



GEN. JOE'S DISPATCH



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Coming Events

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

October 26, 2013 - **33rd Annual Olde Town Fall Festival** - Old Town Conyers

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

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

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Passing of a Commander



I am sure you are by now aware of the passing of our friend Jeff Bailey, Commander of Confederate Memorial Camp 1432 of Stone Mountain. In his honor and for those who might have missed his obituary I have reproduced it below;



Jeffares Ray Bailey, age 63, of Loganville, died Thursday, September 12, 2013, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in

Atlanta, Georgia on March 8, 1950, to Mildred Jeffares Bailey and James August Bailey, Sr. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Donna B. Bailey of Loganville; daughter and son-in-law, Carrie and Andrew Phillips of Bethlehem; daughter, Kathy Bailey of Milledgeville;

sister and brother-in-law, Janice and Edward Tormey of Glen Haven, Florida, brother and sister-in-law, James and Connie Bailey of Walnut Grove; mother-in-law, Janelle Bailey of Snellville; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Cindy and Charles Kiker of Palmetto; brother-in-law, Frank Bailey of Snellville; niece, Tracy Tormey of Dacula; nephew and niece, Brian and Jennifer Tormey of Lawrenceville; nephew, Charles Kiker of Palmetto; great niece, Brittany Taylor of Dacula; great niece and nephew, Morgan and Charlie Tormey of Lawrenceville. Mr. Bailey retired from J.A. Bailey and Sons Hardware Co. He was a Past Worshipful Master of Pythagoras Lodge No. 41, F. & A. M. He was the Past Worthy Patron of Decatur Chapter #148, Order of the Eastern Star. He was the commander of The Confederate Memorial Camp No. 1432, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stone Mountain, Georgia. He was a member of John B. Gordon MOS&B and the Civil War Roundtable. Jeff was a loving and devoted husband, father and brother. A funeral service to cele-

brate the life of Jeffares Ray Bailey will be held Monday, September 16, 2013 at eleven o'clock at A.S. Turner & Sons Decatur chapel, with Rev. Jim Cabaniss officiating preceded by a Masonic Ceremony at A.S. Turner & Sons. Interment will follow at Crest Lawn Cemetery, Atlanta, GA. The family will receive friends Sunday, September 15, 2013 from 6 pm until 8 pm at the funeral home. Pallbearers will be Richard Daniel, David Floyd, Miles Jackson, Ben Moon, Steve Tobelman and Timothy Turner. Honorary Pallbearers will be Philip Autrey, Dale Bartlett, Dennis Elm, Ben Kelley, Bill Murphy and Richard Straut. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Confederate Memorial Camp No. 1432, Sons of Confederate Veterans cemetery restoration fund; address: Philip Autrey, 416 Candler Street; Atlanta, GA 30307-2036.

Jeff was a great friend and will be greatly missed by us and all of the SCV.



Geologist to speak at Next Meeting!



Stephen Henderson is Professor of Geology at Oxford College of Emory University. Steve attended Indiana University where he earned his B.S. and M.A. degrees in geology. After working as a petroleum geologist in Oklahoma City for several years, he went back to school for his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia. Over the last 15 years he has become fascinated by the influence of geology on culture.

He has been working on the influence of geology on military history and has published on the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, the Civil War, and the Indian wars of the American west. His Civil War work includes studies of the role of the Valley and Ridge Province of the Appalachian Mountains on the Chattanooga and Atlanta Campaigns. He led and wrote the guidebook for the Georgia Geological Society's 1999 field trip

on this subject and has published on the Battle of Chickamauga. In addition, he has presented on the role of the geology of Harper's Ferry. This talk on the Chattanooga Campaign of 1863 combines his passions for geology and military history.

Professor Henderson's program will be on Chattanooga: The Significance of Geology during the American Civil War.



Our Commanders' Comments

By: Commander J. H. Underwood



Compatriots;

It was an honor and a privilege to have Lt. CiC Kelley Barrow as our guest speaker at our September meeting. He spoke to the Camp about recruitment and retention strategies and had a lot of suggestions for us to try.

Among them were joining the local Chamber of Commerce, create a scholarship program for top ROTC students in the County, donate Confederate Veteran subscriptions to Historical Societies, Libraries and other non-profit organizations in the community and give press releases to the local newspapers announcing upcoming guest speakers and meeting times to try to attract outsiders and potential new members.

