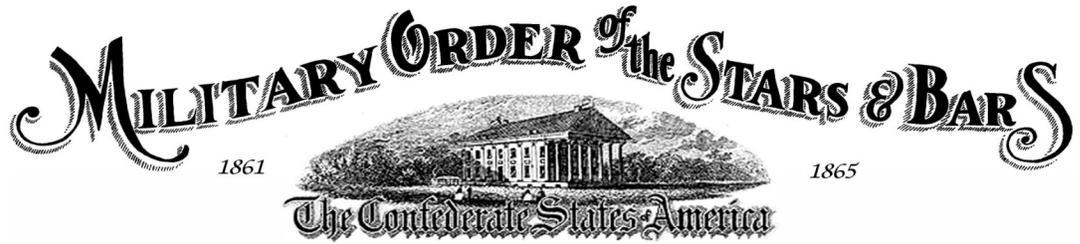
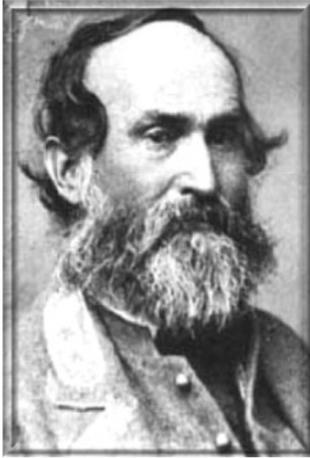




Volume 4, Number 10  
October 2012



## Officer's Call



### Sesquicentennial Series Article #25 *General Jubal Early's Final Defeat*

Submitted by William L. Caynor, Adjutant General

There is a little known battle, fought in the Shenandoah Valley that greatly affected the Confederate collapse in Virginia in 1865. This scantily recorded and discussed event occurred at Waynesboro, Virginia on March 2, 1865 and the commanders contesting one another were Lt. General Jubal Early and Major General George Custer.

In early 1865 General Early's Army of the Valley was a skeleton of its former self. The 1864 valley campaign had decimated its ranks and between Sheridan's burning of valuable resources and the recent campaigning, his army shrank to 1,600 men consisting of two brigades of infantry and some artillery. In December of 1864 much of the infantry had been sent to support Lee at Petersburg and the majority of artillery travelled to the lower valley for forage. The rest of Early's army encamped for the winter at Fishersville, while Early remained in Staunton.

In February, General Phillip Sheridan received orders from General Grant to move his 10,000 man cavalry force south through the valley with the objective to destroy the Central Virginia Railroad, the James River Canal and to capture Lynchburg. After accomplishing these tasks his army was to ride further south and link up with General Sherman's army in North Carolina. The troopers were given five days rations as they left their winter encampment at Winchester on February 27<sup>th</sup> moving south along the Valley Pike.

Sheridan's first engagement with the confederates was at Mount Crawford on the 29<sup>th</sup> where General Rosser attempted to burn the covered bridge over the Middle River, although two union regiments of Colonel Henry Capehart's brigade swam the river upstream and flanked the confederates as the rest of his brigade charged through the burning bridge defeating Rosser and driving his cavalry east. General Jubal Early learned of Sheridan's movement and ordered his small force of two brigades to move towards Waynesboro where they would entrench and await the enemy.

General Custer, one of Sheridan's two divisions, was ordered by Sheridan to seek out the enemy position and strength as well as to destroy the railroad bridge at Waynesboro. The 3<sup>rd</sup> division (Custer's division) took the lead while riding east through Staunton. Custer moved slowly because of the road conditions caused by the spring thaw of swollen streams and rivers. The blue bellies reached Waynesboro at 2 p.m. on March 2<sup>nd</sup> after riding in heavy rain and sleet; all the men and animals were unrecognizable, being covered with thickly strewed mud. When Custer arrived the southerner's were attempting to take shelter from the cold sleet and warm themselves by the fire. Custer surveyed the field and identified that the two confederate brigades were heavily entrenched behind rail and earth breastworks on a

( — Continued on Page 5 — )



Stuart



Hampton



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R. F. Lee



Gordon



Hood



Jackson





## Features

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### 2012-2014

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The MOS&B *Officer's Call*, a leader among heritage magazines, is published monthly by the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

The members of the MOS&B are descendants of the Confederate Officer Corps and elected government officials. We are dedicated to the preservation and education of the memory of our ancestors and the traditional values of our Southern Heritage.

Address all general business or advertising correspondence to MOS&B IHQ, P O Box 1700, White House, TN 37188-1700

## Commander General's Message

### Collateral Memberships



The *Military Order of the Stars and Bars* is unique among heritage groups, because of its allowance of membership based on unrestricted collateral relationships. This is because the Order is more than just another heritage group. It is a guardian and preserver of the traditions and history of the Confederate Officer Corps and the Confederate Civilian Authority. Anyone with a genealogically confirmed "one drop of blood" tying an individual to a qualifying Confederate is eligible for membership. When did this standard come into being, and why?

Initially membership in the Order was restricted to the lineal blood descendants of qualifying Confederates. This was the case from 1938 until 1951. The first thirteen years of the Order saw 114 men join. Forty-seven of these were founders in 1938, and were in addition to our fifteen founding Confederates. Interestingly, at that time, qualifying Confederates included those who advanced in the ranks during the *United Confederate Veterans* period. Such ranks no longer qualify for membership.

The first deviation of record from a lineal blood descendant was the acceptance in 1951 of the descendant of a brother of a qualifying Confederate with member number 115. This continued to be the standard until 1960 when member number 174 was accepted based upon a cousin relationship. A quick calculation shows that the Order was gaining about 5 new members per year, and losing about 3 to death and another 5 to inactivity.

In 1953 William David McCain took over the *Sons of Confederate Veterans*, which had dwindled to about 1000 members and its affiliate the Military\* *Order of the Stars and Bars*, which had dropped to something less than 50 members. McCain's primary effort was with the SCV. He served as the Adjutant General of the Order for over ten years before he formally joined it himself in 1965. During the last forty years of McCain's life over 4200 men joined the Order [1953-1993]. In the nearly twenty years since his death over 3300 more have joined.

To accomplish the regeneration of the MOS&B, AG McCain made a strategic decision in 1960 to increase membership in the Order by establishing collateral relationships as qualifying. He did not place any limitation on the degree of collateral and personally sponsored applicants with some degree of eighth cousinship.

AG McCain understood that the MOS&B had a greater purpose than simply being just another heritage club. He saw it as a vehicle for marshaling men with an interest in preserving the rich heritage of the Confederate Officer Corps and the Civilian Authorities of the Confederacy into a Brotherhood to advance that purpose. He wanted to make it possible for men with collateral ties to be a part of achieving that mission.

Today 45% of our membership has a relationship of something other than a direct descendant of a qualifying Confederate. The 55% who are direct descendants can celebrate that relationship with a Real Grandson's medal – or a medal with some level of "Great" appended to it. Additionally, some of the 45% may also qualify for a Real Grandson's medal, because eligibility for that recognition also extends to those with a direct ancestor who served in the Confederate enlisted ranks.

A special "Collaterals" project has been established for those with a proven genealogical tie to several of our notables. These include Generals Forrest, Jackson, Lee and Stuart and President Davis. This database is maintained online and is accessible through our website. Many have elected to create a supplemental tie to these gentlemen, which is appended to their membership records and for which they receive a quality certificate attesting to the relationship.

Those opposed to our mission are legion. We need all who support remembering and honoring our Confederate leadership to lend their strength to our numbers.

\* *Military Order of the Stars and Bars* is intentionally non-italicized for Military. Military was later appended to the name *Order of the Stars and Bars*.

Gentlemen, every day matters! *YOU* are the Order and our future is in *YOUR* hands!

Respectfully,

*Toni Turk*

Commander General



## **Know Your Leaders**

### **MICHAEL CAIN GRIFFIN, SR.**

#### **ANV Councilor**

Michael Cain Griffin ("Cain") lives in the Charleston, South Carolina area. He was fortunate to have lived many places in the U.S. while his Dad served in the U.S. Air Force.

He is currently the Commander of General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard Chapter #300 of the Military Order of the Stars Bars (MOS&B) in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

He is a recipient of the MOS&B's Major Pelham award. He is a life member of the MOS&B at the national and society level. He was formerly a member of the General Maxcy Gregg MOS&B chapter in Columbia, S.C. before he transferred his membership to the Battle of Dingles Mill MOS&B chapter in Sumter, S.C. to help it retain viability. After that he was active in founding and is a charter member of the Beauregard MOS&B chapter.

He is married to the former Tammy Ann Steele of Summerville and they have three children. He is a member and serves with the youth ministry of Northside Baptist Church in North Charleston, SC. He graduated from the College of Charleston in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He is a licensed CPA in the state of South Carolina. He has been employed with Cape Romain Contractors, Inc., a marine contractor, since 1997.

He joined the MOS&B on the record of his great-great uncle, Major Nathan Snow Blount, commander of the 7th Florida Infantry Regiment. Nathan was a Florida pioneer who fought the Seminoles. He raised a company for Confederate service from Polk County, Florida called the South Florida Bulldogs which mustered into Confederate service as Company E of the 7th Florida Infantry and served in the Army of Tennessee. Nathan's grandfather was in the South Carolina Militia from the Beaufort district and served in the American Revolution under General Francis Marion. Nathan's great-great uncle was William Blount, Paymaster for North Carolina Continental troops, signer of the U.S. Constitution, Congressman from Tennessee and last Territorial Governor for Tennessee.

He enjoys playing the bugle for Confederate memorial services. He is past Commander of the General Ellison Capers Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) Camp #1212 in Moncks Corner, SC. He has also served as Lt. Commander and Quartermaster. He received the SCV Meritorious Service award twice.



## **Know Your Leaders**

### **JOHN NORTHPROP WILLIAMS**

#### **AVN Councilor**

I was born and raised in Virginia. My father had a Construction Company, so I started working at age 12. After graduating from High School I went into the Army Security Agency, serving four years. Then I received the GI bill and went to college at Elon College in North Carolina. I moved in 1972 to Lubbock, Texas to get a masters at Texas Tech University. I was forced out because of the birth of my son. After a few years I was

divorced from my first wife, and moved back to Virginia.

