. If Macon-Bibb County affects only their county, the rest of the as a courtesy without debate.



County government marriage last month. Hawkins Commission receives no annual get \$750,000 from sales tax revenue, to and other upgrades. Commission reached Friday. Any bill should win easy legislators agree on something that Legislature generally passes the measure

Historic Macon Names New Executive Director

Historic Macon recently announced that Ethiel Garlington will become the foundation's new executive director, effective March 10. Garlington, 35, will replace Josh Rogers, who was hired in December to become the new president and CEO of NewTown Macon. Rogers is scheduled to assume his new duties in April, so he'll have two weeks to help Garlington get acclimated. "I've known Ethiel for a number of years, and he's certainly one of the most talented preservationists in the country," Rogers said. "I've always wanted him here in Macon, but I never saw an opportunity, so this has worked out perfectly." Garlington, who lives in Knoxville, Tenn., has served as the director of Preservation Field Services for Knox Heritage since 2008. During that time, he founded the East Tennessee Preservation Alliance to provide preservation and economic development services to a 16-county region. There were several factors that led Garlington to accept the job in Macon. "The work that



Historic Macon does, such as real estate development, is unlike any other organization in the country," he said. "I was looking at the partnerships here, and there's a real sense of pride and cooperation (among) the city and public groups working together to improve neighborhoods. "My wife (Michelle) and I were really impressed with Macon. We loved the people and the architecture, and we wanted to be a part of this community."

Read more here: <http://www.macon.com/2014/02/13/2935606/historic-macon-names-new-executive.html#storylink=cpy>



A GREAT, BIG THANK YOU!

Without pictures, *The Howling Dawg* would be just sheets of paper with words on them. We are so grateful to have talented photographers who unselfishly supply us with a visual history of each event. At the risk of forgetting someone, special thanks goes out to Kenny and Cathy Stancil, Amy Thompson, Kellie Banks, Brenda Dobson and Sheri Williams for photographs appearing in this issue. - Wayne

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IMAGES OF THE 16TH GA:



PRIVATES WILLIAM T. BAILEY & HENRY M. BAILEY
Company C, 16th Georgia

William Thomas Bailey and his brother Henry were the sons of Richard and Theny Champion Bailey. William was born on 15 December 1832, and Henry followed five years later. In 1845, Richard Bailey moved his family from Lancaster, South Carolina to Hartwell, Georgia, where he worked as a laborer.

By 1860, William was a farmhand on the estate of James H. McMullan. Henry was married with two sons, and had established himself as a mechanic in Hartwell.

On 13 July 1861, Henry, William and another brother, John Cannady Bailey, enlisted in the "Hartwell Infantry," which soon became Company C of the 16th Georgia Infantry, as regiment being organized by Howell Cobb. By mid-August the unit had been shipped north and was encamped on the Richmond Fair Grounds; soon they were transferred to Yorktown. There they stayed until spring, when they were sent further south. On 19 March

1862, William wrote to his former employer, James H. McMullan, from Camp Anners, Suffolk (punctuation has been added):

Dear Friend,

I this evening avail myself the pleasure of riting you a few lines anxiously hoping these lines may reach you and find you in possession of a reasonabel potion of common health and that you may retain a sufficiency of health to survive pleasantly on.

I will give you a short history of our travels and experiance since I last ritten to you. on the second of this inst our rigment lancht out a scout to meet the Vandals, which was a verry fatieging trip owing the bad rodes and severity of the weather. the rodes were from shoemouth to halfleg deep in mud and it was raining the hole trip. at nite we just had to ly or stand and take it for two days and nites. come to camp on the forth without the Site of yankee. on the sixth left camp lamar, traveled twelve miles on foot with napsacks, cloths and

Blankets, twenty cartrage, and five days provisions. landed at James River the same evening greatly wieried, struck camp, and ly on frosen ground for our beds, and snowing rite down. stand there untill the next day rite went on bored a vessel, encountered a cold trip of sixty miles, landed at City Point at three o clock the same nite. went on bored the cars, running seventy miles to our present location, thow when we went to start, the old car refused to start and they had to cut of part of the trane and leave it, and run nine mile out to peters burg, and amongst all of it the colonel was left on that potion of the trane, and I tell you, the boys was flying around in filling ther canteens of whiskey and taking a peep at the petersburg girls. we succeeded in landing at our present location the same evening, struck camp, stretch our tents.

