



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

GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



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April, 2012

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Coming Events

April 4, 2012 - **Dedication of Heritage Trail Marker "Crow Valley"** - 11:00 am @ Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Dalton, Georgia

April 10, 2012 - **Regular Meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

April 14, 2012 - **11th National Confederate Memorial Service** - Stone Mountain Park, Stone Mountain, Georgia

April 21, 2011 - **UDC Memorial Day Commemoration** - Social Circle United Methodist Church, Social Circle, Georgia

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The Story Of How Taps Was Created

By: Jeri Villanueva; (April 2012 Civil War News)



TAPS 150 will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the origin of Taps, the national bugle call, this spring. TAPS 150, along with Bugles Across America, the national organization that provides live buglers at funerals, is planning concerts and events that will culminate with ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery on May 19 and a June reenactment.

Focal point of the June 22-24 event at Berkeley Plantation, Charles City, Va., where Taps was born, will be the rededication of the Taps monument which is undergoing renovations this spring. A fall wreath-laying ceremony is planned at the West Point grave of Maj. Gen. Daniel A. Butterfield, who many credit as composing Taps.

Almost 20 times on any weekday at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, a military ritual occurs that is both familiar and moving. An escort of honor comes to attention and presents arms. A firing party then fires a salute of three volleys.

After the briefest of moments, a bugler sounds the 24 notes of America's most famous bugle call. The flag held by members of the military honor guard is then folded into a triangle reminiscent of the cocked hat from the American Revolution and presented to the next of kin as an expression of gratitude from a grateful nation.

The playing of Taps is unique to the United States military, since the call is sounded at funerals, wreath-laying and memorial services. The melody is both eloquent and haunting.

Up until the Civil War, the infantry call for lights out was To Extinguish Lights, which was set down in Silas Casey's Tactics and other military manuals. Like most of the bugle calls in the manual, it was taken note for note from French military manuals. General Butterfield changed the music of this evening call for his Third Brigade in the First Division, 5th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, in July 1862.

As the story goes, Butterfield felt the lights-out call was too formal to signal the day's end. With the help of brigade bugler Oliver Willcox Norton, Butterfield wrote Taps while in camp at Harrison's Landing following the Seven Days Battles of the Peninsula Campaign.

The call that sounded that July night soon spread to other Union army units. A reference that Taps was used by the Confederate Army is found in Mounted Artillery Drill by R. Snowden Andrews (1863, Charleston, S.C.). On page 158 it states, "Taps will be blown at nine O'clock, at which time all officers and all enlisted men must be in quarters."

The account of how Butterfield composed the call surfaced in

August 1898 following publication of Century Magazine's article "The Trumpet in Camp and Battle" by Gustav Kobbé, a music historian and critic. He wrote of Taps: "I have not been able to trace this call to any other service. If it seems probable, it was original with Major Seymour, he has given our army the most beautiful of all trumpet-calls."

Kobbé used Maj. Gen. Emory Upton's 1874 U.S. Army drill manual on infantry tactics as an authority. The bugle calls in it were compiled by Maj. Truman Seymour of the 5th U.S. Artillery, an 1846 West Point graduate who was a musician and artist.

Taps was called Extinguish Lights in the manual since it was to replace the call for lights out Butterfield did not like. The title was not changed officially until 1891, although other manuals referred to the call as Taps because most soldiers knew it by that name. Since Seymour was responsible for the music in the Army manual, Kobbé assumed that he had written the call.

While still sounded every evening at military bases to signal Day is Done, the notes of Taps have become part of our national conscience. In times of peace and war the 24 notes of this familiar melody have been performed each day in virtually every part of our nation.



Our Commanders Comments

By: Commander J. H. Underwood



Compatriots;

I want to start with a "Thank You" to 1st Lt. Cmdr. Tommy Cook, 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Jerry New, Chaplin John Maxey, and Compatriots Larry Cornwell, Greg Beavers

and Don Stark for all their work on the Middlebrooks Cemetery on Saturday March 24th. A lot of progress was made toward clearing brush from the wall. This will make it easier to keep in the future.

Compatriot Cornwell continued his reconstruction of the south end of the front wall and now has the base foundation all the way to the western corner. Looking good Larry!

1st Lt. Cmdr. Cook recognized the need for another entrance to the cemetery and we now have a side entrance in the northeast wall. The rocks that were removed for the entrance were used in the reconstruction of the front wall. Tommy has also donated two and a half gallons of industrial strength brush killer to the camp which will go a long way towards keeping the wall clear of brush as well as other projects we may take on. Thank you Commander Cook!

I was able to cut the grass in the front half of the cemetery while the rest of you



cleared brush and leaves and the cemetery now looks better than we have ever seen it.

2Lt. Cmdr. Jerry New and I took an hour out of our workday and traveled to the Old Zion Cemetery off Georgia Highway 20 at the South River to install the gravestone for Pvt. Nathaniel Bell.

Pvt. Bell was a member of Company E, 27 Battalion, Georgia Infantry and Jerry's Great Great Grandfather.



Thanks Compatriots for your help with the clean up at the Middlebrooks Cemetery.