After being advised by my father to never go into Construction, I went into Construction because of my love for the trades. I started a small construction corporation, and worked 7 states around Washington, D.C. for many years. The economy continued to get bad then good then bad over the years, so I moved to Florida. I was picked up as a Commercial Superintendent in West Palm Beach, FL, and built waste water treatment plants, a 10 story Hilton Hotel, and other high rise office buildings. I was picked up by The Marriott, and moved to Atlanta, GA as an owner's representative for Marriott. I built hotels around the southern US.

I got bored of office politics and took a job as Superintendent with a large corporation out of Atlanta, GA, and then the traveling really started. I worked from Texas to North Dakota to Maine and back to Florida and everywhere in between. We built Large Box Commercial projects. The owner died and his sons took over and ran the business into the ground. I retired and never looked back.

I have had a very interesting life, but my interest in history and the MOS&B has stirred something inside.

(- From Page 1: Sesquicentennial Article #25 - )

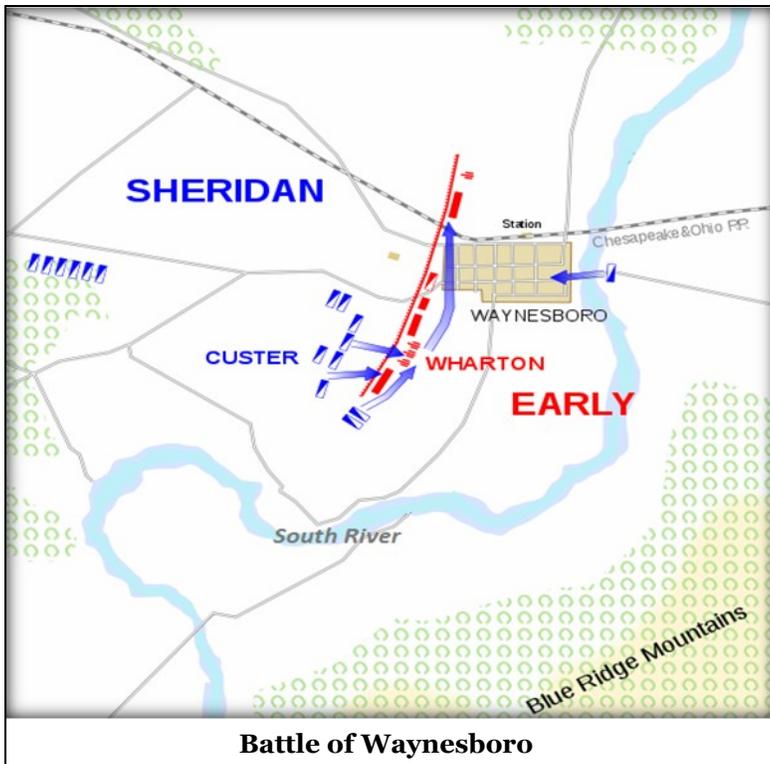
range of hills located just west of town. Initially, Custer deployed skirmishers, but they made a healthy retreat after a cannonade from Nelson's confederate artillery. Custer reconnoitered and noticed that the right flank of General Gabriel Wharton's division was occupied by two pieces of artillery and rested at a barn, but the left flank of the confederate line, commanded by Major John L. Caynor of the 60th Virginia infantry, was anchored on a dense grouping of trees, leaving approximately one-eighth of a mile of open ground from the confederate left to the South River. Knowing that a frontal assault on a heavily entrenched foe would claim many of his men, he decided to exploit the weakness on the confederate left and sent three regiments of cavalry under Colonel Whitaker to attack their flank. These regiments were equipped with Spencers, seven-shot carbines as opposed to the confederate muzzleloaders. The yanks were to dismount and charge through the woods into Major Caynor's regiment when the signal was given. In the meanwhile the 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade of Custer's division dismounted in the confederate front and kept the confederates occupied with rifle fire while Woodruff's artillery fired barrages into their entrenchments. Custer's 3<sup>rd</sup> brigade stayed mounted behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade in front of the confederate left and prepared to charge. At 3 p.m. the bugle sounded, giving the signal to charge, and the three regiments on Caynor's left charged into his line through the trees, simultaneously Custer charged their front with two brigades followed by the 8<sup>th</sup> New York and 1<sup>st</sup> Connecticut cavalry who were formed in columns of four. Early saw his left giving way and ordered General Wharton to ride there and take command, but the collapse could not be countermanded and Wharton fled to save himself. Several officers tried to rally around Early's flag, but the blue horseman soon arrived and one struck the color bearer and retrieved the souvenir. Early's men were completely taken by surprise and began a full retreat for the bridge crossing in their rear, but were cut off by the Yankee horseman. The four pieces of artillery stationed on the 60th Virginia's right continued to fire until overtaken by the blue line on horseback. Custer reported that one cannon had the charge inserted in the bore and the sponge staff still in the tube.

Jedediah Hotchkiss wrote that there was panic and a stampede to the rear, the likes that he had never seen before. Some continued to fight, but many struggled to make the road and railroad bridge. Only a remnant of Rosser's cavalry and Generals Early, Wharton, Long, Lilley, brigade commander Lt. Colonel Fife and twenty or so southerners escaped on horseback as the Yankees were in quick pursuit. Hotchkiss states " they were firing constantly and yelling" "Stop" "Stop" "Stop." The soldiers on foot could not outrun the enemy as they quickly encircled the southerners by crossing and blocking both bridges from the rear. During the melee, most of the commanders fled on horseback leaving lower ranking officers to rally their men. Besides Colonel Forsberg and Major Harmon, Caynor was one of the ranking officers, illustrating that the commanders evacuated. Several confederate officers were shot at while trying to surrender. Colonel Forsberg was fired upon, the ball passing close to his face. Not being disarmed as of yet he quickly pulled his revolver and the horseman rode away, returning minutes later with his comrades demanding "surrender or die." Major William Harman and another officer were confronted by horseman in the street who demanded their surrender and shot and killed the gallant officer before giving him a chance to do so. Small pockets of resistance were everywhere, men scrambling for safety for themselves and their sacred battle flag. Caynor and the rest of his comrades were forced to throw down their weapons and raised their hands in surrender. AAG Lt. Cordell tore the 36th Virginia flag from its staff and tucked it underneath his shirt to prevent its capture.

Early stated that he watched from the top of a hill "and had the mortification of seeing the greater part of my command being carried off as prisoners."

After the victory consummated, Custer celebrated by riding up and down the streets of Waynesboro with his captured flags while the rest of his union troopers continued to capture and collect their spoils on the other side of the river with Early's 2nd Corp wagon train.

The overwhelming numbers of cavalry and their superior seven-shot Spencer carbine against the confederate muzzle-loading Richmond rifle, along with Custer's surprise attack on Caynor's left created an easy rout for the northerners. The entire army of the Confederate Valley District was no more. Custer captured their wagon train consisting of 150 wagons and ambulances with their teams, which included General Early's personal headquarters wagon, 9 confederate battle flags and 16 other flags, 1,303 men and 11 pieces of artillery with caissons and 800 mules and horses.



Colonel Forsberg, Major Caynor and the other prisoners, along with a few of the artillery pieces captured were marched back to Winchester guarded by 1500 union cavalrymen under the command of Colonel J.L. Thompson of the 1<sup>st</sup> New Hampshire. Thompson's security force was attacked by General Rosser's cavalry in a desperate attempt to free the last confederate soldiers defending the valley. He attacked the enemy near Harrisonburg on the sixth and captured a few prisoners and again on the morning of the 7th near Reid's Hill. The Yankees were detained for a day, abandoning the only piece of artillery they had, and their ambulances. He annoyed them a good deal, and enabled a good many of our men to escape. The southern prisoners were put in railroad cars at Stephenson's Depot and taken to Point Lookout Prison.

The battle lasted a little over an hour and almost Early's entire army to the man was captured. Sheridan and his other cavalry division were not engaged, only Custer's 5,000 troopers of the 3rd division against the 1,400 or so confeder-

ates. Casualties included two confederate killed and three wounded and two union troopers killed, three severely wounded and four slightly wounded. Totalling fourteen casualties.

Jubal's decision to place his Valley Army with the swollen South River to their back and left flank exposed so that he could remove five artillery pieces and some stores created what ensued. If he had placed his army just four miles to the west at Rockfish Gap, he could have held off his larger foe. The superior weaponry of repeating rifles to muzzle-loaders was in comparable in a quick movement and surprise, such as occurred in this battle. One confederate said of the Spencer that the "Yankee could load on Sunday and fire all week." Early's veteran force was cold, wet and hungry that spring morning and the lack of leadership in the midst of battle allowed for all the elements to be in place for an easy defeat.

This confederate debacle opened the entire valley and the rear lines of General Lee at Richmond and Petersburg, to Sheridan's 10,000 man cavalry unit. Sheridan spent the next few weeks burning and destroying confederate supplies and portions of the James River Canal and the Virginia Central Railroad before meeting up with Grant in Petersburg on March 25. On March 31, Sheridan's army turned General Lee's right at the Dinwiddie Court House and caused the confederate line to crumble. Ultimately leading to the evacuation of Richmond and the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox nine days later.

General Jubal Anderson Early never assumed field command again.

**PHUNNY PHELLOW**



**MAY NOW READY.**

**Respond To Your Country's Call  
75th MOS&B Anniversary Book Project**

Is soliciting your assistance for information pertaining to your Confederate Ancestor. The anniversary book will devote one chapter to our ancestors, so if you would like to submit a story or biography of your Confederate Ancestor in 350 words or less we will attempt to include it in the book depending on the quantity of submissions and available space. This is a great opportunity to recognize your Southern Heritage.

Please submit all confederate stories & biographies to: Historian General Ben Willingham, e-mail: [ben@willingham.com](mailto:ben@willingham.com).

