



Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863, Conyers, Ga.

GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



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Coming Events

November 13, 2012 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

December 11, 2012 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

January 8, 2013 - **25 Annual Lee-Jackson Dinner of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

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Civil War Historian Mark Pollard to Speak at Our November Meeting.

By: Mark Pollard & J. H. Underwood



Civil War Historian Mark Pollard will be the guest speaker at our November 13th meeting. As Henry County's Civil War Historian, he played a major part in the preservation of the Nash Farm Battlefield in Lovejoy. He wrote the following letter about the battle at Nash farm which was instrumental in saving that hallowed ground.

"The Largest Cavalry Charge Recorded in Henry County"

General Sherman, determined to find out the Confederate strength south of Atlanta, sent U.S. Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry to do what McCook and Stoneman had failed to do. On August 18, 1864, Kilpatrick and 4,700 cavalrymen left Sandtown in West Atlanta, ordered by Sherman to cut all railroad lines south of the city. Kilpatrick began his southwestern trek by roaring through Fairburn and slicing apart the Atlanta-West Point tracks. On the 19th he skirmished his way to Jonesboro and unhinged the Macon & Western Railroad. By early afternoon on August 20, Kilpatrick was in Henry County, but indelicately sandwiched by Confederate infantry in front and Confederate cavalry in back.

His only route of escape would be to retreat on the McDonough Road towards McDonough. But first, they would have to cut their way through Confederate Sol Ross's Texas Cavalry Brigade who were spread out on the McDonough Road and south-

ward into a large field. Ross's Cavalry Brigade had less than 700 cavalrymen and one single 12 pound howitzer cannon which was positioned just off the McDonough Road on a small knoll, just West of Babb's Mill Road.

Kilpatrick's cavalry command quickly assembled on the crest of a hill and they lined up in a column of fours.

General Minty of the 7th Pennsylvania gave the orders "*Attention!*" He then commanded in a clear voice, "*Draw Sabers!*" There was a sharp, metallic rasp of cold steel being drawn from many scabbards. Minty's bugler bounded to the top of the hill. Silhouetted against the summer sky, he lifted the bugle to his lips and sounded "*Forward.*"

"*Gallop! March!*" Minty roared, swinging his saber over his head. "*Charge!*" the bugles echoed. A wild cheer rose in the throats of a thousand Yankee troopers as three compact columns of fours surged up over the crest. Boot to boot, stirrup to stirrup, they spurred hell-for-leather, here-they came down the gullied hill, their up-raised sabers flashing in the sun.

"The Forth Cavalry obliqued to the left from the field and struck the McDonough dirt road, down which they went at break-neck speed." In front of them, a lone Rebel howitzer roared from a stand of walnut trees on a hill on the left side of the road. A shell

burst overhead. Then another. Then the Rebel gunners switched to canister. As the Yankee's raced on, a frightful hail of round balls shivered a mulberry tree next to the fence on their right. Yelling and shouting, they dug their spurs in deep. An instant later they were galloping past the belching gun, so close they could feel its hot breath on their faces.

Sul Ross's caissons, led horses, and ambulances crowded the narrow McDonough Road around a sharp curve behind the Rebel cannon and the oncoming Yankee regiment slammed into them at a dead run. The impact was terrific. The white horse Captain McIntyre of the Forth Michigan was riding collided with an artillery limber, hurling him headlong into a fence.

Many Southern men were dodging the flailing hooves of frightened horses as the Yankee cavalry cut down men with their slashing blades. The muddy ground trembled under the urgent fury of pounding hooves. The smoky air shook with each fiery blast of case shot and canister. Horses screamed in agony, men shouted and death filled the air.

The Texans fired their rifles and emptied many saddles but before they could reload, the Yankee horsemen were upon them. We cut them down left and right, exulted Captain Burns of the Forth Michigan. I struck one man who did not surrender fast enough full on top of his head,



Our Commanders' Comments

By: 1st. Lt. Cmdr. Tommy Cook and
Commander J. H. Underwood



October 20, 2012 Old Town Festival, Conyers by Lt. Commander Tommy Cook.

