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THIS ISSUE IS SPONSORED BY : MR. HENRY McCABE

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Howdy!

Come on in, put your feet up, and get a big glass of iced tea; It's once again time for your camp's newsletter.

Our Adjutant, David Williford, informs me that membership is still steady but we do have some new prospects.

I would like to thank all the members who have been giving me input into our newsletter. I especially want to thank our camp commander Rickey Palmertree for his words of encouragement at our last meeting.

I also would like to implore everyone to send me articles, clippings, reports, money (If you have any left after Congress and our old friend Willy gets through). You know, I'll even take the phone numbers of any daughters, sisters, nieces, (Heck- just as long as she is a she) that you would like to marry off to genuine SON OF A CONFEDERATE VETERAN.

YOUR EDITOR

We will meet or will have meet

on August 18, 1994. and September 15, 1994. I would like to share some historical information with you.

August 18, 1864.

In Washington, (Bloody) Grant refuses a second southern request to exchange prisoners. This would of course cut off reinforcements to the glorious CONFEDERATE armies, but if would also condemn many Federal prisoners to slow starvation. The War torn SOUTH could scarcely feed its own hungry army much less its' prisoners.

September 17, 1864.

In the West, General Nathan Bedford Forrest leaves Verona, Mississippi (with some 4500 troops) to operate against (Smokie) Sherman's supply and communication lines. General Forrest will continue to harass enemy outposts in northern Alabama (my home country) and in Tennessee (close to my home country).

To conserve precious funds this newsletter was available at the August meeting and then mailed out to anyone not present. So if you are receiving this through the

mail, then you missed the August meeting; and let me tell you, it was one Heck of a meeting. In fact I think you were the only one not there.

YOUR EDITOR
GARY W. SHELTON

THE SPONSORS' COLUMN

This month Henry McCabe wishes to share some truly interesting information on one of his ancestors. Henry assures me that everything has been documented. The following is not Written by Henry it is about his ancestors.

GARY

On the matter of my Great Grandfather's Service in the Confederate Army, I have fond some interesting things to present as well as a few discrepancies.

John Thomas Parker was thought by the family to have joined Company E of the Fifteenth Mississippi Infantry Regiment at Grenada, Mississippi on April 1, 1861. Company E, according to Military History of Mississippi 1803-1898, By Rowland, was known as McClung Rifles of Carroll County, and was mustered into state service at Duck Hill, Mississippi on April 25, 1861. Company G, the Grenada Rifles of Yalobusha County was mustered into state service at Grenada on April 19, 1861. This was the only company of the Fifteenth Regiment that was mustered in at Grenada. As Mr. Parker was raised and educated in Carroll County, Mississippi and lived there until 18 years of age, one would have to think that with his friends, he did in fact join Company E at Duck Hill on

April 25, 1861.

Grenada was a training camp for the Confederate Army during the early months of the Civil War and it would have well been that after the various companies of the Regiment were mustered into service, they came together as a unit at Grenada for drill and training.

On January 19, 1862, the Battle of Fishing Creek Kentucky was fought and Mr. Parker was wounded. According to Harpers Pictorial History of the Civil War (The Great Rebellion) the Fifteenth Mississippi Regiment was in the van when the battle started. This battle was called by the North "The Battle of Mill Springs" and was fought in Southern Kentucky between Mill Springs and Somerset. General Zollicoffer was the brigade commander and was killed while in front of the Battle with the Fifteenth. The commander of the Fifteenth was Lt. Colonel Wathall, later to become Major General Wathall whom Wathall County was named. The Yankee writer in Harpers states that both sides had about equal forces; however, the writer in Military History of Mississippi states that the federal forces had the greater number of men. Either way, Mr. Parker and his Fifteenth Regiment were at a great disadvantage for the Federals were armed with rifles and the Rebels were armed only with muskets.

The Fifteenth Regiment had 44 killed and 153 wounded. The return also shows that 29 were missing "probably captured and partly wounded." As the Fifteenth and the Twentieth Tennessee Regiments were flanked and "compelled to hastily leave their position" the wounded were left on the

field to be captured. This would explain why Mr. Parker always said he owed his life to a Yankee. For when he was bleeding to death from a bad leg wound, a Yankee soldier stopped, used his own towel to bind up the wound and then carried him off the field in his arms.