## JOIN THE MOS&B Color Guard

**To join:** All members will need a Confederate Officer uniform to wear in the Color Guard. There will be no specific Officer uniform as members can wear any Officer uniform of their own choosing, including that of their own ancestor. All members shall also wear white dress gloves (they can be purchased at any formal wear store). I will have flags and flag carriers for members to use. I will also as Commander of the Color Guard train each member the Hardee's tactics that will be used. Together we will form the MOS&B Color Guard to provide historic presentation of the Confederate Officer Corps. Please contact Commander Ray Rooks to join by email at [mrgnaphill@aol.com](mailto:mrgnaphill@aol.com) or by phone at 410-258-2223. Forward with the Colors!

## BE SURE AND CHECK OUT THE MOS&B STORE WEB SITE

NEW ITEMS HAVE BEEN ADDED  
IN ADDITION TO THE GREAT BUYS ON  
EXISTING ITEMS.

[http://  
www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.net/  
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## Request for E-Mail and Mailing Changes

We need your correct E-mail address and mailing address. We are sending out the "Officer's Call" electronically; as well as, printed. Please make sure we have your current E-mail and physical address. Contact us at [headquarters@mosbihq.org](mailto:headquarters@mosbihq.org) so we may stay in touch.

## CALENDAR

Chapters, Societies and Departments can have their special events publicized on the new website calendar at: <http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org/>. Please submit the name of the event, its location, date, time, contact person, and any special instructions to the Adjutant General Bill Caynor at: [caynorwrls@frii.com](mailto:caynorwrls@frii.com).

## Sesquicentennial Highlight Article Notice

Any Society is welcome to submit a "Sesquicentennial Highlight Article" for publication consideration in the *Officers' Call*. Sesquicentennial Committee Chairman Ben Willingham asks that you coordinate thru him, as he is "orchestrating" these topics for the MOS&B newsletter. He can be contacted at [ben@willingham.com](mailto:ben@willingham.com).

## Submittal Entries

MOS&B Officer's Call Magazine welcomes submittals via e-mail to [editor@mosbfl.org](mailto:editor@mosbfl.org) or [swampeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:swampeditor@yahoo.com) on or before the 5th day of the month. Pictures are welcome. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word format or as plain text in your e-mail.

## Gatehouse Press online Civil War magazine

Gatehouse Press, publisher of Morningside books and *The Gettysburg Magazine*, now has a FREE Civil War magazine on the website. Every Monday and Thursday we post a new article. We also have a Photo of the Day every day. You can submit your own photos to be posted.

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We saved the historic house General James Longstreet used as his headquarters during the winter of 1863 – 64 from demolition and are developing it into a museum, (See [www.longstreetmuseum.com](http://www.longstreetmuseum.com)), and historic Bethesda Church which was used as a hospital by both armies, and battlefield preservation.

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**YOUR PATRONAGE IS APPRECIATED!**



60th Virginia Infantry Flag (WD 195)  
courtesy of the Museum of the Confederacy  
Richmond, Virginia

## Help Us Save This Flag

On August 3, 2012 permission was granted by the Museum of the Confederacy to seek donations to protect and preserve this valuable piece of American History. The 60th Virginia regimental flag has not been previously conserved or treated and was among the 282 unidentified regimental flags held by the U.S. War Department that were returned to The Museum of the Confederacy (MOC), per Joint Resolution No. 43 of June 29, 1906. It was delivered to the MOC on July 13, 1906. While the museum was located within the White House of the Confederacy, the flag was stored there. When the new museum facility opened in 1976, it was transferred into that building (where it resides today).

The condition is of such a concern that the conservator has recommended that this flag be advanced "at the top of the priority list to halt any further loss." There is much damage from battle and time, but this is a very viable piece for restoration. Much work needs to be done and soon.

The expense for restoration is \$16,500, but we believe that we cannot put a price tag on what this flag represents. Many men were wounded or died beneath this flag, marching straight into the enemy. In our hearts they have all marched into immortality.

## History of the 60th Virginia Regiment

The 60th Virginia Infantry Regiment consisted of soldiers from **Mercer, Monroe, Greenbrier, Fayette, Roane, Botetourt, Alleghany, Braxton and Fauquier Counties**. The regiment was originally formed as the 3rd Regiment in Wise's Legion in mid 1861. On August 13, 1861 the Sixtieth Virginia Regiment was formed with ten companies of the Legion which were mainly from western counties.

The organization served under General Wise in his Western Virginia campaign until they were ordered to South Carolina with General Lee to guard the coastal region. While Marse Robert was in camp he took a liking to a Confederate grey horse ridden by Captain Joseph Broun, the quartermaster of the regiment. Lee would purchase this horse and name him Traveller. Traveller was Lee's faithful companion throughout the war and his life.

The sixtieth returned to Virginia to defend Richmond in the Seven Days battle of 1862. This hard-fighting regiment received 204 casualties while fighting at Mechanicsville, Gaines Mill and Frayser's Farm. At Frayser's Farm the unit charged and recaptured six napoleon cannons while brawling with the bayonet. Private Christian, of Co. I, was assailed by four Yankees. He shot one, bayoneted a second, when his brother Joseph, attracted by his cries of "Help! Help!" ran to his assistance and shot the third, and as the fourth wheeled and ran "Bob" pitched his musket at him and the bayonet entered between his shoulders protruding through his breastbone. He fell and begged piteously to have the weapon extracted, to which "Bob" replied that he was "too tired" just then, but would relieve him when rested. "Bob" was pretty well used up, bayoneted through both arms and a furrow plowed transversely across his breast. This altercation earned the sixtieth crossed bayonets on their regimental flag, ordered by General Lee.

The regiment served under Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain and then Colonel McCausland, protecting the mountain passes of southwestern Virginia from the 1862 to early 1864. This assignment was essential for guarding the salt, niter mines and the rail lines supplying Richmond from the west.

Grant's 1864 three pronged assault induced heavy campaigning to drive the Yankee invader from their soil. At Cloyd's Mountain the sixtieth suffered 152 casualties and the deaths of their Lt. Colonel and Major. Piedmont shortly followed where their Ensign was killed and their Colonel (B.H. Jones) captured. They defended Lynchburg and then swarmed the union capital, fighting at Monocacy, Kernstown and then Winchester, where their flag was captured by Sgt. Henry Fox of the 5th Michigan Cavalry. Colonel Jones said this flag, "attracted the death-shot to half a dozen color-bearers". Private Thornton Kelly, part of the color guard, "had impaled several Yankees on its

spearhead," before being wounded in the face by a saber cut and captured for his efforts. Thornton spent the remainder of the war in Point Lookout Prison. Jones exclaims, "What would I not give for that glorious battle-torn banner to transmit as an heir-loom?"

The regiment then fought at Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek before relenting to the overwhelming numbers at Waynesboro on March 2, 1865, where the regiment of 154 men under Acting Colonel John L. Caynor were captured with much of General Early's Valley Army. The few men that escaped and the remaining men not present were disbanded at Christiansburg on April 12, 1865 after learning of Lee's surrender.

Statistically, 2,010 men served in the sixtieth over the course of four years, 506 were captured, 306 wounded, ten required amputations and fifty-three of the 306 died of their wounds. Three hundred thirty-three men of this regiment gave their lives as the ultimate sacrifice for the cause. Forty-eight of these died in prison and seventy-one were killed on the field of battle where this flag fluttered overhead. Essentially, more than half of this regiment were casualties at sometime during the war.

Contributions can be mailed directly to:

Museum of Confederacy  
60th Virginia Flag Restoration  
1201 E. Clay Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Please Make Your Checks  
Payable to: *Museum of Confederacy*  
A receipt for your donation will be mailed.

Please visit our website at:  
60th Virginia Regiment  
[www.60thvirginiainfantryregiment.com](http://www.60thvirginiainfantryregiment.com) or Museum of Confederacy [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org)



## **Chapter Members Visit with Alabama Governor Robert Bentley to Discuss Confederate Heritage And History**

Brigadier General St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter 271 Commander Thomas B. Rhodes, III, LTC USA (retired) and Adjutant David W. Myers were on hand to greet and discuss Confederate heritage and history with Alabama Governor Robert Bentley upon the Governors visit to Blakeley Battle-

field on Sunday, 16 September.

The Liddell Chapter's namesake was the Commander of Blakeley during that last major battle of the War of Northern Aggression. Liddell Chapter Adjutant Myers is shown presenting Governor Bentley with a issue of Officer's Call while Commander Rhodes is taking the photograph.

(Submitted by David Myers, Adjutant of the BG St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter #271)



## Col. John Joseph Masters (1924 - 2012)

It is with our deepest sympathy that the MOS&B Florida Society announce the passing away of Colonel John J. Masters. His contribution to the MOS&B, the MOS&B Florida Society, his chapter, Lt. Col. William Boyce #140 located in St. Augustine, Florida and the SCV Florida Division will greatly be missed. We offer our prayers to his family. Below is the write-up as it appeared in his obituary.

