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THE MEN AND THE LEGEND OF The 52nd Georgia Regiment Part II

William S. Kinsland

The loss of the Battle of Atlanta was, indeed, a bitter pill for the soldiers who fought desperately to stop the Federal onslaught. According to Scaife's The Campaign For Atlanta, General Manigault and General Sharpe sent a message to Maj. Gen. Clayton, their Division commander, that they could their position and consolidate However, somewhere in the higher command structure, the order to withdraw was initiated. The advantage so dearly paid for in the fighting and death along the lines in East Atlanta, was abandoned for reasons which shall remain obscure. If General ever filed a report on the Battle of Atlanta, it became lost. No such report appears in the Official Records. It is known, however, that he did advise the Confederate Government in Richmond that the battle was a "success". The New York Herald of 26 July 1864 reported that General John B. Hood had been killed "in Atlanta's defenses". propaganda often obscured the truth both sides of the battle lines.

In all, the 52nd Georgia Infantry sustained some 34 casualties in the Battle of Atlanta, eclipsed only by the losses at Baker's Creek, Mississippi the previous year.

As the troops fell back to the Atlanta defenses, it was becoming apparent to all that the Federal forces were about to invest the city and produce a state of siege. Federal Major General Oliver O. Howard took over command of the Union Army of the Tennessee, formerly

commanded by Mai. James Birdseye Gen. McPherson who was killed at the Battle Atlanta by Confederate skirmishers. Howard began a major flanking movement to cut off the Atlanta and West Point Railroad and also the Macon and Western Railroad. Such a move would have effectively isolated from the outside world. Reacting to this move, Hood sent Lt. General Stephen Lee's Corps (formerly Cheatham's Corps at the Battle of Atlanta) along with Lt. General Alexander Stewart's Corps westward to stop Howard. On July 28th, the Battle of Ezra Church ensued. From all available sources, it does not appear that the 52nd Georgia was involved in this battle, although other brigades besides Stovall's were definitely among those from Clayton's Division at the battle. In any event, no casualties from the 52nd Georgia are known to have occurred here. The battle was another costly defeat for the Confederate Army.

As the summer of 1864 ground on, the continual sparring and skirmishing and ceaseless bombardment around the Atlanta fortifications were punctuated with the occasional flare of battles at Utoy Creek, Sunshine Church and Brown's Mill. By the end of August, Sherman had become frustrated with the entire enterprize. Atlanta could not be taken by storm as the impregnable fortifications designed by Lemuel Grant would only become the funeral pyre for any attacker.

In a major redeployment, Sherman sent his XX Corps back to the Chattahoochee



Denton Springs near Cleveland Ga. Here on March 4, 1862, men from White and surrounding counties met and formed Company B "Cleveland Volunteers" of the 52nd Regiment. Two of these men; Privates Frances Marion Crumley and Jeptha A. Ledford were great-grandfathers of Porter Glover, shown above left with author Bill Kinsland.

River near Bolton. He sent the remainder of his armies far southward to cut off the remaining railroads to Macon and to Alabama, Hood's last lines of supply. The silence of August 25th must have been deafening to the Southern defenders who had become accustomed to round-the-clock bombardment.

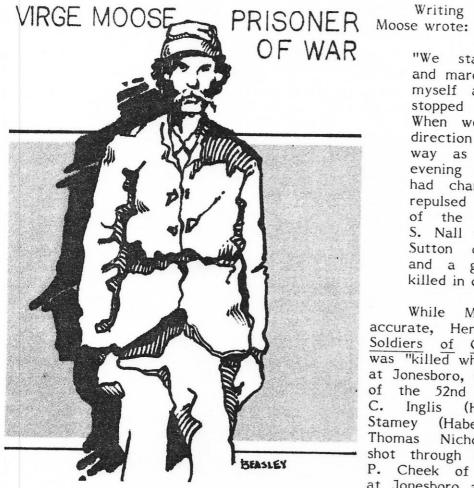
The sudden silence did not escape the attention of Private Virge Moose of Company "C", 52nd Georgia. In a post-war memoir published in the <u>Dahlonega Signal</u> in 1891, he wrote:

"One night about the last of the month (August) we knew the enemy was moving in some direction; we knew not where. Our cannons were booming all night long; ...I thought they were falling back to Dalton or Chattanooga. Next morning there was no enemy in our front and we went over to their camps whereupon we found

the bitters and clothing and the dead Yankee...We saw where they had nailed slats to pine trees for seventy-five feet or more and where our men had shot them off by cannonading."

At first, General John B. Hood, too, had thought that the siege had been lifted and that the Union forces had abandoned their enterprize. It soon became obvious, however, that Sherman's apparent abandonment was indeed a deception and the Federal movement was far more insidious than first thought. Immediately Hood dispatched Lt. Gen. W.J. Hardee and Lt. Gen. Stephen D. Lee and their respective corps down to Jonesboro on the night of August 30th in the hope of preventing the destruction of the Atlanta & West Point Railroad near East Point and Fairburn.

On August 31, 1864, Hood's soldiers and Sherman's blue-clad troopers joined battle in earnest at Jonesboro. The 52nd



PRIVATE FREDERICK VIRGE MOOSE Co. C; 52nd Regiment

Private Moose joined March 4, 1862 at age 16. He was captured at Vicksburg, Miss. July 4, 1863 and exchanged Oct. 8, 1863. Wounded and captured at Nashville, Tenn. Dec. 16, 1864 and sent to the Union prison at Camp Chase, Ohio. He was received at Camp Chase Jan. 6, 1865 and was paroled May 2, 1865, via New Orleans, La. for exchange. Received at Vicksburg, Miss. May 12, 1865.

In 1891, Moose wrote series of articles about the war which were first published in the <u>Dahlonega</u> <u>Signal</u> but were soon picked up by the <u>larger</u> newspapers and given national circulation.

The above sketch of Private Moose as a prisoner of war (redrawn by Wm. H. Beasley) appeared in the Atlanta Constitution in August 1891.

Georgia as part of Stovall's Brigade was called in to support the assault of Stevenson's Division against Harrow's Division of the Federal XV Corps, their former adversary in the trenches of East Atlanta.

"We started in a southwest direction and marched all night, and about midnight myself and two others of my company stopped and lay down until daylight. When we arose we heard firing in the direction of Jonesboro; we went that way as fast as possible and late that evening when we got there, our men had charged their works and had been repulsed by superior numbers. The Maj. of the 41st Ga. Regt. (Major Marcus S. Nall of Heard County, Ga.) and Will Sutton of my company was wounded, and a great many others wounded and killed in our regiment."

