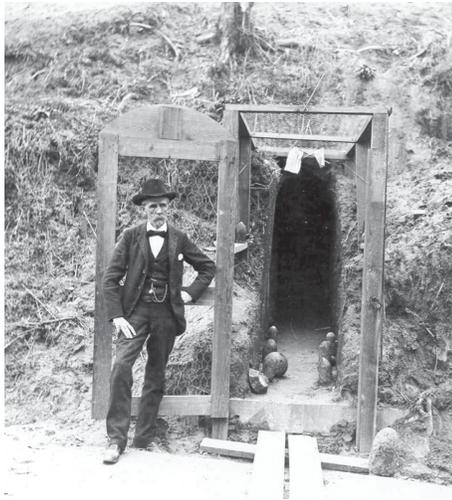


Volume 5, Number 9
October 2013

Officer's Call



Sesquicentennial Series Article #36 **Life in the Caves - Part 2**

By Pam Wilhoite

Before the War Between the States, Rev. W.W. Lord resided with his family in Vicksburg, Mississippi. They could not imagine the horror ahead for them during the siege of Vicksburg. As adults, daughter Eliza, called Lida, and son Willie recorded their experiences in the caves. This is their story of the siege which began May 18, 1863.

Grant wanted the siege to end quickly, before our General Joe Johnston showed up. To hasten Vicksburg's surrender, Grant ordered his 220 cannons to shell the city around the clock. On Tuesday the bombarding began, but the rectory was out of range.

Our trials began on Thursday when the Yankee gunboats opened fire. That evening we were all in the study just before supper when a bombshell burst in the center of the dining room blowing out the roof and one wall. It made a hole in the floor into which fell all our china, furniture, and supper. One minute later we would have been seated at the table.

We decided that evening to seek safety in the cave of a friend. It was shaped like the prongs of a garden rake. The five short passages ran parallel into the hill, connected by another crossing them at right angles. The passages were all about five feet wide and high enough for a man to stand upright. The entrance galleries at either end were reserved for servants and cooking purposes.

The inner center gallery was occupied as family dormitories, separated from each other by flimsy partitions of boards, screens and hangings. All that Thursday night the shelling never ceased. Candles were forbidden and we could only see one another by the light of bursting bombs. There were at least 65 people in the cave that night - packed in like sardines

All day Friday the horrible fight between gunboats and batteries continued. We didn't have a morsel to eat for 24 hours. During the afternoon, a bombshell struck the side of the hill, caving in one of entrances and causing a panic in our cave.

The Yankee shelling continued day after day. We were utterly cut off from the world, surrounded by a circle of fire. People did nothing except eat what they could get, sleep when they could and dodge the shells.

(— Continued on Page 4 —)



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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.

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Commander General's Message

In my September Commander General's message I shared that Barbara and I were taking a walk down memory lane to see where I had served in the military fifty years ago and to visit some ancestral sites. In this month's message I would like to share two highlights of our trip – one military and one ancestral. Both are pretty remarkable.



Military

In May 1962, shortly after I arrived for duty at the headquarters of the 319th USASA Battalion at Rothwesten Air Base near Kassel, Germany, the linguists were assigned to make a flight aboard the Navy aircraft *WV-2Q BUNO 131390 JQ-15* to train in electronic warfare surveillance. I was ineligible to make the flight, because I had not yet received my flight physical. Instead, I and a fellow Russian linguist in the same situation were dispatched to Helmstedt, to monitor Russian tank traffic. As was frequently the case we lodged in a gasthaus. It was there that I read the headlines of a German language newspaper that proclaimed "*Spy Flugzeug stürzt ab*" - Spy Plane Crashes. All aboard were killed in a crash that occurred on May 22, 1962 in Bavaria.

