

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

# GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



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## Coming Events

Aug. 6 - 7, 2011 - **"Inventing a New Navy"** - program on Civil War Technology - Civil War Naval Museum, Port Columbus Georgia.

Aug. 9, 2011 - **Regular Meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia.

Aug 13 - 14, 2011 - **Southeastern Civil War Show** - Cobb County Civic Center, Marietta, Georgia

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## The Battle of High Bridge

By: J. H. Underwood from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



High Bridge over the Appomattox River near Farmville, Virginia. Photographed in 1865 by [Timothy H. O'Sullivan](#) during repairs following its burning during the war.

The Battle of High Bridge was fought on April 6 - 7, 1865, near the end of the Appomattox Campaign of The War of Northern Aggression. On April 6, the Confederate cavalry fought stubbornly to secure the Appomattox River bridges. On April 7, elements of the Union II Corps came up against Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's rear guard attempting to fire the High Bridge and wagon bridge. Union forces were able to save the wagon bridge over which the II Corps crossed in pursuit of Gen. Robert E. Lee's army. Failure to destroy this bridge enabled Union forces to catch up with the Confederates at Farmville.

High Bridge, 2,500 feet (760 m) long and 126 feet (38 m) high, was the crossing of the South Side Railroad over the Appomattox River and its flood plain, 4 miles (6.4 km) northeast of Farmville Virginia. A wooden bridge for wagons was located below the railroad bridge. During the retreat of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, they had moved north of the river, except for a rear guard provided by

Longstreet's corps at Rice's Station on the southern bank. The bridges had to be protected and then destroyed to delay the pursuit of the Union Army under Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. On April 6, Longstreet dispatched 1,200 Confederate cavalry under Major General (CSA) Thomas L. Rosser to protect the bridges from Union raiders. Union Maj. Gen. Edward O. C. Ord, commanding the Army of the James, sent about 900 men under Bvt. Brig. Gen. Theodore Read (Ord's chief of staff) to take the bridge. The force consisted of the 123rd Ohio Infantry and the 54th Pennsylvania Infantry, commanded by Lt. Col. Horace Kellogg of the 123rd, and three companies (80 troopers) of the 4th Massachusetts Cavalry under Col. Francis Washburn. The cavalry reached the bridge before the main Confederate force, chased away some home guards, and secured the south end of the bridge

While Washburn prepared to set fire to the bridge, three brigades of Confederate cavalrymen arrived and conducted a dismounted attack against the Union infantry, which was waiting near the Watson farmhouse, about half mile to the south. Hearing sounds of battle, Washburn and his men rejoined the infantry, and unaware that he was facing two divisions of cavalry, Read ordered a mounted charge by the 4th Massachusetts. The ferocious charge forced through the Confederate line of Brig. Gen. Thomas T. Munford and then dissolved into hand-to-hand combat. Read exchanged gunfire with Confederate

James Dearing during the fighting and was killed. Dearing was mortally wounded and died on April 22. (Dearing is often cited as the last Confederate general to die in the war, but his appointment to brigadier general in April 1864 was never confirmed.) Washburn was also mortally wounded. The Confederates counterattacked and separated the cavalry from their supporting infantry. After another attack, the Union troopers were surrounded, and almost all were killed, wounded, or captured. Col. Rubin Boston of the 6th Virginia Cavalry was killed in the attack.

Commanding Officer's: Union: Brevet Gen. Theodore Read A.A.G. Army of the James, Colonel Francis Washburn 4th Massachusetts Cavalry, Colonel Horace Kellogg 123rd Ohio Infantry. Confederate: Army of Northern Virginia Cavalry Corps: Rosser's Division: Gen. Thomas L. Rosser, Gen. James Dearing, Gen. John McCausland, Fitz Lee's Division: Gen. Thomas T. Munford, Col. Reuben Boston (Paynes Brigade).

The Confederate Second Corps, under Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon, escaped from their defeat at the Battle of Saylor's Creek and crossed the High Bridge to the north side of the river while Maj. Gen. William Mahone's division secured the bridge. The rest of Lee's army moved on to Farmville and a rendezvous with trains of rations.

# Our Commanders Comments

Compatriots:



Hugh Charter Pope

As you probably know by now we have lost one of our own since our last meeting .

Compatriot Rev. Hugh Charter Pope went to his Heavenly home on July 17, 2011, at the At Home

Hospice Center, in Conyers. He was born December 8, 1935, in Meriwether County, Georgia, to Frank Jackson Pope and Margaret Haynes Pope. He graduated from Meriwether County High School in 1954. He attended Bob Jones University, and graduated from Central Wesleyan College in 1960. He married Patricia Hunley on June 18, 1960. He was a member of 12Stone Church, in Lawrenceville, which he was instrumental in founding in 1987. His pastoral ministry began in 1958. He pastored Wesleyan Churches in South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia. He served as District Superintendent of the Georgia

District of the Wesleyan Church from 1981-1994. He then began a ministry in Jamaica that he loved dearly, which will continue after his death. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He loved gardening, bird watching, cats, and playing the piano and organ.

