



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

GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



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Coming Events

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

June 7, 8 & 9, 2013 - **Georgia Division Reunion** - Hosted by Ogeechee Rifles Camp #941, Statesboro, Georgia

June 11, 2013 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

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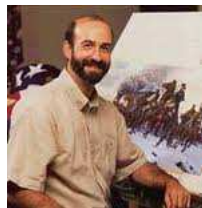


John Paul Strain Art to be Displayed at our May Meeting.

By: Debi and Kent Robinson and Commander J. H. Underwood



Debi & Kent Robinson from D & K Prints of Grayson, Georgia, will be our guest speakers at our May 14, 2013 meeting. D & K Prints specializes in the historical art of artist John Paul Strain. Here is a short biography of the artist.



For over 30 years American artist John Paul Strain has been amazing art collectors

with his unique talent of capturing moments in time from the early days of the American Frontier, the glory and pageantry of the American Civil War, to contemporary scenic and romantic locations across the world.

From the early age of 21, Mr. Strain's paintings were represented by Trailside Galleries, America's most prestigious western art gallery. For 15 years his beautiful landscapes, wild life paintings, and depictions of Indian life were represented by most every major western art gallery and top art auctions in the United States.

In 1991 Mr. Strain broadened his subjects to include historical art of the American Civil War. During the next 17 years Mr. Strain focused his work on the world of daring horseback raids and epic battles with great armies and leaders, capturing and preserving a unique era in history. Over a

period of years, Mr. Strain became known as America's leading historical artist, with over 50 magazine covers featuring his paintings. His work is featured in books, movies, and film. Strain's paintings have helped to raise funds for many historical restoration projects and battlefield preservation organizations. The National Park Service uses his images in their publications and at battlefield sites. A number of historical private institutions have on site displays featuring his work such as General JEB Stuart's home and estate, and General Jubal Early's boyhood home.

Mr. Strain and his paintings were also featured on the television shows of C-Span's Washington Journal, The History Channel, and Extreme Makeover Home Edition. Throughout his career he has won many awards for his art. Reproductions of his work have won numerous 1st place awards and "Best of Show" honors, such as the PICA Awards, The Printing Industry of the Carolinas, and at the PIAG Awards in Georgia. Strain is also a featured artist for internationally known collector art companies the Bradford Exchange and the Franklin Mint for which he has created a Civil War Chess Set, several limited edition plate series, sculptures, and many other collectable items featuring his paintings. Mr. Strain has also completed a number of commissioned works for the United States Army, which are on permanent display at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Fort McNair, Washington D.C., and the battlefield visitor's

center at Normandy, France. Today, Mr. Strain's original paintings can be found in many noted museums such as the Museum of Fredericksburg, and at Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello.

On a number of weekends during the year Mr. Strain can be found commanding troops on the battlefield, as the Captain of the 7th Texas Cavalry re-enacting unit from North Texas.



Debi and Kent Robinson started purchasing John Paul Strain prints for personal enjoyment. The business was started in 2008. "We wanted to introduce John Paul Strain prints to everyone. Kent enjoys the history of the civil war and Debi enjoys the way Mr. Strain paints the horses. We enjoy the talent and the way Mr. Strain paints the history of the civil war. We enjoy doing the civil war shows and presentations and meeting new people and friends along the way."

Debi and Kent will be displaying six or seven prints of John Paul Strain's work and tell us more about the art and artist.



Our Commanders' Comments

By: Commander J. H. Underwood



Compatriots;

Confederate history month has come and gone and I want to thank those who helped make it special.

On Saturday April 20, 2013 the James M. Gresham Chapter 1312 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy held a Confederate Memorial Day observance at the 1st United Methodist Church in Social Circle. Our camp was represented by the presents of 2nd Lt. Commander Jerry New and Compatriot Jack Herbert, both of whom said the observance was moving. Thank you Pauline Myers and the Ladies of the Jams M. Gresham Chapter for continuing this annual observance and honoring our Confederate ancestors.