While Moose's record seems generally accurate, Henderson's Roster of Confederate Soldiers of Georgia shows that Major Nall was "killed while gallantly leading his regiment at Jonesboro, Ga., Aug. 31, 1864." The wounded of the 52nd Georgia included Privates Alex C. Inglis (Habersham County), Henry J. Stamey (Habersham County), and Corporal Thomas Nichols (Rabun County) who was shot through the left thigh. Private William P. Cheek of Franklin County was wounded at Jonesboro and died in a hospital in Macon on 10 September 1864. Cheek was buried there at Rose Hill Cemetery.

By 2:00 PM the following day, the 52nd Georgia, as part of General Stephen D. Lee's Corps, was on the march back to Atlanta following Hood's orders to provide for the defense of Atlanta proper against the encroachment of Union General John Schofield's Army of the Ohio.

On 1 September, the Battle of Jonesboro continued to rage. While the Federal Army did not defeat Hardee's Corps at Jonesboro, it became apparent to Hardee that his resources had been dangerously exhausted. His men were greatly outnumbered, his one Corps facing three Federal Corps. Hardee withdrew from the Jonsboro line that evening southward to Lovejoy Station. General Hood now had no choice but to abandon Atlanta to avoid another Vicksburg-like siege. By nightfall of 1 September, the soldiers of the 52nd Georgia joined the march southward out of Atlanta to Lovejoy. The following day. Sherman's Grand Army entered Atlanta to begin a reign of fire and blood which would devastate the city and give birth to a legacy of hatred which has not been forgiven even unto this day.

In late September, Hood moved his

men westward from Lovejoy to Palmetto while devising his plans for a campaign through Tennessee and Kentucky. Virge Moose made a brief note of this respite from the fighting:

"The next news was that Atlanta had fallen; we then had about three weeks rest during which time our President Davis paid us a short visit and made a speech, the only time I ever saw him. He addressed each regiment separately."

Moose's apparent lack of enthusiasm about Jeff Davis's visit was shared by many soldiers in the Army of Tennessee. Wearied and sick from the long, hot summer's futile efforts to halt the Union invasion of Georgia, and angered that General Johnston had been replaced by the reckless Hood, it is little wonder that many of the ragged, shoeless troops interrupted Davis' speech with cries of "Give us back Old Joe!" and "Give us Johnston!"

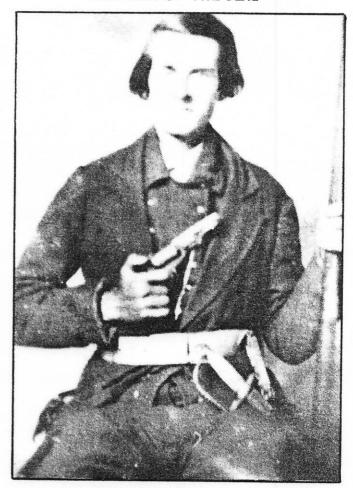
After informing the soldiers, newspaper reporters and Sherman's spies the entire plan for Hood's march northward to cut off Sherman's line of supplies and march on to Tennessee and Kentucky, President Davis took a tour of the Georgia theater going to West Point, Macon and Augusta, enroute back to Richmond. Meanwhile, on I October, Hood began the long march northward, crossing the Chattahoochee near Campbellton. A battle at Allatoona Pass on 5 October did not involve the 52nd Georgia and was confined largely to the troops of Maj. Gen. Samuel French's division.

By 17 October, Hood's Army had abandoned the operations against Sherman's supply lines along the Western & Atlantic Railroad and began to march southwestward from Resaca toward Gadsden, Alabama. From Gadsden on 22 October, Hood moved north to Guntersville where he intended to cross the Tennessee River and launch his long-promised campaign. Unfortunately the river was too high to afford the crossing and the army continued its westward trek by Round Mountain, Turkeytown, Decatur, Goshen, Courtland and Tuscumbia. Crossing the river after an artillery barrage, the Army of Tennessee took Florence, Alabama.

Virge Moose recalled the capture of Florence in some detail:

"We had marched hundreds of miles from Georgia, (Cont. on next page)

THE MEN OF THE 52nd



Hamilton N. Levasque Private, Co. H "Fannin Rifles"

Levasque joined Co. H May 14, 1862 and was killed during the Battle of Baker's Creek at Champion Hill - 20 miles east of Vicksburg, Miss. - on May 16, 1863.

Levasque was born in 1836 in N.C., the son of Jesse and Sally Bryson Levasque who were among the earliest settlers of Towns County. He married Frances Key Dec. 18, 1856.

John W. Meeks joined Company B on March 4, 1862 as a 1st Lieutenant. He resigned on account of ill health July 22, 1862. Resignation accepted Aug. 9, 1862. Pension records show he enlisted as a private in Co. H, 11th Regt. Ga. Cavalry Sept. 1864. (Not found in this command.) Surrendered near Columbia, S.C. May 1865.

He was born Sept. 21, 1833, Habersham County, Ga., the son of William Sheldon Meeks and Rebecca Davis. He died June 6, 1930 in Cartersville (Cont. on page 23)

(Cont. from previous page) nearly deprived of clothes and with nothing scarcely to live on...as we got in sight of Florence across the river, our battery threw a shell over there and we saw the enemy leaving."

The arrival of Confederate troops in Florence was an occasion for celebration and brought on many demonstrations of support and loyalty by local citizens. Moose did not fail to record the joy of the occasion:

"A great many of our boys were royally entertained by the citizens of that place; yet we presented a very shabby appearance for we had not changed clothing for months. I was barefooted and my left trouser leg was worn off about a foot and the other about six inches. But I did not feel embarrassed at all while eating in a nice dining room, waited on by a nice rebel lady..."

Hood launched his march into Tennessee on 21 November 1864 amid snow and sleet and unseasonable cold. On 27 November, Hood deployed his troops before Columbia, Tennessee. Intending to delay Hood's northward advance as long as possible while Nashville's defenses were strengthened, Union General John M. Schofield evacuated Columbia that night and pulled his forces across the Duck River.

On the morning of the 30th, Hood's Army of Tennessee was on the march across the Duck River, pursuing Schofield who had fallen back to Franklin. Stovall's Brigade and the 52nd Georgia had been temporarily attached to Gen. Edward Johnson's Division which arrived late in the evening of the 30th at the site of one of the bloodiest and most desperate battles of the entire war.