Mr. Parker was imprisoned at Camp Chase, Ohio and held prisoner until April 26, 1862 when he was taken to Johnson Island and remained until May, 1862. It was common in the early part of the Civil War to exchange prisoners and in May, Mr. Parker was exchanged for a northern soldier. Because of his wound, he came home at Graysport and remained until after July 3, 1863 when Vicksburg fell and then he was called back into military service.

This time, John Thomas Parker went to Company E of the Forty-Eighth Mississippi Infantry Regiment, as a replacement. This regiment had been formed in Virginia in early 1863 by adding five companies to the Second Battalion. I think, that Mr. Parker joined this regiment sometime in the Fall of 1863 in Virginia. It would have been after Gettysburg for this battle was fought on July 1, 2, and 3, 1863. Depending upon the time that he joined the Forty-Eighth, he could have been in action as follows:

Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863.

Brandy Station, November 17, 1863 - the winter for the Forty-Eight was passed in camp on the Rapidan from which the regiment was called to the battle field of the wilderness on May 5, 1864.

Then the Forty-Eight went on to fight at:

Cold Harbor, June 6, 1864,

Weldon Railroad, June 24, 1864,

Hatchers Run, October 2, 1864, Burgess Mill, February 6, 1865 - As one can see, from May 5, 1864 until April 9, 1865, a soldier in the Forty-Eight Mississippi Infantry Regiment did well to stay alive, as each day was a battle with the Yankees.

On April 2, 1865 at Petersburg, Virginia, seven days before Lee's surrender at Appomatox Courthouse, the "Last Famous Deed" of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was performed by the Forty-Eight Mississippi Infantry Regiment. "Distinguished in the annuals of Military Chivalry", the Forty-Eight under Colonel Jayne with the Nineteenth Mississippi Infantry Regiment were placed in Battery Whitworth from which all artillery support had been withdrawn. It was a desperate effort to give General Longstreet's other troops time to establish a better line of defense. In their position, the forty-eight defended Fort Gregg against which the main attack was made by Harris' West Virginia Brigade and other troops. Gregg was finally captured with parts of the Nineteenth and Forty-Eight having to surrender. "Some escaped by dint of hard running", and reached the Confederate Lines that their "valor" had given time to establish.

General Harris later reported that this particular fight was the hardest he had ever seen in the war. Three times his forces were repulsed with heavy losses (over 500 killed or wounded), and finally Fort Gregg was taken by bitter hand to hand fighting. He also reported that he had taken approximately 250 prisoners.

Where was Mr. Parker? Was he taken prisoner for the second time by the Yankees? He never mentioned that he had been (but then he probably wouldn't have). He had the leg wound in 1862 - was he able to do a "dint of hard running?" The leg wound sounded as if an artery had been severed because of his "bleeding to death" statement, but then either the bone was involved too, or the artery never healed correctly for Mr. Parker died on March 12, 1901 and had to have the leg amputated six years before his death. Was Mr. Parker even there at the battle on April 2, 1865? I think so, for his daughter writing in 1935 states that he said he surrendered with Lee on April 9, 1865. However, Lee left Petersburg and Richmond going southwest with 40,000 troops and only surrendered 27,805 at Appomattox Courthouse. Some 10,000 were captured, the rest were killed or became stragglers or deserted. I think myself, that he was there at Fort Gregg and did do his best running to escape, only to retreat westward for the next seven days and finally with the remnants of the Forty-Eight and other survivors of the brigade stacked arms near Appomattox Courthouse on April 12, 1865. "They set out with sore and heavy hearts to tramp the long weary miles that separated them from their distant and desolate homes".

It is interesting to note that my first wife (Quida Ann Steels) also had a Great Grandfather who served in the Confederate Army. William Thomas Hatchett was supposed to have been mustered into Company H of the Carroll County Rebels, and was mustered in at Carrollton,

Mississippi on August 24, 1861, and not at Grenada. Companies A and D were mustered in at Grenada on August 24, 1861 and Company F at Grenada on August 31, 1861. Also, Company I at Grenada on September 4, 1861.