Our tour agent had made us a reservation in Helmstedt. It was only when we arrived that I learned that our accommodations were in the same gasthaus I had stayed in fifty-one years ago. It was at that gasthaus that my friend and I asked for directions to the border between East and West Germany. We walked about four blocks to the outskirts of town and saw what we mistook for a forestry tower. We decided to walk to it to look for the border. As we left town we crossed a meandering plowed field. When we reached the other side we saw a sign in the middle of the field, so we walked back to read it. There was a single work on it: *Minen* – mines. It was only then that we understood that we had walked across a mine field. We quickly retreated to our side of the plowed field just as a truck load of East German border guards and their dogs arrived on the opposite side. As it developed the tower that we were walking toward was a border guard watch tower. At that time there was no dividing fence between East and West. We were able to read the history of Helmstedt's Checkpoint Alpha in the *Zonengrenz-Museum Helmstedt*.

Ancestral

My great-grandfather Karl Wilhelm Turk(e) was born in Pieske, Meseritz, Posen, Prussia. Today it is known as Pieski, Międzyrzecz, Lubusz, Poland. After World War II the German cemeteries in



what became Poland were severely desecrated and vandalized. In Pieski I was able to locate the old German cemetery, which was overgrown and unrecognizable as a cemetery. It had been in place for over 200 years before its destruction. There were only four intact, albeit toppled tombstones, completely engulfed in moss. I dug the moss off of them, and low and behold, one of them was the stone of my second-great-grandfather Johann Martin Turke – the father of the emigrant. This was such an unlikely discovery that I am including pictures of this find.

Altogether Barbara and I drove 2300 miles (3800 kilometers) in three weeks backed up on either side by trans-Atlantic flights. Needless to say we were pretty exhausted by the time we returned home. Exhausted, but it was real worth it!

Respectfully,

Toni Turk

Commander General

(- Sesquicentennial Article # 36 — From Page 1 -)

Mother became more and more concerned for our safety. She convinced Father it was time for us to move to a private cave to be built in the hills behind the Military Hospital. There under the shadow of the yellow hospital flag we believed we would be in relative safety. Soldiers from the hospital assisted Father in digging us a cave of our own. When finished, it was the coziest cave in all Vicksburg.

The cave was shaped like the letter "L" with two entrances. The cave ran 20 feet underground and was remarkably dry and well ventilated. At the door was an arbor of branches, under which we dined on a pine table when shelling permitted. Nearby was a dug-out fireplace and open air kitchen. Our cave was strongly boarded at the entrances.

One day two large shells hit nearby and exploded, filling the air with flames and smoke. Mother tried to soothe Louisa, our 4 year old little sister, saying "Don't cry, my darling, God will protect us." "But Mamma, Louisa sobbed. I's so 'fraid God's killed, too!"

We had no communications directly from our friends in town, but each day Father walked from the cave to town. There he opened the church, rang the bell and dressed in his robes. Surrounded by sound of cannons, he preached the gospel of eternal peace to blood-stained soldiers and grim-faced citizens.

As the siege wore on dwindling supplies of food and water grew critical. Mother had to buy water by the bucket for us. By mid June we had not bathed or changed our clothes in two weeks. Ultimately, drinking water was rationed to only one cup of water each day per person.

After all the chickens, cows, horses, and mules had been used for food, dogs, cats and other family pets began to disappear. Soon there were no birds or squirrels to be seen. Bread was rare and the adults drank sweet potato coffee.

The citizens held on. Once all the newsprint was gone, we read with interest the newspaper which was printed on the back of wallpaper. Then we hung the patterned side on the cave wall for decoration. The Daily Citizen always offered assurance that "Old Joe" was coming soon and General Pemberton would defeat the Yankees.

But it was not to be. On July 2 Pemberton called his generals together to decide what to do. His soldiers were starving. Food was about to run out. There were no medicines left. The men in the trenches were too weak to fight. But no one wanted to give up.

Early on the morning of July 3, word spread through Vicksburg that Gen. Pemberton was to meet with General Grant. "What could it mean?" A sickening dread filled our hearts. But we went to bed hearing a slow firing in the distance which reassured us.

About 8:30 on the morning of the July 4th, 1863, Father came back to the cave, pale as death, and told us to go directly home. The town had surrendered and the Yankees would enter at 10 o'clock. We left our cave forever and started up the hill to the rectory. We had not been out of the cave in weeks and were dismayed by all the destruction.

We met group after group of soldiers. With tears running down their dusty faces, they said "We would have fought for you forever. Nothing but starvation whipped us."