Many scholars of the War have generally agreed that the Battle of Franklin was both needless and tragic. It appears that Schofield would never have fought at Franklin and would have abandoned it sooner had not the bridges over the Harpeth River still been intact. Had Hood simply deployed his troops before the Franklin lines and waited, Schofield would have abandoned Franklin in due course and retreated to Nashville. Alas, this was not to be. "We will make the fight!" Hood said that fateful afternoon as he stood high atop Winstead Hill. And with these words, the lives of

some 1700 Confederate soldiers would be laid upon their Country's altar that day and sacrificed for a cause whose fire grew dimmer with each drop of Southern blood shed upon those autumnal fields in middle Tennessee.

Tragedy would be the lot of many that cold and windy afternoon. The tattered gray soldiers, hungry, without shoes, their proud red Battle Flags torn by shot and shell fluttering in the breeze, stood tall in the face of utter futility. Like their hardy ancestors who defied tyranny on the plains of Runnymeade, who shed their blood for Scotland at Culloden and Preston, who died for "dear ol' Ireland" on the fields of Boyne, these gray warriors marched to certain death with flags flying and fife and drums playing.

Virge Moose described what he found at Franklin:

"It has been near 27 years since it was fought and I can still hear in my imagination the yells, oaths and the prayers of the wounded and dying, as we fought hand to hand over the third line of breast-works for four hours. Oh! It was terrible. Gen. Pat Cleburne was badly lifted over their works on their bayonets! Our dead in several places were six deep...the enemy's loss was very near as great; their breast-works were full of dead and wounded."

It is, perhaps, a blessing that the United States has not experienced the devastation of major warfare since the War Between the States. In the twilight days of the last major war fought on North American soil, Virge Moose captured in his memory the following famous and tragic account:

"...one Tennessee captain in the battle, whose family he had not seen for three years, was living in Franklin not 100 yards from where he had been fighting for six hours or longer...he yelled to his company to forward to wife and children. On his own doorstep he fell; his body riddled with bullets. I saw his wife and daughters next morning; heard their heart-rending cries over his dead body. Oh! how terrible was this war among brothers!"

No cameras were present at the Battle of Franklin. What the cameras failed to record, Virge Moose recorded in his memory. As he wandered across the scene of devastation

the following day, he found an old friend among the dead who littered the field:

"After the battle was over, while walking the battlefield I saw a man I taken to be Hyram G. Smith who had, some years before this moved from my country...to Ala. I also met with him previous to the above battle in the Army...he was shot in the forehead and killed..."

While Franklin may have been a small engagement when compared to such battles as Antietam and Gettysburg, the strategic significance is not lost on those who have studied well the history of the War in the Western Theater. Indeed, Franklin may well be remembered as military history's classic example of the pyrrhic victory, like that of King Pyrrhus over the Romans, costing more to the victor than to the vanquished.

While Hood's Army of Tennessee obtained its technical objective of occupation of Franklin, six of Hood's key generals were killed in action and nearly one-fifth of his force was killed, wounded or captured. On the other hand, Schofield lost perhaps less than one-twelfth of his troops, all of whom were readily replaced.

From what is known about the Franklin Battle and given other pieces of information, it appears that the 52nd Georgia actually became engaged in the action only in the late hours of the battle with Johnson's division. The only casualties suffered by the 52nd in this battle were environmental rather than battle-induced. Private Pruitt Presley of White County was "injured by fall from hand car". Private William Burgess of Dawson County was the victim of "feet severely frost bitten, permanently disabled..." The only known battle-related casualty at Franklin was Private Joseph B. Westmoreland of White County who was "wounded at Franklin, Tenn. Nov. 30, 1864."

The Official Records show the following report from General Stovall regarding the action at Franklin:

"Owing to the length of the march on the eventful day of the battle of Franklin, the division to which my brigade was attached did not arrive in time to enter the conflict. Thrown forward, however, in advance of the other two brigades of the division to relieve some of the troops which had been (Cont. on next page)

MEN OF THE 52nd (cont.)



John Wellborn Meeks 1st Lieutenant; Co. B "Cleveland Volunteers"

while visiting his daughter. His funeral was at New Holland, Hall Co. and he was buried in Cleveland, White Co.

He married 1st. Laura Clementine Carter (1845-1873) in White Co. on 29 May 1860. They had seven children. He married 2nd. Sarah Louvenia Hollingsworth (1849-1910) in White Co. on 17 July 1873. They had five children. Laura was the daughter of John and Frances Carter and "Lou" was the daughter of John and Mary (Merritt) Hollingsworth.

John Wellborn Meeks owned a store in Cleveland and was later a Baptist Minister in Union Co.

John Stephens joined Co. E on March 4, 1862 and surrendered at Greensboro, N.C. April 26, 1865.

He married Vadie Keys and they were parents of five children: Joseph, Jeanie, Hixie, Alexander Hamilton and Grace. The family lived in Towns County.

(Cont. on page 25)

engaged, I occupied the enemy's first line of works. While in this position I lost one officer killed and 2 or 3 men wounded. I remained here until about 9 o'clock the next morning, when I was ordered into the town of Franklin to guard it..."

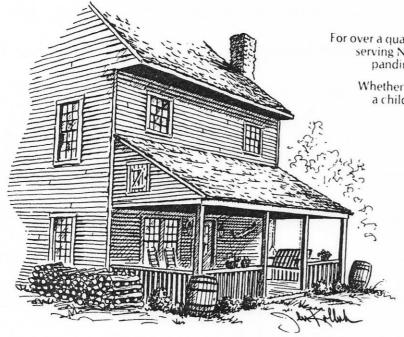
Based on what is known about the positions of Stovall's Brigade and Johnson's Division in the Battle of Franklin, it would that Moose's descriptions some instances, second-hand in nature, many very true stories heard from soldiers who had been on other parts of the field. Stovall's report, taken together with other fragments of information from Official Military Atlas of the Civil War and the Official Records, would support for first-hand experience for Moose's descriptions of the post-conflict battlefield scenes. It is highly probable that Moose actually saw the Carter family mourning their loss and found Hyram G. Smith's body.

On 1 December, the 52nd Georgia along with the rest of Stovall's Brigade moved out toward Nashville where the full force of General George Thomas's Army of the Cumberland eagerly awaited them. On 2 December, Hood deployed his mortally-wounded Army in an arc approximately 4 miles southeast of the capitol building in Nashville. Now the waiting game began. Who would make the first move? Hood or Thomas? Given Hood's usual penchant for suicidal assaults, it is indeed enigmatic that no such assault occurred.

Stovall's Brigade and the 52nd Georgia into battle formation near Overton Hill. During the days which followed, the 52nd was moved forward and backwards several times as Hood attempted to line his forces up to obtain the best advantage. the 15th of December, the 52nd was back in its original position near Overton Hill. As the soldiers worked in the midst of snow and rain to improve their fortifications, the Federal Army commenced its ponderous assault. With a heavy thrust at Hood's left, the Federals succeeded in pushing the Confederate line back approximately 1 mile.