*Col. John Joseph Masters, (U.S. Army, retired), 87, of St. Augustine, Fla., died Sept. 14, 2012 at Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. He was a heritage native of St. Augustine and a faithful member of San Sebastian Catholic Church.*

*Col. Masters was born in St. Augustine, Fla., Sept. 8, 1924 and was a graduate of St. Joseph Academy. In 1942, before his entry into active military service, he served as a private in Company D, 3rd Battalion, Florida Defense Force at St. Augustine, Fla.*

*In 1944, he attended Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. where he received his commission as a 2nd lieutenant. He joined Company I, 315th Infantry, 79th Infantry Division as an Infantry Platoon Leader and fought in the Battle of Rittershoffen-Hatten, France, where he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation. After further action at Bischweiler, France, Col. Masters participated with his division in the initial amphibious assault waves across the Rhine River where he earned the Silver Star Medal. He was wounded in further action and received a battlefield promotion to 1st Lieutenant. For a short time after the close of the war in Europe, Col. Masters commanded a Russian and Polish displaced Persons Camp and later commanded the company guarding the Palace of Justice for the Nuremberg war crime trials.*

*From 1952 to 1954, he served as the assistant professor of Military Science and Tactics, ROTC, for five of the Atlanta Public High Schools where he met a school teacher, Cleo Sampson who later became his wife.*

*In August 1954, Col. Masters was assigned to Korea with duty at the 17th Infantry, 7th Infantry Division at Camp Kaiser. Upon completion of his tour in Korea in 1956, he was detailed to duty with the Army Security Agency at Fort Devens, Mass.*

*In 1964, he graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and assumed command of the 303d ASA Battalion at Fort Wolters, Texas. In 1966, he took the battalion to South Vietnam; participating in the Vietnam Counter-offensive, Phase I and II campaigns, and was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm.*

*His final military assignment was commander, Army Security Agency Europe with Headquarters at Heidelberg, Germany, from which he was retired from active service on Sept. 1, 1975. During his 32-year military career, Col. Masters was twice awarded the Legion of Merit.*

*During his long post military retirement, Col. Masters enjoyed a wide range of hobbies and activities. In addition to being a lifelong sportsman, enjoying hunting and fishing, he was an enthusiastic coin collector and gentleman farmer. He was actively involved in the Boy Scouts of America since childhood. After his scoutmaster was drafted during World War II, he took over as the scoutmaster of Troop 63 while still a high school student. He also started several new troops during his lengthy military career. As Graves Committee chair for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Florida Division, he initiated and maintained a database of over 9,000 Confederate soldiers buried in Florida. This work aids in ancestor research and most importantly identifies graves and places headstones and markers on graves of soldiers who had none. In 2002, Col. Masters was honored with the Gov. John Milton Award, one of the highest awards the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Florida Division can bestow. He was a lifetime, charter member and past president of the St. Augustine German American Club, a past commander in the Sons of Confederate Veterans, past commander Military Order of the Stars and Bars, life member of the American Legion, life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and active supporter of the Republican Party.*

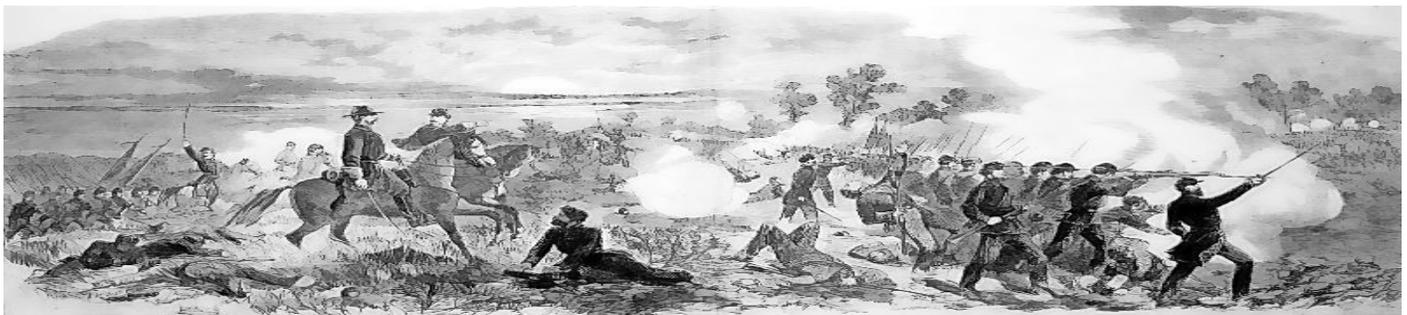
Visitation will be held 6 p.m. Friday with prayers beginning at 7 p.m. at San Sebastian Catholic Church. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1 p.m. Saturday at San Sebastian Catholic Church, the Rev. Thomas Walsh, officiating, followed by burial with full military honors in San Lorenzo Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a charitable donation in his honor to the San Sebastian Catholic Church Religious Education Enrichment Center or the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Cleo Sampson; sons and daughters-in-law, Lt. Col. (ret.) John Jr. (Katrina Duren) Masters and Col. (ret.) Burton (Jolanda Heuts) Masters; daughter, Col. Elizabeth Masters and her husband Lt. Col. (P) Mark Tolzmann; and five grandchildren, Jack, Maria, Michael, Steven and Kaleb Tolzmann, who were devoted to him until the end and brought him great joy. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Lt. Col. (ret.) Donald (Ina) Masters, many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family would like to thank Dr. Barry Dobies, Dr. Kishwar Hussain, Interim Health Care, CVS Pharmacy at S.R. 312 and their staff for their dedicated care.

Craig Funeral Home Crematory Memorial Park ([www.craigfuneralhome.com](http://www.craigfuneralhome.com)) is in charge of the arrangements.

Source: Published in St. Augustine Record from September 18 to September 19, 2012



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## The Confederate Legacy Fund

It was a pleasure to honor Compatriot Michael Farr at our recent International Convention in San Antonio, Texas. He was awarded the Confederate Legacy Legion of Merit for his generous support for the Confederate Legacy Fund. Compatriot Farr is a member of the Col. James McCullough Chapter 242 in Greenville, South Carolina. He is one of nearly 50 members of the Order who have earned the distinctive title.

We are extremely grateful to all of the members of The Confederate Legacy Legion of Merit for their generous support. These Compatriots have chosen to support the Legacy Fund with donations of \$1000 or more. Last year, we received donations from our members in excess of \$17,000. In fact, our fund balance has grown to over \$50,000 since the inception of the program. But there is much more to be done.

The Confederate Legacy Fund is an important part of our over-all financial plan. Your gift to the Fund will remain intact for perpetuity. Only the interest from this fund will be spent. Expenditures from this fund are limited to scholarships and projects that will preserve and enhance our Southern Heritage. Currently these types of expenditures are paid for from our general fund. It is our hope that income generated from the Legacy Fund will eventually cover all of these costs.

MOS&B is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation. As a result, all donations to the Legacy Fund are 100% tax deductible. In addition, consider that many corporations will match the charitable donations made by its employees. Another excellent strategy for charitable donations is by donating stocks. Under this strategy you can receive an income deduction for the full market value of a particular security. At the same time, you will avoid all capital gains tax on the transaction. There is no brokerage fee for this type of transaction.

Please consider MOS&B's Legacy Fund in your financial planning. Those members who make a one-time donation of \$1000 or more will receive the distinctive Confederate Legacy Legion of Merit neck ribbon and drop. A member may also qualify for the same award by making four annual payments of \$250, or two annual payments of \$500.

Your generosity is most appreciated. Membership in the Confederate Legacy Legion of Merit will assure adequate funding for scholarships and Southern Heritage projects. Please consider the Legacy Fund in your financial planning. *Deo Vindice.*

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## ROBERT E. LEE AND TRAVELLER

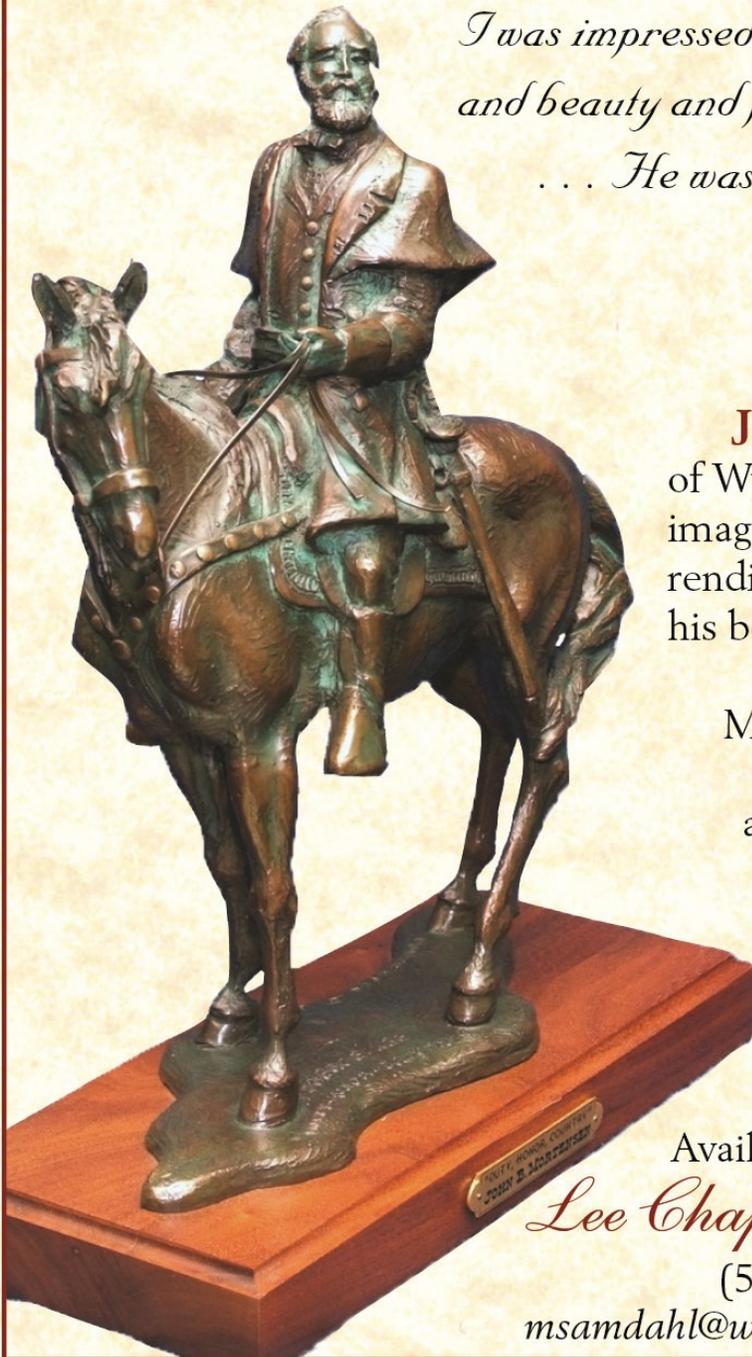
*"Traveller moved as if proud of the burden he bore . . .*