Although Hugh had only been with us since May of this year those of us that knew him know what a loss this was.

Hugh was a great spokesman and a champion of defending our cause. He will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

On a lighter note I want to remind everyone that at our next meeting, Tuesday August 9th, we will have Jerry L. Gibby, Commander of Longstreet Camp 1289 of Palmetto, Georgia as our Guest Speaker.

Commander Gibby's subject will be the History and Restoration of the Scott family cemetery. This cemetery is off of Kinnet Road just before it intersects Browns Bridge Road in Newton County.

Our Camp, at the request of Commander Gibby and the Scott family, has taken on the project of maintaining this piece of history and if you have not seen it I urge you to do so.

I am sorry that I will not be able to hear Commander Gibby's presentation as I will be on my way back from Seattle Washington. 1st Lt. Cmdr. Tommy Cook has agreed to preside over the meeting, so please be there for Tommy.

I also need to inform the Camp that at our last meeting we agreed to raise our camps portion of our dues to \$20 per year. This makes our annual dues \$62.00 total. We have not had an increase in several years and with the IRS restrictions on 501 c 3 organizations it has been difficult to raise funds.

Website hosting, postage and newsletter supplies have been being donated by individuals and this will make it possible for the Camp to pay for these expenses. I hope this causes no one any difficulty but if it does please let me know.

J. H. Underwood, Commander



## The Battle of High Bridge



By: J. H. Underwood from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (continued from page 1).

Early on April 7, while Mahone's men were attempting to fire the High Bridge and wagon bridge, the Union II Corps under Maj. Gen. Andrew A Humphreys arrived on the scene. The division of Brig. Gen. Francis C. Barlow, including the 19th Volunteer Infantry Regiment charged the burning structure and saved a large section of the railroad bridge, preventing major damage. They crossed the lower wagon bridge to move on Lee's flank and forced the hungry Confederates to resume their retreat before re-provisioning themselves.

Together, the battles at High Bridge were tactically inconclusive, despite the 847 Union casualties (including 800 captured) versus only about 100 Confederate,<sup>[1]</sup> but Lee was forced to continue his march to the west under pressure, depriving his men the opportunity to eat the Farmville rations they had waited so long to receive. Their next stop would be Appomattox Station 25 miles (40 km) west, where a ration train was waiting. On the night of April 7, Lee received from Grant a letter proposing



High Bridge today is part of the National Rails to Trails Conservancy. For information go to [www.railstotrails.org](http://www.railstotrails.org) .

that the Army of Northern Virginia should surrender. Lee demurred, retaining one last hope that his army could get to Appomattox Station before he was trapped. He returned a

noncommittal letter asking about the surrender terms "Unconditional Surrender" Grant might propose.

Two men of interest to me were at the Battle of High Bridge. Both were Privates in Company B, 53rd Georgia Infantry. The first was George T. Maddox who on April 6, 1865 went into battle at High Bridge. He disappeared and was never heard from again and the other was his 20 year old brother-in-law William T. Stroud Jr. who later was one of three witnesses that signed an affidavit to George's disappearance in order for his sister Mary to receive her Confederate pension. The pension was granted.

George T Maddox was my GG Grandfather and William T Stroud Sr. was my GGG Grandfather.



Fergit Hell!!!



## The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford



*Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade*



Headstone: William T. Bailey  
Co D, 1<sup>st</sup> Tenn

Actual: William T. Bailey  
Co D, 1<sup>st</sup> Tenn

The existing headstone for this soldier, even though very old, is not the original headstone placed by the Ladies Memorial Association which was the forerunner of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC). A close inspection of the existing headstone shows a different design and unlike almost every other headstone in this cemetery, shows this soldier's first name and not just initials. Also, the Confederate Veteran magazine article of January 1898 listing the headstones in the Covington Confederate Cemetery lists a misspelled "W Baily, 1<sup>st</sup> Tenn". It can be safely assumed that family members of Bailey or former members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee took it upon themselves to make sure William T Bailey was correctly recognized and thus placed a corrected headstone. The current headstone was certainly installed after January of 1898

and likely early in the 1900s.