At 9 AM on 16 December, the 52nd Georgia took a heavy pounding from the enfilade of Federal artillery. General Stovall said of the cannon fire: "I was...subjected to a fire of artillery both directed on my left and front, quite as severe as any to

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which I have ever been exposed."

The artillery barrage was followed by an infantry assault. Along the particular portion of the line where the 52nd Georgia stood, several negro regiments led the assault. Moose described the action in some detail:

"...about that time we saw a line of battle advancing toward us. Soon another line started; then another, until there were four double lines advancing on our works against one single rank of Confederates, that was nearly naked and starved...here at Nashville we are going to fight 6 or 8 apiece! "General Clayton came around and said to Captain Asbury who was command of the regiment...to hold our fire...or not to fire until our battery opened on them. They kept getting nearer and nearer until I thought the locks of the cannons had got out of fix and could not get them to shoot. They got within 50 yards of us when boom went our battery. We give that first line of negroes...their last sickness... and assisted Old 'Uncle Abe' in giving them their freedom."

The diet of the Confederate soldier in the Army of Tennessee was quite spartan. Moose described a breakfast on the morning 16 December 1864, prepared by his mess-mate Alpheus Yarborough of Lumpkin County:

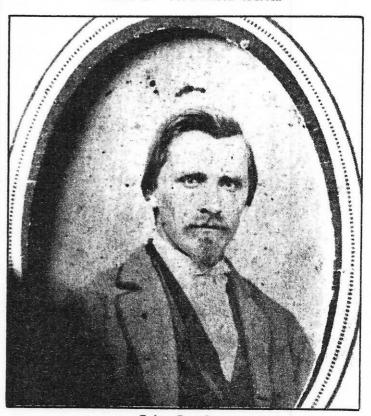
"Alpheus was busy grating some corn that he had boiled in the sun to make it soft enough. That morning he had three ears and made it into mush without salt and that was our breakfast."

The battle raged on the 16th and the Federal troops continued to press the weakened Confederate lines backwards. The shelling continued. In the midst of the shelling, Lieutenant William H. Finch of Lumpkin County stepped in front of regimental adjutant Robert Quillian. A shell burst nearby sending shrapnel everywhere. Finch suddenly felt a piece of metal pierce his chest and said to Quillian: "Adjutant, I am killed!". Quillian replied: "I hope not, Lieutenant!" Dying quickly, Finch said as he sank to his knees: "Yes I feel the wind coming out of the place."

That day, many men of the 52nd would become prisoners of the Union Army. Moose described his own capture:

"We all went back (Cont. next page)

MEN OF THE 52nd (cont.)



John Stephens 2nd Lieutenant; Co. E "Hiawassee Rangers"



Members of the 52nd are reunited at a Confederate Reunion in Dahlonega in 1909. Left to right: (Cont. on page 27)

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into the works. But a few minutes we saw our men running and the vankees all mixed up with them. They captured Lieut. Magee of our company, Wm. Cook, Wm. Davis, Nath Carter, and your humble but unworthy breastworks...by the needed trousers mending time my very badly...it was off at the knee when a member of the 28th Illinois captured me and ordered me to doublesharp rocks...towards those on Nashville. I left blood in every track of my bare feet. Students of N.G.A. College: What do you think of it?"

Battle of Nashville cut deeply into the already depleted ranks of the 52nd Georgia. The regiment sustained 16 casualties of which 2 were killed: Private Elias Roach of Habersham County and Lt. Wm. Finch. captured included: Pvt. Zachariah Those Forrester of Habersham County, Pvt. Francis Edwards of White County, Lt. Seth Magee, Sgt. Wm. H. Cook, Pvt. Wm. Gayton, Pvt. Frederick V. Moose and Pvt. Wm. H. Shelton all of Lumpkin County; Sgt. John Sewell, J.M. Aaron, Pvt. J.W. Coker, Pvt. Wm. C. Little and Pvt. James, Pvt. J.D. Starrett, all of Franklin County. Pvt. Joel Sprouse of Franklin County was also captured and died of disease at Camp Chase, Ohio on 30 April, 1865 and is buried there in grave number 1938.

While some historians have attempted to portray the Confederate debacle at Nashville as a rout, most of the available evidence seems to indicate that this is false. There was indeed a great deal of panic at first Federals overwhelmed Hood's when the However, actual overstretched line. withdrawal was orderly Confederate covered with an admirable rear-guard action. Stovall described the action of his brigade in covering the retreat from Nashville:

> peculiar pleasure that I is with chronicle the fact that able to of my brigade...left the not a man without orders...I was able to march them out in good order and save the battery which I supported...they promptly and were of the number that covered for two days the retreat consequent upon this great following. During the day I was engaged with the enemy's cavalry... successfully repulsed them. charge, my command captured one between 75 and 100 prisoners, 1 stand

of colors, with many horses, saddles and bridles..."

The history of the 52nd Georgia following the Battle of Nashville becomes exceedingly difficult to outline. The few vague references to the 52nd in the Official Records show that the regiment was seriously depleted of manpower. Shortly before the Battle of Franklin, there were only 123 men present for duty and only 95 were listed as "effective". After the disaster at Nashville and further unrecorded decimation in the retreat back to Tupelo, Mississippi, it is possible that their numbers dwindled even more.

In a Report of Effective Strength of Lee's Corps, dated 23 February 1865, the 52nd Georgia is shown on detached service, "detailed as guard to train from Columbus, Miss." A brigade-command roster dated 31 March 1865 simply shows the 52nd "on detached service". No personal accounts of this period have come to light at this time to give a more definitive picture of the situation.

Where and when, exactly, did the 52nd Georgia Regiment finally surrender? No single answer can be given. Until very recently, it had been thought that the 52nd may have remained in Mississippi and surrendered at Columbus. It was thought that the regiment was not a part of the force which moved east to the Carolinas to join Generals Johnston and Beauregard in a last-ditch fight against Sherman's armies.

Based on Henderson' Roster, it appears that 89 soldiers surrendered at Greensborough, N.C. on 26 April 1865. Another 40 soldiers are shown as having surrendered under General Wofford's command at Kingston, Georgia on 12 May 1865. Other individuals on detached duty surrendered at numerous other points including Atlanta, Augusta, Athens, Charlotte, Columbia, Columbus, Ga., High Point, N.C., Macon, Ga. and Newberry, S.C.

On 18 Nov. 1895, Marshall L. Smith of Gainesville wrote the following note to his friend and former comrade-in-arms of the 52nd Georgia:

"At the time we surrendered in North Carolina, I made a complete list of the members of our Regt. who were then present. Hoping that it will prove acceptable, I send you a copy."