We soon learned that the plantation, where our things were stored, had been completely sacked. Looters stole our supplies, tore the covers from Father's valuable books and scattered them over the muddy road. Our clothing was piled in a heap in the yard, and barrels of flour and molasses poured over it. The looters stirred the heap with bayonets and called it "rebel stew."

We dug up the silver buried in the churchyard and converted all of our belongings to Confederate money. U.S. General Grant granted us a travel pass and passage on a ship which would take us ultimately to Charleston. Our life in the caves was over.

The Chaplain General's Thoughts

The Nearness of God

"For we walk by faith, not by sight", 2nd Corinthians 7:5

Recently, I listened to an old popular standard of my younger years named "The Nearness of You" sung by Judy Garland. With just a couple of word changes, this pop song of another era could almost be made into a hymn. I'm talking about the nearness of God in our lives.



Theologians and psychologists tell us that we very often have our concept of God and our relationship to Him modeled after our relationship with our earthly father, which very often is a starting place for our concept of who God is to us. God desires to have a relationship with each of us that is real and personal. We are His chosen and He wants the relationship of sons and daughters with Him. That relationship is that of the walk of faith.



"Now Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence/conviction of things not seen", Hebrews 11:1

Once, eighteen years ago, I ran a 5k race in downtown Jackson, Mississippi, and I had run the same race the year before. I knew where the finish line was, and in the last mile I was really looking forward to crossing the finish line, but it was not where it was the year before. My faith informed the finish line was there, but somewhere else and I finished. Sometimes God moves our finish lines in a task we are performing. He is always faithful. A sure sign of God's nearness to me is when I am called on to exercise faith and patience, hence my faith and God's providence in my life is strengthened.

"My soul waits in silence for God only, From Him is my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation." Psalm 62:1-2.

A real sign of the nearness of God in each of our lives is in terms of the intimacy of His relationship with us is His silence with us. There are two times I know of in the Old Testament where God was silent. One was after Joseph's death in Egypt for 400 years until Moses, and from the Israelites being exiled and returning to their homeland was also approximately 400 years until Christ appearance. Even if Isaiah 40: 31a says "Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength". I am convinced that God is working His divine purpose for you and me as we worship Him through our different represented faiths.

Thanksgiving is next month and I am going to counting my blessings and one of those is the privilege of communicating with each of you through these monthly articles. I am proud of our Southern heritage and of the Confederate officer corps of our ancestors. Don't you wish we could talk to them in person? I know I do. We do have the high privilege of talking with our Heavenly Father. James 4:8a says, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you".

Raymond Holder
MOS&B Chaplain General

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The Legacy fund gives our members the opportunity to make a real difference. There is no better time than right now to make a statement for our values and our cause. The Confederate Legacy Fund is the vehicle that assures our relevance for generations to come.

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The Confederate Legacy Fund is an important part of our over-all financial plan. The contributions that are made by our members will remain intact for perpetuity. Only the interest that is generated from the fund will be spent. Our expenditures 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. The income generated from the Legacy Fund will eventually pay for all of these types of expenditures.

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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 utilizing one of our deferred payment plans.