I saw H.P Skelton the other day and enjoyed a pleasant conversation of our past times, how we youst to rost eggs in the shavings, and (saw) several of my old acquaintance, as levants company is stationed in a mile and a half of us. I expect he will come to our company. the only objection he has to camp life he cant git to fly round the girls. so I will close. remains your friend, Wm T Bailey.

The three Bailey brothers fought with the 16th Georgia through Chancellorsville, where Henry and John were captured on 3 May 1863. They were paroled at City Point on 10 May. In July William contracted a serious lung ailment and was sent home in August. He never returned to the regiment. He was paroled in Hartwell on 18 May 1865 by Federal cavalry.

John C. Bailey was captured again on 6 May 1864 in the the Wilderness fight. By then there were no more exchanges, at least for the able-bodied, and he spent the rest of the war in the Elmira P.O.W. camp.

A month later, at Cold Harbor, Henry Bailey also went into the bag. He was sent to Point Lookout and then on to Elmira, arriving 12 July 1864 to be reunited with John.

With shoddy barracks and insufficient fuel to heat them, hundreds of Confederate prisoners succumbed to sickness. Among the 2,900 victims was Henry M. Bailey, who contracted variola and died 13 February 1865. He was buried in Grave No.2039, Woodlawn Cemetery. John survived and returned to Hartwell.

ALEXANDER PARKS ELLISON

**3rd Sergeant, Co. F , 16th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry of Walton County,
Georgia C.S.A. (1842 - 1912)**

Alexander Parks Ellison was the Son of Robert Ellison and Nancy Thompson He was born in Walton County, Georgia on the 3rd Day of June 1816 and he married on 26 th Day of November 1841 in Walton County, Georgia, to Susan Thompson the Daughter of David Thompson and Drucilla Camp. Alexander and Susan had eight children, Augustus Parks, Elizabeth, Zachariah Thompson, Washington Warren Lafayette, Mary E. Faithen, Aramatha, and Benjamin. Alexander Parks Ellison also enlisted with two of his sons , Private Augustus Parks Ellison and Private Zachariah Thompson Ellison, and there were 6 cousins also enlisted in Co F, of the 16th, GA including: Frederick Patrick , D.T. Holloway, Charles, Isaac, Lafayette and W.A. Austin.



Alexander Parks Ellison and Susan Thompson Ellison
Courtesy of: Marilyn Houser ~ Great Great Granddaughter

COMING REAL SOON: We have been able to locate a source of as many as 8 UNIFORMED images of the 51st PVV.

UNIT ELECTIONS

The 16th Georgia Infantry, Co. G, "The Jackson Rifles" will hold elections at Old Clinton War Days 2014 for the positions of Captain, 1st Lt. and 2nd Sgt. All candidates (including those currently holding these positions) **MUST** make their intentions known to the Adjutant, no later than midnight of April 1, 2014.

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16TH GA Co. G. "Jackson Rifles"

Brig. Gen. Herbert Burns - 478-668-3598
 Capt. Wm."Rebel" Bradberry-404-242-7213
 1 Lt. Noah Sprague - 706-491-9755
 1st Sgt. Kevin Sark - 478-731-8796
 2nd Sgt. Nathan Sprague - 478-320-8748
 Adjutant John Wayne "Duke" Dobson 478-731-5531
 1st Corp. Alan "Cookie" Richards 478-308-9739
 2nd Corp. Chas."Goodtime" Whitehead 478-986-8943
 3rd Corp. Lee "Pappy" Curtis -478-365-6785
 Lead Chaplain - Joel Whitehead, Jr. - 478-986-8798
 Hon. Chaplain Ronnie "Skin" Neal - 478-994-0958
 Assistant Chaplain - Charles Hill - 770-845-6878
 Treasurer - Pvt. Earl Colvin - 478-214-0687
 Honorary Colonel J. C. Nobles - 478-718-3201
 Musician - Landon Allen - 478-294-9870
 Musician - Jacob Thompson - 478-214-0687
 Musician - Aaron Bradford - 302-668-8029
 Musician - Oliver Lummus - 302-668-8029
 Musician - Al McGalliard - 478-986-4827
 Musician - Ben Morris - 478-986-1184