As always on Confederate Memorial Day (April 26th) our Camp Chaplin John Maxey was on hand at the University of Georgia Library to great visitors who come to view the Confederate Constitution which is put on display only on that day every year. Here is John's comments on this years event. "We had upwards of about 290 people come through to see the document. There was a ground breaking for a new

building next door to the Russell building. That helped with the numbers. Got to meet some interesting people there. Got to say a few positive things about our Constitution also." Thank you John for the good work you do there every year.

Also on Confederate Memorial Day our camp, in conjunction with the Rockdale County Historical Society, held a Confederate Memorial Day Observance honoring the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of the Confederate Monument at the Rockdale County Courthouse.

I want to thank Mrs. Harriet Gattis, Tourism Manager for the City of Conyers Department of Public Relations & Tourism, for helping Judy Bond and I plan this event. Her help was most valuable, getting us the permits, contacting the newspaper and promoting the event on the City of Conyers website.

I also want to thank Judy Bond, Patsy Holmes, Tommy Morgan and Jean Hamrick, all members of the Rockdale County Historical Society, for their participation in the observance.

Thanks also to our event's special guest Ms. Pauline Myers, President of the James M.



Gresham Chapter 1312 of the UDC who addressed the crowd with a short history of UDC Monuments.

Thanks also to 1st. Lt. Commander Tommy Cook, 2nd Lt. Commander Jerry New and Compatriot Jimmy Chappell for setting up the flags, podium and table for the event.

By the time we started at noon we had drawn a crowd of about 50 people including nine of our Compatriots. Thanks guys for your participation.

And last but not least Thanks to Ms. Karen Rohr, reporter from the Rockdale Citizen, for the nice article in last Sunday's paper which featured 2nd Lt. Cmdr. Jerry New holding 1st. Lt. Cmdr. Tommy Cook's Confederate Sward and Enfield rifle.

Together all of your help made this Confederate Memorial Day special.

Don't miss our meeting and art display on May 14th. (see front page article) I will see you there.
J. H. Underwood, Commander.



The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford

(42nd Soldier in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



Headstone at Covington shows:
W. W. BAILY
24th NC



Actually:
HARVEY J. BAILEY
COMPANY G
29th NORTH CAROLINA INFANTRY

Researching the military service of this soldier was quite challenging and heart rendering. No definitive record was found in the National Archives records of his service although substantial evidence exists that he did serve the Confederacy. The existing headstone at the Covington Confederate Cemetery shows W. W. Baily as being in the 24th North

Carolina but no W. W. Baily or W. W. Bailey can be located in this regiment and in fact the 24th North Carolina served only in the Army of Northern Virginia and is not known to have served in Georgia. Note that handwritten numerals 24 and 29 are similar in appearance. No other Baily or Bailey from North Carolina was found in National Archives records who died at Covington, Georgia or in one of the battles leading up to the Battle of Atlanta. (The only other Bailey known to be buried at Covington/Oxford is the W.(William) Bailey of the 1st Tennessee and his service is well established and is not the Bailey from North Carolina). The only North Carolina regiments known to have served in the Atlanta campaigns were the 29th, 39th, 58th and 60th. The 29th North Carolina saw service around the Cumberland Gap,

then Murfreesboro in January 1863, Chitamauca in late September 1863, and then in various battles after Missionary Ridge into the Atlanta Campaign. Private Bailey is known to have been wounded on June 18, 1864 so that would place him in the area of Kennesaw Mountain and Marietta, Georgia when he was wounded. The 29th North Carolina ended the war at Mobile, Alabama.

It appears certain that the soldier in question was Harvey J. Bailey who served in Company G of the 29th North Carolina Infantry Regiment even though no record of his service in the 29th North Carolina was located in National Archives records. Many Confederate records did not survive the War Between the States because of the pyromaniac tendencies of Union forces and because of the confusion after the surrender. Confederate service is unfortu-

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The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford

(42nd Soldier in the series)



Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade

nately often undocumented. Descendants of Harvey J. Bailey have provided evidence that Harvey did in fact die in a Confederate Hospital at Covington, Georgia. Actual letters from Private Harvey Bailey to his wife and family specifically describe his wound and subsequent hospitalization at Covington, Georgia. According to wife Aldecha's pension application, Harvey enlisted on May 27th, 1864 as a private in Company G, 29th Infantry Regiment, North Carolina but since some of the letters he wrote home are dated earlier than this, his enlistment was probably earlier in 1863.