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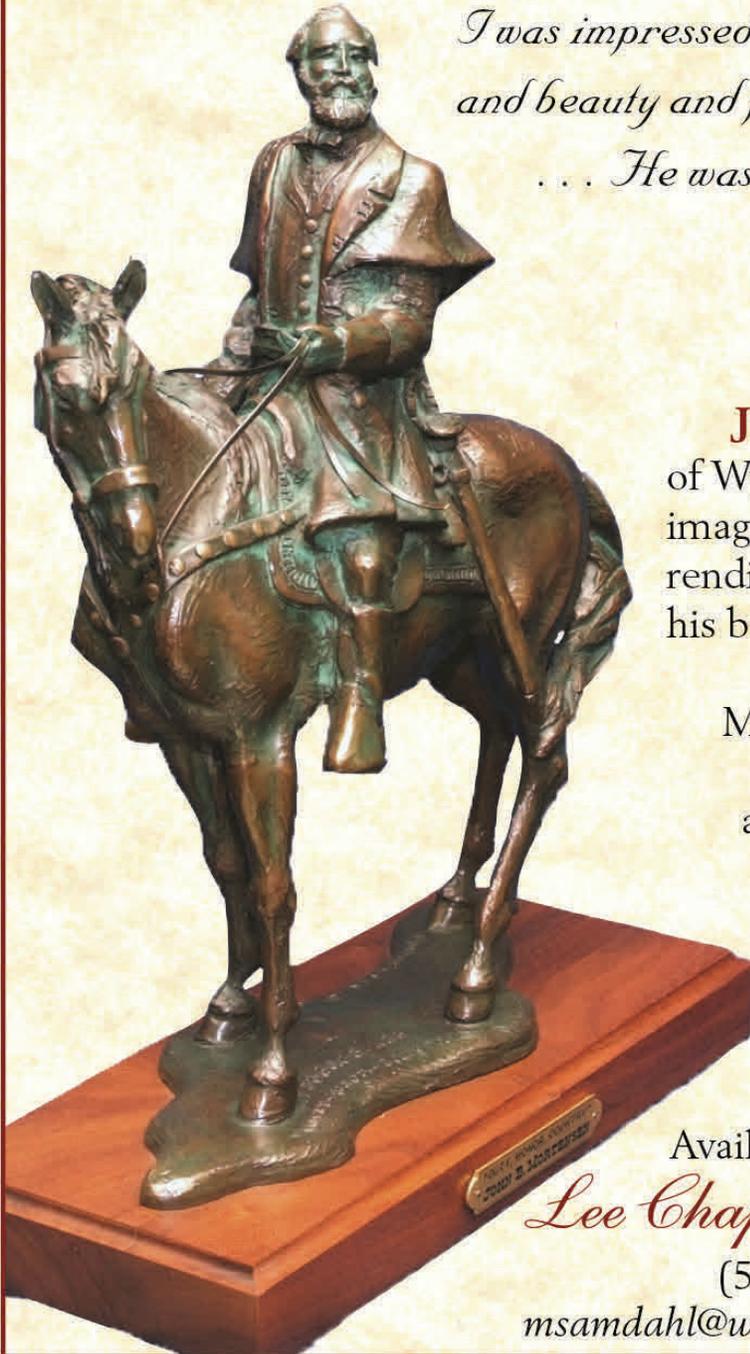
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Genealogist General Update

The screening committee, reviewing the credentials of applicants for the position of Genealogist General for the *Military Order of the Stars and Bars*, determined that two candidates had similar qualifications and commitment to be Genealogist General. Accordingly, both have been designated as co-Genealogist Generals with the following breakdown of responsibilities:

- Mark Ballard – Genealogist General for the ANV & AOT; manager of the online qualifying ancestors listing
- Larry Martin – Genealogist General for the ATM & NAT (National At-Large Chapter); manager of the Collaterals Project

All applications for consideration should only be submitted to IHQ. Applications should not be sent directly to the Genealogist Generals. The Adjutant General will ensure that the appropriate Genealogist General has an electronic application to work from. When approving an application, it should be one entered on the current application form found on the Order's website. Working from the electronic application, the designated Genealogist General will print off page 8 and indicate his approval. That approval page will be forwarded to the Adjutant General as a PDF, who will then assign the membership number.

Trivia of the War Between the States

1. Who was the only general officer to fight on both sides, as a U.S. Army captain and C.S.A. brigadier?
2. What inmate of the prison at Fort Warren, Massachusetts, was promoted to the rank of general while in he was a Union prisoner of war?
3. What graduate of South Carolina College, who was made a brigadier at Pensacola, saw his command virtually wiped out at Stone's River?
4. What former Virginia Military Institute faculty member became the first combat martyr of the Confederacy?
5. What Tar Heel Unionist enlisted as a private in the First North Carolina state troops, became a brigadier general, then spent twenty-three postwar years as a U. S. Senator?
6. What Virginia colonel was commander of a prison before being placed in charge of the C.S.A. Bureau of Conscription, then fled to Europe when Lee surrendered?
7. Who was the father of Harvard graduate Will H. ("Rooney") Lee who became a major general after having been captured?
8. Dudley M. DuBose of Georgia, a veteran of Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Petersburg, and Saylor's Creek, was captured and then held in what prison?
9. What North Carolinian cried, "Give them the cold steel!" before leading 150 men against Cemetery Ridge?
10. What was the name of one of Barnard Bee's brothers who supervised smuggling operations from Brownsville, Texas?