He also reminded us that Recruiting is each individual members responsibility and that we should make an effort to ask all of our friends and acquaintances and never assume they would ask you if they wanted to join. The Lt. CiC also suggested that we have a laptop on hand at events like the Old Town Festival with ancestry.com available to do quick on the spot researches of poten-

tial members Confederate connections.

CiC Barrow also pointed out that education and knowledge on our part is crucial. Some Georgia Historical Societies are beginning to portray Sherman as a "nice guy" and not as bad as we've been led to believe so we must be well versed on what Sherman actually did and be able to site the facts. Always point out that we are not still fighting the war but are rather honoring our Confederate Ancestors.

While I was a little disappointed in our turnout, only having 13 members and 2 guest on hand, Lt. CiC Barrow's message was well received and gave us a lot to think about. At our October meeting I want us to explore ways to implement as many of these suggestions as possible. Please think about these suggestions and let me know how you can help. If we do our part there is no reason we can't double the size of our camp.

Our camp has a lot to offer with our three cemetery projects, our informational and educational brochures, the "Promised Land" books and soon Gene Wade's Covington and Oxford cemetery biographies will be completed and ready for publication giving us another book project to use for fundrais-

ing. While we have not done many field trips, only the Nash Farm trip since I have been Commander, it was well attended and I want to plan more in the future. Please be thinking about this as well and let me know where you would like to go next.

The guest speaker at our October meeting will be Stephen Henderson, Professor of Geology at Oxford College of Emory University. His program will be on Chattanooga: The Significance of Geology during the War of Northern Aggression. A short biography of Professor Henderson is on the front page of this newsletter. Don't miss this new twist on the War, bring a friend and invite the ladies as well.

Our next event will be the Olde Town Fall Festival which will be on Saturday October 26, 2013. Please plan to work the booth for an hour or two, if we have enough people it is not too taxing on anyone. I will have sign up sheets with time slots at the next meeting. This is one of the best opportunities for us to get the word out about the SCV and one of our best fund raising events. I hope to see all of you there and remember to wear your camp T-shirts.

J. H. Underwood

Commander.



The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford (52nd & 53rd Soldier's in the series)

Continuing Project by Compatriot Gene Wade



Headstone at Covington shows:
R. J. PEARCE
34th MS

Actually:
ROBERT J. PEARCE
COMPANY F
24th MISS INFANTRY
REGT



This soldier enlisted as a private on September 1, 1862 at Fulton, Itawamba County, Mississippi in Company F of the 24th Regiment, Mississippi Volunteers. Private Pearcey was age 18 when he enlisted. Although the headstone and the records of the Confederate Hospital at Covington indicate he was in the 34th Mississippi, his service records clearly

show he enlisted in and served in Company F of the 24th Mississippi until his death.

The 24th Mississippi Infantry Volunteer Regiment was officially formed in November 1861 and ordered to report to General Robert E. Lee at Savannah, Georgia. The regiment was then ordered to Fernandina, just north of Jacksonville, Florida, for coastal defense. The abandonment of that coast in February 1862 soon followed and the regiment was soon ordered northward to Chattanooga and then to Corinth, Mississippi, just after the nearby Battle of Shiloh but in time for the siege of Corinth in May 1862. The 24th then participated at the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky in October 1862 suffering heavy casualties. Pri-

vate Robert Pearce enlisted on September 1, 1862 and perhaps participated in his first battle at Perryville but if not there he likely fought in the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee on December 31st through January 2, 1863.

The 24th Mississippi was heavily engaged at Chicamauga September 19-10, 1863 and again suffered severely. In a day or two, the regiment followed the union army to Chattanooga and in November 1863 was posted on the slopes of Lookout Mountain where they were heavily engaged on November 23, 1863. On November 25 the remnants of the regiment, exhausted by hard service, was posted on the line of Missionary Ridge. The 24th Mississippi, now part of Walthall's Brigade, General Hindman's Division, was not



The Confederate Cemeteries of Covington and Oxford

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attacked directly at Missionary Ridge but came under fire and was forced to retreat southward with the rest of the Confederate Army. They soon went into winter quarters near Dalton.

