



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

# GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



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## Coming Events

April 9, 2013 - **"Open House" meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

April 26, 2013  
**Confederate Memorial Day**

May 14, 2013 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

## Inside this issue:

**"Our Commanders Comments"** 2  
By: Commander J. H. Underwood

**"The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington & Oxford"** 2  
(40th and 41st Soldiers in a series)  
Continuing project by Compatriot Gene

**"The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington & Oxford"** 3  
(40th and 41st Soldiers in a series)  
Continuing project by Compatriot Gene

**"The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington & Oxford"** 4  
(40th and 41st Soldiers in a series)  
Continuing project by Compatriot Gene Wade (Continued from page 3.)



## U.S. Navy Buries Two Of Its Own; Monitor Crew At Arlington National



By: Scott C. Boyd, April 2013 Civil War News

ARLINGTON, Va. – Two crewmen from the USS Monitor were buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on March 8, one day short of the 151st anniversary of the day the Monitor made history with the CSS Virginia in the first battle between ironclads at Hampton Roads.



The Monitor sank on Dec. 31, 1862, during a storm off Cape Hatteras, N.C., while being towed to the Charleston, S.C., area. Sixteen of the 62 men on-board went down with the ship.

The remains of two crewmen were recovered in 2002 when the ironclad's turret was raised from the ship's grave some 16 miles off Cape Hatteras. No trace was found of the other men.

The remains were sent to the U.S. military's premier laboratory for identifying human remains in Hawaii, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. The lab collected DNA and a genealogist studied old medical and service records and other archival sources trying to identify the men.

The Louisiana State University Forensic Anthropology and Computer Enhancement Services

lab constructed clay sculptures of the faces after making cast resin replicas from the recovered skulls. It was hope someone would recognize a family resemblance.

However, they remain unknown.

A commercial flight from Hawaii carrying the remains arrived at Dulles International Airport in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., around 11:30 a.m. on March 7.

A U.S. Navy ceremonial guard transferred the caskets to hearses which carried them to an area funeral home and then to the memorial service the next day at Fort Myer Memorial Chapel, just outside of Arlington National Cemetery.

"This may well be the last time we bury naval personnel who fought in the Civil War at Arlington," Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said during the memorial service.

The acting head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, spoke of NOAA's commitment to protect the Monitor wreck site, which was the nation's first National Marine Sanctuary.

"The sailors on the USS Monitor lived up to the highest traditions of courage and sacrifice in the United States Navy," said Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James M.

McPherson, the third and final speaker. "To a man they were all volunteers for service on this experimental vessel of radical new design."

The service concluded after the three Navy chaplains finished the Bible readings, homily and commendation, and everyone sang the Navy Hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save."

The honor guard wheeled the two flag-draped caskets outside and placed them on two waiting caissons, one drawn by six white horses, the other by six black horses.

The caissons, honor guard and a Navy band led many of the attendees on a three-quarter-mile procession to Section 46 of Arlington National Cemetery.

At Section 46, the honor guard carried the caskets from the caissons to the two graves.

In the seats of honor next to the graves sat some 30 descendants of the 16 Monitor crewmen lost at sea, none of them knowing whether they were related to the two unknown sailors.

As the band played "America the Beautiful" the honor guard folded the two flags that had draped the caskets.

A marker in memory of the 16 Monitor sailors lost will be placed near the graves.



## Our Commanders' Comments

By: Commander J. H. Underwood



Compatriots;

April is a busy month for Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863. First comes our "Open House" meeting on Tuesday April 9, 2013 followed by Confederate

Memorial Day, April 26th and as I write this we are planning a 100th anniversary memorial service to the Confederate Memorial Monument at the Rockdale County Courthouse.

The "Open House" this year will be a special one. In addition to displaying our War Between The States artifacts and memorabilia we will also have a special guest speaker. Mr. Len Strozier of Omega Mapping Services will be there to present us with his findings and maps of the Middlebrooks Cemetery. You don't want to miss this so please plan to be there.

As you know this meeting officially starts at 7:30 pm so for everyone that is setting up artifact and memorabilia displays please have them done by 7:00. I will open the meeting hall by 6:00 and hopefully that will give everyone plenty of time. This meeting is open to the public so we hope to have

more guest than usual and I want to be sure to start on time.