Harvey Bailey was the father of apparently rowdy sons. His letter of April 28, 1864 cautioned his sons not to fight and he outlined the chores that needed to be done on the farm. In this letter Harvey states, "I wood rather bee at home in peace and eat dry bred once a day than to bee away from home and have the world and bee a way. I have lay on the flore till my hipies are nearly rub thru the skin. But I do not think the ware can last much longer. Our men is giving them fits every day some where. I would bee willing to doo anything if we could whip the miserable thieves".

In a letter dated June 20th, 1864 written at Covington Hospital, Georgia, Harvey tells his wife and children that he was shot through the left hand during a fight on Saturday the 18th (June 1864). He describes in his words, "hit has hurt me very bad. I shal have one of my fingers taken off today. I am suffering very bad at this time & expect I shal losse my hand. I doo not no whether they will let me come home or not. I will not bee able to come home under too weakes if I get the chance. I hope this will come safe to hand and find you all well and doing. We have bin fighting hear near Maryeter (Marietta) for more than a weak. Ther has byn a grat many kild on both sides. We lay in our brest works six days and nights in mud and water to hour (our) knees. I never nod (knowed) what hard times was till now but the hard fight has not come off yet thear will bee hundreds and thousands of lives lost at this place. Aldecha, (wife's first name), I want to see you and the children the worst I ever did in my life".

A June 28, 1864 letter mailed at Covington, Georgia from Private Harvey Bailey to his brother Jesse further describes his condi-

tion: "Dear Brother, I can tell you that ??? hear you hard (heard?) that I got wounded one 18th (on June 18th) got shot through the hand on Saturday. The doctors cut of my finger a way up half my hand. Jesse I have not slep one night since hit ??? (several incomprehensible words), I can't eat any thing. My hand brakes out and bleeds so that I am in a narrow (?) place. I have one chanc to live where I have too chances to die". Harvey Bailey certainly recognized how dire his situation really was. According to Private Harvey Bailey's ancestors, his hand was eventually amputated and he died from gangrene on July 9, 1864.



**Confederate Memorial Wall
Covington Georgia**

We often attempt to understand the actual hardships endured by these brave Confederate soldiers and can only speculate how they faced their personal circumstances but an excerpt from Private Bailey's letter of May 30, 1864, written at Asheville, North Carolina and just a few weeks before his wound, illustrates what he was feeling: "I am sorry to say that we have to start to the ware (war) in the morning I have not no (know) whare wee will go they say wee have to go to daulton (Dalton, Georgia). I hope this will come to hand and find you all well and harty. I would lik to see you all but I never expect to see you any more till this ware is over and per hapes never in this life. Aldecca (wife) I want you to do the best you can and pray for me all the time if I never se (see) you no more, I want to meet you in heaven where parting will be no more".

The June 20, 1864 daily transcript of the Covington hospital shows that a H. H. (or H. J. ?) Bailey, along with a J.W. Bailey, were received in the Covington Confederate Hospital. It is noteworthy that the J. W. Bailey was probably the brother of our subject Harvey J. Bailey. Bailey family ancestors advise that he was also in the hospital the same time as brother Harvey Both were

listed in this daily register as members of Company G of the 29th North Carolina which helps to further identify our subject Harvey. James was originally thought to be in the 58th North Carolina and evidently transferred to the 29th. N.C. for a period. It is likely that these two Bailey brothers were wounded in the same battle of June 18th, 1864, near Marietta, Georgia since they arrived at Covington Confederate hospital together. The nature of brother J. (James) W Bailey's wound is not known but it is known that he survived the war and survived until 1882.