The regiment emerged from winter quarters on May 7, 1864 and was soon engaged in fierce fighting at Resaca May 13-15th where they suffered severely from federal artillery and union sharpshooters. General Hood said of the battle of May 14th, "Walthall's Brigade suffered severely from an inflade fire of the enemy's artillery, himself and his men displaying conspicuous valor throughout under very adverse circumstances". Private Robert J. Pearce is listed as "mortally wounded, Resaca" on a list of casualties in the battle of Resaca (May 14 and 15, 1864). The regiment went on to fight in other battles for Atlanta and later in the bloody battle at Franklin, Tennessee, but without Private Pearce.

After being wounded at Resaca, Private Pearce was evacuated to Atlanta and then on to the Confederate hospital at Covington, Georgia. The records for Hill Hospital at Covington do not show when he arrived at Covington but do show that Private Robert J Pearce died on August 28, 1864 of *Vulnus sclopeticum* (gunshot wound). This unfortunate soldier lived three and a half months after his wound at Resaca, perhaps in agony. We can only imagine the suffering he endured. Hill Hospital records indicate his personal effects were, "1 coat, 1 pr pants, 1 pr socks, 1 hat, 1 pr shoes, 1 canteen, 'all old'".

Robert J Pearce was born to William Pearce (abt 1812-?) and Margaret Shannon Pearce (abt 1809-?) in 1843 in probably Itawamba County, Mississippi. Robert's siblings were Andrew J. (1832), James L.(1834), Elizabeth (1836), Nancy Jane (1837), David R.(1839), Margaret (1840), Mary E.(1845), Charles Grady (1850), William H.(1842) and Amanda (1853).It appears all of the children were born in Itawamba County, Mississippi.

Serving in Company F of the 24th Mississippi was a family affair with five of the six brothers serving in the same company. David Pearce, a corporal, was captured at Lookout Mountain and imprisoned at Rock Island Prison Camp and survived the war. Andrew Pearce, a private, was wounded at Murfreesboro, Tennessee but survived the

war. James L Pearce was a private and survived the war. William H. Pearce served as a private and died of chronic diarrhea in the Confederate Academy Hospital at Chattanooga on November 21, 1862. The youngest brother Charles Grady Pearce (b-1850) did not serve likely due to his young age. And as we know, Private Robert J. Pearce died at Covington, Georgia. That five of six brothers served in The Confederate Army with two of them dying in this service certainly shows a family that gave very much

Headstone at Oxford shows:

A. BLACK
Co F 43 ALA.

Actually:

ARCHIBALD BLACK
COMPANY F
53d ALABAMA CAVALRY REGT.



The inscription showing the 43rd Alabama appears to be incorrect. There was only one soldier named Black in the 43rd Alabama Infantry and his first name was Andrew but the 43rd was fighting in Virginia during most of this time in the war and it is known that Archibald (Archy) Black died in the hospital at Oxford, Georgia. It appears that the 53rd was incorrectly transcribed as the 43rd. Note that Company F remains accurate. Since Hood Hospital records show "Archy" Black, Private, 53rd Alabama, Company F died May 28, 1864, it is assumed that the A. Black is in fact the Archibald (Archy) Black known to have died at Oxford, Georgia. (Additionally, it appears that the Andrew Black of the 43rd Alabama survived the war and lived in Alabama until 1870.)

Archibald Black enlisted or reenlisted in Company F of the 53rd Regiment, Alabama Volunteers, also called the 53rd Partisan Rangers on September 1, 1863 at Tusculumbia, Alabama. Records for this soldier and for this regiment are sparse but it appears likely he was already serving when the 53rd Regiment was organized in November 1862 in part by using men from other units as the nucleus of the 53rd. Although one normally thinks of partisan units as being local irregular or guerrilla units, the 53rd proudly retained the designation of "Partisan Rangers"

throughout the war. The 53rd has been referred to as "mounted infantry" since they did most of their fighting while dismounted. Historians of the 53rd Alabama have differing accounts on the origins of the unit but their disagreements are not really relevant in discussing the service of Private Archibald Black.

At various times, the 53rd Alabama Cavalry served under General Van Dorn, General Joe Wheeler and General Nathan Bedford Forrest with the command structure often not clear. For much of the war, the 53rd served under General Stephen D. Lee in General Nathan Bedford's Command.