At the time of his enlistment, Mr. Hatchett was only fourteen years, four months and twenty-four days old. On the 16th of February 1862, the Fourth Mississippi Infantry Regiment surrendered at Forth Donelson on the Cumberland River in Northern Tennessee and all prisoners (13,829 total) were taken to Camp Chase, Ohio.

Now, Mr. Parker was taken prisoner on January 19, 1862, and taken to Camp Chase, Ohio where he stayed until April 26, 1862. Small world! Both Mr. Hatchett and Mr. Parker had to be at Camp Chase at the same time. Did they meet each other? Had they known each other before? Mr. Parker was 22 years old and had been a clerk at a Mr. B. F. Johnson's Store in Graysport, Mississippi for almost four years. Being in Eastern Yalobusha County (now Grenada County) Graysport is only some forty miles as the crow flies from the Kilgore Hills of Northwest Clay County where Mr. Hatchett was from. This part of Clay County was a part of Chickasaw County then. However, Mr. Hatchett being only fourteen years of age, I doubt that he had ever been to Graysport.

If by chance they did meet in prison, little did they know that three generations and ninety-two years later, their blood lines would unite in marriage and a fourth generation would spring forth being part Parker and part Hatchett.

It is thought that Mr.

Hatchett was also exchanged and returned home in 1862. October of 1863 at Columbus, Mississippi, a Colonel Harrison formed the Sixth Mississippi Cavalry Regiment. Once again, Mr. Hatchett answered the call of the South and joined Company C of the Sixth Regiment Cavalry. The family thinks that he served until May 12, 1865 or it could have possible been on May 22, 1865 that he laid down his arms. General N. B. Forest surrendered his cavalry at Gainesville, Alabama on May 22, 1865 and the Sixth Cavalry was in his command. However, family records have Mr. Hatchett being mustered out on May 12, 1865. The history records show that in 1865 the Sixth Cavalry had been combined with the Eighth Mississippi Cavalry Regiment under a Colonel Duff. This combination arrived late for the battle of Selmer, Alabama on April 2, 1865 and retired from there to Livingston, Alabama on April 30, 1865. It is possible that the Sixth Cavalry capitulated in Livingston on May 12, 1865.

DEVANE DORMAN
STARKVILLE, MS
SEPTEMBER, 1982

Wheeler homestead stands as monument to war hero

Melinda Joiner
THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES

Wheeler - Behind a shutter of oak limbs and wisteria vines, the farmhouse stands weathered but proud as an old soldier who refuses to die.

Once a stalwart symbol of the Old South, the plantation home now sags with the weight of its past - the legacy of a family and an era whose histories are dramatically

intertwined.

Gen. Joseph Wheeler was a Civil War hero when he built the two-story farmhouse in 1884 at the Lawrence County homestead of his wife, Daniella Sherrod. Known as "Fighting Joe," Wheeler brought with him to Northwest Alabama the revered celebrity of a war hero.

A confederate veteran of more than 800 skirmishes and 172 battles, Wheeler had been wounded three times, had 16 horses were shot from under him and earned a reputation as one of the bravest soldiers of all time. He later became the only ex-Confederate general to serve in a comparable position in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War. After that, he represented his home region the U.S. Congress for many years.

Two things immediately strike visitors to Wheeler's beloved Pond Spring plantation, which was donated recently to the state of Alabama and is now open by appointment to tour groups.

One, is the near-perfect preservation of the house's contents, both domestic and historic. Indeed, the house looks as if someone just moved out.

Downstairs, the Victorian couches in the parlor look ready to receive guests, and the dining room table appears dressed for supper. Upstairs, ballgowns and hats hang in the chifforobes, and a child's bedroom is scattered with toys. On the back porch, a lazy breeze ruffles the redbud branches and seems the ideal spot for a Sunday afternoon watermelon-cutting.