Smith, who was the (Cont. on next page)

MEN OF THE 52nd (cont.)

Timothy H. Worley Sergeant; Co. D "Boyd Guards"

Timothy H. Worley was a "Boyd Guards" Private Apr. 18, 1862. He was appointed Musician Nov. 1863. Appointed Sergeant. Wounded through body and left hip and permanently disabled at Atlanta, Ga. July 22, 1864. Home on wounded furlough Apr. 1865. Married Adeline J. Holland Nov. 3, 1867 in Lumpkin Co., Ga. in 1915.

Jeremiah L. Stover Private; Co. B "Cleveland Volunteers"

Jeremiah L. Stover was a "Cleveland Volunteers" Private July 10, 1862. Captured at Vicksburg, Miss. July 24, 1863. Released on oath of allegiance to U.S. Gov't at Chattanooga, Tenn. March 5, 1864. He died 1928 and is buried at Shoal Creek Baptist Church, White Co., Ga.

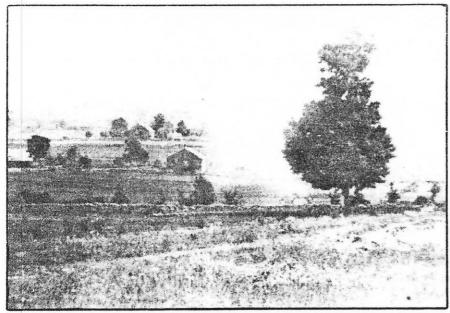
Jonathan A. Hollifield Private; Co. D "Boyd Guards"

Jonathan A. Hollifield was a "Boyd Guards" Private March 4, 1862. He was captured at Vicksburg, Miss. July 4, 1863, and paroled there July 11, 1863. Pension records show he was cut off from command by Federal Army near Athens, Ga. and joined Co. A, 11th Regt. Ga. Militia March 1865. Surrendered at Kinsgton, Ga. May 12, 1865. He married Sarah A. Woody Jan. 21, 1866 in Lumpkin Co. He was County Treasurer of Lumpkin Co. from Oct. 16, 1912 to Nov. 29, 1914. He died Sept. 28, 1928 and is buried at Enon Baptist Church, Lumpkin County, Ga.

David P. Kimsey 1st Sergeant; Co. E "Hiawassee Rangers"

David P. Kimsey was born May 29, 1835 and died Sept. 18, 1876. He married Elizabeth "Betty" Kerlee, daughter of Bird Kerlee, on Dec. 27, 1855.

He enlisted in Co. E and (Cont. on page 29)



last Quartermaster Sergeant of the regiment, noted on his roster: "At the time of surrender, this detachment was temporarily attached to the 39th Ga. Regt...and commanded by Capt. John R. Russell." Smith listed 36 men on his roster. This list is shown at the end of this article.

In the closing hours of the war, Captain Rufus Asbury who had been, in effect, the commanding officer of the regiment for over a year, was away from the regimental camp at the time of the surrender. Henderson's Roster shows that "he was on detail to collect stragglers at Charlotte, N.C. close of war."

THE LODESTONE ON THE SQUARE

Dahlonega, Georgia

DIAL

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ANTIQUES OF DAHLONEGA TO.



ANTIQUES, SEMI ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, MEMORABILIA & DECORÂTIVE ACCESSORIES 116 N. PARK ST. 404-864-3637 DAHLONEGA, GA. 30533 864-3356 MARGARET R. OWENS LEFT: Looking south from Franklin toward Winstead Hill. Gen. Hood watched the battle from a point on the hill at right. 1,700 Confederates died in this battle.

A passage in the unpublished Historian's Book of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Chapter (Dahlonega) Gus Boyd tells of Captain Asbury wrapping the regimental Battle Flag around body and covering it with to conceal it coat from the enemy when the regiment surrendered at Greensborough. That same flag made its appearance at many reunions after the war.

It, along with the old drum made from a black-gum log and carried by the drummer J.W. Etris of White County, became venerated relics of the 52nd Georgia. The old flag was last known to have been exhibited at the 1907 reunion in Dahlonega, carried by Captain Joe Woodward. Its whereabouts today is unknown. The drum has been located and is in the possession of Fred Etris of Union City, Ga.

Again, little is actually known about how these soldiers returned home and what they found here upon their return. Federal occupation of the mountain area was slow in coming. It was not until 15 June 1865 that the first Federal troops arrived in Dahlonega. At about that time they also arrived in Dawsonville and Cleveland where they began to administer oaths of allegiance to all former Confederate soldiers.

The harsh rule of Reconstruction which imposed a virtual military dictatorship on Georgia was felt in Dahlonega and surrounding areas in 1867 when Major John D. Wilkins established a headquarters for the 33rd U.S. Infantry in the old Mint building.

The shooting stopped in 1865. But the memories would continue to linger for many decades to come. In the Spring of 1866, Col. Wier Boyd bravely led a procession of veterans of the 52nd Georgia and other regiments, together with the widows and children and relatives of the soldiers buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Dahlonega. The procession, according to the UDC Historian's Book, marched from the Methodist Church along a route which took the participants directly past the old Mint building where Federal troops were quartered. Mattie Boyd Gaillard remembered:

MEN OF THE 52nd (cont.)

"Aged men, women and children and the survivors who had been fortunate enough to come out of that gigantic struggle alive, helped to swell the long line of march to the cemetery where the flowers were deposited upon the graves of the departed ones, overlooked by the Blue Ridge Mountains that stand in the distance as everlasting sentinals typifying the lofty character of her brave sons... A garrison of United States soldiers occupied the old Mint building...we were under military rule and a squad of soldiers was dispatched to the cemetery to take note of what was transpiring there...but the officer in command declared that there could be no rebellion, no treason...in this act of loving devotion to the memory of our sleeping heroes."

Over the next 50 years, the old veterans would assemble again and again on such special occasions as Robert E. Lee's birthday (January 19th), Confederate Memorial Day (April 26th) and other special times. From time to time, they came together at the courthouses of Cleveland, Clarkesville, Dahlonega and Dawsonville. In later years, the United Daughters of the Confederacy would organize these events and awarded special crosses to each soldier, commemorating his service. The last documented reunion of the Regiment was in Dahlonega on Confederate Memorial Day, 1910, when some 26 soldiers gathered.