April 26th is Confederate Memorial Day and I would like to remind everyone this is the day the Confederate Constitution is on display at the University of Georgia Library shown by none other than our own Camp Chaplin John Maxey. If you have not seen it, I can tell you it is well worth the trip to Athens. Contact Chaplin Maxey for directions and information on exactly where the document will be displayed.

As mentioned earlier a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Confederate Memorial Monument at the Courthouse is being planned for late April and as soon as details are worked out I will let everyone know. You will hear from me on this before the April meeting.

As you know March 23rd had been scheduled as our first work day at the Meadors' Cemetery, our new cemetery project. I was disappointed that I had to postpone it due to weather but it turned out to be a good call. I have rescheduled it for Saturday, April 6, 2013, weather permitting, so mark your calendars, bring your chain saws and brush clearing equipment and join me at 8:00am at the Meadors Cemetery on Newton

County Road 213 just off Highway 36 south of Covington.

We have permission to park on Cleary Enterprises' property at 48 Hwy. 213. Go past the house and park by the garage type building at the top of the hill next to the cemetery. Be sure not to block any drive ways or equipment. The Cleary's rent the house and they come in to get equipment from time to time and we do not want to inconvenience anyone.

The setting of Archibald Gilmer's headstone at the Oxford Cemetery is being delayed until sometime in May. 2nd Lt. Commander Jerry New has reported to me that the construction of the new library at Oxford College has made getting the stone to the cemetery very difficult. The library is scheduled for completion some time in May before the 2013 graduation and hopefully, with their final landscaping, better access to the cemetery will be provided. As soon as that happens we will schedule a day to set Private Gilmer's stone.

I look forward to seeing ya'll at the "Open House" in April and as always for the cause;

J. H. Underwood

Commander.



## The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford (40th and 41st Soldiers in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



Headstone at Covington shows:

E. S. LADING  
55<sup>th</sup> GEORGIA

Actually:

ELIJAH S. LANDON  
COMPANY E  
66<sup>th</sup> REGIMENT,  
GEORGIA INFANTRY



This soldier enlisted as a private on August 6, 1863 at Decatur, DeKalb County, Georgia in Captain M. L. Brown's Company. This company subsequently became Company E, 66<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Georgia Infantry. The military records for Private Landon are sparse but we do know the history of the 66<sup>th</sup> Georgia. It appears that Elijah had earlier enlisted in the Burke County "Bat Jones Minute Men" mili-

tia (dates back to Revolutionary War) in September 1861 along with nephews William T. and John T. Landing. Unfortunately, militia records are very sparse so we do not know if Elijah decided to go "regular" or he was conscripted but he did enter regular service with the 66<sup>th</sup> Georgia at age 38 in 1863.

The 66<sup>th</sup> Georgia was the last regular Confederate Army Regiment raised in the state of Georgia. The 66<sup>th</sup> Georgia consisted of thirteen companies raised in counties ranging from Newton and DeKalb County south to Bibb County. The regiment was sent south to Fort Cobb near Quincy, Florida to guard the areas near the Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers. The 66<sup>th</sup> soon joined General Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee and joined the lines at

Missionary Ridge near the end of November 1863 where they experienced their first real combat. The 66<sup>th</sup> Georgia, now part of Walker's Division, was near the right flank next to General Patrick Cleburne's division and helped to hold the right flank until forced to retreat when the center of the line collapsed. The 66<sup>th</sup> was part of the rear guard in the retreat to Dalton, Georgia. The 66<sup>th</sup> went into winter quarters near Dalton with the rest of Army of Tennessee in late 1863.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864, the 66<sup>th</sup> Georgia was involved in the battle of Resaca and other fighting in the area to include severe fighting on the Kennesaw Line. The 66<sup>th</sup> was involved in especially heavy fighting near the Western and Atlantic Railroad bridge where the 66<sup>th</sup> was credited for delaying Union General McPherson's advance.