Second, is the spartan style of the Federal-style house. Except for a fancy empire clock here and a French rococo mirror there, the

cavernous structure reflects the pragmatic mind-set of a man who was revered in the Confederacy, Congress and royal courts but never forgot where his true home was.

"The general came back here because his wife's family was from here, and this land supported them in high style," explains Melissa Beasley, on-site curator at the Wheeler home. "This was their country place, but they traveled around the world. His daughters were presented to royal courts in Europe.

"Yet this is the place they literally called home sweet home."

And that home continues to fascinate history buffs who seek out the plantation, as well as casual passerby who glimpse the partially obscured house as they travel Alabama 20.

"People are so interested in the place, they stop by in carloads. And Civil War enthusiasts can't see straight when they see all the stuff in the house," Ms. Beasley says. "I haven't seen any ghosts here, but there is a real feel to the place.

"There's so much here: wildlife, gardens, livestock, interesting architecture, antiques and clothing."

In many ways, the house is a shrine to Wheeler and his military career, thanks to Wheeler's daughter Annie Laurie Early Wheeler, who lived at the plantation till her death in 1955. Also a war hero, "Miss Annie" followed her father and brother to Cuba after the Spanish-American War began and was put in charge of a hospital by Clara Barton. She later served in a military hospital in the Philippines and worked for the Red Cross in England and France during World War I.

After returning to Lawrence County, Miss Wheeler established schools and churches and was regarded as the community matriarch. She even had her own train car, which as hooked up to passing locomotives on the nearby track when she wanted to travel.

"Miss Annie was the heart of this place," Ms. Beasley says. "Before here there were no boxwoods and orchards. She made the plantation a shrine to her daddy and brothers."

Imposing portraits of the uniformed Gen. Joseph Wheeler hang throughout the house. Uniforms and weapons are preserved and displayed in a glass case behind the stairway.

"It's very rare to have such a complete collection of one family. There's everything from spinning wheels to pig-boiling vats here," Ms. Beasley says. "All the furnishings in the house are going to stay here to preserve the integrity of the property."

On the National Register of Historic Places, the Wheeler home was given to the state by Wheeler's descendants. A 50-acre complex to be maintained by the Alabama Historical Commission includes a secluded plantation cemetery, a log barn and a 19th-century icehouse. Some 13,000 acres surrounding the dwellings still belong to the Wheeler descendants, according to Ms. Beasley.

"Not only does the Wheeler home commemorate one of Alabama's most illustrious military figures, the extensive complex of plantation buildings from various eras will allow us a wonderful opportunity to interpret 175 years of Alabama

agricultural and social history, from pioneer days to the recent past," AHE Executive Director Larry Oaks said recently. "The Wheeler place has the potential of being a great educational and recreation experience for Alabamians and visitors to the state."

The AHC will work in conjunction with the Wheeler Home Foundation in restoring the complex.

"The house was about 10 years from falling to the ground," Ms. Beasley says. "It's estimated it'll take five years and \$2 million to restore it."

Preserving the structure helps preserve the legacy of the man whose name is familiar to North Alabamians. Among the sites named for Joseph Wheeler are a wildlife refuge, a dam and reservoir, and a library.

The man whose legacy is larger than life was in actuality small in stature. Around 5-foot-5 and 120 pounds, Wheeler may have taken some of his inspiration from another diminutive yet determined leader, Napoleon Bonaparte.

"The general studied Napoleon, and there's a bronze bust of the French leader in the house," Ms. Beasley says. "There's even a picture of Wheeler in his uniform striking a post like Napoleon."

Like Napoleon, Wheeler made up for his slight stature with a fierce spirit.

A native of Augusta, GA., and a graduate of West Point, Wheeler served with the U.S. dragoons in the New Mexico Territory before the secession of his native state brought him home. In September 1861 - shortly before his 26th birthday - Wheeler was

commissioned colonel of the 19th Alabama Infantry upon its organization in Huntsville.

After an impressive command of the regiment at the Battle of Shiloh - where two horses were killed from under him - Wheeler was given command of all the cavalry in the Confederate Army of Mississippi. He was promoted to lieutenant general after the Battle of Murfreesboro.