ON FACEBOOK:"JACKSON RIFLES" - OVER 2,000 FRIENDS. All 2011-14 issues of *The Howling Dawg* are available @ scvcamp1399.org & some @ scv2218.com, thanks to Steve Scroggins and Al McGalliard.

Ellie Mae: "Granny, what was the civil war ?"

Granny: "That's when the Yankees invaded America." (Editor's Note: Thanks to Steve Scroggins for recalling this)



"Dawg" attends Olympics at Sochi

"Truth Concerning the Confederate Battle Flag"



We have distributed over 80,000 of these very informative CDs by Pastor John Weaver at our cost, which is 35 cents each. They have gone out all over the Country and we intend to continue this worthwhile project. To order: Limit orders to increments of 50, since they are so inexpensive, and considering the time and effort it takes to ship just a few. You can get 50 for \$17.50 plus \$3.50 for postage or 100 for \$35 plus \$5 for postage (all are individually sleeved). I hope this is not a problem for any of you. If you would like to have some sent to you, please send a check, payable to me to this address: Joel Coleman/ 8405 Jenkins Rd. /Winston, Georgia 30187 or joelkc2442@gmail.com. NOTE: If you would like to hear Pastor Weaver's commentary now, you may go to EBAY and search for "Truth Concerning The Confederate Battle Flag". You will be able to click on a link in my listing there and hear the message online for free.

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Slaves and the South "Abolitionist assertions that the bondsmen were frequently inadequately clothed, underfed and driven to death are economically unreasonable. Masters wished to preserve the health and life of their slaves because a sick Negro was a liability and a dead Negro was

worth nothing. A rude plenty prevailed on the average plantation. "The best preventative of theft is plenty of pork," was the advice of a Virginian. Kindliness and patience, frequently extended even to a tolerance of slackness in every concern not vital to routine, created a degree of contentment among the slaves to keep them docile. Although Jefferson had declared "the whole commerce between master and slave is a perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions," Harriet Martineau sympathized with the masters. She wrote: "Nothing struck me more than the patience of the slave-owners . . . with their slaves." Travelers often wondered who were the actual victims of the slave system. Despite abolitionist allegations to the contrary, flights and revolts were infrequent. Fear that they should become general led the South to introduce ruthless laws for the apprehension of the absconders and federal legislation to protect their institution. Actually, however, the thousands of slaves who ran away formed but a slight portion comprising the total slave population. During the several decades of its existence only some 75,000 Negroes used the underground railroad, which was organized to aid them in their attempt to reach Canada. Flights were prompted by various causes. Some slaves undoubtedly ran away because they were talented or sensitive mulattoes who desired freedom. Others wished to escape from barbarous punishments peculiar to the slave system. Many fled . . . not to escape slavery but to return to their families and former homes. Some strayed for reasons not associated with slavery; they became tramps or vagabonds or fugitives from deserved punishments and crimes. Most slaves, unlike migratory free Negroes of a later generation, did not move from their original homes." (The South Old and New, A History, 1820-1947, Francis Butler Simkins, Alfred A. Knopf, 1947, pp. 46-47)



No Enemies

By Charles Mackay
(English Chartist poet, 1814-1889)

*YOU have no enemies, you say?
Alas! my friend, the boast is poor;
He who has mingled in the fray
Of duty, that the brave endure,
Must have made foes! If you have none,
Small is the work that you have done.
You've hit no traitor on the hip,
You've dashed no cup from perjured lip,
You've never turned the wrong to right,
You've been a coward in the fight.*



