



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

# GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



Volume 9, Issue 5

September, 2013

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## Coming Events

September 10, 2013 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

October 8, 2013 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

November 12, 2013 - **Regular meeting of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler Camp #863** - Masonic Lodge, Conyers, Georgia

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## Richmond Museums Explore Collaboration: No talk of a Merger

By Scott Boyd, Civil War News



the historic White House of the Confederacy which it owns and manages, may simply cease to exist....

"Right now, some in the MOC leadership have cooked up a plan to distribute the

RICHMOND, Va. – Rumors that the Museum of the Confederacy (MOC) will merge with two other Richmond-area museums — the Virginia Historical Society (VHS) and the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar (ACWC) — are false, according to MOC President and CEO S. Waite Rawls III.

"Words are important," he said. "The difference between the words 'merger,' 'subsume' and 'collaborate' are huge. You see people who don't have any factual information using words that are intentionally provocative."

Rawls said, "Collaboration is a widely-encompassing term, and that's the nature of the discussions."

"The major goal is to make Richmond the premier destination for anybody interested in the Civil War," Rawls said.

VHS Senior Officer for Public Relations and Marketing, Jennifer M. Guild, denied the rumors as well. "The Virginia Historical

Society does not have any intention to merge with any other organization," she said.

ACWC President Christy Coleman said in an email to Civil War News, which requested an interview, "I understand that there is interest but I think it is really premature."

The rumors apparently first surfaced July 26 on the Internet in the Free North Carolina blog that reported without attribution that the MOC would merge with the VHS and ACWC.

Further, the blog claimed that the name "Museum of the Confederacy" would cease to exist and that it was a "takeover" and "another way to reconstruct the South and hide the true history of our ancestors."

On July 30, Sons of Confederate Veterans Commander-in-Chief Michael Givens issued a statement expressing concern.

"If rumored changes come to pass the MOC's collection as well as

MOC's incredible collection among several different Richmond-area groups," Givens wrote.

Rawls said that the three institutions in question "have dealt with each other a lot for a long time."

"For the last 100 years, the stuff going back and forth between us and the VHS is amazing," Rawls said.

Serious researchers go between the VHS and MOC, as do genealogists. The MOC has loaned many artifacts to the VHS for its exhibitions, including those which have traveled across the country, in the exhibits "An American Turning Point" and "Lee and Grant."

"Tredegar – it's a fabulous site. Very accessible," Rawls said. "There's a natural partnership they already have with the National Park Service (NPS)."

Rawls said the MOC and NPS collaborate

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# Our Commanders' Comments

By: Commander J. H. Underwood



Compatriots;

September means Schools are back in session and that brings on football and cooler and dryer weather. Hopefully some of that cooler and

dryer weather will be here by Saturday September 7th when we will get back on our Meadors Cemetery Restoration Project. Please be at the cemetery at 8:00 am and plan to work until around 11:30 or so.

We still have eight or ten pine trees to remove then we can begin clearing the brush from around the edges of the cemetery so bring the chain saws and brush clearing tools. I will provide plenty of cold drinks and water.

I want to thank Mr. Wayne Jones for the

entertaining and informative program on Major General J. E. B. Stuart at our August meeting and all who were in attendance to



see Mr. Jones' program. We had over 30 members and guest representing four SCV Camps, the Rockdale County Historical Society and the Rockdale Genealogical Society. Your presents made the evening more exciting and good crowds make it easier for us to have quality guest speakers like Mr. Jones. I hope ya'll enjoyed his

program as much as I did.

Please join me also in welcoming our newest member. Our officers had the pleasure of initiating Mr. David Clinton Myers into our ranks who joins us and the SCV through his Great Grandfather, Pvt. Richard Sheppard Myers, Company I, 16th Georgia Infantry. We look forward to David's participation in all our Camp activities.

Our guest speaker for September will be Lt. Commander-in-Chief Charles Kelley Barrow. While Kelly has visited our camp before this is the first time since being elected Lt. Cmdr-in-Chief of the SCV. Please mark your calendars and plan to be at the meeting on September 10th to hear what the Lt. CiC has to say.

I will see you there.

J. H. Underwood, Commander



## The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford (50th & 51st Soldier's in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



Headstone at Covington shows:

T. OTTERSON  
44<sup>th</sup> MS



Actually:  
THEOPHILUS  
OTTERSON  
COMPANY F  
44<sup>th</sup> MISSISSIPPI  
INFANTRY

This soldier enlisted as a private On February 18, 1863 at Palo Alto, Chickasaw County, Mississippi in Company F of the 44<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry Regiment. This unit was originally known as Blythe's Battalion that was soon increased in size to regimental strength. Company F was known as the Palo Alto Confederates. (Palo Alto is now considered a ghost town but the late Nobel prize-winning William Faulkner preferred to live there claiming the deserted community was his source of inspiration.) It appears likely that this is the Theophilus Otterson who earlier enlisted at Okolona, Chickasaw County, Mississippi in Company C (Prairie Rifles) of the 11<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry Regiment on May