The last of the old soldiers died in the 1930's. Pvt. Alexander Shook of Co. "E", died in Towns County on 8 March 1931. And on May 2, 1933 Pvt. Wm. J. Hooper, also of Co. "E" died in Towns County. The very last known surviving 52nd Georgia soldier was Pvt. John Y. Burgess of Co. "K". Burgess was born in Laurens County, S.C. on 7 August 1839. He died in Lavonia, Ga. in May 1939, almost one hundred years old! He is buried there in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

What, we wonder now, did these old troopers think and remember in their final moments? Did they recall the overwhelming and bloody Federal assault at Baker's Creek where so many old friends died? Or perhaps they remembered the cruel siege at Vicksburg where they nearly starved to death. Or perhaps they recalled the gallant charge across the lines in East Atlanta in 1864. Or the cruel Tennessee winters of 1862 and 1864. Or perhaps they remembered



served as first sergeant. On July 4, 1863 he was wounded and captured at Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was later discharged due to disability. The family lived on Fodder Creek at the Berry Woodring Place, now included in the Bald Mountain Park property. David died there Sept. 18, 1876 and was carried by wagon to the Burch Cemetery for burial. Elizabeth Kerlee Kimsey and several children moved to the West. Children of David and Elizabeth Kimsey were: James Lewallen (1857), Elisha Howard (1858) married Feb. 22, 1885 Mary Ellen Woodring (1860-1888); Luther B. (1859); Sarah D. (Sept. 30, 1860-Nov. 27, 1877); Julia A. (1862-1938) married Berry Woodring; Martha L. "Mattie" (1864-1948) married John Chapman "Deat" Hooper; Robert E. (1867); Henry Harvey (1869); Samuel (1870), and Dora (1872).

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STATE OF GEORGE			
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	cy, JOSEPH E. BROWN		では
	icf of the Army and N	vary of this State, and	Cul
of the Militia	thereof:		
THE STATE			
To 10	harles D. P.	illips Greeting:	
WE, reposing especial trust and equilibria	ce in your patriotism, valor, conduc	et, and fidelity, do, by these pres-	
GHD Guts, constitute and appoint you Level	<i>_</i>		
Regiment of the Mil	itia formed for the defence of the St		الا
invasion thereof. You are, therefore, carefull			
as aforesaid, by doing and performing all man require all Officers and Privates under your co	ommand, to be obedient to your or	ders as such. And you are to ob-	
serve and follow such orders and directions. for and Commander in Chief of this State for the	com time to time, as you shall receive	ce from me. or a future Governor	
the trust reposed in you. This Commission which you belong, unless removed by senter	to continue in force during your use	al residence within the county to	に買り
thirds of each branch of the General Asser	nbly.		
G	IVEN under my Hand and the Sc at the Capitol in Milledgeville,	this the Liventies Department	
	day of March in	the year of our Lord one thousand	
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B	the Governor.	DA.	
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ABOVE: Commission of Charles D. Phillips as E. Brown, Governor of Georgia. (Courtesy: Mary Mary Mary Mary Mary Mary Mary Mary	Lt. Col. of the 52nd	Regiment signed by J	loseph
are my develored of deer glas (counterly, many in	i minps, a granddaugi	nter)	
		-	
just "comin' home" when it was over, just as Spring was re-awakening the hills of	John Mullinax		rivate
North Georgia to new life. We shall likely	John C. Soesby James E. Smith		rivate
never know all the many memories, both	Ramy J. Wade		rivate rivate
great and small, that these old warriors		Co. B	Trace
carried with them into their final bivouac.	Joseph A. Richardson		rivate
	Elijah Carroll	Co. C	
Roll of the 52nd Ga. Regiment	Elias H. Jackson		rivate rivate
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Present at the surrender of the Army	Fredrick Magness		ivate
of Tennessee near Greensboro, N.C. April 26th, 1865:	Asbury J. Smith	Pr	ivate
200, 100%	Alpheus D. Yarbrough		ivate
John R. Russell Capt. Co. I Comdg.	William Wigley	Co. D	ivate
R.A. Quillian Adjutant		Co. E	ivate
Marshall L. Smith Co. I - Q.M.S.		Co. F	
Robeson J. Pierce Co. I - H. Stwd. Co. A - Com. Sgt.	Cleveland M. Coffee	D.,	
			ivate
Co. A		Co. G	ivate
Co. A William E. Jenkins Private			ivate

A.J. Logan Richard G. Grogan Daniel M. Fowler

lst. Lieut. Sergt. Private

Co. K

Richard G. Gordon
John Y. Burgess
James M. Bagwell
Joseph T. Crenshaw
James L. Cary
James M. Fowler
Henry E. Hughes
William S. Heaton
Elijah G. Leach
George I.C. McWhirter
William H. Parr
Joel H. Parr
Larkin F. Smith
John J. Dove

2nd. Lieut. Private Private

At the time of the surrender, this detachment was temporarily attached to the 39th. Ga. Regt. Henderson's Brigade; Stevenson's Division; Lee's Corps; and commanded by Capt. John R. Russell.

Marshall L. Smith.

Near High Point, N.C. April 28th, 1865.

The above list was compiled by Private Marshall L. Smith, Co. I, who sent a copy of it to his friend Daniel M. Fowler in 1895. The list was made available to the North Georgia Journal by his grandson Lloyd C. Fowler.

Correction to Part I

On page 26 of the Summer '85 edition of the Journal there is a geographical error in my article on the History of the 52nd Georgia Regiment. There I stated that Gen. Wm. Hardee's Corps started their desperate 15-mile night march from Little Five Points. Had this actually been the case, Hardee would have been under General Sherman's front porch! The march was actually started from Five Points in the downtown-Atlanta area. I apologize to our readers for this error.

Sincerely,
Bill Mulany
Bill Kinsland

MEN OF THE 52nd (cont.)



James Coleman Allen 1st Corporal; Co. B "Cleveland Volunteers"

James Coleman Allen, 1st Corporal March 4, 1862 was captured at Vicksburg, Miss. July 4, 1863. He was paroled there July 7, 1863. Roll for Dec. 31, 1863, last on file, shows him absent without leave since Oct. 7, 1863. Pension records show he surrendered at Greensboro, N.C. April 26, 1865. He was born in Habersham County, Ga. on Oct. 30, 1839 and died in Hall County, Ga. April 6, 1923.

John Marion Moose, the older brother of Private Virge Moose whose memoirs are quoted extensively in this story, was born in Catawba County, N.C. Oct. 11, 1834 and died in Fulton Co., Ga. April 7, 1912. He joined Co. C as a private on July 10, 1862. He was elected Jr. 2nd Lieutenant Feb. 10, 1863. He was captured at Vicksburg, Miss. July 4, 1863, exchanged Oct. 8, 1863. By Special Order dated May 7, 1864, being unfit for field service, he was ordered to report to Brigadier General Wright, at Atlanta, Ga., and was detailed for post duty May 1864.