ON YOU TUBE

- * Shiloh Fiery Trail 48:30
The official National Park Service orientation film on the April 1862 Battle of Shiloh.
- * Shiloh Fiery Trail HD 48:29 by Robert M Gulledge

May 3rd, 2014 @ 1105 hrs. behind the McCarthy-Pope House

Each participant will be evaluated in 3 separate areas. Loading and firing from different positions, authenticity, and drill. Each soldier will start out with 50 points. Points will be deducted at each stage of the competition. Winner is awarded the following: \$100.00 cash, 2 pounds of powder, Plaque. Cartridges will be provided for the competition. **If you are participating, please let Adj. J.W. Dobson (waynedobson51@yahoo.com) or 478-731-5531 know prior to April 1st, 2014 so we can roll an accurate number of cartridges.** You may enter either as Federal or Confederate. Questions about the competition itself: **Lt. Noah Sprague 706-491-9755.**

Moving, loading and firing:

- (1) Participant will draw three pre-rolled cartridges and **must have a 3 band rifle or musket.**
- (2) Participant will then be timed for the following:
 - (a) Move to a specific location, load and fire from the standing position using and returning ramrod.
 - (b) Move to another location, load and fire from a kneeling position behind cover.
 - (c) Move to a third location, load and fire from a prone position.

*Whoever has the fastest time will not lose any points. Second place will lose 1 point, third place will lose 2 points etc. Points will also be deducted for improper loading techniques. 1 point will be deducted for each loading and firing mistake such as dropping ramrod, firing cap only, dropping cartridge(s), dropping cap(s), not returning ramrod, not taking an **AIMED** shot etc. (An aimed shot should be an attempt to find an actual moving target down range looking through the sights).

Authenticity:

- (1) Participant will be judged for overall authenticity guidelines either Federal or Confederate. Have a first person impression ready because there will be some first person questions. Points will be deducted for un-authentic items and also incorrect first person answers.

Drill:

- (1) Participant will be judged on the Manual of Arms and questions on basic drill maneuvers. Points will be deducted for improper Manual of Arms and wrong drill maneuver questions.

The 1st place winner will receive \$75.00 and a plaque.

2nd place, \$50.00 and a plaque.

3rd place, \$25.00 and a plaque.

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
TATTNALL INVINCIBLES CAMP # 154

Proudly Presents
15th Annual Battles at Manassas

March 15th and 16th, 2014

"The Defense of Fort Wallace-Wood at Manassas, Georgia"

A Reenactment Battle of the War Between the States

There is a \$3.00 registration fee.

Located between Reidsville and Claxton on Hwy. 280

Near the Tattnall Campground Road "Look for the Signs"

Hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM - Battle Begins at 2:00 PM Each Day

Re-enactor Friendly, Hay and Firewood Provided,

Saturday Night meal to All Re-enactors, and Camp Shows at The Fort.

There will be a competition of Musket Rapid-Fire and A contest for Most

Authentic Union & Confederate Soldier and Ladies Tea.

Mortar Competition live fire on target. School day on Friday for local school.

Come join us for "A Living History" of the Civil War

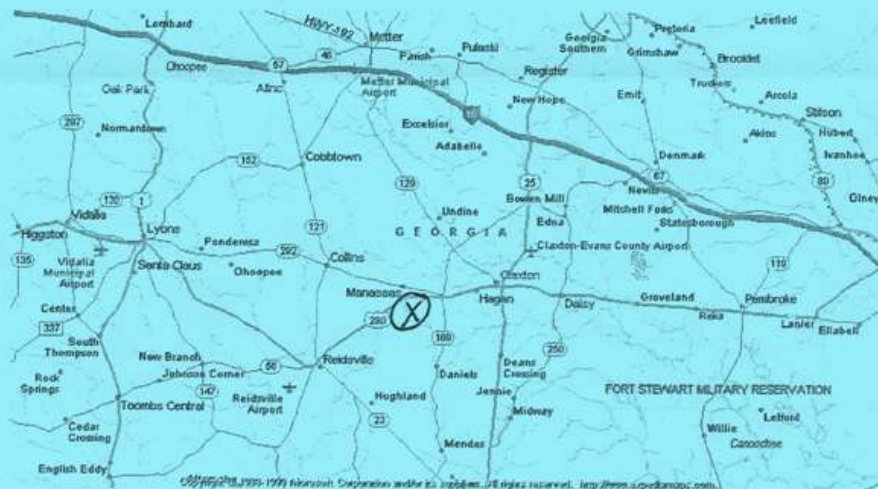
Events Each Day of the Weekend Include:

Infantry and Artillery Demonstrations, Camp Tours and

A Battle Defending Fort Wallace-Wood

For more information call 912-557-6649

Public Admission - Adults \$5.00 and Children under 11 Free



SHERMAN'S OCCUPATION OF SANDERSVILLE

COME EXPERIENCE THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENT IN HISTORIC
SANDERSVILLE, GA

NOVEMBER 7 – 9, 2014

COME WALK THE PATHS THAT SHERMAN'S ARMY WALKED 150 YEARS AGO AS THEY INVADDED SANDERSVILLE WHERE THEY ENCOUNTERED CONFEDERATE RESISTANCE. THIS BATTLE WILL BE RE-ENACTED ON THE TOWN SQUARE IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SANDERSVILLE ON SATURDAY MORNING. THERE WILL ALSO BE A BATTLE AT ANOTHER CLOSE BY LOCATION ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

THE 97TH REGIMENTAL STRING BAND WILL BE HERE ALSO TO PROVIDE MUSIC BEFORE EACH BATTLE AND A BALL ON SATURDAY NIGHT. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

\$150 WILL BE GIVEN FOR EACH ARTILLERY PIECE
(ARTILLERY WILL BE LIMITED)

\$150 WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE LARGEST INFANTRY UNIT

\$150 WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE LARGEST CALVARY UNIT

THIS IS A ONE TIME EVENT

THERE WILL BE NO REGISTRATION FEE FOR RE-ENACTORS AND NO CHARGE TO SPECTATORS. THIS EVENT SPONSORED BY
WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
AND THE 39TH GA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING AT A LATER DATE
SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THIS HISTORICAL
EVENT

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

MEL DANIEL (478) 232-8494

STACY WILLIFORD (478) 357-1120

A Jewish Confederate

Often overlooked in War Between the States histories are the Israelites in grey who made heroic sacrifices and contributions for the Southern war effort. A German immigrant of the Jewish faith, Private Louis Leon was not unusual as a Confederate soldier from North Carolina. Captain Cornehlson raised the German Volunteers in Wilmington in 1861, which became Company A of the Eighteenth North Carolina. Of the 102 men in Company A, every officer and every enlisted man but 30 had been born in Germany and volunteered to fight to defend North Carolina and the Southern Confederacy. "Lewis Leon, a well-known resident of Wilmington and a veteran of Confederate States service, was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, November 27, 1841. Three years later he was brought by his parents to New York City, whence he moved to Charlotte in 1858, and engaged in mercantile pursuits as a clerk. Becoming a member of the Charlotte Grays, he entered the active service of that command, going to the camp of instruction at Raleigh on April 21, 1861. The Gray's were assigned to Col. D.H. Hill's regiment, the First, as Company C, and took part in the Battle of Big Bethel, in which Private Leon was a participant. At the expiration of the six months' enlistment of the Bethel Regiment, he reenlisted in Company B [of] Capt. Harvey White, of the Fifty-first Regiment, commanded by Col. William Owen. He shared the service of this regiment in its subsequent honorable career, fighting at Gettysburg, Bristow Station, Mine Run, and the Wilderness, receiving a slight wound at Gettysburg but not allowing it to interfere with his duty. During the larger part of his service he was a sharpshooter. On the 5th or 6th of May, 1864, the sharpshooters of his regiment were much annoyed by one of the Federal sharpshooters who had a long range rifle and who had climbed up a tall tree, from which he could pick off the men, though sheltered by stumps and stones, himself out of range of their guns. Private Leon concluded that "this thing had to be stopped," and taking advantage of every knoll, hollow and stump, he crawled near enough for his rifle to reach, and took a "pop" at this disturber of the peace, who came tumbling down. Upon running up to his victim, Leon discovered him to be a Canadian Indian, and clutching his scalp lock, he dragged him back to the Confederate line. At the Battle of the Wilderness he was captured, and from that time until June, 1865, he was a prisoner of war at Point Lookout and Elmira, N.Y. Upon being paroled he visited his parents in New York City, and then worked his way back to North Carolina. He was warmly regarded by his comrades of Cape Fear Camp, U.C.V., and served several terms as its adjutant. When Col. James T. Morehead prepared a sketch of his regiment, the Fifty-third, Private Leon furnished him with a copy of a diary which he had kept from the organization of the regiment up to the 5th of May, 1864, when he was captured. (Chronicles of the Cape Fear River, James Sprunt, Edwards & Broughton, 1916, pp. 334-335)