Camp members and friends of Joe Wheeler; we had a great day at the Conyers Old Town Festival on Saturday October 20th. Several camp members participated by either setting up, tearing down or working the booth. Some members did all three and were there all day long. The members who helped out this year were Dan Bass, Mark Camp, Steve Camp, Tommy Cook, John Maxey, Jerry New, Don Stark and Gene Wade. The day started with members meeting at the lodge at 7:15A followed by the set up on Commercial Street in the heart of Old Town Conyers. The booth was set up and the flags were flying by 8:30A. We had many festival goers visit our booth throughout the course of the day. They were asking about

the area as related to the War of Northern Aggression and some told us about their own Confederate ancestors. Several car tags and flags were sold but we did not do as well with donations for the Middlebrooks Cemetery project as expected. Adjutant Camp will provide a breakdown of the donations received and sales made at our next meeting. I think our camp was both well represented and well received by the public and I look forward to participating next year in this important event for our camp!



Thank you Tommy for the report on the Old Town Festival. Also thank you and the other eight compatriots that helped set up, break down and man the booth for the day. By now you have read the front page

of this newsletter and know that Mr. Mark Pollard will be our guest speaker at the November 13th meeting. Don't miss this special evening as Mark speaks on the subject of the Nash Farm Battlefield. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to visit the Battlefield. They have a wonderful museum with many artifacts that were found on the site, some by Mr. Pollard himself, and it is the meeting place of Col. Charles T. Zachry Rangers Camp 108. What a wonderful place for a Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting.

Our own Chaplin John Maxey will return the favor and be the guest speaker for Col. Charles T. Zachry Rangers Camp 108 at their November 26th meeting. This would be a great opportunity for you to visit the museum and hear John's program on The Confederate Constitution.

I look forward seeing ya'll at the November meeting. Cmdr. J. H. Underwood.



Civil War Historian Mark Pollard to Speak at Our November Meeting.

By: Mark Pollard & J. H. Underwood (Continued from page 1)



felt my saber sink in, saw him fall, and dashed on.

Private Sam Waters in the front ranks of the 7th Pennsylvania stood up in his stirrups as he overtook a mounted Confederate and raised his saber. The Rebel rider threw his arm up to ward off the blow. The Yankee blade flashed, cutting off his hand at the wrist. Another blow nearly severed the man's head from his body.

Albert Potter of the 7th Pennsylvania said, "Many of them were cut down without mercy. We slashed right and left, and many a poor devil's brains lay scattered on the ground."

In the forefront of the charge, General Bob Minty of the 7th PA sabered a Texan across the head just before his horse was hit by a rifle bullet and fell into a ditch as the thunderous stampede kept coming. In the ranks of the 3rd Ohio, a Yankee trooper was hurled ten feet in the air when an artillery shell struck his mount and exploded. Nineteen year-old Hector Looker of the 10th Ohio tumbled from his saddle, shot through the head. His father, Private James Looker, dismounted and rushed

to his side. As he knelt over his dead boy's body, a Rebel bullet struck him down.

Kilpatrick ordered Eli Long's Ohio Brigade to dismount and hold the Texans at bay while the rest of the column moved off toward McDonough.

The greatest cavalry charge recorded in Georgia's history, took place in Henry County. This incredible charge began in a large field just off the McDonough Road, and ended just north of Babb's Mill Road at County Line Church.

The heroes of the battlefield, the wounded, and those who once kept the stories of this battle alive are all gone. Today, all of the battlefield sites from Atlanta to Lovejoy are unprotected by law or statute and they have fallen casualty themselves to development and change which is the result of apathy, ignorance, or disdain.

Today this property is slated for develop-

ment. The question is, should we preserve our last hallowed ground, or should we choose more development?