# The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford

(40th and 41st Soldiers in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



Unfortunately, Private Elijah S. Landon probably did not experience much combat after Missionary Ridge retreat in November 1863. It is not known when he became ill or wounded but it is known that according to hospital records he died in the Confederate Hill Hospital at Covington, Georgia on February 7, 1864 of Enteritis and before the major battles leading up to the fighting for Atlanta and which did not start until several months later in May 1864. Enteritis is inflammation of the small intestine and usually comes from drinking or eating something contaminated with bacteria or viruses. Hospital records also indicate that Private Landon left behind money in the amount of \$1.75.

Interestingly, Elijah S. Landon was actually born Elijah S. Landing. According to family history, Elijah S. Landing possibly had a brother named Mack with whom he had a falling out of some kind for a while. Mack is believed to have been angry at Elijah and Mack changed his last name to Landon. It has not been explained why Elijah also changed his last name to Landon but his military records do show that his enlistment name was Landon. Perhaps Mack and Elijah made up and Elijah decided to also change his name since he enlisted under the name of Landon. Burke County, Georgia census records of 1850 and 1860 do indicate that the family name was Landing.

There were two different Landing families in Burke County, Georgia. They were likely descended from a common grandfather but some of the few family researchers of these families reportedly confuse the members of the two Landing lines. According to a primary Landing family genealogist (Steven Lee), our Elijah Landing/Lading was a son of John Landing (born 1784 in North Carolina) and a Celia (last name unknown and born 1792 in North Carolina). Elijah was born in Burke County, Georgia in 1825 and was the youngest of seven children. There was one daughter, name unknown, (born 1804/1810) and six sons of John and Celia Landing. Two unknown sons were born 1820/1824 and another unknown son (born 1815/1820). One of the unknown brothers may have been named Mack. The three known sons were John H. Landing (born 1815), Alfred J. Landing (born 1817) and our subject Elijah S. Landing (born 1825). All children were reported to have been born in Burke County, Georgia. The reason

that the names of so many of these Landing children are unknown can be attributed to the fact that it was not until the 1850 census were names other than the head of household listed and these unidentified children had likely moved out of the household or died before 1850.

The two known older brothers, John and Alfred Landing, do not appear to have served the Confederacy possibly because of their age. Our subject Elijah S. Landing, the youngest brother is shown in the 1850 census at age 25 as living with his parents, John and Celia Landing, with no other family members present. The 1860 census shows him to be at age 37 living with only his mother Celia Landing, indicating that his father John Landing had died. Although Elijah has been positively identified as being both a Landing and later a Landon when he enlisted, it is unknown just why he changed his name. Perhaps it was not very important to Elijah on just how he spelled his name because in both the 1850 and 1860 census, like his parents, he is shown as "cannot read or write". Research indicates that most Southerners were literate but this part of the Landing/Landon family appears to be the exception.

Elijah S. Landing was evidently married to a Roxy Ann Burke after 1860. They reportedly had two children, both sons, both of whom died at birth in 1861 and 1863 and who are buried in Big Horse Creek Cemetery in Jenkins County, Georgia. The wife Roxy cannot be positively identified in the 1870 census or afterward and it cannot be determined what happened to her after Elijah's death in 1864. She is not shown as drawing a Confederate widow's pension in the program that started in 1892 so she had likely died or remarried by then. Isn't it so unfortunate that so many of our Southern ancestors leave so few traces of their existence?

Headstone at Covington shows:  
H. S. LONDAR  
41<sup>ST</sup> TN

Actually:  
WILLIAM THOMAS  
LONDON  
COMPANY H  
41<sup>ST</sup> TENNESSEE IN-



## FANTRY REGIMENT

This soldier was William Thomas London and not H. S. Londar as indicated on the headstone. There was no soldier named Londar in the 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee and there was no known soldier named Londar in the entire Confederate Army. It has been determined that this soldier was the William T. London known to have been in the 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee. As for the initials of H. S. on the headstone, there is little doubt that the initials are incorrect. There are unfortunately many other similar errors on the old headstones at Covington.