Refusing Southern Care at Bentonville



"As we returned to our lines [as Johnston strengthened his position at Bentonville on 21 March 1865], which we did in a leisurely way and with little or no order, notwithstanding the enemy's shells were singing a dirge in the treetops overhead, I rode through [a swamp] with two men of my regiment. In going through my horse shied, and, looking around, I saw a Federal lieutenant of infantry leaning against a tree, badly wounded, with bloody water all around.

I checked my horse, returned to him, and offered to place him on my horse and carry him to our division hospital, where he would be immediately cared for.

His answer was: "You go to [h], you [d] Rebel. I had rather die than have your polluted hands touch me." He grew worse and worse and cursed the South and all Confederate soldiers.

So we left him to his fate. He was about 22 years of age, well dressed and very handsome." J.A. Jones, 51st Alabama Cavalry, Hagan's Brigade, Army of Tennessee. (Moore's Historical Guide to the Battle of Bentonville, Mark A. Moore, Savas Publishing, 1997, pg. 69)
EDITOR'S NOTE: The 51st Alabama Cavalry served at the July 1864 Battle of Sunshine Church

DID ABRAHAM LINCOLN KNOW JESUS?

That I may know Him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings..." - Philippians 3:10

In an 1866 interview with William Herndon, Mary Lincoln said that her husband "was not a technical Christian," whatever that might mean, she also said that "he was a religious man always" who "had a Kind of Poetry in his Nature." For most of the 20th century, historians have responded with contempt to anyone who tried to determine Lincoln's religious beliefs. They argue that Lincoln's real faith was his almost mystical devotion to the Union, and refer back to early speeches, in which he called for Americans to make a "civil religion" out of "obedience to the laws." Lincoln's many Biblical references in his speeches and writings were treated by people of his time as mere metaphors or rhetorical embellishments - in other words they were just words that would appeal to voters. Lincoln seems to have believed in God as Providence, or some kind of supernatural power beyond this earth that controlled the fates of people and nations. He sometimes quoted Shakespeare's line, "There's a divinity that shapes our end..."



Abe Lincoln and Jesus. Necedah, Wisconsin.

As a child, he was exposed to a stern form of Calvinism from preachers who emphasized the power of an omnipotent God as the kind of deity who notes the fall of every sparrow. As an adult, Lincoln's ideas, whatever they were, were not easy to grasp. While he accepted the notion of providence, and referred to it often, he rarely spoke publicly of Jesus Christ. In New Salem, Lincoln associated with freethinkers who doubted the divinity of Jesus, and he even wrote an essay mocking the idea that Jesus was the son of God. Lincoln's friends, anxious to protect his budding political career, threw the manuscript into the fire. As he matured, Lincoln learned to be more careful about expressing his views on religion. He must have said enough, however, to develop a reputation as an infidel. In 1846, when he ran for Congress against a well known Methodist preacher named Peter Cartwright, he found himself on the defensive against