13, 1861 at age 31 as indicated in his military records. These same records show that he was discharged July 27, 1862 as "over age" at age 36 indicating a conflict as to his actual age. Without actual birth records, there was no accurate way to accurately determine exact age except from personal declaration. Regardless, conscription ages rapidly advanced as the war drained the South's resources so it is known that men once exempt because of age and discharged because of age again found themselves subject to serving in the Confederate Army. It appears likely that Theophilus (possibly Theopilus) served in the 11th Mississippi, was discharged as overage on July 27, 1862 and was then conscripted seven months later on February 18, 1863 into the 44<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry. The 11<sup>th</sup> and the 44<sup>th</sup> Mississippi both recruited/conscripted in the same area of Mississippi. The 11<sup>th</sup> Mississippi, during the time of Theophilus Otterson's service, fought at the battles of Winchester and Seven Pines, Virginia. (There can be just so many people named Theophilus/Theopilus Otterson.)

The 44<sup>th</sup> Mississippi was originally formed in late 1861 and served near Near Madrid, Missouri and supported the defense of Island Number 10 on the Mississippi River. The 44<sup>th</sup> soon served under General Cheatham at Columbus, Kentucky where it helped to defeat union general Grant at Belmont, Missouri. The regiment was heavily engaged at Shiloh in April 1862 and then at Corinth, Mississippi. The 44<sup>th</sup> soon fought in Kentucky where it suffered 50% casualties.

Private Otterson joined or was conscripted into the the 44th Mississippi in February 1863, evidently after his service in the 11<sup>th</sup> Mississippi, in time to participate in the battles at Shelbyville and Tullahoma, Tennessee in June-July 1863 before soon defending Chattanooga, Tennessee and then the river base at Bridgeport, Alabama. The 44<sup>th</sup> was heavily engaged at Chicamaugua where it suffered about 30% casualties. In November 1863, the 44<sup>th</sup> Mississippi fought at Missionary Ridge and after the defeat retreated into winter quarters near Dalton, Georgia.

The 44<sup>th</sup> Mississippi fought at Rocky Face Ridge on May 7-13, 1864

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## The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford

(50th & 51st Soldier's in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



and actively participated in the fighting at New Hope Church (May 25-26, 1864), Kennesaw Mountain (June 1864) and until after the battles of Peachtree Creek and then Atlanta (July 1864) where the regiment suffered great casualties. Although the 44<sup>th</sup> Mississippi went on to participate in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee and likely the pathetic remnants of the 44<sup>th</sup> Mississippi surrendered at war's end in North Carolina.

It is known that Private Otterson was wounded (wound unknown) at Chicamauga on September 20, 1863 and was sent to an unnamed hospital. He evidently recovered because he was listed as present on the unit roster of Nov-Dec 1863. It appears that the winter camp of 1863 near Dalton was where Private Otterson became ill because on January 26, 1863 he was admitted to Lumpkin Confederate Hospital at Covington, Georgia where he died on February 5, 1864 of chronic dysentery. His effects were \$70.50 on certificate 2116 and \$86.50 on certificate 4167. Other effects were one blanket, one pair pants, two shirts, two pair drawers, one pair socks, one hat, one pair shoes, and one tin cup. So sad that a brave Confederate leaves behind so little.

Theophilus is listed in the 1860 federal census for Itawamba, Fulton County, Mississippi as Theo Otterson, age 30. Note that Fulton County and Chickasaw County are near each other. Although this census shows his occupation as "farmer", this census indicates he was living in what appears to be a boarding house with other males who were railroad workers and most neighbors were railroad workers so this listing of "Theo" as a farmer is likely incorrect. This area was near the thriving rail-head of Cor-

inth, Mississippi so it is probable that Theophilus was a railroad worker in 1860.

Determining the family of private Theophilus Otterson is quite difficult. It is known that his father was Thomas Gordon Otterson (Born about 1794-died after 1837) and his mother was Sarah Savage Otterson. (Incidentally The grandfather of Theophilus Otterson was Major Samuel Otterson (1752-1837) of the South Carolina Militia.) There are few researchers of this family so family relationships are difficult to verify but the 1850 federal census shows that in addition to his parents Thomas Gordon Otterson and mother Sarah, Theophilus had siblings Elisabeth (b-1820), William (b-1822), Charles (b-1824), Samuel (b-1826), Harper (b-1827), Simeon (b-1829) and Alexander (b-1833). The family members cannot be positively identified after the census of 1850 and 1860. Because of the different spellings of the family names and the paucity of Otterson researchers, it is difficult to trace these siblings but it does appear that brother Samuel served the Confederacy and died of measles at Winchester, Virginia. Unfortunately, tracking the rest of this family involves too much speculation to attempt. That must be left to Otterson family researchers but at least they now know that Theophilus Otterson lies in a well-tended grave in the Confederate Cemetery at Covington, Georgia.