William T. London enlisted at age 18 as a private in Company H of the 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Infantry Regiment. He enlisted for three years, or to the end of the war, on November 1<sup>st</sup> 1862 in Marshall County, Tennessee. His older brother, Private John Patrick London, was already a member of Company H having enlisted a year earlier at age 20 when the 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee was organized.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Infantry Regiment completed its organization in November 1861 and moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky and then to Fort Donelson, Tennessee where on February 14, 1862 the majority of the 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee surrendered along with most of the rest of General Buckner's forces. The surrender of the 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee included Private John P. London, our subject's older brother. The captured Confederate enlisted soldiers were sent to Camp Morton, Indiana until their release and parole at Vicksburg, Mississippi in September 1862. The unit was reorganized at Clinton, Mississippi in September 1862 and then officially declared exchanged November 10, 1862. It was during this reorganization period, November 1862, that our subject William T. London enlisted in the regiment.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee was sent to Port Hudson, Louisiana in January 1863 and then moved to Jackson, Mississippi and was engaged in heavy fighting at Raymond, Mississippi on May 12, 1863. The regiment was stationed near Vernon, Mississippi on June 30<sup>th</sup> 1863 and was at Yazoo City, Mississippi when Vicksburg fell on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1863. The 41<sup>st</sup> became part of Major General W. H. T. Walker's Division and joined the Army of Tennessee in September 1863 moving from Enterprise, Mississippi to Mobile, Alabama and then to Chickamauga, Georgia where it was engaged in the Battle of Chickamauga

Continued on page 4.

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## The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford (40th and 41st Soldiers in the series)

September 1863. The 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee became part of Brigadier General Maney's Brigade, of Walker's Division and was engaged at Missionary Ridge on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1863. The 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee helped cover the withdrawal to Ringgold, Georgia and on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1863 was ambushed at Graysville, Georgia where it suffered a number of casualties. The regiment then entered winter quarters at Dalton, Georgia.

The regiment remained at Dalton except for one expedition in February 1864 to Demopolis, Alabama and another short expedition to Mississippi. In June 1864, the regiment became part of Brigadier General Otho Strahl's Brigade of Cheatham's Division. The 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee fought in numerous battles leading up to the Battle of Atlanta in late July 1864 to include Kennesaw Mountain in late June 1864.

Alas, the records for Private William T. London are incomplete and do not show when he was wounded or became sick or when he was sent to an unnamed hospital but it is known that he died on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1864 in a Confederate hospital. It is noteworthy that that the receipt

number used to record his effects was receipt No. 6455 which is the same receipt number used to record the effects of over a dozen other deceased Confederates known to have died during this period at the Covington Confederate Hospital. This receipt number leaves little doubt that Private William Thomas London died in the Hill Hospital at Covington, Georgia.

William Thomas London was born in Tennessee September 6, 1843 to Wilson London (b.1820, Tenn) and Jamima McCorkle London (b.1819, Tenn). William was born the second of ten children. His older brother was John Patrick London ( b.1841). His younger siblings were Sarah (b.1846), Susan Ann (b.1848), Hannah (b.1850, Artimissa (b. 1852), Robert (b.1854), Mary Jamima (b. 1859), and Alfred (b.1861). His father Wilson London remarried after the death of his first wife Jamima and remarried Sarah McCorkle and had children James (b.1871), Fannie (b.1872) and Donnie (b.1876). Obviously, our subject William never knew his half-brothers/sisters from his father's second marriage.

Only our subject William Thomas London and his older brother John Patrick London were old enough, of the Wilson London family to serve the Confederacy. Brother John Patrick London served in the 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Infantry Regiment and was captured at Ringgold, Georgia in November 1863. Private John Patrick London spent the rest of the war as a POW at Rock Island, Illinois and was released at the end of the war and lived until 1887.

Our subject's father Wilson London possibly served the Confederacy but his service cannot be identified with certainty, but our subject's uncles did serve. Green Berry London (b.1822) served in the 17<sup>th</sup> Tennessee and was killed in action at Murfreesboro, Tennessee January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863. Enoch London served in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee Infantry and survived the war. Confederate service for several other uncles is indicated but cannot be confirmed. Certainly, typical of most Southern families, the London family gave much in the service of the Confederacy.