The records for the Covington Confederate Hospitals are sparse and no other mention of either brother was found beyond the single daily record of June 20, 1864. Unfortunately, some Ancestry.com records incorrectly report that Harvey died at Covington, Kentucky which is obviously incorrect since the 29th North Carolina was long gone from Kentucky in 1864.

Although no official Confederate records were found, descendants of Private Harvey J. Bailey report that this soldier eventually had his hand amputated and that he soon died of gangrene. The letters he wrote home (Ancestry.com) show him to be "a good father, a fine man, and a Christian". Descendants advise that he died July 9, 1864. (Antibiotics were far in the future).

Initially confusing the situation is the fact that there is a Veterans Administration headstone in the Bailey Byrd Cemetery in Yancey County, North Carolina for Private Harvey J. Bailey of Company G of the 29th NC Infantry but his descendants advise that it is a memorial headstone and they acknowledge that he is buried in an unmarked grave at Covington, Georgia. It is likely that Private Harvey J. Bailey is in fact buried in a marked grave at Covington, Georgia but the headstone unfortunately indicates an incorrect name and unit. Perhaps someday a correct headstone can be installed at Covington.

Harvey was the son of Charles N. Bailey (b. 1791 in N.C. and Elizabeth Riddle Bailey (b. Abt 1795 in N.C. and was born November 3, 1825 in Yancey County, North Carolina. Harvey was one of eleven known children. His siblings were John (b.1820) Elizabeth (b. 1815), Ansel (b. 1821), James (b. 1822), Nancy (b. 1823), Mary (b.1825), Nathaniel (b. 1828), Willlliam (b. 1831), Jesse (b 1834) and Baccus (b.1835). According to Bailly

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The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford

(42nd Soldier in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



descendents six of the eight brothers served the Confederacy with only John not serving because of his age and Baccus because he died before the war. Our subject Harvey and his brother James were serving in the 29th North Carolina and very likely brother Ansel was also in the same regiment. Several brothers served in the 58th North Carolina. Of the six brothers who served, only Harvey did not survive the war.

Private Harvey Bailey left behind a wife and nine children. His wife was Aldecca Byrd Bailey who was born in 1826. His children was Ann Peridia (b.1840), Cornelius (b. abt 1849), Samuel (b.1851), William (b.1853), Marcus (b.1855), Charles Henry (b. 1857), Henry C (b. 1857), Harvey B.(b.1859) and Mary Drusilla (b.1862). None of his sons were old enough to serve the Confederacy.

According to descendents, Harvey's wife Aldecca had written a letter to Harvey (or had it written for her since she could not write) and was taking it to a Henry Rowland's house to start it on its way. Before she reached the house, she "saw" Harvey and knew that he was dead. She turned around and came home, letter

still in hand. A letter soon arrived confirming her premonition.

The death of Harvey Bailey was certainly a blow to his wife and nine children. Wife Aldecca Byrd Bailey and her children would certainly have been cared for by her father Reverend Samuel J. Byrd (b. 1789), a Baptist minister, but he was murdered by a group of Union soldiers or Union sympathizers in April 1865. It is reported that a former ward of Reverend Byrd named Bennett led a group of twenty-two fellow union soldiers or union sympathizers to Rev Ward's home seeking weapons. Bennett claimed he wanted "just to borrow" the guns and ammunition the Rev Bailey was reported to have in his log home. After ignoring repeated warnings to stay away from his home, the Rev Ward fired through a gun porthole and shot his former ward causing a wound that eventually becoming lethal. Rev Bailey was then shot by the remaining murderers, twenty-two in number. Rev Byrd was age 76 when he was murdered.

Wife Aldecca Bailey never married and continued to live In Yancey County, North

Carolina with her children until they left home to start their own families. It appears her Bailey and Byrd relatives assisted her in running her farm. There is evidence she applied for a Confederate Widow's Pension from North Carolina in 1885 but a copy of her application or approval was not found. Aldecca Bailey died September 8, 1896 in Yancey County, North Carolina.

There were few Southern families who likely suffered more than this Bailey family.