As you know April is Confederate History Month as usual our April meeting will be our Open House. Bring all of your Confederate artifacts and memorabilia to the meeting on Tuesday April 10th.

This is also a good time to bring your friends and recruit new members. Remem-

ber Field Representative Jack Marlar's discussion about recruiting from last months meeting and don't just invite them, pick them up and bring them to the meeting.

April being Confederate History Month brings lots of activities. One is the National Confederate Memorial Service at Stone Mountain Park (See Details and Invitation below).

We are also invited to the James M. Gresham Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy Confederate Memorial Commemoration. Here is the invitation form Chapter President Madelyn Stark;

The James M. Gresham Chapter, UDC, would like to extend an invitation to you and your camp members, to join us in our Confederate Memorial Day Commemoration on Saturday, April 21, 2:00 p.m., at the Social Circle United Methodist Church on Hwy 11 in Social Circle. Hope some of you will be able to attend.

Those that can attend please let me know so I can give Madelyn a count.

Don't forget that our own Chaplin John Maxey will be showing the Confederate Constitution at the University of Georgia on Confederate Memorial Day, April 26. If you've not seen it please do so as it is well worth the trip.

J. H. Underwood, Commander



The 11th National Confederate Memorial Service at Stone Mountain Park

Invitation from the Georgia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans.



Saturday April 14, 2012
1:00 PM in front of the Carving Reflection Pool

HOSTED BY:
The Georgia Society Military Order of the Stars & Bars
David Denard Commander of the Georgia Society MOS&B

The Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans
Guest Speaker : Commander-In-Chief SCV Michael Givens

Honor Guard Men & Ladies needed
!!!!!!!!!!!! !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Contact: Dennis Cook 706-247-5067 or Joe Bath 770-554-9377

Artillery needed Contact: Leonard Draper leo369d@bellsouth.net
OR at 404-401-5591 or 770-949-3014

Everyone interested met at Sky Lift parking lot 11am

FOR OTHER INFO CONTACT:
DAVID DENARD 706-678-7720 OR denardodian@bellsouth.net

DAVID FLOYD 770-979-2637 OR DLFreb@msn.com

BRING A PICNIC AND ENJOY A DIXIE DAY IN THE PARK





The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford (18th & 19th Soldiers in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



Headstone at Covington shows:
J.H. CARTER
63d GA

Actually:
JAMES H. CARTER
COMPANY G
63d GEORGIA INFANTRY

This soldier formally enlisted, at age 29, on November 12, 1863 at Thunderbolt, Georgia, in Company G of the 63rd Regiment, Georgia Infantry. Although the 63rd was organized at Savannah, Georgia in late 1862, this regiment recruited throughout Georgia to include counties in western Georgia. Although this Georgia-born soldier, according to the 1860 census, lived just over the Georgia/Alabama border in Randolph County, Alabama with his Georgia-born parents, the family apparently moved back to the Spalding County, Georgia area soon after the 1860 census.

The 63rd Georgia Regiment was both an infantry and a heavy artillery unit during the war. The 63rd was formed in December 1862 using the 13th Georgia Infantry Battalion as its nucleus and by the further consolidation of various infantry companies and the 12th Battalion Georgia Light Artillery. This unusual consolidation of infantry and artillery companies into a single regiment makes perfect sense when you consider that their mission was coastal defense requiring both infantry and artillery assets.

The 63rd Georgia defended Thunderbolt and Rosedew Island. Engagements of the 63rd Regiment included deploying mainly artillery batteries (Companies B and K) to the defense and battle of Battery Wagner, Charleston, South Carolina in July 1863. After the artillery was requisitioned by the Confederate navy in early 1864, the regiment became strictly infantry. The regiment was then placed in General Mercer's and J. A. Smith's Brigade, Army of Tennessee. Now serving as infantry, the brigade moved to the Atlanta area about June 1864 and participated in the Atlanta Campaign starting with Kennesaw Mountain. The 63rd fought at Kennesaw Mountain, the Atlanta Siege and was heavily engaged at Jonesboro, Georgia and then later fought at Franklin, Tennessee and in the Carolinas

Campaign before the surrender at Bentonville, North Carolina.

Alas, Private Carter did not live past the Atlanta Campaign. The 63rd fought in some of the battles immediately before the Battle of Atlanta with the most costly being the battle of Kennesaw Mountain on June 27, 1864. During the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, near Pigeon Hill and south of Burnt Hickory Road, the Union commander advanced his column and met the skirmish line manned by the 63rd Georgia. Unfortunately, the inexperienced commander of the 63rd Georgia, instead of ordering his skirmishers to fall back, ordered his skirmishers and their support to attack the advancing Union forces. The 63rd suffered devastating losses in this unwise and uncoordinated attack. Until this battle, the 63rd had not fought in any major infantry action. Since this was the most deadly combat action the 63rd had seen to date, it is likely that Private James Carter may have been wounded at this time.

The military record for Private James H Carter shows he died in a hospital at Covington, Georgia on August 15, 1864. The hospital record for Hill Hospital at Covington, Georgia shows that Private Carter was admitted on July 28, 1863 for *Vulnus sclopeticum* (gunshot wound) and that he died on August 15, 1864. The hospital record sadly notes that "effects taken by his mother".