Cartwright's charges that he was not a believer. Lincoln responded with a public statement that would remain the longest explanation of his religious beliefs he would ever write:

"I have never spoken with intentional disrespect of religion in general, or of any denomination of Christians in particular," Lincoln wrote, in carefully measured words that reflect the tone of more recent political denials. Although strictly true, Lincoln left open the possibility that he had spoken with unintentional disrespect. In the next paragraph he agreed with his readers that it would be wrong for any candidate to scoff openly at religion, and stated that he himself would not vote for such a person, because "I still do not think any man has the right to insult the feelings, and injure the morals, of the community in which he may live." Like any skilled politician, Lincoln managed to have it both ways: he shared his audience's disapproval of "infidels," but only those who scoff "openly" and thereby insult the majority's feelings. He didn't say that he belonged to the majority, and carefully reserved the possibility that he scoffed at religion, just not openly.

Over time, Lincoln's interest in religion grew. The death of his son Eddie in 1850 gave him cause to ponder the brevity and meaning of life on earth, and of course the casualties of the War forced him to confront the issue every day. There is no evidence that he ever underwent a conversion experience, but the historical record does give us glimpses of Lincoln gradually developing a more personal "relationship" with God. Lincoln's old friend Joshua Speed paid a visit to Washington, came upon Lincoln reading the Bible, and gently mocked him for it, asking if Lincoln had recovered from his youthful skepticism. Lincoln, according to Speed, said that he had, and urged Speed to do the same. Indicating the Bible, Lincoln told Speed that he should "take all of this Book upon reason that you can, and the balance on faith, and you will live and die a happier man."

These stories reveal Lincoln's greater willingness to accept some of the ideas and sources of traditional Christianity, but they still fall far short of implying any kind of conversion experience. Lincoln consistently referred to his "Maker," not to Jesus Christ personally, much as he did in all of his religious writings. Lincoln's God, it seems, was his Maker, the Old Testament God, the Almighty, a single all-powerful Providence, rather than the triune Christian God who offers salvation specifically through a personal relationship with His only Son. When Lincoln recommended the Bible to Speed, he did not say that he believed everything in it, nor that he considered belief necessary for salvation. His endorsement, instead, conveys the impression that he regarded it as a sort of self-help book that might be beyond the bounds of reason, but ought to be taken on faith anyway in order to "live and die a happier man." The utility of Lincoln's Bible ends with death; it's not a ticket to the afterlife. In this, as in most of his religious and philosophical thought, Lincoln showed no evidence of undergoing a conversion to conventional Christianity.

History records few men whose merits have been so exaggerated and whose demerits have been so minimized as have those of Abraham Lincoln. Indeed, some Northern writers say it amounts to a "patent perversion of the truth, and a positive fraud on the public." General Don Piatt, an officer in the Federal Army, a friend of Lincoln and a man of character and culture, said:

"With us, when a leader dies, all good men go to lying about him. Abraham Lincoln has almost disappeared from human knowledge. I hear of him, and I read of him in eulogies and biographies, but I fail to recognize the man I knew in life."

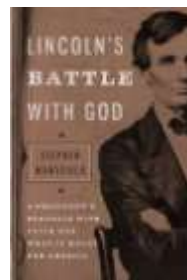
It is interesting to speculate if Lincoln was a Christian - if he knew the

Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior. But, no question will ever be more important than **DO YOU KNOW HIM?** 1 John 5:12 says, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." Either you have HIM or you don't. You can today, right here, and right now. Just pray: Don't wait; **RIGHT NOW!**

"Oh God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus was my substitute when He died on the Cross. I believe His shed blood, death, burial, and resurrection were for me. I now receive Him as my Savior. I thank You for the forgiveness of my sins, the gift of salvation and everlasting life, because of Your merciful grace. Amen."

From: *Facts and Falsehoods*, p. 36-7; *Men Who Saved the Union*, page 28.