He married 1st. Mary Ann Calhoun Aug. 24, 1854 and they were parents of eight children: 1. Sarah 2. Cora Lee 3. Frank 4. Charlie 5. Ben 6. Dave 7. Gordon 8. Nellie. After Mary's death he married 2nd. Ellen T. Jackson March 31, 1878 and they had 1. Alice 2. Aurora (Cont. on page 33.)

GREENSBORO', NORTH CAROLINA.

In accordance with the terms of the Military Convention, entered into on the twenty-sixth day of April, 1865, between General Joseph E. Johnston, Commanding the Confederate Army, and Major General W. T. Sherman, Commanding the United Rates Army in North-Carolina,

bas given his solemn obligation not to take up arms against the Government of the United States nutil properly released from this obligation; and is permitted to return to his home, not to be disturbed by the United States authorities so long as he observe the obligation and obey the laws in force where he may reside.

MANGA! HEAC V. S. A. Special Commission

Just Little Sec (C.S. A. Commanding

THE END OF THE ROAD....

but also a ticket home.....the surrender affadavit of Private Daniel M. Fowler, Co. I, 52nd Regiment.

TABULATION OF CASUALTIES OF THE 52nd BY COMPANY

	Co. A	Co. B	Co. C	Co. D	Co. E	Co. F	Co. G	Co. H	Co. I	Co.K
Dead ,	48	40	30	36	33	28	36	18	40	57
Wounded 2	19	11	15	11	5	6	4	1	10	5
Deserted ²	3	2	13	10	23	19	24	12	2	1
Missing ²	11	9	14	22	7	3	24	31	14	0
Captured ⁴	21	16	16	13	5	13	9	3	7	13
Furloughed	10	6	2	5	3	4	6	ó	3	17
Resigned 5	3	2	0	4	2	3	2	3	1	0
Discharged	5	5	13	10	3	6	L	2	10	3
Transferred	1	4	3	4	4	ĭ	5	2	2	1
On detail	1	1	1	2	o	î	ó	ñ	ñ	5
Surrendered	13	21	15	10	1	10	7	1	22	43

1. These numbers should not be added to other casualties to arrive at total disposition figures. Many of the wounded were also captured and most were on furlough at war's end.

2. The "Deserted" figures do not include those captured who deserted to the

Union during their captivity.

3. "Missing" includes those who were listed as "Absent without leave". Subsequent research has shown that many soldiers thus listed were actually captured or killed.

4. This figure represents only those soldiers who were still in captivity at war's end. It does not include those soldiers who were captured and paroled. Had these been included, almost every soldier

would have been listed since the entire regiment was captured at Vicksburg and paroled on the battlefield.

5. Includes all causes: over-age, under-age, medical, insanity as well as those for whom no cause is stated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

-Mrs. Madeline Anthony who was instrumental in the preservation of the Boyd-Sitton Confederate letters and the Historian's Book of the Gus Boyd Chapter of the U.D.C.-Mrs. Phyllis Barfield for her assistance in finding and abstracting information from the diary of Rufus Asbury and data on the Battle of New Hope Church.

-Mrs. Lillian Eberhardt for permission to

use data from the diary of Rufus Asbury.

-Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fowler for the copy of the 52nd Georgia Roster made at the surrender in Greensboro, N.C.

-Mr. William R. Scaife, author of The Campaign For Atlanta, for his expert guidance on the Battle of Atlanta and for permission to use information and excerpts from his book.

-Jerry A. Taylor for the use of material and photographs from his book "Hearthstones of Home".

-Porter Glover, Judy Lovell, Jean Gilreath, Col. & Mrs. Harry Atkinson and Marjorie Perine for the assistance in locating photographs and material.

NEWS ITEM

The Chestatee Regional Library at Gainesville, Ga. recently added to it's genealogical collection. Lee Williams, on behalf of the Northeast Georgia Historical and Genealogical Society, presented the library with Georgia's Coastal Plain Vol. I through III by Averitt and Georgia Through Two Centuries "Family and Personal Records" Vol. I through III.

All six volumes were gifts to the NE Ga. Society from the Palm Beach County Genealogical Society in West Palm Beach, Fla.

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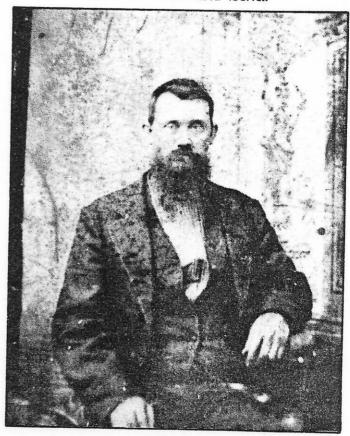


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MEN OF THE 52nd (cont.)



John Marion Moose 2nd Lt.; Co. C

3. Gertrude 4. Pauline 5. Arthur.

John Marion Moose and Frederick Virge Moose were sons of Rev. David S. Moose, born Jan. 1, 1806 in Lincoln County, N.C. who married Lucinda Adaline Meyers about 1830. The family moved to Georgia in 1844. There were five other children in the family: Lee, born in 1832; Elizabeth, born Oct. 10, 1836; Louisa, born in 1840; William, born in 1848; and Sarah, born in 1851.

Jeptha A. Ledford enlisted as a private in Co. B on July 10, 1862. He was discharged at Knoxville, Tenn. in 1862. He reenlisted and was captured at Baker's Creek, Miss. May 16, 1863. He was paroled on field May 1863. Pension records show he was at home on 30 days' furlough at the close of the war.

Jeptha A. Ledford (1839-1922) married Elizabeth Allen (born 11-1-1837; died 1-24-1901) daughter of Coleman Allen. Their children were: Coke D. (b. Jul. 3, 1860; d. Nov. 21, 1932); Mary Delona (b. Nov. 1, 1863; d. Sept. 22, 1913); Brady (b. Oct. 2, 1865)

MEN OF THE 52nd (cont.)



Jeptha A. Ledford Private, Co. B "Cleveland Volunteers"

Lena (b. Mar. 29, 1867); Nellie (b. Apr. 18, 1872); Tom B. (b. Feb. 13, 1874; d. June 3, 1947); Ruth (b. Feb. 11, 1877).

After the death of his first wife, he married Rachael Elizabeth (Lizzie) Bowers Hays on Oct. 15, 1905 in Hall County. Jeptha died in 1922 and is buried in the Lawrence Cemetery in White County.

William Jasper England, son of Martin and Elizabeth Carroll England, was born in the Hiawassee River Valley on March 18, 1834 and died there Nov. 2, 1870.