The 53rd was heavily engaged at Shiloh, Tennessee April 6-7 1862 and fought at Thompson's Station, Tennessee (March 4-5, 1863) and Brentwood, Tennessee (March 25, 1863, near Nashville, Tennessee) suffering especially severe casualties at Thompson's Station. The regiment battled with union General Granville Dodge at Town Creek, Alabama (April 1863), and was soon involved in the famous pursuit of Union Col. Abel D. Streight. At this time, the 53rd Alabama Cavalry was under the overall command of General Nathan B. Forrest. The Union Cavalry leader, Col Abel D. Streight, had as his goal to destroy the Western and Atlantic Railroad which supplied the Army of Tennessee. Col Streight's cavalry forces destroyed the bridge at Black Creek, Alabama after he had passed over it hoping to delay his pursuers and believing that closest bridge was ten miles away. According to history, a sixteen year old girl named Emma Sanson personally showed Forrest a local cattle crossing only half a mile upstream from the destroyed bridge and enabled Forrest to rapidly close on Col Streight

General Forrest and his command, including the 53rd Alabama, pursued Col Streight across much of Alabama and by deceiving the union forces as to his strength, convinced Col Streight to surrender. General Forrest had but 400 men present at the final encounter while Col Streight had a force of 1,700. While General Forrest was negotiating with Union Col Streight, Forrest's cavalry and artillery repeatedly made movements in front and around of Streight's forces to make it appear that Forrest's numbers exceeded what was actually present. Col Streight, believing himself grossly outnumbered, surrendered to General Forrest.

Continued on page 4.

**MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH WHEELER CAMP #863,
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When Col Streight finally realized he had been deceived, he demanded that Forrest let him go and rearm his men for a "fair fight", Forrest replied, "All is fair in war, Colonel". The 53rd Alabama Cavalry fought numerous other battles and skirmishes in Mississippi and Alabama throughout 1863-64 before moving into Georgia.

Soon after fighting against Streight, the 53rd Alabama joined the main Army of Tennessee at Dalton, Georgia as part of Hannon's Brigade, Kelly's Division. The 53rd operated on the right side of the army as it gradually fell back to Atlanta and was engaged in constant and perilous duty. When Sherman reached Atlanta, the 53rd was the principal force engaged in a daring cavalry raid in Sherman's rear whereby a valuable train was destroyed. The 53rd closely followed and attacked the forces of Sherman as he devastated Georgia and the Carolinas but the understrength 53rd Alabama was too small to do much damage. Private Black was either wounded or became ill probably in early May 1864 during the fighting around Resaca, Georgia.

The military record of Private Archibald Black

is not complete but does show that he died while in Confederate service and that he left behind \$73.00. A clothing receipt shows he was issued clothing during the first quarter of 1864. The record for Private Archibald Black does not list a date or place of death but records for Hood Hospital at Oxford, Georgia do show that "Archy" Black, private, 53rd Alabama, Company F, died on May 28, 1864 of Febris typhoides (any fever accompanied by slow pulse and not much temperature elevation).

There has been little published research on this family but Archibald Black was born in Maryland about 1840 to John H. Black (born date unknown in Scotland). His mother's first name is unknown but her last name was Edwards and she was born in Virginia. There were three children born in Maryland of this marriage ; John (Jr.?) (b.1838), Archibald (b. 1840) and Liza/Eliza/Elisabeth (b. abt 1843). This family cannot be found with any certainty in the 1850 census but the 1860 census finds only the children John, Archibald and Eliza now living in Mobile, Alabama. Perhaps the parents have died and the three children

went to Alabama to seek their fortune? The 1860 census shows John (age 23), Archibald (age 20), and Eliza (age 17) living in what appears to be a boarding house in a waterfront neighborhood containing people working in the port of Mobile shipping business. James is shown as a steamboat mate, Archibald as a clerk and Eliza as a student.

Although Archibald Black did not survive the war, his brother John Black did. John Black also served in the 53rd Alabama Cavalry. Little is known of John Black's service except that he was a private, was captured near Tupelo, Mississippi in May 1863 and imprisoned at Alton, Illinois until the end of the war. After the war, John returned to Mobile where he eventually became a steamboatman and then a tug boat captain. John died in Mobile in 1915. The sister Liza/Eliza/Elisabeth could not be identified after 1860.

There is no record that Archibald Black ever married. He was about age 24 when he died.