(- Answers on Page 12 -)

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Submittal Entries

MOS&B Officer's Call Magazine welcomes submittals via e-mail to editor@mosbfl.org or 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.

Army of Tennessee Lecture Series Presentation Inquiry

The Department of the Army of Tennessee is looking at having a lecture series in which members of the Florida Society, Georgia Society, and the Alabama Society could meet in a agreed upon location such as Dothan, AL or Valdosta, GA to participate in a lecture presentation; as well as, fellowship with members from these three societies.

If you have a particular location that would be a good meeting location or would like to provide input on what the lecture presentation should be about, please contact Compatriot David Denard at denardodi-an@bellsouth.net.

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Marker Dedication to the Victims of the CS Lab Disaster March 1863

By Conway B. Moncure, CPA, DCS, Treasurer General

On March 17, 2013, a ceremony was held by the Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia to dedicate a granite marker to honor 13 young women buried in the cemetery who were victims of the Confederate Munitions Lab Explosion on March 13, 1863. The ceremony was held nearly 150 years to the day after the CS Lab Explosion

that killed a total of 47 people (mostly young girls under age 17) at Brown's Island in Richmond, VA. Jeffrey Burden, President of the Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery, presided over the ceremony and unveiled the marker. Jeffrey was also the Commander-in-Chief of MOLLUS (Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States) and is an honorary member of the General George Pickett MOS&B Chapter #115 in Richmond. The National Society of the MOS&B co-sponsors civil war projects with MOLLUS, the last being to restore Star Fort in Winchester, VA earlier this summer.



The creation and placement of the marker was a joint project of the Order of the Southern Cross (OSC), the Pickett MOS&B Chapter # 115, and the Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery. Those present included Pickett Chapter Commander Conway B. Moncure who is also Treasurer General of the MOS&B, Pickett Chapter Past Commander and Adjutant Taylor Cowardin who is also a member of the OSC, and Pickett Chapter Chaplain Col. Barton Campbell who is also the Lt. Commander-in-Chief of the OSC.

Shockoe Hill Cemetery is located within two miles of the Museum of the Confederacy and also contains the remains of Chief Justice John Marshall, the abolitionist and Yankee spy Elizabeth Van Lew, Confederate General Patrick T.

Moore, hundreds of Confederate Veterans and John Mercer Patton, the great grandfather of General George S. Patton.

History of the Explosion: The Confederate State Laboratory was a munitions and canon fuse factory located on Brown's Island in the James River across the river from Tredegar Iron Works, the main cannon factory in Richmond during the war. Most of the workers in the fuse factory were young girls under the age of 17, and were prized for their nimble small fingers used for making and inserting fuses in the shells. On March 16, 1863, Mary Ryan, age 14, set off an explosion of fuses and powder that killed 42 in the blast. Most killed were in the same assembly building and died immediately, but a dozen or so survived their burns for several days, long enough to tell the account of the causes of the explosion. It seems that Mary Ryan was instructed to disarm cannon shells containing bad fuses and safely dispose of the powder. Instead, she dumped a large quantity of powder on the floor and attempted to dislodge a stubborn fuse by striking it with a tool. The resulting explosion was horrific and resulted in almost total destruction of the building and the persons inside. A majority of the girl's remains were transported to Hollywood Cemetery about five miles away. Families had some transported to plots in Shockoe. The fourteen remains in Shockoe Cemetery were never marked until now.