If laws are passed so we cannot save these last pieces of American history, then who will save them for us? I believe a law cannot be passed to change history, and if history is revised or painted another color, then it is a lie and wrong.

The realization of the tragedy that took place on these fields in western Henry County caused many people to understand the terrible cost of war in terms of human values and the traumatic damage done to the human soul.

The images of the gruesome piles of amputated arms and legs by blood-soaked table's yields only in my mind the memories of the empty sleeves and the crude crutches that led parades and brought old veterans back to the battlefields to ponder and dream.

God Bless Henry County,
Mark Pollard



The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington

and Oxford (32nd & 33rd Soldiers in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



Headstone at Covington shows:
G. D. HANSON
1st GA CAV



Actually:
GEORGE WASHINGTON HANSON
COMPANY G,
1st GEORGIA CAVALRY REGIMENT

This soldier originally enlisted as 2nd Corporal at about age 17 in Captain Troutman's Company C, Floyd Legion (State Guards) on July 28, 1863. This unit was enlisted for a period of not to exceed six months for local defense to serve one-fourth of the State of Georgia situated northwest of the Chattahoochee River. After the unit was disbanded after the six month enlistment, George W Hanson was discharged and enlisted as a private in regular Confederate service in Company G of the 1st Georgia Cavalry Regiment on January 1, 1864.

The 1st Georgia had a long combat history stretching from Murfreesboro in 1862, through Chicamauga and the Atlanta Campaign to the final surrender in the Carolinas. Private Hanson joined the 1st Cavalry, probably at winter quarters at Dalton and just in time for the battles leading up to the siege of Atlanta. The 1st Georgia Cavalry served under General Nathan Bedford Forrest and General Joseph Wheeler. Private Hanson's records after January 1864 are sparse but they show that he was "sent to an unspecified hospital June 29, 1864". The records of the Covington Confederate hospital show that he was a patient there by July 29, 1864 and that he died on August 4, 1864. Private Hanson was likely present during the Garrard's raid of Covington July 22-24, 1864. The cause of death was "Gastro Enteritis", a condition usually involving inflammation of the stomach and

small bowel but it is possible that a "gut shot" could have caused this infection. His personal effects left behind were 1 hat, 1 pr shoes and 2 pr socks. Private George Washington Hanson was likely only 18 when he died.

George W. Hanson was born about 1846 in Floyd County, Georgia to George Washington Hanson(Sr) and Jerusha Lambert Hanson. George was the youngest of eleven children. He had four sisters: Elvira(b.1826), Amanda(b.1834), Elizabeth(b.1840) and Angeline(b.1844). His six brothers were: James E.(b.1828), Thomas(b.1829), Edwin(b.1832), Jesse(b.1832), John(b.1836), William(b.1838) and of course our subject George W. Hanson who was born the last child in 1846. Amazingly, it appears that all seven boys served the Confederacy.

The brother James E. Hanson served in Company D, 31st (aka 27th) Georgia in the Army of N. Virginia and he survived the war. Thomas J Hanson served in Company C of the 40th Georgia Infantry Regiment and died at Knoxville in 1862. Edwin L Hanson also served in Company C of the 40th Georgia, was captured and paroled at Vicksburg and survived the war. Jesse C. Hanson also served in Company C of the 40th Georgia and was discharged for disability(consumption) in 1863. John H. Hanson served in the 14th Battalion, Georgia Light Artillery and is known to have been hospitalized for injuries at Dalton but there is no further record on him in either military or census records and it is believed that he died in the war. William B Hanson served in Company C of the 40th Georgia as a lieutenant and died January 29, 1863 at a hospital at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Three or possibly four of the seven Hanson brothers gave their lives for the Confederacy. Unfortunately, this sacrifice was all too

typical of Southern families.