*The horse was beautiful and majestic . . .*

*I was impressed with the greatness  
and beauty and power . . . of the man*

*. . . He was every inch a king."*

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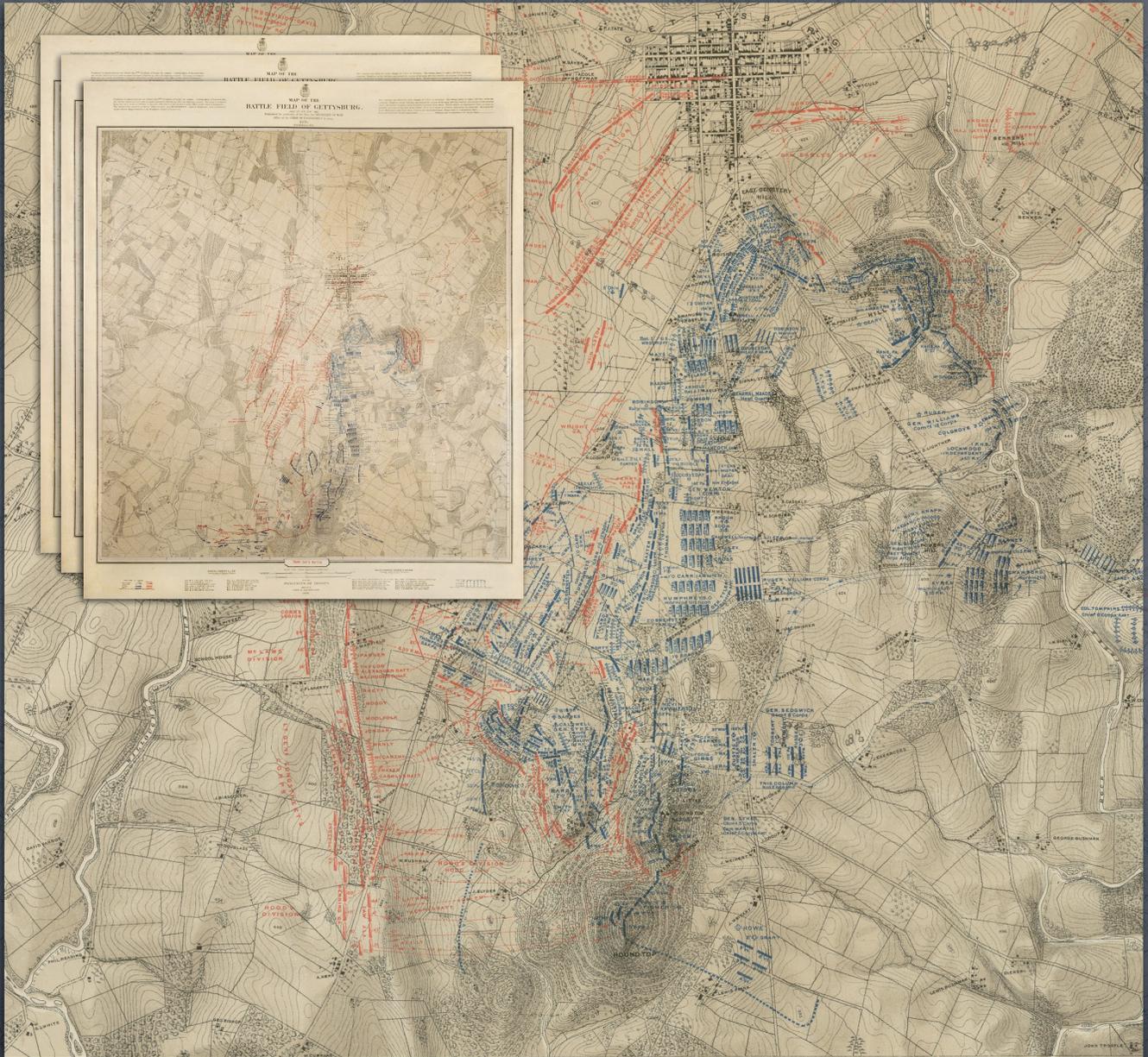
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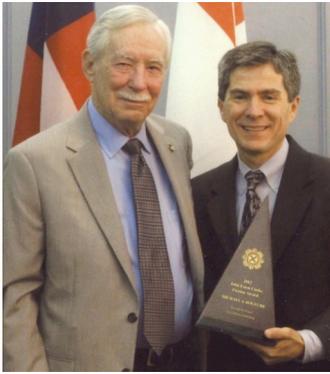


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Charles H. Smith, chairman of the Literary Committee, left, presents Michael J. Roueche with the Cooke Fiction Award at our 2012 annual convention in San Antonio, Texas.

## ***Beyond the Wood* by Michael J. Roueche, 2012 Winner of the John Esten Cooke Fiction Award**

*"An anything-but-simple story of treachery, peril, slackening resolve and thwarted romance . . . and a little War Between the States."*

Hank, a Union Soldier, refuses retreat from his first bloodied action without proof he has been there, and he takes it from a dying enemy. Fed by the compassion he finds in the Confederate's last letter and his own unsettled dreams and troubling memories, Hank imagines a romance that drives him relentlessly toward an impossible rendezvous. All the while, Elizabeth, the widow, struggles with burdens left by her husband, even as neighbors conspire against her. And what is she to make of this Yankee, this enemy, so set on coming to her?

*Beyond the Wood*, published by Vesta House Publishing, is set amid Virginia's social, political and military events, from John Brown's raid to the foreboding battle silence that welcomes 1864.

It's available in [paperback](#) and for [Kindle \(Amazon\)](#) and [Nook \(Barnes and Noble\)](#). Michael is currently editing the sequel due out late 2012 or early 2013. For signed copies of *Beyond the Wood* and special prices for book clubs, visit him at [www.michaeljroueche.com](http://www.michaeljroueche.com).

Michael grew up in Virginia and spent most of his adult life in the Old Dominion. Always a romantic, only in more recent years did he discover the Civil War that always had surrounded him, thanks to Bruce Catton books from his father's library and a good friend who gave him a copy of Michael Schaara's *Killer Angels*. He and his wife of 35 years now live in Colorado. They have five children and several grandchildren.

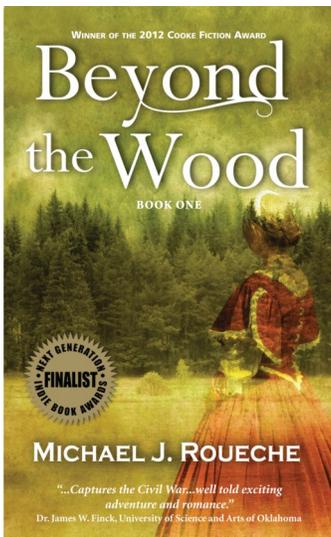
### Recent Praise for *Beyond the Wood*:

*"In the midst of the chaos of the Civil War, the author has told a story of love and redemption. While recounting the adventures of one Union soldier trying to deliver a message from a fallen enemy, he was able to depict the attitudes and feelings of soldiers on both sides as well as the struggles of civilians living along the border. Roueche captures the Civil War in a well-told exciting adventure and romance."*

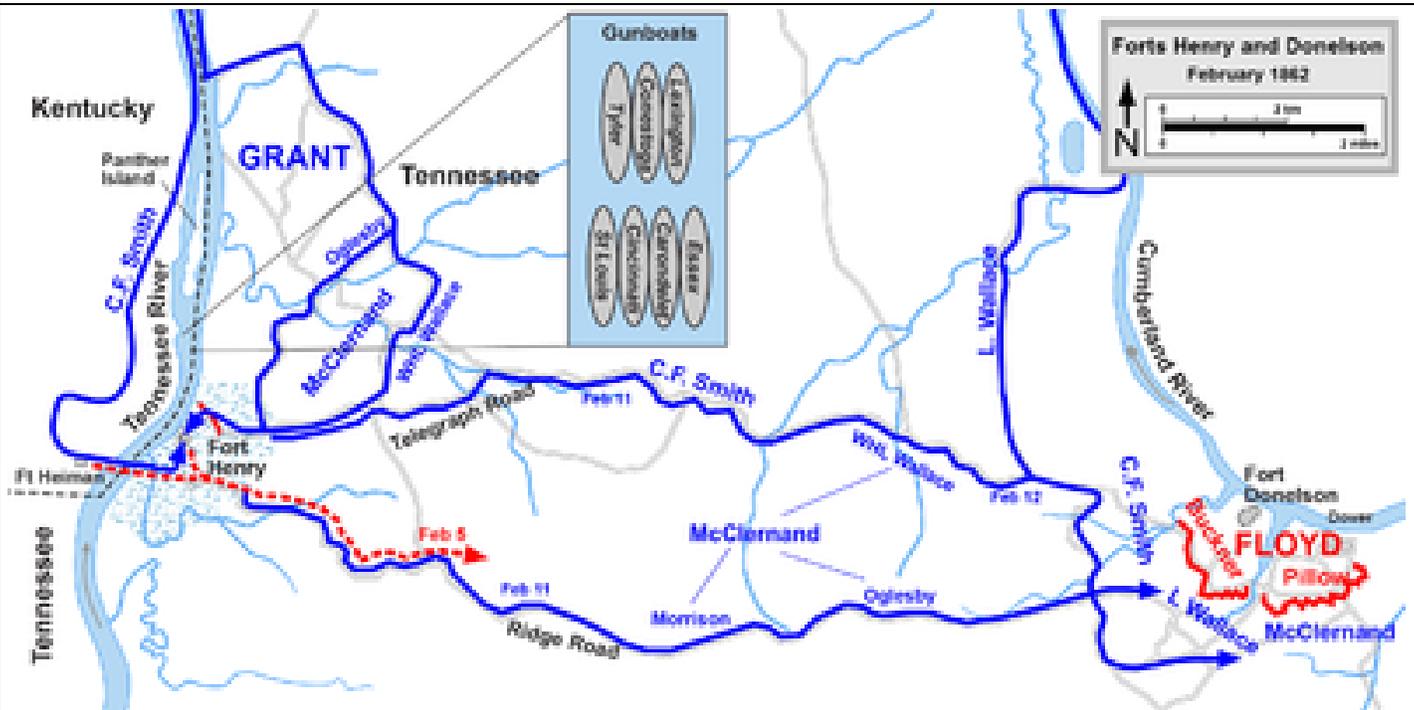
Dr. James W. Finck, Assistant Professor of History, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

### Additional Awards:

- Finalist, 2012 Next Generation Indie Book Awards, a non-profit awards program "judged by leaders in the indie book publishing industry to identify indie books that deserve to reach a wider audience." It is sometimes considered "the Sundance of the book publishing world," says Catherine Goulet, Chair of the 2012 Next Generation Indie Book Awards program.
- 2011 Silver Medalist: Historical Fiction, eLit Book Awards, "a global awards program committed to illuminating and honoring the very best of English language digital publishing entertainment."
- 2012 Merit Book, EVVY Awards; recognition from the Colorado Independent Publishers Association.