Newspaper accounts of the explosion:

Richmond Examiner, March 14, 1863: *"Between eleven and twelve o'clock yesterday morning-some fix the time at exactly twenty minutes past eleven o'clock - a dull, prolonged roar in the direction of Brown's Island across the James River from the foot of Seventh Street, startled that portion of the city and directed*

attention to the Island, on which is located the Confederate Laboratory works, for the manufacture of percussion caps and gun cartridges. But similar sounding explosion, arising from the trial of ordnance from Tredegar Iron Works, had been daily heard in that neighborhood, and it was some minutes before a dense smoke arising from the Island apprised the citizens of the true cause of the explosion, and that arose from the blowing up of a portion of the Laboratory, in all the departments of which were employed from three to four hundred females ... ranging from twelve to twenty-four years.” “A tide of human beings, among them the frantic mothers and kindred of the employees in the laboratory, immediately set towards the bridge leading to the island, but the Government authorities, soonest apprised the disaster, had already taken possession of the bridge, and planting guards of soldiers, allowed passage to none except the workman summoned to rescue the dead and wounded from the ruins. The ambulances from their conveyance to the hospitals, and the surgeons who hurried to the scene by dozens, as soon as the nature and extent of the calamity became known, had volunteered their services for the relief of the survivors ... Hundreds of parents and relatives awaited in an agony worse than death the list of killed and mangled ones.”

Richmond Examiner - March 16, 1863: It now appears probable that the terrible disaster of the Government Laboratory, on Brown's Island, last Friday, was caused by the accidental ignition of a friction primer, in the hands of a girl named Mary Ryan, who possible did not observe sufficient precaution in the work upon which she was employed.”

Marker Inscription Excerpt

On March 13, 1863, an explosion destroyed much of the Confederate States Laboratory, a munitions facility on Brown's Island in the James River. 47 workers died, mostly girls under the age of 17, who helped fill manpower needs and whose small hands were useful in such work.

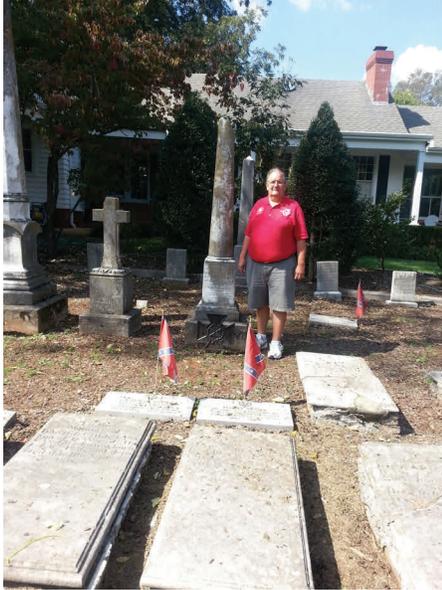
Fourteen were interred in this cemetery in unmarked graves. Four are at this spot next to each other.

Placed by the Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery with the support of the Order of the Southern Cross, and Pickett Chapter #115, MOS&B, March 2013.

Notation: Many scholars and writers of Civil War events claim this explosion was a direct cause of General Lee's loss at Gettysburg as faulty primers prevented his artillery shells from exploding over the Union lines, and accordingly, Lee did not employ many of his artillery pieces on the line.

Answers: Trivia of the War Between the States

1. Frank C. Armstrong of the Indian Territory
2. John S. Marmaduke of Missouri
3. John K. Jackson of Georgia
4. Captain John Marr, at Fairfax Court House, VA on June 1, 1861.
5. Matt W. Ransom of North Carolina
6. John S. Preston
7. General Robert E. Lee
8. Fort Warren, Massachusetts
9. Brigadier General Lewis A. Armistead
10. Brigadier General Hamilton P. Been of South Carolina



BG St. John Richardson Liddell #271 Activity

On 5 October 2013, Compatriot John Myers and Adjutant David Myers (Son and Father) members of BG St. John Richardson Liddell Chapter 271 Baldwin County, Alabama toured Athens, Alabama. Adjutant Myers is shown in the left picture at the In Memory Of monument honoring Lt. Harry Vasser age 22 who was killed at the Battle of Jonesboro, NC in 1864.