Headstone at Covington shows:
W. H. HENDRICK
29th MS



Actually:
WILLIAM HOLLAND KENDRICK
COMPANY D
39th REGIMENT
MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTEERS

This soldier enlisted on September 4, 1863 as a private in Company D of the 39th Regiment, Mississippi Volunteers. Company D was formed at Decatur, Newton County, Mississippi in May 1862 and was known as the Newton Hornets.

The 39th Mississippi had already seen long hard service and had been captured in the fall of Vicksburg in July 1863 and then paroled several months later at Enterprise, Alabama. Private Kendrick joined the 39th Mississippi soon after the parole at Vicksburg. The 39th reequipped and recruited replacements, including Private Hendricks, and departed Tuscaloosa, Alabama on May 8, 1864 to join General Joseph Johnson's Army of Tennessee at Resaca, Georgia just in time for the fighting there on May 16, 1864 and as General Johnson was falling back across the Oostenaula River. Thereafter they were reportedly under fire every day but one until the close of August 1864. The 39th fought at many battles in the Atlanta Campaign to include Ezra Church, Latimer's Mills, New Hope Church and Kennesaw Mountain and then in the Battle of Atlanta.

It is not known exactly when Private Kendrick was wounded or became ill but the record of the Confederate Hospital (Hill Hospital) at Covington,

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Scenes from Old Town Festival

By: Camp Historian Dan Bass



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The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford (32nd & 33rd Soldiers in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



Georgia states that he “died at Covington, Ga of sickness July 8, 1864”. This indicates that he likely entered the hospital about the time the fighting neared Atlanta. The nature of his illness is not known but may well have been an infected gunshot wound. Private William Holland Kendrick was age 44 when he died.

William Holland Kendrick, one of seven children, was born in 1820 in Clarke County, Georgia To Drury and Hannah Holland Kendrick. The family moved to Alabama for a short period in 1825, returned to Georgia for a few years and then moved to Mississippi before 1850. William had two sisters and four brothers of whom at least three of his brothers also served the Confederacy. His sisters were Amelia (b.1826) and Georgia (b. 1815), His brother Isaac Kendrick (b.1822) served in the 29th Mississippi and died in the service at Bardstown, Kentucky in September 1862. Brother John Roger Kendrick(b.1817) served in the 5th Mississippi (State Troops) and was discharged with disability in February 1863 and later moved to Texas. The possible service of brother Kenyon Kendrick (b abt 1811-13) has not been identified and he may have been

too old to serve and it is known that he survived the war and died in Texas in 1903. Brother James O. Kendrick (b abt 1836-37), like our subject William H Kendrick, also served in Company D of the 39th Mississippi and was surrendered at wars end at Citronelle, Alabama while sick in the hospital. James moved Texas before 1870

William Holland Kendrick was married to Mary Millie Williamson about 1849. His six children were John (b.1850), Cynthia (b.1852), Isaac (b.1855), William (b.1857), Charles (b.1860) and Hannah (b.1864). His sons were too young to have served in the war.

After Private William Holland Kendrick died in Covington, Georgia in 1864, his widow Mary Kendrick moved the family to Texas where the 1870 census for Hill County, Texas show her (now age 39) as head of household residing with her children John (age 20), Isaac (age 15), William (age 12), Charles (age 10) and Hannah (age 6). Daughter Cynthia (age 19) has married and left the household and is now Cynthia

Walker in Hill County, Texas.

The widow, Mary M. Kendrick died February 15, 1877 and is buried in Hill County, Texas. Her headstone indicates she was 45yrs, 8 mos and 9 days old at time of death.

The 1880 census shows that son John (age 30) and his wife Lucy (age 26) have their own children Bascomb (age 5), Mary (age 2) and Samantha (age 1). Living with him is his brother Isaac (age 25) and sister Hannah (age 16). The other children of William and Mary Kendrick have evidently married and moved out on their own This terrible war kept William H. Kendrick from seeing his children growing to maturity and kept him from enjoying his grandchildren and likely helped cause grieving widow Mary Kendrick to die a relatively early death.



Confederate Memorial Wall