It is interesting that three soldiers of the 63rd Georgia Infantry Regiment are buried in the Covington Confederate Cemetery: Private Carter (Co G), Private Beasley (Co F) and Private Knight (Co D). According to reports, the 63rd was devastated during the battle for Kennesaw Mountain.

James H. Carter was born in Georgia about 1834 to Francis Marion Carter (b. abt 1810 in GA.) and Sarah J Wilson Carter (b. abt 1817 in GA). James H Carter was the oldest of seven children. His brother Micaiah C. Carter served in the 8th Alabama Cavalry and survived the war. His brother John Thomas Carter appears to have served and died in the war but his unit and service cannot be positively identified. It is notable that Private James H. Carter's father, Francis Marion Carter, enlisted in Company E of the 11th Georgia Infantry at about age 51,

was appointed as 3rd Corporal, and served until his death at the battle at Malvern Hill, Virginia on July 1, 1862.

Private James H. Carter (b. abt 1834) was married to Martha E Twilley Carter (b. abt 1840) and had a son named Solomon M. Carter who was born about 1860 in Alabama. Since Martha and Solomon cannot be positively identified in the census of 1870, it appears likely that she remarried.



Headstone at Covington shows:
J. A. CLARK, --MS

Actually:
ANDREW J. CLARK
CO D, 11th MS CAV
BN

This soldier originally enlisted at Louisville, Mississippi on December 27, 1863 as a private in Company D (Mett's Company) of the newly formed 11th Cavalry (Perrin's Battalion of Cavalry). He was only 18 years and 7 months old at the time of his enlistment. The 11th Mississippi Cavalry Battalion, often called "the Minutemen", became the 11th Cavalry Regiment and supported Gen Nathan Bedford Forrest's Mississippi actions confronting Sherman's Meridian, Miss expedition. The unit participated in the battle of Champion's Hill in May 1863, a pivotal battle in the Vicksburg Campaign where it reportedly served bravely.

The 11th Mississippi Cavalry regiment is mentioned in the dispatches (Feb 1864) of General Stephen Dill Lee that he had taken 500 rifles intended for the men of the unarmed men of Jackson and Ferguson Counties (Miss) and given them to Colonel Perrin, whose regiment had come in "finely". General S. D. Lee also asked for 300 more rifles to complete the arming of Perrin's men. In less than two weeks, the regiment was reported to be confronting Sherman's Meridian expedition. It appears the 11th Cavalry was held in such high regard that it received a priority in receiving arms.

In April 1864, the 11th Mississippi Cavalry Regiment was moved to Macon, Georgia and then north to participate in the Battle of At-

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The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford

(18th & 19th Soldiers in the series)



Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade

lanta. The movements of the 11th Mississippi in northern Georgia have not been closely defined but it is known that the Regiment, under the command of Colonel Perrin, was a part of Ferguson's Brigade, of Jackson's Cavalry, and was involved in the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain on June 20, 1864. In November and December of 1864, the 11th Mississippi fought with Maj. Gen Joseph Wheeler during Sherman's "pyromaniac" march to Savannah and siege of that city. It deserves mention that near the end of the war, remnants of the 11th Mississippi Cavalry became part of Wheeler's Cavalry, fought against Sherman's advances across Georgia and was later part of the cavalry escort of President Davis in Georgia in April 1865.

Alas, Private Andrew J Clark was likely wounded during the Kennesaw actions (June 1864) and was likely evacuated through the Atlanta Receiving and Distribution Hospital and sent to Hill Hospital at Covington, Georgia. His service record indicates that he died in hospital(Covington) on July 14, 1864. No cause of death was mentioned but the date of his death suggests that he likely died of wounds. Private Andrew J Clark was only 19

years and 2 months old when he died.

Private Andrew J Clark was born May 14, 1845 in Winston County, Mississippi to John Collingsworth Clark and Matilda Pee Clark. He was born the third of eleven children. Most of his siblings were too young to have served the Confederacy but his elder brother William Henry Clark served in Company I of the 35th Regiment, Mississippi Volunteer regiment. William Henry Clark was captured at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863 and then paroled on July 8, 1863. William was captured again at Nashville, Tennessee on December 15, 1864, imprisoned at Camp Douglas, Illinois and released June 18, 1865 after the war ended. He died in 1916. None of the other male siblings of Private Andrew J Clark appears old enough to have served.

It is unfortunate that Clark Family researchers of this line seemingly generally haven't a clue on what happened to this patriotic Confederate soldier named Private Andrew J Clark who was unmarried and had no descendants. He is left, at best, as a footnote in

most Clark family histories. Isn't it sad that brave Confederate soldiers are so easily forgotten, but the fact is that Private Andrew J Clark, Company D, 11th (Perrin's) Mississippi Cavalry bravely served the Confederacy, died, and is buried in the Confederate section of the Covington Confederate Cemetery. We should not forget.



**Confederate Memorial Wall
Covington Georgia**