2013 Scholarship Winner's Information



Jenna Aspen Dornquist
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Pima Community College
Computer Software Engineering



Anna-Laura Catherine Luttrell
Hoover AL
Auburn University
Fashion Designer



Katherine M. Bryan
Manhattan Beach CA
Bowdoin College
Medicine



Laurel Kasten
Cape Girardeau MO
University of Missouri – Columbia
Art Therapist/Teacher



Ross Leone III
Seguin TX
Texas State University – San Marcos
Air Force Officer/Chemistry



The 21st North Carolina at Gettysburg

By David G. Whitaker, DCS, MOS&B Texas Chapter #5

(My interest in this battle is because my great great grandfather, King David Whitaker of the 21st, N.C. Infantry, was in this charge. He mostly fought in the battles in Virginia and was finally shot in the right shoulder during the battle of Petersburg. This ended his participation in the WBTS)

On the night of July 2, 1863 after one of the fiercest artillery duels of the war, the 21st NC took part in some of the worst fighting seen at Gettysburg. It was reported that Major J.W. Lattimers 16 confederate guns fired 1,147 rounds at the federals entrenched on Cemetery Hill, over 60 Federal guns returned fire.

Hays' Louisiana Tigers (The 9th Louisiana Infantry Volunteers) anchored the right of the Confederate line on Winebrenner's Run, with the 6th, 21st, and 57th NC on the left. These units were formed up in the front yard of the Culp family farm under the command of Col. Isaac Avery. Around 6:30pm Gen. Ewell gave Hays and Avery the order to advance. The whole Confederate line proceeded to right wheel into battle. Hay's Tigers slammed into the Federal Line first, torn by double canister. The Tigers (LSU took this name as their mascot) proceeded forward over fence and wall advancing as the artillery fire intensified. The 21st in the center of the North Carolina regiments ran into the federals advance pickets, the 41st NY, and the 33rd MA, who after firing a volley or two fell back to the right of the main federal line. The 21st pressed forward crossing two stone walls under heavy fire from both cannon and musket, advancing toward the federals.

In front lay the 68th and 54th NY regiments, newly formed and not yet tested in battle, crouched behind a stone wall on Brickyard Lane. The NC units now only yards away surged forward with a spine tingling rebel yell! Here the fighting intensified as men fought with bayonets and rifle butts. Due to the steepness of the hill the federal batteries could not depress their cannon to support the infantry any longer. Overwhelmed by the gray clad Tarheels, the 68th and 54th NY units broke and ran toward the gatehouse on Cemetery Hill. Seeing this hole open in the Federal line, the 21st charged up the hill towards Rickett's Battery of guns. Sometime during this phase of the battle, Col. Avery was shot in the back of the neck while turning to give orders to his men. His last act on the field was to write a note in his own blood, it read: "Please tell my father I died with my face to the enemy". The 21st now overran Rickett's Battery capturing some of its guns. Darkness had now fallen and small battles raged everywhere as small pockets of men engaged each other in close deadly combat, illuminated only by musket and cannon fire. About 9:00 pm Federal reinforcements consisting of the 14th ID, 4th OH, and the 7th WV, the "Gibraltar Brigade," arrived. Advancing with fixed bayonets into the battle toward Rickett's Battery and the 21st NC, after brief hand to hand fighting the Confederates were pushed back down the hill in much disorder followed by the 7th WV which halted at the stone wall originally held by the NY units. The battle for the most part was now over, with small skirmishes continuing through the night as the Confederates made their way back to the safety of their own lines. It is very possible that the 21st North Carolina actually went the furthest at Gettysburg!

GETTYSBURG BATTLE-FIELD

Hand-colored lithograph by John B. Bachelder, 1863



Bird's-eye panoramic view of the battlefield facing west. Bachelder, John Badger (1825-1894). Subtitled Battle Fought at Gettysburg PA July 1st 2nd & 3rd 1863 by the Federal and Confederate Armies Commanded Respectively by Gen. G.G. Meade and Gen. Robert E. Lee. 1863 copyright. Small map of Soldiers National Cemetery in central lower margin. Facsimile signatures of Union Generals (Doubleday, Newton, Hancock, Birney, Slocum Sykes, Sedgwick, Howard, Williams) verifying accuracy of troop positions, and facsimile of hand-written statement by Meade on the accuracy of topography and troop positions within it.

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