READ MORE ON THE SUBJECT:





At Olustee 2014, the 16th Georgia enjoyed the company of the Stancil family (Kenny, Cathy & Evie), who came as guests of Sgt. Kevin Sark. Daughter, Evie, has recently completed a Civil War project which won her 1st place in regional competition and qualified her to compete at the State level on April 26th at Mercer University on. We congratulate her and wish her all the best!



THE WAR IN PUTNAM COUNTY

EATONTON, GA --Eatonton commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and Sherman's march through Putnam County with special civil war exhibits and artifacts from several private collections throughout the year as well as a special weekend of reenactments and storytelling November 20-24, 2014. From March through November, numerous museums offer locals and visitors a rare glimpse into Eatonton's past, from local family letters to period clothing, a multitude of artifacts will be on display. During the November weekend, re-enactors will recreate camp life in Eatonton and historic homes will be open for exhibits and guided tours. On November 15, 1864 Sherman began his double-pronged march across Georgia from Atlanta to Savannah, passing through the Eatonton area on November 19, 1864. Many of Eatonton's industries were burned and much of Eatonton served as a tent hospital area for evacuees from the Battle of Atlanta. The Old School History Museum features a number of new items in its Civil War display including an 1866 U.S. Government Pardon of an Eatonton Confederate sympathizer with Andrew Johnson and William Seward signatures, Confederate discharge papers of an Eatonton soldier and several 1860's period dresses. Visitors will also be fascinated by a video of a Denham family descendant reading an 1864 family letter that details the destruction of Denhamville, Sherman's reason for coming to Eatonton, and the Denham family's narrow escape. The museum is home to the circa 1840 fish weathervane that once graced the Denham Tannery chimney. The Georgia Writers Museum is hosting a special exhibition of writings from the Civil War including collections from descendants of Civil War Veterans that include letters and journals. Published writings and newspaper accounts reflecting Civil War events within the region will also be on display. Rock Hawk Effigy & Trails is an outdoor classroom that has educational displays along the 15 miles of trails that surround and lead to the ancient effigy. The displays along the trail and wetlands and the indoor and outdoor interpretive centers near the effigy cover a wide variety of flora and fauna as well as 12,000 years of the area's history, including a history of Putnam County's unique large effigies, old cemeteries, quarries and special storyboards depicting life on the home front during the war. November 20-24, 2014 marks the sesquicentennial of Sherman's march in Putnam County and a weekend full of events. In addition to the civil war display, the Old School History Museum will exhibit rarely seen artifacts from several private collections this weekend only. Throughout the weekend, re-enactors will recreate camp life that occurred in Eatonton, including a tent hospital area. The Bronson House and Vincent-Green House will be open for guided tours depicting stories, artifacts and life during the Civil War era.

We invite you to walk in the footsteps of history and remember Eatonton times of 150 years ago. For more information on any of these locations or events, please contact the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce, (706) 485-7701 or visit www.visiteatonton.com. NOTE: The Old School History Museum is located within The Plaza Arts Center at 305 North Madison Avenue and is open Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and offers guided tours Saturdays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sundays 2 p.m.– 4 p.m. The Georgia Writers Museum is located in historic downtown Eatonton at 109 South Jefferson Avenue and is open Wednesday – Sunday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Rock Hawk Effigy and Trails is located off Georgia Highway 16 and is open every day from sunrise to sunset.

Ocmulgee Boundary Study Recommends Huge Expansion



The temple mound at the Ocmulgee National Monument (above) is seen in 2010 from the swamp below the mound between the monument and the property often referred to as the Ocmulgee Old Fields.

The Ocmulgee National Monument could expand by more than 2,000 acres if a proposal from a boundary study is implemented. A draft of the Old Fields Boundary Study and Environmental Assessment is now available for review and comment, and a public meeting on the proposal -- for fielding comments and questions -- is scheduled for March 6, from 5-8 p.m. — gblankenship@macon.com

Read more here:

<http://www.macon.com/2014/02/19/2947506/ocmulgee-boundary-study-recommends.html#storylink=cpy>