Headstone at Covington shows:  
L. S. PORTER  
24<sup>th</sup> MS

Actually:  
LOTT S. PORTER



COMPANY H  
24<sup>th</sup> MISSISSIPPI INFANTRY

If this soldier has been correctly identified, he likely has the dubious honor of being the youngest soldier buried in the Covington Confederate Cemetery. It appears Private Lott Porter was born in 1848 or 1849 in Itawamba or nearby Chickasaw County, Mississippi. No records can be found on Private Lott Porter's enlistment but it is known he served in the 24<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry Regiment. The 24<sup>th</sup> Mississippi was organized in 1861 and saw heavy service to include Corinth, Tullahoma, Chicamauga, Resaca, New Hope Church and other battles in the Atlanta Campaign and afterward at Franklin, Nashville and the Carolinas. Since Private Lott Porter died on August 10, 1864 and was born sometime in 1848 or early 1849, he would have been age 15 or 16 at the time of his death. It can be assumed that he joined the 24<sup>th</sup> Mississippi late in the war after he became older. It has been noted in histories of the 24<sup>th</sup> Mississippi that "the regiment was made up largely of very young men". Company H was called the "Buena Vista Hornets".

Records for Private Lott S. Porter are sparse and do not show when or where he enlisted. His earliest soldier record shows he was issued some clothing on June 30, 1864 so this may be the approximate date he became a Confederate soldier. This would indicate he did not participate in fighting previous to the battle of Kennesaw Mountain on June 27, 1864. We can only speculate how long he served before he became ill and was sent to the Confederate Hill Hospital at Covington, Georgia. The date of his arrival at this hospital is unknown but Hill Hospital records show that Private Lott

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## Richmond Museums Explore Collaboration: No talk of a Merger

By Scott Boyd, Civil War News

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a lot, but could do even more.

While the Richmond-area battlefields have improved greatly over the past 10 years by expanding the number of preserved battlefield acres, they will never be able to compete in the public's mind with a place like Gettysburg, Rawls said.

"What Richmond has got that nobody can

compete with is museum experiences, because all the stuff is here."

However, Rawls said, visitors have a "fractured experience" because of all the different Civil War-related locations to see in the area as well as the three separate major museums in the city associated with the war.

"We're in fairly serious discussions of what

more we can do," Rawls said. "At the midpoint of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, we thought we should have done more. There's no reason not to do more, from a collaboration point of view."



Fergit Hell!!!

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## The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford

(50th & 51st Soldier's in the series)

*Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade*



S. Porter died of Rubeola (Measles) on August 10, 1864 and that he left behind "no effects". So sad that he served such a short amount of time and then died of measles at such a young age.

Another Porter also listed in Company H of the 24<sup>th</sup> Mississippi was Christopher Columbus Porter (1840-1914), a "step-uncle" (by grandfather's second wife) of our Lott Porter. Perhaps his step-uncle's influence caused Lott Porter to join Company H of the 24<sup>th</sup> Mississippi. Christopher Porter was badly wounded in the breast at Murfreesboro, Tennessee and after a medical leave fought in many of the battles before the Battle of Atlanta but Christopher Porter survived the war.

Researchers on this Porter family are few and they seem to have some differences of opinion on the various Porter families of Chickasaw County, Mississippi but they all list our Private Lott Porter as a son of Andrew Jackson Porter (1824- abt 1862) and Mary Ann Wiley Porter (1825-abt 1855). It is possible that Private Lott Porter's father, Andrew Jackson Porter, also served the Confederacy and died about 1862 although his service cannot be confirmed. The

siblings of Private Lott Porter were Martha (b. 1843), John N. (b.1844), Andrew (b.1850) and Mary Ann (b.1854). Brother John N. Porter served in Perrin's Battalion, Miss State Cavalry (later the 8<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Cavalry) and also appears not to have survived the war. Brother Andrew appears too young to have served in the war and lived to 1926. Lott Porter's father remarried after Lott Porter's mother Mary Wiley died about 1856. Father Andrew raised another family of perhaps up to five children after he married Sarah Adeline Phillips about 1857 but since Porter family researchers do not agree on the numbers or names of these children, they are not listed here.

Our Lott Porter was about age seven or eight when he lost his mother Mary in 1856. His father Andrew died about 1862 so Lott was probably eager to leave a household now run by a step-mother (Sarah) who was likely struggling to keep a household together. It is so sad that a young man like Lott Porter lost his mother and then his father and then went off to war to soon die of disease at such a young age.

It is possible that Private Lott Porter's middle initial is "L" instead of "S". Census records and Porter family genealogies generally show "L" for a middle initial but other records such as his military service record and Confederate Hill Hospital records show Lott S. Porter. Unless better information develops, it appears appropriate to make no change in the middle initial of "S" as shown on his headstone. No Porter family researcher lists when or where Lott Porter died or any other information on him other than the information found on the federal censuses of 1850 and 1860. Since Private Lott Porter had no wife or children, Porter family researchers seem pretty much ignore or are not aware of his existence except to enter his name and approximate date of birth as indicated by the census.

Perhaps now that we know that Private Lott Porter is likely the L.S. Porter buried in the Covington Confederate Cemetery, we can honor his memory and also mourn that he died at such a young age. His life and his service cannot and should not be forgotten.