Known for his sweeping attacks on Union Army supply lines, Wheeler as a general was regarded as a bona fide Confederate hero. He later became a U.S. Army hero after he led soldiers into battle during the Spanish-American War.

After settling in the Lawrence County community named in his honor, Wheeler was elected to Congress from North Alabama in 1880. He was unseated two years later then reelected to serve again from 1884 to 1899.

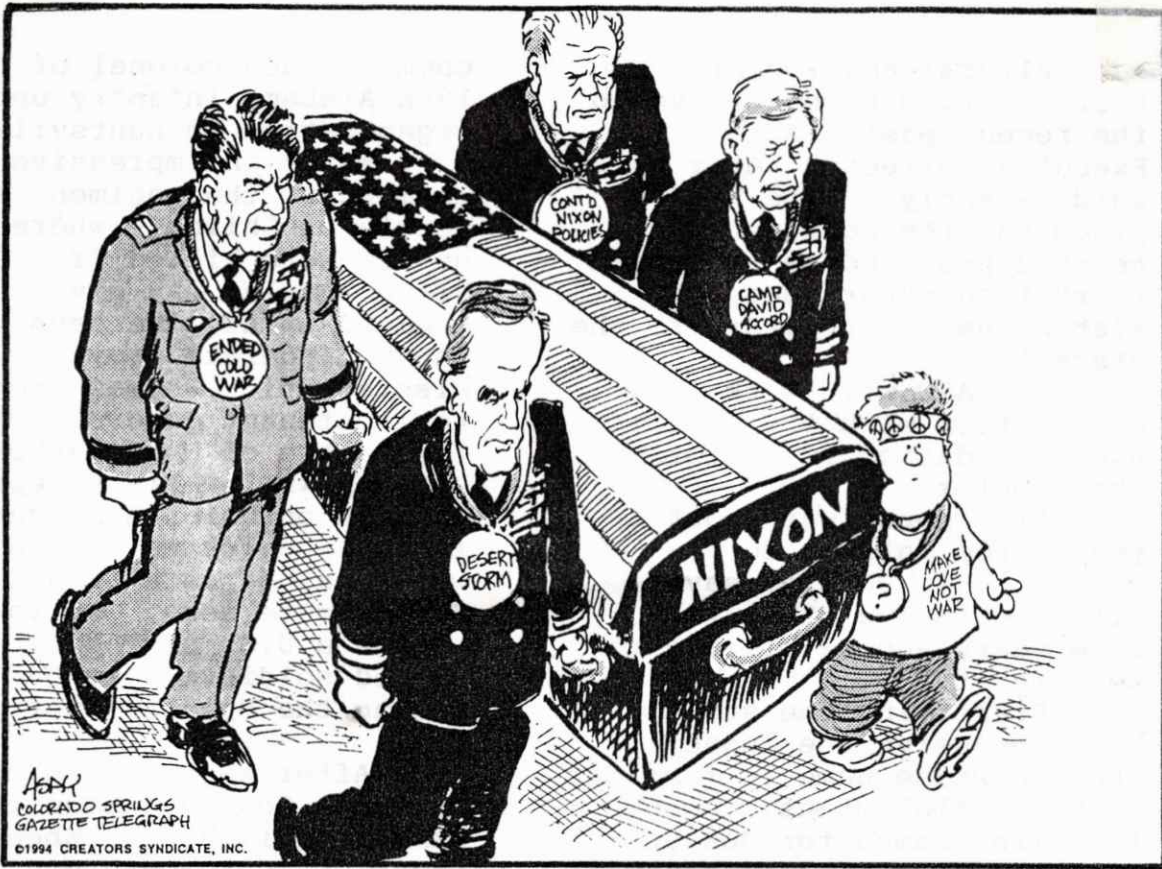
The general's likeness represents Alabama in Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C., and he is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Gen. Joseph Wheeler home, located west of Decatur on Alabama 20, is shown by appointment to tour groups. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. For more information or to schedule a visit, call 637-8513.

General Wheeler has always meant more to me than other Confederate heroes because my Great Grandfather served with him during the Spanish-American War.

GARY

Until next issue:
"KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY"



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