During the Civil War he volunteered and was elected 1st Lieutenant, Company E, 52nd Regiment, Army of Tennessee, C.S.A. on March 4, 1862. He was captured at Vicksburg, Mississippi, July 4, 1863 and paroled on July 7, 1863. He was retired because of wounds received at New Hope Church, Ga., May 25, 1864. Taking the amnesty oath Aug. 24, 1865, he was described as having "fair complexion, light hair,

blue eyes, and 5 ft. 11 inches high."

He was a member of the Baptist Church about twenty years. He was a farmer and stock raiser. He also bought and drove cattle to market at Augusta, Georgia.

On Oct. 18, 1855 William Jasper England and Pauline Minerva Haseltine Carter were married. Paulina, born March 4, 1836, was the daughter of Josiah and Nancy Beck Carter. After her husband's death, she managed the farm for several years and then moved to Westminster, S.C. She, with her three younger children, built a house near Southern Railway Depot where she boarders and made lunches for trainmen until her death. She was a charter member Westminster Baptist Church. was active in her church and a devout Christian woman. After the death of her daughter Alice, she always had some of her grandchildren with her. She died April 15, 1901 in Westminster, S.C. and is buried there.



William Jasper England 1st. Lieutenant, Co. E "Hiawassee Rangers"

The children of William Jasper and Paulina Minerva Haseltine Carter England, all born in Towns County, were: Alice L. (Feb. 28, 1857 - Feb. 28, 1890) married Sept. 29, 1874 Logan Lafayette Jarrard; Emma (Dec. 26, 1859 - March 25, 1937) married Jan. 12, 1876 Fernando Coello McConnell

who became the noted Baptist minister; Isadora "Icie" (Jan. 12, 1865 - July 4, 1933) married Jesse W. McGee; William Luther (July 29, 1866 - Aug. 8, 1948) married May 20, 1894 Mary Elizabeth Terrell; Bonnie Molgro (April 28, 1868 - Nov. 14, 1928) married Jan. 10, 1892 Lila Jane Zimmerman.



Calvin C. Blalock Private, Co. B "Cleveland Volunteers"

Calvin C. Blalock joined Co. E of the 52nd Regiment March 4, 1862 at Denton Springs in White County, Georgia.

He was born in 1836 in Georgia. His parents were William M. Blalock born in 1801 in North Carolina and Katherine Taylor Blalock born in 1802 in South Carolina.

On September 27, 1860 in White County, Calvin married Josephine Freeman. She was born on March 2, 1844 in Habersham County. Her parents were Alexander and Sarah Merritt Freeman. They were the parents of ten children: 1. Zebbie born in 1863 2. Jasper Newton born May 9, 1865 3. Carrie born 1867 4. Dora born June 5, 1869 5. William Alexander born October 10, 1872 6. Francis Marion (Frank) born March 4, 1874 7. Wilda born June 27, 1878 8. Terrell Duke born January 14, 1880 9. Carlton Calvin born March 25, 1881 and 10. Stella born August 3, 1883.

Calvin was a farmer and also an herb doctor. He traveled around treating people that were sick. He made up a mixture

they say would cure skin cancer among other diseases. It is said he also treated soldiers during the Civil War.



Adam Amaziah Nichols Private, Co. E "Hiawassee Rangers"

Photo: Back I/r: Addie Nichols Groves and Allie Thomas Byers. Front, I/r: "Ams" Nichols holding Zeke, Mae Thomas Crain, and Nancy Jane Thompson Thomas Nichols.

"Ams" Nichols joined Co. E as a private on July 4, 1862. Pension records show he was at home on furlough at the close of the war.

He was born 1833 and died 1893. He married (1) Mary Jane McCollum and (2) Nancy Jane Thompson Thomas. Children were: Alfred S. Nichols, Barbara Lou Nichols Plott, James T. Nichols, John Calvin Nichols, Nancy A. Nichols Howell, William Archibald Nichols, Mary Jane "Dolly" Nichols Mathis, Catherine "Addie" Nichols Groves, and Ezekiel A. Nichols.

Francis Marion Crumley joined Co. B, 52nd Regiment as a private on May 1, 1862.

He was a blacksmith by trade. He split boards for the first arbor at the Loudsville United Methodist Camp- (Cont. page 39)

MEN OF THE 52nd - (cont. from page 35)

ground. He was an early tentholder and made the trumpet that was used to announce services at Loudsville Campground for more than one hundred years. He built the first dam for Logan Mill, now Adair Mill, on Town Creek, in White County. He served in the Confederate Army and was captured in the Battle of Vicksburg.



Francis Marion Crumley Private, Co. B "Cleveland Volunteers"

Photo: Francis Marion Crumley and his wife, Emily Ledford Crumley.

Emily Caroline Ledford was the daughter of Curtis Ledford and Sarah Casander Allison. She was born in White County, and was a Methodist. She was buried in Dukes Creek Cemetery in White County.

Francis Marion Crumley and Emily Caroline Ledford Crumley are buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, in White County.

Montimer Burch, son of John Pinson (Jackie) Burch and Jincy (Dillingham) Burch, and grandson of Union County Pioneer Jarrett Burch Sr. was born August 23, 1839 and raised in the Sunnyside community of Union County, now Towns County, Georgia.



Montimer Burch Private, Co. E "Hiawassee Rangers"

Photo: Montimer Burch and his wife, Louisa Burch.

When the flight of the Civil War spread through the area, Mont Burch, at the age of 22, enlisted November 1, 1861 in the 8th Georgia Regiment, Co. D of the Georgia State Troops of Towns County. He served his time of six months and was discharged May 1, 1862 in Savannah, Georgia (During the last years of his life, Mont received a pension for this service). Within two months after his discharge from the 8th Georgia, Mont reenlisted July 1, 1862, in Company E of the 52nd Regiment, Georgia Infantry.

Within four years after Mont returned from the Civil War, he was married to Louisa (Lou) Ledford, daughter of George and Hanna Ledford. The following children were born to them: 1. Dora V. (b. Oct. 31, 1868, d. Feb. 18, 1950); 2. Ollie V. (b. Mar. 6, 1870; d. June 22, 1872); 3. Jewell Victor "Shug" (b. Mar. 1, 1873; d. Feb. 24, 1952); 4. William W. "Bill" (b. June 11, 1876; d. Sept. 1, 1951); 5. Arizona (b. Sept. 3, 1878; d. Aug. 12, 1904); 6. Ida (b. July 25, 1881); 7. Carrie Ada (b. July 25, 1883; died June 19, 1973); 8. Homer S. (b. Aug. 23, 1889; d. Oct. 11, 1911).

We hope you have enjoyed reading about the ordinary soldiers of the 52nd. Their struggle should not be forgotten.