Book Cover Image with Esten Cooke Fiction Award citation: It would be great if you could link this image to Amazon as well. The link address is [http://www.amazon.com/Beyond-the-Wood-ebook/dp/B00571L8MG/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1348932761&sr=8-2&keywords=beyond+the+wood](http://www.amazon.com/Beyond-the-Wood-ebook/dp/B00571L8MG/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1348932761&sr=8-2&keywords=beyond+the+wood)



## THE FIRST DOMINO FALLS! THE LOSS OF FORT DONELSON

BY CASSY L. GRAY

Albert Sidney Johnston's immediate need was for more troops and weapons, but his urgent telegrams to Richmond had netted neither. What they did net, however, was the victor of Manassas – Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard. By sending Beauregard west, Richmond hoped his reputation would lift the morale of the troops and rally those men who had yet to join the colors.

Jefferson Davis' motives in sending Beauregard had less to do with Johnston's need than Davis' intense desire to rid himself of an unwanted burden. Since his victory at Manassas, Old Bory had become a political pain in the president's neck.

Beauregard had numerous complaints about the lack of supplies flowing from Richmond to the front. Commissary General Lucius Northrop was a good friend of Davis, and the president did not like to hear criticism about his friends. Yet, for the good of the Cause, Davis swallowed his resentment and responded to Beauregard's complaints in a conciliatory manner.

Tensions mounted after Beauregard submitted his official report on the battle. In the report, he accused Davis of not allowing him to capture Baltimore and Washington before the Federals marched from the capital. There was some truth to the accusation. Beauregard was always full of plans to bring the war to an end in one fell swoop. But most of these plans were outlandish, pie-in-the-sky strategies, with no hope of succeeding. Davis would have been derelict in his duty if he had not said no.

Beauregard sent the report to the War Department, but he also released a summary to the newspapers. The president dashed off a terse letter accurately pinpointing Beauregard's motives in publicly releasing the report. Beauregard did not have a defense, but, all the same, he resented the president's keen observations about his self-centered motivations.

Beauregard escalated the fight by mailing his reply, not to the president, but to a Richmond newspaper. With a melodramatic flair, he headed his letter: *Centreville – within earshot of enemy guns*. The letter was nothing more than a thinly veiled rant against Davis.

Beauregard then unleashed an all out assault on Davis. He sent letters to newspaper editors and politicians. Each one filled with more and more ridiculous strategies to end the war. After a congressman received a letter, he would hurry to the floor of the Congress and read it into the record as a perfectly legitimate way to win the war.



Davis had had enough. It was time to get Beauregard and his letter-writing campaign as far from Richmond as possible.

But Beauregard did not want to go any where. He was more than happy holding court at the front. So, he sat down and wrote one more letter to an influential congressman and laid down the law. He would go to Nashville, but under one condition: Once he achieved victory in the west, he would be recalled to Virginia so he could win the war in the east also. The congressman assured him that he would bring the terms to Davis, but he never did. Beauregard, none the wiser, set off for Tennessee.

His arrival had a ripple effect throughout the theater. Generals Halleck and Grant saw it as a harbinger of an upcoming Confederate offensive. Grant had been chomping

at the bit to be allowed to attack both Forts Henry and Donelson. Halleck, worried about Beauregard's presence, gave his consent.

On February 6th, Flag Officer Foote's gunboats silenced Confederate cannon at Fort Henry.

Johnston received the news with great alarm. If Union gunboats were really that powerful and effective, then Fort Donelson would not be able to stand. And when Donelson fell, the gunboats would be able to sail up the Cumberland River and into Nashville.

The loss of Nashville would be devastating. The river city was one of the two main supply depots in the South and, more importantly, an industrial center that produced gun powder and processed food rations. The loss of the Cumberland would trap Johnston's army north of the river, leaving the Deep South vulnerable to attack.

Johnston decided to make his stand at Donelson. He sent 12,000 reinforcements to the fort. With the reinforcements, he also sent orders for Donelson to be evacuated when it could no longer be held. Johnston believed that Union gunboats were more than capable of taking the fort, but he needed time to get his army over the Cumberland.

Johnston sent Beauregard to take command of the western wing of the army now cut off by the capture of Fort Henry and the loss of the Tennessee River. Word was sent to Polk to abandon his prized fortress city and head south. Johnston planned to delay the Federal gunboats along the Mississippi at New Madrid, Island Number 10, Fort Pillow, and at Memphis. The rest of the army would head south as soon as possible.

Richmond suddenly woke to the peril their policies had wrought. Orders were sent to the coastal defenses to get the men up and on the road to Fort Donelson. It was too little too late. Before the troops could reach Donelson, the fort would fall and the Cumberland River would be in Federal hands.

### **The Battle for the Fort**

After General Tilghman was captured at Fort Henry, command at Donelson devolved upon Simon Buckner – a good and competent soldier. Johnston's reinforcements brought Gideon Pillow and John Floyd to the fort. It could not have been a more inept combination.

Pillow was such a bad soldier that Davis had felt it necessary to send Polk to the theater to babysit him. But Floyd was worse. The former United States Secretary of War was a political appointment and his lack of military experience was evident. Proven to be totally incompetent in the campaign in western Virginia (not even Robert E. Lee could overcome Floyd's shortcoming), Davis unloaded him and sent him west, with no idea that Floyd would wind up in command of such vital ground. Floyd had seniority, so he was in command with Pillow next in charge, then Buckner.

On February 13, Federal infantry arrived at Fort Donelson. Grant placed his soldiers around the earthworks and waited for the gunboats to begin their attack the next morning. Grant's strategy was simple. The gunboats would bombard the fort into submission; then he would capture the garrison.

The moment the gunboats opened fire, Floyd wilted. He sent a frantic telegram to Johnston prophesying doom and despair. But Donelson was not Henry, and Confederate and Union soldiers learned this truth together: Land batteries can defend a well established defensive position against naval forces. The Union gunboats received the worse end of the beating.



The sight of gunboats floating helplessly down the river stiffened Floyd's spine. He sent another telegram to Johnston proclaiming a great victory.

Unfortunately, when Grant had come up, he had been allowed to surround the fort without a fight, trapping the Confederates inside. Floyd ordered a dawn attack to drive the Federals back and open up an escape route.

The next day's fighting succeeded and several escape routes were opened. Buckner hurried to take advantage, but Pillow ordered Buckner's men back into the fort. Buckner protested such an idiotic move. Floyd happened on the scene and Buckner informed him about Pillow's order. Floyd agreed with Buckner. The fort would be evacuated. Then Pillow had his say. He stressed to Floyd that the

men were tired and hungry and, besides, their blankets were in the fort and the weather had turned freezing. Just like the politician he was, Floyd flipped-flopped and ordered Buckner into the fort.

A war council was called at the Old Dover Inn. Pillow arrived first and entertained Floyd with stories of Buckner's incompetence. Buckner arrived and his mood was pessimistic. He informed the two generals that the time had come to surrender. Suddenly, Pillow was full of fight and told Buckner that the men could hold against the Federals for a couple of days. This would give the Confederates time to figure another way out of the Federal trap.

Any suggestion Pillow made was tainted in Buckner's eyes. They had served together in Mexico and Buckner thought Pillow a fool then. Nothing in the last few days had changed his opinion. Despite Pillow's grandiose claims, Buckner insisted that his men could not hold, and any attempt to break out of Grant's trap would result in 75% casualties. The only right course of action would be to surrender the fort.

Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest was present at the meeting, and Forrest was not the surrendering type. He had been fighting against Grant's advance all day. When he arrived at the inn, the three generals informed him that Grant had landed 11 boatloads of reinforcements. Not only that, but the Federals had reoccupied the ground on the Confederate left. Forrest did not believe them. He had just come from that portion of the field and it was firmly in Confederate hands.

Forrest sent two scouts to check out the report. The scouts crawled on their bellies through freezing backwaters to where they could see the campfires of the Union pickets. They returned and told Forrest that they had not encountered the enemy, and the picket fires were in the same location as the evening before.

When the generals insisted that escape was impossible, Forrest volunteered to place his cavalry at any point in the line and cover the retreat or even to cut his way out if necessary. He left the room to let the generals deliberate. He returned and was informed that the garrison would surrender.

A defiant Forrest told them that he would not surrender his command under any circumstance. Furthermore, he would take any soldier who wanted to leave with him. Forrest was given permission to leave.

Floyd was also not up for surrendering either. He was a wanted man in the North. As Secretary of War in the Buchanan administration, he had been accused (falsely) of transferring ordnance supplies to southern states in anticipation of the war. There was talk of hanging, and Floyd was not about to voluntarily hand himself over to the hangman. He turned command over to Pillow.

Pillow did not want command. This defeatist talk had not originated with him, and he was not going to surrender. He passed command to Buckner. Buckner took it and began to make plans to surrender the garrison.

Floyd wanted to leave Donelson as soon as possible. A steamship arrived in the morning; Floyd commandeered it, loaded his Virginian troops on board, and sailed out of Federal reach. He also sailed away from his Mississippi regiments, who were abandoned on the landing.

Pillow was the next to leave – in a rowboat.