William T. Bailey was enlisted at Franklin, Tennessee as 4<sup>th</sup> Corporal in Company D of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Infantry Regiment at the unit's formation on May 9, 1861 for a period of one year. His nickname was "Buck". He reenlisted at Corinth, Miss on April 30, 1862 for two more years or for duration of the war. The 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee participated in Gen Lee's Cheat Mountain Campaign under T. J. Jackson (later called Stonewall). The unit returned to Tennessee in February 1862 and participated in the battles of Shiloh and Perryville. After suffering heavy casualties along with a sister unit, the 27<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry that suffered similar heavy casualties at Shiloh, the 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee and the 27<sup>th</sup> Tennessee were consolidated into the 1<sup>st</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry in December 1862. At some point in time, probably at a unit election, William Bailey lost his rank as 4<sup>th</sup> Corporal and became Private Bailey.

Bailey's company, Company D, was called the "Williamson Grays". It was formed mainly from men from Williamson County, Tennessee. The 1<sup>st</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Tennessee saw heavy service at Chicamauga, Georgia. Bailey was also at Missionary Ridge, Tennessee in Maney's Brigade and participated in Gen Cleburne's division's counter-attack that repulsed the federal attack from Billy Goat Hill, a key action that enabled the 1<sup>st</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> to receive commendations for enabling the successful Confederate Army to retreat from Missionary Ridge with reduced casualties. According to unit history, part of Bailey's company was detailed to assist General Patrick Cleburne's Division, who was being heavily pressed by Union forces,

in counter-attacking federal positions and in successfully doing so, the dozen or so soldiers of Company D who led the charge took heavy casualties, Bailey being one of them.

According to a history of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee, Bailey received a head wound which was initially considered to be slight. He was likely evacuated from Missionary Ridge by wagon to the railhead at Ringold, Georgia and then taken by rail to the Atlanta Receiving and Distribution Hospital and then to the Hill Hospital at Covington, Ga. The unit history of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee says that Bailey received a mortal head wound at Missionary Ridge but the records of the Hill Hospital at Covington, GA indicate Bailey died from Pericarditis, an inflammation of the sac that surrounds the heart. Since Confederate hospital records normally showed only one diagnosis, Bailey may have been suffering from both afflictions.

It is of interest that the 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Regiment is the very same First Tennessee Regiment that Private Sam Watkins belonged to. Those who are familiar with the well-received book "Co AYTCH" by Sam R. Watkins and the famed series on the Civil War by Ken Burns will remember the Sam Watkins reminiscences repeatedly quoted throughout this Civil War series. Obviously, William T Bailey, being a member of the same regiment, saw heavy combat.

Hill Hospital records show that the Private Bailey's effects consisted of \$5.00.

His family cannot be positively identified but it appears that his parents were likely Albert H. and Louise Bailey.



## Shirley House



*Article from July issue of "Civil War News"*



VICKSBURG, Miss. — Vicksburg National Military Park re-dedicated the His-

toric Shirley House following its complete structural renovation. It is the only building within park battle lines that survived the battle.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds paid for the work. The main level of the house, which was closed to the public for more than 70 years, has been restored to its 1860s appearance.

The Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign are replacing 31 metal unit markers that were turned in for World War II scrap drives.



Shirley House Today



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**We're on the Web!**

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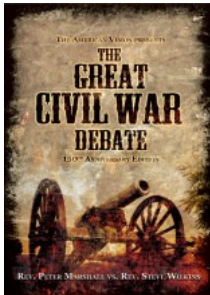
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## “The Great Civil War Debate”



This year marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of a war that set brother against brother and ravaged America for several years. If you got your history in a public school or on the History Channel,

then you may not understand the most critical elements of the debate that split America right down the middle and resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands - both soldier and civilian.

This debate presents two distinct perspectives on the true causes of the "Civil War."

Join two respected historians and pastors — the late Peter Marshall, Jr. and Steve Wilkins — as they revisit the War Between the States and attempt to find the heart of God concerning this national tragedy.

This historic debate was recorded before a packed audience in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1998. The exchange was so interesting — and at times intense — that C-SPAN aired the debate a dozen times on national television.

You can come to your own conclusions after watching this fascinating debate.

"This is without a doubt the best modern debate on the American Civil War I have ever seen! Both sides are well prepared and versed in their subject areas. Rev. Wilkins presents an outstanding defense of the Southern position and destroys many of the myths that fill the 21st century mind about this terrible period in our national history. Rev.

Marshall seeks to defend the Union position. However, to this reviewer, he seeks only to support the position of the victor.

Wilkins uses many documented and little known historical facts which are seldom mentioned or taught in the public arena of present day education.

I highly endorse this video as necessary to any course in America History! This work sets the standard is historical debate and education!" -

*A Reviewer on Amazon.com*

**Specifications:** DVD, 120 Minutes

This DVD is available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for \$14.95.