Buckner raised the white flag and sought terms from his old friend Grant. He found Grant's terms of unconditional surrender less than chivalrous. After all, Grant had been penniless when he arrived in New York after resigning from the army due to rumors of drunkenness. Buckner had lent Grant the money to get home to Missouri. Unconditional surrender was no way to repay the loan and he told Grant so. Grant was unmoved by such sentiment. His terms remained the same. Buckner surrendered over 12,000 men.

The second domino had fallen. Nashville would have to be evacuated. Johnston's troops headed toward Mississippi to rendezvous at a steamboat stop called Pittsburgh Landing.



## The Chaplain General's Thoughts

### The Faith of Robert E. Lee

The Officer Corps of the Confederate military was composed of many uniquely interesting men. The list is almost exhausting. One man stands far above the rest in all ways any person can be measured, and that man is Robert E. Lee. The depth of his character, personality, and genuineness is awe inspiring. One facet of his character of which I am going to express some thoughts is that of his Spirituality. I am going to be quoting from a book written by Bishop Robert R. Brown, an Episcopal minister. The book he wrote is named, *The Spiritual Pilgrimage of Robert E. Lee, "And One Was a Soldier"*.

Those of us who have read and listened to the characteristics of Robert E. Lee, nobility would probably be one to admire in Lee. Throughout the next few words, I am going to take the liberty to quote from Oswald Chamber's "My Upmost for His Highest". Nobility of character is a trait that he exhibited in his strong devotion to a loving God all of his adult life. His father, the famous Light Horse Harry Lee, was a famous cavalryman in George Washington's army and a former governor of Virginia under the Continental Congress. His famous father experienced a history of financial reversals after the American Revolution, which made the major asset Robert E. Lee's family had was their heritage of family lineage. His religious training and the seeds of learning of God came through his mother, Ann Carter Lee. It is from his mother, I believe, who taught him the wonderful trait of nobility of character, which also it is believed that the young Robert, as an adolescent, began to choose and build upon this trait. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus says "Enter ye at the strait gate, because strait is the gate, and narrow is they which leads to life". "The noble life is gloriously difficult". A military career was the route that Robert E. Lee chooses to live out and to develop his nobility of character.

Robert E. Lee was a lifelong Episcopalian. He was married and many years later were confirmed at Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia with two of his daughters on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1852. It is somewhat unclear why he was officially confirmed into his church at this later date in his life. Perhaps, earlier records were lost. I would like to think maybe he wanted to reconfirm or rededicate his life in Christ as his faith continued to grow. Essential to his spiritual formation was the Bible and the Church of England's "Book of Common Prayer". These two books, especially the Bible, stayed close by his side all his life. Lee also enjoyed many hymns. His favorite was "How Firm a Foundation". This is the hymn that St. Paul's Church in Richmond, Virginia always sang when he was in attendance. It was also sung at his funeral in the Washington College Chapel in Lexington, Virginia. This hymn, perhaps, is best in summing up much of the essentials essence of Lee's faith.

*How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said  
To you that for refuge to Jesus hath fled?  
Fear not, I am with thee, Oh be not dismayed!  
For I am thy God, and still give thee to stand,  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and give thee to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand/*

*When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow  
And sanctify to thee, thy deepest distress.  
When through fiery trials, thy pathway shall be,  
My grace all sufficient shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee. I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.  
The seed that to Jesus hath fled for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to His foes;  
That out, though all hell shall endeavor to shake,  
I'll never-no never-, never forsake."*



Following the surrender at the Appomattox, Lee accepted his election as president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. His first act as president at Washington College was to build a chapel, which is now known as Lee Chapel at Washington and Lee University. Lee became a member of Grace Church and was put to work as chairman of Vestry's Committee on Finance and as a member of the building committee. Robert E. Lee's final public was a meeting called at Grace Church, talking about a shortage in funds needed for the stipend for the church minister. The shortage of \$55.00 was immediately pledged by Lee.

Although Robert Edward Lee was born into an early American aristocracy of Carters and Lees, and his wife Mary was a step granddaughter of George Washington. His heritage was his great lineage, but with no money. His mother, Anne, was the one who tutored her son in the discipline of scholarship and of faith. One's Christian Faith is dynamic in that it needs to be progressive, growing in the character of our faith. This was

Robert E. Lee's journey of faith, ever growing. This is clearly seen in his confirmation in 1852, with his two daughters. He lived his life with nobility of faith and personal conduct. Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him". 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4; 7 gives some of the Apostle Paul's last words in which he says "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. These two verses of scripture can certainly be said of Robert E. Lee

Clayton Rand's book, "Sons Of The South", summarizes Lee's legacy in his final paragraph on Lee, "No American had a comparable influence on the Confederate states. Physically, morally, and intellectually he was no ordinary man. Of deep religious convictions, he was a true soldier of the cross. His faith in the God of his fathers, his devotion to duty, patient serenity, tolerance of others, all blend into one preeminent personality to form the Southern gentleman. Out of all the carnage and sorrow of that unfortunate conflict, the sublimity of General Lee emerges as both the incarnation of the lost cause and the guiding spirits of the resurgent South".

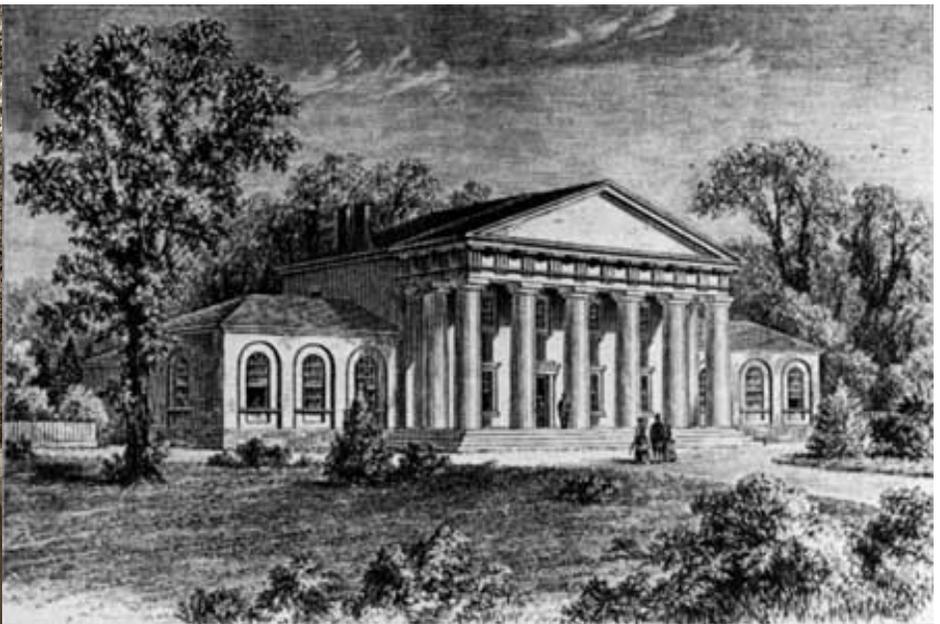
This, in my opinion, can certainly be said of Robert E. Lee. He was who he seemed to be, a Soldier of the Cross.

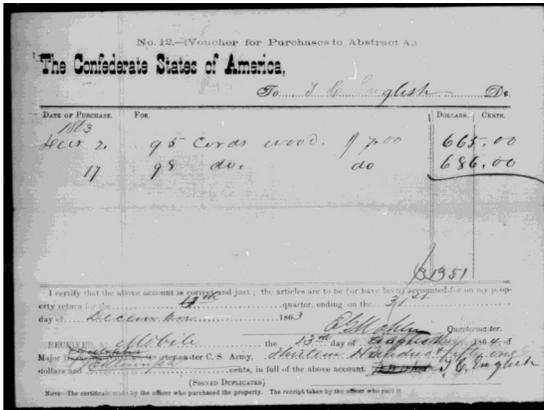
Respectfully,

***Raymond Holder***

Chaplain General

Military Order of the Stars & Bars





Receipt for 95 cords of firewood supplied to the Confederate Army by T.C. English-1863

## Captain Thomas Cassandra English

By Bert Blackmon

*(Note: all history of this unit might have been lost had it not been for a newspaper interview with Charles Driesbach in the early 1900's. Driesbach was a very young private in English Independent Cavalry and he listed the men in the unit and gave an account of the units last battle. See a copy of the interview on page 25).*

On October 28, 1819 Thomas Cassandra English opened his eyes for the first time, took his first breath of sweet clean South Alabama air and began what would be a very well lived life.

He was born in Clark County Alabama but grew to manhood on Cedar Hill Plantation in Southern Monroe County Alabama near

the Mt. Pleasant Community. He was the son of Thomas and Rachael English. He was generally known as Tom or T.C. English. His father died when Tom was little more than a toddler but his strong willed Mother ran the plantation and raised her children to be successful adults.

As a teenager Tom showed great intellect and became an excellent student. He showed an interest in the medical arts so his Mother secured a place for him in one of the Nation's foremost medical schools in Philadelphia run by one of the world's best surgeons.

Tom proved to be an excellent student and made such a good impression that the president of the School took a personal interest in him and, on one fateful night, invited to have a home cooked meal with his family.



George McClellan English' Grave

That night proved to be pivotal for seated across from him was the most beautiful and charming young lady he had ever seen. She was highly intelligent as well as beautiful and was extremely well read and conversant on almost any topic that was broached. Even her name was beautiful; Sarah Frederica. To say the least he was smitten.

Needless to say, all thought of a medical future flew from his head and he could only think of her. Less than a year later, on January 27, 1840, they were married in St. James Episcopal Church of Philadelphia with her father and favorite brother looking on with approval of her choice for a life mate.

He abandoned the study of medicine and took his new bride home to Cedar Hill Plantation. Sarah Frederica took on the roll of the plantation wife with great energy and intelligence. She saw to the welfare of every person on the plantation, be they free, slave or visitor, and became a leader among the women in the community. Thomas took charge of Cedar Hill and under their management the plantation prospered as never before and their fortunes grew even as their family grew.

Thomas and Sarah's brother took a great liking to each other and corresponded regularly. Her brother visited several Cedar Hill several times in the 1840's and 1850's. He seems to have been very pleased with his sister's choice of a mate. On one of his visits he left a very nice saddle in Tomas' care and told him that he would retrieve it later

At the onset of the "late unpleasantness", Thomas was not particularly in favor of secession but he did supply and unusually large supply of war materials and rations to the Confederate units in the area.

Thomas and Sarah's oldest son, George McClellan English joined Co. I of the 31<sup>st</sup> Alabama Infantry and was elected Second Lieutenant. He was captured at the Battle of Big Shanty in Georgia and sent to Rock Island



English-Scott Cemetery



Thomas C. English Grave (Above)

Sarah Frederica English' Grave (Below)



Illinois. While in that infamous prison camp his health steadily declined. He returned to Cedar Hill in 1865 but he was too ill to recover and died in January of 1866. He is resting with his parents and other family members in the Family Cemetery.

Sarah worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Confederate soldiers and gave her all for the cause. One of her greatest regrets during that period was that there was no one other than Thomas to whom she could express her great pride in the achievements of her brother, Union General George B. McClellan, Jr.

As the war drug on the Governor of Alabama called on the local leaders to form Militia Units. Thomas, ever the community leader, formed a unit from North Baldwin and South Monroe County in 1864 and named it *English Independent Cavalry*. The Company fought mainly in the local area and participated in one of the very last battles of the Eastern Theater.

Several weeks after Lee's surrender and after Blakeley and Spanish Fort had fallen English' unit was still fighting. When notified that a force of Union Soldier was headed north toward Monroe County, they made plans to stop them. With help form some members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Cavalry they struck the Yankee forward elements near the bridge that connects Baldwin and Monroe Counties and spans Little River. The Union Forces were driven back about a quarter mile but then the Confederates ran into the main body of about three thousand Union Soldiers. A long running Cavalry battle ensued that ended at about where the Mt. Pleasant Community is now. This became known locally as the Battle of the Bridge or the Battle of Eliska.

Two weeks after the battle they were ordered to report to Claiborne for pay. They were paid all that they were due; even though the Confederate script was worthless, and ordered to surrender to the nearest Union force. Most of the men simply returned home.

Throughout his brief military career, Thomas C. English fought while sitting firmly on his Brother in Law's saddle. That would be the same Brother in Law in which Sarah could not express her pride; Union General George McClellan, Jr.

As the war ended Union troops were putting the torch to plantation homes everywhere in the area. A squad of mounted soldiers came riding into the English family yard intent on burning the family home. When they were convinced that Sarah was the sister of General McClellan, rather than burn the home, they placed a round the clock guard on the Plantation to insure that no harm came to them. Some years later the home did burn but it was an accidental burning.

After the war the family rebuilt their fortunes and maintained their close relationships with the McClellan family. The name McClellan is still a common middle name in the family. Thomas

passed away on June 2, 1884 and Sarah Frederica followed him on December 20, 1899. Their last breaths were of the same sweet air that they had shared for so many years on their beloved Cedar Hills Plantation

Thomas, Sarah Fredericka and most of their family are sleeping peacefully under the shade of ancient cedar trees in a small well kept family cemetery a few yards from the site of their plantation home. Some of their descendants still live in a smaller home build on the site of their home.

### **The Monroe Journal**

June 16, 1884

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Cassander English, died on Monday the 2d of June 1884, at his residence, Cedar Hill, Monroe county Alabama, aged 65 years. He was born in Clarke county Alabama, October 28th, 1819, and his parents came to Alabama from South Carolina in 1818.

Over forty years ago whilst attending a course of medical lectures at the Philadelphia University, he met loved and wedded the daughter of the celebrated Dr. McClellan, and the sister of Gen. J. B. McClellan, by whom he had a large family of children, four of whom survive him, with their grief stricken mother.

Capt. English was a devoted husband and father, and his refined and elegant widow, and his three accomplished daughters and son, are left to mourn over the sad loss they have sustained in his death, for his noble and generous heart was ever wrapped in love and affection for them.

As a friend he was true and loyal, for the lofty traits of benevolence, courage and magnanimity were most prominent in his nature and character, and he seemed to be truly happy when he was contributing either to the wants, or administering to the pleasure of his fellow man. His hospitality was proverbial, and no one ever entered his handsome residence at Cedar Hill, without feeling perfectly at home; so cordial were his manners, and so hearty was his welcome.

As a private citizen, he discharged all the public duties and responsibilities devolving upon him with a public spirit that gave evidence of his devotion and love for his country and fellow man, and there was no sacrifice that he was not willing to make for the triumph of the right.

Thus as husband, father, friend and citizen, he well and truly discharged all his duties, and has gone to his long rest without leaving an enemy behind, and amidst the tears and wailings of loved ones and the sighs and regrets of hosts of friends, who knew him but to love him, and named him but to praise.



TRI-STATE NEWS SECTION THE

# Survivor of Final Civil War Battles Tells of Heroism of Confederate Men

**C. H. Dreisbach, of Baldwin County, One of Few Veterans Left, Relates How Flag Bearer, Although Mortally Wounded, Held His Banner Aloft and Tried to Give Famous Rebel Yell. Gives Graphic Description of Closing Combats in Alabama.**

Special To The Register

BAY MINETTE, Ala., Jan. 27.—With his form as erect as the day when he first donned the uniform of gray to fight for a cause he believed was right, but with Father Time gradually lessening the virile resistance that once characterized his son of the South, C. H. Dreisbach, of Blackshear, Baldwin county, and one of the few survivors that marked the closing of the civil war, graphically relates events leading up to what was said to be the last battle in this section.

History relates to the generation that followed the war descriptions of the decisive battles, but as Mr. Dreisbach says little is said of some of the closing combats that proved vital to the South and where many Alabama heroes "went West," whose names are cherished by those who have survived, but whose identity has long been lost in the cataclysm that followed.

It was on April 11, during 1865 according to Mr Dreisbach that one of the last battles was fought near here and although outnumbered by the federal troops, a strong resistance was put up. It was in this battle, he recalls, that Harry Davis the flag bearer of the Confederate soldiers, although mortally wounded propped himself up against a tree and held the flag aloft and vainly tried to give the "Rebel yell."

The battle occurred in Monroe county when what was estimated 3,000 federal troops under the command of General Lucas clashed with the fifteenth cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Myers and a company of mounted infantry, commanded by Captain T. C. English. Captain English was a brother of General McClelland of which company Mr. Dreisbach was a member and was one of the few survivors after the engagement.

"Our company was guarding a bridge on Little River between Baldwin and Monroe counties. Mr Dreisbach says, while the fifteenth Alabama cavalry, or rather part of it was at Claiborne, Monroe county. On the morning of April 11, 1865, General Lucas and his men were coming up the highway from Stockton. The Confederate troops came together at or near what is now known as Eliska. The federal troops numbered about 3,000, while our side had something like 200. Arrangements had been made between Captain Barlow and Colonel Myers that Captain Barlow's company should make a detour and reach the rear of the enemy and then advance in echelon formation. The strength of the enemy was not known at that time. Colonel Myers decided to wait and attack the enemy in front.

"Shortly after Barlow left on his mission, Arrington's company of the fifteenth cavalry, used as advance guard, met the enemy and it was plainly seen they were outnumbered. Colonel Myers then gave the command to charge and at

the same time the 'Rebel yell' went up. We drove the advance guard back to about one-fourth of a mile when we came in full contact with the enemy consisting of about 3,000 men. The fighting, which was fierce, continued for about 20 minutes, when we were forced to retire. Harry Davis, the flag bearer, was shot in about 20 feet of where I was at, and getting off his horse, sat down by a pine tree and when last seen was holding the Confederate flag aloft.

o o o

Several Were Killed.

Besides several being killed, 50 of our men were captured by the enemy. In the retreat William H. H. Greenwood and myself accompanied the few of the regiment, which was left to a rendezvous near Claiborne, Alabama. About April 20 all troops in south Alabama were ordered to Gainsvilles to be pay-rolled. Davis, the flag bearer, died from his wounds and was buried in what is now known as the home of Captain C. A. Marriott.

"My experience since the war, like many another Rebel, has been sometimes dark and sometimes bright. I sometimes hear the boys who have gone before tapping on my chamber door calling 'Come o'er, come o'er.'

Following is the official muster roll of Captain English's company of the Confederate mounted infantry that fought to the last and participated in the final battles.

October 3, 1864: T. C. English captain; T. P. Atkinson, first lieutenant; Jonathan English, second lieutenant; Joseph Booth, third lieutenant; J. F. Boyles, first sergeant; Joel Bullard, second sergeant; H. McKenzie, third sergeant; T. J. Booth, fourth sergeant; John H. Fry, fifth sergeant; James Earle, first corporal; James Singleton, second corporal; Charles English, third corporal; T. R. Deen, fourth corporal.

Privates W. W. Adams, M. Boyles, William Barr, W. J. Bayles, J. B. Belt, A. W. Bryant, John R. Coone, H. T. Crapps, T. J. Carter, H. Conway, Joseph Daniels, M. Deas, J. M. Dudley, W. M. Deas, J. Daily, C. H. Dreisbach, F. Earle, A. Feast, H. Fort, M. Ford, W. B. F. Green, W. Gibson, J. A. Griffin, John Greenwood, Jr. J. Grisett, B. H. Harrison, C. H. Henderson, H. J. Hunt, John Hadley, B. F. Hardie, H. Jones, W. Kyle, T. H. Krouse, D. R. King, S. Lomax, J. J. Lock, Richard McGee, W. A. Mathison, S. Montac, T. McCarthy, M. C. Middleton, R. H. Moon, E. T. Mosely, John A. Norwood, J. N. Powell, S. Rogers, R. J. Richardson, John W. Shomo, J. B. Steadham, S. H. Spencer, J. W. Stiggins, Joseph Stapleton, John Stapleton, R. Talbert, E. Thompson, C. Westhertford, A. McG. Weatherford, E. G. Wiggins, John I. White, John D. Weatherford, A. Boneman, O. P. Hall, Reuben Stapleton, Y. M. Dannelly